

The Informer

Fall, 2016

CWFC
olorado Welfare Fraud Council

FROM THE PRESIDENT

IN THIS ISSUE

Thanks Russ!

by Shawn Nielson, CWFC President

It is with a heavy heart that we say good bye to our Vice President, Russell Stephens. Russell has served on the board and been such a great asset that he will be greatly missed. Thank you Russ, for all of the hard work and dedication that you have put into CWFC. Your efforts have helped to make CWFC a better organization.

With that being said we are now having to switch gears so I would like to introduce our new Vice President, Frank Hudson. Frank is currently with Saguache County and has agreed to fill in the remaining time. I know he will be extremely helpful and offers a drive and new ideas to help the board. Thank you again gentleman for your help and commitment to CWFC.

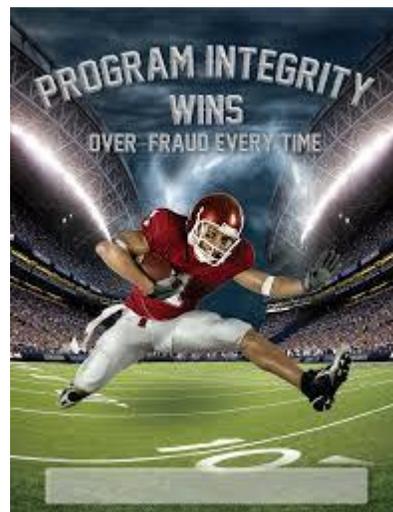


Save the Date

CWFC and SSTABS will be joining forces once again and holding a joint conference in 2017. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado from May 3, 2017 through May 5, 2017. Keep your eyes and ears open as details will be forthcoming.

Seeking ideas for the 2017 annual conference theme

It's that time of the year again to start planning for the CWFC/SSTABS Joint Conference scheduled for May 3, 2017 through May 5, 2017 at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado. Part of the planning comes the tough task of coming up with a theme. We are currently asking all our talented members to share any ideas you might have for a conference theme that would be incorporated into a poster. Please send any suggestions to Sonia Salas at ssalas@larimer.org no later than Monday, October 31, 2016 so that the committee members have time to review and decide which one of your wonderful ideas is chosen.



Woman Manages to Commit Food Stamp Fraud from Jail

by Connor D. Wolf

Content created by The Daily Caller News Foundation

A Colorado woman was already serving time behind bars when she was sentenced to an additional six years for scamming her local welfare program, according to reports Thursday.

Karen Luele was serving five years in prison for stealing money from an insurance agency, theft and forgery, among other convictions. While serving her time she managed to scam the Eagle County food stamp and medicaid programs. District Court Judge Paul Dunkelman sentenced her Wednesday to an additional six years in prison.

"It's a little mind blowing for someone to think that while they're incarcerated, it's okay to defraud Eagle County," Deputy District Attorney Courtney Gilbert said, according to the Vail Daily.



Luele managed to receive food stamps and Medicaid from prison by applying for benefits Feb. 2014 — the very day she pleaded guilty to the original charges. She lied about not being married, claimed her daughter was living with her and failed to list that she has violated a past felony probation. The Eagle County Health and Human Services allowed the application to be processed in her favor.

County officials only caught the scheme after receiving a tip on its fraud hotline. The food stamp program is the largest food assistance welfare service in the country. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the program in coordination with state agencies.

The USDA estimates the program has increased from 17 million participants in 2000 to nearly 47 million in 2014. The improved economy has helped decrease the number of participants in recent years. The Congressional Budget Office found, since participation hit its peak in December, 2012, the number of people receiving benefits has declined by more than 1.5 million. The human services department did not respond to a request for comment by The Daily Caller News Foundation.

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A Message from the CWFC Vice-President

Dear Fellow CWFC Members,

My name is Russell Stephens and I have been twice elected as the Vice President of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council, 2015 and 2016. I work in the Garfield County Department of Human Services as the Program Integrity Unit Supervisor. For Garfield County this includes Quality Assurance, Welfare Fraud Investigations, and recoveries/collections. Garfield County DHS is a strong supporter of the CWFC organization for their roles in eligibility training, and their ongoing involvement with county and state organizations the detection, prevention, and prosecution of welfare fraud.

I have been an active member of CWFC since 2012 and I have attended all but one of the annual conferences since then. Working in program integrity for Garfield County, I have had many opportunities to interact and work with fraud investigators, eligibility technicians, eligibility managers, CWFC members, and CWFC board members from around the state of Colorado and a few other states. I quickly learned that there are many individuals and agencies dedicated to the detection, prevention, and prosecution of welfare fraud. There are many challenges in this field, but there are many dedicated individuals working from the inside to make the system better.

It is with much sadness that I inform everyone that I am leaving my position with the Garfield County Department of Human Services and as the Vice President of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council. For personal medical reasons, my wife and I have decided to relocate to Florida. This will be a huge change for me as I have lived in Colorado for the vast majority of my life. I have lived outside of the state for only my time in the military in the early 1980's.

I know that I am leaving behind committed individuals that will continue to fight for our cause. Agueda De Leon with the Program Integrity Unit of the Garfield County Department of Human Services has stepped in to take a position as Board Member for CWFC. Frank Hudson from Saguache County Department of Human Services has stepped up to replace me as the CWFC Vice President for the remainder of 2016. Thank You Agueda and Frank!

Thank you all for your commitment to Program Integrity! God Bless you all!

Russ

Kristina's Kitchen!

(A bit of fun from CWFC!)

Hi my name is Liz McIntire-Gonzalez. I love to cook and bake for my family and friends. One of the most requested recipes is my beans. I am dumbfounded as to why these seem to be some of my friends' favorites, but I do have to agree that they are very tasty!

I relate a lot of my cooking to the fond memories I have from both of my grandmother's to cooking/baking with current friends and family.

This recipe has been handed down to me by my mother and I've added the oregano and vinegar to give them a little something special. This recipe is even better when you refry the beans.

I Hope you enjoy them too!

LIZ'S BEANS

Ingredients:

3 cups of sorted and rinsed pinto beans

2 strips of bacon (uncooked)-optional

2 tsps. of salt

2 cloves of minced garlic or ½ tsp of garlic powder

½ of a small onion (don't chop)

Optional: pinch of oregano and 1 tbsp. of vinegar

Enough water to fill a large crock pot, about 6-8 cups

Cooking Directions:

1. Take a large crockpot and add the above ingredients and fill pot the rest of the way with water.
2. Cook on low for up to 8hrs or until beans are very tender, stirring occasionally.
3. They are ready to eat like this OR....

For Refried beans:

1. Place ¼ cup of oil in a large skillet and heat on low/medium
2. Once the oil is hot, add 4 cups of cooked beans (drained)
3. Immediately add approx. 2 cups of the bean water/broth and begin mashing
4. Remove from heat and add 1 cup of your favorite shredded cheese

