

Spirit of 1776

by Richard Turnquist
KimMonson.com

Independence Day, or July 4th, has been my favorite secular holiday since I was a child. Why? It's summertime. No school. Hot days and warm nights. The sense of endless possibility that permeates the summertime vibe. Fireworks. Cookouts. Swimming. Family gatherings. And so much more...

Independence Day is also, more importantly, the time when we Americans as a nation celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the document that outlined our reasons for separating from the crown of England and forming a nation of our own.

What many people seem to have forgotten, and what they no longer teach in the indoctrination centers otherwise known as public schools, is that our country was formed intentionally, on the basis of a

philosophical construct that has as its foundation the concept of individual human rights that are intrinsic to us as human beings. The document goes on to state that

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable



In honor of America's birthday, Rick Turnquist reviews the principles upon which our country was founded, and talks about how the spirit of 1776 has almost been lost.

Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,..."

This declaration remains one of the most potent political documents ever written, because it recognizes that we human beings have certain rights that are intrinsic to us as human beings, and that the sole purpose of government is to "secure" or protect these rights.

Note that it does not say that governments grant rights – they don't. Note that it does not say that we exist to serve the government – we don't. Note that it says does not say our ONLY unalienable rights are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of

SPIRIT of 1776
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Service for POW Clifford H. Strickland

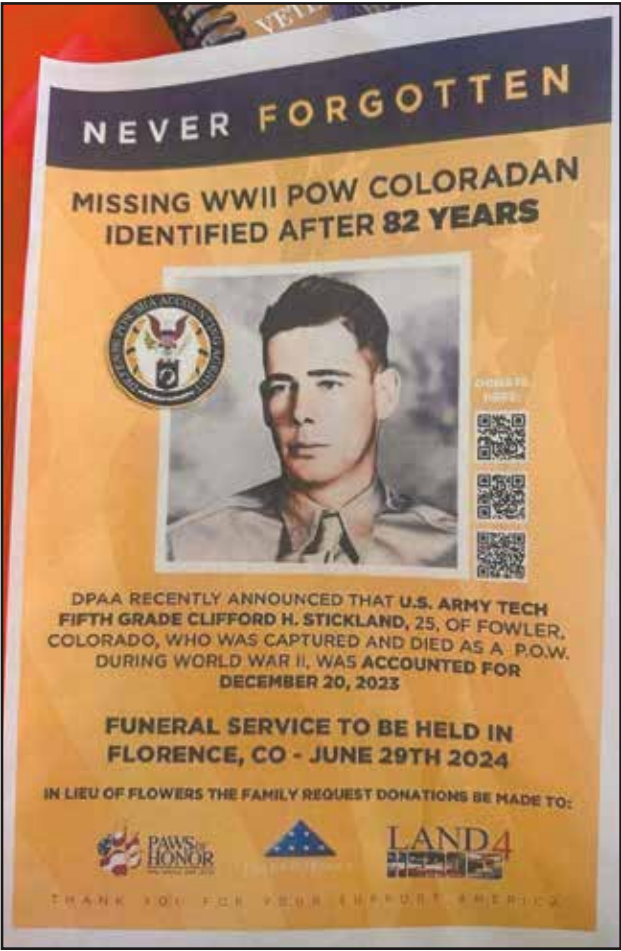


Honoring Technician Fifth Grade Clifford H. Strickland

Technician Fifth Grade Clifford H. Strickland, of Fowler, Colorado, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, (Bataan Death March) and was accounted for December 20, 2023.

Strickland was buried June 29th in Florence, Colorado. A private funeral was held at 12 noon at a Graveside Service, which included full military honors. The service pictured was held at 2 p.m. in the Union Highland Cemetery in Florence, with about 200 people there. Many of our local Veterans were in attendance.

Photos courtesy of Custer County VSO



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*The LORD is my
chosen portion and
my cup;
Yu hold my lot.
Psalm 16:5 ESV*

SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

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The Voice
of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

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

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SALIDA CUTLERY AND SMOKE SHOP

On The Cutting Edge

by Fred Hernandez

It is a quaint little shop right on Hwy 50 in Salida, Colorado, with lots of toys for the boys. Some of the most beautiful knives for the great outdoors, for gourmet kitchens in million-dollar homes or just ordinary daily use on mundane chores like opening packages can be found in this specialty store. The owners of the store are Twyla and Steve Rains.

It all began with Twyla's Dad who was an active collector of all kinds of blades. Exposed to his hobby, Dad's girl grew to like and then appreciate the beauty and the value of knives that are well made and for the precise purpose they are meant to be used. With twenty-two years of successful operations and the future looking very promising she finally had to ask her husband, Steve, for his help and together they serve their many loyal customers.

At first she started a small in-home store but she outgrew that fairly quickly and moved on to a commercial location where she rented a modest space.

The business was growing fast and eventually Twyla had to make another move. This time she rented space right

on the main road of town, Highway 50. She has been at that same location since 2004 renting the space at first,

when she began, then with the continuous success of her enterprise Twyla acquired the building.

Aside from beautiful knives and axes for all purposes, expertly crafted in Germany and other countries known for high quality steel and craftsmanship, the store sells high quality smoking pipes, tobacco products including cigars for the most discriminating tastes and cigarettes of all brands. Most of her regular clientele do not even come into the store. She has a drive through on the side of her building where customers can conveniently drive up, ask for what they need and drive off within minutes. A really cool service feature not many stores have.

If you need a sharp blade or a smoke visit the Salida Cutlery and Smoke Shop. They are located at 132 W. Highway 50 in Salida. For more information visit: SalidaCutlery@yahoo.com or call 719-539-2884.

Shop owners, Twyla and Steve Rains.

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High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival is Here!

Press Release

Music will ring out across the Wet Mountain Valley at the 21st High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival in July in the heart of the Rockies. Come enjoy stunning views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the youth music program, the camaraderie of on-site camping and pickin' in addition to a full roster of exciting bluegrass performers. The festival dates are Thursday through Sunday, July 11 – 14, 2024, at The Bluff Park in Westcliffe, Colorado.

We are excited to welcome Jim Lauderdale as our featured performer this year. He has won two Grammys, released 36 full-length albums, and has taken home the Americana Music Association's coveted Wagonmaster Award, along with being a great performer. The line-up also features our festival host, the always entertaining Dry Branch Fire Squad. Other acts scheduled to appear are Ralph Stanley II & the Clinch Mountain Boys, Laurie Lewis and

the Right Hands, Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike, Jim Gaudet and the Railroad Boys, The Wilder Flower, Mike Mitchell Band, My Brother's Keeper, Fog Holler, The Red Mountain Boys, Orchard Creek, Abbie Gardner, and Heidi Clare and Ron Thomason. Many of these performers will also conduct workshops throughout the weekend, which will afford festival-goers the opportunity to experience the performers in a more intimate setting. Dancers are welcome Friday and Saturday night in the workshop venue. And don't forget the popular High Mountain Hayseeds - bring the kids and their instruments!

High Mountain Hay Fever is also the best deal in bluegrass. Four-Day Passes are only \$120 (\$130 at the gate). Single day ticket prices are \$25 for Thursday evening, \$60 for Friday, \$60 for Saturday, and \$40 for Sunday. Student daily admission (13-18 with student ID) is \$10. Children under 12 are free. Tickets are on sale on our website: [www.highmountainhayfe-](http://www.highmountainhayfever.org)

[ver.org](http://www.highmountainhayfever.org). Wrist bands can be obtained at the gate starting at 10:30 on Thursday morning. Please note that Adams Blvd will be closed between Main and Rosita during the festival.

The festival is a non-profit effort to enhance the Wet Mountain Valley as a quality event destination that benefits the entire community. The festival has raised over \$850,000 for Wet Mountain Valley charitable organizations over the years of its existence, with a strong focus on children's health. The High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association is a non-profit organization run by a great group of volunteers who work year-round to make the festival happen. The festival remains an intimate event, avoiding the sprawl and congestion of large festivals while offering nationally recognized bluegrass talent, remaining true to its motto: "Small Scale, Big Time".

For information contact us at www.highmountainhayfever.org.

LIBERTY ROCKS LAST WEEK Freedom Rings Loud & Clear



At last week's Liberty Rocks, we had the memorable surprise of the nonagenarian sisters who gamely addressed the audience with a powerful message about patriotism. Expatriates from Castro's Cuba, the message resonated deeply among local patriots and brought the whole room into a resounding standing ovation that echoed throughout Lange Hall on 3rd Street in Westcliffe. Due to a miscommunication involving iPhones and laptops, the names of these patriots failed to make it in the article. For that I personally apologize. Shown above are Ester Barrio, her sister Lisa and husband Danny Hernandez. All in their nineties. VIVA LA LIBERTAD, LONG LIVE FREEDOM, GOD BLESS THE USA FOREVER!!!

Photo and story by Fred Hernandez

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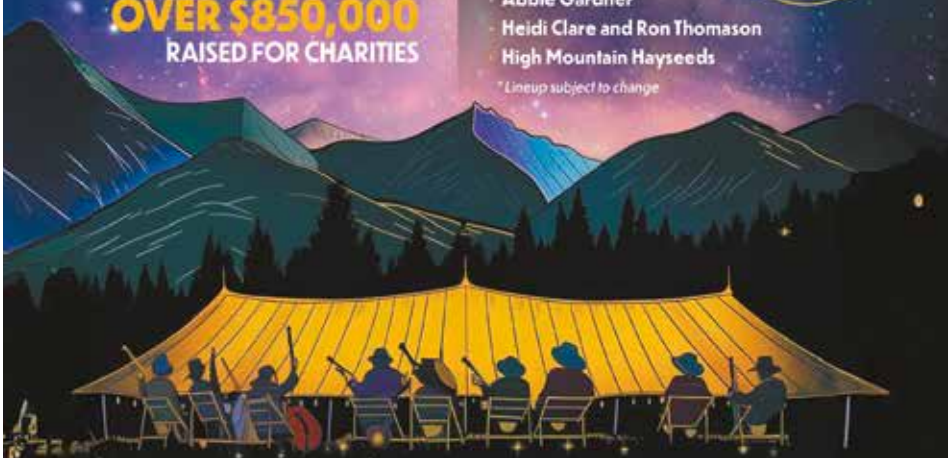
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Superintendent Thom Peck Takes the Reins at CCSD

Press Release

The Custer County Board of Education welcomes Thom Peck and his wife Angie to the District.

Monday, July 1st, Thom begins his tenure as Superintendent of Custer County Schools.

Hailing from Montana, where Thom served as a School Superintendent for 12 years, he and Angie are eager to join the Bobcat family. Thom is a student-centered leader focused on building community partnerships and support to enhance individual growth for all students.

Please help us welcome Thom and Angie Peck to our community.



Superintendent Thom Peck.
Photo courtesy of Custer County Schools

3rd Annual Day of the Cowboy Celebration

Press Release

Westcliffe, CO - Local western music and cowboy poetry performers *Dennis Russell and JJ Steele* will host the 3rd Annual Day of the Cowboy Celebration at the historic Jones Theater, 119 Main Street in downtown Westcliffe, CO on Saturday, July 27th from 2 – 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

“We are an endeavor to celebrate the National Day of the American Cowboy” says Steele, “And in so doing, we want to garner and promote an appreciation for the poetry and music of the cowboy, a true American icon.”

Day of the Cowboy Celebration performers for this year are Colorado’s own award-winning cowgirl poet *Valerie Beard* from Kim, CO; the reigning International Western Music Association Entertainer of the Year, *Doug Figgs* from Lemitar, NM; sister act and beautiful harmonies of Kacey and Jenna (*Thunborg twins*) also from Lemitar, NM; cowboy poet, *Terry Nash* from Loma, CO; and the incredible, high energy all-cowgirl band *Gone With The West* from Nashville, TN, featuring Mary Kaye Holt.

The public is also invited to join all performers after the show at Bootleggers Bistro,

309 West Main Street in Westcliffe, for a Celebration Rendezvous to enjoy more music, poetry and fun!

Celebration organizers would like to give special thanks to these local sponsors:

KLZR FM 91.7, Bootleggers Bistro, Wet Mountain Tribune, International Western Music Association, Custer County Tourism, Valley Feeds, Central Building Supply, Music Meadows Ranch, and the Antler Liquor Store & Motel.

For more information, please contact Dennis Russell at 719-330-1797 or JJ Steele at 719-371-2013.

Custer County School Board Selects Brad Davis

Press Release

The Custer County Board of Education filled its vacancy Thursday, June 27, 2024. Four candidates, Brad Davis, Jeremy Hockett, Doreen Newcomb, and Richard Posadas were interviewed for the vacancy. The Board unanimously elected Brad Davis.

Brad became a full time resident of the Valley in 2020. Brad’s grandson attends Custer County Schools. He is looking forward to continuing the good in the Custer County School District and helping every student achieve personal growth.

The Board also voted to fill the position of President vacated by Joseph McCarthy. Vice President Reggie Foster was elected to serve as Board President. Brad Davis was elected to fill the position of Vice President.



Brad Davis, new CCSD-1 Director and Vice-President. The next Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the school library.

Photo courtesy of Custer County Schools

Barb Beckner
Financial Advisor



Barb@peaks-integrity.com



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Local Mountain News & Notices

2024 CUSTER COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE

Exhibit Hall Open:TBD

ALL events are held in the Show Arena unless otherwise stated Gates open at 7:00 am and close at 10:00 pm each day

*There will be a 15 minute break between the end of an event to the start of the following event but events will not start before the stated time

Friday, July 12th, 2024

7:00 am - 8:00 am: Check in for all OPEN projects - Exhibit Hall

8:30 am - 9:00 am: Indoor projects judges meeting - Exhibit Hall

EXHIBIT HALL EXHIBIT HALL CLOSED TO PUBLIC DURING JUDGING

9:00 am: Begin 4-H General and FCS project judges' interviews, exhibitors need to check in 15 minutes before their scheduled interview time - Exhibit Hall

Saturday, July 13th, 2024

9:00 am: .22 Rifle Competition - Sheriff's Shooting Range

1:00 pm: Shotgun Competition - Sheriff's Shooting Range

4:00 pm: 4-H Llama Show

7:00 pm: 4-H Llama Races

Sunday, July 14th, 2024

4:00 pm: Public Speaking Contest

Monday, July 15th, 2024

9:00 am: 4-H Dog Show

10:00 am: 4-H and FFA Rabbit Show

11:00 am: 4-H Cat Show - Lamb Barn

12:30 pm: Companion Animal Master Showmanship

Tuesday, July 16th, 2024

9:00 am: 4-H Horse Shows & Gymkhana - Cowboy Church Arena

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm: 4-H and FFA livestock weigh-in, small animal check in - Lamb/Goat Barn

6:00 pm: ALL animals in place

6:00 pm: Mandatory Livestock Meeting for all exhibitors and their parents

6:30 pm: 4-H and FFA Night Out and Picnic (Closed to General Public)

Wednesday, July 17th, 2024

9:00 am: Archery Competition - Cowboy Church Archery Range

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm: Pulled Pork Dinner

6:00 pm: 4-H and FFA Swine Show

Thursday, July 18th, 2024

9:00 am: 4-H and FFA Sheep Show 12:00 pm: 4-H and FFA Goat Show

6:00 pm: Westcliffe Stampede Ranch Rodeo

Friday, July 19th, 2024

8:00 am - 9:00 am: Custer County Cattlewomen Beef Breakfast

9:00 am: 4-H and FFA Beef Show

12:00 pm: Master Showmanship

6:00 pm: PRCA Westcliffe Stampede Rodeo

Saturday, July 20th, 2024

10:00 am: **Rodeo Parade** - Downtown

11:00 am: Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church Steak Dinner

12:00 pm: Awards and Buckle Ceremony

1:00 pm: 4-H and FFA Livestock Auction

6:00 pm: PRCA Westcliffe Stampede Rodeo

Westcliffe Band of Brothers 2nd Annual Family Gathering

Greetings,

Michael and I are pleased to remind you and invite you to our Second Annual Family Gathering!

THIS NEXT SATURDAY - JULY 6TH, WITH A GREAT OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE WITH SONRISE SERVICE ON THE 7TH.

At Michael's, 1430 Williams Creek Road, Gardner, Colorado.

Don't miss the opportunity to spend a day with your family and extended Christian Family.

July 6th Starting at 10 a.m., but come anytime.

A day devoted to fun and fellowship for all ages with all sorts of games, indoor and outdoor, including but not limited to:

Corn Hole, Bocce Ball, Foss Ball, Horseshoes, Volleyball and Water Sports. We will close the day with a short Bible Study on Prayer.

Blessings,

Brett Brubaker 719) 371-0021 and Michael Tschanz (303) 999-5115. Westcliffe Band of Brothers

Jesus told them, "I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life. No one can come to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Thank You Road & Bridge

Thanks for the outstanding grading and "mag-chloring" of County Road 255, Oak Creek Grade. The prep work was excellent.

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George Gramlich

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Saturday, July 13, 2024 @ 10:00 am Inspection/Registration 9:00-10:00 am

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NOTES: (1) Vehicle Titles available. (2) Vehicle Condition: Not running /Setting for 15 years. [*JD 644A Runs] (3). All large items must be removed from the site by July 20, 2024. (4) Owner/Seller is not responsible for items left at site awaiting pick-up. (5). Pick-up must be coordinated with the Owner/Seller..



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Chris Nurdyke constsolutions@icloud.com

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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, 8
#83 Spaghetti & Meat Sauce *Calories 728*
Tossed Salad w/Lite Italian *Carbs grams 103*
Seasoned Green Beans *Fat grams 18*
Orange *Sodium mg 423*
WW Bread w/Butter *Fiber grams 14*

Tuesday, July 9
#30 Chicken Salad Sand. *Calories 886*
Lettuce & Tomato *Carbs grams 91*
Confetti Salad *Fat grams 29*
Beef Barley Soup *Sodium mg 1097*
Orange Juice *Fiber grams 13*

Thursday, July 11
#58 Lentil Soup *Calories 656*
Egg Salad Sandwich *Carbs grams 94*
Lettuce & Tomato Slices *Fat grams 19*
Banana *Sodium mg 759*
Fiber grams 12

Served Mondays, Tuesdays
& Thursdays at noon.
612 Main St. , Silver Cliff
Townhall (lower level)
The following major food
allergens are used as
ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish,
Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat,
Soy and Sesame.

Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations
A \$3 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.

Recurring Events

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays
8-9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.
10 -11 a.m. Westcliffe Band of Brothers & Sisters Bible Study ‘Ragamuffin Gospel’ Book & the Bible Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, in Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.
6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

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

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

2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee meeting. Ranchers Roost. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. See www.CusterGOP.com or Facebook page at https://m.facebook.com/custergop

3rd Thursday of the Month
2 p.m. Round Mt Water District Meeting.
Liberty Rocks 5:00 meal & meet & greet, 6 p.m. Presentation July Location: Hermit Park. Barbeque Meal \$15 for food and \$5 for park rental. Reservations required for food, just text Ann @ 303-547-4723 with your reservation number(s)

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

1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center

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

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

Saturdays
10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family Group meets at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Dee (719) 404-1851 or Jean (719) 371-1229.

3rd Saturday of Month
8 a.m. Valley Bible Fellowship Men’s Breakfast Open to all Men of the Community, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff Questions, Jerry @ 719-783-0120.

1 p.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room, Post Commander Burt Daniels 719-783-3050



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

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



It's Not Too Late!
Westcliffe BoB Family Gathering,
Saturday July 6

Deadline. How many times in your life have you experienced a deadline? The Deadline is: “A time limit, as for payment of a debt or completion of an assignment.”

I have great news for you. Since you are reading this, you can still clear your calendar for our Second Annual Family Gathering.

Join us for a day filled with fun, fellowship and great food at Michael Tschanz’ Nest at 1430 Williams Creek Road. It starts at 10 a.m., and you can come and go as you please. At 4 p.m. there will be a family Bible Study on Prayer. Then dinner and overnight enjoying the company and stars of Colorado. Wake up to a Sunrise Service.

Hey, and while I think of it, the most critical question in your entire life is the debt due to the sin you have committed during your lifetime. How are you going to pay for it?

There is only one correct answer...

Brett Brubaker and Michael Tschanz (719)371-0021

CCSO Co-RESPONDERS' CORNER
Transforming Heartache to Hope
Change Your Story, Change Your Life

by Dr. Tom & Jaclyn Manzione

Experiencing highly stressful, frightening, or distressing events is tough and often referred to as trauma. When we discuss emotional or psychological trauma, we are acknowledging the impact of distressing situations, or events, on our well-being. Traumatic events can affect us at any stage of life and may have lasting negative effects. It’s important to recognize that everyone responds differently to trauma, and its effects may become apparent immediately or much later on in life.

We truly understand how challenging it can be to experience all that you’ve lost and the impact of your trauma, making you feel as if there’s no way out of your suffering. You have the power to change the way you perceive your pain and shape your own story, even though your trauma is in the past. Shaping your own story is an integral part of the healing process.

We cannot change the fact that we have sustained trauma, however, we do have the ability to change how we think about it. It’s understandable that even as we work towards developing positive coping mechanisms and setting goals for moving forward, we may find ourselves slipping back into old patterns when thoughts from our painful past resurface. Healing from trauma should not be trivialized, it’s crucial to remember that everything can begin to change the moment we decide to change our mindset about our trauma.

Listening to the stories of people, in a support group, who faced immense suffering and survived, can help interrupt the negative thought patterns that often repeat in our minds and transform heartache to hope. When you realize what is possible after experiencing trauma, you can look at your story from a fresh, hopeful perspective.

Please be patient with yourself. It’s completely natural to feel discouraged and overwhelmed when trying to make important changes in your life. Treat yourself kindly, let go of your old, painful story, and stay fully present. You’re not alone in this journey. We are just a phone call away (CCSO 719-783-2270 Option 1).

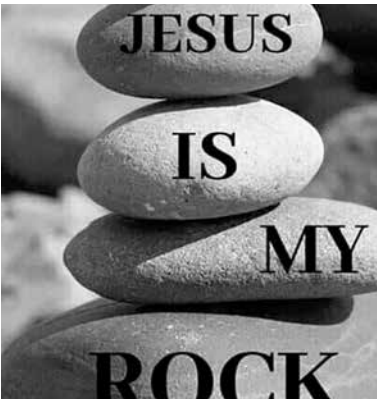
Reference: HelpGuide.org

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe</i>	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship <i>417 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2498	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. Tuesday Mass (summer) 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass <i>109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-3507	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church <i>Pastor: Mike Shields</i> 10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook <i>60260 HWY 69, Westcliffe</i> 719/232-5372
Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff</i> 719/783-4601	High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School <i>103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-9045	Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month <i>210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2491	Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service <i>120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-0903
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints <i>240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe</i> Pres: 719/545-1196	Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study <i>603 Leon Street, Walsenburg</i> (719) 251-9053	Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. <i>215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence</i> 719/784-1184	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship <i>6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe</i> 719/ 371-1822
Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study <i>0157 County Rd. 27A</i> Cotopaxi 719/942-3526	Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study <i>3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe</i> <i>Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323</i> Lange Hall 719/783-2561	St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays <i>3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2477	Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship <i>116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff</i> 719/581-7572
Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship <i>202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2511	Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 pm Sunday Mornings: 9:30 am in the Amphitheater <i>830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO</i> <i>Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863</i>	St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500	Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship <i>Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore</i> 719/371-1230
Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com <i>20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi</i>	Sacred Heart Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> Saturday Mass 4 p.m. <i>Highway 69, Gardner</i> <i>Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037</i>		Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship <i>699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore</i> 719/784-0596

Send Church updates to sdc.sentinel@gmail.com (719) 783-3360

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.
Psalm 18: 2-3 ESV





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July 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dora Emporium Yard Sale All Aboard Old Dora Mine building @ 110 Rosita Ave.

Saturday, July 6th, 4-6 p.m. 'July's a Poppin' Reception Sangres Art Guild Show --July's Show, 3rd Street Gallery 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe

Saturday, July 6, 7 to 11 p.m. \$10 Cover Independence Day Dance Band: Forever Wild WMV Saddle Club, 90 CR 241 Proceeds forPRCA & WPRA Stampede & Ranch Rodeo

Tuesday, July 9, 10:30 a.m. Olde Schoolhouse Quilters @ Valley Bible Fellowship Craft Sale - fabric & quilted items

July 18, 5:30 p.m. WMV Ranch Rodeo

July 19 & 20, 6 p.m. PRCA & WPRA Rodeo

July 19 & 20, 10 p.m. Rodeo Concerts

ONLY purchase tickets using the link (RodeoTicket.com), from local merchants in town, or at the rodeo.

Classifieds

Announcements

Rosita Property Owners Association

Annual picnic / meeting. July 7th, 1-5 p.m. at Rosita Park Pavilion. Burgers and Brats provided.

\$10 yearly dues accepted

Commercial

Commercial Rental Opportunity

25'x 60' commercial shop bays located at 822 Cliff Street

Available July 15th.

One year lease.

Excellent highway frontage for visibility for your business!

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National Geographics 1914 to 2008

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Sports are the reason I am out of shape. I watch them all on TV.

Thomas Sowell

Local Mountain News & Notices

Westcliffe Market Vendor of the Week Pink Pitcher



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June School Board Meetings: Policy Update, Back Pay for Two, Director Position Filled, Multiple Teaching & Coaching Positions Filled

by Laura Vass

The June 17 Regular Custer County School Board meeting was called to order with three directors present. (This meeting was held one hour before a special meeting on the county level, pulling one board member away for work reasons.) After introductions, there was a reminder in detail for applicants for School Board opening, including the deadline. The interviews will be on June 27th at 4:30.

Under Consent agenda, the board removed approving minutes from the last meeting and approved Items A and B. Item A approved the removal of 62 policies from the handbook. (Those following these meetings will recall that some changes to the handbook in past years had not been documented in the record and/or added to the handbook. Also, the policies needed formatted to match the State BOE guidelines, mostly for uniform accessibility/comprehension.) Item B, was the approval of the first reading of 33 revamped policies. (This is a work in progress that has happened very quickly over the last 4-6 weeks.)

Staff reports had no notable new information.

Under Administration reports, Principal Benesh gave an update to the board and public on the website progress, expected to be ready for transition (going live) on August 1st.

Linda Brown said that BOCES has an extra meeting this month. They have a special meeting to appoint a new director.

Reggi Foster's, reporting on FFA, said that the Branding Day event went well. The chapter is looking for a place to have weekend retreat for officers. (Eight students and 2-3 adults) They are looking at August 10-11.

The Legislative update- Jennifer Kriegh said there were quite a few bills that will affect funding and policy. Most notable is that the 'Food for All' bill passed but it is not fully funded. They are working on getting additional funding. The school district may have to pick up part of that in the budget.

SCHOOL BOARD
see page 16

KIDS

Friday, July 5, 2024

Bat-eared Fox

Living here in the Colorado mountains I have seen a lot of foxes, mainly red fox, I think they are very cute. This week we will be looking at another fox that I think is just as cute, the Bat-eared Fox.



They look like a red fox but with unusually large ears, which can be up to five inches long. The large ears give the fox the ability to regulate their body temperature within certain boundaries. Those enormous ears are also pretty good at picking up the sounds of insects. The vast majority of its diet is termites. Their diet is so specialized that they have more teeth than most mammals. Their feeding strategy is simple: follow the big mammals, wait for them to poop and the insects will come to them.

They can grow up to 32 inches in length, which includes a 12-inch tail and can weigh six to 10 pounds. Bat-eared foxes belong to the dog family, Canidae. They are found in eastern and southern Africa in open, arid areas. They prefer bare ground and areas where grass is kept short and tend to hunt in these short grass and low shrub habitats. However, they do venture into areas with tall grasses and thick shrubs to hide when threatened. They raise their young in dens and use self-dug dens for shelter from extreme temperatures and winds. They also lie under acacia trees in South Africa to seek shade during the day.

These foxes live among buffalo, gazelles and wildebeest. They have been seen out-manuevering cheetahs in hunting attacks. When fleeing predators, they run in a zig-zag and can reverse direction at the drop of a hat. When a jackal or hyena passes by a den, a mother with cubs will jump up and let out a soft woof as a warning. The pups then rush back into the den and wait for the danger to pass. They are also able, when faced with a predator, to curve their backs up, curl their tails and let out a growl or a high-pitched bark as a warning. If it gets too close, they can spring into the air, stiff-limbed, landing on their hindlegs first, much like a gazelle. This leaping is called pronking, or stotting.

That's the skinny on the bat-eared fox. However, Africa is too far away for me to go visit them.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.britannica.com/animal/bat-eared-fox>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bat-eared_fox, <https://factanimal.com/bat-eared-fox/>,
Photo: Bat-eared fox in the Etosha National Park, Wikimedia

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Ephesians 4:32 KJV



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SDC Amateur Radio Club Annual Field Day

Press Release

The Sangre de Cristo Amateur Radio Club held its annual Field Day and Open House on June 22nd at Summit Park on the Bluff on June 22nd. Field Day is a nation-wide event that takes place at the end of June each year, and it typically involves nearly 40,000 ham radio operators throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Although it is technically not a contest, the primary objective of Field Day is for clubs (and individuals) to set up portable or emergency stations and then try to make as many radio contacts as possible during the allotted time period.

But, according to club president Clint Harper, this club event was about much more than radio contacts. He explained, “Field Day 2024 was the first anniversary of our club, so



Photos Courtesy of Clint Harper

the event was also a BBQ and club social. And it was an Open House, where we presented the world of amateur radio – and our club – to the general public.”

He said Field Day 2024 was a great success for the Sangre de Cristo Amateur Radio Club. “Almost 40 club members participated and made hundreds of radio contacts...many visitors stopped by, including

Sheriff Rich Smith and Commissioner Lucas Epp. Two local youngsters earned their ham radio licenses by successfully testing, and several others made their first contacts on the radio.”

The Sangre de Cristo Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Westcliffe. All are welcome.



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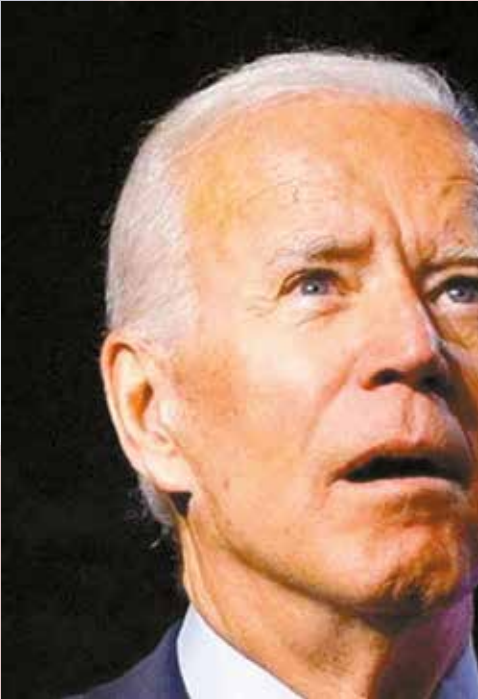
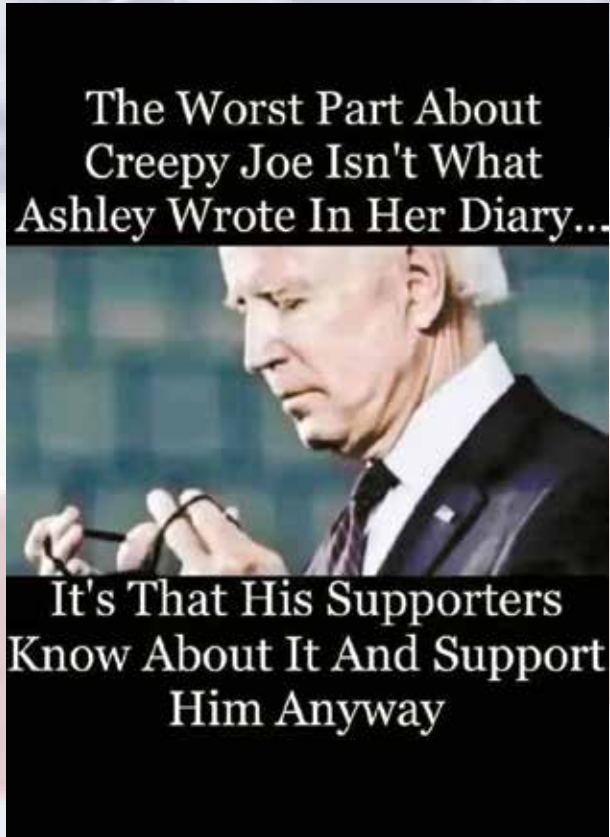
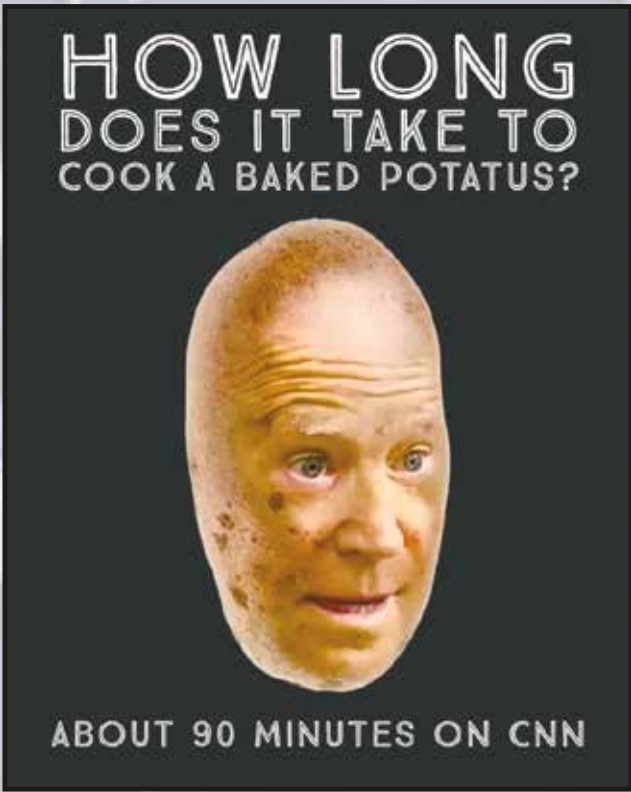
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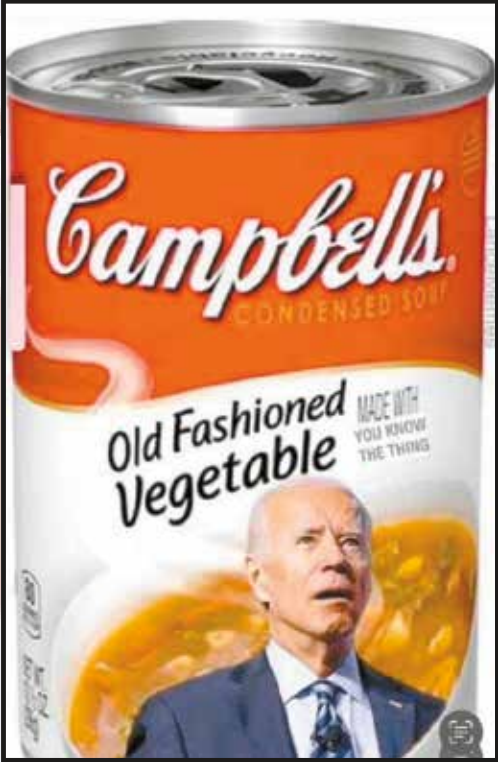


Y: PINOCCHIO JOE



And I will make mere boys their leaders,

And mischievous children will rule over them, And the people will be oppressed.
Isaiah 3:4-5a



And then the people said, "No."
.... the end.

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THE ONE AND ONLY ONE
Hunger Buster Drive Thru



Hunger Buster and new owner Paige Thompson

by Fred Hernandez

Under new management since March of this year the new, improved Hunger Buster is the one and only one in Custer County. That's right; there is no other fast food, drive through anywhere near by.

Paige Thompson, the new owner, originally from Albany, Texas, had to drive through Westcliffe from the Lone Star State to visit her

daughter, Nocona, going to school in Gunnison. Like many others she fell under the spell of the beauty that surrounds Happy Valley.

Once she decided to move here, she purchased the business. No stranger to the food industry Paige owned and managed three pizza restaurants around the Albany area. So, it is not surprising to learn that aside from the crowd pleasing favorites; Cheeseburgers,

Photos by Fred Hernandez

Hamburgers, Chicken sandwiches and Philly Cheese steaks, there will soon be pizzas to go.

Being a savvy operator, she is immediately improving on the hours of business. Instead of five days a week she will open six days; Monday through Saturday and longer hours; from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on Sundays to worship the Lord at the Cowboy Church.

Business is good with 90% drive through, says Paige, but it will get even better, she expects, as they transition into the beautiful summer months. Wishing Paige all the best.

Hunger Buster is at 824 Main Street next to Westcliffe Petroleum.

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Colorado State News



Gunfire Incident Forced Pueblo GOP to Relocate Election Watch Party

by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

Pueblo Republicans were forced to relocate their Election Night watch party after someone fired a gun into the front window of their headquarters on North Main Street.

Police say they can't be sure whether the gunfire was politically motivated.

And yet, it sure looks political.

A spokesperson for the Pueblo County Democrats condemned the act as terrifying, insisting "Violence has no place in our democracy."

And yet, there it was. Violence in the middle of Pueblo's democracy. Against Republicans.

Pueblo County Republican Party chairwoman Michelle Gray told 11 News the watch party was relocated to ensure the safety of their volunteers and candidates.

People need to remember this is just politics, Gray said.

And so it is.

The target of the shooter's ire appears to be a sign supporting Stephen Varela of Pueblo, who was running in the



GOP primary for the 3rd Congressional District seat.

Varela placed third in the contest behind the winner, Jeff Hurd of Grand Junction, and Ron Hanks of Cañon City.

(Editor/GG: You see our local libs whining all the time about guns, open carrying, etc. There is a reason we are armed: the left uses violence all the time to get their way. Usually in places (cities) where the peasants are not armed. Not here in Happy Valley, Soy Boys!)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/06/26/gunfire-incident-forced-pueblo-gop-to-relocate-election-watch-party/>

Local Governments Opting Out of 'Sensitive Spaces' Gun Ban

by Sherrie Peif, Complete Colorado Page Two

WESTMINSTER, Colo.

A new state law banning the carrying of any firearms in certain areas supporters like to refer to as "sensitive spaces," includes a section that allows local governments to opt-out of the ban. The number of jurisdictions exercising that option continues to grow, with the opt-out recently brought up in both Weld County and the City of Westminster.

As of July 1, **Senate Bill 24-131**, "Prohibiting carrying firearms in sensitive spaces," bans the carrying of firearms, concealed or open in:

- State legislative buildings
- The building of a local government, including buildings at which the offices of elected members or the chief executive officer of local government are located
- A courthouse or other building used for court proceedings.
- Any licensed childcare center, public or private elementary school, middle

school, junior high school, high school, vocational school or any public or private college, university or seminary.

The final bill signed by Governor Jared Polis was a watered-down version **from the first attempt**, which included everything from daycare facilities and movie theaters to parks and churches among other places – including the sidewalks around them.

Local governments opting out

The new law makes it a misdemeanor to carry a gun, even if you hold a **concealed handgun permit** (CHP), in any one of the banned spaces. The new law also covers lawmakers in the state Capitol beginning January 2025. Until now, the public was unable to carry in the legislative buildings, but lawmakers were free to carry concealed.

However, the bill does specify that "a local government may enact an ordinance, regulation, or other law that permits a person to carry a firearm at places described" in the bill.

OPT OUT
see page 24

Petition Time, Folks!

We have two petitions to Protect Kids & three petitions on Election Integrity



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Petition #142: Parental Rights
Petition #160: Protecting Girls' Sports For Female Athletes
Petition #201: Prohibits Ranked Choice Voting
Petition #202: Ballot Access through Caucus and Assembly preserved
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Read more about the petitions to Protect Kids at protectkidscolorado.org and the Election Integrity petitions at coloradocounts.com

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I WILL CALL UPON THE LORD

I will call upon the Lord, (I will call upon the Lord.)
Who is worthy to be praised, (Who is worthy to be praised)
So shall I be saved from mine enemies
(So shall I be saved from mine enemies).

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock!
And may the God of my salvation be exalted!
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock!
And may the God of my salvation be exalted!

Hymn based on Psalm 18



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Colorado State News

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

by Joe Mueller, The Center Square

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

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

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

“... for educators, researchers, policy-makers and employers who have been tracking students’ academic readiness, alarm bells have been sounding for a long time,” Lisa M. Hamilton, president and chief executive officer of the foundation, wrote in the report.

“It’s past time not only to listen but to act.”

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

“To be clear, children are more than test scores,” Hamilton wrote. “Simplifying the potential of any child, any person, to a scaled score on a standardized assessment is something we must not do. Neither should we gauge the effectiveness of teachers or schools solely by test scores. Rather, these scores, like the other indicators in this Data Book, are tools we can use to understand what kids need and which disparities require targeted interventions.”

The report cited information from the National Survey of Children’s Health. It found 40% of children in 2021-22 had an adverse experience, defined as an economic hardship, a divorce or separation of the child’s parents, a parent who died or served time in jail, witnessing domestic or neighborhood violence, living with someone with a mental illness or substance abuse

problem, or being treated unfairly due to race or ethnicity. The report found 39% of Colorado children had one or more adverse childhood experiences in 2021-22.

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

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

To down load the pdf of the book KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2024 see <https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2024kidscountdatabook-2024.pdf>

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_814d91b4-2ceb-11ef-a220-bfcb9b789.html?a

SCHOOL BOARD from page 10

CCKC/LCO – Stacy Terrill reported on Family Day, and LCO registrations. It looks like registrations are coming in and there might even be a waiting list by fall for preschool.

Discussion Items:

Board Meeting Correction – Reggie Foster said that during the February 19 board meeting in a discussion, it was said that Coach Stafford had not turned in paperwork and that’s why he didn’t get paid. In correction, let the record show that he did turn in his paperwork and was paid for his services.

Best Training: [The new board] went to the CASB Conference/Board Training last fall right after election and Reggie Foster said it was roughly \$7K for them to attend the three-day training session. That included their mileage and off-site hotel stay. Reggie said the board is not sure that this is the best use of those kinds of dollars for what they got from the conference. One board member was only there for a day and one did not attend so that is not the full cost for sending a full board to the conference. In contrast, the training session they got with Walt Cooper at a different time, was more targeted toward what the new board members needed. Her question was, can we have Walt or someone like that along with the lawyer do a retreat in Custer for what they need specifically?

Donna Newell, who was on the board for four years, said that CASB is a great place to network and has monthly topic workshops around Colorado. She found those workshops very beneficial and noted there are also topical podcasts, she thought weekly, that are a great source.

There were no questions for Charlotte Lindamann on the Financial Report.

ACTION ITEMS:

The following resignations were approved:

Laura Bachman, MS Assistant Volleyball Coach and Hal Walter, Head MS and HS Cross Country Coach.

The following new hires were approved: Candice Stipanovic, SPED Paraprofessional. Erin McCarthy, HS History Teacher and Kala Kitchen, Preschool Aide

The following Fall Athletic Coaches were all approved: Clayton Stallones, HS Football Coach, Rachel Simpson, Head Cheer Coach, Gordon (Shane) Ivey, Assistant HS Football Coach Xavier Starks, Assistant HS Football Coach, Latisha Schlabach, MS Assistant Volleyball Coach and Heather Ramer, Head HS Cross Country Coach.

The Board Approved Back Pay for Joy Parrish for 22-23 and 23-24 School Year due to contract mistake (When moved from BA to MA in 22-23, she was not put at correct [rate] step.)

Back pay for Shelley Penkoff was also approved for 22-23 and 23-24 School Year due to contract mistake (Being in Wrong Column – she was in the Preschool Aide column but should have been Preschool Lead Teacher.)

The board approved the Second Reading of Policy BCB: School Board Conflict of Interest.

The change to the policy was read aloud. It allows someone who is working for the school as a substitute or in a volunteer capacity due to staffing shortages, to be on the school board.

Meeting adjourned.

SPECIAL MEETING:

During the Special Board meeting, held on June 27th, four candidates, Brad Davis, Jeremy Hockett, Doreen Newcomb and Richard Posadas were interviewed in the public. Following interviews, in the first round of voting, Brad Davis was selected.

(Davis was sworn in so that the board could proceed with officer selection, and so that he would be ready to fully participate in the next scheduled meeting, Monday, July 8th.)

Officers: Jordan Benson nominated Reggie Foster to be the Board President. Tho vote was unanimous, making the Vice President position open. Jordan Benson nominated himself for Vice President. Jennifer Kriegh nominated Brad Davis. Brad was elected to be the new VP.



Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



Colorado’s \$90 Million Migrant Bill for Free Computers, Phones Six Months’ Rent and Food

by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

The Denver welcome wagon for Biden’s border busters to the land of the free stuff includes a complimentary computer with a prepaid cell phone, plus six months’ rent, food, utilities and all the metro bus passes that no one else wants.

But the Gold Welfare Package paid for by state and federal taxpayers is just for the designated “newcomers” of the estimated 22,000 migrants who are permitted to stay in Colorado.

The other 20,000 are still being dumped on other states through the city’s Orwellian named “Onward Travel” program.

The most recent drop off occurred Memorial Day weekend in Salt Lake City, prompting this response from Utah’s Republican governor:

Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox @GovCox

Follow

We recently learned that the Democrat mayor of Denver has been sending illegal immigrants to Utah without proper notification or approval. This is completely unacceptable and follows on the failed catch-and-release policy of the Biden administration. Every state has received...

KUTV2news @KUTV2News

Denver is paying travel costs to send migrants to Utah, even as the state, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County lack capacity to care for them, and as they urge asylum seekers to go someplace else. <https://kutv.com/news/>

local/no-space-in-utah-but-denver-pays-for-migrants-to-relocate-here-southern-border...

10:12 AM · Jun 14, 2024

It’s unclear what Colorado’s culling process is for who stays and who goes.

Mr T 2 @GovtsTheProblem

Follow

Another person is apparently dead because the Democrat Party likes illegal immigrants more than citizens.

#copolitics

kdvr.com

Driver in deadly US 285 crash had been ordered to return to Mexico 16 times

Immigration and Customs Enforcement say the truck driver accused of side-swiping five vehicles, killing one person and closing U.S. 285 for over 14 hours, had been told to leave the U.S. 16 times.

7:19 AM · Jun 18, 2024

Denver insists not all migrants want to remain in Colorado and take advantage of Denver’s deluxe, starter package of free living, and prefer to be dropped off in places like Salt Lake that can barely muster a cot and shelter for the night.

From KUTV News:

“They arrived in Salt Lake City with very little information other than instructions to find a person in uniform to help,” said Salt Lake Police Chief Mike Brown, in an email to the department.

Officials here tell the Denver Gazette it’s no

big secret they’re migrant dumping, having already shipped off 2,000 to Utah. So shut up about it.

Behold the arrogance of Jon Ewing of Denver Human Services, the agency in charge of welcoming or rejecting migrants of various immigration status.

“That was probably 10 days in December for us,” Ewing said comparing the hundreds Denver was seeing daily in December and January.

PeakNation™ will recall Ewing threw a hissy fit when migrants were bused in from the border and dumped in front of the state Capital without notifying Denver.

“This feels like a cheap shot. It feels intentional. Our shelters are not downtown. They are in different parts of the city but not right downtown. Some are even off of the interstate. All a driver has to do is just take an exit and you drop them right off,” Ewing said.

PeakNation™ also remembers that Denver Mayor Johnston initially demanded \$180 million in taxpayer dollars to cover the cost of Biden’s border busters.

When Biden didn’t give it to him, Johnston instead cut the city’s budget and jobs by \$40 million.

The Gazette reports the cost of free stuff is now expected to crest at \$90 million, which includes the 22,000 bus, plane and train tickets out of here.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/06/18/colorado-90-million-migrant-bill-for-free-computers-phones-6-months-rent-food/>

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

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

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

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

- Builders risk
- Contractors liability
- Workers compensation

Sealed bids must be clearly marked “Roof Coating Bid

The roof is approximately 15,000 square feet

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

2nd coat shall be >= 10 mil thick

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

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

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

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

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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3 Grow older

4 Book after Gospels

5 Transgression

6 Opp. of love

7 Payable

8 Brother of Moses

9 Religious songs

10 Farming club (abbr.)

11 Son of Abraham

13 Brand of cotton tipped sticks

14 South southeast

20 Sketch

22 The ___ is my shepherd

25 Cooking measurement

27 Hearing part

29 ___ of Babel

30 Stomache sore

31 Accountant

32 Scientist's office

33 Loose gown worn at mass

35 Rodent

37 Whiz

38 Remind

39 Noah's ___

44 Abridged (abbr.)

45 Mr. Donahue

46 Great-grandmother of David

47 Western time zone

49 Last letter of Greek alphabet

51 Instruments to guide oxen

52 Wild

53 Black

55 Afloat (2 wds.)

56 Consider equal

57 Words per minute

59 Thy word is a ___ unto my feet

60 Green Gables dweller

62 Extra-sensory perception

64 North northeast

66 Roman three

68 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)

ACROSS

1 Those who make the food laws (abbr.)

4 Fire remains

7 Morse code dash

10 British princess

12 Central Intelligence Agency

13 Wharfs

15 Plague of Egypt

16 Explosive

17 What is agreed on

18 Entire

19 Spots

21 Samuel's mentor

23 Single

24 Sacrificial table

26 Golf tournaments

28 Get out!

30 ___ Major (Big Dipper)

31 Applaud

34 For God so loved the ___

36 Biblical word for You idiot!

40 Chum

41 Football conference

42 Mutt

43 Word meaning father

45 Fisherman disciple

47 Blessed are the ___

48 Danish physicist

50 Carpets

52 Italian physicist

54 Sum

57 Spider's net

58 Annex

60 Expression of surprise

61 Men's neckwear

63 Projection

65 Old Testament city

67 Office furniture

69 What Israelites ate in desert

70 Least amount

71 Parable of the ___ and Goats

72 Caustic substance

73 Pastry

74 Air blower

DOWN

1 Slang term for man

2 Power tool

Puzzle key on page 14

“Fame is like a shaved pig with a greased tail, and it is only after it has slipped through the hands of some thousands that some fellow, by mere chance, holds on to it!” — Davy Crockett

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

Daily reporting and analysis
of current events

from a biblical and prophetic perspective.

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

Illegal Immigration, Crime and the Bible

seems there is headline after headline about the rape, murder and other violent crimes perpetrated by illegal immigrants—not only in America, but in Europe as well. The Biden border security issue is a driving force in the presidential election campaign. In essence, there appears to be no border security. An April 2024 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report estimates that during the two-year time frame from 2020-2022, the “unauthorized immigrant” population grew from 10.5 million to 11.6 million, but admits there is no accurate count available. Likewise, official up-to-date government statistics on illegal immigrant violent crime also are not available. So what is the truth?

First, there is a cost to each taxpayer for illegals entering the country. The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) estimates that there are over 3.000 illegal border crossings per day. FAIR estimates the illegal alien population much higher than DHS at 15.5-16.8 million. FAIR says “illegal aliens and their U.S.-born children impose a net annual cost of \$150.6 billion on American taxpayers as of the beginning of 2023.” Biden’s “catch and release” policy has backlogged immigration court dockets, FAIR says, by 2.1 million, as 66% increase over the last year of the Trump administration, with thousands untraceable due to the policy.

FY 2014 U.S. Sentencing Commission data—which has not been updated according to the USSC website—indicates that of 74,911 sentencing cases, citizens accounted for 43,479 (or 58.0%), illegal immigrants accounted for 27,505 (or 36.7%), legal immigrants made up 3,017 (or 4.0%), and the remainder (about 1%) were cases in which the offender was either extradited or had an unknown status. Illegal immigrants represented 16.8% of drug trafficking cases, 20.0% of kidnapping/hostage taking, 74.1% of drug possession, 12.3% of money laundering, and 12.0% of murder convictions. These statistics underscore that the alleged murder of a San Francisco woman by an illegal alien with a criminal record is no isolated incident, but exacerbated by government refusal to enforce immigration laws.

The federal government’s line, as repeated by the mainstream media, is that US-born citizens are twice as likely to be arrested for violent crimes. Those stats are at least six years old and do not account for convictions.

The Bible is very clear about how to handle immigrants. Exodus 22:21 says, “You shall neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him.” In context, Exodus 12:49 says, “One law shall be to him that is home-born, and unto the foreigner who sojourns among you.” Both are repeated in Numbers and Leviticus. One law for all. In this context it is God’s law, but these people neither want to submit to the laws of the nation or to God’s laws. If they are here illegally, they have broken the law as their first act. Hard as it is, policymakers must address this, otherwise our country is in danger of becoming a lawless society.

Bill Wilson

Sources:

https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/2024_0418_ohss_estimates-of-the-unauthorized-immigrant-population-residing-in-the-united-states-january-2018-january-2022.pdf
<https://www.fairus.org/issue/how-many-illegal-aliens-are-united-states-2023-update>
<https://www.fairus.org/issue/examples-serious-crimes-illegal-aliens>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7768760/>

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Susanne Bowdey,
The Washington Stand

“All I could do was hug her.” That’s what Rita Larsen remembered about last month’s track meet. As a mom, she was powerless. Like so many parents who’ve suffered through this new era of biological men in girls’ sports, she watched her daughter lose to a boy who had no business competing. “She was just bawling,” Larsen (who’s using a pseudonym to talk to reporters) said later. “I could cry right now just thinking about it.”

“She was a high school volleyball player, and she was knocked unconscious by a volleyball that was spiked by a male who identified as a girl...”

Larsen’s daughter was bumped from the Washington State championships in the 400-meter race because a trans-identifying runner knocked her off the second-place podium she needed to move on. The teenage boy, who’s entered races as Davina Brown, Donovan Brown, and now Veronica Garcia, wouldn’t have qualified for men’s varsity with his time, Rita points out — and yet the tournament rules allowed him to rob girls of a trip to state. “He wouldn’t have even made it to districts,” Rita told the Independent Women’s Forum’s Ashley McClure.

And the problem, Larsen wanted people to know, isn’t that he’s identifying as transgender. The problem is that he’s stealing opportunities, records, and trophies that belong to legitimate women. “He can do whatever he wants with his life,” Rita said, “but he’s jeopardizing what these girls work so hard for. My daughter goes to practice every day, runs in the off-season, lifts weights — she never stops running.”

Adding insult to injury, Garcia’s first-place finish didn’t just help him, it gave his high school the extra points they needed to take first place overall. In the crowd, spectators booed when they realized who had won. “It’s hard because you don’t want to make a kid feel bad, but at the same time,” Rita insisted, “this is wrong and needs to stop happening.”

That’s what a busload of women is trying to tell Americans as they travel coast to coast. To mark the 52-year anniversary of Title IX, the policy that should protect girls like Rita Larsen’s, a group of famous athletes, activists, Olympians, and high schoolers is hitting the road to fight for fairness against a Biden administration determined to strip it

from them. Paula Scanlon, who had the unfortunate experience of competing with Lia Thomas at the University of Pennsylvania, is one of the voices on the bus.

“The university told us that our feelings didn’t matter,” she remembers of having Lia as a teammate. “They said that if we objected to undressing with Lia Thomas in the locker room that we needed psychological services. And by the way,” Paula pointed out, “this is not something they made us do once or twice. They made us undress in the locker

off the face of sports and erased by the opposite sex. And fortunately for families like the Larsens, most people are appalled by it. “We’ve had great turnouts in a lot of our events already happening,” Paula explained. “I mean, our bus was also vandalized in North Carolina at the end of last week, so that was definitely a little bit shocking — but not surprising because the other side is relentless.” In response, she insisted, “We fight harder and stronger. So it didn’t stop us. It didn’t make us change our ways at all.”

Celebrities like tennis great Martina Navratilova is taking plenty of hits for joining the tour, which some liberals see as a betrayal of her lesbian identity. One *New York Times* sports writer, Ben Rothenberg, even accused her of “turning this anti-trans crusade into her life’s obsession.” Her “transphobic vitriol” is “nasty and cruel and dehumanizing,” he posted bitterly. “Boo.”

Navratilova took it in stride, dishing it right back at him. “Yet another man telling women what they should care about. And who are you exactly? ... Good to know you care about women’s sports and women’s sex-based spaces. I care.”

From Washington, D.C., the group heads to Virginia Beach and Nashville for rallies, their 12th and 13th stops. The Biden administration wants “sex to be equivalent to gender identity,” Scanlon warned, “meaning any man who identifies as a woman can take away a woman’s athletic or academic scholarship, can be housed in a female only dorm, can use women’s bathrooms and locker rooms. [Every] woman should care about this issue. And this is not just colleges. This is all federally funded education institutions. So this could happen to your children in elementary school and middle school...”

The women did get to celebrate a string of good news on the road, including a series of court rulings that have put a hold on Biden’s radical rewrite of Title IX in 10 states. “This is a huge victory is what this is,” Riley Gaines said on Fox News’s “Varney & Company.” Now these six states ... Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana [have] joined Montana, Idaho, Mississippi, and Louisiana in ultimately saying, ‘We will not comply with Joe Biden’s illegal administrative rewrite of Title IX,’ set to take effect in August. ... I mean, that’s 20% of the states. ... It’s great news. It’s a victory — not just for women and girls,” she pointed out, “but really for humanity here.”

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/commentary/take-back-title-ix-tour-storms-cities-with-team-of-activists-olympians-athletes>

But here we are, a half-century later, watching the accomplishments of America’s daughters literally wiped

If your parents never had children, chances are... neither will you.

Dick Cavett



1776

The Second Amendment Corner

2024



MOLON
LABE

Liberty's Line in the Sand

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

Long Term Security and Defense of Your Retreat Location Part 2 of 2

by MaxVelocityTactical.com

Administration is a key factor. While you are maintaining your defense you need to look after the welfare of the team, equipment and the site itself. Administration is what preppers usually concentrate on. This is your “beans, bullets and band-aids”. This is an area where those that are non-combatants can really pull their weight and make a difference. You must maintain a watch system which will be tied in to ‘stand to’ positions and maybe some form of ‘Quick Reaction Force’ or reserve, depending on the resources and numbers available to you. Your watch system can be augmented by other early warning sensors such as dogs and mechanical or electronic systems. Day to day you will need to keep the machine running and this will be the biggest challenge as time goes on. Complacency Kills! Depending on the extent of your preparations, stores and the resources within your property, this will have a knock-on effect to your ability to remain covert and the requirement to send out foraging patrols. People will also start to get cabin fever, particularly kids, and you will need to consider how to entertain them. Consider that while mundane tasks are being completed, there is always someone on watch. People that are not on watch need to have weapons and ammunition carrying equipment close or on their person while doing other things. Consider carrying long rifles slung as well as handguns everywhere you go on the property, with at least a light bit of web gear with some additional magazines in pouches. Rifles should never be out of your arms reach if there is any kind of threat of attack. You should put rifle racks or hooks/nails on walls in key rooms, out of reach of kids, so

that rifles can be grabbed quickly if the alarm is sounded.

Regarding your noncombatants or protected personnel; what you do with them depends on who they are. The younger kids will need to be protected in the safest location you have. Others will be useful to do tasks such as re-load magazines, distribute water and act as firefighting crews. Note that you need to have fire extinguishers and buckets of water and /or sand available at hand during a defense to put out any fires. The more tasks you give people during a crisis, the more the activity will take their minds off the stress of the situation and the team will be strengthened. Ammunition replenishment, water distribution, casualty collection point, first aid, watching the rear and looking after the younger kids are all examples of tasks that can be allocated to make people a useful part of the team when personnel resources are tight.

For this kind of defensive situation you will be well served by the ability to detect, observe and accurately engage enemy at the longest range possible by day and night. This is easily said, but would take throwing money at it to get all the equipment you need to best do it. In terms of firearms, I would recommend tactical type high capacity magazine rifles for the main work, backed up by handguns and pump action 12 gauge shotguns. The shotguns are good for close work and if the enemy gets into the building, last ditch stuff. Long range hunting type rifles are good for observation (scope) and longer distance engagement. You would be best served with good optics for your weapons and also observation devices such as binoculars. Think about night vision and even thermal imaging if you can afford it. You will also have to consider

that even if you can afford a night vision device, it will only work for whoever has it so how will the rest engage? What type and configuration of these night vision devices, on weapons as sights or not? Without night sights you can fire at muzzle flash or use whatever illumination is available, white light or whatever. A good option is to have parachute illumination flares. Loose barking dogs on your property are perhaps the best low budget early warning system; however consider that they may give away your position if you are trying to be totally covert. Decide on your priorities and strategy and tie that in with what money you have to spend on equipment. You can get expensive systems such as ground sensors, lights and alarms, but these cost money and you have to consider their use in a long term grid down situation. I would prefer to spend money on optics and night observation devices which will last without grid power (but will require batteries) and can also be taken with you if you have to move locations. Here are some basic suggestions for equipment to augment such a defense:

- Appropriate tactical firearms & ammunition
- Web gear and magazines
- Ear and eye protection
- Body armor and helmets, NIJ level IIIa or Level IV
- Barbed wire, coiled (concertina) for low wire entanglements
- Sandbags or other ballistic protection options
- Night vision devices
- Binoculars plus optical rifle sights
- Black out curtain and pre-cut plywood for windows

- Parachute illumination flares
- Trip-flares
- Trauma medical kit including tourniquets
- Range cards
- Two-way radios and/or field telephones

If you have put a group together for such a defense, they need to be trained on not only tactical shooting and basic small unit tactics and movement, but also briefed and rehearsed on the defensive plan including fighting positions and sectors of fire. Consider that depending on your circumstances and the terrain, you may be benefited by running periodic clearance patrols around the property to mitigate against surprise attack, and to do this your team need to be able to patrol and move tactically, as well as respond to any enemy contact. You will preferably have a medic with a trauma bag. You do not want to ever run out of ammunition, so make sure you have as much as you can reasonably purchase. Like tactics, ammunition quantities are a subjective argument with many solutions. I recommend a personal load of six to eight thirty-round magazines on the person, with at least as many full magazines for resupply. And once you have used that, you need another resupply! In a real life contact you will likely use less ammunition than you may during training and you must concentrate on effective accurate fire rather than simple quantity. Train your team to engage positively identified enemy, or suppress known enemy positions. A rapid rate of fire is 30 rounds per minute; a deliberate rate is 10 rounds per minute.

Practice and rehearse the command and fire control procedures at your location, including the communication of enemy lo-

cations and actions. Use range cards to tie in sectors for mutual support and to prevent ‘friendly fire’. Run ‘stand to’ drills like a fire drill by day and by night and be able to call out which direction the enemy threat comes from. Be aware of diversions and demonstrations intended to distract you from the main direction of attack. Always cover all sectors, even with just one observer looking to the flanks and rear in a manpower crisis. Keep unnecessary noise and shouting down, allowing orders and target indications to be passed around the position. Every team member is a sensor and a ‘link man’ to pass on information.

Having said all that, you are not going to open fire on just anyone coming to your location. Any actions that you take should be justifiable as self-defense. Do be mindful of tricks and the potential for snipers. However, don’t give up on morality and charity and don’t illegally open fire on anyone that comes near your defended location. You need to agree on rules of engagement for your sentries and you should apply escalation of force protocols to meet a threat with the proportionate and appropriate force necessary to stop that threat. Have the ability to warn anyone approaching, whether you have permanent warning signs or something like a bullhorn that you use as part of your escalation procedures through warning to non-lethal then lethal force as you begin to identify them as posing a threat. Remember that escalation of force is a continuum, and you can bypass the early stages and go directly to lethal force if taken by surprise and faced with a lethal threat that must be stopped.

Please see: Please see: <https://maxvelocitytactical.com/long-term-security-and-defense-of-your-retreat-location-2/>

Best AR-15 Bolt Carrier Groups (BCG) of 2024

by PewPewTactical.com

A sports car needs a great engine. An awesome AR-15 needs a great bolt carrier group (BCG).

But there are A LOT of choices.

From full-auto to lightweight, different coatings, MPI inspections, and more. It can make you go nuts (the above is probably only a few of my BCGs).

But don’t worry, we’ve got our list of our go-to BCGs.

We’ll cover some of the choices and then our favorites for different purposes and budgets...from mil-spec to lightweight, gas-reduction, and even some builds just for looks.

THE QUICK LIST

- **Best Overall BCG**
BCM Mil-Spec BCG
- **Best Nitride BCG**
Rainier Arms Precision Match Grade BCG
- **Best Nickel Boron BCG**
WMD Nickel Boron BCG
- **Best Bang-for-the-Buck BCG**
Toolcraft Premium 5.56 Nickel Boron BCG
- **Most Affordable BCG**
PSA Mil-Spec Phosphate BCG
- **Best Lightweight BCG**

Walker Defense Ti BCG 5.56/.300 BLK

- **Great Titanium BCG**
Rubber City Armory Titanium BCG
- **Most Affordable Lightweight BCG**
Brownells Lightweight BCG
- **Best for Reducing Gas**
KAK K-Spec BCG
- **Best Adjustable BCG**
Bootleg Adjustable Carrier
- **Tough & Reliable BCG**
Sharps Rifle Co. Xtreme Performance BCG (DLC)

(Editor/GG: Go to the link below for details on each selection.)



Please see: <https://www.pewpewtactical.com/best-ar-15-bcg-bolt-carrier-group/>

Last Resort! Only You Can Ensure Your Personal Protection

by John Farnam,
ammoland.com

Avoidance, vigilance, awareness, deterrence, disengagement, de-escalation.

We emphasize all of the foregoing, but even in combination, they only go so far and collectively fall far short of representing an absolute solution to burgeoning personal security issues that now greatly concern all Americans.

Deadly “Jack-in-the-Box” attacks, carried out by Emotionally Disturbed Persons (EDPs) and other Violent Criminal Actors (VCAs), are now common in metropolitan areas, particularly in blue states.

Conventional criminal motives are often absent. Many innocent victims are thus murdered and maimed but neither kidnapped nor robbed of valuables. Victims are typically ordinary, unsuspecting citizens going about their legitimate daily business.

Adhering to classic advice, such as “avoid bad areas,” is increasingly impossible due to the endless flood of (1) illegal immigrants (including ISIS terrorists, who shouldn’t even be here), (2) EDPs (who should be confined to insane asylums), and (3) Repeat VCAs (who should be confined to prisons), all of whom are now out in public, unsupervised in any way, and actively looking for likely victims.

Survival & Defense Lessons:

1) It is astonishing how many (among the naive) still adhere to the “protection racket” promulgated by leftist politicians (particularly leftist prosecutors), which push the false notion that locking up violent criminals will not reduce violent crime.

2) It is also astonishing how many believe in the “justice-for-victims” myth, particularly in view of the fact that so few violent crimes are actually ever “solved,” fewer VCAs are actually arrested and taken into custody, fewer yet are actually charged with a felony and retained in custody (most are plea-bargained down to misdemeanors and released immediately), fewer yet released VCAs ultimately show-up in court (most never show-up and are never seen again, until they attack their next victim), and fewer yet actually go to prison.

In fact, it is vastly more likely for convicted murderers who have been sentenced to death by the court to die of old age while interminably sitting on “death row” than to genuinely suffer the death penalty.

The universal willingness of leftist prosecutors and judges to immediately release vicious, unrepentant, repeat murderers back into the public carries serious implications for all of us!

3) “Benefits” showered upon crime victims by leftist politicians are only available to you when you’re willing, even eager, to become a victim. Those who don’t want to become crime victims are automatically labeled “vigilantes” or, worse, “racists” and “bigots” by liberals.

4) Leftist politicians (particularly prosecutors and judges), while invariably excusing the actual criminals, will predictably blame and vilify the victims (George Zimmerman, Kyle Rittenhouse), particularly when the victim tries to defend himself in any way, and more particularly when the victim, at last, resorts to deadly force, and most particularly when the victim is prepared, trained, and competent in his use of deadly force!

“Avoidance” is still paramount but being ever-prepared to fight (effectively) for your very life may well become acutely necessary for any of us- in an instant!

We all need to look honestly at what is going on all around us and make appropriate plans to live through it.

To reiterate: many won’t!

“Qui desiderat pacem, praeparet bellum,” a maxim often paraphrased as “Si vis pacem, para bellum.” The sage philosophy that, “When you would have peace, prepare for war.”

The foregoing sentiment is usually attributed to Flavius Vegetius Renatus, who wrote in the “De RE Militari” (390 AD):

“Qui desiderat pacem, bellum praeparat; nemo provocare ne offendere audet quem intelliget superiorem esse pugnaturum” translates to: “Whosoever desires peace prepares for war; no one

provokes, nor dares offend, those whom they know to be superior in battle.”

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/06/only-you-can-ensure-your-personal-protection/#axzz8eN4BiN7g>



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SPIRIT of 1776
 from page 1

unalienable rights intrinsic to our state of being human that are not enumerated in that document.

I would submit that one of those rights is the right to property, including physical property and the products of our minds. Indeed, that right is held so important it IS enumerated in several documents of the time. Another is the right to self-defense and its corollary – the right to keep and bear arms.

America was founded, by intention, on a philosophical construct that all people are created equally with intrinsic rights, and that THEY, not some king, are sovereign. The nation they created was a reflection of that belief.

The governments we’ve voted in place over the centuries since have long grown past the few, limited powers that are discussed in the Declaration and enshrined in the United States Constitution.

Indeed, as author Mark Levin puts it, our country has “...entered the age of post-constitutional soft tyranny...” where “*What was intended to be a relatively innocuous federal government, operating from a defined enumeration of specific grants of power, has become an ever-present and unaccountable force. It is the nation’s largest creditor, debtor, lender, employer, consumer, contractor, grantor, property owner, tenant, insurer, health-care provider, and pension guarantor.*”¹

The government does what it pleases, and if you are not a member of the favored groups or demographics, watch out. As we’ve seen in recent years, government agencies that are supposed to be non-political and non-partisan have been weaponized to persecute the opponents of the party in power. What they are doing to Donald Trump and pro-life activists can easily be done to any of us who dare to oppose the “progressive” elements who are largely running the country.

Different Times

In 1776, before the United States was a country, we were a group of colonies on the Eastern seaboard subject to the English Crown – King George, in fact. The 13 colonies decided to form a Continental Congress to serve as a governing body in an environment of rising tensions with England. The Second Continental Congress was

formed in 1775, after hostilities broke out in Massachusetts. It was the delegates of the Second Continental Congress who determined there was a need to have a document outlining the moral reasons for the rebellion against King George.

Let’s think about the courage of these men. They were engaged in a shooting war with a formidable foe – Great Britain was one of the world’s superpowers at the time. They were hacking a life out of the wilderness with often hostile natives on the fringes.

They did not have access to any of the wonders of modern life, no electricity, no mechanical power for transportation, no internet, no hot and cold running water, no air conditioning.

They existed for the purpose of creating a unified response to the situation with England and to provide overall direction for the colonies, which were themselves governed by duly elected bodies.

And then, just like that, everybody started demanding that government solve all of life’s problems.

The signers of the Declaration were all criminals – in that they had committed treason against their lawful sovereign King George of England. As the great Benjamin Franklin said, “*We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.*”

America was founded, by intention, on a philosophical construct that all people are created equally with intrinsic rights, and that THEY, not some king, are sovereign. The nation they created was a reflection of that belief.

Losing the Spirit

Sadly, over the 248 years since then, we’ve lost that revolutionary spirit. After the trauma of the Civil War which ended the evil of human slavery in the United States, a new movement of thought arose. Grounded in the belief that educated and trained bureaucrats were superior to

elected officials in ordering society and running the government, and influenced by the writings of German philosopher Karl Marx, these “progressives” set about tearing down the founding philosophy and replacing it with their own dystopian vision.

The size, scope, budgets and reach of every single level of government in the United States has grown considerably since the progressives began being elected to office throughout the land. And indeed, the vision of what government is for and what it should do has changed considerably since the late 18th century.

Then, people wanted as little to do with government as possible. National defense is good. Sure, there’s a law enforcement function. Absolutely a need for courts. Yes, a post office is a legitimate function of government according to Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution. But that’s about it. Nobody was interested in paying taxes (indeed the American Revolution started as a revolt against taxes!) and just wanted the government to leave them alone.

People looked first to themselves and their communities to get things done, not to the government. But as the progressive ideology began

to take hold, that changed. Public schools became public indoctrination centers where children were taught that government is good, and if you have a problem it’s the government’s job to fix it.

And then, just like that, everybody started demanding that government solve all of life’s problems. Joe makes more money than Jack? That’s not fair! We’re going to take Joe’s money by force and give it to Jack.

And so we’ve come to the point that government is involved in nearly every aspect of our lives, and not for the better. Because this is the case, government – and who runs the government, both elected and unelected – becomes a very high stakes game indeed.

This is why elections are so nasty, ugly and hard-fought. This is why four of the wealthiest counties in America are the ones surrounding Washington, D.C.

This is why “serving” in elected office over decades can make one very wealthy indeed.

Just for one example, let’s take a look at Senator Charles “Chuck” Schumer (D-NY). According to caclubindia.com, “*After holding the office as a Senator for more than twenty years, Chuck Schumer’s net worth is \$81 million as of 2024. His source of income can be mainly attributed to lobbying and business ventures, say’s Forbes.*” [emphasis mine]

Chuck Schumer Net Worth Breakdown

Net Worth	\$81 Million
Annual Income	\$13 Million
Salary	\$210,000
Other Income	\$9 Million
Real Estate Assets	\$25 Million
Stock Portfolio	\$30 Million

Chuck got rich from investing in real estate “*with the help of a few wealthy real estate tycoons*”, who helped him “...*buy many properties at the right time and at the right place*”.

“*Since 2008, Schumer has invested \$6 million in real estate. The value of these properties is now worth over \$25 million, giving him a 400% return.*”

There’s more, but you get the idea. Bernie Sanders (D) and Elizabeth Warren (D), two of the more obnoxious progressives in the Senate, are also worth millions, **all of it derived from government “service” and book sales (capitalism in action!)**.

Instead of “pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor”, these people are taking advantage of being powerful government officials to enrich themselves and selling the rest of us out in the process.

Recapturing the Dream

As long as there are people who understand and embrace the philosophical foundation of the American Dream, it is never dead. And it is up to those people to reclaim the dream.

How do we do that?

By educating our children in the true history of America, how the world works, and the proper role of government.

By working together (instead of fighting each other) to recruit and support candidates for elected

office who remember the vision of America and who will fight for limited government, low taxes and freedom. By VOTING for these candidates, even when they are not our preferred candidate.

By understanding, and sharing our understanding, that it is not the proper role of government to solve every one of life’s problems. By showing the benefits of our modern life and supporting it. Because it all rests on three pillars,

(Free market capitalism,, Limited government and Fossil fuels) and the Left is busy chipping away at all three. Don’t let them.

By recognizing that government is not your friend, and that the concept of government “benevolence” is a myth – a dangerous one. To quote myself: “*Government is nothing but force with a legal monopoly on the use of force. It is a blunt instrument and is incapable of responding quickly or adapting intelligently. The more power the government has, the less Liberty we have. Our Founders left us a constitutional republic. It’s up to us to reclaim it.*”

In the Spirit of 1776, let us rise up and reclaim our states and our nation from the forces of progressivism, communism, and failure. We owe it to ourselves and future generations.

(Editor/GG: The big government tyrants are right here in Custer County. We must be vigilant.)

Richard D. Turnquist is a “libertarian minded, socially moderate, unapologetic supporter of the unalienable rights described in the Declaration of Independence, enumerated and protected by the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution.” Richard writes articles on limited government, freedom, and the defense of capitalism—along with book reviews and other general topics—at his blog, [To Advance Freedom](#).

Please see https://kimmonson.com/featured_articles/spirit-of-1776/

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SCOTUS Overturns ‘Chevron Defense’ in Massive Blow to ‘Administrative State’

by Tyler Durden, ZeroHedge.com

The Supreme Court has ruled to overturn the so-called ‘Chevron Deference’ dealing a huge blow to the so-called ‘administrative state’.

In an 6-3 decision along ideological lines, the Supreme Court’s conservative majority upended the 40-year administrative law precedent that gave agencies across the federal government leeway to interpret ambiguous laws through rulemaking.

Conservatives and Republican policymakers have long been critical of the doctrine, saying it has contributed to the dramatic growth of government and gives unelected regulators far too much power to make policy by going beyond what Congress intended when it approved various laws. The authority of regulatory agencies has been increasingly questioned by the Supreme Court in recent years.

Those on the other side say the Chevron doctrine empowers an activist federal government to serve the public interest in an increasingly complicated world without having to seek specific congressional authorization for everything that needs to be done.

As The Hill reports, judges previously had to defer to agencies in cases where the law is ambiguous.

Now, judges will substitute their own best interpretation of the law, instead of deferring to the agencies - effectively making it easier to overturn regulations that govern wide-ranging aspects of American life.

This includes rules governing toxic chemicals, drugs and medicine, climate change, artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and more.

The move hands a major victory to conservative and anti-regulatory interests that have looked to eliminate the precedent as part of a broader attack on the growing size of the “administrative state.”

The Biden administration defended the precedent before the high court.

As Mark Joseph Stern writes on X:

“Today’s ruling is a massive blow to the ‘administrative state’, the collection of federal agencies that enforce laws involving the environment, food and drug safety, workers’ rights, education, civil liberties, energy policy—the list is nearly endless.”

“The Supreme Court’s reversal of Chevron constitutes a major transfer of power from the executive branch to the judiciary, stripping federal agencies of significant discretion to interpret and enforce ambiguous regulations.”

Chief Justice Roberts, writing the opinion of the court, argued Chevron “defies the command of” the Administrative Procedure Act, which governs federal administrative agencies.

He said it “requires a court to ignore, not follow, the reading the court would have reached had it exercised its independent judgment as required by the APA.”

Held: The Administrative Procedure Act requires courts to exercise their independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority, and courts may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous; *Chevron* is overruled. Pp. 7–35.

Further, he said it “is misguided” because “agencies have no special competence in resolving statutory ambiguities. Courts do.”

The liberals on the court are not happy:

“In dissent, Justice Kagan says the conservative supermajority “disdains restraint, and grasps for power,”

making “a laughingstock” of stare decisis and producing “large-scale disruption” throughout the entire government. She is both furious and terrified.”

As Stern concludes:

“Hard to overstate the impact of this seismic shift.”

Simply put, a massive win for the Constitution...

A huge victory to check the administrative state, and restore the balance of power USA founders intended.

The decision comes one day after the



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OPT OUT
from page 15

Douglas County Commissioners enacted the opt-out back in May, citing the long American tradition of the ability to protect oneself.

“I’m very critical of this new state law,” said Commissioner George Teal in a press release. “We are a nation that was built on the principle of the right to keep and bear arms.”

Fellow commissioner Abe Laydon called Douglas County a “constitutional county.”

“Douglas County’s opting out of the requirements of the onerous SB24-131 allows visitors to county facilities and properties the ability to protect themselves as they choose,” added Commissioner Lora Thomas.

The resolution, however, only affects county buildings and spaces. Municipalities within Douglas County will still be bound by the law unless they also opt out, which it appears at least one community plans on doing.

At its first meeting in June, the Castle Rock Town Council passed an “emergency ordinance” blocking the restrictions.

Other municipalities known to have passed similar resolutions include Monument and Palmer Lake in El Paso County.

Opt-out grows

Weld County is currently in the process of opting out as well, said Weld County Commissioner Chairman Kevin Ross.

First reading was June 10th, where it passed unanimously with some discussion on whether to include the word “property,” which would include the county jail. Currently the sheriff does not allow the public or any one other than certified officers to carry.

Weld County attorney Bruce Barker told the commissioners that in the end, the keeper of the jail is Sheriff Steve Reams.

“If he says yeah, bring your weapons in, OK, you can do it,” Barker said. “If he says no, you can’t bring weapons in.”

Third and final reading is scheduled for the commission’s July 8th meeting.

Although city staff has recommended against it, the City of Westminster in the north metro-Denver area is also considering opting out. The debate was initially scheduled for the June 24th

meeting but was pulled from the agenda and placed on a future schedule.

That didn’t stop the usual testimony of members of Mom’s Demand Action, a radical gun control group funded in part by New York Billionaire Michael Bloomberg, who often mobilize in communities where gun restrictions may be lifted or repealed.

Kathy Kelly, a volunteer with the local chapter spoke out during the public comment section of the meeting, telling the council that while “some” concealed carry holders are trained, “many concealed carry members have not yet, even had to demonstrate capability with a gun, other than to load the gun itself.”

“It is a misconception that if you are a concealed carry (permit holder) you are more trained,” Kelly continued, adding the contentiousness in political meetings is ripe for violence and the law passed by Colorado necessary to ensure everyone’s safety.

Kelly’s remarks are not accurate by any account. Colorado’s conceal carry laws require the applicant, among other requirements, to demonstrate competency by completing a CHP course that includes every

thing from firearm safety rules, firearm handling, safe storage, and transportation to situational awareness, firearm maintenance, legal use of force, and CHP responsibility, among other topics.

In fact, data compiled by Second Amendment scholar David Kopel shows that concealed carry permit holders are actually more law abiding than the public at large,

This isn’t the first time Westminster has been divided over gun rights. In June 2021, the council opted not pass a gun violence awareness proclamation that was presented by Mom’s Demand Action, causing controversy in the community.

Westminster will bring the topic back before the full council on July 8th. Complete Colorado will continue to follow its progress and any other communities that may opt out as well.

(Editor/GG: Proudly, our county commissioners opted out two weeks ago.)

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2024/07/02/local-governments-opting-out-of-sensitive-spaces-gun-ban-as-new-law-goes-into-effect/>

When Cain killed Abel with a rock, God did not confiscate all the rocks. God blamed Cain , not the rock.



Saw the Debate.

