



FREMONT COUNTY CRUSADER

Vol. 8 Issue 38 Standing up for 'We the People' \$1.00 Friday, September 23, 2022

12th Tactical Fighter Wing hosts annual re-dedication ceremony

by Charlotte Burrous

Cars raced by on U.S. 50, oblivious of the ceremony taking place at the Fremont County Airport War Memorial Wall on Sept. 16, 2022, 21 years after the original dedication of Panel J.

Emceeding the event, former aircraft maintenance technician at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base in Vietnam, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing member Sherif Lepi welcomed the guests to the annual informal ceremony then played a rendition of "Stars and Stripes" and "Star Spangled Banner" on his computer.

While talking about the history of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, Lepi recognized Cañon City native Col. Leo S. Boston, who disappeared in Vietnam in 1966 and was not discovered for more than 30 years. He also honored Cañon City native Ron Packard, a 12th Tact member, who also was killed in North Vietnam.

Lepi also talked about the concept of how the reunion originated after 12th Tact member Ron Doughty saw a picture of the F-4 Phantom fighter jet sitting at a munitions training center in Denver in the newsletter, "Smoke Trails." By the time he contacted Arvada resident Gene Rust, the jet had been donated to Fremont County. Rust contacted former county commissioners and other community members, who agreed to set aside the last panel next to the jet.

In 1996, the group started the 12th TFW History Project, Inc. to collect money to add the names on bricks for the last panel on the wall. After a successful campaign, the group hosted its original dedication of the panel Sept. 16, 2001, immediately following the 9/11 attack. Members of the group vowed the terrorists would not keep them from attending the ceremony. Since then, many of them have made the effort to continue the tradition each year with the excep-



Crusader staff photo

Dana Chwan reads names of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, who were lost during the Vietnam War during the annual re-dedication of the Panel J on the War Memorial Wall at the Fremont County Airport.

tion of the Covid-19 years.

During the first ceremony, held Sept. 16, 2001, Gen. Pete Sutton provided his written remarks for the day, which Lepi quoted at this year's event.

"The memorial you are dedicating today honors those courageous airmen who gave their lives while serving in the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing. To the families of those airmen, thank you for their service and your commitment to preserving their memory and the honorable lineage of the 12th."

During the event, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing member George Solis spoke to the group about his experiences in Vietnam.

"Fifty-one years ago, I was a member of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, serving in South Vietnam," he said. "Men listed on this honor wall are patriots. We, their fellow airmen who fought

• See 12th Tactical Fighter Wing on page 2

RE-1 School Board plans to approve transgender policy before November

by Charlotte Burrous

With the Sept. 12 Fremont County RE-1 School Board meeting, it was obvious the board intended to ram the Transgender Policy down the collective throats of residents, who objected to it. During the public comment, former state correctional facility superintendent Susan Jones spoke against the policy.

"I have several concerns about the conduct of the board in this matter," she said. "The most troubling behavior of this board is what I've been told about the conduct of at least one board member since the Aug. 8 meeting. I understand a member of this board was quoted at a public gathering as stating something to the effect of, 'I had a hard time keeping a straight face when I had to listen to all those people.' This person clarified that this board member was basically laughing about the people who spoke at the meeting who didn't agree with this policy. I guess I should be

sorry the concerns aired by the people, 77 percent of the people who spoke against this policy, were tiresome to listen to by this board member."

She said she was more surprised that this board member felt comfortable in saying this in such a setting in such a small town.

"Did this person think everyone at the gathering agreed with this policy," Jones asked. "Or did this person just not care or suffers from the delusion of once on the board, members can do or say whatever they want?"

So she re-watched the Aug. 8 meeting and said she was moved by a few facts, including at least two people who were choked up or emotional as they spoke. She said she knew of two other people, who agonized over their remarks that night, but 16 of them thanked the board for listening to them talk about the policy. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board president thanked the audience for

their comments and said the board is dedicated to serving the local community. According to the website, the board strives to reflect the community's values in its policy and commits itself to ongoing effort to engage the community regarding all of its concerns.

"Let's look at the input from our community. We already heard there were 300 people, 145 in this room and 155 in CCMS. We also know from the IT guy, there were 432 people online. That is a total of 732 people at a Cañon City School Board meeting. If you assume the 77 against is just a guide, that is 563 people who elected you who are against this policy. I have to ask how much more input regarding this policy do you need? It's hard to believe this board is really interested in gauging the community's values, based upon this behavior. As such, I'm asking each of you to resign from this board immediately."

• See transgender on page 2

Florence City Council extends Interim City Manager Tom Piltingsrud's employee agreement

by Charlotte Burrous

During its Monday meeting, the Florence City Council approved a resolution to extend Tom Piltingsrud's employment agreement as interim City Manager until November 2023 or until the council hires a new city manager.

"The search for the permanent city manager will be continued during this time," said Councilman Rudl Mergelman. "If a candidate is elected before 2023, Tom will resign at that time and help the transition."

After Mayor Paul Villagrana asked Piltingsrud what his thoughts were, Piltingsrud reiterated he would continue as interim city

manager until the council hired a new city manager. At that time, he would step down.

After several more council people questioned the timing, the council approved the motion.

The council also approved a resolution establishing water rates and regulations for application for water taps.

"Only the debt retirement is changing," said Finance Director Lori Cobler. "It's changing based on the required payments for the debt. As the debts change, the debt payment changes, more taxes come in, it changes the amount we need to pull because our bonds are based on revenue and refunding bond. Water rates will not change, but the debt will go down. I'm happy to say it's going to go down for 3/4 inch tap 33 cents. Any savings is happy and good. It's not as much as it was when we re-financed the 2021 bond, but it is going down."

Laurie Aves asked the basic amount of water for in city versus out of city for a private resident.

• See FCC Manager on page 2

LATEST VERSION OF CRUSADER NEWSPAPER NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT: www.fremontcountycrusader.com

Power of words Page 3

DoorDash Page 4

Going Green Page 8

Thoughts of HIM Page 9

More Pioneer Day photos Page 14

HOME of the FREE Because of the BRAVE



Pray for our Nation II Chronicles 7:14



Fremont County Crusader

The Fremont County Crusader newspaper is an independent newspaper, published weekly by The Fremont County Crusader Inc.

Located at

3365 U.S. Highway 50,
Cañon City, CO

The mailing address is

P.O. Box 2138
Cañon City, CO 81215-2138

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to
The Fremont County Crusader Inc.
P.O. Box 2138 • Cañon City, CO
81215-2138

Periodicals postage paid at the
Penrose, CO

EDITORIAL BOARD

President - John Emmerling

Vice President - Steve Barton

KEY PERSONNEL

Editor-in-Chief - Charlotte Burrous

Reporter

Charlotte Burrous

Columnists

Subatai Bahadur Ed Williamson

Mark Bunch Jerry Canterbury

Bonnie Kahnke Joe Kahnke

Ray Linebaugh Barbara Penezic

Michael Garrett Amber Rose

Gordon Carleton

Photographers

Harold Stoker - Crystal Babcock

Mabel Stoker

Business Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday • 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Closed on weekends

CONTACT US

(719) 345-3333

3365 US HWY 50, Suite B

Cañon City, CO 81212

charlotteburrous@reagan.com

www.FremontCountyCrusader.com

P.O. Box 2138 • Cañon City, CO

81215-2138

12th Tactical Fighter Wing

continued from page 1



Sherif Lepi

Local News

alongside them, hold them dear. Most of us were lucky to survive our wartime assignments, come home and pursue our dreams. Their names on the wall were cut down in the prime of life, denied fulfilling careers and past times. Their bereaved loved ones perpetually feel the pain of their loss. With this monument, 12th members honor our friends' sacrifices and cherish their memories."

He noted the F-4 Phantom II aircraft that is mounted beside the wall at the Fremont County Airport was also part of the memorial.

"Many women of the 12th Tact Fighter Wing, serving in a variety of roles, worked tirelessly to keep

two squadrons of Phantoms flying day and night to carry the war to the enemy. ... The Air Force's F-4 is revered with awesome power with the ability to pack a full spectrum combat."

During the ceremony, the names of the 104 members from the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing member group who died in Southeast Asia, Lepi and several other guests in the audience took turns to honor those who died in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

The ceremony ended with the playing of "Taps" on the computer, where the audience stood in silence, honoring the names on the wall.

Transgender continued from page 1

When Jones called for the board's entire resignation, Superintendent Adam Hartman said he took exception.

"We want to make sure we're taking care of all of our kids and making sure they are safe," Hartman said. "I know that's tough because you're think, 'this isn't my kid.' This is tough. The last comments specifically called for the resignation of the board and the insinuation of anything not transparent, I take exception to. I do this on behalf of the board right now. We work carefully using the same process for board approval for this policy as we

did all the others. There was an informational item that was accompanied by an overview of the policy. We specifically chose the policy as guidance for our school so it wasn't done in the background. We needed kids and families. We needed the support.

"Upon hearing concerns over the things we think we can have control over, the board did the following: It tabled the policy. They allowed for more speakers. They extended the number of speakers they would hear, they created space we would host those meetings in and now we are a month plus down the road and we're still hearing because they say 'we want to hear you,' they mean it," Hartman added. "Then asking me to put together a work group and making sure there was heterogeneous open systems involvement for lots of people with education on what we can control is also the response as a transparent and listening board. The idea of a resignation quite honestly of five of the most dedicated people who are elected officials in this community because they're tussling with a complicated issue during difficult times, I don't even have words

for that. I appreciate you board. I'm sorry you had to hear that. I appreciate the work you're doing. I appreciate what you're trying to do for the kids in difficult times."

Others speaking against the policy included Andy and Jenny Hagee.

Andy thanked the board members who were former educators for teaching his generation how to read, how to write, mathematics, the Pledge of Allegiance and skills on how to contribute to society. He talked about his childhood, which was rough, but he learned skills to be able to work for a living, raise a family and contribute to society.

"All these scars were before I was 18 and not any since then," he said. "The choices I made before I was 18 cost me today. My point is kids don't know what they want. I would argue most kids don't know what they want their life to look like down the road. We still have the job of teaching our kids the basics of life and challenges through the hurdles in life. If I'd had been encouraged as a 16- or 17-year-old to keep going in the direction I was, I would not be standing here today."

He spoke directly to Todd Albrecht, praising him for challenging his son, who was "painfully shy." But Albrecht didn't change his program to meet Andy's son's needs.

"He didn't get special privileges," Andy said. "He got challenged and challenged and challenged. Encore was great for him and the group went on to State that year. He overcame his challenges. He won, Encore won and Mr. A, you won."

After he spoke, Jenny Hagee also spoke against the policy.

She reminded the school needed permission from her for what courses her children would attend. She had to give permission for the school to administer any type of medicine to them.

"Why then do you not need my permission regarding the items listed in this policy," Jenny said. "I hear so much talk about feelings. We are the adults here. We must teach our children that we can't always trust our feelings because as adults, we've made bad choices based on our feelings. I believe we should love and respect all humans, not one is better than the other. I think we do much harm when we do not stand up to show our children what truth is. Truth doesn't always feel good, but truth matters. It's our job as parents to tell our children their worth is far more than what's on the outside. Their value doesn't

• See Transgender on page 3

FCC Manager

continued from page 1

"I thought inside city was 5,000 gallons," she said.

But staff indicated that was for outside city water users.

"So then my second part is inside it's 3,500 (gallons) and always has been, why is out-of-city 5,000 (gallons)," Aves said.

Villagrana noted when it was voted in, there was a big discussion among city council about this.

"The question was at that point that outside, city water was twice as expensive as what was inside," he said. "In order to even out things, the city council at that point decided 3,500 for inside and 5,000 for outside."

Aves disagree.

"So we're paying, I feel like more towards everything and I think they should at least be the same. My personal opinion."

After several other people asked questions, the council approved the resolution.

The council also approved a resolution setting fees and charges for water related services.

"This is based on council's discussion last council meeting and the direction of a 20 percent tap increase," Cobler said. "This will not affect current water users, but future tap purchases. This will be the new price."

When asked, Cobler announced tap fees for inside city limits will cost \$6,720 while outside limits will cost \$13,440 for 3/4 inch tap. A 1 inch tap will cost \$11,941.20 for inside city and \$23,882.40 for outside.

The entities' tap fees will increase the same amount, but each town sets its own installation fees, Councilman Steve Wolfe said.

Villagrana also stated the city would have to take the changes to the Regional Water Committee.

"Because of our contracts with the entities, we cannot raise the tap fees," he said. "We all have to be in agreement, all entities and the City of Florence."

Once again, the council met for another three-hour session, approving various action items during the meeting.

**Absolute Accounting Inc.**

Full Service Accounting and Tax Prep

Nancy Fenyses
621 Main St., Canon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-8910

absoluteaccounting@ymail.com

SALE
Happy Dogs CBD

Buy 2 get 1 FREE
Use code: Buy2get1

Shop online at pbjdogs.com

or in person at

Autumn's Attic 431 Main St Canon City

All Star Pets 708 Main St Canon City



ORDER TODAY! DEALS THIS GOOD DON'T LAST FOREVER.

Offer valid for Happy Dogs CBD only. Cant be combined with any other offers

Complete Yard Service

Aerating
Power ranking
Sprinkler service
Bucket lift system
Property mitigation
Tree trimming
stump removal

719-415-5785

Florence, Colorado

