

Recall Petition in Process Against
County Commissioner Kattnig

by George Gramlich

A request to start a Petition to Recall Robert (Bob) Kattnig from the Office of County Commissioner 1 was approved by the Custer County Clerk Kelly Camper last week. A copy of the petition was obtained by *The Sentinel* last Friday, July 15th.

The petition has a section called the “General statement of grounds for recall:”. The following was the statement provided by the petition requesters:

“Mr. Kattnig has proven over and over that he is incompetent in the office of Commissioner. He has even stated to the Colorado Secretary of State the reason he did not file the documentation at the end of last November was because of his

incompetence. So he readily admits it. Many commissioner meetings are called to a halt as he indicates



Custer County Commissioner, Robert (Bob) Kattnig.

Photo by Paul Sage

he has not read or is not prepared to make a ruling. This is a concern as it is important to county busi-

ness to act in a timely manner. He is also misogynistic, treating women with total disdain. His actions in public reveal his total disdain for authority. He appears to feel that everyone should be in agreement with him at all times when most of the time he has no idea what he is talking about. He represented himself as a rancher when he was running for office. It is well known and of public record that he owns only 20 acres not a ranch.”

The petition also listed the “three people who comprise the committee designated to represent the signers in all matters affecting the petition.” The three people listed are Darla Dee White of County Road 328, Jaxine Campbell Bubis of County Road 182 and Carol Dianne Clemen-

son of Commanche Road.

Commissioner Kattnig was kind enough to grant this reporter an interview but declined to make a public comment at this time. He showed this reporter a letter from the Custer County Clerk stating that the petitioners have until September 12, 2016, to get the required number of signatures which is believed to be 396.

(Editor/GG: Two of the petition representatives, Jaxine Bubis and Carol Clemenson, are part-time reporters for the Sentinel. This petition recall effort is their personal effort and the Sentinel has NO official capacity in the effort. This was also made plain to Commissioner Kattnig in the meeting with this reporter.)

Hayden Pass
Fire Update

by George Gramlich

As of Wednesday morning, July 20th, the Rocky Mountain Type 2 Blue Team coordinating the fire fighting effort on the Hayden Pass Fire indicated that the fire was now 45% contained, had consumed 16,414 acres of land and still had 748 personnel engaged in fighting the fire.

From their July 20th, morning report:

“All residents affected by the Hayden Creek Fire will return to their homes Thursday. The structure protection division continues to back haul sprinklers, hoses and pumps as homeowners return home. Residents will continue to see smoke from the interior of the fire until the area receives significant precipitation. Rehabilitation of hand and dozer lines with water bars and reseeding continue as well as mopping up and cold trailing along fire lines.

Firefighters will escort Colorado Parks and Wildlife representatives up to the South Prong of Hayden Creek to relocate a rare cutthroat trout.

Fire crews will require fewer helicopters and air-

planes today but will continue to use them to cool remaining hot spots on the edges and interior of the fire. Over 1 million gallons of water have been used by planes and helicopters in suppression efforts.”

In addition, all evacuees from the fire will be allowed to go back to their homes on Thursday, July 21st, provided they have a pass from the Fremont County Sheriff’s Office. Road closures still in effect as of Wednesday, July 20 thare: County Road 1A from Highway 50 to Highway 69, and County Road 39.

It appears that excellent containment lines have been made on the north side of the fire and that the management teams anticipate further burning in the federal wilderness areas on the south and west sides of the fire.

The incident report still indicates a fire end-date of October 1, 2016.

For up-to-date information please see the Fremont County Sheriff’s Facebook page or go to the official government web site for the fire, inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4849/.

4-H and FFA Livestock Sale
Grand Champion Steer



Matt Brown (owner of Town and Country), Ron Taylor and Zachary Fisher with his Grand Champion Market Steer purchased by Town and Country Salida. Sale price \$9,092.25. 1,347 pounds at \$6.75 per pound.

Photo by Jennifer Russ

4-H and FFA Livestock Sales results will be published in next week’s paper.

See page 14 in this issue for 4-H and FFA Livestock Photo Feature with all the Grand Champion winners.

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God is our
refuge and
strength,
A very present
help in trouble.

Psalms 46:1
NKJV

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*The Voice
of Conservative
Colorado!*



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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

AMERICA IS CHANGING



Have you noticed the change that's going on now? Can you feel the difference in America? Does it all make sense? We believe there has been a sea change occurring over the last eight years. First, and maybe most significant, is the lack of American leadership in the world. America has decided to abdicate its responsibility as the world's leader and the consequences are not good. The Middle East and North Africa are in total chaos. Radical Islamists are wreaking havoc, death and destruction everywhere. That influence has reached America and promises to get worse. But make no mistake, it has begun. Islamic terrorism is changing

the way we feel, act and live. It's worse in Europe right now, but because America hasn't seriously led the fight to destroy it, it will become worse here soon.

We are deeply divided in American over almost every issue. Liberal progressivism has run amuck during the Obama administration and we can all sense the change. The welfare/nanny state has grown tremendously. Over half of America receives a government check of some sort. This growth of dependence on the government is troubling. The younger generation has a sense of entitlement and many do not believe there is a personal

responsibility to care for oneself and one's family. We saw this manifested in the Bernie Sanders campaign. Bernie was promising free everything and his young followers were ecstatic. This does not bode well for our future.

Many other factors, beliefs, and movements are changing America. Multiculturalism needs to be looked at very closely. We are becoming a nation of enclaves. Entire communities are becoming entirely dominated and controlled by a single ethnic group. This is changing the spirit of America. We are no longer all Americans. We are becoming hyphenated Americans. One hundred years ago immigrants came to America to become Americans. Now they come for the opportunities, freedoms and entitlements. Many don't want to become Americans; they only want to live here. Our liberal im-

migration and visa policies are not helping us. Serious reform is needed.

There is a growing lack of respect for law enforcement and the rule of law. Our judicial system helped make America great. The respect for authority, whether it be for cops, for school teachers or even just for the older generation, helped make America a great and safe place to live. This is not the case anymore. We all see this happening. Bernie Sanders was complaining about the fact that we have too many people in prison. He didn't talk about why they might be in prison; he just wanted them released. We never understood his logic. It seems to us that if you break the law you should go to jail.

What has this all led to? Today, there is a war on law enforcement officers. Instead of being respected authority figures they are targets. Even though the statistics don't support the

claims, many black Americans believe they are being treated unfairly and are being unjustifiably killed at an alarming rate. This simply isn't true. But facts aren't important. Organizations like Black Lives Matter (BLM) are perpetuating a dishonest narrative in America and they are being supported by the Black Caucus in Congress and even the president himself. This is not making America safer. This "war on cops" must stop and stop immediately. But it will only happen when the leaders stop with the reckless rhetoric. BLM is an organization that has called for violence and death against law enforcement officers yet they have been invited to the White House. That doesn't seem right to many Americans. We must all respect our law enforcement officers or there will be chaos. Americans must demand law and order be restored. The alternative is anarchy.



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George Washington - First President and Founding Father



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Let's Pray For Our Nation

Is our nation truly a Christian nation? Will God bless a nation like ours, one that has fallen so far away from Him? Maybe we need to first ask God to open our eyes to see how far we actually have fallen.

Why is Satan running rampant in our country with transgenderism, homosexuality, abortions, pornog-

raphy, and the list goes on? Many say because he knows his time is short. That may true to an extent. Could it also be because we as Christians have become complacent? Are we taking our Christianity for granted?

Let's look at 2 Chronicles 7:14: "...if My people who are called by My Name

will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Yes, we are praying, but if you look closely there are other prerequisites in that verse.

Humble themselves. Hum-

ble means; proud, not arrogant, having a sense of insignificance. Have we truly humbled ourselves, realizing that we are nothing without God? How about turn from their evil ways? Oh but I am a Christian and have left my sins behind me. Really? "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxieties; And see if there

is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139: 23-24). We are all sinners and we all need to acknowledge that and humble ourselves before the Lord.

Some of us are not happy with the presumptive republican candidate. We need to put aside our other loyalties and pray that God

change his heart and guide him. God turned our hearts to Him and He can do the same for others.

Are we not trusting God enough? We need to unite and pray for Donald Trump, because ultimately God is in control and we need to give Him the reins.

Audrey Slater
Rural Fremont County

The Instrument of Death Was a Truck And Predictably, We Are Surprised

Here is where we lose to the Islamist terrorists...IMAGINATION. The west lacks imagination. Have you noticed that after an attack we are always surprised? Fly airplanes into buildings and we are surprised. Shoot up a Christmas party and we are surprised. Kill dozens at a gay night club and we are surprised. Turn underwear or shoes into bombs and we are surprised. Law enforcement and policy makers are always one step behind our enemies. Why...no imagination? Now, we have the latest carnage

in Nice, France and the instrument of death was a truck and predictably, we are surprised. But, should this have surprised anyone? I say "no."

Let's see, a truck used as a weapon; where have we heard that before? In 1983, a truck was used to kill hundreds of U.S. Marines in Beirut. A truck was used in Oklahoma City to blow up hundreds. In 1993, a truck was used to attempt to topple the World Trade Center buildings. So, how does a Tunisian truck driver in a white

unmarked truck get near a crowd of people celebrating Bastille Day in a French tourist town? This is the question that will haunt westerners for years. One thing is for sure, we do not learn from the past. We are so consumed with electronic gadgets, celebrity shenanigans and "political correctness" that we live our lives in Condition White. Most of us are asleep at the switch totally unaware of the vulnerabilities that have become a part of everyday life. As for our elected officials, they are so busy protect-

ing football games that we ignore even softer targets like a fireworks display. Face it folks, the west is a target rich environment. We in the west are so predictable that killing us by the dozens presents little challenge for terrorists willing to die in the attempt.

Personally, I agree with Cicero, "To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to forever be a child." (*Orator Ad M. Brutum, 46 BC, Chapter XXX-IV, section 120*) So much of the next election depends on how the

millennial generation, now larger than the baby boomers, will vote. Were they even alive in 1983 or 1992? Are they paying attention to what is going on around the globe? Now that Bernie Sanders, the Pied Piper of Free Tuition, has endorsed Hillary, what can Americans expect from the 18 to 29 set? Remember, this is the latest generation that our public schools have failed. God help us.

Joe Cascarelli
Westcliffe CO

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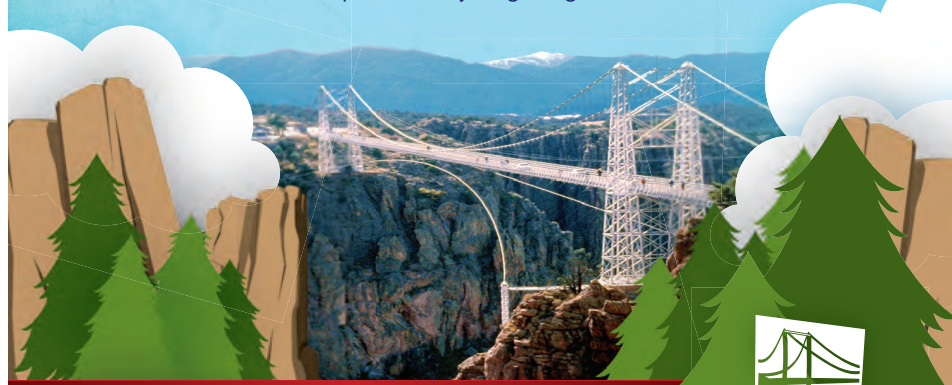
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Letters to the Editor



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Many of Us Held Our Collective Noses and Voted

Dear Editor,

Here is the latest from Fox News, "Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton is ahead of Republican Donald Trump by ten points in Colorado, according to the latest Fox News Poll, while also up by seven points over Trump in the battleground state of Virginia." (July 14, 2016). One might ask how this can happen. Let's consider the facts. A member of the GOP Convention Rules Committee from Colorado is leading the effort to free up delegates on their first vote at the convention. It appears to me that Colorado is trying to be the Brutus to Trump's Julius Caesar. There are some among the Republican leadership in Colorado that would like

to see Trump in Cleveland with a knife in his back. We all know that about 4.5 million "evangelicals" stayed home in 2012 because Mitt is a Mormon. This failure to vote virtually guaranteed Obama a second term. Most candidates only need to fight the opposition, but Colorado Republicans force candidates to fight both the Democrats and the Republican Party leaders.

Well, folks, elections have consequences. All these petty shenanigans by Republicans will only help the most corrupt candidate to ever run for president, A candidate who failed the three-a.m.-call-test. Her campaign will get a big boost if the Republican elites try something at the convention. A candidate who enabled four Ameri-

cans to die in Benghazi gets help to become commander-in-chief. A Secretary of State who couldn't keep national secrets safe will now handle ALL national secrets. Go ahead, play your silly games. Trump may not be the "ideal candidate," but then I believe that there is no ideal candidate. Many of us held our collective noses and voted for Dole, for McCain and for Romney. We have seen what four years of Obama has done to the country. I can assure you that a President Clinton will not repeal all those Obama Executive Orders on day one. She will ensure that Political Correctness will become a permanent element in our culture.

Joe Cascarelli
Westcliffe, Colorado

A Thank You

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all of the people who cast a vote for me during the Primary Election. I greatly appreciate the vote of confidence! I will have been County Clerk for a year now on August 1st and I finally am starting to feel a little more settled in. Thanks to everyone for their support and encour-

agement during the last year. Thank you also to all the election judges that helped with this election. The job they do is very tedious and sometimes difficult and I appreciate everything they do! I would also like to thank my staff. Things can get a little crazy around election time and everyone has to do a little extra than normal, but believe me, I couldn't

do it without them! And my last thank you goes to Scott, Sydney, Garrett and my dad for all their support and understanding of the long hours and craziness that goes along with this position and for putting up with my occasional grumpiness. I really couldn't do it without their love and support!

Sincerely,
Kelley S. Camper

A War Within Our Borders

Police work is described as hours of boredom, interrupted by moments of sheer terror. That is all the more apparent in today's world where police are ambushed. I'm thankful I live in a small town where crime is not rampant like big cities. But we should not be lulled into complacency because we feel safe. It can happen here as well.

Recently in Dallas five police personnel were ambushed and murdered. They were singled out for being cops. Sunday more police officers were ambushed and killed in Baton Rouge, LA. It intensifies the feeling I have about the lack of leadership in our country and the divisive tone by our current administration. By sympathizing with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, it shows which side he is on when it comes to the war on lawless and dangerous activities. The BLM and the New Black Panthers should be de-

clared a radical terrorist groups. By saying All Lives Matter, one is called racist. But calling for the death of police or whites is not. So what is Obama's answer to shooting of police? His mantra is gun control, take guns away from legal gun owners. That is supposed to make us safer. I don't think so.

Rod Wheeler, an ex-homicide detective, sees this as a lack of leadership. I would include congress in that equation. I don't have the answers, but there are some very smart people in this country who have good ideas on how to handle the situation. Wheeler said, "If armed police are not safe on the streets, who is?" This is a war within our borders. It is not a time for mantras or agendas. We need a pro active plan and hard choices will have to be made for the safety, not only of police, but for all of us. Disarming all will NOT mean all will

be disarmed. Criminals and terrorists will always have guns, always.

When Obama leaves office we need a complete philosophical change for our leadership. We do not need another four years of the same, nor do we need several more liberal Supreme Court Justices to take away the Constitution. We also need prayer for America, for the police, for the leaders at all levels of government, local, state and national. We the people outnumber the evil, and if we neglect our right and responsibility to be engaged spiritually, emotionally and physically, we cannot complain about the outcome for our nation. God has blessed America above any nation on earth, but what has America done with that blessing? Americans have turned their backs on God. We have got to wake up.

Bill Bailey
Rural Custer County

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But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 ESV

Local Mountain News & Notices

County Commissioners Meeting: More On AT&T, Hayden Fire

July 19, 2016
- WETMORE, Colorado
by Jackie Bubis

The meeting started at 9 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Introductions of the public in attendance. In addition to the commissioners and Attorney Clint Smith, Attorney John Naylor was present.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Kattnig reported on several meetings he attended, two having to do with emergency response (First Net and All Hazard) and on the Custer County Communications Committee. He reported that AT&T has stated that their equipment in the county is 1970's generation equipment and that it's at 98% capacity. The recommended capacity is in the 80% range. AT&T will be

updating their equipment to 4G but coverage will still be limited. Verizon does have a tower in the area that is not online. No idea when or if it will go online.

Sheriff Byerly confirmed that 80% of all 911 calls are made from cell phones.

Commissioner Shy also attended the emergency response meetings and explained that First Net is a private corporation, that in order to get business in the metropolitan areas, must first provide services to rural Colorado. That may include broadband for emergency use that can be used by the residents when there is no ongoing emergency. Also, they are focused on providing Voice Over IP (VOIP) service that would make it possible to text to 911 in an emergency when voice communication is not available.

Attorney Clint Smith brought the final paperwork for the closure of the old

landfill to be signed by the commissioners. He also reported that the Hamilton case is back with the county and requested an Executive Session at the August 3rd BOCC meeting.

Sheriff Byerly updated the group about the Hayden Pass fire. There is no private property in Custer County that is threatened at this time and the wilderness area will be allowed to burn. True containment of the fire will not be until the first significant snow. He reported that his office is ticketing people who break the fire ban.

He also explained the importance of the Geographic Information System (GIS) system that maps all property in the county with the structures and their value. Resources for a fire such as this

BOCC
see page 23



Commissioner Race Debate/ Discussion Meeting July 28

Liberty Rocks Custer County is holding a discussion/debate on the County Commissioner race between John Johnston and Donna Hood on July 28th at Tony's Pizza. As of Wednesday, July 20th, Mr. Johnston has said he will attend. Mrs. Hood has responded that she has a prior commitment and can not attend.

The format will be open discussion.

Liberty Rocks will also review the recall petition process in Colorado with particular regard to the current recall attempt to remove Custer County Commissioner Bob Kattnig.

The meeting will be held at Tony's Pizza in Silver Cliff starting at 5:30 p.m. with formal agenda starting at 6 p.m.

*During the founding of our country, taverns were the avenues of open debate and discussion. The brushfires of liberty were fanned in these settings and culminated in the greatest nation in all of recorded history.



Rotarian Art Nordyke serving guests at the Fundraiser.

Photo by Carol Clemenson

Service Above Self

The Rotary Club held their annual pancake breakfast on the west side parking area of the school on Saturday, July 16th from 7 to 10 a.m.. By nine a.m., almost 100 breakfasts had been served by Rotarian breakfast chefs, Monty Lee and Eric Foster, who turned out wonderful pancakes while Art Nordyke manned the grill and dished out the delicious sausage

patties that went with the pancakes. True to their motto SERVICE ABOVE SELF, the event raises funds to grant scholarships to deserving students. By the time the rodeo parade was about to get started, more than two hundred and forty breakfasts had been served in yet another successful fundraiser by the Wet Mountain Rotarians.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Westcliffe is currently soliciting bids on the following projects: **Column Repair at Hermit Park Pavilion, New Westcliffe Signage, and Concrete Base.**

A pre-bid informational meeting and walk-thru for both projects is scheduled for **August 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Westcliffe Town Office, 305 Main Street.

Any questions should be directed to Alan Clark at the Town Offices, alan@townofwestcliffe.com, or 719-783-2282.

Alan Clark
Project Manager
Town of Westcliffe

VSO Workshop: A Full Agenda

by Fred Hernandez

The local Veterans Service Office (VSO) headed by Mr. Tim Swartz, Veterans Service Officer, organized a workshop held at the bowling alley on Thursday, July 14th, Veterans Affairs VIPs were on hand to share vital information about the many benefits available to veterans and how to gain access to them in the quickest time.

Among the speakers who graced the event were Mr. Mickey Hunt, a thirty year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and currently Depu-

ty Director for the State of Colorado for Military and Veteran Affairs. Mr. Hunt explained that one of his units main obligations is the training of VSO officers, the key personnel who are on the front lines and interacting daily with veterans throughout the state.

All speakers were eloquent in their particular presentations and the feeling, in general, was that the VA was doing all possible to meet the needs of all veterans. Linda Cook, a Registered Nurse, spoke about the CHOICE PROGRAM which seeks to fill the gap

for those waiting for VA healthcare services. All those who live forty miles from a VA medical center, are now able to seek help at centers closer to them. She also promised to help vets navigate the oftentimes complicated system when seeking services.

Another important speaker was Ms. Ann Vessel who, with her colleague Mike Shay, a veteran, are both lawyers specializing in veterans affairs. Their legal services are always pro bono and where they may not have the expertise in a particular case, they are

able to refer to lawyers with the expertise needed. They stressed that VA laws are quite complicated and are changing all the time.

The next speaker, Ms. Susan Brace, a clinical psychologist and registered nurse whose focus is on suicide prevention, noted that the occurrences of this event are highest among those sixty years of age and above. Her services are also pro bono and she is quick to state that she has not lost a patient in the time she has been doing this work in Colorado.



Linda Cook, registered nurse from the VA in Pueblo, speaks.

Photo by Fred Hernandez

School Supply Drive

Community United Methodist Church, CUMC, St. Luke's Episcopal Mission and Valley Park, Recreation and Youth Center, VPR&YC are heading up the 2016-2017 Backpack/School

Supplies drive for Custer County School. From now until August 18th we are asking the the community to come together to provide our students who need assistance with school supplies and back-

packs. Walmart Stores donated a grant of \$250. All churches, organizations and individuals are welcome to participate. Supplies can be dropped off at CUMC, 204 S 6th, Tuesday - Friday.

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The school supply list can be found on the Custer County School web site, www.custercountyschools.org. For more information please call Marci 783-2289 or CUMC 783-2511.

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---	---	---

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Wet Mountain Western Pilgrimage

Friday, September 16 – Sunday, September 18

Press Release

Discover the rich ranching heritage and mining culture of the Southwest. The Wet Mountain

Pilgrimage is a dynamic three-day, family friendly event where you will visit working ranches, explore the mining history,

and learn the role that early railroad played in connecting small rural communities with industry, farming and trade.

Your auto tour adventure will take you to Music Meadows Ranch where you will learn the basics of care and training of horses; Bear Basin Ranch to explore the archaeological remains of area Ute Indians, and learn horse and mule packing techniques for high mountain adventures; and the Beckwith Ranch where you will visit with Mrs. Beckwith to try your hand at churning butter and making ice cream, while participating in demonstrations of milking her cow. In the quaint mountain towns of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe, tour Silver Cliff Museum to explore the silver mining culture of the region and view Navajo basket weaving techniques, or try your hand at 1800s children's games and tour

through old railroad cars at All Aboard Westcliffe Railroad Museum.

The finale to an exciting day will lead you to the old Jones Theater where you will view one of the many movies that were filmed right here in Custer County's Wet Mountain Valley, and learn about the busy filming days on the ranch. When the dinner bell rings, restaurants will be featuring specials that are favorite recipes of the Wet Mountain Valley's centennial and old-time ranchers.

Demonstrations are scheduled from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. on event days. The movie and talk will begin at 7 p.m.

Come and discover the cultural essence of the South-

west at the Wet Mountain Western Pilgrimage. Tickets are as follows: one-day adult pass - \$10, three-day adult weekend pass – \$15, three-day weekend pass for children 6 and older and students - \$5, children under six – free. Cost for movie is \$6.

All participants will report to All Aboard Westcliffe, 110 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe, CO. Participants should arrive at 8:30 a.m. in order to pick up wrist bands and to arrive at destination ranches prior to the start of demonstrations.

For more information and to reserve tickets, visit www.wetmountainwesternpilgrimage.com, westernpilgrimage@gmail.com, 719-783-9163 or 877-793-3170 (toll free).



Friends of the Library Craft Show a Success



Friends of the Library Craft Fair.

Photo by Carol Clemenson

School Registration Information on Page 18



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www.faricyford.com

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Canon City, CO
719-269-9911

Ford LINCOLN

BUILT Ford TOUGH

KIDS

Friday, July 22, 2016

Discovering Tom's Baby

Gold has always been an allurements for a miner of yore. In fact, the gold rush of 1848 is basically what built California. However, California is not the only place that had gold.

On July 23, 1887, Tom Groves and Harry Lytton found the largest piece of gold ever discovered in Colorado, a record that stands to this day. The discovery happened outside of Breckenridge.

Tom Groves and Harry Lytton were contract miners, which meant they did not own the land they mined on. The two men were mining away one day underground, drilling and blasting their way through the area, when they had blasted into a cavity. In the bottom of this cavity was a great big chunk of gold, which originally weighed about 13 ½ pounds.

They wrapped the gold nugget in a blanket, thus earning it the nickname of Tom's Baby, and proceeded to get it to an assayer in Breckenridge. They contacted the owner of the mine, named Ward, and some sort of financial agreement was made where the owner of the land got the specimen and the miners were paid in cash.

The last time it was seen was when Ward handed the gold to the conductor on the train that went out on the narrow gauge to be delivered to his partner in Denver — and then it disappeared.

Fast forward to the early 70's, a local Breckenridge pastor, Mark Feister, made it his mission to find "Tom's Baby". After a tremendous amount of research, in 1972, he discovered Tom's Baby in a bank vault in Denver, owned by the Museum of Natural History, now known as the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The crystallized gold nugget weighs about 9 pounds today.

There is a sculpture of Tom and his "baby" in Prospector Park in Breckenridge and now Tom's Baby can be viewed behind a thick glass in the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

by Audrey Slater, Sources: myinforms.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

*The Lord is good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.*

Nahum 1:7

Local Mountain News & Notices

Local Author Presents Science Fiction Work July 23rd

Press Release

Local author Apryl Lynn will be reading and discussing her latest book “The Legacy” at the West Custer County Library on Saturday, July 23rd at 12:30 p.m.

“The Legacy” is Lynn’s first work in the science fiction genre. The story follows the character Sara, who is desperate to start over, never envisioning what is waiting for her in Serenity Springs. A war, started six millennia ago, has been dormant for hundreds of years but is reignited when tragedy strikes the tiny town in Alaska. “The Legacy” is the first book in a series, beginning an epic journey of three vampire bloodlines.

Apryl Lynn was born and raised in northwest Indiana. She spent eight years in North Carolina before finally settling in Westcliffe in 2011 with her three dogs



Author Apryl Lynn.
Courtesy Photo

and a cat. Although her life appears normal on all accounts, she suffers from agoraphobia and was house bound on two separate occasions for a total of nine years. She used those nine years as a shut-in to her advantage by developing her writing skills. She wrote her autobiography, “Within These Walls”, which tells about her life as an agoraphobic. She enjoys football and bowling, and in her free time, she helps out at the local food bank.

Lynn will be available to answer questions and sign books after the reading. For more information on this free event, contact the library at 719-783-9138.

Paca Peace Ranch OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, July 23 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Bob and Holly Wenger invite you to visit Paca Peace Ranch’s new home.

Meet and feed alpacas

BBQ Lunch at noon and refreshments

Optional: Join others in adding to a fence to enlarge the alpaca’s pasture

Directions: Route 96 east from Westcliffe to Bear Basin CR 271. Turn north on CR 265. Turn west on CR 264. Turn North on Ernest Ave. and go to the end which is Paca Peace Ranch. (Follow the yellow balloons). Questions: call Bob Hill (719) 371-1405.

Bob and Holly Wenger host the Paca Peace alpacas and program at their ranch.

Courtesy photo

Come enjoy the gentle, fuzzy alpacas.

Events Calendar

Thursday, July 21 - All Day
to Sunday, July 24 - All Day
2016 Summer Classic Cutting Horse Show at A Painted View Ranch
3115 Co Rd 160, Westcliffe

Friday July 22, 5 p.m.
Rotary Fundraiser Rib Dinner at A Painted View. The public is invited to enjoy the meal and the competition. Meal tickets are \$20 per person.

Friday July 22, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Custer County Communications Committee
Meeting/Fire Bldg

Friday and Saturday
July 22 & 23, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 24, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
The Best of Broadway: Favorite Show Tunes
The Jones Theater \$\$

Saturday July 23, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Paca Peace OPEN HOUSE Turn off Hwy 96 onto CR 271. Follow the Balloons.

Saturday July 23, 12:30 p.m.
Book signing, reading and discussion of **Apryl Lynn’s book “The Legacy”** at West Custer Library

Sunday, July 24
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
SUMMER IN THE PARK- Free Concert
Brian Kalinec
Westcliffe Feed Store Amphitheater & Park

Monday, July 25
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saddle Club Gymkana
90 Co Rd 241 For more info contact: Annie Kerns anniekerns@centurylink.net

Friday July 29, 9 a.m.
BOCC Meeting/Boardroom

Sunday, July 31, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
SUMMER IN THE PARK - Free Concert
James Lee Stanley
Westcliffe Feed Store Amphitheater & Park,

Recurring Events

Monday
Club America — 7:55 a.m. High Altitude Training; 9 a.m. Water Aerobics; 10:15 a.m. Stretch; 11:30 a.m. Muscles; 1:00 p.m. Low Impact; 5:15 p.m. Step Aerobics
6 p.m. Closed Step Study Alcoholics Anonymous at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Westcliffe.
Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Emilie at (719) 371-5974.

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

Tuesday
Club America — 9:15 a.m. Stretch; 10:30 a.m. Zumba; 10:30 a.m. Chair Strength; 4 p.m. Kids Zone; 4 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Core Conditioning.
12 – 4:30 p.m. Bridge Club meets in the Library Community Room in downtown 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
Club America — 7:55 a.m. High Altitude Training; 8:00 a.m. Kids Zone; 10:00 a.m. Low Impact; 5:15 p.m. Step Aerobics.
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Farmers Market. Jess Price Park, Westcliffe.
9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Line dancers meet at the Methodist Church. Call Clem at (303) 909-7370.
6 p.m. Closed Big Book Study Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or

Emilie at (719) 371-5974
6:30 p.m. Men’s and Women’s Bible Study. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe Call 719-783-2498.
6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Custer County Community Band practice in the band room at the high school.

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

Thursday
Club America — 9 a.m. Water Aerobics; 9:15 a.m. Yoga; 10:30 a.m. Zumba; 10:30 a.m. Chair Strength; 4 p.m. Kids Zone; 4:00 p.m. – 6 p.m. Core Conditioning.

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

Friday
Club America — 7:55 a.m. High Altitude Training; 9:00 a.m. Water Aerobics; 9:15 a.m. Stretch; 10:30 a.m. Muscles.
6 p.m. Open Discussion Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Emilie at (719) 371-5974.
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bible Talks with Domenic Enrietta and John Hartig. At the Library Community Room. All welcome. No charge.

Saturday
10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family Group meets at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Dee (719) 404-1851 or Jean (719) 371-1229.
2 p.m. Laughter Yoga at the West Custer County Library. Open to the public.
3 p.m. Open Drum Circle at the West Custer County Library. All ages welcome! If you have a drum, please bring it. We 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
Public Swim hrs. – Mon. thru Sat.
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
\$2 PER PERSON

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 8125
(719)371-7664
Fri.- Sat. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
417 Cliff Street
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
(719) 783-4357
Mon. – Thur. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 9 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.

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And we know that all things work together for good
to those who love God, to those who are the called
according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

Announcements

2016 BOOK FAIR
Historic "Westcliff"
Schoolhouse annual Book
Fair,
Located at 320 S 4th St.,
will be held August 5th,
6th, and 7th
From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For book donations or
information call
Patti - 719-783-2739 or
Marci - 719-783-2289

Victor Venable is back!!
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and on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/venableviews

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Grade General Store.
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For Sale

1991 Honda Sedan.
Cranks, but will not start.
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tary blazers
719-371-8953

Beer Cooler \$500, Freezer
\$200, printer \$50, T.V. \$10.
Call Clem (303) 909-7370

2014 Nissan Rogue 4
cyl. AWD, 32K miles,
Pearl White, Bl...
or, \$16,500...
trade... good
condition... 719-371-1570

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

Help Wanted

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Doing Anything!!
Stop by the Sentinel for
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Sheriff's Report...

From 7/11/16 to 7/17/16
there were the following
calls for service:

There were 204 calls for
service to the Sheriff's
Office, 14 to EMS, and 4
to the Fire Department.
As of 07/17/16, there
were four males and one
female in the county jail.

7/11/16:
Lonely Kitty: The
Sheriff's Office received
a call from a party on
Black Cloud Circle in
Bull Domingo reporting
a bobcat kitten on his
property. The information
was passed on to the
local Colorado Parks
and Wildlife officer.

Theft: A deputy was dis-
patched to Butler Street
in Silver Cliff to take a
report of a theft valued at
between \$50 and \$300.

7/12/16:
Disturbance: A deputy
was dispatched to a ver-
bal disturbance on South
6th Street in Westcliffe.
EMS was dispatched to
the scene to assess one

of the individuals who
was complaining of neck
pain. EMS processed a
refusal to transport. Jere-
my Davenport of India-
napolis, IN, was issued a
summons for driving with
a suspended license.

Theft: A deputy met with
a party in the lobby of
the Sheriff's Office who
filed a report stating
her wallet was stolen in
Silver Cliff. The theft was
valued at between \$300
and \$2000.

7/13/16:
Traffic Summons: Sim-
one Soucy of Cotopaxi
was issued a summons
for failing to obtain
registration within 60
days of the purchase of
a vehicle and driving a
vehicle without a license
plate.

Assault: A deputy was
dispatched to Main
Street in Westcliffe for an
assault in progress. Cath-
erine Byers of Westcliffe
was arrested for third
degree assault. Kenneth

Day of Westcliffe was
issued a summons for
Harassment - Stalking.

Threats: A deputy was
dispatched to Main Street
in Westcliffe to see a
complainant who stated
a male in his 30-40s had
just threatened his life.

Postal Theft: A deputy
met with a party in the
lobby of the Sheriff's
Office who reported his
outgoing, with a personal
check in it, was stolen
from his mailbox on CR
319.

Unattended Death: EMS
and a Sheriff's Office
deputy were dispatched
to Lea Lane in Westcliffe
in response to a report of
an unattended death. The
Custer County Coroner
was dispatched to the
scene.

Arrest: Shannon Jones
of Westcliffe was arrest-
ed on an outstanding
warrant.

SHERIFF
see page 11

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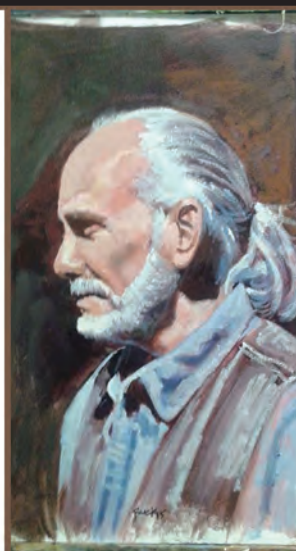
Local branch at 102 S. Adams Blvd., Westcliffe, CO 81252 719-783-9211

Elect John G. Johnston
County Commissioner

Government should be
fearful of the people...
not people fearful of
the government.



783-4644
I care, I can, and we will.



Local Mountain News & Notices

Hayden Pass Fire Photos



Fire Ban Restrictions

Effective Wednesday, July 13, the Board of Custer County Commissioners has ordered a Stage 1 Fire Ban. To see the entire Stage 1 Fire Ban ordinance, go to www.custercountygov.com/pdf/OpenBurnOrdinance.pdf, here is the beginning of it:

“Stage I Fire Ban: When the Board of County Commissioners imposes a Stage I Fire Ban the following restrictions are imposed on open fires and open burning:

a. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, coal or wood stove, fireplace, any type of charcoal-fueled or wood-fueled cooking, or open fire of any type shall be temporarily suspended in all undeveloped areas.

b. Campfires contained in constructed permanent fire pits or fire grates within a developed recreation area shall be allowed.

c. Grills using propane and other bottled fuels shall be allowed, but only in areas free of flammable vegetation and other flammable materials, and such fires must be used and maintained in such a manner that no fire danger is presented to the surrounding area.

d. All open fires allowed by subparagraphs (b) and (c) above must be attended at all times, and an adequate water supply and/or a fire extinguisher shall be on site at all times while such an open fire is burning.

[5]e. All burning of trash, refuse or debris shall be temporarily suspended.

f. Smoking shall be temporarily suspended except within an enclosed vehicle, building, or outdoor smoking area that is hard-surfaced or barren or otherwise cleared of all flammable vegetation or material.”



Photo Credits

Clockwise from top left; helicopter getting water - courtesy photo, wind catching the smoke (aerial view) - courtesy photo, helicopter dropping water by Jennifer Russ, firefighters - courtesy photo, smoke rising by Jennifer Russ, fire on the first day by Lisa Frank, aerial view of Sangres at high altitude - courtesy photo.

Courtesy Photos from InciWeb, <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4849/>





Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



SEMI ANNUAL REPORT OF CUSTER COUNTY TREASURER

FUND	JANUARY 01, 2016 THRU					JUNE 30, 2016			ENDING BALANCE
	BEGINNING BALANCE	REVENUES- CURRENT TAX	DELINQUENT TAX & INTEREST	SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP	RECEIPTS & MISCELLANEOUS	DISBURSEMENTS- WARRANTS PAID	TREASURERS FEES	TRANSFERS & MISC.	
COUNTY GENERAL FUND	15,800.29	1,038,986.03	436.57	77,662.80	869,985.73	-1,552,251.93	-51,949.30	-10,060.00	388,610.19
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	1,435,244.07	472,481.14	196.30	35,317.34	624,443.95	-603,655.90	-29,351.97		1,934,674.93
CONTINGENT	63,341.39								63,341.39
SELF INSURANCE FUND	148,002.88	141,744.35	58.89	10,595.21	29,757.92	-154,102.57	-7,087.21		168,969.47
TRAFFIC FINES	5,189.00				3,632.00			-6,693.00	2,128.00
HUMAN SERVICES	210,446.30	70,872.17	24.50	5,297.59	143,144.41	-208,334.32			221,450.65
AIRPORT	4,832.71				9,457.56	-13,782.28	-77.92	10,000.00	10,430.07
LODGING/TOURISM	26,799.97				6,441.00	-9,238.00	-322.08		23,680.89
ADVANCE TAX	65.79								65.79
PUBLIC TRUSTEE	15,517.09				59,326.85			-59,925.78	14,918.16
LIEU OF TAX	951,364.87				400,595.00				1,351,959.87
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	521,887.91				193,228.79	-110,806.88			604,309.82
SALES TAX	489.87								489.87
SANITATION DISTRICT	0.00	36,709.92	24.21	2,885.69			-1,835.50	-18,119.58	19,664.74
FIRE DISTRICT	0.00	336,023.08	135.44	25,146.17			-16,801.16	-289,867.48	54,636.05
UPPER ARKANSAS WATER CONS. DIST.	0.00	44,506.79	18.44	3,335.22			-2,225.34	-38,481.59	7,153.52
SILVER CLIFF	0.00	21,039.30	16.71	1,687.94	1,270.00		-433.51	-11,172.83	12,407.61
WESTCLIFFE	0.00	54,035.88	30.88	4,010.51	1,436.50		-1,095.10	-29,458.69	28,959.98
C-1 SCHOOL DIST. GENERAL FUND	23,402.12	2,094,774.21	873.03	156,759.07	3.35		-5,236.93	-2,229,392.89	41,181.96
C-1 SCHOOL DIST. CAP. RES.	0.00								0.00
C-1 SCHOOL DIST. B & I	4,182.05	347,543.74	143.46	26,351.75				-371,254.00	6,967.00
RE2J GENERAL FUND	588.99	53,383.90	19.82	3,899.88	.06		-133.47	-56,649.90	1,109.28
RE2J CAP. RES.	0.00								0.00
RE2J BOND & INT	372.43	34,413.89	12.77	2,505.71				-36,577.16	727.64
RYE FIRE PROTECTION	0.00	29,896.43	23.96	2,226.95			-1,494.84	-26,968.25	3,684.25
COUNTY SCHOOL	0.00				75,978.96			-75,978.96	0.00
EMERGENCY SERVICES	218,220.32	188,992.46	78.51	14,126.93	34,121.24	-202,112.13			253,427.33
REDEMPTIONS	3,460.28				48,792.38			-48,792.38	3,460.28
M. V. L.	0.00				335,659.47	-335,659.47			0.00
CONSERVATION TRUST	25,543.01				19,772.29	-29,880.00			15,435.30
VARIOUS/AUTO TAX	0.00				122,394.28			-122,394.28	0.00
GRAZING	0.00				214.38			-214.38	0.00
RECORDING/RESTORATION FUND	71,677.56				11,842.50			-23,493.63	60,026.43
TREASURER'S FEES	0.00				10,760.00			-10,760.00	0.00
WEST CUSTER CO HOSP DIST	0.00	691,635.66	298.73	51,758.40			-34,581.77	-596,654.59	112,456.43
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND	1,750.54								1,750.54
WEST CUSTER CO LIBRARY DISTRICT	0.00	173,434.29	69.97	12,981.23			-8,671.72	-149,614.28	28,199.49
CLERKS FEES	174,026.06				986,566.55			-983,739.51	176,853.10
EMERGENCY RESERVE FUND	117,300.00								117,300.00
HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	3,307.89				303,060.92			-303,060.92	3,307.89
GRAND TOTALS	4,042,813.39	5,830,473.24	2,462.19	436,548.39	4,291,886.09	-3,219,823.48	-161,297.82	-5,489,324.08	5,733,737.92

I, VIRGINIA TRUJILLO, County Treasurer in and for Custer County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that the above is a true statement of condition of the various funds as they appear from the records in my office at the close of business, June 30, 2016.

Bank Balance \$1,297,067.95
Cash 11,235.72
Investments 4,424,934.25
PT Petty Cash 500.00
Total \$5,733,737.92

Virginia Trujillo
Custer County Treasurer

Sheriff's Report Cont'd

7/14/16:

Altered Mental Status: EMS was dispatched to Strait Street in Silver Cliff for a male suffering from an altered mental status. The patient was transported to a hospital in Pueblo.

Possible Runaway: A deputy was dispatched to Adams Avenue in Aspen Mountain Ranch for a possible runaway.

7/15/16:

Mail Boxes: A deputy was dispatched to Black Fawn Lane in Eastcliffe to investigate a series of break-ins of mail boxes.

Traffic Summons: Kathleen Blaha of Miami

Beach, FL, for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Rescue: Dispatch received a 911 call for a female who had fallen and injured her ankle at the natural water slide in the San Isabel National Forest, just east of Lake Isabel. The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office was contacted to dispatch Rye EMS to the scene. In addition, Custer County Search and Rescue was requested on an agency assist to aid with the patient extraction.

7/16/16:
Traffic Summons: Blade DeSouza of Monkey

Island, OK for speeding 20 - 24 over, no proof of insurance and fictitious plates.

Open Burn: A deputy was dispatched to CR 265 for a report of an open burn. Ronald Pendergraff of Littleton, CO, was issued a summons for a violation of the Stage 1 Fire Ban.

Runaway: The Fremont Regional Communications Center contacted the Sheriff's Office about a juvenile runaway, possibly suicidal, who was believed to be in the Wetmore area. Two deputies were dispatched to look for the subject in question.

He subsequently returned home.

Arrest: Robert Betzer of Fredrick, CO, was arrested on an active warrant out of Fort Collins, CO.

7/17/16:

SAR Activated: Approval was given to activate Custer County Search and Rescue for two individuals, a 29 year old female and a 34 year old male, who were stuck on a cliff below Crestone Needle.

Open Fire: The Wet Mountain Fire Department was dispatched to CR 173 for a report of an open fire in violation of the Stage 1 Fire Ban.

Custer County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Agenda
FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016
9:00 AM
Meeting Location:
Commissioners Boardroom

- Call meeting to order
Pledge of allegiance
Roll Call
Amend agenda
Approval of minutes:
Audience introduction
Public Comment
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
- Special Events Permit (Little Black Dress – Chamber of Commerce) - Kelley
 - Review vouchers and sign checks
 - Resolution to clear funds (per Sam DeNardo)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: To meet publishing deadlines, all agenda items must be submitted either by calling the Commissioners Office at 719-783-2552; in writing to the Commissioner's Office at PO Box 150, Westcliffe, CO 81252; or by e-mail to brenda@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.)

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalm 46:9-10 ESV

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Sheyenne Shy with her Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer purchased by Colorado Quarries



Katelyn Roberson with her Grand Champion Meat Rabbits purchased by Santa Fe Rabbit Company



Grace Watkins with her Grand Champion Market Sheep purchased by Scanga Meat Company



Lindsey Gillmore with her Reserve Grand Champion Market Sheep purchased by Sharpe Equipment



Isabella Ferron with her Grand Champion Market Goat purchased by First State Bank



Grace Watkins with her Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat purchased by Southern Hospitality-Roth



Lindsey Gillmore with her Grand Champion Market Swine purchased by Dynamic Ag



Garrett Stepanich with his Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine purchased by Southern Hospitality-Roth



Colorado State News



Bennet's Record: Whatever Happened to All Those Bills He Sponsors?

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

While reading yet another press release from U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet's office bragging about a bill he was cosponsoring with other lawmakers, it occurred to us that we never actually hear about any of Bennet's own original legislation actually passing Congress and getting signed into law by President Obama.

So, we decided to check out Bennet's legislative record through the Library of Congress, and what we found is dismal.

In short, not a single bill he has authored during this 2015-2016 session has been passed into law.

Instead of focusing on substantial legislation of his own, he appears

to spend his time desperately latching onto hundreds of other bills through co-sponsorships in a feeble, and failed attempt to claim credit for someone else's work.

The great thing about cosponsorships, there is absolutely no actual work involved for the senator or staff, except to pick up the phone and call the people who actually did all the work and say, "hey, add my name to the co-sponsorship list," and then put out a press release claiming credit for another lawmaker's hard work.

So here's the breakdown, plus some fascinating tidbits we found while poring over Bennet's record.

Bennet has sponsored and co-

sponsored 458 measures. Of those, only 24 are his actual bills. None of the bills authored by Bennet were ever passed into law, many were just shuffled into a committee and left to die a sad and lonely death.

It doesn't appear to be a great loss that his bills aren't going anywhere. Those measures addressed carbon capture, cyber security and a wilderness bill, among others.

Of the 378 measures written by another lawmaker that he cosponsored, only six of those were actually passed into law.

Interestingly, one of the successful bills that did become law was authored by U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner.

What this shows is Bennet's inability to legislate on his own, and that he's dependent on riding the coattails of others to build up a legislative record.

Whose coattails? U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, for one. It turns out that Bennet cosponsored nine of the Republican majority leader's measures, compared to seven of Sen. Dianne Feinstein's bills.

We're pretty sure Bennet's Democrat base won't be pleased to learn that.

He also mooched on Gardner's press, cosponsoring 15 of his bills.

Bennet's only legislative success, was in adding one sentence amendments to two bills that

were passed into law; an education bill sponsored by Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander, and an appropriations bill.

However, his other 50 amendments failed to make it through the process.

So the next time you see a news report with Bennet bragging about all the hard legislative work he's doing in Washington — the people's business, for our benefit — keep in mind that it doesn't really mean a thing.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: <http://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2016/07/15/bennets-record-whatever-happens-to-all-those-bills-he-sponsors/>

Shame! Federal Animal Protectors Poach Colorado Game

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Two federal employees charged with protecting wildlife pled guilty to poaching wildlife on private property.

The two Western Slope men don't work for just any federal agency, but the Fish and Wildlife Service that looks after endangered species, runs preserves to protect animals, and apparently, likes to trespass on private land and kill them.

The hypocrisy of their actions and the "do as I say, not as I do" mentality reminds us of another federal agency's behavior in Colorado, the EPA. When the EPA is not fining businesses of all sizes for minor or major regulatory infractions, they're unleashing a torrent of mine waste down the Alamosa River.

Caught red-handed, literally, the federal wildlife protectors pled guilty to poaching a high-quality elk, according to KDVR.

"Poachers come from all walks of life but everyone is subject to the same rules and regulations. Colorado Parks and Wildlife will prosecute anyone to the full extent in cases like this one," area wildlife manager JT Romatzke said in a news release.

After the EPA caused the mine spill, they pledged to take responsibility for their actions, then tried to blame Colorado and totally bailed on their responsibility to pay for the mess to local communities.

In the case of the poaching federal wildlife officers who work at Horsethief Canyon Native Fish Fa-

cility Ponds near Fruita, Thad Bingham of Fruita faced \$12,000 in fines and several charges. He paid a whopping \$200 fine to Colorado, and donated \$5,000 to a Montana group that conserves property for elk.

Brian Scheer, also from the Western Slope, was forced to pay an \$86 fine, and both men lost their hunting privileges for five years.

There's no word on whether the federal employees have been suspended, fired, or given a raise and promotion by their federal employer.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, like the EPA, will likely sweep this embarrassing situation under the rug and hope no one notices that federal employees have once again shown they think they are above

the laws they enforce on the rest of us.

(Editor/LLV: To clarify, in follow up interviews, Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokesman Mike Porras said that Bingham, 44, and Scheer, 45, pleaded guilty to trespassing on private land that was closed to hunting at the time of the 2014 incident.

Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Anna Munoz, said both men continue to work for the agency. When asked if the Service took any action against them, she said she couldn't comment.)

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My reading of history
convinces me that most
bad government
results from
too much government.
Thomas Jefferson
Founding Father and Third President of the United States
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IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT
School Board Meetings:
Cañon City Fremont RE-1
2nd and 4th Mon 5:30 p.m.
101 N. 14th St, Cañon City
Florence-Penrose Fremont RE-2
2nd Mon. at 7 p.m.
403 W. 5th St. Florence

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

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

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

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

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

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



Marijuana Grow Operations in Florence?

by Charlotte Burrous

The discussion during the Florence Manager/Mayor Coffee Chat turned to the possibility of allowing retail marijuana grow operations in Florence.

“We’re in discussions about the possibility of legalization of marijuana grows, not sales, but growing recreation marijuana,” said City Manager Mike Patterson. “There’s a fact sheet prepared by Councilman Dick Upton. It’s a subject that’s going to come to an end.”

The first topic was a city excise tax on marijuana grows. “That’s a TABOR requirement,” Patterson said. “Under TABOR, you have to take (raising taxes) to the taxpayers.”

One group is proposing a 56,000 square foot greenhouse on 980 acres of land in the Siloam edition.

“An excise tax of 5 percent on a 56,000 square foot greenhouse area would net an estimated \$750,000 to Florence,” according to the data provided by Councilman Upton.

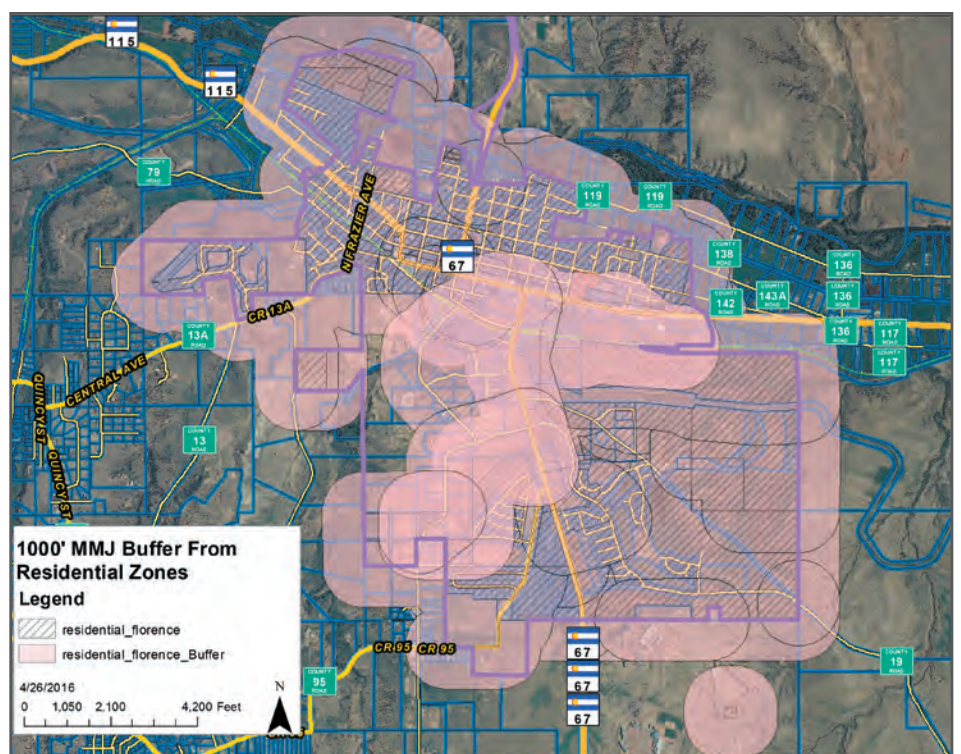
“It is way out from any houses,” Patterson said.

The city plans to create regulations, which include a 1,000 foot buffer from schools, houses and churches. It will be an industrial zone only, have filtering to regulate smell, fencing, security and alarms, and follow state regulations. Applicants will be screened and standards set up for greenhouses versus open

grows, according to Councilman Upton’s research. Supposedly participants will pay a \$10,000 license fee and offer a few jobs.

Although the council has the authority to make the decision, they are requesting input from Florence citizens. A hearing was held at 6 p.m. July 14th by the Planning Commission in Florence. Then another hearing was held at 6 p.m. July 18th prior to the regularly scheduled Florence City Council meeting.

(Editor: LLV/Update: The TABOR required tax determination and a yes/no vote on allowing grows in Florence will be on the ballot this fall. More on the if/then complications of this ballot issue next week.)



Florence City Council plans to set 1,000 foot buffer zones from schools, churches and the downtown area for recreational marijuana grows.

Courtesy map

Events July 15-August 7

Tuesdays —Cañon City Farmers Market will begin June 7 and continue weekly from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in Veterans Park, featuring local farmers, bakers, artisans and nonprofits.

Tuesdays —Cañon City Entertainment in the Park will be presented from 7-9 p.m., beginning June 7 in Veterans Park. The event will offer a plethora of music and entertainment throughout the summer. For more information, call 275-2331.

Wednesdays— Puppies at the Library will be featured from 2-4 p.m. at the Cañon City Public Library at 516 Macon Ave. Pick a dog; pick a book; pick a time. For more information, call 269-9020.

Wednesdays —Florence Entertainment in the Park will be held from 7-9 p.m. Pioneer Park in Florence.

Thursdays —Florence Farmers Market will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays in Pioneer Park in Florence.

REM will be open from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday at the former St. Joseph Manor at 600 W. Third St. in Florence. Rooms are filling fast with great artists. Everyone is invited to stop by and see the exhibitions.

July 2nd through August 27th. Fremont Center for the Arts Summer Family events FCA is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 505 Macon Ave. DAWN to DUSK, A two-month Summer Family Event on the lives and art of **Colorado Native Americans and Early Settlers**. General Admission Tuesday through Friday and reception night is \$3 for FCA members, \$6 non-members and free for children 12 and under.

July 23rd Special entertainment & demos on Saturday: Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Demos and J J Steele Music. 505 Macon, Cañon City, 719-275-2790. For complete information, admission fees and schedule of events, visit www.fremontarts.org/dawn-to-dusk.html

July 23rd, The First United Methodists will host a **Day of Prayer** from 10 a.m.-noon in Cañon City at Ninth and Main Streets. Drive through services also will be available. The organizers invite everyone to request prayers on that day or anytime they feel a need. Believe in the power of prayer.

July 26th, 7 p.m. The Resource Connection’s “Tour of Denominations.” Bob Hansen, Congregational leader of Anshey Hashem Jewish Congregation in Cañon City will explain the history, beliefs and practices of Messianic Judaism in the lower level of Sunflower Bank at Ninth and Royal Gorge Boulevard. Call the TRC office at 275-4438 or access trcsoco.org to register and for more information.

July 30th, 8:45 a.m. Annual St. Jude’s Fundraiser: 100 Mile Motorcycle Ride and 5K Run/Walk. Starting at 9 a.m., participants may gather for a pancake breakfast at 600 E. Main St. in Florence. Immediately following breakfast, the riders will be rolling on a 100-mile ride. In the meantime, the **5K Walk/Run check-in at 8 a.m.** in Pioneer Park. At 8:45 a.m., participants will begin the walk/run, followed by a pancake breakfast. **St. Jude’s Fundraiser dinner** will be featured from 5-8 p.m. at 131 Front St. The event will feature live music, dinner and much more. Entry fee is \$10 per person.

July 30th, Starpoint Fundraiser Breakfast will present two seatings; one at 8 a.m. and the other at 9:30 a.m. at the Vineyard, 245 S. Reynolds Ave. Breakfast consists of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, bacon, coffee, tea and water. Tickets are \$10 per person or free for children under 5. Jewelry and accessories donated by local merchants will be modeled by Starpoint consumers. Tickets are available at City Market, Red Ball, Starpoint, Vineyard, Mountain Peaks Urology in Cañon City and Pour House in Florence.

July 30 – Aug. 7, Fremont County Fair at the Fairgrounds at the top of Ninth Street hill. For more information, visit www.fremontcountyfair.com.

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“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.

America In The End Times

Many theologians and students of the Bible have various theories of America’s position and role in the end times. Some argue that the use of the word “Eagle” in certain verses refers to the United States. Others believe that certain descriptions of Babylon point toward the modern America. Others use numerology to decipher America’s involvement in eschatology. Certainly, many of these theories could well be considered “types and shadows” or examples if you will, of how a nation could be positioned for a certain purpose in the end times. America has played and is playing a substantial role in eschatology--some good, most not.

The United States was instrumental in helping bring about the reestablishment of Israel, a fulfillment of several prophecies such as Isaiah 66:8, “Who ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Is a country born in one day? Is a nation brought forth all at once? For as soon as Zion went into labor, she brought forth her children”; and, Ezekiel 37:21-22, “I will take the people of Israel from among the nations where they have gone and gather them from every side and bring them back to their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.” Until the current administration, the U.S. had been a longstanding ally of Israel since 1948, playing a strong role in Bible eschatology.

The U.S. has also played a strong role in aligning the nations that will come against Israel in the Day of the Lord. President Jimmy Carter began the

march of the end time “Beast” prophecies by deposing the Shah of Iran and supporting democracy there in 1979. The radical Shia government came to power under the Ayatollahs. President Bill Clinton used the power of America to support the Islamic takeover of Kosovo. President George W. Bush and the current man who occupies the Oval Office promoted democratic Islamism (surely a contradiction in terms) in Gaza, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Yeman. The White House has been positioning America to do the same in Syria.

A map of the Islamic Caliphate that ruled over the Middle East and Eastern Europe from 1299 to 1923 indicates that America has helped reestablish Islam in well over half of the land mass of that former Ottoman Empire. After World War II, the U.S. supported the democratization of Turkey, the linchpin in end time eschatology, as revealed in Revelation, Daniel, and Ezekiel. Saudi Arabia has been a perceived U.S. ally as well as a backer of radical Islam. The former Ottoman Empire nations are those mentioned in Ezekiel 38, Psalm 83, and called the Beast Empire in Daniel 11, comprising the specific nations that come against Israel in the Day of the Lord. While there is no specific mention of America in the Bible, her prophetic role appears to be significant.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!

Bill Wilson

www.dailyjot.com

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How You Lost the Constitution

by Karl Denninger, Market-Ticker.Org

Let’s talk for a bit about the so-called “narrow” and “common sense” compromise being put forward by Democrats -- and a few Republicans, notably Susan Collins (R-ME), to block people from buying guns if they’re “on a terror watch list.”

Sounds reasonable, right?

Well, it’s not.

And the reason it’s not has nothing to do with letting terrorists have guns. Nobody in their right mind wants to have someone who is an actual terrorist walk into a gun store and buy a firearm -- or ten.

Rather, we blew it when we allowed the creation of “watch lists” that are (1) secret, (2) constrain people (e.g. “no-fly” lists) and (3) have no due process protections of any sort associated with them.

These are all unconstitutional, I remind you, to the extent they apply to American citizens.

Now it happens to be completely constitutional for The President (via the State Department) to bar *anyone* that is not a U.S. Citizen from entering the country -- whether by air, train, boat, car, walking or teleportation. Not only is there no Constitutional problem with doing so, *it is explicitly authorized by statute* and no less than Jimmy Carter did exactly that during the Iranian Hostage Crisis (I’ll bet you know what group of people he banned too, right?)

Today politicians on both sides of the aisle -- including Obama -- like to claim that this is not “who we are.” Did they forget Carter?

It sure sounds like it.

The problem with “Secret Lists” is that there is no

way to know if you’re on one up front and, if you discover you are (while trying to board a plane or buy a gun, for example) *your liberties are infringed without due process of law and often without any means of challenge*.

The government claims that disclosing this information means that their investigations may be “thwarted.” And? The issue isn’t that they have a list of people they’re watching -- that’s called *investigation* and is part and parcel of any legitimate law enforcement agency. **No, it’s the disability they impose without due process, without trial and without, in many cases, anything that would be regarded as actionable evidence of a crime.**

If the government wishes to conduct investigations before getting warrants, that’s part of police work.

But imposing disabilities,

including barring people from getting on a plane or buying a gun when you cannot make the case that a crime is in the process of being committed is unconstitutional, impermissible in a free society and must be stopped in its entirety.

Those who argue otherwise are IMHO-- not Americans and to the extent they’re in positions of political power, they are not only not American, **they’re violating long-standing law** (18 USC 242 and 42 USC 1983) and must be both civilly sued and criminally prosecuted for their *crimes*.

(Editor/GG: Karl is right. The corrupt federal courts have allowed this to happen despite numerous challenges. Step by step we are losing our freedom and liberty.)

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King Obama Spent \$79.6 MILLION on Travel Expenses So Far

by Jeannette Richard, CNS News

-- (CNSNews.com)

New information obtained from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) brings the grand total of known travel expenses of President Obama and his family to \$79,630,433.93, Judicial Watch reported Wednesday.

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton called President Obama’s travel spending a “scandal” and an “abuse of the office.”

“Taxpayers should be incensed that the Secret Service’s resources [are] wasted to provide security for endless golf excursions, political fundraisers, and luxury vacations,” Fitton said.

The non-profit government watchdog organization obtained new information on Secret Service spending on hotel and travel expenses for seven presidential trips in 2014 and 2015, which were mostly for pleasure and fundraising, through a November 2015 lawsuit it filed against DHS because the agency “had failed to respond to 19 FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] requests” since July 2014.

The priciest of the seven trips - to Seattle and Los Angeles to raise money for Democratic congressional candidates in July 2014 - cost taxpayers \$237,731.05

on hotels, \$19,888.70 on rental cars, \$1,451.40 on air and rail travel, and \$2,425,085.50 on Air Force One expenses, for a grand total of \$2,684,156.60, according to the released records.

The second most expensive trip was a \$1,604,380.50 getaway to Westchester, N.Y. and Providence, R.I. that same year.

Obama’s luxury family vacation to Martha’s Vineyard last August cost taxpayers \$465,420.49, according to DHS records.

“The First Family’s Martha’s Vineyard vacation, their sixth in the past seven years, was spent at the lavish Blue Heron Farm in Chilmark, a seven-bedroom, nine-bath, 8,100-square-foot estate, sitting on ten acres of farmland. The estate features 17 rooms, expansive water views of Vineyard Sound, an infinity pool, and a tennis-basketball court. It rents for \$50,000 a week,” Judicial Watch reported.

(Editor/GG: Keep working peasants. The Roi de Noire needs more money for his vacations and golfing. Thanks republicans for FULLY FUNDING this sickening waste of OUR money.)

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“The Tree of Liberty Must Be Refreshed...”

by Thomas Jefferson

An oldie but goody from Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), author of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1777), founder of the University of Virginia (1819), third president of the United States (1801–1809), political philosopher, editor of Jefferson’s Bible (1819), and one of the most influential founders of the United States, letter to William Stephens Smith (1787):

“There has been one rebellion. That comes to one rebellion in a century and a half for each state. What country before ever existed a century and half without a rebellion? And what country can preserve it’s liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to facts, pardon and pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.”

Thanks to Robert Gore, of Straight-LineLogic.com for posting the above. Please see: <https://straightlinelogic.com/2016/07/12/he-said-that-71216/>

“I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

Amos 9:15

Is Hillary Morally Unfit to Be President?

by Pat Buchanan,
Buchanan.Org

Does Hillary Clinton possess the integrity and honesty to be president of the United States? Or are those quaint and irrelevant considerations in electing a head of state in 21st-century America?

These are the questions put on the table by the report from FBI Director James Comey on what his agents unearthed in their criminal investigation of the Clinton email scandal.

Clinton dodged an FBI recommendation that she be indicted for gross negligence in handling U.S. security secrets, a recommendation that would have aborted her campaign. But Director Comey dynamited the defense she has been offering the country.

Comey all but declared that Clinton lied when she said she had State Department approval for the email server in her home.

He all but declared that she lied when she said she had only one server, and that no classified or secret material was transmitted. He also implied that she lied when

she said she had used only one device and had turned over all of her work-related emails to State. The FBI found “several thousand” more.

Clinton said her emails were stored in a secure area. This, too, was false. Hostile actors and hostile regimes, said Comey, had access to email systems of those with whom she com-

municated. suggest that in similar circumstances, a person who engaged in this activity would face no consequence. To the contrary, those individuals are often subject to security or administrative sanctions.”

Translation: Were Clinton still the Secretary of State and were such recklessness with secrets to be discovered, she could have

“The perfect running mate for this serial fabricator would be the Cherokee lass Elizabeth Warren.”

municated.

Comey said he found no criminal “intent” in what Clinton did.

Yet, he charged her with having been “extremely careless” with U.S. national security secrets, a phrase that seems synonymous with the gross negligence needed to indict and convict.

While recommending against prosecution, Comey added, “This is not to

been forced to resign and stripped of her security clearance forever.

Yet if Clinton is elected president, our commander in chief for the next four years, and her confidantes Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills, will all be individuals the FBI has found to be reckless and unreliable in the handling of national security secrets.

We will have security risks running the armed forces of the USA.

Nor is this the first time Clinton’s truthfulness has been called into question. Twenty years ago, she fabricated a tale about crossing a tarmac in Bosnia “under sniper fire,” and running with “our heads down.” Photos showed a peaceful arrival featuring a smiling little girl.

Family members of the dead heroes of Benghazi’s “13 Hours” say Clinton told them she would see to it that the creator of the anti-Islamic video that incited the mob that killed their sons would be run down, all the while knowing it had been a planned terrorist attack.

In 1996, *The New York Times*’ William Safire went over all of the statements Clinton had made in White-water and related scandals of Bill Clinton’s first term, compared them with subsequently revealed truth, and pronounced Hillary Clinton a “congenital liar.”

She has claimed she tried to join the Marines in 1975, and long contended she was named for famed mountaineer Edmund Hillary, who conquered Mount Everest. Only Sir Edmund climbed Everest when Hillary was six years old. The

perfect running mate for this serial fabricator would be the Cherokee lass Elizabeth Warren.

Still, a question arises as to Comey’s motives in airing the findings of an FBI investigation. Normally, the bureau passes on the evidence it has found, along with its recommendation, to the Justice Department. And justice decides whether to prosecute.

Instead, Comey called a press conference, documented the charge that Clinton was “extremely careless,” contradicted, point by point, the story she has told the public, then announced he was recommending against prosecution.

What was behind this extraordinary performance?

By urging no prosecution, but providing evidence for a verdict of criminal negligence in handling classified material, Comey was saying: ‘I am not recommending prosecution, because, to do that, would be to force Hillary Clinton out of the race, and virtually decide the election of 2016. And that is my not decision. That is your decision.’

You, the American people, should decide, given all this evidence, if Clinton should be commander in chief. You decide if a public figure with a record of such recklessness and duplicity belongs in the Oval Office.

Comey was making the case against Clinton as the custodian of national security secrets with a credibility the GOP cannot match, while refusing to determine her fate by urging an indictment, and instead leaving her future in our hands.

And, ultimately, should not this decision rest with the people, and not the FBI?

If, knowing what we know of the congenital mendacity of Hillary Clinton, the nation chooses her as head of state and commander in chief, then that will tell us something about the America of 2016.

And it will tell us something about the supposed superiority of democracy over other forms of government.

Please see: <http://buchanan.org/blog/hillary-morally-unfit-president-125417>

BLM Is Obama’s KKK

by T.L. Davis,
ChristianMerc.blogspot.com

Just like Southern Democrats of the past with their charming smiles and warm handshakes that disguised their use of the Ku Klux Klan to handle the dirty work of keeping blacks down and intimidated so that they could not exercise their Constitutional rights of political discourse, President Barack Obama has begun to use the Black Lives Matter (BLM) organization to the same purpose.

In front of the cameras, Barack Obama speaks of despicable acts of hatred, while his Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, encourages those responsible for the murder of Dallas policemen that she has their back, to take comfort that no harm will come to the terrorist organization known as Black Lives Matter.

In the past, racism demonstrated by blacks was shrugged off as a somehow healthy expression of long-held oppression. While there is no dispute that oppression happened and that blacks had been treated in inhuman ways in the past, the argument was always that there was no possibility of black racism due to the lack of power in

the black community, but that has changed. There has been a black president, a black Attorney General, a black Supreme Court Justice, numerous black professors, news reporters, TV hosts and sports figures for a long time. The idea that blacks cannot prosecute their racism into oppression and discrimination is no longer true.

Micah X. Johnson changed all of that when he demonstrated that his racism, left to fester and grow with the understanding that it was acceptable for blacks to be racists, but not whites, and that murder of police officers was encouraged by the Black Lives Matter organization, took action against police, something BLM has called for many times in public, openly and without censure by the Obama Administration. In fact, Barack Obama welcomed members of this terrorist organization and complimented them on their actions in Ferguson and Baltimore, all of which lead to the destruction of property and injury to others.

It has long been known that Barack Obama has no interest in racial harmony and that he has openly fomented the increased racial divisions in this nation. Why? Because Barack Obama is and always has tried to

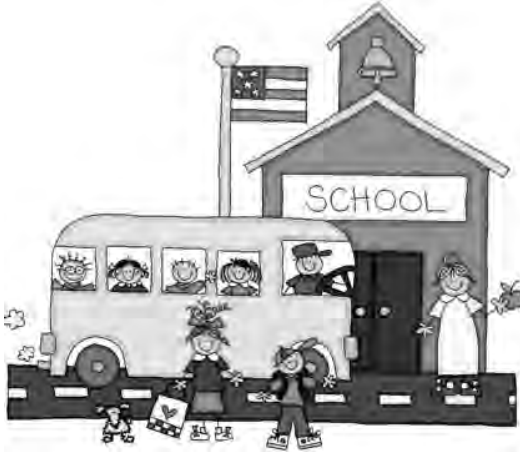
prove his dedication to the “cause.” As a Hawaiian born of a Kenyan and a girl from Kansas, both black and white, he has not, for all the time spent in Chicago, ever been able to prove to other blacks that he was “down for the struggle”. But in supporting, aiding and abetting Black Lives Matter, he has been able to put that notch in his pistol.

I am not making an accusation here, nothing written above is in dispute, it is fact. It is a demonstrated strategy, but not even so much as his legacy or his stature as a president, but rather the community organizing that Barack Obama plans as an exit strategy to the White House, (and, this is speculation on my part,) that he intends to lead the Black Lives Matter organization or something like it, to take racial hatred to a new level, far beyond anything Jesse Jackson or Al Sharpton or even Louis Farrakhan have ever been able to establish. With his status as a former president, he will be in a position to call action of the UN against the United States.

Obama’s weak denunciation of the shooter in Dallas speaks volumes as to the

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SCOTUS Sweeps Away Constitutional Liberties, Creates Nonexistent Rights

by Rob Natelson, CNSNews.com

Three recent Supreme Court decisions reveal in the area of personal rights, most of the justices are applying rules completely unrelated to the liberties provided by the U.S. Constitution. In two of the cases, the majority refused to protect clearly defined rights, and in the third, the majority strained to protect a "right" that is not expressly written.

The First Amendment protects "free exercise" of religion. In 1993, the Court held—correctly, I believe—when government officials target particular religious beliefs, they violate the First Amendment. That's exactly what Washington State officials did in *Stormans, Inc. v. Wiesman*. In that case, Gov. Jay Inslee (D) was displeased with pharmacists who, on religious grounds, refused to dispense abortion-inducing drugs. Availability of the drugs was not a serious concern, but the governor attempted to force reli-

gious dissenters to either violate their consciences or lose their livelihoods. Inslee even threatened to fire members of the state's pharmacy board unless they banned faith-related opt-outs. Even more nefarious, Inslee's allies on the state human rights commission threatened board members with personal liability if they did not issue a ban.

Under pressure, the pharmacy board adopted a rule requiring religious dissenters to dispense abortifacients. Left-wing activist groups then used the rule to launch a campaign to badger dissenters into choosing between compliance or closing down.

This was a clear case of a state violating First Amendment rights, just as the trial judge ruled. But an appellate court reversed that decision, and a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court—with Justices Samuel Alito, John Roberts, and Clarence Thomas dissenting—let the appellate court's decision stand.

The First Amendment also guards "freedom of the press." The phrase was designed to cover not only newspapers but the right to publish political opinions as well, with or without disclosing one's identity.

"...clear case of a state violating First Amendment rights."

In fact, when the First Amendment was adopted, the usual practice was to submit an opinion for public judgment without signing one's name. That's how *The Federalist Papers* were first published.

In recent years, Congress and many states have flouted the First Amendment by adopting laws forcing the authors of political media to disclose donors' names. Those laws are popular only among people who do not understand the real motivations behind them: to aid incumbent politicians

and to subject dissenters to harassment.

In *Delaware Strong Families v. Denn*, the State of Delaware imposed intrusive disclosure rules on a nonprofit organization that

distributed a voter guide discussing—in a relatively neutral way—local candidates' positions on various issues. The guide, by virtually all legal precedents, was precisely the kind of publication protected by "freedom of the press." Nevertheless, the Supreme Court refused to overturn the Delaware rules. Only Alito and Thomas dissented.

But while the Court was busy ruling against clearly articulated constitutional rights in *Stormans, Inc.* and *Delaware Strong Families*,

it was also inventing new constitutional "rights" never before established in its ruling in *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*.

In that case, a majority of justices struck down a Texas law requiring each abortion doctor to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. The idea was to assure immediate hospitalization if complications arose during an abortion procedure. It also struck down another state law requiring abortion facilities to follow the same standards imposed on other out-patient surgery providers.

As far as business regulations go, the Texas laws were very modest. Judges routinely uphold much more intrusive regulations—even those that entirely abolish otherwise legitimate businesses. Yet, in this case, the Supreme Court majority—again with dissents from Alito, Roberts, and Thomas—voided both laws. The majority reasoned the regulations might reduce

the availability of abortion and are therefore unconstitutional. This is a curious decision since the Court has never shown similar concern for other businesses greatly harmed by regulations, including other heavily regulated health care facilities.

The majority's zeal is particularly striking when you consider two other factors: First, none of the plaintiffs were actually women seeking abortions. The plaintiffs were providers making money from abortions. Second, the majority swept away technical legal hurdles that probably would have killed any non-abortion case.

Sadly, in this area of constitutional law, the Constitution no longer matters much. What does seem to matter, however, are the personal views of the majority of the Supreme Court.

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Isaiah 41:10 NKJV

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The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand



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

Captain John Parker, Lexington Green, April 19, 1775

Colorado Deputy Pulls Off a "One in a Billion" Shot to Stop Armed Robbers

by Jenn Jacques,
BearingArms.com

The weapon associated with the January 2016 shooting of an off-duty Jefferson County sheriff's deputy is seen with one of the shots that Deputy Marquez fired from his .45 caliber handgun that actually hit Meshesha's .40 caliber handgun and traveled down the barrel. (Courtesy 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office)

On Wednesday, Arapahoe County prosecutors announced their determination that Deputy Jose Marquez acted appropriately when he exchanged gunfire with two attempted robbery suspects

in Aurora, Colorado, back in January.

On January 26th, Marquez was visiting his girlfriend and had gone to the parking lot to get something out of his car. Two men with masks on their face approached him in the parking lot, one pulled a weapon and said "Give it up."

Deputy Marquez, who was off duty and not in uniform, was shot in the shoulder and abdomen but managed to draw his own weapon and return fire at the suspects, ending the attack.

One of the suspects, Jhalil Meshesha, was wounded in the leg and

later arrested, the other fled the scene and has not been identified.

"Deputy Marquez reasonably be-

lieved that his life was in danger and acted reasonably in shooting Meshesha, and that he used an appropriate level of physical

force. I further find that Deputy Marquez's actions were justified and he did not violate Colorado law," the letter said.



Courtesy Photo from BearingArms.com

In an amazing twist of fate, investigators discovered one of Marquez's bullets *inside the barrel* of Meshesha's pistol. Police say a bullet from Marquez' .45 caliber handgun actually *traveled down the barrel* of Meshesha's .40 caliber handgun and disabled it. Police are calling the shot "one in a billion."

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76% of Police Chiefs Say Armed Citizens Are Doing This

by Jenn Jacques,
BearingArms.com

According to the 28th Annual Survey by the National Association of Chiefs of Police, an overwhelming percentage of our nation's police chiefs and sheriffs say armed citizens actually "reduce violent criminal activity".

More than three-fourths, actually.

"Can qualified, law-abid-

ing armed citizens help law enforcement reduce violent criminal activity?"

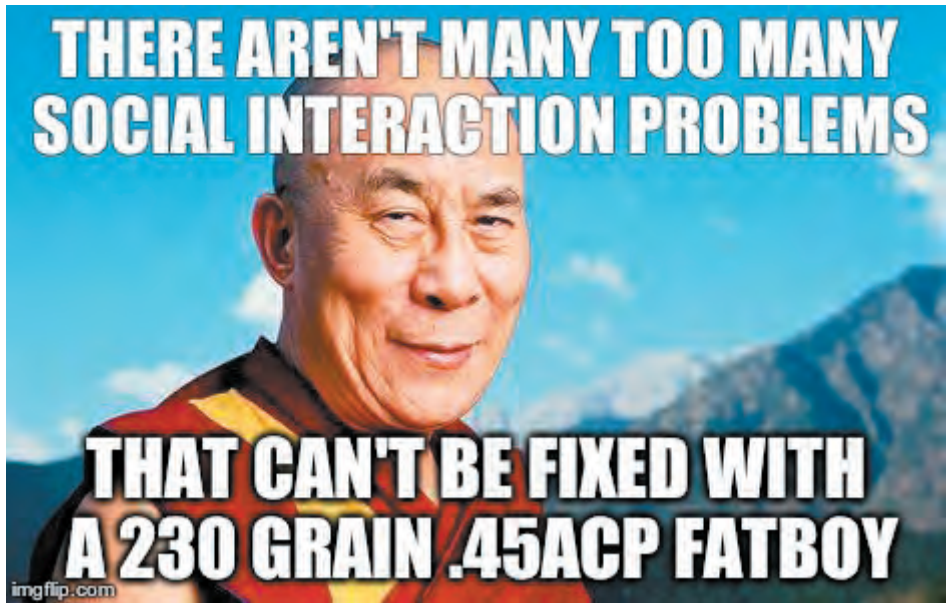
Yes: 76.0%
No: 18.6%
N/A: 5.4%
Impressive, right?

Additionally, 87.9% of participating law enforcement officers said they think "any vetted citizen" should be able to "purchase a firearm for sport or self-defense,"

with only 8.9% disagreeing and 3.2% replying "N/A".

Also of note: 96.1% of officers responding said they believe an illegal alien convicted of a crime should be "deported after serving their sentence".

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"The Constitution preserves the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation...(where) the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms."

—James Madison, The Federalist Papers, No. 46

Is the Last Day of the Second Amendment Approaching?

by Jenn Jacques,
BearingArms.com

From Barack Obama's Executive Orders against it to Congress' failure to protect it, the media's all out assault surrounding it's true purpose to the corrosive lies gurgling out of Hollywood that infect the impressionable minds of future voters with their perverted view of it, the Second Amendment and the rights it protects are slowly being eaten away.

Passed by Congress on September 25, 1789 and ratified on December 15, 1791, our brilliant forefathers, the creators of this free nation, had the foresight to ensure our freedom with one simple line: "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."

Armed, trained Americans

are an essential component of our country's freedom. The people have a right to keep and bear arms and that right shall not be infringed. Shall not be infringed.

Shall. Not. Be. Infringed. We live in a country where our leaders consider an act of domestic terrorism 'workplace violence'. A place where opportunities

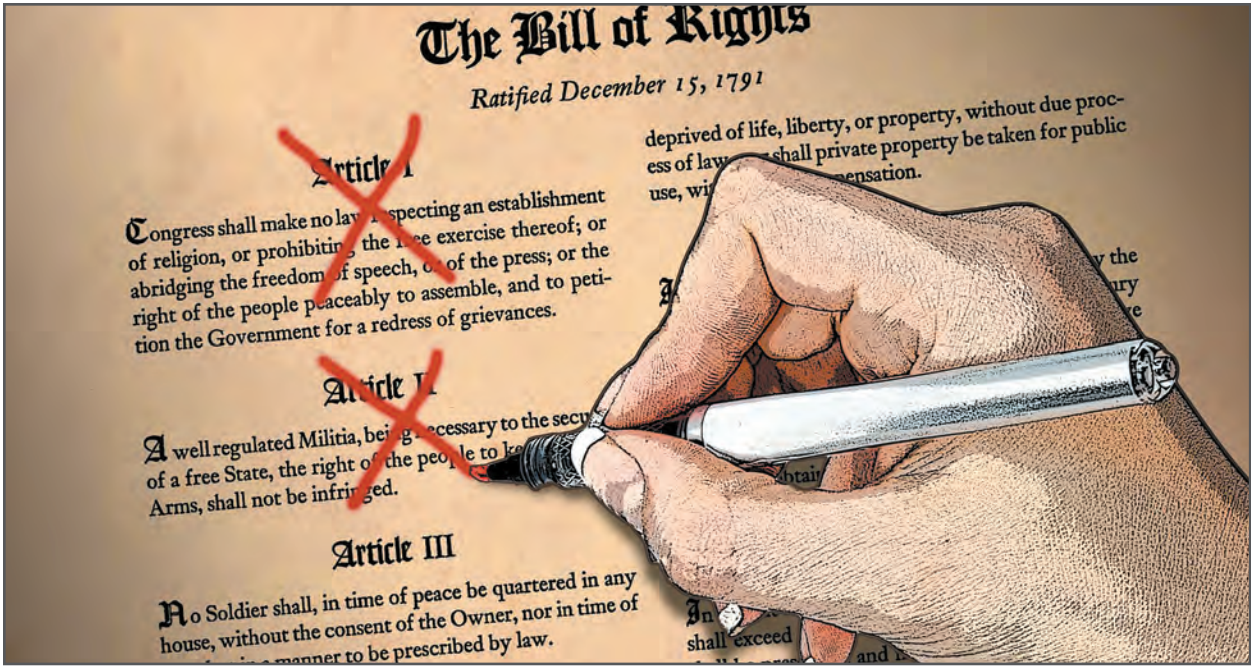
for law breakers far outweigh law-abiding Americans' right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. An era where words like 'illegal', 'criminal'

and 'American' are taboo. A time when our country is just one supreme court justice and one election away from the end of many rights that protect the security of our free nation.

At what point do we stop accepting what this government decides is constitutional? How much do we have to concede before we act? When do we decide where our red line is and who is going to enforce it?

Amid all these questions, only one thing is absolute: Light it up.

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Courtesy Photo

Beware of the Sympathetic Squeeze

by Brent Wheat,
BearingArms.com

Reflexes are standard equipment on all normal human bodies and serve valuable survival functions. Sometimes they are even a bit humorous, such as when the doctor uses that little rubber hammer to make your leg flop around.

However, among all your body's other involuntary physical responses there is one reflex that has tremendous bearing on defensive firearms usage: the sympathetic squeeze reflex or, more properly, inter-limb interaction. This phenomenon needs to be more widely understood among those who carry firearms for self-defense.

Sympathetic squeeze came to the forefront in the 1990's when researchers were trying to understand why surrendering suspects were killed by police officers who later claimed they didn't intend to shoot. It soon became apparent that there was more to these situations than lying or trigger-happy cops.

The inquiry led to the discovery of inter-limb interaction. Simply put, it is the simultaneous movement of the opposite fingers or hand during high stress events. For example, if you grab something during a crisis, it is very likely your non-involved hand will likewise close.

This was seen in many cases where suspects were shot when an officer tried to transmit on his portable radio. The act of pressing the transmit button caused a similar, involuntary movement of the trigger finger on the other hand. If the gun was pointed at the suspect, which it often was, the result was a dead suspect and indicted officer.

Sympathetic squeeze can occur with many actions: opening a door, flipping a light switch, grabbing a handhold or attempting to operate a flashlight. It also isn't theory. The author can vouch for one memorable instance when the stereotypical radio transmission caused curling of his trigger finger during an apprehension following a wild car and foot chase. In retrospect, the momentary mental consternation of being unable to transmit without pulling the trigger is humorous but it could have been disastrous.

So what can gun owners do to prevent a tragedy and/or a potential murder charge in such situations?

The simplest fix is to continually practice the advice given in the widely-adopted "Four Rules" of safe firearm handling written by Col. Jeff Cooper. First and foremost in regard to inter-limb interaction is Rule #4: "Keep your finger off the trigger unless your sights are on target." This is

one of the primary reasons why professional instructors are so adamant about keeping a straight trigger finger when not firing.

If your finger is habitually straight and properly stowed alongside the weapon frame, it is unlikely to creep onto the trigger when you don't intend to shoot someone, even under incredible stress.

Rule #2, "Never Point the Weapon at Anything You Don't Intend to Destroy," is the second important facet in combating sympathetic squeeze and the reason we never hold adversaries at gunpoint. Keeping your weapon at a "guard," "low-ready," or other such position offers tactical advantages, (such as good visualization of a suspect's hands and allowing nearly instantaneous firing if aggressive action is necessary,) but also provides a margin of error if you have ignored rule #4 and then suffered from a case of inter-limb interaction.

Shooting a bad-guy is life-changing event; accidentally shooting a bad guy in many ways is worse because now you will likely become a criminal in spite of your otherwise honorable intentions. Don't ignore the serious dangers of sympathetic squeeze!

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BLM from page 18

fact that he encourages this sort of behavior among the black population. Any other president would have sworn to get to the bottom of Johnson's connections

to the Black Lives Matter organization. But, he didn't do that and his AG went out to reassure that no pressure would be applied to Black Lives Matter in order to determine the openly avowed connections. This is direct aid and comfort and an impeachable offense.

Imagine for a moment if it had been a white shooter with connections to a Tea Party or Patriot group. To see the level of racism in the president, one might only imagine his rhetoric had that been the case. It also demonstrates that Black Lives Matter func-

tions as the KKK has in the past; as a militant and active organization acting on racial lines for powerful political figures.

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Politics & The Bible

From Pastor Jim

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

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

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



EIGHTY-FOUR DEAD AND COUNTING

At this writing eighty-four are dead and many of the wounded are on life support resulting from a terrorist attack in Nice, France. Mohamed Bouhlel drove a rented truck into a large celebrating crowd mowing down as many as possible. Witnesses heard him shouting, "Allah Akbar" while delivering horrible carnage to young and old. In the words of Gomer Pyle... "Surprise, surprise, surprise." Why would we expect to hear, even before Mr. Bouhlel's name or religion was mentioned, that he was a Muslim? Any assumption that smacks of Islamophobia is totally unacceptable and must immediately be shredded into the wastebasket of political correctness. Statistics mean nothing and should be utterly discounted unless, of course, they somehow work in the favor of liberalism.

Please disregard the 28,822 (there will be more by the time this article is published) terror attacks worldwide since 9/11. For all we know, a proportional number of those could have been committed by Hindus, Buddhists, Jews or Jehovah Witnesses in disguise, attempting to transfer the blame to persecuted Palestinians.

The attacks of 9/11 left 2,996 dead and thousands scarred physically and emotionally for life. An additional forty-eight plots have transpired on American soil since that day of infamy, resulting in 139 more deaths. All of these were perpetrated by Muslims but our president continues to remind us that the "religion of peace" cannot be judged by the actions of a "few." We should take great comfort in the fact that it's only the "few" that are killing us. A suggested epitaph for 3,135 tombstones could read... "It wasn't a religion, just a few hairballs." The administration's subterfuge implies that benevolent American tolerance should be willing to accept certain collateral damage.

When Mohamed Bouhlel's family was interviewed they retreated to familiar talking points, namely... he was a bad Muslim because he ate pork, didn't pray at appointed intervals and worst of all, was a womanizer. Should we then conclude that all of the thousands of Muslim murderers that instigated almost 29,000 rampages were backslidden adherents? If so, surely they have been excommunicated and denied the parade of virgins the faithful are promised.

If the original Mohammed is the standard bearer for Islamic behavior, womanizing should not be considered evil. This was a man who married a nine-year-old and also his daughter-in-law. He shackled up with fourteen wives and eleven slave girls. That is the character about whom Muslims go into raptures and call "our blessed mes-

senger," "our holy apostle," "Allah bless his prophet," Allah bless his messenger," etc. His followers simply deified him after his death.

Most reasonable people understand the principle of first possession is a legitimate declaration of ownership. God the Creator, as first owner, gave real estate to whom He willed. Genesis 12:1 and 15:8 records the Lord granting title to a triangular land mass approximately 1,000 miles on each side. Abraham and his seed are the recipients of this unconditional covenant but the not so fine print included some stipulations, the primary one found in Numbers 33:51-53... "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, when ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it." Failure to obey resulted in this prophesy... "... but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you." (Judges 2:3)

Lest some Pharisees trip over their robes of self-righteousness crying "unfair, unfair," it should be noted that the nations occupying Palestine were given a 400 year opportunity to repent and turn from extremely wicked life styles which included sacrificing their own children to pagan idols. The abortion mills of the ancients were activated after birth, not before. During those years Israel, the apple of God's eye, remained in Egyptian slavery because "the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." (Genesis 15:16) God's grace was extended 400 years before the order of displacement was given even though his mercy greatly inconvenienced His chosen people. The Lord knew that the religious fanaticism of the squatters would sow disastrous results for Israel and told them so.

Several decades of open border policies have caught up with France. Hundreds, if not thousands, of terrorists have found safe haven in Europe with the purpose of eventually subjugating the continent. Terrorism will force the passive and the unarmed to acquiesce for the sake of peace.

The first chapter of Judges lists tribe by tribe the failure of Israel to drive back the inhabitants to the lands that God originally intended for them. The Jews were given the option of driving out the heathen or being driven out themselves. They had been promised help from God (Exodus 23:20; 33:2; Joshua 3:10, 13:6), but because they could not think negatively, it cost them their country....ditto America!

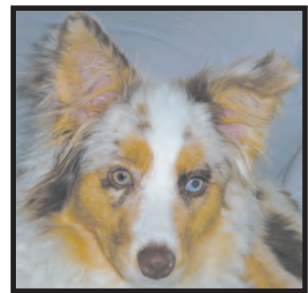
A Sheepdog Barks!

I've got a little sheepdog Ipotpourri (that's sheepdog talk for rambling all over the place) for you this week. America may be crumbling right before our eyes. A few weeks ago I mentioned how cynical I am. The more I think about it, the more I believe that that attitude is justified. I'm becoming more and more convinced, sadly, that there is NO "voter fix" to our problems. I used to believe that we could overcome America's problems at the ballot box but now I'm not so sure. The federal government seems intent on destroying the last fundamental values of our Constitution.

They have succumbed to the demands of the younger liberal progressive generations and have completely lost their way. The government (both parties) wants to provide everything to everyone. The few politicians that speak about personal responsibilities are booed out of the room. Student loans, food stamps, welfare assistance and health insurance costs have skyrocketed off the charts. There is no relief in sight. The Feds just keep printing more money and the politicians just keep spending enormous amounts of money we don't have. The National Debt is over \$19 Trillion and growing every day. This all goes on while the labor force participation keeps going down, worker's share of the economy keeps going down, median family income keeps going down and home ownership keeps going down. Yet the LPSDs are still standing behind HiLIARy who says she wants to continue Obama's policies. None of this makes any sense. The federal government is running amuck while at the same time they cannot protect us. They don't have a clue who is in this country nor what they may be up to. The rule of law has been trashed and law and order is suffering. The Department of Defense leadership is focused on women in combat roles, gays and transgender rights and not on killing the terrorists that threaten our security and safety. ISIS is not on the run, they are not failing, they are not desperate and they are not the Junior Varsity. Our current president doesn't have the stomach or the will to defeat terrorism. All he wants to do is talk diplomacy.

He is this century's Neville Chamberlain. He is clearly sympathetic to the Muslim Jihad cause. Oh yes, they like to tell us about his drone attacks. Yes, he has killed a few hundred bad guys. The problem is we need to kill a few hundred thousand bad guys (aka Islamic Terrorists) if we want peace, safety and security. But it will take a real committed effort. Congress needs to declare war on terrorism and terrorists. Then a serious commander in chief needs to prosecute the war like he really believes in it and wants to win it. The LPSDs try to tell us you cannot defeat ISIS or destroy an ideology by bombing it. Well, they are wrong! I saw these comments attributed to a WWII veteran on Facebook this week. I think he got it exactly right. He said the following: "The h3!! you can't. Because we did it. These radical jihadists are no different than the [Imperial] Japanese. The Japs had their suicide bombers too. And we stopped them. What it takes is the resolve and will to use a level of brutality and violence that your generations can't stomach. And until you can, this s*** won't stop. It took us on the beaches with bullets, clearing out caves with flame throwers, and men like LeMay burning down their cities, killing people by the tens of thousands. And then it took two atom bombs on top of it. But if that was what it took to win we were willing to do it. Until you are willing to do the same...well I hope you enjoy this s***, because it ain't going to stop." Double WOOF! Trump recently made some similar remarks and he was vilified. The LPSDs don't have it in them to really destroy ISIS. They want to "love" them to death. Which is best for America? It's clear to me. WOOF!

And I don't know why anyone would think HiLIARy will do anything different. She has echoed Obama's diplomacy strategy and completely failed as the Secretary of State to accomplish anything. She actually contributed to the mess we see in the world as she was part of and supported Obama's foreign policy. What do we expect from the LPSD leadership we have? Kerry comes out and promotes and praises a "borderless world." REALLY? This is what

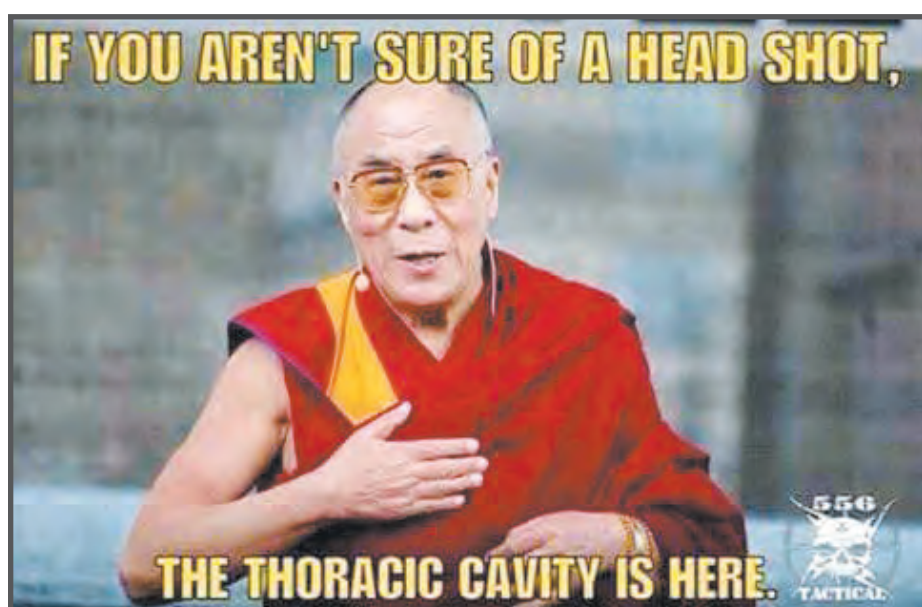


we want more of? Not this sheepdog. The LPSDs want more multiculturalism, more political correctness, more diversity, more uncontrolled immigration and even more illegal immigration. Well I'm ready for something different. I'm ready to go back to the future. This new modern way of American life sucks. It is a disease and it must be eradicated. We have a president that not only orally supports a black activist group that wants to kill cops he even invites them to the White House. This is insane! WOOF!

Any person or any organization that threatens any law enforcement officer must be brought to justice and punished. We cannot let their disrespect for America's security and safety be violated. The cops are the reason we have a safe environment now. They serve and protect us and they deserve our gratitude, respect and support. This is not being done now. Barack Obama has taken to the TV too many times and criticized our law enforcement community calling them stupid, reckless and racist. There is no changing him and thank goodness he only has about six months left. What's next? More LPSD philosophy and policy? Nothing this sheepdog wants. WOOF!

I want to end today with something I heard during the Baton Rouge press conference last Monday. The last person to speak was the FBI special agent in charge, Jeff Sallet. He ended with this. He said he would like to repeat seven words from the pledge of allegiance. In fact he said these nine words: "One Nation, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." I do NOT believe he accidentally left out "under God." Shame on him but that's what we are facing in America. We need change. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



America’s Muslim Heritage

by Anonymous,
via Internet Chain Mail

(Editor/GG: A reader sent this to us. A citizen’s post on the ‘net. Won’t see this in the latest U.S. high school history books? Wonder why?)

Have you ever seen a Muslim hospital?

Have you heard a Muslim orchestra?

Have you seen a Muslim band march in a parade?

Have you witnessed a Muslim charity?

Have you shaken hands with a Muslim Girl Scout?

Have you seen a Muslim Candy Striper?

The answer is no, you have not. Just ask yourself WHY??

Barack Obama, during his Cairo speech, said: “I know,

too, that Islam has always been a part of America’s history.”

–AN AMERICAN CITIZEN’S RESPONSE

Dear Mr. Obama:

Were those Muslims that were in America when the Pilgrims first landed? Funny, I thought they were Native American Indians.

Were those Muslims that celebrated the first Thanksgiving day? Sorry again, those were Pilgrims and Native American Indians.

Can you show me one Muslim signature on the: United States Constitution?

Declaration of Independence ?

Bill of Rights?

Didn’t think so.

Did Muslims fight for this country’s freedom from England ? No.

Did Muslims fight during the Civil War to free the slaves in America ? No, they did not.

In fact, Muslims to this day are still the largest traffickers in human slavery. Your own half-brother, a devout Muslim, still advocates slavery himself, even though Muslims of Arabic descent refer to black Muslims as “pug nosed slaves.” Says a lot of what the Muslim world really thinks of your family’s “rich Islamic heritage,” doesn’t it Mr. Obama?

Where were Muslims during the Civil Rights era of this country?

Not present.

There are no pictures or

media accounts of Muslims walking side by side with Martin Luther King, Jr. or helping to advance the cause of Civil Rights.

Where were Muslims during this country’s Woman’s Suffrage era?

Again, not present. In fact, devout Muslims demand that women are subservient to men in the Islamic culture. So much so, that often they are beaten for not wearing the ‘hajib’ or for talking to a man who is not a direct family member or their husband. Yep, the Muslims are all for women’s rights, aren’t they?

Where were Muslims during World War II?

They were aligned with Adolf Hitler. The Muslim grand mufti himself met with Adolf Hitler, reviewed

the troops and accepted support from the Nazi’s in killing Jews.

Finally, Mr. Obama, where were Muslims on September 11th, 2001?

If they weren’t flying planes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon or a field in Pennsylvania killing nearly 3,000 people on our own soil, they were rejoicing in the Middle East. No one can dispute the pictures shown from all parts of the Muslim world celebrating on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC and other cable news network’s that day. Strangely, the very “moderate” Muslims who’s *****s you bent over backwards to kiss in Cairo, Egypt on June 4th, were stone cold silent post 9-11. To many Americans, their silence has meant approval for the acts of that day.

And THAT, Mr. Obama, is the “rich heritage” Muslims have here in America

Oh, I’m sorry, I forgot to mention the Barbary Pirates. They were Muslims.

Add November 5, 2009 - the slaughter of American soldiers at Fort Hood by a Muslim major who is a doctor and a psychiatrist who was supposed to be counseling soldiers returning from battle in Iraq and Afghanistan .

Also, don’t forget the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013, was done by 2 Muslim Brothers.

And NOW add 12 June 2016 the massacre in Orlando, Florida, by an avowed MUSLIM terrorist..

That, Mr. Obama is the “Muslim heritage” in America

BOCC from page 5

one are sent based on the private structures threatened and their monetary value. Work is ongoing to get all properties entered into this GIS system.

Commissioner Shy reported that the board is still waiting for the bid for repairs on the damaged airport hangar.

He also reported to the Wetmore crowd that, despite his hopes that a contract would be signed at this meeting for the work on the community center, the board had not received the contract yet. Commissioner Kattnig brought up the deed restriction on the community center property that states that, if the property is not used as a community center, it would revert back to the Fremont school district. Commissioner Attebery remembers this topic arising about four years ago and asked the Community Center board

to look through their paperwork to see what had been done. A USDA grant for \$20K is being sought for kitchen equipment for the building.

Autumn Dever reported on the 2016 Housing Rehab application. She urged the support of the board if there were homes in the county that were selected for this program. The program gives low interest loans for rehabbing single-family owner-occupied residences up to \$24,999 for people who are below 80% of the median income in the area. Fire mitigation is considered rehabbing for the purposes of this program. The board agreed to look at possibly waiving fees on a case by case basis if homes in the county were accepted for the program. Information about the program for interested homeowners can be found through the Human Services department and through press releases in the paper.

The board signed the road agreement between Road

and Bridge and the US Forest Service.

The issue of the First State Bank and Sky Peak Partners regarding the development across highway 69 from the Ace Hardware came before the board again. The original agreement for this development included that when each of the fourteen 5-acre lots were sold by the developer, 5% of the purchase price would be owed to the county for services (roads, fire, schools, etc.) Two or three of the 14 lots were sold but the money was never collected by the county. The bank foreclosed on the remaining property and now has a potential buyer. Neither the bank nor the potential buyer want to pay that 5%. Attorney Smith verified that the agreement is still binding. No decisions were made but the bank and the investor will be invited to meet with the board at the next BOCC meeting on July 29th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Anti-TABOR Initiative Over

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

One of the more unattractive recommendations coming out of Building a Better Colorado was the proposal to scrap TABOR, or the Taxpayers Bill of Rights, for ten years and dedicate the increased revenue to projects needing funding. According to the proposal, at least 35 percent of the extra cash would go toward education, at least 35 percent toward transportation and anything left over would go toward mental health and senior services.

The reason the campaign died a timely death is debated. Organizers of the campaign told the *Denver Business Journal*.

“However, organizers said they became increasingly worried about getting

their message out during an election that could feature as many as ten other ballot initiatives, as well as presidential and U.S. Senate races in this state.

“Also, backers ‘were unable to raise the large amount of money necessary to gather enough signatures to qualify,’ noted Lisa Weil, executive director of campaign supporter Great Education Colorado, noted in an email to her organization.”

Jon Caldara, head of the Independence Institute, offered another reason the campaign died:

“Jon Caldara, the president of the Independence Institute and the most vocal critic of the effort, said, however, that his organization’s polls showed Colorado Priorities gaining just 44 percent support. And he

said that he was disappointed at the decision to end the campaign. He said the ballot battle would have given him an opportunity to show how much state residents don’t want officials to keep more taxpayer revenues, especially when Medicaid spending is going up faster than any other part of state government.”

Whatever the reason, the move is good news for Colorado taxpayers. While there is no question that roads and schools could use more funding, the truth is that Colorado needs to get its budgetary house in order before it asks for more taxpayer dollars.

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