

Silver Cliff's Proposed Town Square

Custer County's Economic Future

by Fred Hernandez

Rocky and uneven could arguably be the best description for the one hundred and forty three year history of the town of Silver Cliff. From its inception as a silver mining camp, which boomed and grew to have several thousand residents to the moment it busted when the silver ran out. From the time it was in the running to be the capital of the State of Colorado and lost to the current capital; always subjected to the ebb and flow of political ups and downs through the years, Silver Cliff remains what could be the silver lining for Custer County.

Its growth potential is almost unlimited and the turning point was reached in 2016 with the election of three new board members



Conceptual Drawing by University of Colorado School of Architecture.

who ran against the unpopular marijuana initiative and won handily taking three of the seven seats on the board. It was downhill from then on as the other

positions were soon filled with like minded individuals due to resignations and new elections.

In 2020, with the election

of the current mayor Harry "Buck" Wenzel, the town has been making notable progress. After thirty five years with no pharmacy to serve the greater community

SILVER CLIFF  
see page 14

Boebert Wins CD3

Frisch Concedes

by Bente Birkeland, Megan Verlee. CPR

Democrat Adam Frisch has conceded the race for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District.

In streamed remarks, Frisch said he called Rep. Lauren Boebert to concede Friday morning. And he said he was proud of his campaign, which drew support not just from Democrats, but also Republicans and unaffiliated voters across the vast district.

"Our plan from the very start was to build a tri-partisan coalition, and we did that in the face of deep national skepticism that we could do this," he said. "We do not have to let hate win, but we can come together and talk about issues that are important or individual lives in our communities. We have more in common than we differ."

Final numbers continue to trickle in but Frisch currently trails Republican incumbent Rep. Lauren Boebert by less than 600 votes.

**U.S. House - District 3;** Lauren Boebert 50.08% 163,832 and Adam Frisch 49.92% 163,278

The closeness of the race took many in the political world by surprise, given Boebert's national profile and the fact that Republicans hold a 9 point advantage in the district. It's Colorado's most expansive congressional seat, spanning western and southern Colorado and including cities such as Pueblo and Grand Junction.

Boebert's narrow margin means the state is required to order an automatic recount.

However, no Colorado recount in recent memory has resulted in more than a few dozen votes being reassigned, and those are usual cases of poorly marked ballots where human judges have to try to interpret the voter's intent (or, recently, because a county found ballots it failed to count the first time).

(For more news, please see [cpr.org](https://www.cpr.org).) Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2022/11/18/colorado-district-3-adam-frisch-concedes-lauren-boebert/>

The Housing Boom

Is Already Over,

Get Ready for Even Higher Prices

by Ryan McMaken,  
The Mises Institute

As mortgage rates have risen this year, the demand for home purchases has fallen. That has spelled trouble for the home construction business. Home-builder confidence dropped for the 10th straight month in October. The decline in builder sentiment reflects what economist Ian Shepherdson describes as "housing ... in free fall. So far, most of the hit is in sales volumes, but prices are now falling too, and they have a long way to go." The University of Michigan's index of buying conditions for homes has fallen to the lowest level since 1982.

Meanwhile, as of this week, mortgage demand for home purchases is "down 41% from a year ago and close to a seven-year low."

Naturally, this has been a sizable drag on the sale of newly constructed homes. According to the Census Bureau, new single-family houses sold in the U.S. in September were down by 17 percent, year over

year. They were also down by 10.9 percent from the previous month. Overall, sales of new homes are down 42 percent from the peak in August of 2020.

Nor does it look like construction of multifamily housing is likely to make up for the decline in single-family. Although it might stand to reason that a decline in demand for purchase housing could lead to more building of rental housing, that doesn't appear to be the case. According to *Housing Wire*, the "historic multifamily housing construction boom is already fading." This is partly due to the fact that rising interest rates are not limited to mortgages for home buyers, and "those same interest rates pushing would-be homebuyers to the sidelines are also hurting [multifamily] developers."

It's getting more expensive to borrow money up and down the food chain in housing, and that's slowing down new construction of both for-purchase and for-purchase housing.

of Custer County, Silver Cliff inaugurated Palace Drugs, one of the oldest

SILVER CLIFF  
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For anyone concerned about the availability and affordability of housing, this is bad news. The U.S. is currently in the midst of a housing shortage in the sense that builders aren't building enough to keep up with population growth. And now, it appears that the short-lived boom in construction that launched in recent years will soon be over.

The combination of the boom-bust cycle, coupled with mounting government regulations driving up the cost of construction will further drive up the cost of living for ordinary Americans.

A Tale of Bust and Boom

New housing construction has always been sensitive to business cycles. Over the past 60 years, it's not hard to find annual swings in construction growth ranging from negative twenty percent to positive twenty percent.

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PATRIOT  
ALERT!  
It's Gonna  
Blow  
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Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.  
Psalm 51:10



# SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL

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**The Voice  
of Conservative  
Colorado!**



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

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

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

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# Local Mountain News & Notices



## Scholarship & Youth Tour opportunities

**Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc.  
SCHOLARSHIP & YOUTH TOUR OPPORTUNITIES  
ARE OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS!**

**Application Deadlines:**  
**Washington D. C. Youth Tour**      **Scholarship Application**  
**Friday, January 13, 2023**      **Friday, January 20, 2023**  
**5 p.m.**      **5 p.m.**

Please visit SDCEA's website, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop). Click on the Youth Programs tile with the Capitol icon on the home page for more information and directions to apply for these programs.

For more information, call 719-395-2412; toll-free 1-844-395-2412 or email [communications@myelectric.coop](mailto:communications@myelectric.coop).



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Business Directory QR  
(Scan to download)



website <http://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

# Families to Receive Matching Funds for Post Secondary Education



**Families enjoyed food, fun, and info on the impacts of social media at the November Bobcat Strong Family Night.**

Press Release

On Thursday, December 2nd, during the next Bobcat Strong Family Night, parents will be introduced to an exciting **privately funded** program that the Colorado Legislature has set up to help parents save for their child's post secondary education. The First Step program is available for children born on or after January 1st, 2020. For the year of 2022, families receive \$ 00 for opening a College Invest account and additionally, **there**

**is opportunity for their funds to be MATCHED** up to \$1,000 per year for the next 5 years. For parents with children ages 8 and under, they may be eligible for a \$2,500 matching program through College Invest. "This is an incredible program the state offers but many families are unaware of it," said Custer County counselor Troy Bomgardner. "This savings account pays for any post secondary education, two- or four-year college, trade schools, and vocational schools. It's an almost 'too

good to be true' plan. Our hope is to spread the word and get as many families signed up as possible."

The night begins at 5:30pm in the MPR (cafeteria) with free pizza and day care will be available for children 2-5, along with supervised games for older children. Parents can bring their own computer or computers will be provided and assistance given for parents to set up their own College Invest accounts. Any questions, feel free to call Troy Bomgardner at 719-783-4927

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**Laser Genesis:**  
Laser Genesis by Cutera® is a treatment that can improve the appearance of redness, enlarged pores, uneven skin texture, fine lines and wrinkles. This treatment stimulates elastin and collagen formation with no down time. Eight 15-20 minute treatments will significantly improve the look of your skin.

**Laser treatments for troublesome acne:**  
Using Cutera® technology we combine Laser Genesis and LimeLight IPL to treat active acne and discoloration caused by acne scarring. This combination treatment will reduce redness and improve the look of scars.

**LimeLight IPL:**  
The Cutera® LimeLight IPL (intense pulsed light) is a photofacial laser which targets brown spots and redness to effectively even your skin tone. As we age imperfections occur in our skin due to sun damage and skin trauma. LimeLight IPS is a powerful technology which rejuvenates skin in 1-4 treatments and can be used on any area of the body including face, arms, legs, chest, or back.

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**2D Skin Rejuvenation:**  
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**Medical Spa Services:** by Toloa Pearl FNP-BC  
Botox, Solid Fillers, IV Hydration, vitamin supplement infusions and injections, B12 Injections. This service (AKA IV Bar) is great for illness recovery, energy, performance, hangover recovery, and hydration.

**Esthetician Services:** by Jackie Hoffmann  
Facials, Micro Dermabrasion, Dermaplaning, Chemical Peels, Waxing, Lash and Brow dying, Oxygen Facials, Acne Treatments.

**Permanent Make-up:** by Kirsten Carabajal  
Eyebrows and eyeliner. Based on demand; eyelash extensions.

Merry Christmas from everyone at Columbine! Gift Certificates are available!



# SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL

The Voice of Conservative Colorado!

Merry Christmas from everyone at the Sentinel!  
Thank you for your continued support over the years!



The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.  
We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son,  
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.





# “We the People” Speak Letters to the Editor



## 2022 Spirit Campaign Begins!

Press Release  
WMVCF

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation is excited to announce the kick-off of the 2022 Spirit Campaign. The Campaign was launched on November 15th, by the mailing of the Spirit Campaign and Annual Report brochures. These brochures contain extensive information on the Campaign, as well as easy to use donation coupons. Spirit Campaign donations can also be made online at [www.wmvcf.org/donations](http://www.wmvcf.org/donations).

We are proud to feature seventy organizations in this year’s campaign. Every year, individual donations are enhanced by our Matching Fund; which adds additional dollars to the first \$1,000 donated by an individual or family. We encourage donors to consider donating to the Matching Fund, which benefits all of our nonprofits.

Over the past 18 years, the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation has distributed more than \$5 million to nonprofits in support of their hard work and commitment to our community. The Community Foundation extends thanks in advance to our 2022 donors, who make it possible to continue this remarkable tradition of giving.

## Local GOP Performs More Censures After Vote

November 21, 2022

Custer County Republican Central Committee  
PO Box 1384  
Westcliffe, Co. 81252

Arthur Nordyke  
Custer County Coroner

Mr. Nordyke,

As the Chairman of the Custer County Republican Central Committee it is not just my responsibility but my duty to write this letter of Censure.

Whereas you were elected to the position of Custer County Coroner as a Republican;

Whereas that election gave you the honor of being a voting member of the Custer County Republican Central Committee;

Whereas with that honor came a duty to support the mission of the Custer County Republican Central Committee;

Whereas the primary mission of the Custer County Republican Central Committee is to elect Republicans to office;

Whereas you have publicly decided to promote a candidate that is not a member of the Republican Party;

Whereas that candidate was challenging a Republican candidate for the office of Coroner;

I find myself in the position as Chairman of the Custer County Republican Central Committee to, at the request of a vote of the members of the committee, write this letter of Censure and request that you adhere to the mission of the CCRCC as long as you are a voting member of the CCRCC.

Jack Canterbury  
CCRCC Chairman

November 21, 2022

Custer County Republican Central Committee  
PO Box 1384  
Westcliffe, Co. 81252

Sharon Berry Vice Chair  
Custer County Republican Central Committee

Ms. Berry,

As the Chairman of the Custer County Republican Central Committee it is not just my responsibility but my duty to write this letter of Censure.

Whereas you were elected to the position of Custer County Republican Central Committee Vice Chair;

Whereas that election gave you the honor of being a voting member of the Custer County Republican Central Committee;

Whereas with that honor came a duty to support the mission of the Custer County Republican Central Committee;

Whereas the primary mission of the Custer County Republican Central Committee is to elect Republicans to office;

Whereas you have publicly decided to promote a candidate that is not a member of the Republican Party;

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Jack Canterbury  
CCRCC Chairman

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**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

THE **Wet Mountain Valley** 2022

# SPRIT

## CAMPAIGN

### BENEFITTING LOCAL NONPROFITS

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation is proud to support nonprofit organizations working in human services, education, the arts, historical preservation, sports and recreation, public health and safety, the environment, youth and senior services, animal welfare, and other services that improve the quality of life for residents and visitors in the Wet Mountain Valley.

| 2022 GUIDE   501(c)(3) NONPROFIT DIRECTORY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Aboard Westcliffe</li><li>• Altitude Community Fitness / Custer 2020</li><li>• American Legion Boys State Post 170</li><li>• Bluff Park Fund</li><li>• Custer County 4-H</li><li>• Custer County Community Sharing Center</li><li>• Custer County Conservation District</li><li>• Custer County Emergency Medical Services</li><li>• Custer County Fair Board</li><li>• Custer County FFA</li><li>• Custer County Kids Council</li><li>• Custer County Medical Center</li><li>• Custer County Medical Foundation (Ben Kettle Scholarship)</li><li>• Custer County Search and Rescue</li><li>• Custer County Senior Citizens Center</li><li>• Custer County Sheriff's Posse</li><li>• Dark Skies, Inc.</li><li>• Defy Gravity</li><li>• Dundee Memorial Park Associaton, Inc.</li><li>• Eagles Summit Ranch</li><li>• Education Legacy Fund</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellence in Education Fund</li><li>• Friends of Beckwith Ranch</li><li>• Friends of the West Custer County Library</li><li>• Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway</li><li>• Full Circle Restorative Justice</li><li>• High Altitude Garden Club</li><li>• High Country Recycling</li><li>• High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival</li><li>• High Mountain Hay Fever Children's Health Fund</li><li>• Historic Pines Ranch Preservation Association</li><li>• Historic Willows School Society</li><li>• KLZR Radio</li><li>• Mission: Wolf</li><li>• Outdoor Buddies</li><li>• PAWSitive Reaction</li><li>• Rebecca's Fund for Children in the Arts</li><li>• Rotary Lending Medical Aids, Inc.</li><li>• Sam Frostman STEM Scholarship Fund</li><li>• San Isabel Land Protection Trust</li><li>• Sangre de Cristo Hospice and Palliative Care</li><li>• Sangres Art Guild</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sangres Snowrunners Snowmobile Club</li><li>• Silver Cliff Museum</li><li>• Solvista Health</li><li>• Southern Colorado Space Museum &amp; Learning Center</li><li>• Sustainable Ways</li><li>• Trails for All</li><li>• Ula Cemetery Perpetual Fund</li><li>• Valley Assisted Living and VALI Home Care</li><li>• Valley Park, Recreation and Youth Center</li><li>• Valley Strong Fund</li><li>• West Custer County Library District</li><li>• Westcliffe Center for the Performing Arts</li><li>• Westcliffe Park Preservation Society</li><li>• Wet Mountain Animal Welfare</li><li>• Wet Mountain Fire Protection District</li><li>• Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Community Service (Van)</li><li>• Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation</li><li>• Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club</li><li>• Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation</li><li>• Wetmore Community Library</li><li>• Wetmore Volunteer Fire Department</li></ul> |

## HOW IT WORKS



he WMVCF Spirit Campaign, which runs from mid-November through December 31, has become one of the most important and widely recognized activities of the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation. Individual contributions are enhanced by matching funds to provide crucial financial support for our community's nonprofits. The rate of the match gift from the Matching Fund varies each year and is based on our Matching Fund income and total donations. The match percentage is determined in January, after all donations have been collected. Once determined, we apply that percentage to the first \$1,000 per donation, per family. If you donate more than a sum total of \$1,000 to one or more nonprofits, the match amount will be equitably shared among the nonprofits you have designated.

Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation **DONATION FORM**

You can also donate to the Spirit Campaign online by visiting **WMVCF.ORG**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Please distribute my donation to the following Custer County nonprofit organizations in the amounts shown (use separate sheet if necessary):

**Donation to Matching Fund (BENEFITS ALL NONPROFITS)**

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Nonprofit Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Nonprofit Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Nonprofit Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**IMPORTANT:**  
Please make **ONE CHECK** for your total donation payable to: **WMVCF (or WMV Community Foundation).**

Mail your completed form and check to:  
**Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 718**  
**Westcliffe, CO 81252**

SPRIT CAMPAIGN 2022



# Local Mountain News & Notices

## KIDS

Friday, November 25, 2022

### Blue Monday

I loved writing this article. I find so many things that I have never heard of or seen or experienced. We have just navigated through the first holiday of the trio of holidays for this end of the year. I just found a new national holiday (new to me at least), Blue Monday. If you have heard of this then please bear with me.



The idea of a Blue Monday came about in 2005. A British travel company, Sky Travel, during a PR stunt, cited psychologist Dr. Cliff Arnall, a formula pointing to the third Monday in January described the day as being the gloomiest of the year. Many factors went into the formula including the weather at this time of year, people's probable level of debt, time after Christmas and New Year's resolutions, generally lower motivation levels and feeling a need to take action. This started a lot of debate concerning the possibility of trivializing depression. One of Arnall's university colleagues, Dr. Dean Burnett commented, "There is no such thing as a 24-hour depression".

It does make sense that this time of the year could be pretty depressing. You have just come out of the trio of holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day. Whirlwind of activities, family gatherings, gifts and celebrating the new year. Also, the nights are still long and the temperatures are cold. Let's take a look at what we can do to relieve the effects of Blue Monday.

I know I always feel better when I have something to look forward to. So, maybe this should be the day to plan your next vacation. Have you been wanting to start an exercise or walking program? Do have a few books you haven't had time to read? What about planning that skiing trip you had in mind, or about hosting an anti-Blue Monday party. There's evidence that fun diversions contribute to good mental health, with studies showing people who engage in hobbies enjoy better moods and less stress.

Vitamin D levels tend to decline at this time of the year due to people not getting out in the sun because of the cold. Vitamin D supplements can help, as well as eating nutrient-rich foods such as egg yolks and fatty fish.

The next Blue Monday is January 16, 2023, the third Monday of January. How about planning for it ahead of time and don't let it take you unaware. Be ready.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://nationaltoday.com/blue-monday/>, <https://www.the-sun.com/news/171804/blue-monday-depressing/> Pic sources [getwallpapers.com](#)

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

## CORNER

## Parent's Day Out!

Press Release

Calling all Caregivers! Need a couple of hours to catch up on...anything? Let us help! On Saturday, December 10th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. the Custer County Kids Council (CCKC) staff and Red Cross certified babysitters will spend the day with your children doing crafts, games, enjoying lunch and watching a movie for FREE! Registration is required, space is limited.

CCKC works across the community to support young children and families to ensure bright futures. We all have a role to play in preparing our kids for a healthy and successful future.

For more information on this FREE Custer County Kids Council event contact Laurie at [cckckids@gmail.com](mailto:cckckids@gmail.com) or check out our website at [www.custerkids.org](http://www.custerkids.org).



## Bobcats Sports Schedule

### MIDDLE SCHOOLBOYS BASKETBALL

Mon, November 28, 5 – 6 p.m.  
AWAY MS Basketball (Boys)  
@ La Veta

Fri, December 2, 10 – 11 a.m.  
HOME MS (Boys) vs South Park HS

Sat, December 3, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
HOME MS (Boys) vs Cripple Creek

### VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

Fri, December 2, 2 – 3 pm HOME  
Varsity BB (Boys) vs La Junta

### VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fri, December 2, 2 – 3 pm HOME  
Varsity Basketball (Girls) vs La Junta

### HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec 3, 2022  
HS Wrestling Fowler Grizzly  
Invitational @Fowler Jr/Sr High School, 600 W Grant Ave, Fowler

School Christmas Concert Thursday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.



### Bobcat Menu • Nov 28-Dec 1, 2022

| Monday                                                                                          | Tuesday                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                            | Thursday                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Breakfast</b><br>Oatmeal or Cold Cereal<br>Applesauce<br>Milk                                | <b>Breakfast</b><br>Scrambled Egg<br>Toast, Applesauce<br>Milk             | <b>Breakfast</b><br>Breakfast Pizza<br>Mixed Fruit<br>Milk                                           | <b>Breakfast</b><br>Biscuit & Gravy<br>Mixed Fruit<br>Milk              |
| <b>Lunch K-12</b><br>Hamburger Deluxe<br>Oven Fries<br>Lettuce Tomato Pickle<br>Peaches<br>Milk | <b>Lunch K-12</b><br>Chicken Fajitas<br>Rice<br>Beans<br>Pineapple<br>Milk | <b>Lunch K-12</b><br>Oven Bkd. Cheese Sand.<br>Tomato Soup<br>Carrot & Celery<br>Mixed Fruit<br>Milk | <b>Lunch K-12</b><br>Goulash<br>Gr. Beans<br>Roll<br>Applesauce<br>Milk |

Elementary: Main Dish, Grain Product, Vegetable, Fruit and Milk  
Middle & High School: Main Dish, Grain Product, Vegetable, Fruit and Milk  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Come and Worship

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

**Church of Christ**  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff  
719/783-4601

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe  
Pres: 719/545-1196

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

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

**Cotopaxi Community Church**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship  
6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study  
PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com  
20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi

**The Cowboy Church at Crossroads**  
9 a.m. Worship Service  
4th Ave (Park Place)  
and Illinois Street, Penrose  
Pastor 719/784-9126

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

**High Country Mennonite Church**  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School  
103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe  
719/783-9045

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

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
2 p.m. Worship  
3 p.m. Bible Study  
3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe  
Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323  
Lange Hall 719/783-2561

**Living Stone Calvary Chapel**  
Saturday 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO  
Pastor Sean Meagher  
719/276-0863

**Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church**  
Diocese of Pueblo  
11 a.m. Sunday Mass  
10 a.m. Tuesday Mass (summer)  
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass  
109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe  
719/783-3507

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

**Praise Community Church**  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m.  
215 N Pikes Peak Ave. , Florence  
719/784-1184

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays  
3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe  
719/783-2477

**St. Patrick's Anglican Church**  
11 a.m. Worship  
403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe  
925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
Diocese of Pueblo  
Saturday Mass 4 p.m.  
Highway 69, Gardner  
719/738-1204

**Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church**  
Pastor: Mike Shields  
3 p.m. Sunday School Bible Study  
4 p.m. Worship  
Last Sunday of Month: Potluck  
6 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study  
[sangredecriscowboychurch.com](http://sangredecriscowboychurch.com)  
also on Facebook  
60260 Hwy. 69 N, Westcliffe  
719/232-5372

**Sangre de Cristo Fellowship**  
9 a.m. Meet & Greet  
9:30 a.m. Service  
120 Jerry Court, Westcliffe  
719/783-0903

**Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel**  
10 a.m. Worship  
6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe  
719/ 371-1822

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

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

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

**Send Church updates to**  
[sdc.sentinel@gmail.com](mailto:sdc.sentinel@gmail.com)  
(719) 783-3360



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# Rodeo Fundraiser

## Watch Party and Live Music

Press Release

The Westcliffe Stampede PRCA/WPRA Rodeo, proudly sponsored by the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club, is excited to announce our first 2023 Rodeo Fundraiser. The event is on December 10th at the Saddle Club located at 90 CR 241 in Westcliffe. Doors open at 6 p.m. At 6:45 bet on your favorite Cowboy or Cowgirl and WIN BIG during the 2022 NFR Watch Party. Afterwards, dance the night away from 8 – Midnight with “Forever Wild”. We will also feature a Christmas Decoration making table for children and

welcome unwrapped Christmas Present donations for In Memory of Wild Bill’s Toy Drive. “The Custer County Cattle Women” will be providing food for purchase. There will be adult beverages and soft drinks available for sale. All this fun for only a \$10.00 cover charge and, as a show of our extreme appreciation, 2022 Sponsors and children under 10 are FREE. Don’t miss this opportunity to join our community in celebrating the holidays and supporting the 2023 Westcliffe Stampede PRCA/WPRA Rodeo! For Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club membership information please visit wmvsc.com.

# Greenleaf Christmas Trees

The foresters at Greenleaf Forestry and Wood Products are offering a new service at the sawmill and nursery yard, at 1500 Rosita Road (CR 328). Fresh cut Christmas Trees!

“It’s part of our sustainable forestry program,” said Len Lankford, owner. We are selecting trees to cut that will result in better fire mitigation and defensible space on one of our projects, but also be good Christmas trees. New Project Forester Rob Bidner and assistant Sam Wray are doing the cutting.



Project Forester Rob Bidner with Christmas trees

The quality and height will vary, as these are very natural forest grown, and species are White fir and Douglas-fir. White fir is especially desirable as its needles are soft and blue green, and last for months without drying out. Prices range from \$35

to \$95 and trees will be available regular business days Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. during the season, including Black Friday, November 25th.

805 Desperado Drive  
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(719) 783-9221

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**719-783-9338**



# Local Mountain News & Notices

## Events

Through Dec. 24, Fri. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
3rd Street Gallery “Festival of Art” Show

**December 1 - December 3**  
**Friends of the Library Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair**  
**Hope Lutheran Church’s Lange Hall**

**December 29a.m. . to 4p .m.**  
**Jingle Bell Extravaganda**, Craft sale, food, Holiday Family shoot, and more. FBC children’s Bldg.

**December 3p .m.**  
**Community Christmas Dinner @** Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Ln. RSVP to VBFnews@gmail.com.

**Saturday, December 3**  
**1- 4p .m.** Santa will be available for visits and pictures at **Silver Cliff Community Park**

**4p .m.** Christmas Parade Main St. School to Bluff.

**Saturday December 3P** ost Parade  
**Lighting of the Christmas Tree** at Jess Price Park followed by **A Christmas Carol”** reading at the Historic Jones Theater

## Recurring Events

**Monday**  
**10 a.m. Pickle Ball** Silver Cliff Memorial Park  
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com

**5:30 -7:15 p.m. Posse Ladies Bible Study** (new 2nd group) through May 22nd at 60260 Hwy 69 (main bldg of the Cowboy Church.)

**6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD)** 12 Step study, at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita in Westcliffe. Jim at 783-2053.

**2nd and 4th Monday**  
**9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)** .  
at Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Lane in Silver Cliff. Call 913-710-6109

**6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous**  
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Children Welcome. Contact: colobamanana@yahoo.com

**1 t Tuesday of the Month**  
**4:15 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary** monthly meeting (year-round) at the Cliff Lanes meeting room.

**6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 170** monthly meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room..

**Wednesday**  
**9 a.m. Couples Bible Study (FBC folks)**  
Meet at the Custer County Senior Center

**9:30 – 11 a.m. Line dancers** meet at the United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.

**9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study**  
Oct 12- May31, at 60260 Hwy 69. (Main Bldg. of Cowboy Church.) Holly 703-338-4100

**10 a.m. Pickle Ball** Sil4er Cliff Memorial Park  
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com

**6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD)** Big Book Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, in Westcliffe. Jim at 783-2053.

**6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study.** First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

**First Thursday of the Month**  
**9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters**, First Baptist Church Community Room (log building next to the church) located at 417 S. 6th St. Contact Delores Jobe at 719-371-1451.

**2nd Thursday of the Month**  
**6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee** meeting. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend at **Rancher’s Roost, 25 Main St, Westcliffe**, See www.CusterGOP.com or Facebook page at https://m.facebook.com/custergop.

**3rd Thursday of the Month**  
**2 p.m. Round Mt Water District Meeting.** Loc. TBA

**6 p.m. Liberty Rocks** 5:30 order, 6 p.m. Presentation at Tony’s Pizza, Silver Cliff.

**Friday**  
**10 a.m. Pickle Ball** Silver Cliff Memorial Park  
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com

**1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg** at the Senior Center in Silver Cliff.

**6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous** Open Discussion, St Lukes, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853.

**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.

**3rd Saturday of Month**  
**1 p.m. VFW meeting** at Cliff Lanes Conference Room, Post Commander Burt Daniels 719-783-3050



Join Us !!! All Veterans and Immediate Families Are Invited

A Christmas Party and Dinner @ Hope Lutheran Church Lange Hall  
Saturday,December,3 o 6p .m.

Spaghetti Dinner, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert \* Dinner, Games and Gifts!  
Share with your Veteran Friends \* All are Welcome \* Free Event  
Hosted by The American Legion Family, The American Legion Post 170 Westcliffe

## Classifieds

### Announcements

**FREE BOOKS**  
**At the Sentinel’s Lending Library:**  
**History,b iography,w ar, crime,e tc.**  
**Good quality**

### Garages

**Pole Barns and Metal Buildings**  
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Complete Garage Build  
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Concrete Needs  
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Call Mason 719-783-2975

### Help Wanted

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Custer County School District Openings**  
Custer County School District is now hiring for the following positions:  
Boys Basketball Assistant Coach - Middle School,  
Substitute Teacher/ Staff, Instructional Paraprofessional – full-time, Instructional Paraprofessional – part-time, and Substitute Bus Driver. Any Certified Teacher/Substitute application without a CDE license is incomplete and will not be considered. Online applications only. Please visit us on the web at: custercountyschools.org/employment for more information and to apply.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Help Wanted**  
**Round Mountain Water and Sanitation** is now hiring for the following position.  
**Office Assistant/ Bookkeeper/Collection Specialist**  
The Assistant Bookkeeper/ Collections Specialist assists the Assistant District Manager and District Manager in the day-to-day operations of the District’s Business Office. This position is full time with an excellent benefit package included. Duties in this position include, but are not limited to, all activities normally associated with customer service in a public utility setting, assistance in the maintenance of the district’s accounting books, and acting as the Board of Directors’ recording secretary as needed. This position requires bookkeeping experience, extensive computer operations, an understanding of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, General Ledger and Payroll. This position requires a Team Player attitude. Position requires excellent phone etiquette and customer service skills with a minimum of 5 years’ experience in customer service and bookkeeping duties. Salary is commensurate with experience with a pay range of \$16.50 to \$20.50. If interested call 719-783-2604 or send resume to peggy.quint@rmwsd.com.

**Sangre de Cristo Sentinel**  
**JOIN YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE**  
**Stop by the Sentinel**  
Mon. 10-2.  
Tues -Wedn. 9-4,  
Fri. 9-12  
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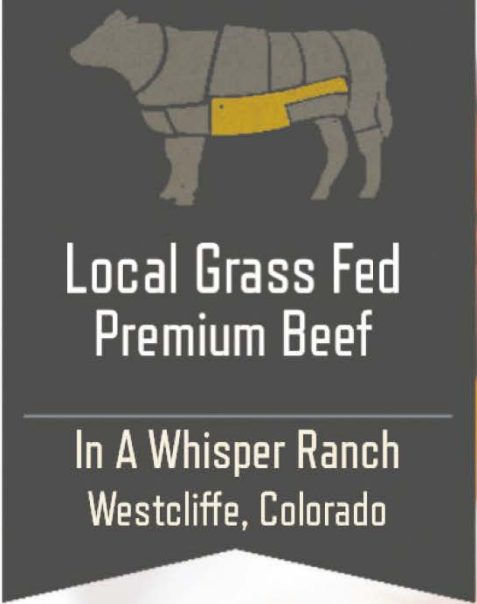
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Tony (719) 783-2883

### Wanted

**Amish Mom & Daughter Housecleaning Jobs.**  
Would have to provide our transportation  
Could go 3 days a week.  
Located in Westcliffe.  
1-719-502-5635  
**\* Evening job for two boys**  
**are ar old.**  
Will to do fencing, barn cleaning, grass mowing  
Any handyman work need.  
440-904-0549 or  
719-502-5635

To Place an ad, please call 719-783-3360 or email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com.  
The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week’s edition.



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(719) 480-7230  
visitwetmountainvalley.com



**THANK YOU!**

*Your votes of confidence mean the world to me.*

*I will serve Custer County to the best of my ability.*



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. —Joshuah 1:9 ESV

**Community Services**

Altitude Community Fitness  
(719) 783-0750

Custer County Community Sharing Center Inc.  
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994  
OPEN First 3 Fridays of the month 12 – 5 p.m.  
TEFAP Surplus 2nd Monday of the month 1 - 3 p.m.  
An Equal Opportunity Provider

Family Crisis Services  
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center for Fremont and Custer Counties  
(719) 275-2429  
FamilyCrisisOnline.org

Front Range Clinic  
Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)  
1 8 MAT-STAT  
www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources  
Monday and Thursday 11a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(719) 783-4357

National Suicide HOTLINE  
1-800-273-8255  
Veterans Press 1

Solvista 24/7 Crisis Line for Fremont and Custer Counties  
1-719-275-2351

Veterans Services  
VSO Officer Jared McClain  
Mon-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fri 8 - 11 a.m.  
615 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe, CO  
719-783-9470

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

Wet Mt. Rotary Van Service  
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719-783-9321



The American Legion  
Monthly Meeting is the  
1st Tuesday of every month at  
6:30 p.m. at the bowling alley.

**American Legion and VFW**  
**Monthly Meetings**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Monthly Meeting is the  
3rd Saturday of every month at  
1 p.m. at the bowling alley.



Business Directory



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CliffesAutoSvc@gmail.com

Automotive Sales

**City Auto Plaza**  
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719-275-2329  
<https://www.cityautoplazachryslerdodgejeep.com>

Banks & Financial Services

**Kirkpatrick Bank**  
8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe, CO  
719.783.2030  
[www.kirkpatrickbank.com](http://www.kirkpatrickbank.com)

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[www.unitedbusinessbank.com](http://www.unitedbusinessbank.com)

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Pedestrian sidewalk access between building clusters for access to back parking lots, and to allow for outdoor cafe areas to spill out.

Covered disewalks in Front Loop of Businesses.



One-way road loop for front-access to businesses

Additional parking in back loop of buildings for collection.

Pedestrian sidewalk access between building clusters for outdoor cafe areas to spill out.

Covered sidewalks in front loop of businesses.





# OKS TO THE FUTURE

## TOWN SQUARE

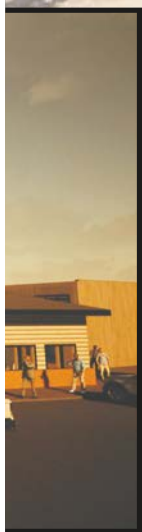


One-way road loop for front-access to businesses with one side of parking.

Additional parking in back loop of buildings for overflow, employee parking, loading docks, and garbage collection.

Pedestrian sidewalk access between building clusters for access to front and back parking lots, and to allow for outdoor cafe areas to spill out.

Covered sidewalks in front loop of businesses.





# Local Mountain News & Notices

## Christmas Tree Permits Available Online

Press Release

PUEBLO, CO, November 21, 2022— Christmas tree permits for the Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands are available to purchase online through Recreation.gov. Permits for the Leadville, Salida, San Carlos, South Park and South Platte Ranger Districts are currently on sale. Sales for the Pikes Peak Ranger District will begin November 25, 2022.

“I have fond memories of taking my daughter, who is now fifteen years old, to cut a Christmas tree when she was still learning to walk,” said acting Deputy Forest and Grassland Supervisor Brian Banks. “Now she will be driving us,” Banks said. “It is a wonderful opportunity to spend time outdoors while helping the Forest Service maintain resilient landscapes.”

To purchase a Christmas tree permit, create an account on Recreation.gov or log into an existing account. The cost is \$12.50 per tree for the San Carlos, Salida

and Leadville Ranger Districts and \$22.50 per tree for the South Park, South Platte and Pikes Peak Ranger Districts (including a \$2.50 online transaction fee). The Recreation.gov site contains maps of designated cutting areas as well as tips for selecting and cutting trees. Permitted dates and areas vary so it is important to carefully read all the information prior to purchasing.

When venturing out to cut a Christmas tree in the forest, bring a printed copy of the permit along with a paper map as cell service may be spotty or unavailable. Keep in mind that Forest Service roads are generally not plowed and some roads close seasonally. Handsaws and axes are the only tools allowed - chainsaws are prohibited. Bring warm layers, a rope to secure the tree to the vehicle, and have fun.

For information about in-person or mail-in purchasing options, please contact the individual district offices. Visit [www.fs.usda.gov/main/psicc/passes-permits](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/psicc/passes-permits).

## CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Custer County Court<br>205 S Sixth Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252                                                                                                                  | be changed to<br>Rebekkah Ashley Helviki                                                                                           | Case Number 22C24                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Public Notice for Petition of Name Change</b>                                                                                                                                 | Signed November 2, 2022, by<br>Christina Wilson<br>Custer County Deputy Clerk                                                      | Public Notice is given on October 11, 2022, that the Petition for Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Custer County Court. The petition requests that the name of |
| In the Matter of the Petition of Adult<br><b>Rebecca Ashley Geaslen</b><br>For the Change of Name to<br><b>Rebekkah Ashley Helviki</b>                                           | Published November 11, 18 & 25, 2022<br>Sangre de Cristo Sentinel<br>Westcliffe, Colorado                                          | Garrett Lane Stepanich<br>be changed to<br>Garrett Lane Olomon                                                                                                                   |
| Case Number 22C25                                                                                                                                                                | —<br>Custer County Court<br>205 S Sixth Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252                                                               | Signed November 2, 2022, by<br>Christina Wilson<br>Deputy Clerk                                                                                                                  |
| Public Notice is given on October 11, 2022, that the Petition for Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the Custer County Court. The petition requests that the name of | <b>Public Notice for Petition of Name Change</b>                                                                                   | Published November 11, 18 & 25, 2022<br>Sangre de Cristo Sentinel<br>Westcliffe, Colorado                                                                                        |
| Rebecca Ashley Geaslen                                                                                                                                                           | In the Matter of the Petition of Adult<br><b>Garrett Lane Stepanich</b><br>For the Change of Name to<br><b>Garrett Lane Olomon</b> | —                                                                                                                                                                                |

### SILVER CLIFF from page 1

stable pharmacies in the state. Soon after the town welcomed a hardware store, Central Building Supply. For years, highway signage indicating Silver Cliff as a destination was missing. Today highway signs on all major highways approaching the town are plainly visible to all motorists. The museum, which was erected in 1879, was literally falling apart. This could not be allowed to continue as the museum housed the heritage of the town. Under the direction of the mayor, the town staff worked tirelessly for grants and funding with the Colorado Historical Association

“....there is a hotel chain interested in having a presence at the future town plaza....

(now Historical Colorado), Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), CART, the local Senior Center and with the local County Commissioners. As a result enough funds were accumulated to proceed with a thorough renovation of the iconic building. Originally a six month project it turned into a year long job as the mayor decided that this project would be done right once and for all and will then become a show piece for many years to come.

During the time of the Covid situation and all the shutdowns, the town functioned with the limited income generated by four restaurants (whenever they were allowed to operate), The Liquor Cabinet, the Country Store and the two dollar stores. While there will be exponential growth in residential housing (about 110 pending applications) this will not happen until the water and sewer issues are resolved by county authorities. Even then, all this growth in residences does not mean a lot of revenue. Tax from a typical home with a value assessed, at say, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars will only pay about \$24 of tax to the town out of which only a third goes to road maintenance and repair. The plan of the town therefore, is to seek much needed revenues from new businesses.

With roughly eight square miles of buildable land in the Silver Cliff town limits most of the growth in the county will presumably come from Silver Cliff. However, a focal point is needed to consolidate the town government and businesses into an area that is central and convenient for the public. Thus, the idea for a town plaza manifested and steps

have been taken to bring the concept into actual fruition.

The University of Colorado School of Architecture provided the much needed conceptualization. After a couple of meetings with the town trustees and town hall staff wherein modifications were discussed, the architectural team presented to the town board and the public at large on Saturday, November 12th at the town hall. It was standing room only as about thirty people attended the video presentation led by Mr. Jeff Wood of the University of Colorado - Denver, and his students Justin Trammell and Kelly Mott both graduates. As Mr. Wood indicated in his remarks the driver of this project is money and it may take five years or less to pull it off. In the meantime, there is a hotel chain interested in having a presence at the future town plaza and two other businesses. One of the plans for the plaza is to have “live and work” units available for mom and pop operations. These are units wherein the shop is on the ground floor and the shop owner/operator lives in an upstairs apartment. There has been interest in these units already indicated by a number of local store owners. The town officials are most interested in mom and pop operators and small businesses, not big box stores.

“One of the plans for the plaza is to have “live and work” units available for mom and pop operations.”

The next steps for the town plaza is for the town to entertain first; proposals from investment and development groups, secondly; prepare engineering plans and finally; marketing and sales plans. There are funds available from both federal and state sources and these will be explored thoroughly by the mayor and his team of trustees and staff. The mayor credits his success to the enthusiasm and support of his board of trustees and his hard working town staff.

In the coming months, barring any unforeseeable downturn in the national and or global economy, it looks like the business friendly town of Silver Cliff may be on a roll towards a bright future. A future that may make it the silver lining for Custer County. For more information about the town plaza feel free to call the town hall at 719-783-2615. You can see the CU video presentation at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRmscHTRspM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRmscHTRspM) or go to this article at [sdcsentinel.com](http://sdcsentinel.com).

To see more sketches from the presentation, go to page 12-13 of this issue.

## Let Us With A Gladsome Mind ....Warble forth His high majesty and worth

Sentinel Staff

This Thanksgiving comes at the 402nd Anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact in 1620. We don't know what hymns of Thanksgiving and praise they sang, but in early colonial America, congregational singing consisted almost exclusively of metrical Psalms. In this, as in most other matters, the colonies followed the lead of the Mother Country.

The hymn below, “Let Us With A Gladsome Mind,” by John Milton (1608–1674) was published in 1623 and is a paraphrase of the 136th psalm put to meter.

1 Let us, with a gladsome mind,  
praise the LORD, for He is kind:  
for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

2 Let us blaze His Name abroad,  
for of gods He is the God:  
for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

3 He with all-commanding might  
filled the new-made world  
with light:

for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

4 All things living He doth feed;  
His full hand supplies their need:  
for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

5 He His chosen race did bless  
in the wasteful wilderness:  
for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

6 He hath with a pious eye  
looks upon our misery:  
for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

7 Let us therefore warble forth  
His high majesty and worth:  
for His mercies shall endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

John Milton was 15 years old and attending St. Paul's School, a boarding school along the Thames in London. It was not published until 1645.

*Have a blessed Thanksgiving!*



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# Colorado State News

## Inclusive Social Studies Standards Passed by Colorado State Board of Ed

by Erica Meltzer  
—November 10, 2022

This story was originally published by Chalkbeat.

Colorado social studies lessons must include the experiences and contributions of diverse groups: Latino, Indigenous, African American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, religious minorities, and LGBTQ people.

In a series of 4-3 party line votes Thursday, Democrats on the Colorado State Board of Education approved social studies standards with an expansive view of the American story and who has a place in it. **The decision restored many specific references that had been cut from the draft standards in response to negative feedback from conservatives.**

And the board also voted unanimously to make changes to standards that guide instruction about the Holocaust and genocide, clarifying that the Nazi Party was fascist, not socialist, and adding historic and contemporary atrocities to the list of what students should know.

The decision moves Colorado in the opposite direction of states under Republican control that are passing laws to limit how teachers can talk about race, gender, and sexuality and also to limit how they can support students.

The State Board heard months of debate and received hundreds of emails about the standards. Conservative parents said the standards would divide students by race and ethnicity and introduce ideas about sex and gender at a young age, potentially in violation of parents' values. Republican board members largely agreed.

In response, a standards committee made up of teachers, community members, and other experts stripped out many specific references in favor of terms like "diverse groups" and "marginalized perspectives."

After those changes, other groups including parents, students, and teachers, rallied in defense of the more inclusive and specific version of the standards. They said students would benefit from seeing themselves in the curriculum and in American history.

In particular, queer youth said they would have understood themselves better and feared less for their futures if they had learned about gay or transgender people living full lives and contributing to their communities. They also want their peers to understand them better.

"My existence is not political," said Reina Hernandez, a trans Latina student at Cherry Creek High School. "It's simply been

politicized to pursue a political agenda. Will you support my right as a student to exist publicly?"

### Approved standards name groups, require specifics

The State Board restored most of the cut material Thursday, with some formatting changes to reduce repetition.

In preschool, rather than asking students, "Why is it important to hear and share multiple diverse perspectives?" a teacher would ask, "Why is it important to hear what friends from different backgrounds (cultures, races, languages, religions, family composition, etc.) have to say?"

In eighth grade, rather than ask students to "analyze evidence from multiple sources including those with conflicting accounts about specific events in both Colorado and United States history," the standard names the perspectives that should be considered: "Indigenous Peoples", Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and African American perspectives

on Western colonization and enslavement, Asian American and Latinos' perspectives on immigration, the Indian Removal Act, the Buffalo Soldiers, and the Sand Creek Massacre."

Republicans focused their concerns on references in early grades to LGBTQ people. One preschool standard says students should show interest in interacting with and developing relationships with people from a range of backgrounds, and names LGBTQ people among other groups.

Democratic board members said this would look like children sharing freely about their families and bringing in family photos, whether they have a mom and a dad or two dads. Republican board member Steve Durham countered with the example of drag queen story time sessions held at some libraries.

He described the standards as "anti-parent," and some parents in the audience agreed.

Mary Goodley described teaching her toddler to sit, then walk, then run, and said teaching younger children about the contributions of members of the LGBTQ community would be like asking them to run before they could sit. She imagined her child entering school, learning about a notable leader in the LGBTQ community, and then wondering what LGBTQ means.

"I don't want my child's first grade teacher to introduce him to these vast sexual complexities," Goodley said. "Teaching children about particular sex and gender notions is a clear violation of parental rights ... and decreases trust in the public education model."

And parent Janelle Rumley said the idea that students need to see themselves in the curriculum disturbed her, because it suggests white children like her own couldn't learn from or be inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. or Harriet Tubman.

But other parents said without specifics in the standards, their communities' history just doesn't get taught.

Maria Guadalupe Cardoza said she has nine children in the Boulder Valley school district, and "the only thing my children learn about our history is from people of their same color."

Hernandez, the Cherry Creek student, has been working to develop a class that would cover LGBTQ issues and ethnic studies. It's been hard to convince administrators the topics are as important as other academic subjects, she said. Having social studies standards that list by name the groups whose stories should be told would help students make their case.

"For a very long time, I was scared of who I was," she said. "With education, it helps."

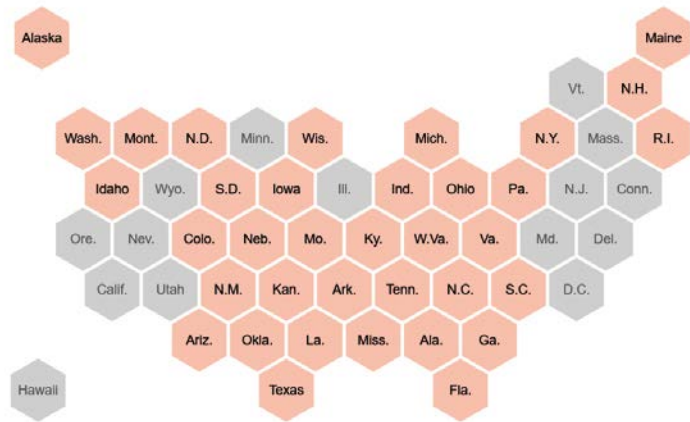
### Standards will shape instruction, but not dictate it

Colorado does not set curriculum or choose textbooks at the state level. That will be up to school districts. The standards lay out what students are supposed to know, and school districts usually try to pick curriculum that aligns with state standards. However, there is little enforcement,

**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
see page 22

We have tracked efforts in 36 states to restrict education on racism, bias, the contributions of specific racial or ethnic groups to U.S. history, or related topics

Click or tap on a state to see details.



February 2022  
graphs by Thomas Wilburn/Chalkbeat

## State Social Studies Standards Pass 4-3

by Kevin Lundberg,  
News & Commentary

This week the state board of education passed new K-12 social studies standards that have been under consideration for about 12 months. (An article about it is above.)

As I reviewed these standards (as much as I could stand reading) I was amazed at **what isn't there**. There isn't much of anything that used to be considered the academic discipline of history. I searched for some **historical names of great significance** in American history, including **Lincoln, Adams, Reagan, Eisenhower, Rockefeller, Ford, Carnegie**. None of these are mentioned even once.

There is also a **clear absence of any chronological context** for the major themes and movements in American history, such as industrial revolutions in agriculture, the development of the nation through the establishment of the fifty states, the unique governmental design of federalism, the original intent and structure of the Constitution, the concept of equality, which was first substantially established in civil government with the **Declaration of Independence** (instead there is an

anti theme promulgated that the Declaration excluded certain groups from the principle of equality). I could go on, and on, but the point is obvious.

There is such a focus on **inclusivity**, denigrating America's past, extolling LGBT values, minimizing the valiant efforts of abolitionists such as John Quincy Adams (who is never mentioned), making sure first graders understand "equity," etc. etc.. I am certain anything a conservative Christian parent hopes would be taught will not be covered at all, or the **antithesis will be taught instead**.

I remember studying the "new" state standards for History about **8 years ago** and the problems in the state standards from that time were the occasional mentions of revisionist concepts and ideas. Now one is **hard pressed to find any main themes that are not revisionist history** or blatant woke indoctrination.

The board voted 4-3, along party-lines, to adopt these standards. Yes, **elections have consequences**.

To read more sign up for Kevin's newsletter @ <http://kevinlundberg.com/a/email-updates/>

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# Colorado State News



## Colorado's 'Free' School Lunch Math Doesn't Add Up

by Baylen Linnekin,  
Complete Colorado Page Two

In the November election, Colorado voters opted to make the state's school-lunch program free for all public school students. Colorado's support of universal school lunches comes as the USDA, which administers the National School Lunch Program, has been working overtime to paint the program as a great success that just keeps getting better.

During most of the Covid pandemic, the USDA made universal free lunches available to public school systems around the country. Even after that lapsed, many if not most kids in Colorado (and every other state) whose families can't afford to provide them with lunches or lunch money were already eligible to receive free- or reduced-price school lunches under the federal government's National School Lunch Program.

Supporters of the Colorado measure *claimed* around 70,000 students in the state who had received free lunches under the universal program were not eligible to receive free- or reduced-price school lunches. But instead of, say, providing cash to the families of those 70,000 students, the ballot measure made

lunch (and breakfast) free for all students, regardless of need. It also ensured salary increases for cafeteria workers. Oh, and it'll cost **an illion per year.**

Even some top-flight mental gymnastics doesn't make any of this sound like a good idea.

"The success of the measure means that all kids in public schools, no matter their family's income, will be able to eat free school breakfasts and lunches, reflecting the critical role schools play in helping students facing food insecurity," the *Colorado Sun* reported in the wake of the vote.

I have difficulty understanding how giving free food to kids whose parents are millionaires helps students facing real food insecurity. And I'm not alone. Earlier this year, a longtime school lunchroom worker in Michigan called universal school meals "a 'waste' because, too often, students whose parents could afford to pay for their meals would throw it in the trash."

But even hungry kids toss their government-funded school lunches in the rubbish bin. Why? It starts with the food itself.

In Pepperell, Massachusetts, for example, recent reports indicat-

ed more than a dozen students at Nissitissit Middle School had been sickened recently by school lunches—in two incidents a week apart. Both outbreaks of food-borne illness reportedly involved "undercooked chicken nuggets."

Also last week, in Sumter, South Carolina, controversy erupted over an undercooked burger served to a student at Bates Middle School. A school spokesperson defended the burger, claiming it was fully cooked (because the school system only buys precooked burgers for kitchen staff to reheat) and only looked disgusting because it was "prepared too closely together" with other burgers.

Ergo, not only are taxpayers paying for kids to eat precooked-yet-somehow-still-undercooked chicken nuggets and hamburgers for lunch—this is what Colorado voted for—but it appears school lunchroom staff don't even know how to reheat chicken nuggets or hamburger patties properly.

Such examples aren't outliers. Last year, similar issues popped up in public schools across the country, including in New York (gross, undercooked food), Alabama (raw chicken served to students), and Indiana ("Raw food, raw chicken, bloody chicken").

But it's not just undercook-

ing food that's the problem. Last month, for example, food prepared and served in a middle school in Corpus Christi, Texas, caused a dangerous allergic reaction in a student.

Add to these examples others around the country I've reported on over the years, from "chunky milk" and moldy food served to school students in Maryland to maggot-filled granola served in Tennessee to similar examples in Michigan, North Carolina, Illinois, Missouri, and many other states.

Indeed, the National School Lunch Program is a disaster. It wastes untold quantities of money and food. As I detail in my book, "*Biting the Hands that Feed Us: How Fewer, Smarter Laws Would Make Our Food System More Sustainable*", the program wastes most of its funds "not on food but, instead, on reimbursing schools for overhead costs. That means only about \$1 of every \$3 the USDA reimburses a school for serving a student a free lunch goes to buy food." The meals served in schools consist of billions of

dollars of highly subsidized foods that might otherwise go to waste. But those foods still go to waste anyway because, according to a *Los Angeles Times* investigation I discuss in the book, more than \$18 million in food is wasted in Los Angeles public schools alone each year.

Maybe, instead of deciding to spend \$100 million each year to feed 70,000 potentially hungry students, Colorado could have bought up all that excess food from Los Angeles.

Please see: <https://page.two.completecolorado.com/2022/11/16/linnekin-colorados-free-school-lunch-math-doesnt-add-up/>

### LAUREN BOEBERT'S Mobile Office Hours for November

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# The Liberty Tree

## Religion, The Constitution & Culture

### State, National, & World

A Strategy To Be On The Last Train To The Gulag Still Ends Up At The Gulag

#### 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.

#### The Farm Chronicles: A call from the grave

Imagine two men talking over a cup of coffee about their future families, and three hundred years later their granddaughter and grandson were married. Think about all the things that had to fall into place for that to happen. All the trials and tribulations, joys and tragedies in between. My 11th great grandfather on my mother's side of the family was Richard Warren. My 13th great grandfather on my father's side of the family was William Bradford. Both signed the Mayflower Compact that Bradford co-wrote. And here is why on this 402nd anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact, a call from the grave centuries ago is so important to my family, and to yours as well.

Grandpas Warren and Bradford were two of 41 who signed the Mayflower Compact. Bradford became governor of the Massachusetts colony, and is credited with inventing the free market system. Through the Mayflower Compact along with the faith and toil of the brave men and women who endured such great hardship, the foundations of a new nation were established—a beacon of religious and economic freedom in covenant to one another toward the glory of God. And unto Bradford's death his gravestone calls out to all of us, "What our forefathers with so much difficulty secured, do not basely relinquish."

The Mayflower Compact declares, "Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honor of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience."

With these words, 41 men agreed to govern in submission and obedience to God. And it wasn't easy. Bradford wrote in "of Plymouth Plantation", "In two or three month's time half of their company died...scarcely 50 remained, and sometimes two or three persons died in a day... that while they had health or strength, they forsook none that had need of them." Their Virginia Company Charter, however, called for common ownership of land, property, food, drink, clothing, and provisions. Bradford saw that this socialist concept was detrimental to the colony because it inspired laziness and a lack of productivity. He drew from the Mayflower Compact to make a change for the general good of the colony. He abolished the socialist structure, giving ownership of land to each person and two days a week for "their own private employment."

This was the first capitalist system and the colony then prospered. As America embraces socialism and human secularism, let us remember that only 41 men began a nation with their signatures. We have far greater numbers today. As we commemorate the **402nd Anniversary of the Mayflower Compact on November 11**, let us return to the purity and purpose of this foundational covenant of governing in all due submission and obedience to God and the advancement of the Christian faith. Let us deliberately and intentionally reclaim, as Bradford's reminder from the grave "what our forefathers with so much difficulty secured." As Christ said in Matthew 19:26, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

Bill Wilson

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#### It's Gonna Blow: It's Weimar, But Where Is Adolf?

by Fred Reed, Opinion  
FredOnEverything.org

As the sentient have presumably noticed, the United States is in crisis, the country's problems are profound, intrinsic, without solution, and worsening. When a population reaches the point of despair, even desperation, when it sees a darkening future for itself and its children, people yearn for a strong man who will forcibly put things right. Yet it is unlikely that helicopters of Marines from Quantico will descend on the White House and announce the dictatorship of some general. Military officers are too well paid and comfortable to worry about the country. It is hard to imagine an American Mussolini. Trump is a caricature and no one else comes to mind. Yet "unrest"—less euphemistically, "chaos" on the order of Mr. Floyd's massive riots, is possible. We have seen it. We can see it again.

Consider America today. By comparison with Japan, China, Korea, it is a barbarity, a dumpster, an asylum, an abattoir, an astonishment. San Francisco loses conventions because of needles and excrement on the sidewalks. Almost weekly we see multiple shootings in stores, high schools and, now, grade schools. *Murders of whites by blacks run at thirty a month, the news being suppressed.* In cities across the country crime is out of control, the tax bases moving out, bail abolished so criminals are freed in hours. Stores leave to escape discouraged shoplifting and robbery. Seven hundred homicides a year in Chicago, 300 in Baltimore, and at least twice as many shot but survive, similar numbers in a dozen cities. For practical purposes, law does not exist in these ungovernable enclaves. *Sexual curiosities, once called perversions, flourish with American embassies hoisting flags in support of transsexualism.* Mobs topple historical statues. Many tens of thousands live on sidewalks and a hundred thousand a year die of

opioid overdoses. The country drops math requirements and English grammar in schools, AP courses, and SATs as racist. The economy declines, jobs have left for other climes, medical care is beyond most people's means, government is corrupt and incompetent, and wars are unending. There is actual hatred between racial, political, and regional groups. Ominously, gun sales are up.

How is this going to end well? How did we get here?

America has never been a nation in the correct sense of the word, a people sharing values, language, a culture. Rather it has been, and is, a collection of peoples having little in common and, often disliking each other. West Virginia has nothing in common with Massachusetts which has nothing in common with the Deep South which has nothing in common with coastal California which has nothing in common with Cavalier Virginia which has nothing in common with Latinos who have nothing in common with blacks.

Until perhaps the early Sixties, the regions got along with each other reasonably well because there was little communication between them. Roads were poor, the internet was not even on the horizon. Radio stations and newspapers were local, reflecting the surrounding culture and taste. The central government was remote and had little influence locally. Each region lived as it wished.

Providing a degree of commonalty was that the country was overwhelmingly white, European, Anglophone and, at least nominally, Christian. It was socially conservative, largely consisting of small towns.

The resulting culture was unsophisticated but civilized. In the suburbs of Washington (I was there) you really could leave your bike anywhere and it would be there when you came back. In summer children really could play great sprawling

multiblock games of hide-and-seek after dark and no one worried. In high school in rural Virginia (I was there too) the boys had guns for hunting deer and shooting varmints in the bean fields and you could leave your .410 in the back seat of your jalopy in the school's parking lot. Nobody thought of shooting anyone. It wasn't in the culture. If a thing isn't in the culture, it doesn't happen. You don't need policemen. The boys didn't use bad language around the girls or vice versa and nobody even thought of disrespect to teachers. There were class clowns (I may know somewhat of this), but no real misbehavior. It wasn't in white, technically Christian, semi-rural culture.

Then many things happened. In no particular order:

**The reach** of the federal government grew and grew. Washington, which had been a distant city concerning itself with foreign policy and the economy, could now impose its values on remote society. It did.

**Washington** discovered the "separation of church and state," which had lain unnoticed in the Constitution since 1789. In regions of deep religiousness, it became illegal to recite the Lord's prayer, to have creches on the town square at Christmas, or two sing carols on the public streets. It had nothing to do with meticulous adherence to the Constitution, but everything to do with the discovery by angry minorities that they could impose on majorities. In short, like many movements to come, it was a revenge operation. It has become a *de facto* program of de-Christianization, weakening a source of social cohesion and leading to anger.

The federal government began to dictate what could be taught in local schools. Teachers were forbidden to mention Creationism because a judge in Philadelphia, who appeared

IT'S GONNA BLOW  
see page 23



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HOUSING  
from page 1

The combination of the boom-bust cycle, coupled with mounting government regulations driving up the cost of construction will further drive up the cost of living for ordinary Americans.

A Tale of Bust and Boom

New housing construction has always been sensitive to business cycles. Over the past 60 years, it’s not hard to find annual swings in construction growth ranging from negative twenty percent to positive twenty percent.

Moreover, the negative swing on housing construction in the years surrounding the 2008 financial crises were especially severe. Construction began to head downward in 2006, with a drop of 12 percent. This was followed by three years of even bigger declines, culminating in a 38-percent drop in 2009.

New housing construction did not return to the post-1990 average again until 2020.

In other words, the end of the housing bubble in 2009 had an enormous impact on the industry and led to more than a decade of below-average home production. In spite of enormous amounts of new money creation, stimulus, and ultra-low interest rates, the home construction industry did not bounce back. As noted in National Public Radio earlier this year, the slow pace of new housing construction did not start with the current economic cycle but dates to an earlier easy-money-induced bubble:

[T]he roots of the problem go back much further — to the housing bubble collapse in 2008.

“What I call a bloodbath happened,” says [builder Emerson] Claus. It was the worst housing market crash since the Great Depression. Many homebuilders went

out of business. Claus was building houses in Florida when the bottom fell out.

“A lot of my tradespeople found other work, went and got retrained for new jobs in law enforcement, all sorts of jobs,” says Claus. “So the workforce was somewhat decimated.”

A few years later, as Americans started buying more homes again, building stayed below normal. And that slump in building continued for more than a decade. Meanwhile, the largest generation, the millennials, started to settle down and buy houses.

This trend was then only made worse by the shipping and logistical bottlenecks brought on by the government-imposed covid lockdowns. These have meant a shortage of lumber, appliances, electrical equipment, and cabinetry. The National Association of Home Builders concluded in June “shortages of materials are now more widespread than at any time since NAHB began tracking the issue in the 1990s.”

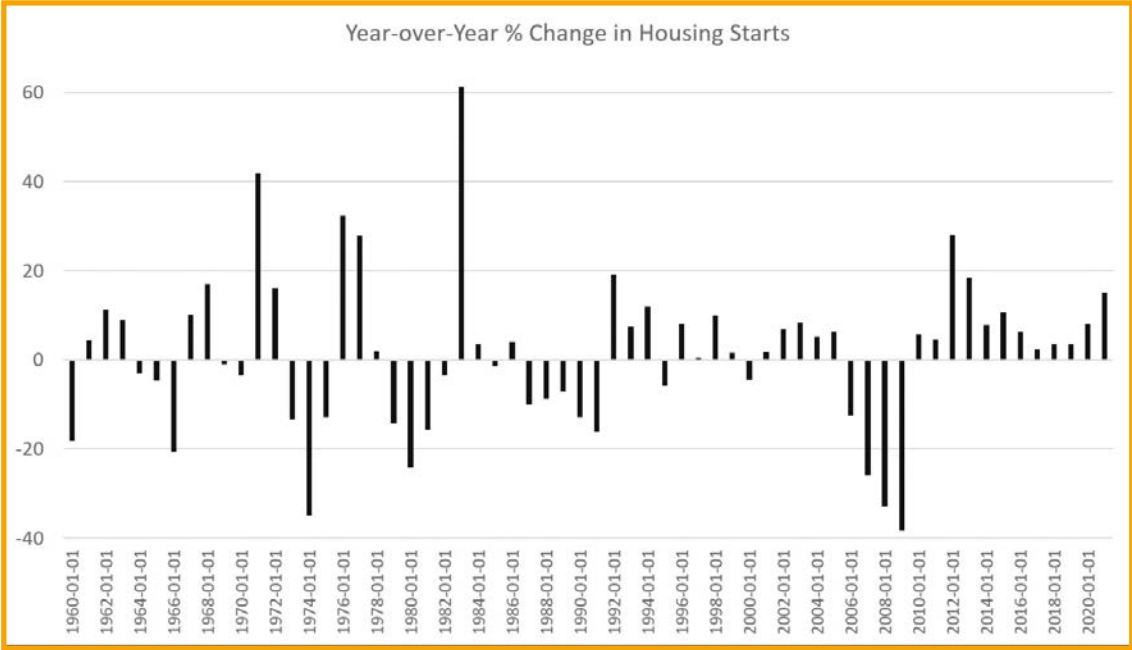
The Role of Monetary  
\$timulus”

Monetary inflation has fueled shortages in both labor and supplies as stimulus programs have driven demand by both businesses and consumers to new heights. Yet, since this demand is based on the appearance of newly printed money, and not on rising real wealth or productivity, we’re seeing more demand for a stagnating supply of goods and services.

The result has been less building even as population has continued to grow. The result, of course, has been a higher cost of living—just as we would expect from an inflationary boom.

The data on home starts and population backs up the anecdotal evidence. For example, if we look

at annual housing starts totals the trend has been downward since 1960. Beginning in 1983, every new trough in the housing construction down cycle has been lower than the one before it.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

This has only been slightly mitigated by slowing population growth, and we have seen an upward trend in the number of new U.S. residents per new housing start, even as the size of the U.S. household has fallen. In other words, the number of new residents per new housing start has grown over time. From the 1960s through the 1980s, the average number of new Americans per new housing start was approximately 1.6. Since 1990, on the other hand, the average has been 2.2. Since 2008, the average has been 2.5. So, there are progressively fewer and fewer new housing starts per person.

After new housing construction began to collapse in 2006, the number of new residents per new housing unit surged to nearly five, a new high.

On the other hand, it is true that in 2020 and 2021, new

housing construction reached the highest levels seen since 2007. Moreover, the gap between new residents and new housing was eliminated. This was thanks to a sizable decline in new population growth created by covid-era

It’s also important to note the effects of repeated boom-bust cycles on total housing production. One might be tempted to assume that new rounds of monetary stimulus—say, the quantitative easing of

border closures and a fall in fertility rates. Thus, the number of new residents per housing unit then collapsed below one for the first time in decades.

But, this trend is unlikely to continue since “after a construction boom in the second half of 2020 and 2021, the home building sector is contracting.” Population growth is also returning to more normal rates. The gap between new population and new units will already be growing again in 2023. It does not look like boom of the last 18 months will be enough to reverse the worsening situation in housing production.

What can be done to reverse the trend? Last month, we explored some ways that state and local regulation has driven up the cost of construction, thus limiting the total number of units produced. Many of these regulations will only continue to push up prices while reducing affordability for first-time buyers.

the past decade—would easily reverse a collapse in housing construction and will bring new highs in housing production. That is not what has happened, however. Rather, relentless monetary stimulus since 2008 has not been sufficient to address the effects of malinvestment and regulatory costs over the past 20 years. Over the past six months, new housing starts have flatlined compared to 2021, and we may even see housing starts end the year down in 2022. The result is a continuation of an ongoing decline in housing production. Not even the runaway money printing of the past two years has been enough to bring home construction back to what was more normal before the housing bubble and resulting financial crisis.

Please see: <https://mises.org/wire/housing-boom-already-over-housing-shortage-will-continue>

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1776

# The Second Amendment Corner

## Liberty's Line in the Sand

*"Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—"*

A Psalm of David, Psalm 144:1

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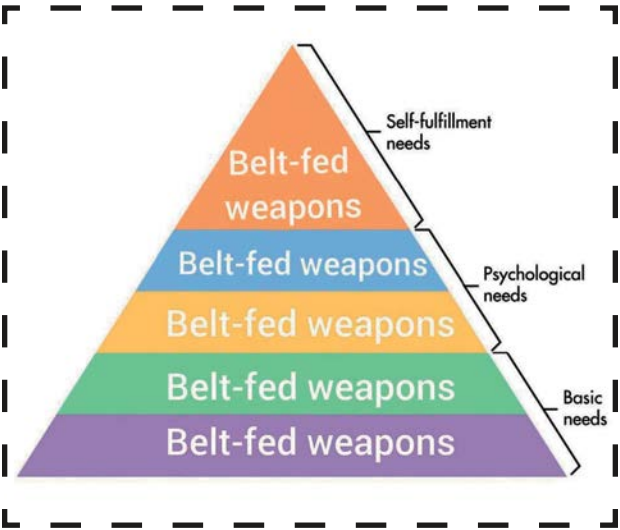
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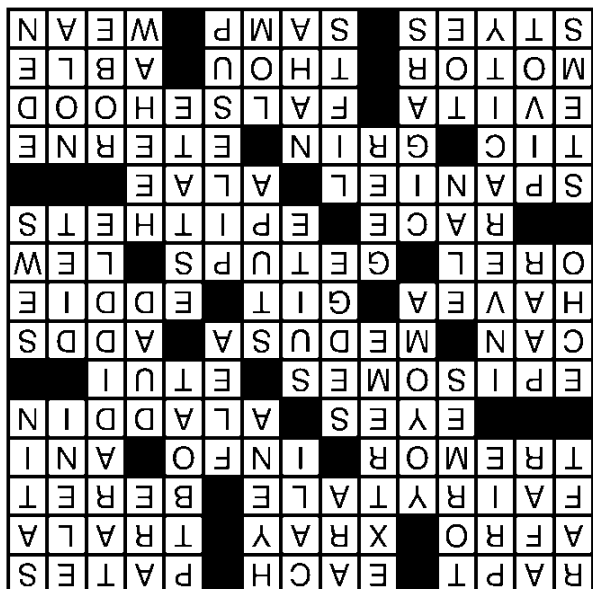
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# Report: You Stand a One in 179 Chance of Being Murdered

by Dave Workman, ammoland.com

U.S.A. —(AmmoLand.com)- A careful study of murders last year by a non-profit research institute called *Just Facts* concluded earlier this month that a U.S. citizen faces 1-in-179 odds of being murdered in his/her lifetime, rather than dying of other causes.

*Just Facts* President and co-founder James D. Agresti revealed in a lengthy report that the FBI murder data for 2021 is woefully incomplete, and the true number—based on an examination of death certificate data—is about 10,000 more slayings than the estimated 14,677 reported by *NewsNation* and other outlets, which is “Based on a misunderstanding of new FBI data,” Agresti wrote.

The problem may be worse than a simple misunderstanding, however.

*Ammoland* reached out to Agresti but did not receive a timely response.

According to the *Just Facts* report, “In 2021, the year Joe Biden became president, the FBI began making it far more difficult to access national estimates of murders and other crimes. The agency did this by dramatically changing the manner in which it reports such data.”

*Ammoland* has noted previously how the FBI’s new reporting platform is “user unfriendly.”

In the past, the FBI’s annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) was a model of user-friendliness, with links to various subjects, including “Homicide” and “Violent Crime” and “Weapons.” There was even a state-by-state breakdown of homicide estimates with data on types of weapons used. It was used up to the 2019 report.

But last year, that changed as the FBI introduced the “Crime Data Explorer” when it released the 2020 report which, as noted by *Just Facts*, “contains a maze of vaguely worded links, drop down menus, and acronyms.”

Here’s how complicated the new platform makes it for users, as detailed by *Just Facts*:

“To locate the FBI’s estimate of murders for 2021 with this system, readers must:

◦ go to the *Crime Data Explorer* home page and scroll past three prominent links named “Crime Data Explorer,” “Law Enforcement Explorer,” and “Documents and Downloads” which lead to webpages with scores of menus and files that don’t contain the data.

◦ scroll to a section of the webpage titled “Explore by Location and Dataset: State participation depicts current year.”

◦ click on a dropdown menu under a header named “Dataset” and select the menu item that says “NIBRS Estimation Data,” which leads to another webpage.

◦ scroll to a section of the webpage called “NIBRS Estimation Viewer” and read the report that contains the data via a file viewer that sometimes fails to display the report or click on a link that says “Download NIBRS Trend Analysis Report.”

Thus, the *Just Facts* report is headlined “As Murders Soar, FBI Buries the Data.”

As reported by *The Blaze*, “Nearly 40% of U.S. police departments did not provide the FBI with complete crime data for 2021 by the March deadline.” When *Ammoland* reported on this year’s FBI Crime Report back on October 7th, we noted the same problem, describing it as a “fiasco.”

To remedy the situation and get to the truth, *Just Facts* dug into data from different sources, including the CDC, to determine a far closer homicide estimate for 2021.

“Homicide counts from death certificates are published by the CDC via two online data extraction portals,” *Just Facts* noted. “Both of these report 24,576 homicides in 2020, but they don’t yet present data for 2021. However, another CDC portal provides provisional homicide rates through 2021, reporting 7.5 homicides per 100,000 people in 2020 and 7.8 in 2021. Combining these three figures yields 25,559 homicides in 2021.”

A few lines later, the *Just Facts* report states: “Removing justifiable homicides to obtain an estimate of actual murders, about 24,493 people were murdered in 2021. This is about 1,000 more murders than in 2020, a 5% increase on top of a 28% increase the year before that.”

“To provide a sense of scale for this bloodshed,” Agresti wrote, “one out of every 179 people in the U.S. will eventually be slain if murders remain at the same rate as 2021.”

Another significant part of the equation was noted by *Fox News*: “Experts who have previously spoken to *Fox News Digital* pointed to calls to defund the police, the riots of 2020, the Ferguson effect — when police pull back amid a spike in violent crime and unrest — and the COVID pandemic for contributing to the bloodshed of 2020.”

Considering the magnitude of this statement, it becomes understandable why so many more citizens have been buying guns and applying for carry permits and licenses over the past two years. As *Ammoland* has fre-

quently reported about Washington state, the number of active concealed pistol licenses is skyrocketing toward 700,000 by the end of this year. In a state with a population of about 7.3 million, this might translate to roughly one-in-eight qualified adults being licensed to carry.

Put this phenomenon on a national scale and the estimate could be well above 20 million, and that would not include the number of people carrying without a license/permit in the 25 states that no longer require such a document in order to be armed in public for personal protection.

Still, there is a significant and unanswered question: **Why did the FBI make it harder to access crime data, including homicides?**

In 2021, this correspondent tried repeatedly to contact the FBI media office for assistance in navigating the new “Crime Data Explorer” website. Calls and emails were not returned.

According to *Fox News*, “The FBI switched to a new recording program at the start of 2021 called the National Incident-Based Reporting System that aims to provide a more thorough snapshot of offenses, such as what weapons were used in an incident, types of property stolen and more detailed demographic information on victims and perpetrators of crimes.”

But it appears nearly 40 percent of law enforcement agencies simply did not, or could not, provide data to the new reporting system.

*Ammoland* found another problem with the data regarding weapons used in crimes. The listing is horribly confusing, as underscored by this sample from the Montana page. There are categories titled “Handgun,” “Firearm,” “Rifle,” “Other Firearm,” “Shotgun,” “Handgun (Automatic),” “Firearm (Automatic),” “Rifle (Automatic),” and “Shotgun (Automatic).”

It appears without question the *Just Facts* project has opened a proverbial can of worms, but the effort can certainly be used by gun rights and personal protection advocates to justify the continuing strong interest in gun ownership, the demand for competent instruction and training, and resistance to new gun control laws that make it harder for people to exercise their right to keep and (especially) bear arms.

**(Editor/GG: It’s a different country now after 60 years of liberalism. If you don’t have your concealed carry permit get one NOW.)**

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2022/11/report-you-stand-1-chance-in-179-of-being-murdered-fbi-buried-data/#axzz7kvl3ju3o>



# Regardless of Party, Pro-Gun Candidates Won Their Races

by Alex Madejian,  
Gun Owners of America

It did not take long for anti-gun activists in the media to make the claim gun control is a winning issue for Democrats, but only if the glaring problems with that picture are ignored.

Abortion, record inflation, large amounts of crime, concerns about democracy, and even climate change and healthcare ranked of higher concern for voters than gun policy according to NBC. Additionally, the *New York Times* reported last month only 1% of likely voters thought guns were the most important problem. No doubt, if guns were the only issue on the ballot, there would be very different results. The fact is, there were too many factors in play for pundits to make the claim people want more gun control. But there were many glaring cases in which pro-gun elected officials were rewarded for strong pro-gun actions.

Every single governor who signed a Constitutional Carry law, which would allow people to carry a firearm without a permit, won re-election. Brian Kemp won

Georgia, Chris Sununu won New Hampshire, Kim Reynolds won Iowa, Kevin Stitt won Oklahoma, Greg Abbott won Texas, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine also won reelection. All of the aforementioned either signed Constitutional Carry Laws in their current term or a previous term. Additionally, although Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida did not sign Constitutional Carry, he called for such legislation to be sent to him for his signature. If guns really were on the ballot in Florida, then the people of Florida clearly are rewarding him for his pro-gun stance by giving him another term.

Even the people of Uvalde, who suffered the horrendous tragedy of 19 children and two teachers murdered at Robb Elementary School in May of this year by a deranged school shooter, decided to vote more than 60% for Governor Greg Abbot, who again, signed permitless carry into law. In addition, a Republican challenger to the State Senator representing the area, won the Uvalde area by more than 17% and boasts support for the “constitutional right to carry” on his website.

People who argue guns are not a good issue to run on may claim Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's narrow race in a supposedly safe Republican district is an example of how proud pro-gun candidates are vulnerable. However, if Representative Boebert's close margins in a safe red district prove that's the case, why didn't that apply to other supposedly "controversial" pro-gun elected officials? Congressman Thomas Massie is also the co-chair of the Second Amendment Caucus with Boebert, yet he won by massive margins. What about Congresswomen Marjorie Taylor Greene? She is no stranger to taking stances on a host of issues that are considered "controversial" by the anti-gun Left, and also makes guns a top issue on which to campaign. Plus, she was outspent by her opponent by nearly \$5 million, but she still won by massive margins.

The best conclusion to make regarding Boebert's close race is that there were numerous factors involved not having to do with gun policy. Even her opponent didn't make it an issue, since he never mentions it on his website.

When he was asked about it, he expressed a middle-of-the-road opinion by saying “I’m fully supportive of people having [guns]. Let’s make sure people can hunt as freely as they wish, let’s make sure they can do their target practices and recreational gun firing, and let’s make sure people have the ability to carry the pistol on their belt.”

As it turns out, when Democrats show support for guns, they do fair very well. Perhaps the most egregious anti-Second Amendment piece of legislation put on the floor of the House for a vote was this year's so-called "Assault Weapons" ban. This ban was far more encompassing than just AR-15s, which would be extreme enough, but would also have banned common items such as Glock handguns. Obviously, opposition to such legislation does not make one a pro-gun hero, but it shows even a few pragmatic Democrats recognize voting for gun bans are a bad idea in tight races. All three Democrat candidates running for reelection in the general who voted against the ban won reelection. Reportedly, two won by nearly

10 points. Democrat Jerad Golden ran in one of the thirteen districts Trump won in 2020 and is projected to win according to the *Sun Journal*.

Even gun control organizations like Everytown for Gun Safety don't act as if their actual mission of gun control is enough of an issue to mobilize voters. The Reload reports they ran ads attacking pro-gun candidate's stances on irrelevant issues to guns like abortion or the security of the 2020 election. They also spent \$1 million to defeat two Secretary of State candidates, which is an office that has nothing to do with gun policy.

Declaring voters don't care about their right to defend themselves because Republicans did worse than expected is a projection of desires rather than a report of facts. Many issues were on voters' minds, but if appreciation for gun control was one of them, then that's just clearly not reflected by the results.

Please see: <https://www.gunowners.org>

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# Sports Star Jailed 10 Months for ‘Transphobic’ Message that ‘God Created Adam and Eve’

by Ben Johnson,  
The Washington Stand

One of the most legendary soccer players of his time received a jail sentence and a fine for posting “transphobic” social media messages citing the Bible’s creation account.

“God created Adam and Eve,” wrote retired Greek football legend Vassilis Tsiartas in the second of two Facebook posts opposing a 2017 law that would have lowered the age to legally change one’s gender to 15 and removed other legal barriers.

The 49-year-old initially responded by saying, “I hope that the first sex changes will be made to the children of those who voted for this abomination.” Members of Parliament may as well “legalize pedophiles and complete their crimes” against nature, he wrote.

While citing the Book of Genesis, the 18-year soccer standout explained his faith-based objection to extreme gender ideology and the redefinition of marriage. “Anyone can have his preferences whether he is a man or a woman, and I completely respect that. For me, however, a couple is only a man and a woman, the rest are just together.

I’m not going to accept all the weddings, all the parades, and anything else they do as normal,” Tsiartas wrote. He said he had no time for anyone who claims “those who don’t agree are racists.”

Human “dignity,” he said, came from a higher power than mankind. “God created Adam and Eve. The rest [of gender identities] were manufactured for consumption,” he concluded.

Tsiartas received a 10-month suspended prison sentence and a suspended fine of 5,000 euros from the Single-Member Misdemeanor Court of Athens. The Transgender Support Assoc., which brought the lawsuit, called punishing his biblical views “particularly important for the transgender community.” Tsiartas plans to appeal the decision.

The ruling marks at least the second time a European court has ruled that biblical values violate the human rights of transgender individuals.

In 2019, a British court ruled that “belief in Genesis 1:27, lack of belief in transgenderism, and conscientious objection to transgenderism in our judgment are incompatible with human

dignity and conflict with the fundamental rights of others.” Genesis 1:27, often cited as the cornerstone of human rights, states: “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

“This I understand to be legalese meaning that my belief in God and the dishonesty of using transgender pronouns is akin to Nazism,” wrote Dr. David Mackereth, a Reformed Baptist physician who was fired from his job with the UK’s Department for Work and Pensions in 2018 for theoretically declining to refer to “any six-foot tall, bearded man” as “madam.”

“The teaching of Genesis 1:27 is repeated throughout the Bible, including by Jesus Christ himself,” said Andrea Williams, chief executive of the Christian Legal Centre, which represented Mackereth. “It is fundamental to establishing the dignity of every human person but is, in a bizarre ironic twist, being branded as incompatible with that dignity.”

On June 29, the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) ruled that the lower court had erred in saying that Mackereth’s “belief in Genesis 1:27 did not amount to a

protected characteristic” covered by the freedom of religion secured by the UK’s 2010 Equality Act. It also took aim at the lower court’s contention that Mackereth’s views were “likely to cause offence” to others. “The fact that a belief is likely to cause offence cannot, however, mean that it is automatically excluded from protection,” ruled EAT.

But EAT ruled that Mackereth’s actions stemmed from his “belief in Genesis 1:27, not the present state of information available” on transgenderism. Ultimately, EAT let his termination stand, saying that Christians have the right to practice their faith, but only if it does not conflict with the “rights” of others, such as LGBTQ provisions.

“I am grateful to the court for recognising that a belief that we are made by God, both male and female ‘in His image’ is not incompatible with human dignity,” said Dr. Mackereth, while he opposed its decision that religious liberty ranks below other putative rights.

Mackereth announced he will take his case to the Court of Appeal, because “my case affects everyone, not just me and Bible-believing Christians, but anyone

who is concerned by compelled speech and transgender ideology being enforced on the NHS and other public services.”

“As Christians, we are not trying to be unkind to people in any way. As Christians we are called to love all people with Christian love,” Mackereth concluded. “But we cannot love people truly when we live and disseminate a lie.”

Ironically, the controversial bill’s supporters also invoked God while arguing for its passage. “What god is it that has us take decisions that push children into bullying, humiliation and suicides?” asked left-wing then-Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, promoting a bill the Greek Orthodox Church called “Satanic.” Tsipras lost his position in 2019 to the more conservative Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who opposed the measure.

U.S. President Joe Biden has also cited the Bible to argue in favor of transgender injections and surgeries for minors.

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/sports-star-jailed-10-months-for-transphobic-message-that-god-created-adam-and-eve>

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

“ Truth-Stretching”

### ACROSS

- 1 Engrossed
- 5 Apiece
- 9 Meat spreads
- 14 \_\_\_ - American
- 15 Penetrating pic
- 16 Refrain segment
- 17 Lie, to some
- 19 Green garb?
- 20 Quake
- 21 Data
- 23 Black bird
- 24 Potato buds
- 26 *Arabian Nights* figure
- 28 Genetic elements
- 32 Needle case
- 33 Preserve
- 34 A Gorgon
- 36 Uses a calculator
- 39 \_\_\_ care
- 41 Obtain, to a yokel

- 42 Carrie’s dad
- 43 Hurler Hershiser
- 44 Outfits
- 46 Actor Ayres
- 47 Vie, at Indy
- 49 Names
- 51 Droopy-eared canine
- 54 Wings
- 55 Twitch
- 56 Smirk
- 58 Always, in poesy
- 62 Andrew Lloyd Web-ber hit
- 64 Mendacity
- 66 Travel by auto
- 67 Commandment word
- 68 Up to the task
- 69 Eye problems
- 70 Indian porridge
- 71 Withdraw

### DOWN

- 1 Huck’s transport
- 2 At a distance
- 3 \_\_\_ -dieu
- 4 “Velvet Fog” kin
- 5 Immoderate
- 6 Brazil parrot
- 7 Colombian city
- 8 African carnivore
- 9 Kennedy’s craft
- 10 Exist
- 11 Fib
- 12 Kate Nelligan role
- 13 Glossy fabric
- 18 Noted cellist
- 22 Fido’s bane
- 25 Rushlike plant
- 27 Couple
- 28 Resound
- 29 Carson forerunner
- 30 Untruth
- 31 Apartment
- 35 Buddhist shrine

A Charles Preston Puzzle

- 37 Count calories
- 38 Emulates Ross
- 40 Verve
- 42 Assets
- 44 Grandpa Walton’s portrayer
- 45 Accumulates
- 48 Cuban exports
- 50 Bray
- 51 Plant supporters
- 52 Turn
- 53 Elevators, in Leeds
- 57 Okinawan seaport
- 59 Dressing gown
- 60 Vincent Lopez theme song
- 61 Biblical locale
- 63 Low digit
- 65 Herbert, of *Pink Panther* fame

Puzzle Key on page 20

## SOCIAL STUDIES from page 16

especially in subjects like social studies..

The State Board was required to update the social studies standards to comply with several new state laws that require the inclusion of more diverse perspectives in social studies, call for more robust civics instruction, and make learning about the Holocaust and genocide a graduation requirement.

All three requirements became politically contentious. Republican board member Deb Scheffel wanted Colorado civics standards to be based on the conservative American Birthright standards, an idea Democrats rejected. And Durham shaped the standards around the Holocaust and genocide to associate Nazis with socialism and emphasize the dangers of left-wing governments, leading history teachers, Jewish groups, and others to call for changes.

Also on Thursday, the State Board voted unanimously to make changes to the genocide standards before finalizing the social studies standards. After reading out

a quote in which Hitler attacked Jews for being capitalists, Durham voted with other board members to add the word fascist to the description of the Nazi Party at the suggestion of board member Rebecca McClellan.

Board members also voted unanimously to restore references to Bosnia, Rwanda, and Darfur that had been lost and, at the suggestion of Board Chair Angelika Schroeder, added a requirement that students learn about the Sand Creek massacre as a genocide.

“I don’t want people to think with all the -isms that this only happens in other countries,” Schroeder said.

*Bureau Chief Erica Meltzer covers education policy and politics and oversees Chalkbeat Colorado’s education coverage. Contact Erica at [emeltzer@chalkbeat.org](mailto:emeltzer@chalkbeat.org). Chalkbeat ([chalkbeat.org](http://chalkbeat.org)) is a nonprofit news organization covering public education Sign up for their newsletters at [ckbe.at/newsletters](http://ckbe.at/newsletters)*

See <https://co.chalkbeat.org/2022/11/10/23452416/social-studies-standards-inclusive-pass-colorado-state-board-education-lgbtq-holocaust-race-ethnic>







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IT'S GONNA BLOW  
from page 18

to have the scientific grasp of a potato chip, said this transgressed the doctrine of separation. The decision had little practical relevance as there was no likelihood that hearing of Genesis would turn students away from the study of biochemistry. It was, however, an early manifestation of class snobbery against what was seen as primitive Christianity that would later coalesce into hostility toward the Deplorables.

**Remote anonymous** committees in New York wrote highly ideological textbooks imposed on distant states which did not share those ideologies. The effectiveness of this relied on the principle that outraged parents in Arkansas would have no idea how to oppose distant bureaucracies of whose existence they were unaware and whose phone numbers they could not find. American government is democratic while not allowing the people to exercise power. It is a brilliant system, until it explodes.

Compulsory racial integration, as distinct from desegregation, was an untarnished disaster. Few wanted it, and few want it. The people who imposed it did not, and do not, send their children to black schools. The races transparently do not want to live together. If blacks move into white neighborhoods, "white flight" occurs and if whites move into black neighborhoods, blacks furiously complain of gentrification.

When two cultures have utterly different views of acceptable language, dress, behavior, study, and curricula, mixing them does not work. In the schools, academic standards fell. Discipline became a problem. Across America, cities burned because of conflict between black populations and white police.

The Constitution, which once brought political stability, withered, being ignored or interpreted into unrecognizability by judges or made

irrelevant by changes in technology and society. Freedom of speech, which meant that I could say that the President was a fool and should be removed from office, became freedom of expression, meaning that porn sites, accessible to children of nine years, could upload videos of... *(Editor/GG: We deleted the end of this sentence.)* Some doubted that the writers of the Constitution had this in mind when providing the Bill of Rights, but none could gainsay the Supreme Court or the federal power.

**The behemoths** of the electronic media imposed political censorship. Being private enterprises, they could not be disciplined. They became more and more an arm of the central government, which became more and more the property of the Northeastern coastal elites. Entities with names like **Google, Twitter, and Facebook** cleansed themselves of content thought inappropriate, websites delisted, credit card accounts closed. *People disappeared by the electronic media were almost as disappeared as those disappeared in Latin America, though less bloodily. The intention and effect are the same.*

An unexpected effect of censorship was that those doing the censoring also censored themselves. The media, talking to each other, reading each other, having no contact with or interest in the silenced and deplorable, had no idea of the anger out there. This brought us Floyd and Trump as deep wells of undetected anger exploded. The media are doing it again.

**The current regime in Washington** appears deliberately and intensely divisive. Biden has attacked the South, supporting renaming of military bases in deliberate affront. A thorough racist, he frequently denounces whites. He denounces Trump and his supporters, nearly half of America. He has ostentatiously chosen black women as justice of the Supreme Court, member of Federal Reserve, Vice President, and White House spokeswoman. While these may or may not be competent, he

announced them as diversity hires. He is poised to assault owners of guns, sure to provoke fury, has involved America in another war, and wants a federal Ministry of Truth to prohibit ideas he doesn't like. Profoundly partisan, he makes no attempt to calm things or promote tranquility.

**The universality of the internet** made difficult or impossible the maintenance of distinct values or mores. It became impossible for the cultivated to inculcate in their children manners, good English, and appreciation of learning when the electronics bathed them in not only the traditionally low culture of America but also the anticivilization of the ghetto. America undergoes both enforced peasantrification and homogenization. Anger grows.

**Congress and the Constitution** largely ceased to function, leaving Presidents to rule by executive order, this not being entirely distinguishable from dictatorship. This included the making of war, which became both common and beyond public influence. The legislature no longer governed but was the storefront for special interests of immense power. There remained no body interested in the wellbeing of the country. This led to offshoring of jobs, poverty in Appalachia, the Rust Belt and rural Deep South, the impoverishing influx of cheap Mexican labor, Donald Trump, and intense regional hatred. Here we are.

**This can't last.** The hatreds are intense, the guns everywhere, anger growing at crime, something akin to economic desperation appearing. Washington will leave nowhere alone, will not address national problems, will always give priority to its military, its wars and its empire over domestic needs. The hostility that fueled the Floyd riots, the burning cities, the looting and vengeful vandalism, are still there. She's going to blow. Watch.

Please see: <https://fredoneverything.org/list/>

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