

Democrat's Failure to Cap Explosive Tax Hike Will Send Homeowners to the Poor House

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Democrats wasted precious time on a rent control effort that blew up this week and also gutted Gov. Polis's signature housing bill, while failing to deliver the promised legislative fix to keep property taxes from exploding and sending homeowners to the poor house.

From the *Denver Post*:

"Nine county assessors along the Front Range on Wednesday morning revealed the median increases in residential properties, which are valued on a two-year cycle in Colorado. The two-year increases are unprecedented, ranging from 33% in Denver County to 47% in Douglas County.

Adams County reported a median residential value gain of 38%, Arapahoe came in at 42%, Boulder was at 35%, Broomfield at 41%, Elbert at 35%, Jefferson at 36.5% and Larimer at 40%. And as robust as those gains were, increases

were even higher in several resort areas of the state, in the 40% to 60% range."

Dustin Zvonek
@DustinZvonek

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This isn't breaking news. This has been the obvious freight-train of higher taxes about to collide with taxpayers that @MichaelCLFields has been warning us about the fall of 2020. Bad policy has consequences, this one's going to leave a mark. #copolitics #coleg

Michael Fields @MichaelCL-Fields

Since 2020. There's still time for legislators to do something meaningful on it - but I'm not holding my breath. #copolitics

11:36 AM - Apr 26, 2023

The rent control measure was evicted from the state Senate Local Government and Housing

Committee in a 4-3 vote, with Eagle County Democrat Dylan Roberts crossing party lines to kill the bill.

Over in the Senate Appropriations Committee:

"The winning amendment was a strike-below that rewrote the bill and took out its most controversial provision: language that sought to allow state control of local government zoning decisions. The bill in its new form would signal a major defeat for Polis, who made state preemption a key feature of his affordable housing plan for the 2023 session.

As amended, SB 213 is little more than a planning measure and still lacks any requirement that new housing be affordable. Its most important provision now appears to be a housing needs assessment that would look at housing needs on a statewide, rural and urban basis. The assessment has bipartisan support."

Meanwhile, the legislative session

is scheduled to adjourn in just over a week without a fix in sight to keep property taxes from hitting record increases.

The state legislature has been in session for four months and struck down a Republican plan to cap expected tax spikes from 40% upwards of 60%, to just 5% over the next several years.

Democrats claimed to be waiting on a proposal from Polis to cap the increase, as he promised, when voters repealed the Gallagher amendment.

(Editor/GG: Can King Polis and the libs pull off a last minute save. They buried this until it went viral hoping it would happen. Now they see a catastrophe for them if they don't act. See article below on how they are attempting to avoid a voter meltdown.)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2023/04/27/democrats-failure-to-cap-explosive-tax-hike-will-send-homeowners-to-the-poor-house/>

Can Polis Pull Off a Last Minute Save on the Property Tax Explosion?

by Michelle P. Fulcher,
Colorado Public Radio

(Editor/GG: Below is the portion of Polis's interview that concerns the property tax increase. See the link at the bottom of the article for the whole piece.)

Democratic Gov. Jared Polis Thursday outlined terms of a legislative package aimed at limiting what could otherwise be huge residential property tax increases next year.

The governor said property values are up about 20 percent statewide. Assessors say median increases run anywhere from 33 percent to 47 percent along the Front Range and are even higher in some mountain communities.

Lawmakers will introduce a bill in the next few days to cushion the blow for homeowners. Polis said it will increase the amount of a home's value that is exempted from property taxes and provide a temporary rate reduction.

"Nobody should be priced out of where they live just because their property taxes have gone up, especially seniors on a fixed income," he said.

In an interview with Colorado Matters, Polis also acknowledged that he won't get his way on his biggest legislative priority this session – a landmark package of land-use reforms.

Interview Transcript

This transcript has been edited for clarity.

Ryan Warner: Governor, thanks for being with us.

Gov. Jared Polis: It's a pleasure to be here, Ryan.

Warner: Property taxes are based for starters on market value, a home's estimated worth. The new increases are huge. A jump of between 33 and 47 percent in metro Denver, even higher in some mountain communities. And so property taxes are set to go way up come January. I understand that you are working on ways to soften the blow. How?

Polis: We are working on a property tax cut package that we expect to roll out very soon. The reason it's this late is we had to wait for the actual assessment data

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Whoever despises his
neighbor is a sinner,
but blessed is he who is
generous to the poor.

Proverbs 14:21

DA Linda Stanley Speaks Out

by Charlotte Burrous

Many people have seen the recent media stories regarding District Attorney Linda Stanley. During the past few weeks, several are wondering why? And why haven't we heard from our District Attorney?

But anybody who knows Linda Stanley, who successfully campaigned and overwhelmingly won the race for District Attorney, knows she is not going to comment on frivolous accusations. She's not like that.

But enough is enough.

Instead of immediately firing back at her accusers, she wanted to make sure she had her research done before she made any comments at all. Technically, she can't comment on any open or sealed cases, but she wants you to know what is really going on. So much so, that there will likely be follow ups on this story to help educate the public. Are there really issues with this DA or this DA's Office? After being the District Attorney since January of 2021, why now? Who or what is behind it all?

The first thing everyone needs to remember is that Linda Stanley is the District Attorney for the 11th Judicial District. The 11th Judicial District encompasses four counties: Fremont, Custer,

Chaffee, and Park. Of the four counties in the district, the only county reporting problems with the DA's Office [in the media] is Fremont County.

"No one else is having problems with this office ---- no issues with discovery, no issues with me, and no issues with our office." Stanley said in a recent interview with *The Crusader*. "So do the math. What's the common denominator?" Stanley added that if the alleged incidents were actually occurring, they would be occurring throughout the entire district.

Law enforcement agencies in other counties have not had any problems, she added, and encouraged us to reach out to them to see what they think of the District Attorney and the office.

"The Sheriff's Office has a very good working relationship with the entire staff in Salida," said Chaffee County Sheriff John Spezze. He reiterated he has no issues with the DA or the office.

In a similar response, Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith said he has had "zero" issues with the DA regarding timely discovery/evidence delivery, and has no other issues with the DA or the office.

DA STANLEY
see page 23

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

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

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“We the People” Speak 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 reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.

A Big Thanks to Road & Bridge

All of us Oak Creek Graders want to thank our great R&B crew for the excellent work on the Grade last week. The new heavy duty roller/compact machine seems to have a huge difference in the final product. All around, a very professional job. The road is the best we have seen in years. Thank you.

—George Gramlich and the Grade Posse

Moving Sangre de Cristo Electric Into the Future

Dear Editor;

The current attempt by Sangre de Cristo to once again raise the rates that many clients pay for their electricity is an unfortunate, shortsighted move.

SDCEA fails to acknowledge the partnership that the net metering clients provide to the utility. Net metering clients, including those who have sunk precious savings into a few solar panels, generate electricity thanks to our plentiful Colorado sunshine. Any excess is placed back into the grid while SDCEA compensates them with a meager discounted rate. A rate much less than what they pay Tri-State. Penalizing electric energy partners while rewarding high energy users, all while

currently charging one of the highest rates in the region may sound like a solid business plan but, this plan comes at the expense of those SDCEA should view as partners. Our co-op penalizes its customers who supply lower cost energy to the utility, have no alternative electric provider options, and in many cases cannot afford purchasing their own battery storage systems to go off the grid.

The upcoming Board election is vital to the future of SDCEA. Luckily, there are two candidates who are highly qualified and are forward thinking: **Jeff Fiedler** and **Mark Boyle**. Both candidates bring experience and knowledge that can benefit Sangre's members, you, and us.

They will provide SDCEA with excellent leadership and will represent the best interests of SDCEA's many types of clients in mind. Supplying reliable electricity at a reasonable rate while adjusting to the growing multi source energy supply environment is vital to the future of an electric utility. Jeff and Mark recognize this and will be able to respond to the changing landscape that electric utility must navigate.

We heartily endorse both candidates for the Board seats being contested in the June election.

Terry Hiebert
Coaldale, Colorado

Jeff Stuyt,
Salida, Colorado

Moving Forward Round 2

Dear Editor;

In January 2022, SDCEA withdrew a proposed rate restructuring following strong member objections, but this March the Board proposed another similar rate re-structuring. When the CEO of SDCEA abruptly resigned shortly before the March 29th meeting, the Board tabled the vote on the rate proposal, scheduling three “listening sessions” for members to address the Board regarding the rate restructuring proposal, which yet again had no member input during its creation as was promised in 2022.

As members of SDCEA since 2004, we believe there's need for change in our elected SDCEA Board. With your help, we elected two new Board members last year. Now candidates Jeff Fiedler and Mark Boyle are running for two more SDCEA board positions. Candidates Jeff and Mark are active in our community and highly qualified to lead SDCEA in the electricity future. Jeff serves as a Lake County Commissioner and has decades of clean energy and climate policy experience, while Mark is a retired engineer with 40 years

in the power generation industry and is a local farmer. Both candidates are willing to listen to SDCEA members' concerns and work toward changing the lack of transparency and exclusion of member input. Jeff and Mark will move to encourage rather than punish member renewable energy producers and will look for alternatives to bring down our rates, which are the highest in the state. Look for your ballot in the mail in early May, and vote for Jeff and Mark to bring positive change.

Gayla Daniels,
Lyndon Zielke, Salida

“Ark Valley Energy Future” Endorses Candidates - Press Release on page 15

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Silver Cliff, Westcliffe and Custer County Certified as FIRST Three Broadband-Ready Communities in Colorado

"I could be holding a murder suspect at gunpoint and drop my cell phone call for backup because of our poor internet connection." – Silver Cliff Mayor H.A. "Buck" Wenzel

by Mark Carmel,
Broadband Project Consultant

That statement was made in January 2019. As a Trustee on the Silver Cliff Town Board, Buck Wenzel sought a solution to poor broadband service in the Town and County. Along with fellow Silver Cliff Trustee, Fred Hernandez, it was more than public safety, but also the economic viability of the community that is dependent upon access to a reliable broadband service. Silver Cliff commissioned a broadband feasibility analysis that concluded in May of 2019, that in fact it is feasible for the community to plan for what is considered the best practice in broadband service: fiber to the premise.

Silver Cliff then invited Westcliffe and Custer County to join forces in a cooperative intergovernmental partnership to develop the plan for broadband that could effectively compete for grant funding to construct the modern broadband network that is envisioned. The Town Trustees for Westcliffe, Silver Cliff and the Board of Custer County Commissioners joined forces in late 2019. Then in 2020 the global pandemic hit which caused advancement in remote work, distance learning and tele-health that highlighted the urgency to

secure a robust internet network to manifest those benefits.

The Towns of Silver Cliff, Westcliffe and Custer County prepared further for success in securing funding for the project – costs that escalated during the pandemic due to inflation and supply chain shortages to nearly \$40 million. Competitive proposals were solicited to attract an internet service provider who would commit to meeting the requirements to secure funding. Hilltop Broadband was selected as the most responsive bidder for the project and entered into a Public-Private Partnership Agreement with the Towns and County. The pandemic caused nationwide awareness of the pressing need for reliable internet services. As a result, \$65 billion was budgeted under President Biden's infrastructure bill which was passed and signed with bipartisan support. The last five Presidents promised high speed internet. However, the pandemic provided the impetus needed for national, state, and local elected leaders to unite around this important priority.

Much work continued to ensure the partnership's preparedness to secure funding and provide high-speed broadband service availability to all end users in both Towns and the County.

The Federal government allocated \$48 billion to the National Telecommunication & Information Administration (NTIA) who in turn decided to empower each state to administer its own broadband funding grant program. Colorado was among the first states to seize upon this opportunity under Governor Polis' leadership. The Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) established a protocol to assist communities in becoming ready to apply and compete for this new funding opportunity.

We are pleased to announce that at the recent Internet-For-All Broadband Summit convened in Denver on April 19th, Silver Cliff, Westcliffe and Custer County were formally recognized as the first Certified Broadband Ready Communities in Colorado. The following documentation was provided to the NTIA and CBO to secure this prestigious qualification:

1. Strategic Plans for Town of Silver Cliff, Westcliffe and Custer County that prioritize broadband
2. Letter of Intent to Participate in the Advance Colorado Broadband Program
3. Inter-Governmental Management Agreement for Broadband Access between Custer County and the Towns of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe

4. Colorado Broadband Office Certification Letter for USDA ReConnect Grant
5. Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments Regional Broadband Plan
6. Published RFP for Internet Service Provider and Public Private Partnership Agreement
7. Letter of Support from Governor Jared Polis for Custer County Federal Grant Application
8. Public-Private-Partnership-Agreement between Hilltop Broadband, Custer County and the Towns of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe
9. CDOT Letter of Intent for Use of CDOT ROW for Fiber Routes
10. Town of Silver Cliff Fiber Broadband Feasibility Analysis
11. Colorado State University partnership with Custer County Communities to map unserved and underserved areas of the Towns and County for key eligibility data
12. Fiber Route along SH 69 from SH 50 to I-25 to connect Fremont, Custer and Huerfano Counties
13. Century Link (Lumen) Fiber Broadband Plan Route along SH 96 from SH 45 to SH 69 connecting Pueblo and Custer Counties with a fiber-optic connection

14. Century Link (Lumen) Letter of Support for Custer County Fiber Broadband Project Grant Applications
 15. CDOT Statement of Work to Receive Letter of Intent for Use of CDOT ROW
 16. Voter approval to opt-out of Senate Bill 152 monopoly control by citizens of both Towns and the County for legal authority to build its own broadband network.
- The Intergovernmental Partnership between the Towns and County was given high praise from the leaders of the NTIA and CBO who said, "If every town and county in America would do what Silver Cliff, Westcliffe and Custer County have done, Internet-For-All would be a reality. You are the model."
- Elected Leaders of Silver Cliff, Westcliffe and Custer County have designated Commissioner Bill Canda as the official project point of contact for the project. Federal and State governments will ultimately contract with Custer County on behalf of both Towns upon receipt of grant funding to build out the network. Grant applications are expected to open this summer of 2023 for which Hilltop Broadband, both Towns and the County are now first in line to apply and compete for this vital funding.



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Friday, May 5, 2023

Hummingbirds

Most of us have seen these little, beautiful creatures humming around red feeders on people’s porches. They are so colorful and cute. Let’s look into what makes them hum.

They are tiny, thin-beaked birds who get their name from the humming noise that occurs when they flap their wings very fast, averaging from 10 to 80 times per second. There are over 300 species of hummingbirds in the world but only 17 species regularly breed in the United States.

Their brilliant throat color is caused by the iridescence in the arrangement of the feathers. Different factors such as light level, moisture, angle of viewing, wear and tear can influence just how bright and colorful the throat may appear.

Let’s look now at some fun facts about hummingbirds.

They are the only birds that can fly in different directions. ie. hover forward, backward, sideways, in mid-air, and even upside-down!

They have a very high metabolism. They eat nectars, insects, such as ants, gnats, mosquitoes and wasps the entire day just to survive. They feed every 10 to 15 minutes and scout between 1,000 and 2,000 flowers every day for food.

The females are responsible for building a nest and they lay only two eggs during mating season. The young birds stay in the nest for about three weeks.

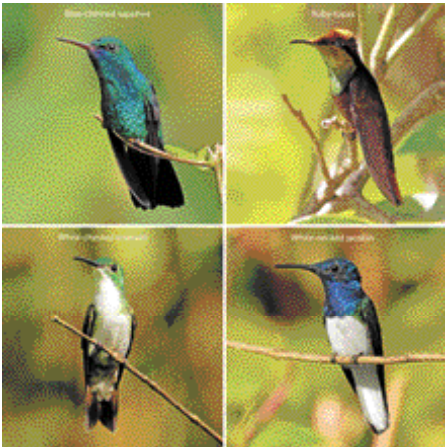
Their heart can beat up to 1,200 times per minute when flying and 225 times at rest. Their wings can flap as fast as 70 times per second on a regular flight and 200 times when diving.

They are not social creatures. They fly individually during migration. *There is a fact I did not know.* They compete for food sources. I have seen them fighting at the feeders. They are also known to attack jays, crows and hawks that infringe on their territory.

Hummingbirds do have predators; cats, other larger birds such as hawks and surprisingly spiders, frogs and praying mantises. Blue jays, crows and snakes are known to snatch hummingbird eggs from nests.

So, this is the time to get your feeders and your flowers out. Get ready to sit on the porch and enjoy the hummingbirds.

by Audrey Slater. Sources : <https://www.thespruce.com/fun-facts-about-hummingbirds-387106>, <https://www.welovehummingbirds.com/blogs/news/interesting-facts-about-hummingbirds>, Photo by Charles J. Sharp - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikicommons.



Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Royal Gorge Detachment Marine Corps League April Student of the Month

from Custer County Schools

Paige Lorenzen is the Marine Corps League’s April Student of the Month. She is a Custer County High School student with a 4.0 grade point average and currently is ranked No. 1 in her class.

She served as vice-president of her class and currently is a senior peer leader.

Paige has been involved in FFA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, volleyball, basketball, National Society of High School Honors, and Sources of Strength and Student Council.





Bobcats Sports Schedule

MS BOYS BASEBALL
Fri, May 5, 4:30 p.m. HOME
MS Baseball vs Buena Vista

JV & VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL
Mon, May 8, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. AWAY
JV Baseball vs Buena Vista

Sat, May 6, 11 a.m. HOME
Varsity Baseball vs Del Norte

Fri, May 12, 4 – 5 p.m. AWAY
Varsity Baseball vs Dolores Huerta
Trinidad- Runyon Field

Sat, May 13, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. HOME
Varsity Baseball vs Ignacio

HS TRACK & FIELD AWAY
Fri, May 5, 1 – 6 p.m. AWAY
HS Track & Field @Dutch Clark Stadium, Pueblo

Fri, May 12, 5– 9 p.m. AWAY
HS Track & Field @Pueblo West

May 18 – 20, 2023
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Bobcat Menu • May 8-11, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Breakfast Oatmeal or Cereal Yogurt, Fresh Fruit Milk	Breakfast Mexican Breakfast Casserole, Fruit Milk	Breakfast Sausage Bagels Fruit Milk	Breakfast Biscuit & Gravy Fruit Milk
Lunch K-12 Fish Sticks Oven Fries *** Fruit Milk	Lunch K-12 Chicken Fajitas Rice Refried Beans Fruit Milk	Lunch K-12 Ham & Cheese Sliders, Chips Coleslaw Fruit Milk	Lunch K-12 Sloppy Joe Baked Beans Potato Salad Fruit Milk

Middle School / High School Sandwich menu

Mon.- California Turkey wrap, Tues. - Vegetarian wrap w/ hummus,
Wedn. - BLT or Brats, Thurs. - BBQ Turkey wrap or Corn Dog

Elementary: Main Dish, Grain Product, Vegetable, Fruit and Milk
Middle & High School: Main Dish, Grain Product, Vegetable, Fruit and Milk
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“For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,[fn] neither the present
nor the future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of
God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

AFTER PROM THANK YOU



The students of CCHS would like to thank the following community members and businesses for making the 2023 After Prom a tremendous success! Thank You!

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Conoco Country Store
Crestone Graphics
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Custer County Realty
Custer County Republican Committee
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Kirkpatrick Bank
Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center
Looking Up Outfitters-LLama/Brianna Evert

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Rusk Ranches
Salty Pine Floral and Boutique
SDC Sentinel/Mountain Publishing
Solar Solutions/Pat Bailey
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Wet Mountain Valley Fire Auxiliary
Wet Mountain Tribune
Wild Flour Donuts

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Sam and Tom Frostman
Seifert Enterprises
Subway
Sugarlump
The Valley Beat
Tony's Mtn Pizza

Special Thanks to Custer County Sheriff's Office and the Posse for providing supervision for After Prom Activities!

After Prom Committee Members

Kristin Cunningham, Reggie Foster, Bre Gasper, Alex Gifford, Lea Grundy, Jennifer Kriegh, Teri Munson, Pepper Stafford, Troy and Anita Bomgardner

Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography





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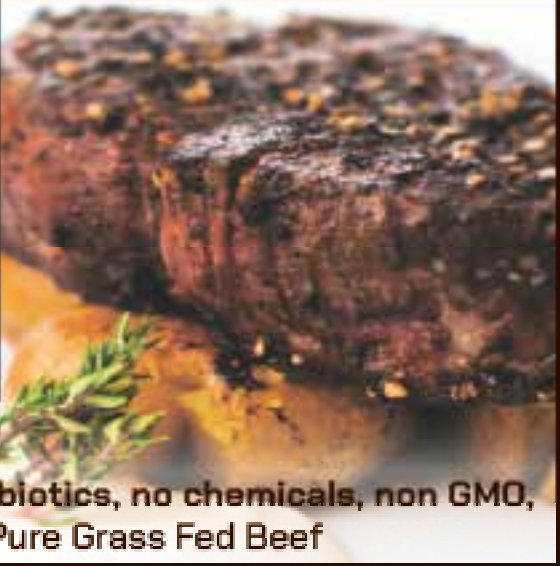
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Events

Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. - June 10 @ 4 p.m.
Sangres Art Guild *Calendar Art Show ‘Wild Things’*
3rd Street Gallery 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe
Saturday May 6, Doors open 4 p.m.
Band 7-11 p.m. \$10 Cover at door. WMVSC
Kentucky Derby~Casino Night & Dance.
4 p.m. Custer County Cattlewomen serving
Taco Bar. Beverages available.
WMV Saddle Club, 90 County Road 241, Westcliffe
May 12 & 13 at 7 p.m. and May 14 at 2 p.m. \$\$
Custer County School *presents* “Sleeping
Beauty” Jones Theatre. Tickets on Sale
at the School starting May 1st.
Saturday, May 13, 1 - 3:30 pm
Beckwith Ranch – Tea with the Beckwiths
at Beckwith Ranch
County Meetings on page 16

Tune in

The First Tuesday of the Month
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM

Recurring Events

Monday
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.
Jim at 783-2053.
2nd and 4th Monday
9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) .
at Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Lane in
Silver Cliff. Call 913-710-6109
6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com
1st Tuesday of the Month
4:15 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting
(year-round) at the Cliff Lanes meeting room.
6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly
meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM
Wednesday
9 a.m. Couples Bible Study (FBC folks)
Meet at the Custer County Senior Center
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line dancers meet at the United
Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie
Underwood at (432) 553-7483.
9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study
Oct 12- May31, at 60260 Hwy 69. (Main Bldg.
of Cowboy Church.) Holly 703-338-4100
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Sil4er Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book
Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, in Westcliffe.
Jim at 783-2053.
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study. First Baptist Church of
Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.
First Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters, First Baptist
Church Community Room (log building next to
the church) located at 417 S. 6th St.
Contact Delores Jobe at 719-371-1451.
2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central
Committee meeting. Court House Basement.
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. Loc. TBA
6 p.m. Liberty Rocks 5:30 order, 6 p.m. Loc. TBA
Friday
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St
Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853.
Saturday
10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family Group
meets at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Dee
(719) 404-1851 or Jean (719) 371-1229.
3rd Saturday of Month
1 p.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference
Room, Post Commander Burt Daniels 719-783-3050

719-429-2866
Clayton Wise Westcliffe, Colorado

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Wet Mountain Valley & Surrounding Area

Tree Trimming - Tree Removal
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Classifieds

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Help Wanted

**The Town of Silver Cliff
is accepting applications
for a Public Works
Part Time Employee.**
The applicant must be at
least 18 years of age and
possess a valid Colorado
driver’s license. A
complete job description
and applications are
available at the Silver
Cliff Town Hall, 612 E.
Main Street, Silver Cliff,
Monday – Thursday 8:00
– 5:00. The completed
application and resume
with references must be
submitted by 4:00 p.m., on
Thursday May 15, 2023.
For more information
contact Town Clerk, Ileen

Squire at 719-783-2615.
Silver Cliff is an Equal
Opportunity Employer.

**The Custer County Road
& Bridge Department**
is accepting applications
for the position of **Truck
Driver/Equipment
Operator** in the Westcliffe
area. The applicant
must have a Class A
CDL license with tanker
endorsement, be able to
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Applications are available
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Department in Westcliffe
from
7:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday thru Thursday.

**4Kings is looking to hire
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**Custer County School
District is now hiring for
the following positions:**
Certified Positions
include Assistant
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FFA Advisor, Nurse,
and Substitute Teachers.
**Additional support
positions are open for**
Childcare Assistant and
Substitute Teachers.
Any Certified Teacher/

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incomplete and will not
be considered. Online
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visit us on the web at:
custercountyschools.org/
employment for more
information and
to apply.

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

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, May 8 #6 Baked Potato Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce Salad w/Lite French Plum, Fruit Cocktail Drop Biscuit w/Butter	Tuesday, May 9 #94 Swiss Steak Mushroom Sauce Smashed Red Potatoes Seasoned Greens Salad w/Lite Ranch Orange, WW Bread	Thursday, May 11 #110 Turkey Sandwich on WW Bread Provolone Cheese, Mustard, Sliced Tomato Waldorf Salad, Orange
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Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations or grab-n-go meals.
A \$3 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required.
Served Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays. All menus subject to change.

Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost
those who draw near to God through Him,
since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

Local Mountain News & Notices

Town of Westcliffe April Meeting

Farmer’s Market to be Relocated This Year, New Crosswalk to Remain In Current Location, Sheriff’s Office & Water District Reports

Town of Westcliffe Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
—April 18, 2023
By Becky Olson

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Westcliffe was held on April 18th, 2023 and convened as scheduled at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall conference room. A quorum of Trustees was present and proceedings commenced after recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and unanimous adoption of the consent agenda.

The first item of old business was the ongoing discussion of repairs needed to address the eroded grass in Jess Price Park and the possibility of moving the Farmer’s Market for this year. An option of re-seeding the grass, closing the park for three to four months, and installing a fence around the perimeter was originally proposed, but cooler heads prevailed when Trustee Cathy Snow asked if the park was being preserved at the expense of the public. Quite a bit of discussion ensued, with a representative from the Farmer’s Market again reiterating the detrimental impact of relocation on the market’s micro merchants, as well as other businesses on Main Street which enjoy a “spillover” effect from the market. Discussion headed toward pursuing the option of moving the Farmer’s Market to the parking lot directly to the north of Jess Price Park, but no decisions were made and a workshop was scheduled to determine a solution.

Next the Trustees approved a minor change to the location of the new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Rosita parking lot from the south side to the northwest corner of that lot due to proximity to electrical hook ups. The Trustees then moved into discussion of whether to move the new crosswalk in front of the school on the west end either back to its original location to the east, or further west on Main Street. Detailed discussion, including a comment from Sheriff Smith that the new crosswalk is in the location where

children were most frequently crossing Main Street anyhow, led to the decision to keep the crosswalk in its current (new) location.

Moving on in old business, the Trustees asked town attorney, Clay Buchner, to draft a policy outlining a standard process to be followed for the sale of town property; and they also made a decision to require Peregrine Coffee to apply for a permit for the space they are currently using for outdoor seating (which will also now apply to any other business in the future wishing to use outdoor space in such a manner). There was also some discussion about how certain older ordinances pertaining to signage and other minor items either need to be enforced or removed from the town’s municipal code.

Up first in new business was Sheriff Smith with some highlights from his Q1 report. He reports that year-over-year crime numbers are down in the town and that most of the proactive activities his Deputies and the Posse engage in are within the town (which includes the school). He went on to talk about his efforts to get more residents signed up for the Everbridge emergency alert system and issued a reminder that as of the date of this particular meeting, the county is still in a Stage 1 Fire Ban (which has subsequently been lifted). Finally, Sheriff Smith reported the Ladies Mounted Posse will be in action for this summer’s activities.

Next was Dave Schneider with the Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District’s (RMWSD) Q1 report highlights. Mr. Schneider reports the reservoir project is in the final design phase and is approximately 80 percent funded. The back ordered pipe needed to complete the work to bring on the town’s new well is finally back in stock, and the well should be operational in about two months. The new meters have been working very well, but a recent outage revealed the need for new computer chips, which will all have to be replaced. Overall, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is pleased with the district’s “ex-

perimental” wastewater treatment technology (electrocoagulation), but they are still imposing draconian or nonsensical requirements that keep introducing uncertainty in the plans and therefore extending the timeline for when the new plant will be operational. Mr. Schneider expressed uncertainty when asked if he thought this would all get resolved by the end of 2023.

Next in new business, the Trustees voted unanimously to pass resolution 2-2023 adopting the new county hazard mitigation plan; new Trustee, Loree Lund, was appointed to the Custer County recycling organization as a representative for the town; and a job description and proposed timeline for hiring a Deputy Town Clerk with the intention of training that person to fill the Town Clerk position upon Kathy Reis’s retirement at the end of 2024 was unanimously approved. Finally, the Trustees voted unanimously to expand the use of any remaining Façade Grant funds to include other minor improvements and signage for the town’s existing businesses, which will also include assistance for signage for the Farmer’s Market.

In staff reports, Mrs. Reis provided updates on several administrative items, and added an item to May’s Trustee meeting agenda to revisit the topic of possibly charging restaurants for the use of parking spaces for outdoor seating in the summer season. Town Manager, Caleb Patterson, reported on the work he had done to streamline permit applications, improve communication with contractors, and enhance the process for issuing notices of noncompliance. The possibility of pushing the paving of the Rosita parking lot to 2024 was discussed, and he also mentioned the new lane striping will occur in the near future. Mayor Wenke reported he has attended some recent meetings on the topic of broadband internet for the town, and that funds are in fact available for the town to hire a Public Relations consultant to market the town’s attractions to tourists. After a couple of minor items in public comment the meeting was adjourned.

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www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
Monday and Thursday 11a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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National Suicide HOTLINE
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Veterans Press 1

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Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wet Mt. Rotary Van Service
Call M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (719) 783-2343

Come and Worship

Christian Science
9:30 a.m. Worship
850 Main St., Westcliffe

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
815 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff
719-783-4664

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
240 Highway 26, Westcliffe
Phone: 719-783-4196

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Tues. 7:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.
Wed. 7 p.m. Bible Study
8137 County Rd. 224
Codypark 719-940-4328

Community United Methodist Church
9 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship
242 E. 6th Street, Westcliffe
719-783-2511

Cotopaxi Community Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Wed. Bible Study
Patsy@cotopaxi@gmail.com
20224 Hwy. 70, Cotopaxi

Summer Schedule Changing?
Send Church updates to
sdc.sentinels@gmail.com
(719) 783-3360

The Cowboy Church at Crossroads
9 a.m. Worship Service
4th Ave (Park Place)
and 10th Street, Poncha
Pastor 719-784-0124

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

High Country Methodist Church
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
180 N. Adams St., Westcliffe
719-783-4041

Highway Community Bible Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m. Thursday Bible Study
685 Loop Street, Manitou
(719) 231-8833

Hope Lutheran Church
9 p.m. Worship
3 p.m. Bible Study
3rd & Powell Street, Westcliffe
Pastor Dan Zinke 719-783-2623
Lounge Hall 719-783-2347

Living Stone Catholic Chapel
Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday Outreach 9:30-11 a.m.
850 Bridge St., Canon City CO
Pastor Dan Zinke 719-783-2623

Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church
Divorce of Pardon
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. Tuesday Mass (summer)
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass
160 E. 5th Street, Westcliffe
719-783-3367

Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church
11 a.m. Mass
2nd & 3rd Sunday of month
219 E. 2nd St. Westcliffe
719-783-3491

Proton Community Church
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Worship 10:45 a.m.
215 N. Main Street, Poncha
719-784-1184

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays
3rd & Main Street, Westcliffe
719-783-3477

St. Patrick's Anglican Church
11 a.m. Worship
405 S. 2nd St., Westcliffe
929-339-4175 or 719-783-2000

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Divorce of Pardon
Sundays Mass 4 p.m.
Highway 69, Garden
Highway 69, Garden
719-784-3007

Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church
Pastor: Mike Hinkle
3 p.m. Sunday School Bible Study
4 p.m. Worship
Last Sunday of March Potluck
6 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study
sangredelcristocowboychurch.com
also on Facebook
62265 Hwy. 69 N. Westcliffe
719-250-1372

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
9 a.m. Mass of Grace
9:30 a.m. Service
128 Jerry Court, Westcliffe
719-783-2693

Sangre de Cristo Sanctuary Chapel
10 a.m. Worship
6109 Camp Rd. 198, Westcliffe
719-371-1823

Talley Bible Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship
114 Sunset Lane, Silver Cliff
719-381-7372

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
Junction of Hwy 20 & 67, Wetmore
719-571-1250

Wetmore Community Church
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
680 Camp Rd. 381, Wetmore
719-784-0346

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BOCC: Broadband News, Water Tap Delay

by George Gramlich

The April 27, 2023 Custer County Board of County Commissioners meeting was pretty much a ho-hum affair with only a couple of tidbits that are of concern to us serfs.

Commissioner Canda noted that the county and the two towns have been “certified” ready by the state to re-

ceive some big broadband bucks. Note that this project was started by the Town of Silver Cliff.

Commissioner Day noted that Round Mountain Water has indicated that no new water taps will be given until 2024 due to difficulties in dealing with that State of Colorado.

It was also stated that the Upper Ark

Water posse wants to raise the water level at Lake DeWeese by four feet.

Then there was a big discussion about whether to pay to replace the oil pan on the OEM's pick up truck. It seemed a no brainer but it still took the MENSA Muskies a long time to ok it.

And that was that.

Ark Valley Energy Future Endorses Candidates

from AVEF Directors

AVEF endorses Jeff Fiedler and Mark Boyle for the Sangre De Cristo Electric Association Board of Directors. Jeff Fiedler is running for the At-Large seat and Mark Boyle for the Rural Chaffee/Lake County seat. Both Jeff and Mark are highly qualified to serve on the SDCEA Board.

As a Lake County Commissioner, Jeff has the leadership and collaborative skills to work with the SDCEA Board and to transparently seek input from SDCEA members to navigate the changing energy landscape. His

three decades of clean energy policy experience will help the Board broaden their perspective about energy solutions to help lower our high rates.

Mark's 40 years of experience as an electrical engineer in the power industry, and vision toward local clean energy generation make him a great fit for our co-op Board. His ability to connect with people will make him a valuable asset to help our co-op succeed during the energy transition and meet the needs of all SDCEA members.

SDCEA is facing unprecedented challenges: they must let go of an outdated business model that no longer fits the current energy situation, and choose a new CEO to steer them through the coming changes. Jeff Fiedler and Mark Boyle are the best candidates to help the Board move SDCEA into the future.

Watch for your ballot in the mail in early May and VOTE for Jeff Fiedler and Mark Boyle as soon as you get your ballot. You can vote by mail or online. All SDCEA members can vote for all open seats, regardless of where you live.

Colorado DMV Experiencing Statewide Outage

Press Release

May 1, 2023

Colorado DMV is reaching out to affected customers to reschedule appointments.

The Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles is currently reaching out to Coloradans who have an appointment at a State Driver License Office today to reschedule their appointment or offer alternative services due to a technical issue impacting all state driver license offices.

Affected services include issuance and renewal of driver license, I.D. card and instruction permits. Services currently available include knowledge tests for instruction permits, endorsements and commercial driver's license permits, motor vehicle records and requests for a hearing. Online services are not affected by this service outage.

There currently is no timeline for when in-office services will be restored. The DMV will provide updates via its social media pages and DMV. [Colorado.gov/locations](https://colorado.gov/locations).

Until the issue is resolved, Coloradans needing DMV services should use [myDMV.Colorado.gov](https://mydmv.colorado.gov) to access online services or the myColorado™ app. Additionally, Coloradans can use MV Express Kiosks, which provide an easy and convenient option for Centennial State residents in participating counties to renew their vehicle registrations.

The DMV appreciates Coloradans' patience as the Division works with its partners to restore services.

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Colorado State News



Gun Group Sues Colorado Over Unconstitutional Three-Day Minimum Waiting Period

Press Release
Rocky Mountain Gun Owners

—April 28, 2023

DENVER, CO – Today, Rocky Mountain Gun Owners [RMGO] filed two lawsuits against Jared Polis and the State of Colorado over HB23-1219, the unconstitutional minimum waiting period requirements surrounding purchasing a firearm, and SB23-169, which denies the constitutionally protected right to purchase, own, and possess a firearm to legal adults between the ages of eighteen and twenty.

Members of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners joined as plaintiffs in the lawsuits – challenging the constitutionality of the newly enacted laws, arguing that their right to keep and bear arms are being directly infringed upon by over-reaching politicians in Denver.

“For the last few months, I’ve traveled the state promising our members we would sue over these unconstitutional gun control schemes, and today as the governor signs them into law, we are making good on our promises,” said Taylor Rhodes, Executive Director of

Rocky Mountain Gun Owners. “Gun owners’ rights are being ravaged in the Colorado legislature by the puppets of “Everytown for Gun Control” and Michael Bloomberg. And they will not be happy until all law-abiding gun owners are disarmed, and only the criminals have guns. When a single mother is being harassed by a violent, abusive former partner, the Democrats at the Capitol think it is fine to make her wait at least three days to defend herself and her baby. And if she is twenty, these gun control fanatics insist she is completely defenseless,” Rhodes continued.

RMGO and its members are funding the lawsuit, challenging their constitutionality in light of the recent Supreme Court decision *NYSRPA v. Bruen*.

In the *Bruen* case, the Supreme Court rejected “intermediate scrutiny” – the cost/benefit analysis framework that allowed lower courts to rule against the Second Amendment – and established that the standard for applying the Second Amendment is the text, history, and tradition of the right to keep and bear arms; thereby invalidating the lower court rulings’ justification for gun control.

“Gun control extremists think they can play fast and loose with our constitutionally protected freedoms because of their large majorities, but as we have promised, we will not let that happen,” said Dudley Brown, President of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners. “The idea that an 18-year-old can vote, serve on a jury that could send someone to jail for life, sign contracts, own property, and even be drafted into our nation’s military, but not be able to purchase a basic hunting rifle is asinine. Regardless of age, sex, race, religion or creed, rights are rights and can’t be cherry-picked by bigoted politicians,” concluded Brown.

The full text of the lawsuits filed can be found at the following hyperlinks:

HB23-1219: <https://bit.ly/3oQszoN>

SB23-169: <https://bit.ly/3Ljuhqp>

Additionally, Rocky Mountain Gun Owners is strongly considering lawsuits against SB23-168 and SB23-170.

Please see: <https://rmgo.org/about-us/rm/rocky-mountain-gun-owners-sues-over-unconstitutional-three-day-minimum-waiting-periods-and-the-18-to-20-year-old-gun-ban/>

Boebert: I Helped Fix Earmarks. Now I’m Fighting For New Colorado Infrastructure Projects

by Lauren Boebert,
U.S. House -CO District 3 (R)

For decades, Congress used earmarks to buy votes for midnight, trillion-dollar spending bills and other wasteful spending. Taxpayer dollars were wasted on things like the \$223 million Bridge to Nowhere and the \$50 million indoor rain forest. Several Members of Congress and dozens of lobbyists were even indicted and went to prison for earmark corruption in the early 2000’s.

That’s why Republicans banned earmarks for a decade. Unfortunately, Nancy Pelosi brought them back to buy votes and waste taxpayer money. We recently learned that even though Congress stripped out her \$200 million earmark for lavish hotels and a golf course in her San Francisco neighborhood, she convinced the Park Service to break their own rules and she got the \$200 million anyway. Last Congress, I refused to participate in this corrupt process, and I spent a considerable amount of time arguing against earmarks.

It doesn’t make sense to add fuel to out-of-control spending, further jack up our national debt, and send inflation skyrocketing.

These are some of the reasons a handful of my Republican colleagues and I took action this January to make historic changes to the House rules, including the earmark process.

As a result of our historic changes, I am now able to fight for important infrastructure projects for the Third District of Colorado. Specifically, I recently submitted Congressionally Directed Spending requests for constructing the I-70 Cottonwood Pass Blue Hill Project to help prevent lengthy and costly I-70 closures; building Glenwood Springs’ South Bridge Project to provide critical evacuation access; extending Pueblo’s Medal of Honor Boulevard to reduce commuter times and improve public safety; building

BOEBERT
see page 21

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<https://www.rallyforourrights.com/legislative-watch/>

Meetings in Custer County

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BOCC Boardroom
205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO

Monday, May 8, 2023 4:30PM
Custer County Fair Board
Custer County Building Basement
205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9AM
Custer County Tourism Board
Silver West Airport
360 Co Rd 310, Westcliffe, CO

Thursday, May Monday, May 15, 12:30PM
Custer County Planning Commission Workshop
Custer County Building Basement
205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9AM
BOCC Mid Month Meeting
Silver West Airport
360 Co Rd 310, Westcliffe, CO

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2PM
Custer County Attainable Housing Board Meeting
Round Mountain Water Building Basement
59000 HWY 69, Westcliffe, CO

Colorado Legislature Using TABOR Refunds to Pay for Special Interest Tax Benefits

Reprinted by *Independence Institute* on April 25, 2023

by *Lauren Bishop, Fiscal Policy Center*

With the public distracted by gun control, abortion, and other hot-button issues, the Democrat-controlled Colorado legislature is quietly advancing nearly two dozen bills to redistribute your taxpayer refund to special interests.

The Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) in Colorado’s Constitution requires the state to refund excess tax revenue back to taxpayers. The state cannot spend this surplus revenue without asking voters at the ballot.

But there’s a loophole.

If legislators give your refund to someone else as a special tax benefit, it’s not considered spending. It’s considered a tax revenue reduction, so they can do it without asking you.

Any time certain people get a special tax break, that reduces total state revenues. If revenues go down, the surplus goes down. If the surplus goes down, your refund goes down.

That’s how legislators are stealing from all taxpayers to give to a few politically favored interests. And they’ve been doing it for years, but never on the scale being proposed by Democrats this year.

The ‘tax expenditure’ game

A report last year by Independence Institute found that all bills Governor Polis signed in his first term “had a net cumulative impact of increasing special interest tax benefits by approximately \$640 million over ten years.”

The report looks at every modification of “tax expenditures” passed into law from 2019 through 2022. Tax expenditures include tax credits and deductions designed to lower taxes for taxpayers who meet criteria prescribed by the politicians who created them.

In other words, tax carve outs for special interests.

Over the last four legislative sessions, the legislature created an average of \$64 million per year in these new tax expenditures. That’s an average increase of \$16 million per session.

During this year’s session alone, the legislature is proposing a \$626 million per year increase in special interest tax benefits.

That’s absolutely staggering, and every dime will come out of taxpayer refunds.

Remember the \$750 checks—\$1,500 for joint filers—you got in the mail last summer thanks to the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights? The proposed legislation would significantly shrink the size of those checks. If adopted, the bills would reduce refunds by about \$1,350 per taxpayer over the next 10 years.

“The state should not be collecting billions of extra dollars from taxpayers every year in the first place.

But they also shouldn’t be reducing those surpluses by handing out special interest tax benefits.”

One of the bills [*SB23-016 - Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures*] proposes giving \$40 million of your refund to owners of electric lawn equipment. Another bill [*HB23-1272 - Tax Policy That Advances Decarbonization*] extends the electric vehicle tax credit—a benefit enjoyed almost exclusively by wealthier Coloradans.

The largest increase comes from House Bill 23-1112. If adopted, the bill would expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. The change would increase state tax expenditures by nearly \$400 million per year.

How about an income tax cut instead?

The legislature previously increased these credits in 2020 and 2021. Those expansions already reduced taxpayer refunds by about \$250 million per year. Nearly \$70 million of that came from extending eligibility to residents who previously did not qualify because they don’t have a Social Security number.

Without these credits, state surpluses next year would total about \$2.15 billion based on estimates from state economists. The credits, with the proposed expansion, would reduce taxpayer refunds by about \$650 million per year.

That’s a loss of \$180 per taxpayer.

But it gets worse. The credits are

“refundable” tax credits, meaning if someone qualifies for them, they will get a check in the mail from the state even if they paid no taxes.

Think about that. Someone could be in this country illegally and pay no taxes, and under this law, they could get a check in the mail from the state. And it will come directly out of your refund. Because politicians called that check a “tax expenditure,” it doesn’t count as a state expense above the constitutional limit, so it doesn’t require voter approval.

Anyone who listened to Governor Polis on the campaign trail might be a bit confused about how this could happen. He told voters he wanted to “eliminate deductions and loopholes that benefit special interests.”

Yet, every bill that expanded special interest tax benefits required his signature to become law.

Those in favor of these policies say the state should use this money instead of letting it sit on the sidelines, waiting to go back to taxpayers as a refund. They’re not entirely wrong.

The state should not be collecting billions of extra dollars from taxpayers every year in the first place. But they also shouldn’t be reducing those surpluses by handing out special interest tax benefits. Instead, they should do what Polis has repeatedly suggested.

In his State of the State address earlier this year, the governor explained, “With healthy budget surpluses from our strong economy, we should further reduce the income-tax rate for everybody.”

To put it differently, rather than reducing the surplus by handing out special tax benefits to a few, we should lower the income tax rate for everyone. Then, we wouldn’t have massive surpluses to begin with. More money would simply stay in hands of those who earned it.

So, if the legislature sends these tax expenditure bills to the governor’s desk, I look forward to his veto and his continued work toward reducing the state income tax.

Lauren Bishop is a senior studying economics at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She is part of the Future Leaders program at the Independence Institute, a free market think tank in Denver. This op-ed first appeared in Complete Colorado on April 24, 2023.

Do they not go astray who devise evil?
Those who devise good meet steadfast love and faithfulness.

Proverbs 14:22



Colorado State News



POLIS/PROPERTY TAX from page 1

that came in this week to kind of fill in the numbers. We've been working on this framework with legislators, with experts, for months. Now we have the initial assessment data from the counties this week. So we have people in the back with green lamps rapidly trying to fill in the numbers. We expect that next week we will do this.

I would say for homeowners, the relief will take two forms. One will be we have a threshold of the home value that's subject to no taxation. So we want to increase that threshold. So that one would be a larger tax break for the less expensive home. So somebody who owns a \$500,000 home will get a significant break. Somebody who owns a \$2 million home, will still get a break, but, but not as big because it's a threshold. The other one is temporarily reducing the overall assessment rate, just reducing the actual percentage. So we're working on a combination of those, as we did in the past.

We are figuring out the final pieces of it, including the duration of it. Is it for a year, two years, 10 years? And obviously if it winds up being for two years, it doesn't mean it's not going to happen again in two years, but it just means that we're able to reach agreement on the immediate needs. So I would expect that will be rolled out early next week with something where people will know how much they save and I think it'll reduce the increase by quite a bit.

Can I just do a brief, kind of a brief kind of description of why we're facing this? So our state had a way of containing property tax growth. It was called the Gallagher Amendment.

Warner: The Gallagher Amendment was repealed ...

Polis: Right. And it did some things well and it did other things poorly. So we got rid of it, I supported getting rid of it. But it needs to be replaced with something that prevents property taxes from increasing rapidly. I mean, naturally, if your home value goes up, they're (taxes) going to go up a bit, but we don't want them to go up, you know, rapidly or 23 percent or anything like that. Nobody should be priced out of where they live just because their property tax has gone up, especially seniors on a fixed income. So this work that we're doing is really to figure out how to replace the Gallagher Amendment with a mechanism to prevent property values from escalating rapidly in the future and provide immediate relief now, whether that's for two years or 10 years or three years or whatever we can do with an ongoing commitment to work on this more down the road.

Warner: Because presumably this is a rolling problem.

Polis: Let me just add, it's a problem; that's a word you use, but it's a result of higher home prices. And I know we're going to get into housing and we want to bring more lower cost housing online, but it's a function of higher home prices. I mean, the rates aren't going up. It's going up because a \$400,000 home is now a \$600,000 home. So as a percentage, we're trying to bring the percent down. We're trying to raise the threshold of what has zero tax. But the reason that we're facing this is directly a function of higher home prices.

(For more news, please see [cpr.org](https://www.cpr.org/).)

Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2023/04/28/jared-polis-property-tax-increases-land-use-bill/>

Polis Screws Poor, Middle Class With Tax Hike No Matter How They Vote on Ballot Measure

by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

If the poor and middle class don't own homes, From Michael Fields with Advance Colorado:

To summarize this bill: the Governor and legislature are paying for part of this "relief" with money taxpayers are already owed, creating a fake cap on property tax increases, and going after even more of our TABOR refunds. We really waited this whole session for this half-baked proposal? Voters deserve a real long-term solution to this crisis."

The poor and middle class face a classic Catch-22 situation and get screwed no matter which way they vote on Gov. Polis's proposed ballot measure to address an unexpected property tax hike of 30%-70%.

Instead of sending a simple cap to deal with the tax hike surge caused by inflation, which will send a huge windfall to the taxman for even more government spending, Polis pulled a bait and switch and demands we either give him the property taxes, or he takes our TABOR refund.

Adding insult to injury, he's shifting the blame from himself and the Democrat-controlled legislature by putting the question to voters in the November election.

Cowards. Every one of them.

And greedy. But we digress with anger in our heart.

and vote down the proposal to save their TABOR refund, then property taxes goes sky-high along with their monthly rent.

Polis screws them either way.

Ben Murrey
@benamurrey
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Just discovered a BOMB-SHELL in Polis's property tax plan

It INCREASES tax rates for renters!

Renters tend to be low earners. According to reports from the Polis admin, property taxes hit the poorest Coloradans hardest. His plan raises taxes on the poor.

#copolitics #coleg

5:47 PM · May 1, 2023

Above: From Advance Colorado press release

"We really waited this whole session for this half-baked proposal?"

"We've got a five-alarm fire in Colorado and our governor showed up with a squirt gun."

Democrat's theft-and-spend tactics are out of control in Colorado and the media are giving them a pass by touting this as a tax cap and burying the details.

No wonder Polis thinks he can just skate on this and it won't affect his presidential aspirations.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2023/05/02/polis-screws-poor-middle-class-with-tax-hike-no-matter-how-they-vote-on-ballot-measure/>

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The Daily Jot

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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 Woke Target On Our Children

One way to destroy a country is to destroy the family core. The “woke” extremists, the current darlings of the Biden Administration and leftist news media, are taking aim at every kid in America. It’s a coordinated attack from the White House on down to state governments where the LGBTQ+ agenda has been turned loose on the sons and daughters of America in an all-out effort to evangelize, confuse, recruit, groom, and conscript into a lifestyle that leads to a lifetime of depression and often suicide. Joe Biden has endorsed this child predation saying on March 30, “We celebrate the activism and determination that have fueled the fight for transgender equality.” Every child is at risk to this activism. It must be stopped.

Biden thinks that every kid should have the opportunity to choose their sex. And some of the most liberal states in the Union are trying to codify in law the LGBTQ+ ability to prey on our children. It wasn’t enough in California to ban gas stoves and gasoline-powered vehicles, now the state is going after children. Already a “sanctuary” state for children fleeing from conservative states that protect minors from transgenderism, now the state’s Judiciary Committee passed the bill allowing mental health professionals to place children in residential facilities upon a minor’s request, even if the children are not experiencing abuse or neglect at home. And the mental health professional can determine whether parents are notified.

In Washington state, the state House passed a bill to allow licensed overnight youth shelters housing a minor to inform only the state’s Department of Children, Youth, and Families and not a child’s parents if the child is “seeking or receiving protected health care services.” The bill defines protected services as including “evaluation and treatments for gender dysphoria, gender-affirming hormone therapy, and gender-affirming surgical procedures.” The bill’s sponsor, Democrat Senator Marko Liias, says “This legislation allows licensed shelters to contact the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) in lieu of parents in certain additional instances, like when a young person is seeking reproductive health services or gender-affirming care.” These bills are legalizing government-sanctioned kidnapping by the LGBTQ+ extremists.

Your kid can go to school one day and disappear to some mental health shelter and you won’t know where to find him, and the authorities won’t tell you where he is. It’s all done under the assumption that the parent is causing mental health issues in the child by not “affirming” that they think they are another gender. In reality, it is the LGBTQ+ activists that are causing the mental health problem by confusing the child. Think about how this can be extended to those whose faith requires opposition to the LGBTQ+ perversions. Jesus Christ said in Luke 17:2, ***“It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.”*** This is arguably among the most egregious offenses of children. Stand strong against it.

Sources:
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<https://senatedemocrats.wa.gov/liias/2023/04/13/legislation-to-protect-trans-youth-seeking-lifesaving-care-passes-the-house/>

Bill Wilson DailyJot.com Reprinted with permissions.

Biden to Double Cost of Electricity

by Daniel Greenfield, FrontPageMag.com

Americans can’t afford to buy food, so Biden decided that they also shouldn’t be able to heat their homes during the winter. After an “environmental” measure that would prevent a majority of the country from being able to afford new cars, Biden is now going after their power bills.

The latest EPA proposal would mandate ‘carbon capture’ at power plants. A study by MIT showed that carbon capture raises the cost of electricity from 30% to 50% depending on the type of plant. Another study by Australia’s Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis however showed that prices could actually climb as high as 95% to 175%.

“A carbon capture mandate for power plants might hike power bills by 30% to 175%,”

Imagine your power bills doubling? That will be the final blow for millions of Americans.

Biden’s corrupt inflationary spending broke the economy and sent prices soaring. State environmental regulations in California, New York and other leftist areas increased the cost of electricity. Last year, one in 6 homes had fallen behind on their utility bills. A survey found that a third of households were cutting back on food and medicine to be able to heat their homes.

With more than 20 million households struggling, Biden decided to deliver the killing blow.

His administration’s illegal carbon capture mandates would hike electricity costs 30% to 175% and utilities will be forced to pass the cost of this expensive ‘green’ tech to their customers just as they are already being crushed under the burden of expensive and unreliable solar and wind systems. How many Americans can afford to pay twice as much for their utilities?

Not only would Americans pay more for the privilege of ‘carbon capture’ power, but the power plants would produce less power. Louisiana’s Cleco utility warned that its carbon capture experiment would cut power production by 30%. Pay more, get less: that’s carbon capture.

But that’s also all ‘green energy’.

Like most ‘green’ technologies, carbon capture is a scam. That’s not just a conservative position. Even the most fervent environmentalists, including Greenpeace, which calls it the “Great Carbon Capture Scam”, and the Sierra Club, have said it doesn’t work.

“Last year, one in 6 homes had fallen behind on their utility bills.”

If carbon capture is unpopular with both conservatives and environmentalists, why is Biden so determined to impoverish Americans using a plan that both sides agree is a bad idea?

While carbon capture is a hypothetical technology that, like most green tech, doesn’t work, it does fulfill its primary purpose of making it too expensive for consumers to use power. Carbon capture technology doesn’t actually change anything about the environment, but it makes conventional gas and coal plants too expensive to operate.

And that is the whole point.

“As expensive and inefficient as carbon capture is, wind and solar are monumentally more expensive and inefficient.”

After being shut down by the Supreme Court which struck down the EPA’s power grab of regulating ‘carbon emissions’, which is **not** a pollutant, the new move is meant to force power plants out of business so that they can be replaced with even more expensive and unreliable wind and solar. As expensive and inefficient as carbon capture is, wind and solar are monumentally more expensive and inefficient. A carbon capture mandate for power plants might hike power bills by 30% to 175%, but would in the long run be far more expensive than that when those plants are shut down and everyone is forced to depend on wind and solar.

While carbon capture is unpopular with environmentalists, some top Democrat donors have heavily invested in it including Bill Gates and George Soros. Carbon capture startups scored \$882 million in capital last year so there’s a lot of Democrat donor money riding on it.

“Last year, one in 6 homes had fallen behind on their utility bills.”

Millions of Americans will get poorer and freeze in the winter so Biden’s donors can get richer.

In the UK, which has even more far-natural environmental regulations than America, 50,000 people die every year because of “fuel poverty”. In December 2022, an estimated 1,000 people died because they couldn’t afford to heat their homes. Most of them were senior citizens.

This is the nightmare that Biden and his advisers want to bring to America.

France suffered its deadliest summer in a decade with thousands of deaths last year because of a lack of air conditioning. (The Biden administration has also been working to make air conditioners too expensive for working class Americans to afford.)

The EPA has tracked a growing increase in heat and cold-related deaths in America while falsely blaming them on its invented bogeyman of ‘climate change’ rather than environmental regulations that have made it too expensive for people to heat and cool their homes.

With a third of Americans struggling to pay their power bills, how many will die if Biden succeeds in illegally forcing carbon capture through and doubling power bills? With a population that is five times that of the UK and areas even colder, we could see as many as 250,000 deaths.

That is an outcome which environmentalists, who want a drastic reduction in the human population to ‘save the planet’, have enabled in the UK and which they are implementing here.

The Biden administration has destroyed our standard of living, is taking away our cars, our gas stoves and now wants us to freeze in the winter and suffer heat stroke in the summer. This brutal purge will enrich his donors and eliminate many of the elderly more likely to vote GOP.

The only thing carbon capture really ‘captures’ are our lives.

Please see: <https://www.frontpage-mag.com/biden-to-double-cost-of-electricity/>

“Last year, one in 6 homes had fallen behind on their utility bills.”

“Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.” —Winston Churchill



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Explosive New Study Finds Face Masks May Increase Stillbirths, Testicular Dysfunction and Cognitive Decline

Research Finds That Fact Coverings Can Cause Carbon Dioxide Poisoning

by Steve Watson, Summit News

A new study by German researchers has concluded that face masks can cause carbon dioxide poisoning when worn even for short periods and may have contributed significantly to stillbirths when worn by pregnant women, as well as testicular dysfunction and cognitive decline in children, among other destructive health issues.

As reported by the *Daily Mail*, the research, published in the journal *Heliyon*, comprises a review of 43 previously published studies on exposure to CO₂, mask-wearing and pregnancy.

Dr. Anastasia Maria Loupis
@DrLoupis

Follow

Face masks may raise risk of stillbirths, testicular dysfunction and cognitive decline due to build-up of carbon dioxide, study warns.

[dailymail.co.uk](https://www.dailymail.co.uk)

Face masks may raise risk of stillbirths, study warns

The German academics who carried out the research believe masks create a pocket of dead space between the mouth and mask, which traps the toxic gas.

2:02 AM Apr 24, 2023

The study notes that even short-term exposure to concentrations of CO₂ as low as 0.3% caused brain damage, increased anxiety, and impaired memory in both pregnant rats and young mice in one study.

In another, when male mice were exposed to 2.5 percent CO₂ for four hours, testicular cells and sperm were destroyed. The equivalent amount for humans would be 0.5 percent of CO₂ over the same time period.

What did the CO₂ mask review find?



CO₂ exposure caused brain damage, heightened anxiety and poorer memory in young mice



CO₂ exposure led to destruction of testicular cells and sperm in male mice



Stillbirths and birth defects after CO₂ exposure in pregnant rats

Masks trap CO₂ which is then inhaled

Yet another experiment discovered that stillbirth and birth defects occurred in pregnant rats that were exposed to just 3 percent CO₂, which would be equal to 0.8 percent for humans.

The study also points to research that found just five minutes of mask wearing resulted in CO₂ levels increasing to between 1.4 percent and 3.2 percent.

While they note that the review provides 'circumstantial evidence' only, the researchers allude to a surge in stillbirths during the pandemic, saying that masks could have contributed.

Swedish researchers previously found that the stillbirth rate increased from seven per 1,000 births to 21 per 1,000 births after the pandemic, while a leading UK hospital saw a four-fold increase in its stillbirth rate.

"Circumstantial evidence exists that popular mask use may be related to current observations of a significant rise of 28 percent to 33 percent in stillbirths worldwide," the German researchers asserted.

They also note that research indicates "reduced verbal, motor, and overall cognitive performance of two full standard deviations in scores in children born during the pandemic."

Dr Kevin Bass, cell and molecular biology PhD, has a detailed thread on the study, which can be linked through to below:

Kevin Bass PhD MS
Apr 16, 2023
@kevinbass
Follow

A review published by @CellCellPress shows mask-wearing may contribute to stillbirths, irreversible cognitive deficits in children, testicular dysfunction, and much more.

This suggests the ethical principle "first, do no harm" was violated by mask mandates.

Thread.
Kevin Bass PhD MS
@kevinbass
Follow

Before beginning, I want to point out that during the pandemic, I dismissed others' concerns about the topic and insisted on masking. I masked my children in public and I regret doing so. Anti-maskers made me angry. I was wrong. I am sorry.

Now, the thread:

The findings dovetail with a report published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) that concluded "no evidence could be presented" to prove medical-grade face masks protected vulnerable people from COVID at all.



Study Finds "No Evidence" Face Masks Protect Vulnerable Against COVID

Three years later.

Paul Joseph Watson
@PrisonPlanet
Follow

Thanks for admitting this 3 years later after all the demeaning crap you put everybody through.

Scores of studies have come to the same conclusion, yet people are still wearing masks despite all of this, some schools are still forcing children to wear masks, and some airlines and travel companies are still enforcing mask wearing.

It's been common knowledge since the very start of the pandemic that masks do practically nothing. Those who resisted, even doctors, were punished and banned from publicly voicing their concerns.

This goes hand in hand with the massively harmful lockdowns.



New Johns Hopkins Study: "Lockdowns Have Had Little To No Public Health Effects" And "Imposed Enormous Economic and Social Costs"

"Lockdown policies are ill-founded and should be rejected as a pandemic policy instrument"

When will enough be enough?

(Please see: <https://summit.news/2023/04/24/explosive-new-study-finds-face-masks-may-increase-stillbirths-testicular-dysfunction-cognitive-decline-in-kids/>)



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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2023



"Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—"A Psalm of David, Psalm 144:1

Lib Judge Holds Standard Capacity Magazines Are "Not in Common Use for Self Defense"

by Dean Weingarten,
ammoland.com

In the case of *Hanson v. District of Columbia*, in the District Court of the District of Columbia, on April 20, 2023, federal Judge Rudolf Contreras issued an opinion holding standard capacity magazines which hold more than ten rounds of ammunition are not protected under the rights which the Second Amendment was written to protect. Judge Contreras acknowledges magazines that hold more than ten rounds are in common use in the United States of America. Judge Contreras acknowledges magazines that hold more than ten rounds are arms as defined by the words of the Second Amendment.



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1 p.m. at the bowling alley.



Judge Rudolf Contreras goes to great lengths to determine magazines that hold more than ten rounds are not included under the rights of the Second Amendment. The linguistic juggling to accomplish this difficult task is impressive, not to mention the stretching and twisting of logic. From the opinion:

"More importantly, Heller II recognized that whether LCMs are "in common use" is merely the beginning of the analysis. The full inquiry is "whether the prohibited weapons are 'typically possessed . . . for lawful purposes.'" Heller II, 670 F.3d at 1260 (emphasis added) (quoting Heller, 554 U.S. at 625). On that critical question, Heller II expressed uncertainty: "based upon the record as it stands, we cannot be certain whether these weapons are commonly used or are useful specifically for self-defense[.]" Id. at 1261 (emphasis added). That is the question this Court must now resolve."

The simple and straightforward understanding of whether magazines with a capacity of over ten rounds are typically in common use for lawful purposes is clear. There are tens or hundreds of millions of such magazines in the United States. If standard capacity magazines were typically possessed for unlawful purposes, the number of crimes committed using them would be astronomical. But crime with them is not astronomical. The mere fact of common possession equates to common use. Judge Contreras is working very hard to limit the term

"common use" to only those uses specifically documented on the record for self-defense. From the opinion:

The District disagrees; it argues that LCMs are not in common use for self-defense for two reasons. First, it claims that LCMs' military characteristics make them a poor fit for self-defense and take them outside the scope of the Second Amendment. Second, the District claims that lawabiding individuals do not use LCMs for self-defense because incidents where a civilian actually expends more than ten bullets in self-defense are "vanishingly rare." Defs.' Opp'n at 18. The Court agrees with the District on both arguments."

This is exactly the means-end type of argument that *Bruen* prohibits. The government is not allowed to decide whether a typical arm is useful for self-defense or not. If the arm is in common use for lawful purposes (not just self-defense), it is protected.

The other bizarre claim is arms that are useful for military purposes, such as those used by a militia, are not protected under the Second Amendment. All scholars agree the Second Amendment protects arms that are able to be used by a militia. The vast preponderance of scholarship is: one purpose of the Second Amendment is to preserve an armed population that could bring their arms to service in a militia when the need arises. Arguments that claim arms useful to a militia are explicitly excluded from protection by the

Second Amendment are counterfactual to the text of the Amendment itself.

Judge Contreras may be working to clarify *Bruen* further by prompting the Supreme Court to note magazines holding more than ten rounds are obviously useful in militias for the common defense. It seems unlikely. Judge Contreras is *Heller II* as precedent in the DC circuit without considering it to be overridden by the *Bruen* decision.

Judge Contreras fails to mention the opinion of Judge Benitez in the Ninth Circuit. Judge Benitez considers AR15 rifles to be excellent militia arms. Militias, under the Second Amendment, are to be drawn from an armed population. Progressive judges and scholars have, for decades, declared the Second Amendment only protects use of arms in a militia. Now they declare military uses of arms are not protected by the Second Amendment. Progressive (leftist) ideology is never hindered by logic or facts. Only the political goals of the moment are considered important. Power over others is the singular consistent goal of progressive ideology.

(Editor/GG: If it wasn't for Trump getting those two SCOTUS judges on the bench we would be in a world of hurt, citizens.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2023/04/judge-holds-standard-capacity-magazines-are-not-in-common-use-for-self-defense/#axzz7zuGMjUxL>



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Huge 2A Win! Federal Judge Enjoins Illinois' Assault Weapon Ban

by Jonathan Turley,
JonathanTurley.org

In a major victory for gun rights advocates, U.S. District Judge Stephen McGlynn has granted a preliminary injunction of Illinois' ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines. The decision comes after two other district courts ruled in favor of the law — sending this issue to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and potentially the Supreme Court. These long-awaited challenges will test the Democratic calls for removing all AR-15s and similar weapons, including calls from President Joe Biden.

I have previously raised doubts over some of these laws, which are based on questionable factual claims and distinctions between weapons. Indeed, President Biden has made dubious constitutional and historical claims about the Second Amendment and AR-15s.

Illinois and New York have previously supplied gun rights advocates with huge victories by drafting facially unconstitutional laws. Moderate efforts at gun control are often ramped up in the legislative process to become more and more sweeping.

McGlynn recognized that gun bans are popular in states like Illinois but noted that “even legislation that may enjoy the

support of a majority of its citizens must fail if it violates the constitutional rights of fellow citizens.”

The court tackles the argument made by many gun control advocates that states can ban “non-essential accessories” like magazines because they are not themselves “arms” under the Second Amendment.

PICA outlaws possession of a “semiautomatic pistol” with a detachable magazine if it is equipped with any of the following: “a threaded barrel,” “a shroud attached to the barrel or that partially or completely encircles the barrel,” “a flash suppressor,” or “arm brace.” PICA further outlaws possession of a magazine for a handgun capable of holding more than 15 rounds of ammunition and of “[a] semiautomatic pistol that has a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 15 rounds.” Defendants contend that such items are not necessary to the functioning of a firearm and are thus not “arms” and therefore not protected by the Second Amendment.

Defendants’ argument is not persuasive. The Seventh Circuit has recognized the Second Amendment as extending to “corollar[ies] to the meaningful exercise of the core right to pos-

sess firearms for self-defense.” It is hard to imagine something more closely correlated to the right to use a firearm in self-defense than the ability to effectively load ammunition into the firearm. The Third Circuit recognized the importance of this corollary and held that “a magazine is an arm under the Second Amendment.”

McGlynn also stated that it is “bordering on the frivolous” to claim that neither large capacity magazines nor assault weapons are protected because they were not in common use when the Second Amendment was ratified. He cited the long-standing rule that “the Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding.”

The court also rejected the claim that the standard is whether a weapon was in common use for self-defense:

Bruen clearly holds that the Second Amendment protects “possession and use” of weapons “in common use” not just weapons in common use for self-defense as Defendants’ argued. Even if there was a requirement that the “common use” of an “arm” be self-defense, AR-15 style rifles would meet such a

test considering that 34.6% of owners utilize these rifles for self-defense outside of their home and 61.9% utilize them for self-defense at home.

The court further noted that large capacity magazines are commonly owned and used by sporting enthusiasts and there are more AR-15s than F150s in this country.

Judge McGlynn also noted that these weapons are commonly used for self-defense and that there are up to 2.5 million instances each year in which civilians used firearms for home defense. He added:

“In no way does this Court minimize the damage caused when a firearm is used for an unlawful purpose; however, this Court must be mindful of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. While PICA was purportedly enacted in response to the Highland Park shooting, it does not appear that the legislature considered an individual’s right under the Second Amendment nor Supreme Court precedent. Moreover, PICA did not just regulate the rights of the people to defend themselves; it restricted that right, and in some cases, completely obliterated that right by criminalizing the purchase and the sale of more than 190 “arms.” Furthermore,

on January 1, 2024, the right to mere possession of these items will be further limited and restricted. Accordingly, the balance of harms favors the Plaintiffs.

The Court recognizes that the issues with which it is confronted are highly contentious and provoke strong emotions. Again, the Court’s ruling today is not a final resolution of the merits of the cases. Nothing in this order prevents the State from confronting firearm-related violence. There is a wide array of civil and criminal laws that permit the commitment and prosecution of those who use or may use firearms to commit crimes. Law enforcement and prosecutors should take their obligations to enforce these laws seriously. Families and the public at large should report concerning behavior. Judges should exercise their prudent judgment in committing individuals that pose a threat to the public and imposing sentences that punish, not just lightly inconvenience, those guilty of firearm-related crimes.”

(Editor/GG: The Colorado magazine ban will be history soon.)

Please see: <https://jonathan-turley.org/2023/04/29/federal-judge-enjoins-illinois-assault-weapon-ban/#more-204332>

BOEBERT from page 15

important water distribution infrastructure for the City of Craig; building Gunnison’s water treatment plant to supply clean water; renovating Silt’s water plant to improve drinking water; increasing water storage in Huerfano County; improving US Highway 160 in Bayfield; building a new interchange on I-70 at 29 Road in Grand Junction to improve mobility and public safety; and increasing water storage and constructing a critical water supply in Moffat County.

This is possible because I helped make important changes related to Congressionally Directed Spending (“earmarks”). These

changes were made to strip out corrupt, vote-buying behavior. Moving forward, House earmarks are constrained by the following:

- Each project must have a federal nexus and be authorized by Congress.
- Submissions for museums, memorials, and commemoratives – and projects like the “Michelle Obama trail” – are prohibited from project funding.
- Accounts that were all significantly abused in the past, including the Financial Services and General Government, Defense, Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor accounts – are prohibited from project funding.
- Priority funding will be used for real infrastructure, water and sewer improvements, rural

and economic development, and public safety projects.

- Earmarks will not exceed .5% of all discretionary spending.
- Members must certify that they and their immediate families have no financial interest in projects.
- For-profit entities are not eligible for project funding.
- Requests must be publicly posted online for transparency.

Other important rules changes made in January include: Representatives now have at least 72 hours to read bills, we are only considering single subject legislation, we are set to fund the government as intended by passing 12 individual appropriations bills through regular order, and we are debating and allowing

amendments from Members on all sides of the political spectrum. These changes are working – I have already passed two bills and eight amendments through the House on a bipartisan basis.

Of equal importance, we can also use the new process to prevent the executive branch from manipulating the federal grant process. The Biden administration weaponized this process to steer grants to blue districts, to the detriment of rural America. They also demanded diversity, equity, and inclusion criteria for applicants.

Instead of playing this con game, the new Congressionally Directed Spending process allows Members of Congress to exercise their power of the purse and ensure that funding is instead directed

to important projects. This cuts the bureaucratic middlemen and their woke requirements out of the process and instead directs funding to where it is needed most.

These infrastructure projects I’m pursuing will benefit rural Colorado by increasing our transportation resiliency and combating western drought. They will also ensure we are not dependent on an unfair, political federal grant process.

I did not go to Washington to join their club. I went there to fix it. Tackling earmarks was an important step. I will continue working every day to help improve communities across Colorado’s Third District and make it the best region of the country to live, work, and raise a family.



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—Ronald Reagan, 40th president of the United States

from page 2

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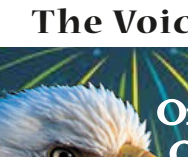


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DA STANLEY from page 1

Park County Sheriff Tom McGraw had similar words to say.

“We have a good working relationship with Linda,” he said. “Our DAs assigned here, we’re very happy with them. I don’t have any issues from our county. I think she’s hired great people to work in our county and I think Linda is doing a good job on what she’s doing. I have no issues.”

Cañon City Police Chief John Schick also spoke of his interaction with the DA’s office. “My agency as with all of our peer agencies maintains open lines of communication,” he said. “Specifically, regarding any issues with the District Attorney’s Office, we communicate directly to try to avoid or mitigate any potential issues. DA Stanley will and has made herself available to me and my officers to discuss any issues or concerns when necessary, and that is greatly appreciated.”

The problems stated by some Fremont County officials is that DA’s Office doesn’t submit discovery in a timely manner. Stanley indicated she wanted to explain what discovery is before she explains the role law enforcement has in getting discovery to the DA’s Office.

“The first thing, (Discovery Rule) Rule 16 says is if it’s in the possession or control of law enforcement, it’s (considered to be) in ours too, even if we don’t know about it,” she explained. “That’s a big issue because if we have opened a case, we regularly send emails to the law enforcement agency in all four counties, just a reminder to send all body cams, photographs, videos, reports, supplemental reports, statements, etc. We ask them to produce everything that they have in their possession or control. The problem is [that] some law enforcement officers don’t understand that when they have it, it’s considered that we also have it and we have to produce it for the defense.” Stanley added the system is run by humans, so mistakes will occur. And they will occur on occasion from either side. She reiterated, “We are NOT withholding evidence. We don’t have a super-secret file cabinet that we keep super-secret evidence to release whenever we feel like it. That’s simply ridiculous.” What’s interesting to note, she said, is that these issues don’t occur (or are extremely rare) in the other three counties. Also, they only occur in cases with the Public Defender’s Office. Stanley said, “We just don’t have these kinds of issues with private defense attorneys.”

Another comment that was made recently in the media was in regards to the number of dismissals in the DA’s Office. There’s something in the law called dismissed without prejudice, Stanley explained.

“If we ask for a motion to dismiss without prejudice, it means the prejudice stays there in the court,” she said. “When it stays there in the court, we, the District Attorney’s Office, can refile that case later and the judge has to grant a motion to dismiss without prejudice.”

“Here’s why that’s important. If a potential issue is brought up in court, perhaps a potential discovery violation and we didn’t have time to research it because the public defender filed a motion the night before but the judge wants to hear it that day, we don’t have the ability to research where it is or if it exists and they know it,” Stanley continued. “The judge is not supposed to hear it the next day. They’re supposed to set it out, but they do hear it. What our attorneys are doing is asking the court to dismiss the case without prejudice if it appears we don’t have everything or there may be a violation. Why? First, we can refile the case later when we know what law enforcement has and what we have. Second, if the public defender files a motion to dismiss and it’s granted, it’s never, ever without prejudice [or] we [would] lose all ability to prosecute that case again. That’s what (certain law enforcement) does not understand. [They] just see the dismissals. [They] don’t understand why it was dismissed and they don’t reach out to me or the attorney assigned to the case so I can explain it.”

Also, there are 100s of private attorneys in this area, who are not complaining on the news. It’s only a couple attorneys in the Public Defender’s Office, Stanley added.

“However, in the other three counties, this just does not happen,” she said. “The other thing Rule 16 states is a requirement to confer with the other side. If the defense has some document or they don’t even know it exists, they’re supposed to come to us and ask us about it. Quite frankly, in Fremont County, it’s my firm opinion that the public defenders know they have a sympathetic ear with the Polis appointed judges so they will file a motion the night before, which they’re not supposed to do, and they won’t confer with us, which is against the rules, and Rule 16 says no motion shall be filed, [but] they file a motion. They get away with all of this here in Fremont County. That kind of gamesmanship just doesn’t occur with any kind of frequency [in three other counties].

We really have no issues overall with the other judges in this district. We rarely, if ever, have problems with discovery or with law enforcement.”

She pointed out that Fremont County Sheriff Cooper’s allegations are incorrect.

“I’m not going to talk about specific cases because they’re still open and I’m not going to jeopardize those cases,” Stanley said. “He should do the same. Right now, he’s tampering with a potential jury pool by making claims that are, at least partially, incorrect and if he wants to see that they’re not correct, I will show him, but I will not put that information out into the media and try to tamper with a potential jury. By doing that, he is assisting in the likelihood of a not guilty verdict at trial.” She added that the entire time she has been in office, Sheriff Cooper has refused to meet with her one on one. This was confirmed recently when *The Crusader* attempted to set up a meeting between Cooper and Stanley. Stanley confirmed. Cooper refused.

To add to the frustration, Stanley stated everyone in her office has been doing the job of one and a half people.

“Everybody who works at our office has not had a raise in two years,” she said. “Nobody. Because we can’t afford it. We continue to get work piled on us with no relief in sight. For instance, starting last year, the legislature passed a new law that requires weekend advisements (so no one has to wait until Monday to see a judge). That’s every Saturday and Sunday.”

Prior to the new legislation, if somebody was arrested on a Friday night and taken to jail, that person would not see a judge until Monday morning. But with the new legislation, the DA’s Office must be available around 3 or 4 on Saturday and Sunday to read all the cases (in all four counties) and be ready to argue for bond at 6 p.m.

“There was nothing in that bill to help fund these new requirements,” Stanley continued. “So now we have attorneys work right through their dinner on weekends and there’s no extra pay for it. This also includes administrators who have to set up the cases and victim advocates who have to contact the victims.” She added the public defenders have hired contract attorneys to conduct their weekend advisements, but their budgets are funded by the State and are much larger than the District Attorney’s Office which is funded by the counties. “We’re working these people to the bone right now. The only reason I haven’t

had a whole lot of people leave, quite frankly, is because we’ve created a very good environment. It’s like a family environment. That’s why, I think, they don’t leave.”

When the County Commissioners only gave the DA’s Office a three percent cost of living raise, she told the Commissioners she would lose good attorneys, which she did. “Even gas went up more than three percent,” Stanley added. In the meantime, as far as administrative assistants and paralegals, the average salary in Fremont County is a little more than \$44,000 a year, which is 8 percent lower than the U.S. average, Stanley added, quoting recent data.

“Our administrative assistants make around \$45,000 so it’s about \$700 more than the average,” she said. “The people who are doing this kind of work, where they’re trusted to keep things confidential and are working so many hours on so many cases, should get paid a little higher than the median because of the nature of their position, but they don’t because I can’t give them a raise.”

Stanley also wanted to address some specific allegations regarding certain media outlets and their sensationalism of the facts. For instance, recently there were allegedly 30 cases or so that have had discovery violations in the last two years (since she has been in office). What the media doesn’t report is the problem. First, several of those violations occurred before Stanley was in office. Second, after totaling the number of cases the DA’s Office has handled over that period of time, the 30 cases are less than one percent of the total cases handled (and as she stated previously, mistakes will happen when the system is run by human beings). Third, what is that percentage compared to the other 21 judicial districts in the State of Colorado? Compare apples to apples. Fourth, why are the vast majority of those cases in Fremont County? Fifth, why are the majority of those cases, if not all, only with the Public Defender’s Office?

Stanley believes this is a political attack. But she will not step down.

She said, “I will continue to take the arrows in my back and the insulting comments from the media because I simply won’t allow another Polis appointed District Attorney for the 11th Judicial District.”

When she was asked if she had concerns about any of the allegations, she said, “I walk by Faith, not by sight.”

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