

BOCC: Day Brings the Deep State to Happy Valley, Public Health Director Resigns

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

Man, when a local politician around here goes bad, they usually go real bad. And we have had a TON of experience with that here in Happy Valley over the last eight years or so. Sadly, Commissioner Kevin Day is following the same “bad” script as some of our ex Commissioners have done. It is sad, we had high hopes for Day. See below for the details.

The June 12, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners regular Wednesday meeting started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day. It was held in their throne room in the building across from the courthouse.

In Commissioner Items, Epp noted that the work needed for the auditors to do our annual audit report was going well and they hope to file the report by July 31st.

Then it was Day’s turn. (A month or so ago, Day had announced that HE was going to have another workshop on “election integrity”. The first one, sponsored by Canda, focused on election fraud and issues with the popular election vote tabulator, the Dominion machine. It was well done with a variety of national and state experts on the issue speaking in person or via Zoom. This apparently didn’t sit well with Day as shortly after that event he announced he was going to have another one, but this one would be on how honest, accurate, and infallible our election system is. Does this sound like a Democrat? Is Day representing the

people or the government?) Now Day announces that his Deep State Show will be held and that he has true experts scheduled that will convince us peasants that there is nothing going wrong behind the curtain.

Day proudly stated that the two featured speakers at his Deep State Show will be, and I kid you not, a spokesperson from the outrageously left wing, radicalized Colorado Secretary of State’s office and the head of the Colorado County Clerk’s Association. (Day has officially invited the most politically radical SOS in the country to come to Custer County, home of the Free, to attempt to indoctrinate us with their extreme liberal agenda. You could not have picked a more biased and inflammatory group to come here and spew their leftist rhetoric. What will be next, Day?

“The Socialist Party of America? Homeland Security Terrorism? Jena Griswold, Colorado’s SOS is as far left as it gets and she has turned our SOS into a hyper-aggressive liberal propaganda machine with a penchant for legal action against conservative people and groups. She, and the whole Colorado SOS are a disgrace. And guess what the Colorado County Clerk’s Association position might be on fraud and election integrity in Colorado? They are the county level Deep State and have stated that there is no fraud in our elections and that the Dominion computer tabulator is faultless, never fails and can’t be hacked. Day is asking the folks who count the votes to say the obvious: no problems here in Colorado. Yea....)

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Breaking News! Custer County BOCC OK’s Firearms in County Buildings

by George Gramlich

At the June 19, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners meeting, the Commissioners passed Resolution 24-08, Lawful Possession of Firearms in Sensitive Buildings.

Background: The Colorado legislature recently passed a bill, SB 24-131 prohibiting the carry of weapons in county buildings. However, it provided that counties can opt out of the restriction.

Many counties to date have done so including Fremont County. The Sentinel has been encouraging the Commissioners to also do this.

Commissioner Epp put the Resolution on the Agenda and had County Attorney Slater modify Fremont

County’s Resolution for Custer County.

Resolution 24-08 allows for the open and concealed carry of firearms in all county buildings except for the courtroom and adjacent court clerk’s area. Note that there is a prior county resolution that prohibits the open carrying of firearms in certain designated areas (such as Human Services). Resolution 24-08 keeps those restrictions in place.

All three Commissioners voted to pass the Resolution.

Bottom Line: You can continue to open or concealed carry in Custer County public buildings except for the courtroom area and certain delineated specific areas.

Fremont County BOCC Approves Resolution to Opt Out of SB-131

by Charlotte Burrous,
The Fremont Crusader

During the June 11 meeting, the Fremont County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 24-2024 to opt out of SB-131, which prohibits carrying guns in government buildings and sensitive spaces, such as churches and school grounds.

“This resolution is the product of some legislation that happened this year and to put it bluntly, some anti-Second Amendment kind of legislation that has been pervasive over the last five or six years in our state legislature,” said Commissioner Kevin Grantham.

FREMONT see page 8

BOCC: Day’s Election Integrity Workshop The Sequel

by Fred Hernandez,
News and Commentary

On Wednesday, May 1, 2024, the Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) convened a Special Meeting on Election Integrity held at the Lange Hall on Third Street in Westcliffe.

At that meeting, six weeks ago, initiated by local business leaders, the BOCC and an audience of about one hundred and fifty, witnessed a presentation by a group of businessmen who have devoted their resources to compile evidentiary material to advance the theory of alleged election fraud. One of the presenters, a highly qualified cyber and computer expert, has devoted all his time in the last four years traveling to many counties throughout the USA inspecting volumes of election related data, interviewing hundreds of voters, election officials and county personnel. This meeting which was reported in the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel left the distinct impression that there seemed to be sufficient evidence to declare the possibility that election fraud may have taken place at least in some counties in many states.

As divisive as this issue is in this county and the country in general, it is not surprising that there would be a rebuttal, a sequel.

And so it was that on Monday,

June 17, 2024, at the same venue, Lange Hall, the BOCC, prompted by Commissioner Kevin Day, organized a “Workshop on Election Integrity”.

The impressive lineup of speakers included none other than Mr. Chris Beall himself, the Deputy Secretary of the State of Colorado, Mr. Matt Crane, the Executive Director of the Colorado County Clerk’s Association (CCCA) and Ms. Carly Koppes, Weld County Clerk and Recorder.

The venue was prepared for less than a hundred attendees as evidenced by only eighty-five chairs in the hall. When the meeting started there were less than sixty in attendance, quite a few of them noticeably open carrying firearms. Seated at the long table in front of the room were county attorney D. Slater and Commissioners Bill Canda, Kevin Day and Lucas Epp.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Day with the Pledge of Allegiance. After a brief opening statement, mainly to state that workshops are open to the public and that written questions and comments from the public would be entertained, the microphone was passed on to Mr. Beall. Chris Beall introduced himself as a lawyer by

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And we know that
for those who love
God all things work
together for good, for
those who are called
according to His
purpose.
Romans 8:28 ESV

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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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SangreDeCristoSentinel

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When we asked John and Amber of Jamber Acres what they do and why, here is what they told us.

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from Westcliffe Farmers Market, Amy Good

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Business Directory QR
(Scan to download)



website <http://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

Sangre Shooting Sports Club and
Custer County Health Agency Offer
Two Classes for Certifications

Press Release

The Sangre Shooting Sports Club (SSSC), in co-sponsorship with the Custer Country Health Agency (CCHA), has scheduled two Basic Life Saving/Stop the Bleed (BLS/STB) classes on Friday, June 28th, at the Custer County Search and Rescue (SAR) building at 0800-1200 (8 AM MDT till 12 PM MDT and 1200-1600 (12 PM MDT till 4 PM MDT) -2 separate classes. BLS includes Cadio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first aid practices

to include eye injuries and skin burns (4th of July celebrations). STB includes tourniquet applications as well as other techniques. Young adults are encouraged to attend. Successful completion of BLS results in an award of an American Heart Association (AHA) certificate. The cost is \$20, payable to the instructor. Space is limited in each class.

Email sssc8@live.com, ATTN: Tom Sullivan or Peggi Collins or silbermedic2@gmail.com (Susy Silber) to register.

CCSO CO-RESPONDERS' CORNER

The Hurt Doesn't Show,
But The Pain Still Grows

by Dr. Tom and Jaclyn Manzione

We understand that dealing with depression can be incredibly challenging. Depression, which is a mood disorder, can bring about persistent feelings of sadness, emptiness, and reduced interest or pleasure in most activities. It goes beyond the normal ups and downs of life and can significantly impact how you feel, think, and act. The onset of depression may happen suddenly or follow a major life event, leading to ongoing feelings of sadness, worthlessness, hopelessness, helplessness, pessimism, or guilt. Depression can also make it difficult to concentrate, stay motivated, and manage daily tasks.

Even though most people with depression don't think about hurting themselves, it does increase the chance of someone thinking about suicide. Did you know that about 60% of people who take their own lives have gone through depression or bipolar disorder before? It's crucial to seek professional help promptly if you

or someone you know is contemplating suicide.

Asking for help takes tremendous strength and courage, especially when you're feeling hopeless or finding it hard to talk about your struggles. Your life is incredibly valuable, and reaching out for support is a vital step in navigating through these difficult times.

When someone else needs help, it's essential to focus on offering support and ensuring they have access to professional assistance. The CCSO co-responders and certified Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) deputies are dedicated to enhancing the Sheriff's Office's ability to support individuals experiencing mental health crises, particularly those that are life-threatening.

If you or someone else is having a mental health emergency, it's important to reach out for immediate assistance by dialing 911.

Resource: Custer County Sheriff's Office

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Colorado 4th Graders Struggling in Reading, 8th Graders in Math

by Joe Mueller,
The Center Square

Colorado’s fourth-grade students are struggling to read and its eighth graders are having trouble with math, according to this year’s KIDS COUNT Data Book published by The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The report stated 62% of fourth graders weren’t proficient in reading in 2022. In 2019, the year before the COVID-19 pandemic, 60% of fourth graders weren’t proficient. Nationally, 68% of all fourth graders aren’t proficient in reading, compared to 66% in 2019.

Eighth graders not proficient in math increased to 72% in 2022, an increase in nine percentage points since 2019. The national percentage for the category is 74%, an increase of seven percentage points since 2019.

“... for educators, researchers, policymakers and employers who have been tracking students’ academic readiness, alarm bells have been sounding for a long time,” Lisa M. Hamilton, president and chief executive officer of the foundation, wrote in the report. “It’s past time not only to listen but to act.”

Hamilton’s opening letter in the report emphasized the importance of fundamental academic achievement for the country and the economy to remain strong into the future.

“To be clear, children are more than test scores,” Hamilton wrote. “Simplifying the potential of any child, any person, to a

scaled score on a standardized assessment is something we must not do. Neither should we gauge the effectiveness of teachers or schools solely by test scores. Rather, these scores, like the other indicators in this Data Book, are tools we can use to understand what kids need and which disparities require targeted interventions.”

The report cited information from the National Survey of Children’s Health. It found 40% of children in 2021-22 had an adverse experience, defined as an economic hardship, a divorce or separation of the child’s parents, a parent who died or served time in jail, witnessing domestic or neighborhood violence, living with someone with a mental illness or substance abuse problem, or being treated unfairly due to race or ethnicity. The report found 39% of Colorado children had one or more adverse childhood experiences in 2021-22.

It also reported 30% or 14.7 million students in 2021-22 were chronically absent, defined as missing 10% or more days during the academic year. Colorado had 36% of its students listed as chronically absent.

The report ranked Colorado 17th overall in the nation, down from last year’s rating of 15th. It based the rating on the economic well being of children (14th), education (15th), health (28th) and family and community benchmarks (ninth).

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_814d91b4-2ceb-11ef-a220-bfcbede9b789.html

3rd Street Gallery Announces People’s Choice Awards

Press Release,
Sangre Art Guild (SAG)

The latest art show at the 3rd Street Gallery is presented under the title of “June’s “Bustin’ Out”. The reception for this latest Gallery show was held Saturday June 1st. Those not able to attend the reception are invited to come and visit the Gallery during the month of June to enjoy almost 50 works of art created by Colorado artists for this show. Congratulations to the two People’s Choice winners selected during the reception: First Place to Pattie Wall for her pastel entitled “Coyote Moon” and Second Place to Jill Westbrook for her watercolor entitled “Shadowfax”.

A July show, “July’s a Poppin’”, will feature all new artwork. Intake for the July show will be June 30th and July 1st and artists of all skill levels, styles and mediums are encouraged to submit their work. Judging the July’s a Poppin’ show will be well known Colorado artist and art instructor Joe Cawfield. These shows and others during the summer season are sponsored by the Sangres Art Guild, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The 3rd Street Gallery is located at 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe (719-315-6045). For more show information please visit sangresartguild.org



People’s Choice Awards: L-R First place Pastel “Coyote Moon” by Pattie Wall, and Second Place, watercolor entitled “Shadowfax” by Jill Westbrook.

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**March with your fellow Patriots and make a statement
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RESTORED in Colorado. You have to SHOW UP to make a
statement. Bring the family, bring the kids, bring Grandma,
bring your friends. Stand up for your rights.**

Assemble at 9:15 a.m., July 4th at the east end of Main Street
(Highway 96), Silver Cliff/Westcliffe, CO, at the open field just west of
the Conoco convenience store and gas station). Look for the Patriots
assembly area (USA Flags, Gadsden Flags, and guns, guns, guns). All
vehicles welcome! Plenty of places in town for lunch. The March is
about one mile long and takes about 45 minutes.

The parade begins at 10 a.m.

Firearm Protocol: Rifles: unloaded, safety on, no detachable
magazines inserted in rifle, chamber flag appreciated, **MUST BE
SLUNG on shoulder or back.** All rifles welcome. Handguns:
Holstered, open carry. **Bring your Trump/MAGA Hats, Signs!**

NO handling of weapons during the parade. Questions? Call us
at 719-783-3360 or email SDC.sentinel@gmail.com.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Appreciation from Danny's Angels

Press Release

In a heartwarming demonstration of community spirit and generosity, the residents of Custer County have successfully raised the necessary funds to place Danny Wilroy on the transplant list. Danny, a cherished member of this community, who has been on dialysis for seven years, will now be eligible to receive a life-saving kidney donation.

This journey has been marked by hope, determination, and an overwhelming wave of support, showcasing the strength and unity of our community. When Danny was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease, the Wilroy and Greer family faced daunting medical expenses and a challenging path ahead. However, they did not face this struggle alone.

In response to their need, Danny's Angels was formed, which includes members of Team Willie, the community and several churches. These folks came together and

organized a benefit fundraiser that featured a BBQ dinner, live music, a silent auction, and a raffle. Additional contributions and support will help reach the financial goal for Danny's transplant. Several donation jars have been placed throughout the community as well as a bank account at Kirkpatrick Bank. In the event you wish to make a donation to Danny's Angels, the tellers know how to assist you.

The Wilroy and Greer family express their deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in these efforts. "We are overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown by our friends, neighbors, and even strangers who heard our story and decided to help," said Judy Greer, Danny's Mother. "Knowing that Danny's health and future are secure thanks to the support of our community is an indescribable feeling. We will forever be grateful."

Jackie Shepherd – Team Willie & Danny's Angels Member

Obituary Marilyn K. Eastwood

Marilyn K. Eastwood, age 77, passed away on Friday June 7, 2024 at Memorial Central Hospital in Colorado Springs after a short illness. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 10, 1946. Marilyn grew up in Amarillo, Texas, with her parents Fred and Kathrine Cox, and brothers Fred and Larry. She graduated from Amarillo High School in 1964 and after some college entered the insurance field as a secretary, worked her way up to an executive assistant and finished her career as a licensed agent.

She met her husband, Gary, in Colorado Springs in 1981, and were married in August 1983. They then moved to the Denver area where they lived until retiring in 2000. They moved to Westcliffe in November, 2001 to the Bull Domingo Ranch where they had purchased property in 1987, and built their retirement home in which they were currently living.

Marilyn is survived by her husband Gary, daughter Julie (Joshua) Hester, grandchildren Emily, Cade and Samantha Hester, step son Andrew (Trey) Eastwood, and grandchildren Avery, Ethan and Owen Eastwood, brother Fred (Quenna) Cox, sister-in-law Judith Abbott, Joyce (Bryce) Ruschhaupt, Patricia Sasser, and numerous nieces and nephews, along



with many friends and parishioners in the Westcliffe area.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Holt Family Funeral Home in Cañon City. Services were held at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Westcliffe at 9:30 a.m. on June 18, 2024.

Burial followed at the Assumption Cemetery and then lunch at the Parish Hall provided by the Altar Society.

Marilyn had requested that in lieu of flowers, please make a donation for the new Tabernacle in the church. Contact Diane in the church office at 719-783-3507.



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Donations will be taken Monday July 1st from 9-5
Also, look for our float in the 4th of July Parade!

Petition Time, Folks!
**We have two petitions to Protect Kids
& three petitions on Election Integrity**



Come to the Sentinel
(601 Main St., Westcliffe)
**Tues, Weds 9 to 3
or Fri 9 to noon**

Petition #142: Parental Rights
Petition #160: Protecting Girls' Sports For Female Athletes
Petition #201: Prohibits Ranked Choice Voting
Petition #202: Ballot Access through Caucus and Assembly preserved
Petition #278: Closed Primaries. Partisan Primary Ballots chosen by Plurality vote

Read more about the petitions to Protect Kids at protectkidscolorado.org and the Election Integrity petitions at coloradocounts.com



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Letters to the Editor



Please send your submissions to us at sdc.sentinel@gmail.com, mail them or bring them in to the office at 601 Main St., Westcliffe CO 81252.
Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 500 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name and give us the general location of your residence. Also please provide your phone number or email - for confirmation only. *The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.*

Warming/Cooling Shelter

Election Integrity Forum: Veteran Not Allowed to Speak

Letter to the Editor

I have brought to the attention of City Hall numerous times in the past that there is a need for a "Warming/Cooling Shelter".

This is not Disneyland, it is a rural Colorado mountain area. In 1957 (or 1958) the temperature in Westcliffe hit -58F and -62F in Lake DeWeese. Propane froze in the pipes. In 1978 the temperature went below -40F. The weather in this location here is unpredictable and unstable and can impact your life.

The means of getting to a shelter is of concern also for some as the average age here is 60. The safety of all should prevail and be minimum risk for Responders.

The emergency shelter should have well water, coats, blankets, and porta potties and not be a government facility.

No matter how larger or smaller the population gets, you are not going to outdo Mother Nature.

*Aliah Dianne Behrendt
Custer County*

Day Has Got to Go

Editor;

The statutes that govern elected officials hold them to a higher standard of behavior. When someone willfully takes the Oath they become a servant to the public and have a duty of care to the tax payers. When the duty of care is neglected and their position is not used to promote the wellbeing of the public they have a duty to, but is used for political gain to receive votes by catering to other people who receive public funds he or she is in charge of, this is a breach in duty. We know Kevin used the severance pay as a weapon not to fire the newly hired county manager. The two of them ran the finance department for two years. During this time the destruction of the finance department bloomed. Why would you promote a person that could not perform the duty he was in charge of the first place? That Saga is for another DAY. We must get the finance of the people firmly squared away, the law requires accountability and we're not even close. The lack of effort from all the commissioners breeds a lot of suspicion. Time for a changing of the guard. We need the cabal busters to engage in their County affairs before it is too late. We the people are the only ones to blame. Please make your voice heard, time is getting short, please vote for statesmen not politicians.

*Jim McMahon,
Rural Custer County*

we not only honor their service but also tap into a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that can inform and enrich our national discourse. Their voices carry the weight of lived experiences, and hard-earned lessons. When veterans speak, they speak not just for themselves but for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and for the generations that will inherit the consequences of our actions.

It is an affront to the very principles of free speech and democratic values when a veteran who has served for decades is requested by an elected official, Democratic/Independent commissioner, Kevin Day, to leave a public meeting without being able to voice his opinion. This silencing of a veteran's voice is a disservice to the sacrifices made and the perspective they bring from years of honorable service. Such actions undermine the foundations of our democracy and send a message that the voices of those who have defended our nation are not valued or respected.

Veronica Nicholson, Custer County

Rotary Van Volunteers

Letter to the Editor

With the average age here of 60 or so, and this is a "Caring For Others" community, please note the Rotary (719 783 2343) is in need of drivers for those unable to drive for medical or shopping needs down the hill. If one could drive just one day a month it would be immensely appreciated.

Let's be "Community Driven".

*Aliah Dianne Behrendt
Custer County*

Make America Great Again

I am disgusted with people elected to government office who do not understand that we the people are the government.

The elected people are supposed to listen to what the citizens of this county have to say. I was lucky enough to be old enough to have been taught in school what the Constitution has to say and how it gave the citizens of this country liberty. One of those liberties gave us a citizen's government worth keeping. That liberty is in jeopardy. Even in our own county where certain commissioners have silenced the people at meetings. That is why I am pleased that we will have Bill Canda as a County Commissioner for the next two years. That is why I am voting for Lucas Epp. With hope in my heart that he understands that we the people are the government and are supposed to be heard, I am also voting for Paul Vogelsong. Perhaps with these three people working together with the citizens, we can help to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, no matter what our political opinions may be. Perhaps all the interested citizens will learn to debate the issues. But, we must always understand the issues well enough not to cave in to anything that would be bad for our county and then we must voice our opinions to the commissioners who have the obligation to vote according to the wishes of their constituents.

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Sincerely,

Linda Anderson, Custer County



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https://custerGOP.com/ https://www.facebook.com/custerGOP/

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, June 24
#26 Chicken Fajita
Savory Black Beans w/Cilantro
Tortilla Whole Wheat
Cheddar Cheese
Mexicali Corn
Orange

Tuesday, June 25
#44 Ham and Beans
Collard Greens
Cornbread
Orange Juice

Thursday, June 27
#49 Hamburger on a Bun
Catsup, Mustard, and Onion
Split Pea Soup
Creamy Cole Slaw
Banana

Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations
A \$3 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.
Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)
The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.

Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita in Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Monday of the Month
5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting (year-round) at Cliffe Lanes
2nd and 4th Monday
6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

Tuesdays
12 noon – 1 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLDS) “As Bill Sees It” St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita in W/C. Call Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort Quilters @Valley Bible
6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM

2nd Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Meeting @Valley Bible

Wednesdays
8-9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.
10 -11 a.m. Westcliffe Band of Brothers & Sisters Bible Study ‘Ragamuffin Gospel’ Book & the Bible Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver 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. Martha at 719-371-1853.
6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

Last Wednesday of the Month
9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study. at 3305 County Rd 159, Westcliffe. June 26, July 31, August 28. Holly 703-338-4100

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

2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee meeting. Ranchers Roost. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. 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.
Liberty Rocks 5:30 meal, 6 p.m. Presentation FREE
June Location: Lange Hall - (Enchilada Bar is optional \$20)

Fridays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853

2nd Friday of the Month
8 am- Westcliffe Band of Brothers & Sisters Men’s Prayer Breakfast, at the Senior Center followed by **Monthly Meeting at 9:30** - all are welcome

Saturdays
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
8 a.m. Valley Bible Fellowship Men’s Breakfast Open to all Men of the Community, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff Questions, Jerry @ 719-783-0120.
1 p.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room, Post Commander Burt Daniels 719-783-3050



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



The American Legion Auxiliary Monthly Meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Cliff Lanes meeting room.

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.



FREMONT from page 1

“What (Senate Bill 131) did basically was prohibit carrying fire-arms in what they deemed as sensitive spaces (and) those spaces, (such) as this space, the Fremont County Administration Building and any other government buildings. But any could opt out for governments to be able to ignore that law. What we’re doing here today is essentially keeping the status quo of who is able to carry. It becomes law July 1. The status quo will be the same after July 1st this year.”

Grantham then read the resolution with a clause, which stated the commissioners had a duty to provide health, safety and welfare. The board also respects county-owned real property and personal property as deemed by the County Commissioners to be in the best interest of the county and its inhabitants. Senate Bill 131 was passed on May 17th with an effective date of July 1st.

“Whereas, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution adopted in 1791 as part of the Bill of Rights protects the inalienable and individual rights for people to keep and bear arms. Whereas Article 2, Section 3 of the Constitution of Colorado provides that all persons have certain inalienable rights among of which may be the right to defend their lives and liberties of acquiring and protecting property and obtaining their safety and happiness.”

The Colorado Constitution also provides the rights of citizens to bear arms to defend and protect their homes, Grantham continued.

“They call them sensitive spaces,” Commissioner Dwayne McFall said.

“To me, that makes them soft targets. They want to do it so it applies to several other places too. We don’t have the jurisdiction to change that. Second Amendment Rights infringements we’re hearing from our legislators just are not constitutional. I think a lot of these are going to end up in court as well. I think we’ll do our part as we can.”

Grantham agreed.

“Most of these pieces of legislation that goes after the Second Amendment are done under the guise of public safety,” he added. “In all honesty, but who does that most affect are our law abiding citizens, which we see all the time is our law abiding citizens being lawful, being responsible. In my time up there and my time away from up there, all we see is the attack on the law abiding and responsible gun owners. This is what this legislation would have done.

Commissioner Debbie Bell also commented; *“This is just another piece of that terrible legislation we were talking about earlier that was passed this year;” she said. “The only redeeming factor is the opportunity for us to opt out. I also understand there are counties around Colorado that are opting out as well. I’m deeply appreciative of those. We did raise our right hands and swore to defend and to uphold our Constitution. We see this as an opportunity for us. We see this as an obligation.”*

After comments made by McFall and Bell, the commissioners approved the resolution, permitting lawful carrying of firearms in government buildings.

In an unrelated matter, the board approved Resolution 25, placing an emergency temporary moratorium on the construction of major utility projects in all zone districts in Fremont County.

“This is referring to what was mentioned earlier, the 1041 powers, which we are working on regulations,” McFall said.

After Bell read the resolution, she stated the commissioners had some inquiries about electric battery storage units, wind power, solar power and different things.

“What this does is it prohibits from accepting or working through any of those applications until we have such rules and regulations in place in Fremont County to regulate those,” Bell said.

McFall also spoke.

“There are so many conversations about solar; wind transmission lines, battery stations, storage, gas lines --- although they’re trying to kill gas,” McFall said. “To have a better seat at the table they’ve taken, it’s important for us to have these 1041 powers. These conversations are happening all over the state. The statute we have the right to do this moratorium allows us the opportunity to come up with these regulations and do them right.”

After discussing it further, the commissioners approved the resolution.

(Editor/GG: We have repeatedly asked Canda and Epp to do the same thing here so we are not defenseless in our own public buildings. Epp responded to another email from the Sentinel on June 14 saying he had gotten a copy of Fremont’s Resolution and had give it to the County Attorney to modify it for Custer. We will keep you posted.)

Please see: <https://fremontcountycrusader.com/articles/06-14-2024-Fremont-County-Board-of-Commissioners-Approve-Resolution-To-Opt-Out-Of-SB131.html>

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe</i> Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601</i> Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints <i>240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/545-1196</i> 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 <i>0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526</i> Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship <i>202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511</i> Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com <i>20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi</i>	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 <i>417 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2498</i> High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School <i>103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045</i> Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study <i>603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053</i> Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study <i>3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561</i> Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 pm Sunday Mornings: 9:30 am in the Amphitheater <i>830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863</i>	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. Tuesday Mass (summer) 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass <i>109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507</i> Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month <i>210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491</i> Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. <i>215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence 719/784-1184</i> St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays <i>3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477</i> 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 <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> Saturday Mass 4 p.m. <i>Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey. 719/746-2037</i>	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church <i>Pastor: Mike Shields</i> 10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecriscowboychurch.com also on Facebook <i>60260 HWY 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372</i> Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service <i>120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903</i> Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship <i>6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822</i> Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship <i>116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572</i> Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship <i>Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230</i> Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship <i>699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596</i>
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All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

Isaiah 53: 6 ESV

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Events

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June 21, 22 @ 6:30 p.m. & June 23 @ 2 p.m.
JWCPA Shakespeare in the Sangres ~ *As You Like It*
\$20 Adults, \$15 Students/Active Military, \$5 Kids 12 & under
Historic Jones Theater 119 Main St, Westcliffe

June 21 9- 10 p.m.
SJO Lunar Observing Party
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June 22, @ 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
SJO Sun Observing

June 22 @ 2 - 4 p.m. \$40
Beckwith Murder Mystery
Beckwith Ranch on N Hwy 69

June 27, 5:30 p.m. RSVP
Custer County Conservation District 2024 Pond Project Presentation
Contact Josh@719-360-6286
Ad on page 21

Thursday, July 4th, 10 a.m. Parade on Main Streets

Classifieds

Announcements

Rosita Property Owners Association
Annual picnic / meeting.
July 7th, 1-5 p.m. at
Rosita Park Pavilion.
Burgers and Brats provided.
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To much to mention.
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June 28, 29
Household items, tools, misc.
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
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Garage Sale
June 28, 29
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8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
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Full description and applications are available at:
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Dominic Edginton new VSO
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Calling Crafters & Artisans

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Press Release

Artisans and crafters, it's that time of year again: Applications are now at the library to participate in the upcoming Friends of the Library arts and crafts show. The applications should be returned by Friday, July 12th. The dates of the show are July 18-20, 2024, and as always it will be held at Hope Lutheran

Church's Lange Hall, 312 South 3rd Street.

The Friends board invites all crafters to participate in this show, particularly anyone who has been thinking about being a part of the show. Visitors to the show tell us that they are awed at the talent exhibited at the show, and they love purchasing unique items for their

friends and loved ones. Please pick up an application and join us at the fair

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KIDS

Friday, June 21, 2024

Mary River Turtle

This week we will be traveling to Australia to research the Mary River Turtle. It is an endangered species due to habitat destruction, water pollution and historical over-collection for the pet trade. This short-necked turtle is native to the Mary River in southeast Queensland, Australia, and is found only in Australia.



The Mary River turtle is known for its ability to breathe underwater through specialized glands. This turtle can remain submerged for extended periods. Adult turtles have elongated, streamlined shells. Their shells can be plain in color, but their overall color



varies from rusty red to brown and to almost black. Because of its long neck and long powerful limbs it looks as if it had grown too big for its shell. Its enormous tail is a spectacular and unique appendage containing bones that form a hook. The most remarkable feature of this tail is a deep cavity lined with gill-like structures that are used for extracting oxygen from water. This feature allows the turtle to remain submerged for long periods up to 72 hours at a time, breathing oxygen through its butt. It has green algae growing from its head and body that helps it hide from predators and two long, fleshy protrusions called barbels sticking out from its chin that help it sense its surroundings. This is why it is often referred to as the Green Haired turtle.

These turtles are omnivorous, meaning they feed on both animal and vegetable substances, such as algae, bivalves and other small animal prey, such as fish, frogs and sometimes even ducklings. The Mary River turtle has the ability to blend into muddy waters and wait for unsuspecting prey to pass. Their algae cover shell also allows them to stay hidden from predators.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Mary River turtle was popular as a pet in Australia, with about 15,000 sent to shops every year during a 10-year period. They were originally known as the "penny turtle" or "pet shop turtle".

So, next time you are in Australia you might want to visit the Mary River.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://animalia.bio/mary-river-turtle>, <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2013/12/the-strange-tale-of-the-mary-river-turtle/>, <https://www.livescience.com/animals/turtles/mary-river-turtle-the-green-haired-oddball-that-can-breathe-through-its-butt-for-72-hours>.
Photo credit: Chris Van Wyk/Zoological Society of London, and dreamstime.com

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CORNER

Jesus said

“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

John 15:4 ESV



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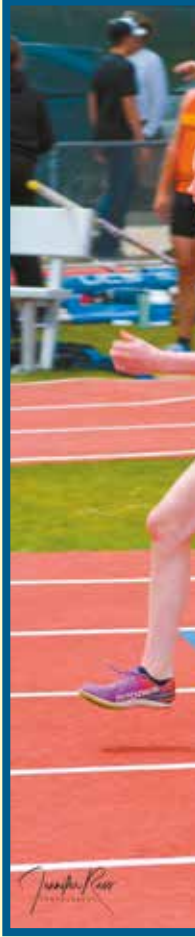
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Sentinel Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography; Layout by Katherine Brenchley

BOCC
from page 1

Day stated that this “Deep State Show” will be held that very next Monday, June 17th, at the same place the original event was held, Lange Hall. Start time is 5:30 p.m. He said only written questions will be allowed thus eliminating any real questioning or debating of the issues.

(Why did Day schedule it to happen in just a few days after he announced it instead of waiting a few weeks so folks could hear about it? By announcing the event at the Wednesday BOCC neither paper will have it published so most citizens won't know it was happening. Was this intentional? Weird. We know one thing, however, we know there will be a lot of people there who know what is really going on.) Day said it will be broadcast via Zoom.

(Day has gone full lib. Inviting these two severely biased organizations to come to conservative Happy Valley and give us the lib government hocus on election integrity is an insult to (most) of our citizens. In fact, it is a parody of good government. Day has abandoned the Republican Party and people who got him elected and now is simply a shill for the Deep State, liberal oppression and tyranny. It took less than three years in power to blow his cover. His pathetic attempt to stay in power by switching to Unaffiliated so he could run again, is an insult to the people who got him there. His cozying up to the libs at the BOCC's is so obvious it is ridiculous. And don't forget, he almost destroyed our county government with his insane push to establish a County Manager Czar to rule over us peasants. Day has gone from being a representative of the people to a shill for government power, growth and control. Remember this in November, citizens.)

After the Deep State Show bombshell, Staff Reports were next. First up was Finance. Our consultant helping with the audit issues and the general mess of Finance, Lisa

Hammen of Redland’s Consulting gave a brief report stating that things were going well and that the auditors should have all the missing lease info for the report. Vernon Roth, our IT guy, (who has been helping with the Finance Department issues for some time and has done an outstanding job) then spoke. Vernon said the work with the auditors has been “intense”. He also said that he has created a Budget Review checklist for the county’s departments and entities to help them in next year’s budget process. Vernon is also working on developing a list of “best practices” for the county which should be very helpful. Epp finished the Finance Report stating that the BOCC must get more involved in “ratifying” certain actions like donations, contracts and leases.

Road & Bridge was next. The issues re Copper Gulch Road will finally be addressed. (R&B has been super busy with other projects.) Around 4.5 miles of it will also have mag chloride. OEM then reported the usual: grants, grants, grants, grants and more grants.

Dorothy Carsten, head of Planning & Zoning then gave her report. She said that, overall, construction was down considerably from last year. She noted that septic and dwelling permits were down about 30% from last year and P&Z revenue was \$127k lower than last year.

Our Veterans Service Office honcho, Dominic Edginton, then gave his report. He said he had 56 scheduled appointments last month and whole bunch of walk ins. Dominic said he is close to getting an old Air Force plane for Memorial Park in Silver Cliff. He also said a large Veterans Assistance Grant he has applied for is approved but he has not been officially notified yet. *(Dominic is getting things done here big time. The guy is a VSO machine. We are blessed to have him here for our veterans.)*

Robert Smith was next with the Human Resources report. He said starting July

1st, the minimum wage for certain exempt employees will be going up. He then talked about a Colorado law regarding county employees’ ability to unionize. This caused a bit of a discussion with regards to it applying to Custer County. County Attorney Dan Slater later in the meeting said it did not, as we are too small. Smith then said he got the resolution from Logan County on their opting out of the new anti self-defense law, SB 14-131, that the libs in Denver passed this year and Polis of course signed that disallows weapons in county buildings. (Fremont County also just opted out of it. The *Sentinel* has been pushing the BOCC to also opt out, so we are not defenseless sheep in our own county buildings. (Epp just emailed the *Sentinel* (June 17) saying the subject will be on the June 17 BOCC agenda. Expect the screaming Karens to be out in force...)

Smith stated that the county has only received one new applicant for the Finance Director’s job. After some discussion, it was agreed to keep the posting open till the end of July. Smith said due to the history of the county’s HR, a lot of the functions had become decentralized, and that individual departments and offices were doing HR stuff that he should be doing. He is working on correcting that.

New Business was next and HR Robert Smith was up again. Smith said that there are issues with what employees actually have saved up with vacation and sick leave with people saying they have this much and the CIC system saying they have a different number. He said the total county liability for saved up time is \$716,000! After a lot of discussion, County Clerk Kelley Camper said the county’s computer system that tracks earned leave is horrible and that she, and other department heads, keep track of it separately.

In Public Comments, Bill Christie was back with an update on his payroll drama with Finance. *(Christie was the county’s*

interim OEM manager for three months last year and his paycheck got messed up by Finance. He made a big deal out of it at last week’s BOCC, instead of quietly going to Finance for answers.) Christie goes full drama queen again at this meeting saying that somebody left a message on his phone a couple of days after last week’s meeting saying that if he goes through with the CORA request for information about the payroll issue, that he will be “sorry”. Christie said the caller ended the message with the “F bomb”. Because of this call, Christie said he was dropping the CORA request as he is “too old to tolerate the county’s lunatic fringe”. *(Why ANYBODY would care anything about Christie’s minor payroll issue is mystifying. This sounds a little hokey.)* Christie finished with HR is working on his problem.

Day then invoked an Executive Session regarding a personnel issue with the Public Health Department. This took about two hours. The Commissioners, Attorney Slater, Public Health Director Cliff Brown, HR Robert Smith and Sheriff Smith were in that meeting.

The BOCC ends the Executive Session and then immediately goes back into another one regarding a personnel matter with Public Health. HR Director Smith is in this one too.

Finally, it ends and no announcements are made.

And that was that.

But not quite. We learn later that our Public Health Director, Cliff Brown had resigned his position during or after that meeting. According to some citizens familiar with the Public Health Department, there have been some alleged issues with Brown’s management “style”. This apparently had gotten to the point where Brown felt he should resign. *(We are going to miss him. He did a great job and we will be hard pressed to find a replacement with his knowledge, common sense and experience.)*

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Colorado State News



Colorado Dems Target Rural Red Counties

by Corey Gaines, The Colorado Accountability Project

The Democrats are going to start moving on local governments, particularly those in areas that used to be Red and are now turning purple. Heads up Western Slope, I'm looking in your direction right now. This is speculation on my part (I have no reference other than my intuition), but I have the distinct feeling that if we don't have it now, we'll soon see those big bucks from outside start flowing into local races, big bucks that

will overwhelm anyone else that doesn't have the nod of the dark money machine. What I put above may be speculation, but I want to show you why I have the intuition I do. First, I point you to the CPR article linked first below. The Democrats are openly and clearly moving on local races they think will be fruitful. Things like, quoting the article, "...commissioner races in Garfield, Pueblo, Alamosa, Grand, Chaffee, Douglas, Park and El Paso Counties." And they plan to build the same concrete pads, roads, and frame-works they did when they (with

the help of other factors) made this state blue. See for example, the book, "The Blueprint". I want you to put that infrastruc-ture-building next to the network of out of state funding that already exists and dumps money into state level races (see, for example, the Sun article linked second below). That is how I arrive at my intuition. Whether I'm right or not, if you live in the areas that Dems are wanting (h**l, even if you live in areas you think they don't stand a chance in), take note. Part of what led to Democrats' success last time was people sitting on

their hands. I would say that making the same mistake twice would be a bad idea.** I.e. don't sit on your hands. There is one thing on your side if you live outside the Front Range: the demographics haven't quite caught up to where even outsized spending can have a big effect. Use that and start organizing now. **See the post that follows this one. <https://www.cpr.org/2024/06/10/colorado-democrats-eye-local-races-to-flip-county-level-offices-conservative-areas/> <https://coloradosun.com/2024/06/10/aurora-state-senate-race-money-colorado/>

(Editor/GG: They are making some moves here in Custer County. Day abandons the Republican Party to run as Unaffiliated. (He might have gone all the way to registering as a Dem but that still won't fly here.) And you have another lib making a move for a Commissioner's seat. We'll keep you posted.) Please see: <https://coloradoaccountabilityproject.substack.com/p/heads-up-western-slope-you-are-the?>

With State Offices Locked Up, Colorado Democrats Turn Their Eyes to Local Races

by Bente Birkeland, Colorado Public Radio

The Colorado Democratic Party has officially unveiled the details of its effort to win more local offices in some of the state's purple and traditionally red counties. The party's "Colorado County Comeback" will initially focus on commissioner races in Garfield, Pueblo, Alamosa, Grand, Chaffee, Douglas, Park and El Paso Counties. "We are going to be giving direct support for battleground counties and candidates," said Democratic state party chair Shad Murib during a media call to share details of the plan. Murib said the party would work closely with candidates on everything from fundraising

and messaging to coordinating with volunteers and creating and distributing campaign literature. "Of our 192 county commissioners, only 34 percent are Democrats," said Murib, noting that the figures are even lower for other local offices such as county clerks and sheriffs. "Anybody who's involved in politics knows these folks are often the ones who don't receive the same level of training or assistance as our state House, state Senate, and statewide candidates do. And that era is coming to a close," said Murib. This new push comes at a time when Democrats already hold every statewide elected office near supermajorities in the state legislature. Murib said he believes the next frontier of Colorado politics is local.

Republican state Sen. Perry Will, who is running for Garfield County commissioner in one of the targeted races, said he thinks Democrats are taking the wrong approach. "I don't look at (these local seats) as a partisan issue, and I know they do, but it's really not. It's about who can do the best for the county and the people that they represent there." Right now Garfield's commissioners are all Republicans, but the district is not deep red. It includes Democratic communities such as Carbondale and Glenwood Springs, as well as more conservative ones like Parachute and Rifle. Will said the county's demographics are definitely changing. "It obviously used to be a really red county, but we used to have a red state too, and then we went

from purple, now we're blue, I guess." Will said he didn't expect the Republican state party to take the same sort of interest in county-level races, but believes he will have the resources he needs to compete. "It's like, let's put the right person in there for the right reasons. It shouldn't be about who's getting money and mailers and all this stuff and dark money," said Will. "I think the public as a whole, they're tired of that." In unveiling their new focus on counties, Colorado Democrats also formally retired the 546 Project, their effort to unseat Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert in the 3rd Congressional District. Boebert, who's attempting to switch districts, is currently com-

peting in a GOP primary race across the state. "In 2024, Lauren Boert moved away. That's a successful effort for the program," said Murib. "She's blamed Democrats for her move, which I'm happy to take credit for." Murib described that effort as an unprecedented investment by the party in Western and Southern Colorado, which he hopes will result in turning out more voters this November in places like Pueblo. (Reprinted with Permission. © 2024 Colorado Public Radio.) Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2024/06/10/colorado-democrats-eye-local-races-to-flip-county-level-offices-conservative-areas/>

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Colorado State News





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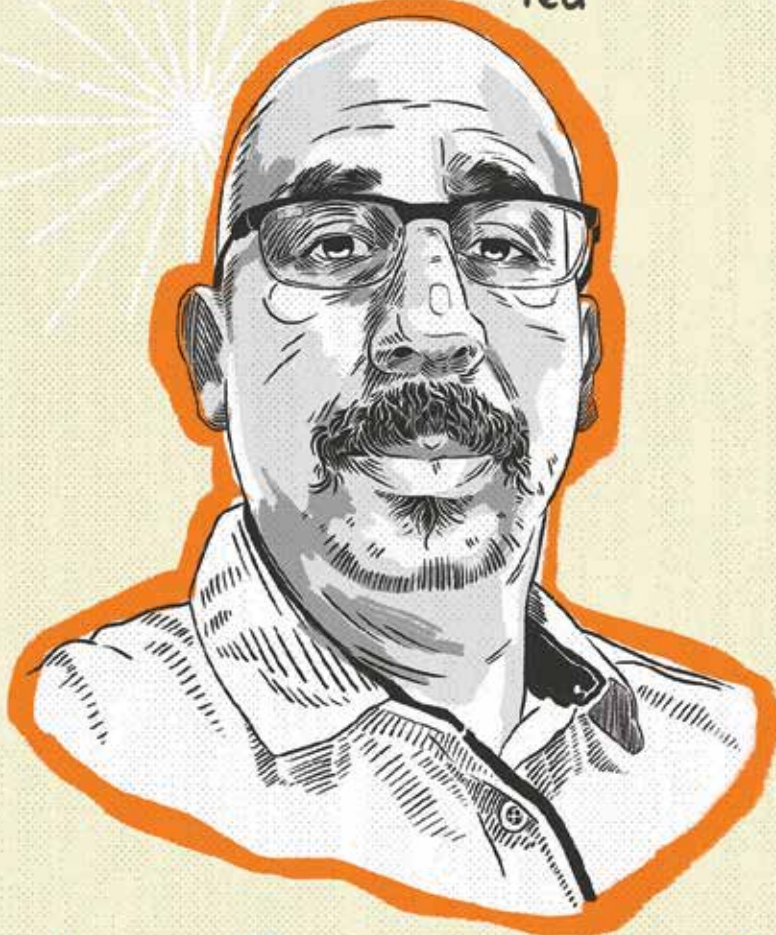
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This project is led by the Region 15 Opioid Abatement Council,
covering Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Park counties.

Utah Gov. Cox Criticizes Denver Mayor for Busing Migrants to Salt Lake City

by Derek Draplin
TheCenterSquare.com

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston is facing criticism from neighboring Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, who said Colorado’s capital city has been sending migrants to his state “without proper notification or approval.”

“This is completely unacceptable and follows on the failed catch-and-release policy of the Biden administration,” Cox, a Republican, said in a tweet on Friday morning. “Every state has received illegal immigrants and Utah’s resources are completely depleted.”

Cox was referencing reporting by KUTV that said Denver has paid to bus approximately 2,000 migrants to Salt Lake City.

“All 50 states, including Utah, are now border states due to the failed immigration policies of President Biden and Congress,” Cox added in the tweet. “Once again we call on the Biden administration and Congress to solve this crisis.”

Johnston’s office did not immediately respond to *The Center Square’s* request for comment.

As of Monday, 42,249 migrants who entered the country illegally have arrived in Denver since December 2022 at an estimated cost of \$71 million, according to the city.

“Any individual who travels through our system makes their own decision on their destination,” Jon Ewing, who works for the Denver Department of Human Services, told KUTV. “We are simply helping people connect with family, friends, or existing support systems.”



Denver recently sent two city employees to El Paso, Texas, to dissuade migrants arriving in the U.S. from traveling to Denver, *The Center Square* previously reported.

A report by the Common Sense Institute, a free-enterprise think tank in Colorado, estimates city, education and health care spending on migrants totals between \$216 million to \$340 million.1

(Editor/GG: When the first bus of illegals lands in Westcliffe, the Custer County Democrat Party should take care of them. In their own homes...)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_c1eb06ec-2a94-11ef-a7e9-f748bffb732b.html



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Colorado State News



By the Numbers: Colorado Growth in Property Tax Revenue

by Chris Brown, Erik Game.
The Common Sense Institute

The passage of Amendment B in 2020 repealed the formula that had governed Colorado’s property tax rates for decades. The measure triggered a frenzy of lawmaking activity that has still not settled. So far, efforts to ordain a permanent successor to the Gallagher Amendment have been frustrated by rapidly rising home values, skirmishes over TABOR, and political unpopularity. The result, despite multiple rounds of temporary rate reductions, has been extreme increases in many Coloradans’ home property tax bills over the last few years—increases larger than would have occurred under the Gallagher Amendment. Although a bill did pass during the 2024 session that permanently altered the property tax system, two ballot measures further altering property taxes likely await voters this November.

The data are finally in: The growth in taxable property values in 2023, has predictably led to a historic year for property tax revenue in 2024. The growth in residential property values, combined with limited rate reductions following the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment in 2020, underpinned the second largest property tax revenue growth in the state’s history. The growth in residential property tax payments accounted for 17% of the average homeowner’s increase in expenses.[i]

Key Insights into 2024 Property Tax Revenue Growth

- Property tax revenue increased by \$2.4 billion dollars in 2024. The annual increase of 19% was

the largest since 1975. Since 2019, property tax revenue has increased by \$5.4 billion (55%) and has more than doubled in the last nine years, growing over \$8 billion, from \$7.18 billion in 2015 to nearly \$15.3 billion collected in 2024.

- After adjusting for inflation, property tax revenue per Coloradan increased by \$304 from \$2,262 to \$2,566 in 2024. Over the past five years, inflation-adjusted revenue per Coloradan increased by \$440. Therefore, 70% of the population- and inflation-adjusted property tax revenue increase since 2019 occurred in just the last year. The statewide increase in property tax revenue was four times higher than the average increase in population and inflation (19% vs 4.5%) and five times higher than the increase in the average weekly wage (19% vs 3.6%).
- There was a wide range of revenue growth across the state – 50 of Colorado’s 64 counties received net property tax revenue increases larger than population growth and inflation across all of their taxing authorities. Four counties experienced revenue growth below population and inflation growth and 10 counties saw nominal decreases in property tax revenue. Some of the largest adjusted increases were in mountain counties, while the decreases were mostly in rural counties in eastern and southern Colorado.
- Property tax revenue for Colorado school districts increased by \$1.07 billion in 2024 (17%), outpacing inflation and enrollment growth of just 3%. Student enrollment declined in the FY24 school year by 5,243 students, as the per-pupil property tax revenue increased by \$1,225, growing to \$8,540. 141 of Colorado’s

179 school districts received property tax revenue growth that outpaced inflation and enrollment growth. 38 school districts experienced total property tax revenue growth lower than inflation and student growth.

- The growth in property tax revenue granted the legislature the ability to slow the growth in state education funding. The state share of school program funding grew by just \$155 million between FY23 and FY25, while the local share grew by \$1.1 billion. The strong growth in property tax revenue enabled the state to meet the constitutional requirement for education funding with a more limited increase in its budget commitment. As a result, a large beneficiary of the growth in property tax revenue is state spending areas outside of the public school system. The legislature’s decision to exempt school districts from SB-233’s taxpayer protections assures that the state share of school funding will continue to decrease. The state’s share of school program funding peaked in FY15 at 66.6% and will reach its lowest point in data back to 2001, 53%, in the FY25 school year.
 - The data used to generate this report were provided directly to CSI by the Division of Property Taxation prior to the release of the 2023 Annual Report. In some cases, some totals varied slightly from the published annual report, but any changes were minimal.
- (Editor/GG: See the link below for the whole article. Custer County’s Property Tax Revenue Growth from 2023 to 2024 is 18.2%. In one year.)
- Please see: <https://commonsenseinstitute.co/by-the-numbers-growth-in-property-tax-revenue-2/>

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CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

Custer County Court
205 S Sixth Street, Westcliffe,
CO 81252

**Public Notice for Petition
of Name Change**

In the Matter of the Petition
of Adult

Grace Hillman
For the Change of Name to
Jayden Gray Hillman

Case Number 24C14

Public Notice is given on June 5, 2024, 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

Grace Ann Hillman
be changed to
Jayden Gray Hillman

Signed June 5, 2024, by
Christina Wilson
Deputy Clerk

Published June 7, 14 & 21, 2024
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID

The Wet Mountain Fire Protection District is soliciting bids for a commercial roof coating system for the Main Station located at 215 4th Street, Westcliffe, Colorado, 81252.

Any construction power, portable restrooms and dumpster needed will be provided by the contractor.

All applicable insurances will be provided to the District 15 days prior to starting construction.

- Builders risk
- Contractors liability
- Workers compensation

Sealed bids must be clearly marked "Roof Coating Bid"

The roof is approximately 15,000 square feet

The coating should be silicone (preferred) or rubber, and shall be applied in two coats, 1st coat shall be >= 15 mil thick

2nd coat shall be >= 10 mil thick

Bids will be accepted by the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District, in person at 215 4th Street, Westcliffe, Colorado, 81252: or by mail at P.O.Box 324, Westcliffe, Colorado, 81252, no later than 4pm on Wednesday, July 31, 2014. References shall be emailed to wmfpdclerk@gmail.com no later than 4pm, Friday, July 31, 2024. References must be sent separately from sealed bids.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on Wednesday, August 12, 2024. References will be required of past similar projects.

For questions regarding this project, contact Paul Young, 940-390-4685

The Wet Mountain Fire Protection District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Published June 21 and July 5, 2024
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

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Mining Prospects in Custer County

E	L	L	E	B	E	I	L	L	E	N	E	C	R
O	P	S	N	A	U	U	E	O	R	L	E	L	O
G	I	R	I	O	N	F	P	M	L	U	I	T	S
R	N	E	O	L	I	F	L	E	E	C	S	H	I
E	E	T	D	U	V	L	I	G	A	Y	O	E	T
D	T	S	E	P	F	E	L	A	F	C	R	B	A
M	R	E	L	I	I	E	R	I	N	Y	H	L	P
O	E	Y	T	N	D	I	N	C	M	B	E	U	S
U	E	O	A	E	G	A	M	A	L	R	P	F	E
N	B	I	G	H	O	R	N	A	I	I	E	F	U
T	E	N	O	C	R	A	M	H	D	O	F	V	R
A	M	I	C	K	Y	T	S	E	N	O	H	F	E
I	S	K	E	K	C	I	T	Y	M	I	N	E	K
N	K	C	O	N	N	A	H	A	P	P	A	R	A

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7235595/>

Puzzle key on page 14

PEACH
RED MOUNTAIN
DELTA
OMEGA
BIGHORN
SILVER CLIFF
SUE
RAPPAHANNOCK
ROSITA
ESTER
HONEST
VERMILLION
NELLIE BELLE
GAMA
SKEK CITY MINE
LUCY
RAM
PINE TREE
THE BLUFF
EUREKA
ROSIE
LUPINE
CONE
MICKY

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

The Problem with Hate Speech

Google recently blacklisted from its app store PragerU for hate speech. Prager University Foundation is a 501(c)(3) educational organization that offers a free alternative to the dominant left-wing ideology in culture, media, and education. In its suspension notice, Google said, “Your app contains content that doesn’t comply with the Hate Speech policy. Your app contains content related to the following violations: Content or speech asserting that a protected group is inhuman, inferior or worthy of being hated.” The controversy is swirling around a video that tells the stories of an Arab Muslim born in Israel and U.S. Navy SEALs who witnessed Muslim extremism. That’s the stated reason, but it goes far deeper than that.

Hate speech is defined by many sources similar to this found in Britannica “hate speech: speech or expression that denigrates a person or persons on the basis of (alleged) membership in a social group identified by attributes such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical or mental disability, and others.” By definition, if one remotely offers criticism of anyone involved in most any group, it could be considered hate speech. If, for example, one quotes passages in the Bible concerning homosexuality or deviant sexual behavior, it is considered hate speech. If, in the case of PragerU, someone is criticizing Islamic extremism (even terrorists), Google considers it hate speech because the terrorists are part of a religious group. So criticizing Hamas is hate speech because they are Muslim and a “social group.” Get it?

The broad definition of hate speech allows the media, corporations, nonprofits and members of any of these groups to claim that criticism of what they do is hate speech. In the case of PragerU’s app, hate speech is being used to censor an organization that doesn’t align with Google’s leftist agenda. PragerU’s website says, “Google is using Soviet-style tactics and attempting to silence us. According to Google, sharing the stories of a former Palestinian refugee, an Arab Muslim born in Israel, and brave U.S. Navy SEALs who witnessed the horrors of Muslim extremism constitutes “hate speech.” This is a blatant attempt to silence truth and censor speech.” Trouble is, this is not a violation of the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech because it is not the government that is doing the censoring.

When the government colludes with a corporation to censor free speech it becomes a constitutional issue. Such as the Department of Justice, FBI and others coercing big tech media platforms to disallow dissenting information such as what we saw with COVID, Hunter Biden Laptop, 2020 election information. They called it “disinformation,” “hate speech,” whatever. Big tech media platforms are promoted as open forums, but they make people agree to abide by their policies in order to use the platform. Those “policies” are used to censor those with whom they disagree. The definition of Hate Speech is so wide sweeping that most criticism can be applied as hate speech whether it is or not. Hate Speech perverts Free Speech. As in Acts 4:29, “And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to Your servants to speak Your word with all boldness.”

Sources:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/hate-speech>
<https://donate.prageru.com/campaign/593379/donate>
<https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2024/06/07/election-interference-google-blacklists-prageru-app-from-play-store-for-hate-speech/>
Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

What Would Josey Wales Do?

by TheBurningPlatform.com

“Now remember, when things look bad and it looks like you’re not gonna make it, then you gotta get mean. I mean plumb, mad-dog mean. ‘Cause if you lose your head and you give up then you neither live nor win. That’s just the way it is.” – Josey Wales

As our political, economic, civic, and social structures continue to degrade, dissolve, and disintegrate before our very eyes, it is easy to become apathetic and surrender to hopelessness. There are relentless powerful forces actively trying to destroy the fabric of our society and force the masses into economic servitude while caged in an electronic gulag, controlled by an oligarchy of evil totalitarian minded billionaires and their lackeys in key governmental, political, banking, military, media, and corporate positions of power. We are in the same situation as Josey Wales in Clint Eastwood’s epic 1976 film – “The Outlaw Josey Wales”.



The film tells the story of Josey Wales, a Missouri farmer, just trying to live his life in peace without interference from the government, uninterested in the violent Civil War between two monolithic forces fighting for their created causes. His wife and son are brutally murdered by Union Redleg militants, led by the despicable Captain Terrill, while he was away from his homestead. After burying his family, his mind naturally turns towards seeking revenge against the perpetrators, and he begins to practice shooting. He joins a group of pro-Confederate bushwackers who become the scourge of Union forces until the war’s conclusion.

At the conclusion of the war, Josey’s friend and superior, Captain Fletcher, persuades the guerrillas to surrender, having been promised by Senator Lane that they will be granted amnesty if they hand over their weapons. Josey refuses to surrender because he knows you can never trust the government or the politicians who make promises they never keep. They have been pi**ing down our backs since the last Civil War, while telling us it’s just raining, so everyone can relate to this scene in the movie.

Senator: The war’s over. Our side won the war. Now we must busy ourselves winning the peace. And Fletcher, there’s an old saying: To the victors belong the spoils.

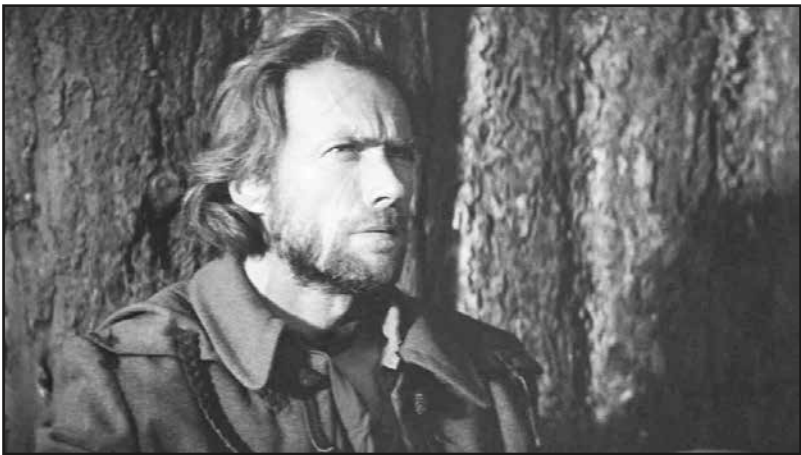
Fletcher: There’s another old saying, Senator: Don’t p**s down my back and tell me it’s raining.



“To h*** with them fellas. Buzzards gotta eat, same as worms.” – Josey Wales

Wales having refused to surrender, along with a young guerrilla named Jamie, are the only survivors when Terrill’s Redlegs massacre the surrendering men. Wales intervenes and wipes out many of the Redlegs with a Gatling gun before fleeing with Jamie, who dies from a bullet wound sustained in the massacre after helping Josey kill two pursuing bounty hunters.

Fletcher learns the lesson that you can never trust the government, or the lackeys carrying out their mandates. They will lie and murder to accomplish their goals. Anyone who does not bow to their authority will be treated as an outlaw, with no acquiescence to the Constitution, decency, or simple human dignity. Once decent men are pushed too far, they will push back in a more violent manner than the authorities will expect. Violence begets violence and will create more Josey Wales type characters who will not surrender or ever bow down to governmental authority



Fletcher: D**n you, Senator. You promised me those men would be decently treated.

Senator Lane: They were decently treated. They were decently fed and then they were decently shot. Those men are common outlaws, nothing more.

The remainder of the movie entails Union soldiers and bounty hunters trying to track and kill Josey, while he accumulates a rag-tag group of

companions, including Indians, foul mouthed grannies, and a slew of other settlers trying to live their lives unhindered by the government. Clint Eastwood’s character maintains a stoic meanness throughout the film towards his government-enabled enemies, but has empathy and kindness towards the downtrodden people who represent the vast majority of citizens in this country.

I found it interesting the film was based on the novel “Gone to Texas”, written with a virulent anti-government slant by a former George Wallace speechwriter. When the script writer/director tried to tone down the anti-government aspects, Eastwood told him no and eventually fired him, taking over as director for the remainder of the film. Eastwood’s refusal to bow to Hollywood pressure and soften the dialogue and story line is a tribute to his resolute dislike and mistrust of governmental authorities. He has essentially gone his own way and made his films his way, never letting the Hollywood elite dictate his path.

Released in 1976 when anti-war sentiment was at its peak, following the government created Vietnam War debacle, which slaughtered over 50,000 American boys, Eastwood later referred to it as an anti-war film. And we all know it is governments and those Deep State operatives who

JOSEY WALES
see page 22

Connecticut Town Won't Hoist 'Thin Blue Line' Flag for Fallen State Trooper

by Jarrett Stepman,
The Daily Signal

Symbols matter.

The Left understands this. They understand that the symbols and statues on public display in a society can have profound meaning and shape the way people think about the world. These symbols and statues can represent something about our past or something that reflects the values that we hold as a society.

That should be the takeaway from a particularly illustrative news story from Wethersfield, CT.

Wethersfield, population 27,300, was among many towns in Connecticut to pay tribute this week to State Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier, who died after being stuck the afternoon of May 30th by a hit-and-run driver who allegedly was under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

The Wethersfield Town Council, which includes six Democrats and three Republicans, voted to turn down a request to fly a "Thin Blue Line" flag at the town hall. (After one of the GOP members moved to fly the pro-police flag, the vote failed 3-5, with one abstention.)

The flag looks like a standard American flag, but in black and white with a blue line running through the middle. The flag symbolizes how a small number of police officers represents a thin line of order to protect society from crime, violence and chaos.

That's the way I see it.

Why did the local lawmakers turn down this flag?

Now, if the policy was simply that town hall displays only the American and state flags, that would be one thing. But it turns out that's not the case.

Let's hear the reason from Emily Zambrello, one of the six Democrats on the nine-member Town Council.

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@libsoftiktok

UNFREAKINGBELIEVABLE



Democrats in CT voted against flying the American blue line flag to honor fallen officer Aaron Pelletier who was killed in the line of duty.

Instead they flew the pride flag at half staff to honor him. The pride flag. I have no words. This is disgraceful.... Show more

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SAY HIS NAME: Connecticut State Trooper Aaron Pelletier.

Killed in the line of duty while conducting a traffic stop. He leaves behind a wife and 2 young children.

Alex Oyola-Sanchez was arrested for the m*rder.

You didn't hear about this story cuz it doesn't fit the narrative.



In an interview with WTNH-TV, a local ABC affiliate, Zambrello was asked what she thinks the "Thin Blue Line" flag stands for.

"It represents racism and antagonism to many, many people," she replied. "And even if you don't personally believe that and you fly that at your own house and you think it means something to you that's much more positive, it's just not how many people feel about it."

Zambrello concluded that flying the "Thin Blue Line" flag is "not appropriate" to raise over town hall and that local flag policy prohibits the council from putting up "anything associated with hate."

If that didn't enrage you enough, this story gets even worse.

The Town Council decided to keep up an LGBTQ "Pride" flag, but lowered it half-staff to "honor" Pelletier. From the video, this doesn't appear to be just a standard rainbow flag, but the new, evolving flag you've probably seen that includes additions for the transgender movement and Black Lives Matter.

I'll call this the "woke" flag for lack of a better description.

Frankly, I associate the woke flag with the chemical castration of children, riots and looting, and certainly hate. I'm sure there are more than a few people in Wethersfield who would agree.

So, why is it that this flag stays up at a state trooper's funeral and the "Thin Blue Line" flag is prohibited?

Because the Left takes public displays very seriously.

They want to make sure that the symbols they've chosen to reflect the values of our brave new world reflect their vision of things. That vision can't coexist with the older values our country was built upon. They've made that quite clear.

This tussle over the "Thin Blue Line" flag mirrors the debates over historical statues.

The Left has insisted on removing or demolishing statues that generally represent our past. Such statues have run the gamut from Robert E. Lee to Abraham Lincoln.

There's been little discernment as far as the target goes. The Left finds America's past to be shameful and hateful. Traditional values, whether about religion, family structure, or law and justice, are treated with outright scorn.

Most of the statues torn down in Democrat-run cities in the riots of 2020 haven't been replaced. The vandals were rarely apprehended or punished.

But make a skid mark on a "Pride" flag placed on a street? You'll be charged with a felony.

Marring any one of the symbols of the Left's new regime comes with extreme consequences.

That's because the Left seeks to fundamentally transform America as a means to secure power. Destruction of old heroes and the construction of new ones symbolizes one regime being torn down in favor of another. One set of values being replaced with another.

It's not just the "Thin Blue Line" flag that the Left sees as hateful. They've already found ways to condemn other traditional flags as symbols of racism or insurrection. The Left would surely prefer that the woke flag replace them all, including the American flag.

Some would say it already has.

The nature of what we are and will be in America, and the

West more broadly, is certainly in question. Nevertheless, I don't think the old republic is wholly dead.

The woke flag may better symbolize the institutions and "our democracy," as the Left calls it, but there are still many Americans who haven't accepted the transition. Pun intended.

We've had plenty of signs in the past few years that at the very least the American people aren't going to wholly give up the blessings of liberty bestowed by the patriots of 1776 and the brave boys of Pointe du Hoc just yet.

The result of the Left's goal to morally transform our society have often been counterproductive and farcical. At times, they've been monstrously grotesque and their public displays of art often fittingly reflect that.

The symbols the Left has chosen to revere hinge on grievance and "pride" without honor. They don't elevate. Instead, they flatten the distinctions between good and evil, failure and merit. They put victimhood and narcissism above courage and sacrifice.

If we want to "win" this country's future, we must take the battle over symbols as seriously as the Left does—or else we'll continue to live under the broken and distorted moral paradigm they've created.

(Editor/GG: Do you think our local libs are any different?)

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/06/07/connecticut-town-wont-hoist-thin-blue-line-flag-for-state-trooper-lowers-pride-flag-to-half-staff-instead/>

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2024

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These Accounts of Defensive Gun Use Speak Volumes

by Amy Swearer, *The Daily Signal*

It seems that many gun control activists want to take your guns so badly that they're willing to take your voice, too. And increasingly, the war for the Second Amendment involves battles waged on a First Amendment front.

Just ask the National Rifle Association, which last week needed the Supreme Court to vindicate its right to free speech against New York's attempts to suppress the gun rights organization's pro-Second Amendment views.

New York's unconstitutional assault on a Second Amendment advocacy group was, unfortunately, far from the first time that gun control activists have attacked the lawful gun industry and lawful gun owners by threatening their right to speak freely.

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Particularly when it comes to the importance of armed self-defense, gun control activists know that the closest thing they have to a winning argument is a silent (or silenced) opposition. The numbers simply don't work in their favor.

Almost every major study has found that Americans use their firearms in self-defense between 500,000 and 3 million times annually, according to a 2013 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2021, the most comprehensive study ever conducted on the issue concluded that roughly 1.6 million defensive gun uses occur in the United States every year.

No wonder gun control activists pressured the CDC two years ago into quietly removing those numbers from the agency's website. But defenders of the Second Amendment should keep shouting the facts from the rooftops, despite efforts to silence us.

For this reason, *The Daily Signal* publishes a monthly article highlighting some of the previous month's many news stories on defensive gun use that you may have

missed—or that might not have made it to the national spotlight in the first place. (Read other accounts here from past years.)

The examples below represent only a small portion of the news stories on defensive gun use that we found in May. You may explore more using The Heritage Foundation's interactive Defensive Gun Use Database.

- **May 1, Jackson, Mississippi:** A woman returned home to find herself face-to-face with three burglars who'd broken in, police said. At least one burglar was armed and shot at the woman, who drew her own gun and returned fire until all three fled. Police later arrested one suspect.
- **May 4, Omaha, Nebraska:** Security cameras captured the moment an armed Air Force veteran defended his jewelry store from a would-be robber who used a rock to smash his way inside after the store closed, police said. Footage shows the veteran store owner jogging out of a back room and pointing his gun at the robber, who stands over a display case with burglary tools in his hands. After seeing the armed owner, the robber puts his hands in the air and scrambles back out of the store, the video shows. Police didn't have a suspect.
- **May 7, Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania:** A DoorDash driver with a concealed carry permit exchanged gunfire with two carjackers who accosted him while he made a late-night delivery, police said. The driver escaped unharmed and his assailants fled, though police later arrested a suspect after tracking him down with a K-9 unit.
- **May 9, Portland, Oregon:** Two private security officers confronted a man who was "aggressively banging on apartment windows" and tried to get him to leave the premises. For unclear reasons, the man then charged at a bystander and continued coming after him, even as the bystander tried to get away. Eventually, the bystander drew

his lawfully concealed firearm and shot the man, wounding him.

- **May 11, Yakima, Washington:** A homeowner who fatally shot an elderly man did so in self-defense after the man came onto the homeowner's property and threatened his family with a gun, police said. The homeowner's version of events was confirmed by video evidence and witness statements.
- **May 14, Vermillion, South Dakota:** Police said a man with a history of domestic violence violated a protection order, forced his way into a woman's home, threatened those inside with a handgun, and shot at a guest. The guest retrieved his own firearm and fatally shot the assailant before he could harm anyone. Records indicate this wasn't the first time the woman was granted a protection order against the man—or the first time that he violated one.
- **May 15, Willow Springs, Illinois:** An armed homeowner helped end a police manhunt, detaining a wanted burglary suspect at gunpoint after catching him hiding in his backyard, where his young child was playing, police said. The suspect was one of two men accused of stealing chainsaws and leading police on a high-speed chase that at times reached 120 mph. Police arrested a second suspect outside a nearby school.
- **May 17, Monrovia, California:** Police said a man armed with knives showed up at a woman's home in violation of a restraining order, then tried to stab her and another man inside the residence. The woman retrieved her firearm and fatally shot him. Neither victim appeared to be injured.
- **May 21, Vernon Parish, Louisiana:** A woman's ex-boyfriend broke into the home where she and her children were staying as a way to avoid him, police said. He stabbed the woman in front of the children, then stabbed the homeowner when he tried to intervene. Despite life-threatening wounds, the homeowner retreated to another room,

grabbed his gun, and fatally shot the ex-boyfriend.

- **May 24, Farrell, Pennsylvania:** When a police officer approached a man outside a convenience store, suspecting he carried a weapon, the man refused to cooperate and started shooting at the officer, police said. A bystander with a concealed carry permit helped return fire at the gunman, who was wounded and arrested.
- **May 27, Taylor, Texas:** A homeowner shot and wounded a man who, while wielding a large knife inscribed with the words "hail Satan," tried to break into his house in the middle of the night. The suspect faces felony charges, police said.
- **May 29, Lehigh Acres, Florida:** A county sheriff lauded an armed homeowner as a hero for fatally shooting a man who, in the midst of an hourslong violent crime spree, drove a stolen car to a relative's home and opened fire at those inside. It wasn't clear what prompted the man, who had no criminal history, to commit four carjackings before targeting the homeowner.

Examples like the ones above make it easy to see why proponents of gun control are often more eager to use the government's coercive power to silence pro-Second Amendment views than they are to engage in open and honest gun policy debates.

They rely on a narrative that "good guys with guns" really don't exist and that armed self-defense is rarely an effective solution for crime victims. But that narrative is only persuasive if stories about defensive gun use are swept under the rug.

Because these stories of armed self-defense speak volumes.

We won't let them be silenced.

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/06/07/these-accounts-of-defensive-gun-use-speak-volumes/>

Ruger LC9s Pistol Review, Concealed Carry Pistol

by Ben Findley,
ammoland.com

The Ruger LC9 is a double-action-only, single stack 9mm compact hammer-fired pistol with a solid reputation as a reliable platform for concealed carry that has been around for a few short years.

Some shooters have complained about its long, heavy double-action trigger press, the length of the trigger stroke, and the reset of the LC9. Because the LC9 is lightweight, it was a challenge for some to manipulate the trigger and handle the recoil.

Ruger LC9s Pistol

Ruger took note and made some changes and introduced the LC9s and the Ruger LC9s Pistol Pro versions. They claim they have greatly improved the trigger and the design. They claim the LC9s' new striker design (*no hammer like the original LC9*) allows for a shorter, crisper, lighter, and consistent trigger press for every shot. Several claim that the in-

ternal striker gun has the advantage over the hammer-fired gun because it is easily cocked by the power of the recoil spring making it ready to fire when you rack the slide. *In a striker-fired design the striker is either partially or fully cocked as the slide comes back into battery.*



Ruger LC9s 9mm

I believe that any handgun design is a tradeoff with pros and cons to consider for your purpose and personal preferences. So for my concealed carry purpose, I must answer for myself if the new LC9s has improved the trigger greatly and if it is a viable concealed carry (CC) self-defense

handgun. To me, the most important qualities of a CCW gun are accuracy, reliability, smooth, light, and short trigger press, ergonomics and comfort, rounded edges, compact design, lightweight, and slim grip, and safety features. The Ruger LC9s Pistol has an external manual thumb safety that I like, given its light trigger press. For others that do not like an external thumb safety, the LC9s Pro is available.

So I want to shoot and handle the LC9s myself to decide if it meets my requirements. I hope this will help you with your CC handgun decision.

SPECIFICATIONS: Ruger LC9s Pistol STRIKER-FIRED 9mm, Model 3235:

Chambering	9x19mm
Weight w/Empty Magazine	17.2 ounces
Trigger Press	5.20 pounds
Barrel Length	3.12 inches
Barrel Diameter	0.500 inch
Overall Height	4.50 inches
Overall Length	6.00 inches

Grip Width	0.90 inches
Trigger Reach	2.75 inches
Magazine Capacity	7
Magazines Supplied	(2 Base Plates- flat & pinky extension)
	1 (Steel) + 1 Inert Dummy Mag (for Dry Fire)
Magazine Disconnect Safety	-Yes
Striker Block Safety	+ Trigger Safety-Yes
Manual Thumb Safety	-Yes (Right Handed)
Sights	(Carbon Alloy Steel)
	3 Dots- Windage Adjustable Rear
Guide Rod Assembly	(Steel)
Dual Springs	
Accessory Rail	None- but accepts Lasers
MSRP (as of July 2024)	\$449. US

I don't like that the Ruger LC9s Pistol comes with only one operational 7-round magazine. My comparable-in-size S&W Shield 9mm Pistol comes with both an 8-round and 7-round magazine. But the LC9s does

RUGER LC9
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RUGER LC9
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come with flat and finger extension floorplates. It also comes with a nice soft zippered carrying case, an orange inert magazine for dry fire practice, a lock, chamber flag, fired casing, and manual. The sights on the LC9s are smaller than those on my Shield but consider that these both are closeup short-range shooters.

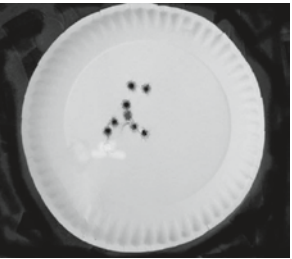
Before heading to the range to field test the new Ruger LC9s Pistol, which I bought in the general market for about \$350, I disassembled it and thoroughly cleaned it.

One thing I noticed was that it was more difficult to take down than I expected. I should have known, given my time-consuming disassembly experiences with my older model Ruger Mark III, a fine gun, but it takes time to disassemble it. I quickly learned to understand the manual for the LC9s. You must first move the take-down lever down to reveal the take-down pin. My age is showing. I appreciate that Ruger emphasizes safety in all of their guns. Then you insert a small screwdriver or paperclip from the right side of the frame to firmly push the pin out as you move the slide about 1/8" rearward. After several lockups and attempts, I was able to do it. My learning curve quickly improved after a few more times.

Now it is a "piece of cake" for me to do. The take-down pin is integral to disassembly, so do not lose it if you buy the gun.

The all steel and very strong dual-spring guide rod assembly is very nice and, as I discovered, really helps the cycling, accuracy, and recoil control for this small gun. I learned that it does not matter the direction you place the recoil spring onto the guide rod, since either direction works.

Ruger LC9s Pistol
RANGE TEST:



After cleaning the LC9s, I headed to the range to shoot it. It felt so good in my hand, an almost perfect fit for me and it is so very comfortable; I had high hopes it would shoot great. I took American Eagle 115 grain and 124 grain 9mm ammo, Blazer Brass 115 grain, and some remanufactured reloads to really give it a trial for possible malfunctions and stoppages and accuracy. I took about 200 rounds to give it

a try and ended up shooting all the rounds.

For concealed carry, I rotate among various high-quality 9mms, but wanted to see if the Ruger LC9s Pistol would be a good gun fit in my CC rotation.

Well after shooting a box of 50, I could not believe the fine results with the LC9s and they are not paying me to state this.

So I anxiously shot the other 150 rounds and was sorry I did not bring more rounds with me to shoot. I was surprised at the very controllable recoil and the excellent trigger on the Ruger LC9s Pistol. Now I am not a great shooter, but do shoot a little with IDPA. My first seven shots out of the gun, standing with a two-handed grip at 5 yards in rapid fire, were a little less than a three-inch group. The recoil was very manageable, and there were NO malfunctions or stoppages whatsoever. The slide was easy to rack because of the dual springs, and the trigger press was very short, smooth, and soft but crisp, somewhat similar to my 1911s.



Ruger LC9s Pistol with Pinky Extension Floorplate for Mag

I measured the trigger with my Lyman Trigger Pull Gauge and over 8 trials it averaged about 5.2 pounds. The reset was also short.

Next I went out to 7 yards for my next 7+1 shots and had very similar results... a 2.5-inch or so group. I continued and had fun firing 200 rounds without a single malfunction, misfeed, stoppage or problem. Others have reported a minor problem with the slide locking back, but I did not experience this. I have decided to add this gun to my CC rotation.

Ruger LC9s Pistol
Conclusions:

In my opinion, the LC9s is a very nice compact, smooth, safe, accurate and reliable pistol for CC. The trigger press of about 5.2 pounds is excellent and it is sized right for my medium-sized hands with a narrow .90" width for easy concealment. This press is one of the best of all my 9mms. The trigger stroke covers just over three-eighths of an inch and positively resets with the same distance of travel. The trigger and

recoil are easy to handle and control, even if your hand strength is weak. For such a small gun, the accuracy is very good.

The Ruger LC9s Pistol weighs only about 17 ounces with an empty seven-round magazine. Its edges are very rounded and smooth to prevent snagging on concealment garments and it has no sharp edges to cause cuts to the hand. The pistol has very good windage-adjustable rear sights made of carbon alloy steel. The carbon alloy slide and polymer frame have a matte black finish. It is designed to accommodate lasers.

The very slim width allowed me to have a very good comfortable hold on the pistol for positive control. Its out-of-the-box accuracy was very impressive and it shot to point of aim. I do not like that it ships with only one magazine, but it does come with a flat floorplate and a pinky finger-extension floorplate to help with the gun purchase. I bought a second mag for only \$30. Some think the magazine disconnect is a

negative, but it is not for me given practice, safety concerns, etc. The Pro version does not have a mag disconnect.

The Ruger LC9s Pistol is very safe and there are several safeties: trigger safety, striker block for drop safety, manual safety (which you do not have to use), out-of-battery safety so if a round is not all the way seated in the chamber or it is not completely closed, it will not fire (like others), and a magazine disconnect safety (which can be removed if desired, but investigate whether this affects the warranty.) The external safety must be down and off to be able to rack the slide. The gun will not fire unless a magazine is in the gun.

I hope this review and my opinions help you make a decision that is appropriate for you and your personal preferences and needs.

Continued success!

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/05/ruger-lc9s-pistol-review/#axzz8c6KLKyvU>

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CUSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2024 POND INVENTORY PROJECT

Come Join Us For A Kickoff Dinner to Learn About the 2024 Custer County Pond Inventory Project where DWR staff will be mapping ponds and working with the Conservation District to identify pathways forward for ponds needing legal solutions.

Guest Speaker:
Rachel A. Zancanella, P.E.
Division Engineer
Division of Water Resources
June 27th, 2024
5:30 pm
Cost: Free

Cliff Lanes
25 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Please RSVP Josh Wingfield via phone or email
Phone: 719-360-6286
Email: josh.custercounty@outlook.com

Public Trap and Sporting Clays Shooting in Custer County!

Where: Custer County Clay Busters Range (near the Landfill)
Highway 69 South of Westcliffe to Rosita Rd; turn left (east) for 1-3/4 miles; turn right (south) at the Custer County Road-Bridge sign; continue for approximately 300 yards until the road turns to the right going down a hill toward the range (no water facilities are available)

When: Next event June 29th, Then 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month; ongoing through the end of October; Range Opens at 8 am and Closes at 12 pm

What: Trap Shooting—25 targets from an oscillating trap machine
Sporting Clays—50 target walking course; pairs of targets imulate typical hunting situations, including rabbit targets thrown along the ground (sporting clays is sometimes called "golf with a shotgun")

Cost: \$10 for each round of Trap Shooting and \$25 for a round of Sporting Clays; Cash or Check only (All proceeds go to support the Custer County Clay Busters Middle & High School shooting team)

Equipment and Ammunition Requirements:
Trap: Any 12 gauge or smaller gauge shotgun; Eye and Ear Protection; 7-1/2 or smaller shot size (no shotgun-style pistols)
Sporting Clays: Any 12 gauge or smaller gauge shotgun capable of firing 2 shells in succession (targets are thrown two at a time); Eye and Ear Protection; 7-1/2 or smaller shot size (no shotgun-style pistols)

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And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him;

Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 5: 9-10 KJV

JOSEY WALES
from page 18

control the levers of power, and start wars to increase their wealth, power and control. War never ends because it is extremely profitable for those waging it, while the youth doing the fighting are just cannon fodder for corporate interests. Eastwood was dead on, as we have waged wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, and now Ukraine and Palestine, benefiting the military industrial complex at the expense of you and me.

"As for Josey Wales, I saw the parallels to the modern day at that time. Everybody gets tired of it, but it never ends. A war is a horrible thing."

– Clint Eastwood

Eastwood equates the plight of the Confederacy with the plight of the American Indian, as both groups were bullied, bloodied and crushed under the weight of the Federal government, which began its unfettered growth during the Civil War and has now reached its zenith of incompetence, arrogance, lawlessness and hatred towards the citizens it is supposed to serve. Most people just want to be left alone, like Josey Wales, to live their lives in peace and harmony with their fellow community members. But the federal government makes that impossible, with their rules, regulations, taxes, fees, and enforcement thugs harassing the public on a daily basis.

In Eastwood's movie they murder his family, murder his comrades, and are hell-bent on murdering him. The song remains the same. Our government murdered people minding their own business at **Ruby Ridge**. They murdered women and children at **Waco**. They murdered a rancher at **Bundy Ranch**. They send young men to war for bankers and corporations. They have been unlawfully imprisoning protestors in dungeons for a fake insurrection fomented and initiated by government agents. They rigged the presidential election and have convicted the leading political candidate of fake crimes he did not commit in order to maintain control over the political system.

The list could go on for pages, as the totalitarian methods and abuse of power against the citizens of this country accelerate at a breakneck pace. Fear of seeing their wealth and power slip away has created an almost psychotic spasm of unhindered chaotic flailing about, in an ultimately fruitless effort to retain control. They are fearful of the masses waking from their technology induced slumber and realizing the enemy is not the groups they have been programmed to hate, but the very government pulling the strings of this clown show.

The government needs a sedated, dumbed down populace who fear what they are told to fear and obey the instructions of their overlords. But the covid scamdemic and continuing death of loved ones from the toxic jabs, has opened the eyes of millions. The debt death spiral induced by Biden's handlers, supercharged by the coordinated and financed invasion of our southern border by third world mutts, and resulting in raging inflation for average American families, has angered and infuriated the masses. We are approaching our moment of truth.

The government is in the midst of creating millions of vengeful Josey

Wales characters. As political chaos increases in the coming months, the threat of global conflagration escalates and the economic plight of the masses deteriorates, revenge against politicians, government drones, and the globalist financial elite for creating this madness will expand rapidly. We know what Josey Wales would do. The question is what will we do.

Eastwood made his final Western masterpiece, sixteen years after Josey Wales, with the release of the Academy Award winning *"Unforgiven"*. He paid tribute to Josey Wales in the climactic scene in the saloon when confronting Little Bill. In *The Outlaw Josey Wales* Grandma Sarah's initial reaction to meeting Josey Wales was:

"This Mr. Wales is a cold-blooded killer. He's from Missouri, where they're all known to be killers of innocent men, women and children."

He closes the loop with Will Munny, out of Missouri, with the same false accusation that he killed women and children, as he also seeks retribution on government authoritarians who murdered an innocent man. Both Josey Wales and Will Munny tried to live out their lives as peaceful farmers but were forced to revert to violence because the government would not allow them to live in peace.

Little Bill Daggett : *"You'd be William Munny out of Missouri. Killer of women and children."*

Will Munny : *"That's right. I've killed women and children. I've killed just about everything that walks or crawled at one time or another. And I'm here to kill you, Little Bill, for what you did to Ned."*

Eastwood's first and last epic Westerns both examined the harsh reality of violence and retribution as the logical consequence for crimes committed against innocent people just trying to lives their lives. His meditations on the concepts of age, repete, courage, and the cloudy definition of heroism, make for far deeper and complex examinations of the old West than other western films. Eastwood distinguishes between the brutal reality of a world controlled and run by tyrannical psychopaths acting as government agents, and people living peacefully, with no government intervention.

Eastwood's ideal vision of America as a pluralist society of individualists of all races and backgrounds who put aside the past and their difference to live in harmony, contrasts with the reality of a society controlled and manipulated by those referred to as the "invisible government" by **Edward Bernays**. The ruling elite do not want people to live peaceably in a self-reliant manner. The climactic scene in *"Outlaw Josey Wales"* between Josey Wales and Ten Bears captures the nature of our world and the difference between governments and the people.

Josey Wales : *"I came here to die with you. Or to live with you. Dying*

ain't so hard for men like you and me. It's living that's hard when all you've ever cared about has been butchered or raped. Governments don't live together – people live together. With governments, you don't always get a fair word or a fair fight. Well, I've come here to give you either one or get either one from you. I came here like this so you'll know my word of death is true, and my word of life is then true. The bear lives here, the wolf, the antelope, the Comanche. And so will we. Now we'll only hunt what we need to live on, same as the Comanche does. And every spring, when the grass turns green, and the Comanche moves north, you can rest here in peace, butcher some of our cattle, and jerk beef for the journey. The sign of the Comanche, that will be on our lodge. That's my word of life."

Ten Bears : *"It's sad that governments are chiefed by the double tongues. There is iron in your words of death for all Comanche to see, and so there is iron in your words of life. No signed paper can hold the iron. It must come from men. The words of Ten Bears carry the same iron of life and death. It is good that warriors such as we meet in the struggle of life... or death. It shall be life."*

I had previously used Josey Wales as the basis for Part Four of my five part series based on Clint Eastwood movies in 2012, documenting how the Federal Reserve, under the control of the Wall Street banking cabal, had destroyed the middle class and set in motion the ultimate destruction of the American economic system. Here we are twelve years later, and that destruction is approaching its climax. **As the powers that be are flailing about in a final destructive apocalyptic spasm of hate, greed, and war, the average American needs to channel their inner Josey Wales.**

We can either give up and allow those running this ****show for their own benefit to enslave us in perpetual debt, culling us with their toxic "vaccines", making us eat meatless meat and bugs, forcing us into their digital currencies, 15-minute cities (aka electronic gulags), electric cars, and social credit system, or we can get plumb, mad-dog mean and man up. In order to reverse our totalitarian spiral, being executed by powerful mega-wealthy men and their highly compensated double tongued lackey politicians, bankers, media moguls, and corporate chiefs, those 300 million guns will need to be put to use.

If we want to live together peacefully, unhindered by an overbearing, corrupt government behemoth, controlled by evil men with evil intentions, then we will have to fight. That's just the way it is. Ask yourself, "What would Josey Wales do?", and act accordingly.

Please see: <https://www.theburningplatform.com/2024/06/07/what-would-josey-wales-do/>



Biden Admin Shoots Down \$24 Billion Pay Raise for Enlisted Troops

by Jake Smith

The Biden administration “strongly opposes” a proposal to raise the pay of junior enlisted service members in the military — even after nearly spending seven times the proposed amount on Ukraine and the broader region’s security.

The House Armed Services Committee’s (HASC) draft of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would give all junior troops a pay raise, representing a rough total of \$24.4 billion over five years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The Biden administration said in a statement on Tuesday that it does not support the proposed “significant, permanent” pay hike until it has had a chance to conduct a compensation review.

“The administration is strongly committed to taking care of our Servicemembers and their families, and appreciates the Committee’s concern for the needs of the most junior enlisted members, but strongly opposes making a significant, permanent change to the basic pay schedule before the completion of the Fourteenth

Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation,” the White House budget office said.

The Biden administration has spent over \$175 billion on aid to Ukraine and European security since 2022 — roughly one-seventh of the proposed pay hike for the junior troops, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. The \$175 billion amount is broken into several packages over the course of two years, including the most recent aid package of \$61 billion in April.

“When accounting for inflation, the average American makes less today than when Joe Biden took office. The White House wants to block Republicans from giving our troops the raise they need to make ends meet in the Biden economy,” Republican Indiana Rep. Jim Banks, a HASC member, told the Daily Caller News Foundation. “Meanwhile, they’ve sent the Ukrainian government \$11,500 per Ukrainian household. It’s shameful.”

Bipartisan members of the HASC promoted the pay increase for junior troops as a way to improve recruiting and retention, a

problem that the military has increasingly struggled with. A year-long study conducted by the HASC and published in April found that “servicemembers, especially junior enlisted servicemembers and servicemembers supporting large families, struggle to afford housing and feed their families.”

Armed Services GOP @HASCRepublicans

No servicemember should ever struggle to feed their family or afford housing.

The FY25 #NDAA will boost servicemember compensation w/ a 15% pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers, expand allowances for housing & food, & improve the cost of living calculation.

The pay level for junior troops has failed to remain competitive with the civilian job market, especially with rising inflation, the study found. Junior troops received smaller pay raises than senior servicemembers — or no raise at all — in eight of the last 40 years.

“Joe Biden must hate our military,” Republican (FL) Rep. Matt Gaetz, also on the committee, told the

Supporting Military Families

FY25 NDAA Will Boost Servicemember Compensation

The Problem

Pay for junior enlisted servicemembers has failed to remain competitive with today's civilian labor market

Housing allowances have not kept pace with soaring housing costs

FY25 NDAA Solution

Increase basic pay for junior enlisted servicemembers by 15%

Expand allowances for food and housing

Improve the Cost of Living calculation



DCNF. “While families of our junior enlisted struggle on food stamps, this administration opposes their pay raises and wants to force-feed them pronoun training and drag queen story hour. If Biden had any PRIDE at all in our troops, he’d support the long overdue pay raise House Republicans have passed.”

Please see: <https://daily-caller.com/2024/06/11/biden-admin-shoots-down-24-billion-pay-raise-enlisted-troops-spending-seven-times-ukraine/>

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EI WORKSHOP: SEQUEL from page 1

profession, an employee of the state and representing in this meeting, the Secretary of State Jena Griswold.

He then launched into the presentation proper with a PowerPoint screen entitled Colorado Secretary of State Presentation for Custer County. As if to set the stage for what would ostensibly be the main message of his presentation his first slide was entitled “The Corrosive Effects of Four Years of Debate”. The slide showed statistics answering a question as to whether the respondents agreed that the elections were conducted fairly. 75% of Democrats answered in the affirmative while Independents were at 46% and Republicans at 41%. Next, the question was do you agree elections in Colorado will be conducted fairly/accurately to which the response from Democrats was 88% in the affirmative; Independents 63% and Republicans 54%. The presentation went on from there and some details of which we will recount in this article. To be sure, the material delivered was very well prepared, to say the least, professionally put together and eloquently delivered. In short, a very good production. It was so well produced that one had to wonder if this was not produced to present as needed to many other counties.

It went on for two hours with the microphone being passed among the three speakers: Beall, Crane and Koppes. There was no opportunity given to the public to raise questions or seek clarification on some of the points being made. Being a hot topic, impatience welled up and some in the audience began to make comments or asked questions aloud, bringing the ire of Chair Day to bear down on the

attendees. There is no doubt that the presentation should have been allowed to proceed until completed before going into a question-and-answer phase. However, the heavy handed attitude of the Chair, who immediately went to a threat of asking people to leave or, worse, be escorted out was over the top.

(Considering that most of the people in that hall were the same ones who put him in office to begin with, his dictatorial attitude could very well cost him the job he seeks to retain in this election cycle.)

Despite the many interruptions the presentation continued with voluminous detail including such tidbits as when a voter becomes tagged as inactive, how long their name is kept on the registry of voters even if they have moved out of state, felons cannot vote but those with misdemeanors can. Much was said about how secure the whole process was, the integrity of drop boxes, the extensive use of cameras, the difference between a raw hand count and a hand count that confirms the machine count and so on. Emphasis was made about the higher standards of Colorado in adhering to the laws governing elections such as being a state that requires voter identification, the checks and balances in place, the rigid requirements in the calibration of the counting machines and so on.

Much ado was made about how well Custer County did in several levels of the process and to quote Mr. Beall; “..... Custer has never had a discrepancy.” On the question about the possibility of hand counting ballots instead of depending on machine count there was much said about how expensive, time consuming and burdensome it would be for the county. It was repeatedly brought to the attention of the audience

that machine counting is the law of the state and the law of the land.

Two and a half hours after the presentation began the hall was half empty. At this point questions and comments were entertained. It is worthy of note that if one were to superimpose this “workshop” over the Election Integrity meeting of May 1, the disconnect is clearly evident. While the former was all about the machines, how they functioned, the logarithms used, the many ways in which they could be manipulated and how the machines are coordinated with other machines within the country or outside of the country, the workshop presentation did not cover much information about the machines themselves except to say that they were reliable in every way.

As presentations per se go, this was a good one, but it did not adequately address the issue at hand. It rather seemed to double down on a predetermined agenda, an outcome that was preordained. In some portions of the delivery, the line was crossed several times when it became obviously political such as when an inordinate amount of time was spent in attempting to affirm the perceived wrongs allegedly committed by some county clerks in cases that are now on the way to or in the courts.

To recap, a three and half hour long “workshop”, the following salient points should be noted for serious consideration in future meetings: The audience needs to remain respectful of the presenters. The presenters need to zero in on the issue itself and reduce the fluff. Those who are in charge of the presentation need to be more considerate of the audience who, after all, are really the more important aspect of the entire procedure.



If we don’t change direction soon, We’ll end up where we are going. —Prof. Irwin Corey



GET THE TO-DO'S TO-DONE

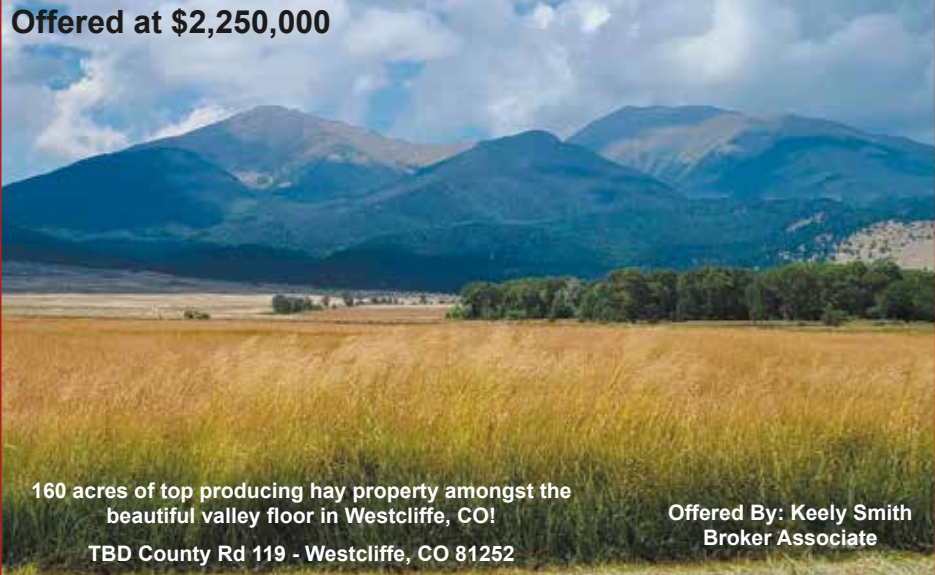
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Custer County Clay Busters Trap Shooting Team at the Colorado State Competition June 8, 2024



Custer County Clay Busters Trap Shooting Team at State.
Left to Right: Matthew Burgdorff, Stone Everhart, Bode Bridges, Ty Stoltzfus and Drew Flynn.

Courtesy Photos

