

TRUMP SHOOTING CLARIFIES THE AMERICA WE HAVE NOW

by Mark Tapson,
FrontPageMag.com

We all knew this was coming.

Saturday’s assassination attempt on the once and future president Donald Trump, while shocking, came as no surprise to anyone who has been paying attention to politics over the last eight years. For all that time, the Left has been indefatigable in the demonization of their hated opponent as A Threat to Democracy™ of Hitlerian proportions. The hysterical fear-mongering about the “fascist” Trump from mainstream media talking heads like John McWhorter (who recently suggested it would be a good thing if someone were to assassinate the former President), from race hustlers like Al Sharpton, and from Trump-deranged Dem leaders like Maxine Waters has been relentless.

Just last month, the left-wing *New Republic* depicted Trump on its

cover with a Hitler mustache and hairstyle. The article’s tag line – “Why waste time debating the extent of Trump’s fascism when we ought to be fighting it instead?” – reflects that the Left has abandoned debate and dialogue, and is urging a sort of “by any means necessary” direct action to stop the Trump juggernaut.

Well, last Saturday all the inciting rhetoric nearly paid off for the Left, as an assassin’s bullet came within millimeters of killing Trump on live television at a Pennsylvania rally. Instead, the President, bloodied but unbowed, popped back up and waved a triumphant fist in the air, calling for his supporters to “Fight!” It was a moment of iconic, historic significance, captured for posterity by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Evan Vucci (who will no doubt pick up another Pulitzer for his photo).

But what does this moment mean for America now? This was a



watershed moment that clarifies exactly what is at stake and where the opposing sides stand. How will we – or can we – go forward after this? Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson said the attempt on Trump’s life “can turn into a moment of healing and unity” for the country if Americans “realize what is at stake.”

That is a hopeful sentiment but tragically, this won’t be a moment of healing and unity. This is not the America of Ronald Reagan’s time,

which largely came together in the wake of the attempt on his life in 1981. As I wrote recently, we now occupy an America irrevocably divided between MAGA patriots who love this country and a political opposition that wants us literally dead and gone. Saturday’s assassination attempt is simply further confirmation that we are already engaged in a hot civil war.

Hours after the shooting, I spoke with a good friend, a political conservative, who still lives in the Southern California I left eight months ago. She told me that after the assassination attempt she went to Catholic mass, where she was greeted by a casual acquaintance who asked how she was. My friend told him she was shaken by the Trump shooting. Instead of commiserating about the shocking incident, he simply looked at her and said, “Trump is the Antichrist.”

AMERICA
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SHERIFFS PROGRESS REPORT Eighteen Months Achievements

by Fred Hernandez

It has happened many times here in Custer County. The call comes in from 911 to the Sheriff’s Office. There is an incident in progress usually misidentified as domestic violence. Deputies roll out to the address and find a young man of say, twenty-five years of age, in almost uncontrolled rage. The deputies subdue the subject, hand cuff him and take him into custody. After the initial investigation, it turns out he was having an argument with his father or some other relative. It turns out that the young man is a depressive, or maybe an autistic registering low on the scale, or some other mental challenge that poses no real threat at violence. Clearly this situation is not simply a police matter but rather a healthcare issue. And there have been many, many such cases here and around the country.

In a recent “Coffee With A Cop” session at the local library hosted by the Sheriff, the public learned of the many innovative procedures and systems adopted to improve the overall efficiency, effectiveness and professionalism of the Sheriff’s Office. One of the most important is a new look at the issues related to mental, and other, healthcare situations. Even before he was elected Sheriff of Custer County, Rich Smith has always

been passionately committed to improving law enforcement-based behavioral healthcare.

One of the signal accomplishments in his new administration is successfully addressing this all-important issue with the welcome addition of professionals Dr. G. Thomas Manzione, PhD. and Jaclyn Manzione, M.S. to the Sheriff’s team. Dr. Manzione is a Licensed Professional Counselor, certified addiction specialist, nationally certified addiction counselor and a certified equine specialist. He possesses the special training and skills that enables him to assess the mental health of clients and address, as necessary, cognitive, psychological and behavioral disorders using an extensive range of therapy techniques. The icing on the cake, so to speak, is that Dr. Manzione is a Colorado POST-certified law enforcement officer. This combination, healthcare professional and law enforcement officer, makes him highly effective in responding to calls involving those with mental or behavioral issues.

Jaclyn Manzione is a retired medical professional who now practices as a registered psychotherapist. She is also an equine Gestaltist, the German word for which there is no

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Westcliffe Proposing Massive Low Income Housing Project Citizens Outraged

by Laura Vass

The July 10 Westcliffe Planning Commission Meeting began after 3 p.m. with a call to order and Pledge of Allegiance. Due to the number of citizens in attendance, those who were not property owners of the properties being discussed or more than 200 ft. from the properties effected, were asked to sit in ‘overflow’. Eventually, as people straggled in, the list of attendees was read. There were about 60 people attending, and some did not get on the list before it was submitted to the committee. (Several attendees expressed that the overflow, where the meetings are transmitted to a TV screen on the wall, is not well ventilated. The audio is usually bad. Either too loud or not loud enough. The video only shows one part of the room, front and center, where either the mayor or the committee chair are sitting. If anyone else speaks they cannot be seen, only heard. This makes the meetings very uncomfortable and barely audible for the majority of the attendees.)

Present were Chairman Christie Patterson, Mayor Wenke, Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Lund, Mr. Fulton, and

Town Manager Caleb Patterson. Also present was Charles (Chuck) Jager who recently moved from the Planning Commission to the Town Trustees Board. He is also on the RMWPD board.

The scheduled **Public Hearing** was the main topic of the day: Possible rezoning of blocks: 17&18, 19&20, 33&34, and Town owned lots to Multi-family District (MFD). Planning Commission (PC) Chair, Christie Patterson notified the citizens that the meeting in the public was to hear possible changes and the Planning Commission is there to make recommendations to the Town Board. The Planning Committee is not part of the decision-making process.

Chair Christie Patterson said there’s some misinformation out there. What is being discussed here today is the State Proposition 123, which is being implemented by The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to help get affordable housing communities through low interest loans. The funds are available to nonprofits,

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But my God shall
supply all your need
according to his riches
in glory by Christ
Jesus.
Philippians 4:19 KJV

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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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Beware: Ranked-choice Voting is a Trojan Horse

EDITOR NOTE: Deadlines
for Petitions for BALLOT
Propositions are nearly here!
Come by and Sign Mon-Wedn
or FRIDAY 9 to noon

by Mike Rosen,
Complete Colorado
Page Two — Opinion

In the last hours of the 2024 Colorado legislative session, a group of county clerks crafted an amendment to Senate Bill 24-210 to temper the rush-to-judgment of a November ballot initiative that would impose statewide ranked-choice voting (RCV). They were concerned about public confusion over RCV, added costs, errors, and long delays in tabulating results. When the amendment passed, a coalition of leftist groups supporting the initiative threw a fit, claiming: "The bill's transparent attempt to frustrate and invalidate the will of the people as expressed through the citizens' initiative process is an affront to the people of Colorado and the system of checks and balances that govern it."

Whew, what hyperbole! All the amendment did was delay statewide implementation of RCV pending a series of 12 municipal pilot trials. Why the desperate haste of RCV activists?

This initiative is an RCV hybrid, a so-called "final-four plurality" with two phases. Party primaries for governor, other statewide ex-

ecutive offices, state legislature, and congress would be eliminated. Instead, candidates for those posts would run in a single open primary, regardless of party affiliation, with the four that get the most votes for each post advancing to the general election, the second phase, that would employ ranked-choice voting. On a grid-style ballot, rather than voting for just one candidate you'd vote for one or more candidates ranked in order of your preference (1, 2, 3, 4). A candidate that gets a majority of that vote for any position wins election immediately. If no candidate gets a majority, a second-round tabulation eliminates the candidate that got the fewest votes in the first round. The votes of the people who voted for that losing candidate as their first choice are then redistributed to the candidate they had selected as their second choice. If that doesn't produce a majority winner the process continues in the same manner for as many rounds as necessary to produce a majority winner.

Are your eyes glazing over yet? I'll be voting against it.

RCV formats differ from state to state, and some are even worse. Like another where you're forced to rank all the candidates in numerical order. If you fail to do so — either by accident or design, perhaps because you despise a candidate or a particular political party — your ballot can be trashed. For instance, on a ballot that included

candidates from the Green Party, Socialist Worker's Party, or Communist Party U.S.A., I wouldn't rank any of those given the possibility that the system would actually cast my vote for one of them in a later round. If, on principle, I vote solely for my preferred Republican candidate who then gets eliminated, my ballot is deemed "exhausted" and trashed as if I had never voted at all.

Under RCV, winning candidates are often elected with considerably less than a majority of all the votes originally cast. For example, in the first round of Alaska's special congressional election in 2022, Republican candidates got 60% of the total vote. However, after 15,000 ballots were trashed in a succeeding round (including 11,000 from those who voted for one Republican and no one else) a Democrat won by only 5,000 votes.

RCV activists claim their convoluted voting schemes will hamper radical candidates and produce more moderate elected officials. Their definition of "radical" or "moderate" is dubious given the dominance of liberals and Democrats in the national RCV movement. Like FairVote, a left-wing Maryland think tank financed by the likes of America-hating socialist George Soros and the Tides Foundation, a clearing house that notoriously launders money to far-left causes from donors that don't want to be publicly linked to them.

Leading the RCV initiative in Colorado and nationally is Unite America, a group that feigns bi-partisanship but is dominated and funded by deep-pocket Democrats like Charles Wheelen and Kathryn Mordoch. Three former members of Congress on its board include two Democrats and one Republican, Carlos Curbelo, who was ranked as the most liberal Republican in Congress by the American Conservative Union.

RCV is vulnerable to organized electoral manipulation, gaming the system. Something Democrats excel at as demonstrated by their deceitful harvesting of votes at retirement homes and their unethical campaign ads subversively supporting the most unelectable candidates in Republican Party primaries. In a few cases, RCV might aid a Colorado Republican candidate but it's no coincidence that its support here is overwhelmingly from those on the left who would love to make our now Democrat one-party state even more so. At least 10 Republican states have already revoked or banned it.

Longtime KOA radio talk host and columnist for the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News Mike Rosen now writes for CompleteColorado.com.

Please see <https://pagetwo.com-pletecolorado.com/2024/07/08/rosen-beware-the-ranked-choice-voting-trojan-horse/>

Petition Time, Folks!

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



Come to the Sentinel

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

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

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

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Wet Mountain Valley 2024 PRCA/WPRA Stampede Rodeo

Press Release

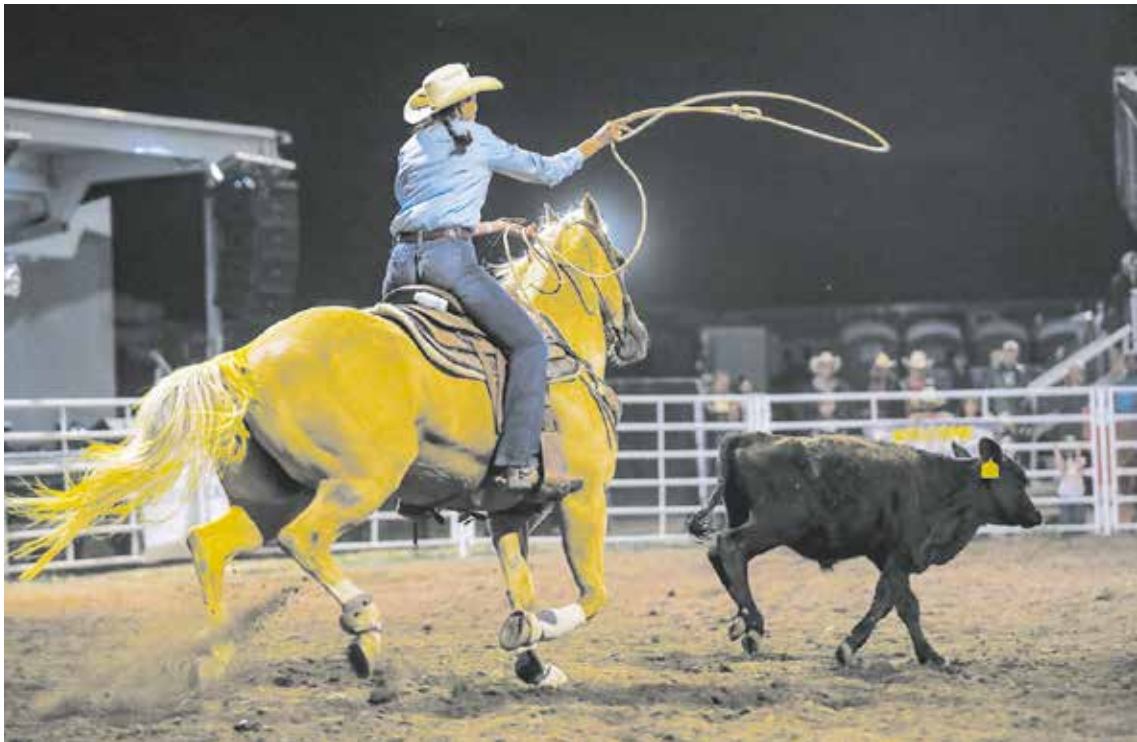
We Kicked off our celebration of the ranching way of life and Rodeo Weekend Thursday evening with our Ranch Rodeo at the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club located at 90 CR 241 in Westcliffe.

The Wet Mountain Valley PRCA/WPRA Stampede Rodeo is this Friday and Saturday. Gates open at 3 p.m. with the Grand Entry beginning at 6 p.m. The entry fee

is \$35 per person, \$30 for active military and veterans, children 10 and under are free. For advance tickets, please visit our website wmvsc.com, rodeoticket.com or one of our local partners: Antlers Liquor, Candy's Coffee, The Liquor Cabinet, The County Store, Salty Pine or Silver Cliff Mountain Inn and Restaurant. Three of our Kids events will start off the fun with Mutton Bustin, Mini Bronc and Steer Riding! Be there to cheer on

our little cowboys and cowgirls. Our professional cowgirls and cowboys continue with all your favorite Rodeo events!

We have made additional investments this year to ensure the best and safest Rodeo possible. We have added additional seating, expanded our food and specialty vendor areas, taken additional measures to keep people safe, put in a Sponsor lounge and reserved sponsor seating and enhanced our



focus on the spectator and contestant experience. As always, we are looking for more volunteers and would appreciate anyone who could lend a hand. This year we will have a volunteer event in August to provide a special thanks to the folks who make the experience happen! If you are interested, please visit the sign up genius link on our website wmvsc.com.

In addition to the professional cowboys and cowgirls who will compete in this year's Rodeo, we also have Rider and Bethany Keisner as our specialty acts, Rider is a multiple time World Championship Trick roper and

gun spinner, Bethany is well known for her trick riding and showmanship. They will be there to stun the crowd with their incredible skills. At the conclusion of each Rodeo performance, we will have live entertainment. This year our band Friday evening is local favorite Tripple Nickel. Saturday evening features recording artist and highway find Clare Dunn. And of course, don't forget our Rodeo parade Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Please line the streets to support the Ranching way of life, our incredible contestants, the Stampede Royalty lead by our Queen Paige Lorenzan and our outstanding sponsors.

Barb Beckner
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2024 WMVSC Stampede Rodeo Royalty



Miss Stampede - Donna Fern, Queen - Paige Lorenzen, Princess - Sarah McPherson
Photo credit: Sagebrush Souls Photography

Press Release

The Wet Mountain Valley Rodeo Royalty is so excited for the rodeo this weekend and want to invite you to come to any of the remaining two performances, July 19 and 20 at Wet Mountain Stampede PRCA Rodeos, both at 6 p.m.

2024 Queen, Paige Lorenzen, has been working hard attending local events as well as visiting other PRCA rodeos all around the state this summer, making new connections and spreading the word about our local PRCA Wet Mountain Valley Stampede. She has done a fantastic job representing our rodeo and we are so proud of the person she has grown into over this last year.

You may have seen any of the girls, Paige Lorenzen (Queen), Donna Fern (Miss Stampede), or Sarah McPherson (Princess) at the parades this summer or Saddle Club work days, where they volunteered to help spiff up the rodeo grounds before the big event this weekend. These girls are all hard workers and add so much enthusiasm to the space they are in. They have all done an amazing job representing our program.

Paige Lorenzen (2024 Wet Mountain Valley Stampede Queen)

She is 19-year-old daughter of Tim and Charity Lorenzen. Currently Paige is attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado and she intends to get her bachelors degree in Livestock Business Management. She enjoys spending her summers on a horse or making coffee at Peregrine Coffee Roasters!

Donna Fern (2024 Wet Mountain Valley Miss Stampede)

Hi, I'm Donna Fern. I am 15 years old. I am proud to be serving in the Wet Mountain Valley Stampede as Miss Stampede. I am getting started in the horse training business as well as in the Pueblo Wranglers 4-H group. I've been showing horses in 4-H for 4 years and am a proud member of NRHA.

Sarah McPherson (2024 Wet Mountain Valley Stampede Princess)

My name is Sarah McPherson. I am nine years old and in fourth grade at Rye Elementary School. I am a member of 4H and Southern Colorado Horseman's association. I absolutely love everything about horses and rodeo. So I am honored and excited to be your 2024 Wet Mountain Valley Stampede Princess!

CUSTER COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE

REMAINING EVENTS	Showmanship	Cowboy Church Steak
Friday, July 19, 2024	6 pm: PRCA Westcliffe Stampede Rodeo	Dinner
8 am - 9 am: Custer County Cattlewomen Beef Breakfast		12 pm: Awards and Buckle Ceremony
9 am: 4-H and FFA Beef Show	Saturday, July 20, 2024	1 pm: 4-H and FFA Livestock Auction
12 pm: Master	10 am: Rodeo Parade - Downtown	6 pm: PRCA Westcliffe Stampede Rodeo
	11 am: Sangre de Cristo	

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"We the People" Speak

Letters to the Editor

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

Republican Nat’l Convention Trump Picks Senator J.D. Vance as Vice Presidential Candidate

By Donald Trump,
TruthSocial.com

After lengthly and deliberation and thought, and considering the tremendous talents of many others, I have decided that the person best suited to assume the position of Vice President of the United States is Senator J.D. Vance of the Great State of Ohio. J.D. honorably served our Country in the Marine

Corps, graduated from Ohio State University in two years, Summa Cum Laude, and is a *Yale Law School Graduate*, where he was Editor of The Yale Law Journal, and President of the Yale Law Veterans Association. J.D.’s book, *“Hillbilly Elegy,”* became a Major Best Seller and Movie, as it championed the hardworking men and women of our Country. J.D. has had a very

successful business career in Technology and Finance, and now, during the Campaign, will be strongly focused on the people he fought so brilliantly for, the American Workers and Farmers in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota, and far beyond....

Please see: <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/112792061935980928>

Library to Host Artificial Intelligence Class

Press Release

Jordan Benson will teach an Artificial Intelligence(AI) class at the West Custer County Library on Tuesday, July 30th at 5 p.m. Benson will cover:

- What is AI
- Types of AI
- Dispelling myths and fears of AI

- Using AI in everyday life
- Hands-on with AI tools
- Q & A

Jordan has been working in the technology field for 20 years. He enjoys research and learning from it. For more information on free library events visit www.westcusterlibrary.org or call 719-783-9138.

Law and Order ? Does anybody go to Jail?

Dear Editor;

Wow! I read the court report in the July, 12th edition. I just gotta say, nothing would deter me from getting drunk with a gun and driving drunk, like receiving a “suspended” jail sentence or even a “suspended” fine. (Really?) Three people were able to walk with that? How bout this: Restraining Order violation? Oh my, thrown in jail to sober up overnight and

then, horror of horrors, \$26 dollar fine? Lesson learned, I’m sure. That’ll never happen again. I love it when someone is arrested, and the perp gets out on his “own recognizance” and released B4 the deputy even can finish his shift.

Happily and Thankfully sober for 41 years plus and thanks for letting me rant.

Frank Searight,
Silver Cliff

I was married by a judge.
I should have asked for a jury.

Groucho Marx

Lynn Attebery Running for Commissioner

I just found out that Lynn Attebery is running as a write-in candidate to replace Kevin Day as County Commissioner. He has my vote! A feeling of relief washed over me when I heard. He cares for our county very much. That could be seen at every turn when he was our County Commissioner a few years ago. His experience

would be a great bonus for Custer County. And, he understands very well that We the People have the right to have our voice heard.

Thank you, Lynn
Linda Anderson,
Rural Custer County

Lynn Attebery Announces Candidacy for County Commissioner District 2

Press Release

Lynn Attebery announces candidacy for County Commissioner District 2.

Earlier this month, Lynn Attebery announced his candidacy for County Commissioner District 2, running against Kevin Day and Paul Vogelsson, as a write-in candidate for the November 5, 2024 general election.

Lynn, a 40 year Custer County resident, has served 2 terms as a county commissioner, served on the county Planning and Zoning Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, and the State Tourism &

Film Commission, representing Custer County. Lynn has stated; I stand for all the people of the county. I am active in this community, focusing on community- led solutions, self sufficiency and neighbors helping neighbors. The people I know and meet do have economic concerns and struggles, and are concerned about the fiscal health of our county budget. The county commissioners are fiscally responsible to the taxpayers and must have a balanced budget, making sure all the departments are funded appropriately. I will not take the responsibility and commitment the job requires

lightly, or for granted. I value solid business skills and well managed resources which are both needed to be an effective representative of the county. I strongly believe in communication at all levels of leadership and the need for checks-and-balances to be in place and utilized to ensure accountability. With your support, it will be a privilege to represent you, the citizens of the county. Remember, All Custer voters vote for all commissioner seats, no matter what district they live in.

Please contact Lynn with any questions you may have, 719- 783-2227.

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Custer Senior Center Menu

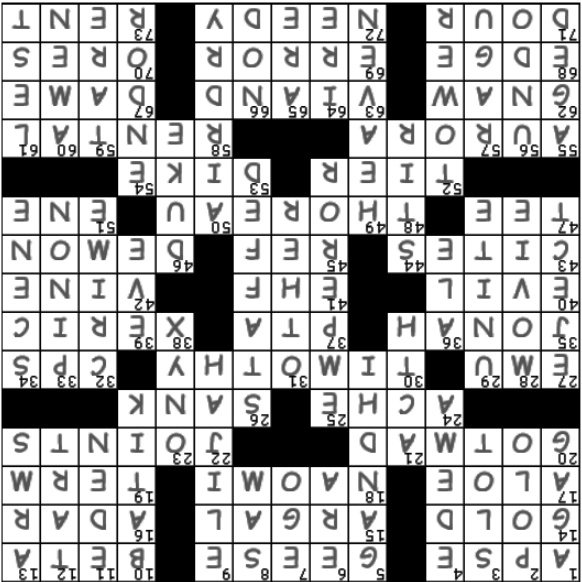
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Cottage Cheese
Spinach Salad w/Mandarin Oranges
Pasta Salad w/Chickpeas &
Sunnies
Apple
Rye Bread w/Butter

Tuesday, July 23
#73 Roast Chicken
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3rd Street Gallery 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe

Friday-Saturday, July 12-20
Custer County Fair @ Fairgrounds on CR 241 off Hwy 69 N see page 8 for 'clip and save' schedule

Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m.
Rodeo Parade on Main Street

Friday-Saturday, July 19 & 20, 6 p.m. \$\$
PRCA & WPRA Rodeo More Info Page 3

Friday- Saturday July 19 & 20, 10 p.m. \$\$
Rodeo Concerts More Info Page 3

Saturday, July 27, 2 - 5 p.m.
Christmas in July Fundraising Event
Eagles Summit Ranch
83333 CR 271, Westcliffe

Tuesday, August 6, 5 to 7 p.m. FREE
Custer County National Night Out
Hermit Park, Westcliffe

Friday-Saturday, August 9 and 10
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Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

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The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.

Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS

Friday, July 19, 2024

Crown of Thorns Starfish

I was going to write about Starfish. Upon researching I found a star fish that looked very interesting, the Crown of Thorns Starfish. So, get your waders on as we go to research the Crown of Thorns Starfish.

I did not know but there are over 2,000 species of starfish, and they come in all sizes, shapes and colors. Their most noticeable characteristic is their arms. Many sea star species have five arms, but some, like the sun star, can have up to 40.



Crown of Thorns Starfish, also called COTS, is the second largest starfish in the world, reaching a width of 3.2 feet. An adult can have seven to 23 arms. It has eyes on its limbs and a sophisticated visual system. This creature moves at one foot per minute and it gets its name from the poisonous spine-like thorns that covers its body, which resemble the crown of thorns worn by Jesus. These spines can be up to two inches long and their spines can be colored red, yellow, blue and brown.

This starfish usually eat the polyps of hard, relatively fast-growing stony corals, such as Staghorn corals. They feed by extruding their stomach out of their bodies and onto the coral reef and then using enzymes to digest the coral polyps. This can take hours to accomplish.

They are found in lagoons and deep, relatively undisturbed water. They are a tropical species and so they can be found in the Indo-Pacific Region, including the Red Sea, South Pacific, Japan and Australia. In the U.S., they are found in Hawaii. The Crown of Thorns starfish are a significant threat to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. While they are a native species, they eat large quantities of coral and can cause irreparable damage to the reef if left unchecked.

If you are out snorkeling use care. Their spines are sharp enough to create a puncture wound (even through a wet suit) and they contain a venom that can cause pain, nausea and vomiting.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.animalspot.net/crown-of-thorns-starfish.html>, <https://www.thoughtco.com/crown-of-thorns-starfish-2291456>, <https://oceaninfo.com/animals/crown-of-thorns/>. <https://www.barrierreef.org/news/explainers/what-are-crown-of-thorns-starfish>, Photo: <https://www.thoughtco.com/>

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Jesus said to his Disciples the evening of betrayal,

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 b NKJV

A Little Nostalgia WMC Saddle Club 2023 Improvements to the Rodeo Grounds

Press Release

The sponsors were excited because the WMVSC had set a new standard for the event with a Jumbo Tron. When it comes to the thrill of experiencing a rodeo event, there is nothing like the rodeo experience on a large screen with the sponsors logo for everyone to see. The Jumbo Tron screen displays that up-close and detailed view of the action, ensuring that no moment is missed. Whether it’s showcasing the replays,

close-ups of the riders and animals, or the informative graphics created for the sponsors, a Jumbo Tron can take the excitement of a rodeo to the next level.

The new seating was added in 2023, and one week before the rodeo it was ready for action! The added seats were a welcoming change to previous attendees and with the Jumbo Tron there was not a bad seat in the house. The WMVSC investment in the added seating and the Jumbo Tron has also

improved accessibility and inclusivity for fans of all ages and abilities. The new seating offers designated seating for individuals with disabilities, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the excitement of the rodeo in a safe and comfortable environment. Additionally, the Jumbo Tron provides a visual aid for those who may have difficulty seeing the action. Yet, even with the added seating the Wet Mountain Valley Stampede Rodeo in 2023 there was once again “Standing Room Only”!

At the Rodeo

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F	A	J	S	P	Y	D	B	B	V	G	N	S	J
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C	R	C	N	J	O	T	L	E	Y	N	E	P	E
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O	H	M	N	C	Y	L	U	P	I	L	X	K	C
S	V	C	O	K	O	P	O	E	M	E	X	T	H
H	A	Z	E	R	P	N	R	W	E	R	S	T	E
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BOCC: Sheriff's Office Report, Zoning Permits Picking Up, First "Assisted Suicide" in Happy Valley

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The July 10, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting started at 9 a.m. in their throne room across from the county courthouse. All three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day.

Elected Officials Reports were first up with Sheriff Rich Smith giving his report. With regards to staffing, Smith noted that he is down one detention deputy and also one patrol deputy. He said there are about 100 open law enforcement positions open in the surrounding counties and recruiting is tough. Smith said Metro Denver LEO portions start around \$100k which is substantially more than our starting salary.

Smith said he had met with the presumed new 11th District District Attorney and that the new DA wants to create a technology position in the DA's Office to better handle discovery. Smith went on to describe the somewhat less than stellar condition of the Sheriff's Office (SO) vehicle fleet and that there is a need for new vehicles. Smith also mentioned that the SO has made some changes to their shooting range to increase safety.

Smith then talked about the depart-

ment's Four-Year Plan. With regard to being part of the centralized dispatching system in Cañon City (FRECOM), their new computer system installation has issues and that is affecting some of our actions here in Custer County. Smith then talked about him setting up a new Sheriff's Office Citizens Advisory Board and that he is currently looking for members to join.

With regards to the Oak Ridge Fire, Smith said, "We dodged the bullet." Good weather, lack of wind, and a huge personnel commitment by the Feds (around 700 people working the fire) allowed them to keep it under control. Smith estimated that over \$20 million had been spent so far fighting the blaze.

The Coroner's Report was given by our Coroner Brad Baltzly. He said he was under budget so far this year. Baltzly noted that the County had, so far this year, six natural deaths, one suicide, and no homicides. He said that they had one "assisted death" this year. Baltzly said that this was legal now in Colorado after the Denver libs changed the law three years ago. Baltzly also announced that he was elected to the Board of the State Coroner's Association and that he was also elected to be the Association's Treasurer.

In Staff Reports, Planning & Zoning

noted that permit issuance was picking up. There were 16 septic permits issued in June and 12 dwelling permits. There were 55 septic permits issued year-to-date. It was noted that there were a lot of non-compliance issues and that there are seven illegal short-term rentals in the county.

The Landfill Report stated that the compactor was still broken but the new one will be here in a few months.

OEM talked about grants, grants, grants.

Dominic Edginton, Veterans Service Officer, gave that office's report. He had 56 scheduled appointments in June and 20 walk-ins. He said he has filed 223 VA claims since he came on board last year and total compensation he has garnered for our Vets is \$1.4 million! (Dominic is a whirlwind of activity regarding our veterans with him holding numerous events and attending a bunch more. God Bless this guy.)

Under New Business:

Redlands Accounting Contract: Month to month to be (kind of) Finance Director through the end of the year at \$5k a month. She reconciles on a monthly basis. This passes.

And that was that. Another day in Happy Valley.

AMERICA from page 1

This is the America we have now, divided between Americans who found the near-murder of a presidential candidate profoundly disturbing and Americans who are disappointed the shooter didn't blow Donald Trump's head open. A nation polarized so radically cannot sustain itself. "Like matter and anti-matter," I have previously written, "progressivism and the kind of liberal democracy conservatives stand for cannot exist in the same space. As the tag line from the movie "Highlander" says, There can be only one."

To cite just one of many other similar examples, Democrat Rep. Bennie Thompson had to fire a staffer, Jacqueline Marsaw, on Sunday for a Facebook post in which she lamented, "I don't condone violence but please get you some shooting lessons so you don't miss next time oops that wasn't me talking." Thompson, you will recall, was the Congressman who had spearheaded a failed bill to deny Trump Secret Service protection.

Speaking of which: for believers, it is hard not to see the hand of God at work in the failure of the assassination. The shooter was positioned barely 150 yards away with a clear line of sight to the former President onstage. As one Israeli Special Operations veteran

later told Fox News, at that distance, the shot was "a putt" anyone could make, and had Trump not turned his head to just the slight degree he did at the sound of the gunshot, "it would have been lights out."

God apparently did what the DEI-sapped Secret Service team couldn't, which is protect this flawed sinner from death at the hands of an assassin (who was subsequently "neutralized" but not before killing a father in the stands who heroically shielded his daughter from harm, and critically wounding two other Trump supporters. The Secret Service itself now is coming under fire for suspicious negligence – but that's a topic for another day). Trump himself wrote in a statement released on Sunday, "Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers yesterday, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening."

Then, in language that reads like something straight from the pen of George Washington, he added,

We will FEAR NOT, but instead remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness. Our love goes out to the other victims and their families. We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed. In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand

United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win. I truly love our Country, and love you all, and look forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin.

Whatever reservations some conservatives like myself (and I'm not referring to the morally repugnant Never Trumpers) may have expressed about Trump's effectiveness as a President, there is no question that he does truly love our country and is willing to fight and die to make it great again. He is the man of the moment, and in this moment of violent division and political rancor, his call for unity will fall on deaf Progressive ears; but his call to stay strong and defiant against evil – just like his post-shooting call to "Fight!" – serves as stirring inspiration to those Americans like myself who believe our Great Nation is engaged not just in a political conflict but in spiritual warfare.

This is how America can and will go forward in the state of our disunion: with her most faithful Sons and Daughters "remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win." God bless America.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/trump-shooting-clarifies-the-america-we-have-now/>

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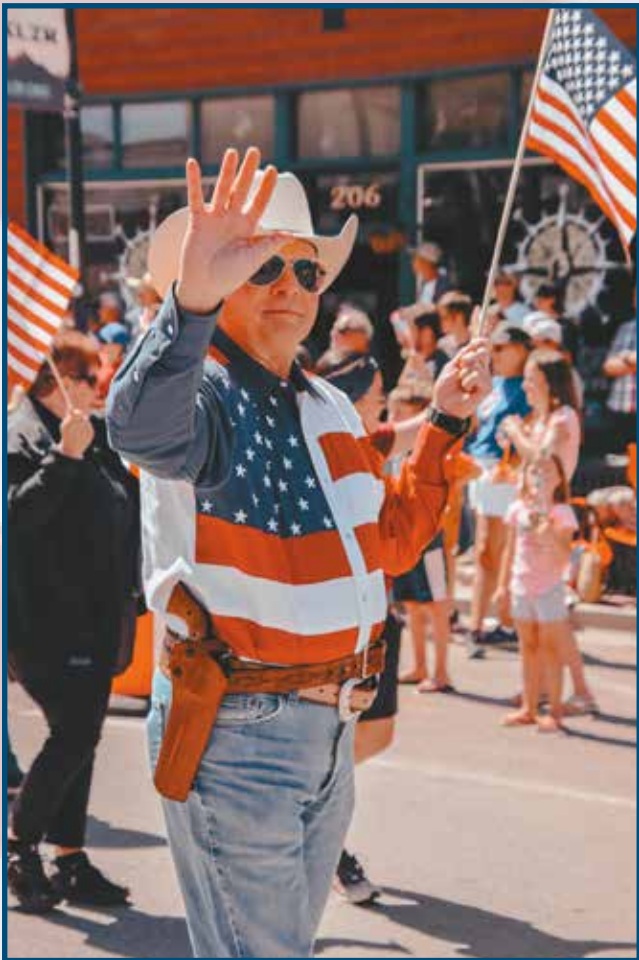
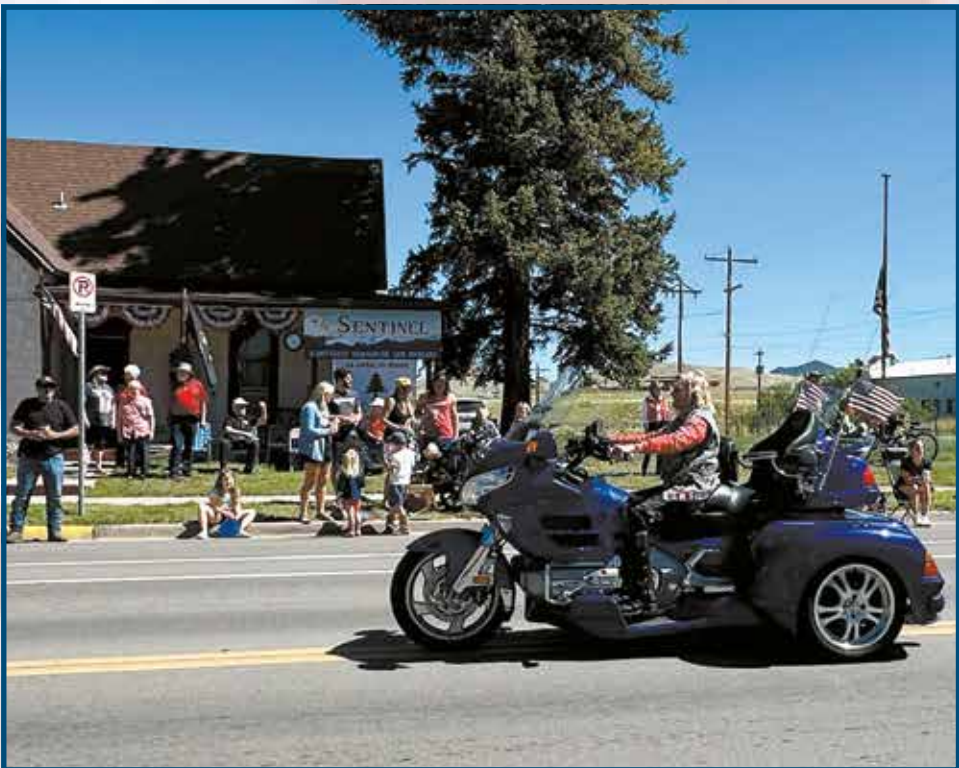
INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2024, WESTCLIFFE, CO - PART 2

CELEBRATING THE 2ND AMENDMENT!



INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2024, WESTCLIFFE, CO - PART 2

CELEBRATING THE 2ND AMENDMENT!



Sentinel photos by Kamil J Krol & Katherine Brenchley; Layout by Katherine Brenchley

Local Mountain News & Notices

Obituary

Joseph “Gator” P. Orgeron

Joseph “Gator” P. Orgeron, age 73 of Greenville, N.C., passed away April 20, 2023.

Joe was born in New Orleans on April 6, 1950 to Joseph and Gertrude Wichers Orgeron, and was the second of four children.

Joe graduated from Archbishop Shaw High School in 1968 and joined the United States Air Force in 1972 and served 23 years retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant. From a very early age Joe had been interested in aircraft and military service.

Joe married Anna Elizabeth (Groff) on June 16, 1990. They were married 32 years until Anna’s death on February 27, 2023 in Greenville, N.C.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Gertrude Orgeron of Marrero, LA, his spouse Anna E. Groff Orgeron, and his stepson Christopher Bobbett.

Joe was survived by his siblings; Catherine O. Duran of Harahan, LA, Mary O. Bladsacker of Poplarville, MS and Rorie J. Orgeron of Springfield, MO. His brother-in-law Nelson Bladsacker, sister-in-

law Rose H. Orgeron and stepson Robert Bobbett of Oak Creek, WI, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.



Joe will be laid to rest at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at the Silver Cliff town cemetery Silver Cliff, CO alongside Anna who will be interred during the same service.

A reception will be hosted by the American Legion Post 170 at the Valley Bible Fellowship Church after the burial service. All are invited.

Obituary

Anna Elizabeth Orgeron

Anna Elizabeth Orgeron passed away peacefully on February 27, 2023, after bravely battling many medical

husband Joseph Paul Orgeron (Gator), Joe has since passed away on April 20, 2023. She is also survived by her youngest son Robert Arnold Bobbett, sister Cora Ellan Tyson (Charles Barry), brother Arnold Helmut Groff and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews who called her Tanta Anna.

Preceded in death by her parents, sister Crystal Lynn Radley and oldest son Christopher C. Bobbett.

Anna was medically retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Staff Sergeant in 1989 after serving for 15 years as a computer systems analyst for the 961 AWACS. She was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, for five and a half years with her young sons and that is where she met her husband Joe who was also retired U.S. Air Force.

Anna and Gator retired to Colorado where they lived in Westcliffe. They were high up in the mountains

living out their dreams in the beautiful Sangre De Cristo Mountains. She was active in the American Legion and worked devotedly for wildlife rescue.

Anna and Joe came to Greenville, NC, in 2017 to be closer to her sister Cora and her family. Cora was a wonderful caregiver, sister and companion to Anna. Anna and Cora spent every day together and were so close they finished each others sentences. They enjoyed gardening, taking care of their chickens, decorating for every holiday and spending time with the family. Anna was a kind soul that loved animals and was always quick to joke and laugh with a happy smile and bright eyes.

The services will be at the Silver Cliff town cemetery on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Tunnels to Towers Foundation <https://t2t.org/donate/>



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Colorado State News



Biden's Frailty Predicted to Be Fatal for Critical Colorado Democrat Elections

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

It just got real for Colorado Democrats now wringing their hands over the political impact of Biden's mental frailty on down ballot races, including their own.

The outlook for several state House and Senate Democrat candidates is looking bleak, according to the numbers crunched by Deep Singh Badhesha, a strategist for Denver Democrats.

"Dems rather be polite to an old man's ego than save democracy," Badhesha posted on X, along with the toss up forecast for numerous districts.

Deep Singh Badhesha
@DeepNotShallow

Follow

Colorado Democrats may feel insulated from a disastrous Biden ticket, but we are NOT!

If Biden underperforms

2020/22 by his current polls, then Dems are set to lose 9 (NINE!) House Reps & 2 Senators.

****PLUS losing CD8, CD3 & Big Ballot Qs on Taxes**

46 to 37 Reps
23 to 21 Sens

11:43 AM · Jul 10, 2024

District	2024 Lean (Deep Model)	2024 Rating (July 10, 2024)
17	-13.68%	Safe Dem
57	-11.71%	Likely Dem
24	-11.21%	Likely Dem
34	-9.59%	Likely Dem
37	-9.48%	Likely Dem
13	-8.73%	Likely Dem
46	-7.54%	Lean Dem
38	-7.14%	Toss-Up
59	-6.73%	Toss-Up
26	-4.93%	Toss-Up
18	-4.40%	Toss-Up
50	-4.05%	Lean Dem
28	-3.77%	Toss-Up
61	-1.66%	Safe Dem
19	-0.93%	Toss-Up
25	0.21%	Toss-Up
16	0.47%	Toss-Up
43	3.25%	Lean R

Oh, happy day.

This is the best prediction we've heard since a fortune teller at the state fair back in the 90s assured us climate change would not leave Colorado's ski mountains barren with just a trace of snow by the 2020 season.

A **critical poll memo** taken after the debate that was leaked to the media shows Trump solidly ahead in swing states, and within the margin of error in Colorado by a mere 1.9%.

Democrats here were hoping to solidify a super majority in the state Senate by picking up just two seats in November, but that's lost with Biden toping the ticket, Badhesha said on an X thread — with "lost" in all caps.

At least one state Democrat lawmaker has gone

on the record admitting the future looks bleak for Biden.

Rep. Javier Mabrey
@javier_mabrey

Follow

I agree with @SenatorBennet, we need to be having an open and honest conversation about whether President Biden can win. Trump winning would be a disaster for so many and we have a moral duty to stop him. I'm not seeing any evidence Biden can turn this around. This is bleak.

The Colorado Sun explains why Democrats are eager to keep their super majority in the House and claim the same in the state Senate — it would give Dems more power to raise taxes and override vetoes by Gov. Polis.

If Democrats have supermajorities in both chambers next year, they would be able to refer constitutional amendments to the ballot without Republican support and ask voters to make lasting chang-

es to the tax system and around social issues. Supermajorities would also give Democrats in the legislature the ability to override vetoes by Gov. Jared Polis, who has been a persistent roadblock to progressive bills.

Jesse Aaron Paul
@JesseAPaul

Follow

Colorado Democrats are battling in a tough political environment to keep the Republican leaning legislative districts they won in 2022.

If they lose just 2 seats, their supermajority is gone:

[https://coloradosun.com/2024/07/11/top-colorado-legislative-races-2024/...](https://coloradosun.com/2024/07/11/top-colorado-legislative-races-2024/)
#copolitics #coleg

Egad, indeed. Fingers crossed!

Please see: <https://colorado-peakpolitics.com/2024/07/11/bidens-frailty-predicted-to-be-fatal-for-critical-colorado-democrat-elections/>



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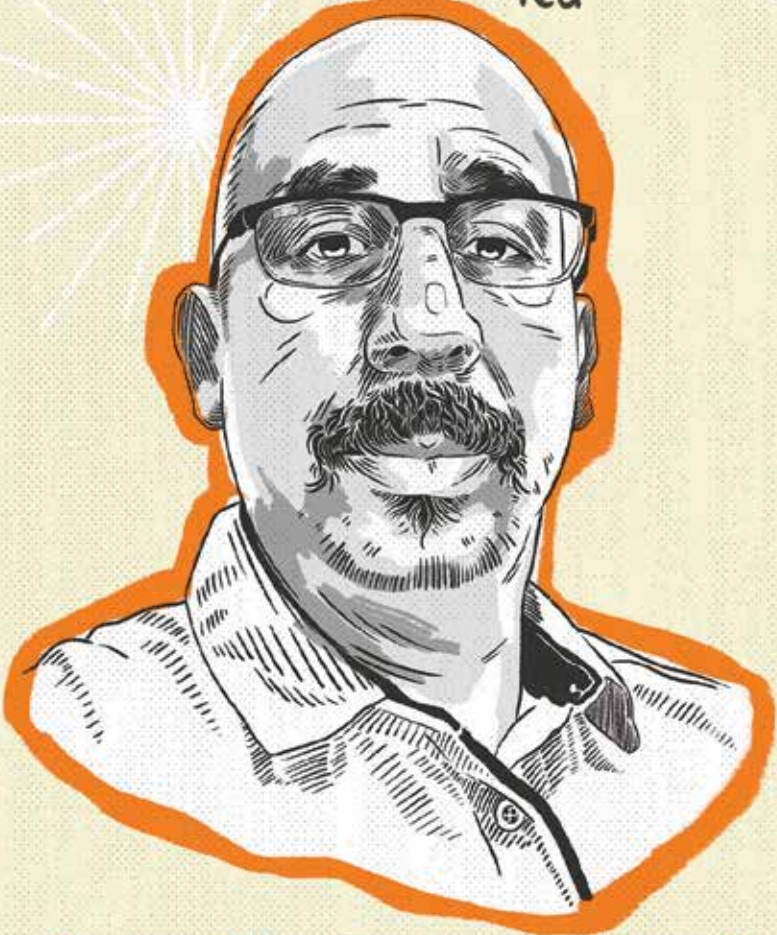
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How Colorado’s Lawmakers Voted to Require U.S. Citizenship Proof to Vote (Guess What? Brittany Petterson Voted No !)

by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

House Republicans this week passed legislation requiring voters provide proof of U.S. citizenship to cast ballots in elections for presidential races and Congress.

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility or the SAVE Act would require voters register in person using identification such as REAL ID, passport or other identification proving birthplace.

Democrats insist no law is needed because forms ask potential voters if they are legal residents. And who would just lie?

Colorado’s entire Democrat delegation voted against the bill including U.S. Reps. Diana DeGette,

Joe Neguse, Jason Crow, Yadira Caraveo and Brittany Petterson.

Colorado’s Republicans, including newly elected U.S. Rep. Greg Lopez of the 4th Congressional District, outgoing U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn and Lauren Boebert voted in support of the measure.

The bill passed on a 221 to 198 vote, with only five Democrats siding with Republicans.

State election officials would be required to ask for this proof of citizenship before registering new voters in those elections, which would surely make Jena Griswold’s head explode.

Luckily for her, whoever is running the White House these days has pledged

President Biden to veto the measure.

From Fox News:

It also requires an individual to provide proof of citizenship before registering to vote in federal elections, allows state officials to accept a variety of documents to make it easy for citizens to register to vote and provides states with access to a federal agency database in which they can remove noncitizens from voter rolls and confirm citizenship for those who lack proof.

(The Bill went to the Senate last Monday where it had it’s First Reading.)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/07/11/how-colorados-lawmakers-voted-to-require-u-s-citizenship-proof-to-vote/>

Denver to Spend \$16.5 Million on Migrants’ Food, Personal Items and Rent

by Tom Ganteri, The Center Square

(The Center Square) - The city of Denver wants to spend \$16.56 million for a series of one-year contracts to pay for food assistance, personal items, rental and utility assistance for migrants entering the city’s Denver Asylum Seeker Program.

The contracts were reviewed in the city’s Safety, Housing, Education and Homelessness Committee on July 10th.

The city started the asylum program in April. It takes

in about 1,000 migrants that were already in the city’s shelter system and were seeking asylum and not authorized yet for employment. These migrants must wait at least 180 days after applying for asylum to receive authorization to work. Migrants in the program will also receive free legal service as well as rental and food assistance for six months.

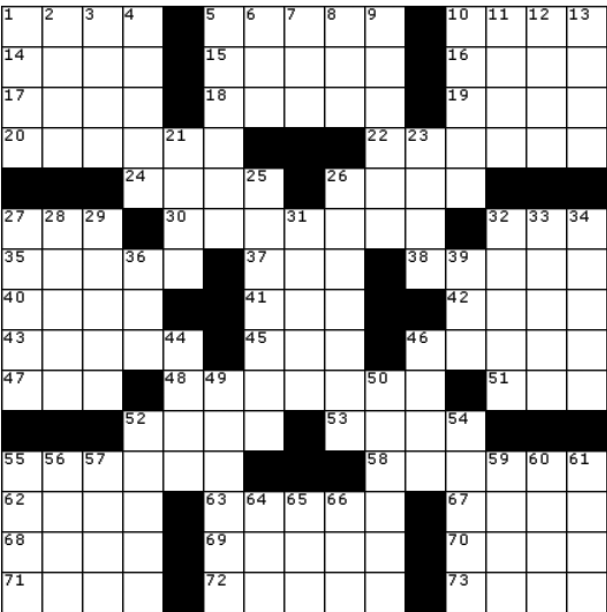
Migrants who came to Denver after April 10th will be given short-term shelter and get help in finding another destination outside of Denver.

Denver has taken 42,392 migrants from the southern border at a cost of more than \$72 million as of July 1st.

Denver has been targeted by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott as a destination for the migrants Texas is shipping to sanctuary cities since April 2022. As of June 2022, Texas has sent 19,300 migrants to Denver, including 3,200 from January to June of this year.

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_e4bef8ae-3f9d-11ef-96e1-e746bd271848.html

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Church part
- 5 Water birds
- 10 Second letter of the Greek alphabet
- 14 Yellow metal
- 15 Wild sheep
- 16 Jewish calendar month
- 17 Healing plant
- 18 Mother-in-law of Ruth
- 19 Time in office
- 20 Fumed (2 wds.)
- 22 Hinges

DOWN

- 24 Yearn
- 26 Went under water
- 27 Flightless bird
- 30 Paul’s friend
- 32 Cycles per second
- 35 Prophet swallowed by fish
- 37 School group
- 38 Adapted to a dry environment
- 40 Wicked
- 41 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)

- 42 Climbing plant
- 43 Quotes
- 45 Ump
- 46 Evil angel
- 47 Ball holder
- 48 Henry David ____
- 51 Vane direction
- 52 Layer
- 53 Levee
- 55 Dawn
- 58 Bought alternative
- 62 Chew
- 63 Treat
- 67 Lady
- 68 Fringe
- 69 Flub
- 70 Mined metals
- 71 Gloomy
- 72 Destitute
- 73 Lease

DOWN

- 1 A king of the Amalekites
- 2 Field game
- 3 Gambling machine
- 4 Swelling
- 5 Indian leader
- 6 Epoch
- 7 Self
- 8 Surface to air missile
- 9 Major OT prophet
- 10 Type of art form
- 11 Garden of ____

- 12 Sour
- 13 Weapons
- 21 Pituitary hormone
- 23 Black stone
- 25 Roman Empire sovereign
- 26 Supplied with workers
- 27 Kick out
- 28 Flick
- 29 Connect
- 31 Remaining one
- 32 Transgression
- 33 Pinyon
- 34 View
- 36 Brew
- 39 Adam and ____
- 44 Mix
- 46 Royalty
- 49 Where we all want to end up
- 50 Dryer cycle
- 52 ____ of Babel
- 54 A witch lived here
- 55 Mature
- 56 Ruin
- 57 Prego’s competition
- 59 Biblical weed
- 60 Last word of a prayer
- 61 For fear that
- 64 Wrath
- 65 Is
- 66 Cain fled to this land

Puzzle key on page 7

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Wet Mountain Fire Protection District is soliciting bids for the following equipment:

- Engine 913 - Engine 913 is a 1985 GMC 7000 built by FMC. The water tank is 750 gallons, and the pump is 750 gpm. **Minimum bid: \$3000.00**
- Engine 914 - Engine 914 is a 1983 GMC 7000 built by FMC. The water tank is 1000 gallons, and the pump is 1000 gpm. **Minimum bid: \$3000.00**
- Engine 964 - Engine 964 is a 1982 Chevy k30 mini pumper built by Emergency 1. The water tank holds 300 gallons and the pump is 250 gpm. **Minimum bid: \$3000.00**
- Tender 953 - Tender 953 is a 1992 Chevy Kodiak Built by Truck Works Inc. The water tank holds 3,750 gallons, and the pump is a 750 gpm pump that is not operational. **Minimum bid: \$3000.00**
- 1994 trailer: **Minimum bid: \$1500.00**
- 2003 trailer: **Minimum bid: \$1500.00**

The trucks and trailers may be seen at the Main Fire Station, located at 215 North 4th Street, Westcliffe, Colorado. For any specific questions, please call the office at 719-783-9245 between 8am and 4pm Monday through Thursday and ask for Micheal Evert.

Sealed bids must be clearly marked on the envelope with the truck description. The bids will be accepted by the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District, in person at 215 N. 4th St., or by mail: Wet Mountain Fire Protection District, POB 324, Westcliffe, CO 81252 by 4pm on Tuesday, August 13th, 2024. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14th, 2024.

The Wet Mountain Fire Protection District reserves the right to refuse or accept any and all bids. Only certified U.S. funds will be accepted from the bid winner.

Upon notification of winning bid, winning bid has 2 weeks to remove the equipment from 215 N. 4th St., Westcliffe, CO 81252.

Published July 19, 2024
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

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Daily reporting and analysis
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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.

Forgiveness

In 2012, Christian singer and songwriter Matthew West released the song “Forgiveness” that quickly rose to number two on the Hot Christian Songs chart. The song was inspired by a mother who forgave a drunk driver that killed her 20-year-old daughter. In it, West talks about the true liberty in forgiveness. He sings, “Help me now to do the impossible. Forgiveness. It’ll clear the bitterness away. It can even set a prisoner free. There is no end to what its power can do. So, let it go and be amazed by why you see through the eyes of grace. The prisoner that it really frees is you. Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness. Forgiveness.” We all have had times where the hardest act is forgiveness. The Bible gives many examples.

Forgiveness can be informed by the story of Joseph, whose brothers were so jealous of him that they threw him in a pit and eventually he was sold into Egyptian slavery. To save themselves from famine, the brothers went to Egypt to buy food, where Joseph had been put in charge of all of Pharaoh’s dealings. Long story short, after testing the brothers, who didn’t recognize him after 20 years, Joseph gave them supplies as Joseph was the one responsible for managing the famine. After their father Jacob’s death, Joseph’s brothers feared that there might be pay back for the suffering they had caused him. They sent a message to Joseph that their father had given them an order before he died to ask Joseph to forgive them and not take revenge for the wickedness they had done to him.

However, when they came before Joseph and prostrated themselves asking for forgiveness, Joseph said to them in Genesis 50:19,20, “Don’t be afraid! Am I in the place of God? You meant to do me harm, but God meant it for good—so that it would come about as it has today, with many people’s lives being saved.” Joseph’s brothers could not change the choices they had made in the past, but because of their turning, called teshuvah or repentance, they became part of the redemption of the future of their people. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes, “Atonement and forgiveness are supreme expressions of freedom—the freedom to act differently in the future than one did in the past, the freedom not to be trapped in the cycle of vengeance and retaliation. Only those who forgive can be free.”

Wise words. Unforgiveness is a form of bondage for both parties. It can take root as bitterness and destroy from within. The story of Joseph has the overarching theme of forgiveness, and then the redemption of those forgiven. We have freedom to choose, and can redeem past mistakes by repentance. This theme is repeated throughout scripture. Ephesians 4:31,32 says, “Let all bitterness, and wrath and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.” As Christ said in Mark 11:25, “...forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” Bottom line: There is freedom in the act of forgiveness.

Sources:
<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/matthewwest/forgiveness.html>
Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Authorities Are Literally Losing
Control of the Streets
As America’s Societal Collapse
Accelerates

by Michael Snyder,
The Economic Collapse Blog

In a civilized society, authorities are able to maintain at least a basic level of law and order in the streets most of the time. Unfortunately, at this point it is up for debate whether the United States is still a “civilized society” or not. The chaos in our streets never seems to end, and those that are in charge of running things don’t seem to be able to regain control. The theft, violence and mayhem that we are witnessing in our major cities is being fueled by the worst homelessness crisis in our entire history, the worst drug crisis in our entire history, and the worst migration crisis in our entire history. If authorities cannot control our streets now, what is going to happen once our societal collapse reaches a much more advanced stage?

Robin Bach and her husband were absolutely thrilled when they were able to purchase their dream home in Concord, New Hampshire, several years ago.

But now her children won’t even play in the backyard because it has been taken over by a homeless encampment...

A New Hampshire family is being terrorized by a homeless encampment that sprouted up behind their historic home, leading to violent encounters with the vagrants, according to a report.

Robin Bach and her husband spent years restoring their 19th-century dream home in Concord to raise their two children, ages 8 and 11 — but have been plagued by the campers living in the woods behind the palatial abode.

They’ve received death threats and have heard gunshots and screams from beyond the tree line. A swingset in their backyard, bought in 2020 during the pandemic, sits untouched by her terrified children, who will only play in the front yard.

Thousands upon thousands of homeless encampments are popping up in communities all across this country.

Bach and her family have been endlessly terrorized by those that are camping out just behind her property, and it is being reported that she has called the police 37 times...

Since purchasing the house in 2018 with grand plans to renovate and raise a family, Bach has called police 37 times, according to police records reviewed by the newspaper. Six calls were for an area check, another six for disturbances as well as domestic violence and criminal trespassing incidents.

I suppose that they could sell the house at a loss and move some place where the homeless have not taken over yet.

But the problem is that the homeless encampments keep on spreading to new areas.

Meanwhile, the violence in our major cities just continues to escalate.

Over the 4th of July holiday weekend, a total of 109 people were shot in the city of Chicago...

One hundred and nine people have been shot, 19 fatally, in gun violence across Chicago since Wednesday during the extended Fourth of July holiday weekend, police said.

Superintendent Larry Snelling and Mayor Brandon Johnson both called for accountability for those responsible for the shootings.

Johnson was pressed to address what adjustments need to be made to keep the community safe, his response was simply getting more support.

In a civilized society, when you are attacked you call the police and they come and help you.

But in Chicago, about half the time there isn’t even a police officer available when someone calls in to report a violent crime...

In Chicago in 2023, more than 1,800 calls were made to 911 of a person being shot. Only about 800 – fewer than half – were responded to immediately by police officers. The other 1,000 callers were victims of 911 backlogs, where no police were available at the time of the call. Those victims had to wait half an hour, an hour, or even several hours for the 911 call backlog to end and for police to finally arrive.

It was the same for the 32,000 911 calls of an assault in progress, where police were only immediately available for 50% of those calls. And it was the same for 54% of the city’s 911 calls of 35,000 batteries in progress.

All over this country, the police are completely and utterly overwhelmed by the tsunami of lawlessness that we are witnessing all around us.

They are massively outnumbered by the lawbreakers, and the lawbreakers are becoming increasingly bold.

In some of our major cities, things have gotten so bad that lawbreakers brazenly take over entire streets on a regular basis.

In Los Angeles, one of these “street takeovers” recently ended with a blazing inferno...

More than 50 cars were involved in a street takeover in downtown Los Angeles early Saturday as some went up in flames, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

Video shows a car completely engulfed by a fire, sitting in the middle of an intersection as a thick black cloud of smoke rises from the vehicle. Other cars can be seen as they try to drive around the inferno.

LAPD said several vehicles were impounded after authorities responded to the area near East 18th Street and Main Street, where participants intentionally set two of the cars on fire.

Unfortunately, this is the most law and order that we are going to get.

From this point forward, our society will only become even more chaotic.

Those that have been following my work for a long time know that I have warned that someday we would see armed guards on food trucks.

Well, now it is starting to happen...

Things have gotten so utopian in the state of California, delivery drivers are being accompanied by armed guards due to “crime concerns” while out making deliveries.

One company, Core Mart, has started hiring the guards to escort its drivers. Which means that somewhere, in a board room, it likely made more financial sense to pay for all new security staff than it did to continue to allow drivers to get robbed (and inventory lost) as was happening prior.

These trucks are not transporting objects of immense value. They are simply making deliveries to convenience stores...

This is our country now.

Authorities are not able to maintain a sufficient level of control in the streets, and so companies are starting to take matters into their own hands.

Needless to say, this is just the beginning.

We will see things happen during the months and years to come that most people never would have imagined in their wildest dreams.

Please see: <http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/authorities-are-literally-losing-control-of-the-streets-as-americas-societal-collapse-accelerates/>

Second Whistle Blower at Texas Christian Hospital Faces Federal Retaliation

by Joshua Arnold,
The Washington Stand

Ronald Reagan was wrong. “I’m from the government, and I’m here to help” are not the nine most terrifying words in the English language. That dubious distinction goes to these nine words: “We’re from the FBI. We know what you believe.” These words cast a pallor over a previously cheery day. It can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time, for one primary reason: threatening progressive orthodoxy on abortion and trans ideology. Or so they want you to think.

The feds knocked on Eithan Haim’s door on the day of his graduation from medical school. They knocked on Vanessa Sivadge’s door while she and her husband were hosting friends for dinner. Haim and Sivadge don’t know each other, but they did both witness illegal activity at Texas Children’s Hospital (TCH), which was secretly providing gender transition procedures to minors in violation of state law.

“I go to the front door, and I hear them saying my name and [see them] pulling out their badges ... and it was terrifying,” Sivadge related to Family Research Council President Tony Perkins on *“Washington Watch”* last Thursday. “They said they were there because they knew what I believed. They knew about my views against transgender medicine.”

“I just believe in Genesis 1,” Sivadge told *The Washington Stand* in a recent interview. “That God made them male and female, that God’s design for our gender is beautiful and good and right, and that we have a responsibility to affirm what God has made that’s good.” This belief is not abstract for Sivadge, but it bestows dignity on each person she meets, both male and female. “The sexes are complementary and distinct,” she said. “And that’s down to the chromosome. God doesn’t make mistakes when he made us in our mother’s womb.”

The FBI agents told Sivadge that her beliefs made her a person of interest in an investigation regarding the public release of confidential patient information. “Of course, they were referencing Dr. Haim, but I had no idea who he was,” Sivadge explained. “I responded at one point, and I said, ‘You must be referring to the whistleblower.’” This was shortly after independent journalist Christopher Rufo published an article in *City Journal* about TCH’s illegal practices, in which Haim featured as anonymous whistleblower.

The plainclothes agents “aggressively corrected me immediately, ‘No, that’s a leaker. He’s leaked classified patient information to the public,’” Sivadge recalled. “I knew that, first of all, they were lying because in that article with Christopher Rufo, all patient information had been redacted and blacked out.”

Then the agents went a step further. “They proceeded to just say that if I didn’t help them, that they couldn’t protect me. They threatened me and said I wasn’t safe at my job,” Sivadge described. “They said someone at my job, at my work, had given them my name, and that I wasn’t safe.” Unsafe from what, exactly? Let’s just say that unknown threats can be all the more intimidating. “They left it very vague. I think on purpose it was intentionally vague, very veiled threats,” Sivadge said, unless she helped the FBI to expose the whistleblower’s identity — which she didn’t know at the time.

Whoever pointed the FBI in Sivadge’s direction may have read the piece she authored in *The Washington Stand* in August 2022, *“What Happened to ‘Do No Harm’? A Nurse’s Firsthand Look at the Transgender Craze.”* Such an article would give the FBI rather reliable information about what Sivadge believed. “I really pondered whether or not to use my name with that piece, and I decided at the end to do that. I knew that that would carry some risk,” said Sivadge.

Yet Sivadge was encouraged to stand by her training through the Family Research Council internship program. “It is an experience that will mark me forever,” she said. “FRC gave me a spiritual backbone and prepared me to stand up regardless of what comes.”

Sivadge never intended to become a whistleblower; she just wanted to do her job as a registered nurse in the TCH pediatric multispecialty clinic. However, she “quickly saw that the number of transgender patients was increasing” and was eventually “asked to do things that were against my beliefs and against my faith.” On one occasion, she was asked to teach a healthy, teenage boy how to give himself an injection. “After thinking about it later, it dawned on me that he was going to go home and give himself estrogen,” she said, “and that was really devastating to me. That went against everything I believed about God’s design for our gender and our sexuality.”

“I’m passionate about upholding God’s design for male and female,” said Sivadge. “That’s something that has been turned upside down in our culture, and it’s so twisted.” She cited Isaiah 5:20, where the prophet proclaims, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

“Unfortunately, the hospital [TCH] has a track record of lying to the public,” she continued, “and this was no exception. They were keeping secret a transgender medicine program from the public, from lawmakers in Texas. And they just thought that no one would bring it to light and come forward to expose that.”

In Ephesians 5:11, Paul exhorts the church, “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” That “has been my theme verse throughout this whole process,” Sivadge explained. “We as Christians have a responsibility to bring to light

what has been done in secret. And I take that very literally.”

In particular, Sivadge noticed 1) that TCH “is illegally using Medicaid to cover transgender surgeries and hormones, and 2) that TCH is “misdiagnosing patients for the purpose of justifying puberty blockers,” such as diagnosing “a healthy teenage boy, let’s say, with estrogen deficiency.”

The FBI eventually discovered Haim’s identity from other sources, and earlier this month the DOJ indicted him for HIPAA violations that could land him in prison for 10 years — not to mention ruining his career. Yet no evidence has been presented to show how exactly Haim allegedly violated HIPAA.

“I almost quit on a number of occasions until I read Christopher Rufo’s article,” said Sivadge. “I knew that everything that Christopher Rufo had reported on was true because I was seeing it in my clinic. And I came forward to affirm the testimony of that whistleblower.”

For Sivadge, the FBI’s home visit was “the catalyst for going public” as a second whistleblower. “In the moment, I was just so terrified. And then the anger sets in, and you’re like, how is this happening — in Texas?” she said. “Before, the FBI had at least an external reputation of prosecuting crime and exposing corruption and fighting terrorists. And I think that things have really shifted and changed for the worse.”

Perkins declared that Sivadge was “very courageous” for her decision “to step forward and expose what is a very destructive ... demonic agenda targeting our children. ... It comes at a price, but that price is worth paying because it’s the right thing to do.”

For Sivadge, the total bill has yet to be calculated, as the threat of legal retaliation still looms darkly over her shoulder. “I would not be surprised if I did get another visit” from FBI agents, she said.

“Unfortunately, we’ve seen more and more examples of people of faith that experience the overreach of the federal government just for acting in accordance with what they believe.”

To prepare for this possibility, Sivadge has hired a lawyer. Defending oneself from politicized persecution is expensive, as Haim’s case has already demonstrated, and the very cost is part of the intimidation campaign. Sivadge has a fundraiser on GiveSendGo where likeminded Americans can contribute to her legal defense.

“God doesn’t need us to accomplish his purposes. He chooses to use us to accomplish his purposes because he’s a good Father — with broken people like me,” said Sivadge. “My prayer at the end of this is that God will get the glory and that children’s lives will be saved and [we will see] the end of gender care in America. And if I can be an extremely small tool in that, it’s worth it.” She hoped her example would “inspire and maybe empower nurses to come forward and not be afraid of the repercussions or the consequences because children’s lives are at stake.”

God doesn’t need us to accomplish his purposes, but there is joy and reward in obedience to him. When Haman plotted to kill the Jews, Mordecai offered his cousin Esther this advice, “If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14). If Christian nurses and doctors keep silent while the hospitals they work in harm children with illegal gender transition procedures, they will have to answer for that to God.

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/commentary/second-whistleblower-at-texas-childrens-hospital-faces-federal-retaliation>

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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

1776

2024



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

Glock 20 Gen5 MOS 10mm Handgun

10mm Perfection?

by Jim Grant, ammoland.com

The Glock 20 Gen 5 MOS might be the perfect 10mm handgun; between its capacity, modularity, and flawless reliability, it's a tough act to top. But the 10mm Glock has been around for a long time, is it still the top dog for big-bore blasters on a budget? Let's take a closer look at the Glock 20 MOS Gen 5 and find out.

GLOCK 20 Gen5 MOS 10mm Handgun

The Glock 20 MOS Gen 5, like all Glock semi-automatic handguns, is a locked breech, magazine-fed handgun that feeds from stagger-column 15-round magazines and utilizes a polymer frame. What really separates this model from the others is its use of the ultra-potent 10mm Auto round. Developed in 1983, the cartridge was adopted by the FBI in response to the 1986 Miami Shootout, where the issued 9mm, 38 Special, and 12-gauge firearms proved incapable of stopping two assailants armed with superior weapons. In effect, the FBI's adoption of 10mm auto was meant to give agents magnum stopping power without the limited capacity and slower reloads of a revolver.

As far as terminal ballistics, the 10mm Auto is a resounding success; It produces nearly double the muzzle energy of a 9mm round. But most gun designs of the era still restricted the magazine capacity of guns chambered in 10mm, to just ten or fewer rounds. This can be seen on the now famous Bren Ten of Miami Vice fame and the FBI-adopted Smith and Wesson 1076.

Both of these guns have their merits, but they're held back by limited capacity and heavy overall weight. Glock's response to these guns came in 1991 with the introduction of the second-generation Glock 20. With a 15-round standard magazine capacity and dramatically lighter overall weight, the 20 was an instant hit with 10mm fans.

Since then, the engineers at Glock have further developed the 10mm Glock into a modern magnum fighting pistol equally at home by the bedside of a sleeping homeowner or on the hip of a hunter tracking dangerous game. That said, the Glock 20 is more than 30 years old, let's talk about how the lightweight blaster has evolved.

G20 MOS Gen 5 Differences

The biggest and most apparent difference



The GLOCK 20 Gen5 MOS 10mm Handgun makes an incredible home-defense tool or hunting companion.
IMG Jim Grant

between the original Glock 20 and the Gen 5 MOS is the inclusion of an optics cut on the rear of the slide. This cut allows mounting an RMR-footprint micro-refight sight to the included plate after removing the polymer cover. As far as the generational differences from Gen 2 to Gen 5, they're too numerous to list here, but here are the most important differences from the previous generation to the current one.

The standard 4.6-inch polygonal-rifled barrel has been replaced with a Glock Marksman Barrel, which provides better accuracy due to tighter tolerances and sharper rifling. The slide around this barrel is now finished in an nDLC coating that looks similar to a cross between the shiny Teflon-like finish of Gen 3 pistols mixed with the more matte dark Parkerizing of later models. While the color and texture might be different, they're all nearly impervious to rust and wear caused by use. Another noteworthy added feature is the ambidextrous slide stop that makes manipulating the gun just as easy for South Paws as the rest of us.

Below this, the grip has been redesigned again to exclude the old molded finger grooves in favor of a highly textured grip with a flared magazine well that also doubles as a point of retention like a pommel on a sword. Lastly, the baseplates on the magazines have been slightly enlarged to aid shooters in extracting them when their hands are wet or oily.

Glock 20 MOS – What's in the Box?

Like all Glock handguns, the Glock 20 ships in a hard case lovingly referred to as 'tactical Tupperware' that contains the pistol, three backstraps, three magazines, a site plate (and mounting hardware), as well as a standard cable lock. All of this is pretty standard, but I wanted to give props to Glock for including three magazines with their guns. As someone who likes to have enough magazines not to reload them during a competition, the fact that Glock handguns are still affordable and ship with three mags is a huge plus. The only thing Glock could have included to make the gun, even more ready-to-rock out of the box would be a holster. But given how personal a holster is, and how many are available to fit every need a shooter has, they can't be faulted for this.

GLOCK 10mm Recoil & Performance

I fired 500 rounds of various loadings of 10mm Auto through the Gen 5 MOS Glock 20 for the review, and I had some very big surprises in store for me.

First off, I expected the lightweight pistol to have vastly more recoil than it did. I did all the testing of this pistol while I had a pretty bad case of carpal tunnel syndrome in my right hand, and I was able to blast away for several magazines without pain. Keep in mind, I was running full-power 10mm Auto ammo exclusively throughout the test – so this is very telling.

What didn't surprise me was how reliable the Glock 20 MOS was. Just like my old third-generation Glock 17, this new fifth-gen Glock 20 didn't encounter a single malfunction throughout the entire testing procedure. I tried jacketed hollow points, ball, and wadcutter ammo, and all of the rounds fed and fired without a hitch. As far as accuracy, the Glock 20 proved precise enough to easily engage man-sized targets out to 100 yards, while running my competition plate rack was a breeze.

GLOCK 20 Gen5 MOS 10mm Handgun Worth a Buy?

To be honest, I wasn't expecting much from the gun when I first got my hands on it. It's not the fanciest or most high-speed, low-drag option on the market. What the Glock 20 MOS is, is unwaveringly reliable, perfectly accurate, and remarkably soft-shooting despite its use of big bad 10mm rounds. If I had to own just one 10mm Auto pistol to take with me while hunting dangerous game or to leave on my nightstand, it would 100% be the Glock 20 MOS Gen 5, especially with an MSRP of around \$650 with street prices lower for thrifty shooters.

Complete Specifications for the GLOCK 20 Gen5 MOS 10mm Auto Handgun

- Model GLOCK 20 Gen5 MOS 10mm Auto Handgun
- Model Number PA205S203MOS
- UPC 764503054273
- Brand GLOCK INC
- Action Pistol
- Capacity 15+1
- Barrel Length 4.61in
- Finish Black Nitrite
- Grips Textured with Changeable Backstraps
- Sights White Dot & Outline
- Weight 30.71oz
- Cartridge 10mm Auto
- Color Black
- Features Gen 4
- Frame Size Fullsize
- State Compliance Colorado Compliant
- Type Centerfire

(Editor/GG: Love the mighty 10! This Glock is the perfect woods gun.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/07/glock-20-gen5-mos-10mm-handgun-review/#axzz8fVDywaU8>



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Former NRA CFO Wilson Phillips Ripped Us Off and Now Owes Back Millions

by G. Riehl, ammoland.com

As dedicated NRA supporters, we know it's maddening to witness the betrayal from within our own ranks. The latest news reveals the agreed-upon settlement that Wilson "Woody" Phillips, the former CFO of the NRA, confessed to unethical conduct, further deepening the trust issues we've had with the organization's leadership.

Phillips' Deceitful Contract

Without disclosing their relationship, Phillips admitted to awarding a \$1.36 million contract to HomeTelos, a tech company run by his then-girlfriend Nancy Richards. This was a blatant violation of NRA policies designed to prevent conflicts of interest. It took whistleblowers raising the alarm for Phillips to finally come clean about his actions long after the contract had ended.

Shielding LaPierre's Extravagance

Phillips didn't just stop at self-serving contracts. Among other things, Phillips was accused of approving invoices for LaPierre's private jet flights to the Bahamas; facilitating payments to contractors owned by LaPierre's friends; and allowing an arrangement through which the NRA paid back its long-

time advertising agency, Ackerman McQueen, for travel, makeup and other expenses it covered for LaPierre and his wife. He was a key player in hiding Wayne LaPierre's outrageous spending from the NRA's internal controls. LaPierre, with Phillips' assistance, misused millions of dollars on luxury travel, and even yacht trips. This was money meant to protect our Second Amendment rights, not fund their extravagant lifestyles.

\$2 Million In Damages To The NRA

Now, Phillips is facing the consequences. He's been banned from managing any not-for-profit's finances in New York for the next ten years and owes \$2 million in damages to the NRA. This settlement spares him from participating in the trial's second phase but does little to restore our trust.

The Bigger Picture

This scandal is just the latest in a series of revelations about mismanagement at the NRA. We've seen how LaPierre, Phillips, and other top executives have abused their positions and our donations. The jury recently found LaPierre guilty of spending millions in NRA funds on personal luxuries and ordered him to repay almost \$4.4 million. This betrayal cuts deep, especially for

those of us who have invested our time, money, and trust in the NRA's mission.

Taking Back Our Organization

As the trial continues, Attorney General Letitia James is pushing for measures to ensure this kind of corruption doesn't happen again. She's seeking an independent monitor for the NRA's finances and wants to ban LaPierre from any leadership roles in New York charities. Manhattan Judge Joel Cohen will decide the remaining issues in the case beginning July 15th, 2024, including whether former LaPierre and ex-general counsel John Frazer should be barred from charitable organizations in the state.

For us, the rank-and-file members. We need to reclaim our organization from these corrupt individuals and ensure our contributions are used to fight for our rights, not to bankroll the lavish lifestyles of a few dishonest leaders. It's time for a thorough cleanup and a return to the principles that made the NRA a powerful defender of the Second Amendment. Let's demand accountability and integrity from those who represent us.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/07/former-nra-cfo-phillips-ripped-us-off-owes-millions/#axzz8fgErnbAf>

Westcliffe Farmers Market Vendor of the Week Bly Ranch

Both Veterans, Jeff and Teri Munson both moved to the Valley in 2017. Teri quickly became the "Jam Lady of Westcliffe" and you can find her a few times a month at the weekly Farmer's Market selling jam. They also have fresh farm eggs for sale and seasonally offer farm raised chickens and Grass fed Yakk for purchase. Follow them on their Bly Ranch Facebook page to stay informed on when seasonal items are available.



Colorado Finds 1 in 4 Homicides with Firearms Are 'Justifiable Self Defense'

by Dean Weigarten, ammoland.com

The number of times firearms are used in self-defense is difficult to quantify. In a rare analysis of data concerning deaths related to firearms, the Colorado Center for Health & Environmental data has produced figures that indicate firearms are commonly used for self-defense.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment analyzed 5,287 firearm-related deaths in Colorado from 2016 to 2020. Of those deaths, the vast majority, 73.6%, were suicides. 24.9% were homicides/assaults (about 1,316). Of the homicides, 24.7% were justifiable self-defense (about 325).

Firearms availability has minimal if any, effect on overall suicide rates. Firearms availability may increase or decrease overall homicide rates. The preponderance of the evidence is the availability of firearms has either no effect or slightly reduces overall homicide rates. Increasing legal firearms carry appears to have a small but measurable effect in decreasing overall homicide rates.

The 24.7% of firearms homicides is plausible. However, the number of justifiable homicides is seldom compiled and recorded in official statistics. The FBI records some justifiable homicide data, but the FBI's definition of what is recorded as a justifiable homicide is extremely

limited. Studies of overall homicide data compared to what is reported and recorded by the FBI indicate actual numbers of justifiable homicide are about five times those recorded in the FBI Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). The UCR was changed to an event-based system, so UCR data is only available through 2019.

Compiling the UCR data from the four years, which overlap the Colorado statistics (2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, show 2790 justifiable homicides (police and other citizens) and 42,115 non-justifiable homicides with firearms. Those numbers translate as 6.2% of firearms homicides were recorded as justifiable under the extremely limited FBI definition. Given the studies to indicate only 1 in 5 justifiable homicides are recorded in the UCR, the national figure would be 31% of firearms homicides are justifiable for the four overlap years. This is reasonably close to the 24.7% in the Colorado fact sheet, considering there are significant differences between states.

There is significant bias in these numbers. Most people committing murder intend to kill their victims. Most people defending themselves kill their assailants as a last resort. The number of deaths by intent tends to be larger for illicit killing than for justifiable killing. Firearms are much more commonly used to defensively prevent an attack than to kill an

attacker. In cities such as Chicago, the number of people wounded and requiring hospitalization is about five times the number killed with firearms. Similarly, the number fired at without effect appears to be several times the number wounded. Finally, the number of people deterred from an attack by the presence of a firearm is likely several times the number of incidents where the firearm had to be fired.

Surveys of defensive uses of firearms indicate the total number of defensive uses is roughly 1-3 million per year. Successful defenses are unlikely to be reported or recorded if no shots were fired or no one was injured.

As a rough check on possibilities, if there are 13,000 homicides committed with firearms in a year, 30% of those would be 3,900 justifiable homicides. Six times that number to include wounded as well as killed would be 23,400. Four times that number where shots are fired but no one hit would be 93,600. Ten times that number, to include times when no shots are fired would be 936,000, or nearly a million defensive uses. While plausible, all of the above numbers are not easily determined because of a lack of official reporting and recording.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/07/colorado-finds-1-in-4-homicides-with-firearms-are-justifiable-self-defense/#axzz8faCTTLH0>



Here's something to think about: How come you never see a headline like 'Psychic Wins Lottery'? —Jay Leno



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HUUUUUUUGE! Trump Classified Docs Case Dismissed, Judge Finds Special Counsel Appointment Unconstitutional

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

U.S. District Court Judge Aileen Cannon has **dismissed Donald Trump’s classified documents case**, ruling that the appointment of Special Counsel Jack Smith was **unconstitutional**.

Kyle Cheney
[@kyledcheney](https://twitter.com/kyledcheney)

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BREAKING: Judge Cannon has dismissed the Trump documents case, citing violation of appointments clause:

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7:54 AM · Jul 15, 2024

“The Special Counsel’s position effectively usurps that important legislative authority, transferring it to a Head of Department, and in the process threatening the structural liberty inherent in the separation of powers,” Cannon wrote in her decision. **“He can be appointed and confirmed through the default method prescribed in the Appointments Clause**, as Congress has directed for United States Attorneys throughout American history.” **“Dismissal of this action is the only appropriate solution for the Appointments Clause violation.”**

The ruling comes after Judge Cannon had indefinitely postponed the trial, and followed a May hearing in which Trump and co-defendant Walt Nauta argued that the Justice Department’s Special Counsel’s Office decision to prosecute the valet was “both selective and vindictive.”

In a statement on Truth Social, Trump wrote: *“As we move forward in Uniting our Nation after the horrific events on Saturday, this dismissal of the Lawless Indictment in Florida should be just the first step, followed quickly by the dismissal of ALL the Witch Hunts,”* adding *“The Democrat Justice Department coordinated ALL of these Political Attacks, which are dismissal of ALL the Witch Hunts,”* adding “The Democrat Justice Department coordinated ALL of these Political Attacks, which are an Election Interference conspiracy against Joe Biden’s Political Opponent, ME. *an Election Interference conspiracy against Joe Biden’s Political Opponent, ME. Let us come together to END all Weaponization of our Justice System, and Make America Great Again!*”



Donald J. Trump
Verified Account
[@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)

As we move forward in Uniting our Nation after the horrific events on Saturday, this dismissal of the Lawless Indictment in Florida should be just the first step, followed quickly by the dismissal of ALL the Witch Hunts — The January 6th Hoax in Washington, D.C., the Manhattan D.A.’s Zombie Case, the New York A.G. Scam, Fake Claims about a woman I never met (a decades old photo in a line with her then husband does not count), and the Georgia “Perfect” Phone Call charges. The Democrat Justice Department coordinated ALL of these Political Attacks, which are an Election Interference conspiracy against Joe Biden’s Political Opponent, ME. Let us come together to END all Weaponization of our Justice System, and Make America Great Again!

The ruling marks another **blockbuster legal victory for Trump**, following the Supreme Court’s July 1 ruling that the former president has immunity from prosecution for many of his actions in office.

Jonathan Turley
[@JonathanTurley](https://twitter.com/JonathanTurley)

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The dismissal of the classified documents case is a seismic development. From the beginning of all of these cases, I have said that the Mar-a-Lago case was the greatest threat to the former president. It is now dismissed.

8:03 AM · Jul 15, 2024

According to *Reuters*, **prosecutors are likely to appeal the ruling**, as courts in other cases have repeatedly upheld the ability of the DOJ to appoint special counsels for politically sensitive investigations.

But Cannon’s ruling throws the future of the case, which once posed serious legal peril for Trump, into doubt. Smith is also prosecuting Trump in federal court in Washington over his attempts to overturn the 2020 election, but his lawyers have not made a similar challenge to the special counsel in that case.

In the documents case, Trump was indicted on charges that he willfully retained sensitive national security documents at his Mar-a-Lago social club after leaving office and obstructed government efforts to retrieve the material.

Trump’s attorneys challenged the legal authority of Biden AG Merrick Garland’s 2022 decision to appoint Smith - arguing that the appointment violated the Constitution because his office was not created by Congress, nor was Smith confirmed by the Senate.

Meanwhile, **Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas** also boosted Trump’s challenge - **directly questioning the constitutionality of Smith’s appointment**. Thomas used similar arguments to those made by Trump’s legal team.

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/trump-classified-docs-case-dismissed-judge-finds-special-counsel-appointment>

“Be yourself” is about the worst advice you can give some people.

—Thomas Lansing Masson

WESTCLIFFE from page 1

land trusts, private entities, and local governments. She says Westcliffe would not be trying to build or operate units. What the town is trying to do is apply for some grant funding to install water and sewer lines out south so that those lots are developable. At present that land is all zoned single family.

(NOTE: The bulk of the Hearing bounces back and forth between getting committee and citizens’ questions answered and the Town Manager reading the proposed changes or taking notes on changes. NOTHING gets decided in this hearing, but there’s plenty of feedback and pushback, and a few jewels on information from Kit Shy, former County Surveyor and landowner. It looks like a battle.)

Mayor Wenke said this is a work in process and nothing has been decided. “Affordable housing is needed but we don’t know how much. A professional company will do a study to determine what is needed. There are jobs all over town not getting filled because of the housing shortage. It’s important for us to hear comments and we are interested in what you have to say. No decisions have been made at this juncture. You’re all willing to speak and you have a three-minute limit.”

Town Manager, Caleb Patterson is the presenter. He says, “This started with the State Prop 123” and grant monies coming available. I kind of looked at Westcliffe and where expansion needs to fall and where we could provide housing and really the most simple answer was these six blocks.”

He said these lots are not developable so far without getting the utilities improvements there, “When I looked at the grant criteria and which (criteria) are needed to be more competitive-- and some of these are publicly owned vacant land, population density, which is why that’s part of this plan. So that’s why you see the density requirements on this.” (In general, folks in overflow, found the height alarming and the look ugly.)

Town Manager: “There are currently three-story apartments in both towns. It’s not like a three-story apartment building is not unheard of.” Then he said he’s got some ideas for trimming the proposed zoning changes down. (Originally, he had 45’ building zone for Lots 33, 34—which brought some of those extra citizens to the meeting since it’s a view blocker and current zoning is 10 ft. shorter.) In his suggestions for changes to his proposal, he says Lots 33, 34 would be 35’ height limit, Lots 21 and 19, a max of 30’, and 17 and 18, max of 25’. It also says 17 and 18 could be tiny homes but they don’t have to be that.

Caleb Patterson notes that the town doesn’t own all the lots in the proposed rezone.

After being asked, he says the only lots for affordable housing would be the town owned lots. (The town lots are along the highway.)

Holly Wray, a local business owner asks about the effect this would have on the view of the Sangres which is a real selling point here in Westcliffe and the look of the town.

Then Caleb makes the statement

of the night. “ I don’t think it’s the town’s business to protect “views”. Personally I think if the town is going to provided services that...”

Interrupted by the volume from citizens laughing or grumbling and boo’s in both the meeting room and overflow.

Caleb clarifies, after another question on Prop 123 from Chair Christie, on whether it states that it has to be applied to affordable housing, saying **yes, it does.**

Someone asks what the definition of ‘affordable housing’ is.

Caleb says the state determines that and it’s based on median income standards. These are tiered income/ area living standards based.

If the town got the grant money, those properties would need a deed restriction on what the property can be rented for or resold for, then those properties would qualify for the Prop 123 funds. Primarily it’s going to be the town lots, he says, but his approach was to include all six blocks of land for the water/ sewer improvement.

Then they would ‘put it out there’ that the land is available for proposition funds for development of high-density affordable housing.

Chair Patterson asks TM Caleb Patterson why a developer would want to build on land they don’t own? Caleb said “it’s happening all over the state—because there is money in it for them--you can see this in Salida, Colorado Springs, Breckenridge, etc.”

Holly is given a minute to talk about the Westcliffe “valley view”. Caleb is defensive.

The size of large apartment buildings size is discussed. Ie 12,500 sq. feet for a lot that would be almost entirely used for parking and structure.

Caleb: “The number of units needed in an assessment a few years ago was 30-35”

With some group math, they come up with 168 lots in the six-block area. All duplexes, one per lot would create about 80 units. 2 story buildings with 4 units per floor on the town owned lots would also be 80 units. In the discussion, Caleb continues to focus on higher density.

The Chair asks anyone owning property to ask questions.

A landowner said that they were given a quote seven years ago on what it would cost to build up that infrastructure and that was about \$184,000. It’s unclear how many lots that was for.

Caleb comes back with the comment, “If we don’t do it will never be done, it will never be done—just like it has never been done--the cost is about 1.5 million dollars. It’s a plan for good growth for the town,”

Kit Shy was next. He owns lots just north of the Westcliffe land along the Hwy. (Three quarters of Block 32.) Since he bought the property, it has already been rezoned to commercial. He said it makes sense to him that this property be a buffer between the highway and residential areas and doesn’t want to see kids run out on the highway. He was under the impression that Westcliffe owned blocks would be commercial for the same reason. It makes sense that these would be. “The lots behind might very well

be a great place for multifamily. With separation by topography and elevation from the highway.”

“I don’t have any problem with having multi-family...Shy suggests that they stick to commercial along the highway with low profile multi-family possible behind it.

Kit said if it were him, he would redesign the layout to match the rest of town. (All his comments show a history and understanding of the land and town due to being the County Surveyor for decades.)

Caleb makes his case again..“I do think there is a case for multi-family housing, Right now the 2022 housing assessment shows that. I talk to people who have to commute into the town for work.... More residents would solve the slow winter business problem. It would be a boost to the local economy.”

Chair Christie Patterson says she doesn’t necessarily disagree with what Caleb is saying but the board needs to be respectful of what the townspeople are saying. She referred back to his comment on the town not being responsible for the view – saying “that’s not necessarily true. The P&Z committee is supposed to be stewards for the residents.” The opposition being voiced isn’t about housing, it’s about housing density via three and four story buildings.

Mr. Van Doren plays the devil’s advocate and notes that if the lots had commercial buildings on them along the highway, those could very well be three story high metal buildings and he’d rather see a nice apartment building there. Either way, you’d have the blocking of the view issue.

Caleb says, “well under current zoning regulations you could build a 30 ft. commercial building so three stories is really a non-issue.”

Chair Patterson says, “In one breath you’re talking about a whole new district and in another, your referring to current zoning.”

Caleb goes back to reading page 39 and keeps on plugging the need for housing and high density.

Chair Patterson thinks “we’re jumping the gun on some of this before we know the need.”

There’s a lot of talk about what the housing will attract and the fact that there are people here now that need housing.

Kit Shy asks the important question. Are there any strings attached to the grants—do we have to provide a certain number of units to certain people? He points out that right now Denver has a high influx of migrants that the government is very involved in finding and subsidizing housing for. Is the state going to be sending a list or anything?

Caleb says, right now as far as he knows, no.

Chair Patterson says she would like to see Caleb get that in writing from DOLA because right now she “does not trust that there won’t be changes. There have been times that they went into a grant with one thing, and it turned out to be a little different.”

There’s discussion that maybe doing the zoning now is too soon.

Chair Patterson pulls the Committee Hearing back to ‘height and stories’ and says the majority of

the committee felt that three stories for lots 33 and 34 was appropriate. (It was 2 votes against and 3 for, actually) and asks if they want to change that or change that row of lots’ height.

At that point, committee member Van Doren says he doesn’t think they are going to come to any agreement today on that and he thinks the time would be best spent on hearing from the people.

Chair Christie agrees that’s a good idea.

More Public Comment:.

Bob Midi commented that Salida went through the same thing. They addressed their housing. “[Salida] built tiny homes near the water treatment plant and it didn’t solve the problem. They still need people to work. Who is going to move here? Who can afford it? Are they seniors? Will they work at the stores? ...Until you know what the problem is, you’re throwing money at a problem that may not exist.”

Next was a citizen who owns two businesses in town. “We’re hurting for workers. Two restaurants are closing. That’s two staffs looking for work and there’s still help signs all over... The three-story thing is a good thing because it will help us get the grant. Up might be better than out. People are jumping job-to-job trying to find the best one but there’s still jobs open. These people can’t afford the housing currently.”

Next was a resident, Ben who has lived here four years and just bought a house in town. He addressed housing for First Responders, SO and teachers, suggesting a look at the Park City UT model which allows them to purchase a unit will sell price restrictions but allowing equity so they can later purchase something for themselves in the future when their ready to move on.

Nadine Peterson was next. She thinks the waste treatment issues should be solved before implementing this plan (multi-family unit zoning), and asks if there’s a plan to ship in illegals to boost our economy? And who stands to benefit from this and do any board members stand to benefit from this? If this does go in, are there changes to taxes? And we’re talking about changing this town’s identity. Nadine: “**The governor just made it a law that now there is to be no limit on the number of people that can live in one house, and they do not have to be related, so if we build these low income housing, we don’t know how many people will be living there.**” She thinks this should be talked about in depth before any changes to zoning or accepting any grant. “With a grant there are shoestrings. Look what grants did to our school.”

Business owner Audrey Gluschke “We should first see the assessment... Our summer needs are very different than our winter needs and I think we’re jumping the gun here. I’d really like to hear from DOLA what other restrictions would accompany that grant. I’d like to see what this grant entails.

There was trouble with Zoom. (It’s possible that landowners in the proposed zone change area couldn’t get on to ask questions.)

Many others spoke. (See more at SDCSentinel.com for longer report.)

Chair Christie Patterson recaps public comment: People are wanting more research on it, they

want to read the fine print on the DOLA Grant. The Park City model is something she’d like to know more about. (The Westcliffe parcels are currently zoned for that.) The Grant application is due before December 1st.

There will be another meeting to continue working on the zoning, tentatively on July 24th with a plan to get the DOLA rep there. To Chair Patterson’s credit, she did mention moving the next meeting to Rancher’s Roost, but no details have come out about that yet.

The Hearing closed after 2 hours 45 minutes.

The Planning committee encourages questions to the Town Manager or themselves. They can be contacted via email with questions: <https://townofwestcliffe.colorado.gov/government/planning-commission>

You can look at the agenda packet which includes the entire master plan here:

https://townofwestcliffe.colorado.gov/sites/townofwestcliffe/files/documents/7.10.24%20Agenda%20and%20Packet_1.pdf

(NOTE: There is a long process before any final decisions are made. This was reiterated by both the Mayor and the Chair. The main takeaway from this first meeting is that most, if not all, attendees were against tall buildings that block views. Most were not against multiple family dwellings just not tall buildings. Those who have voiced concern on multiple family housing, want assurance that the State isn’t going to fill the housing from their list of families in need from elsewhere. This has happened to some extent in some housing in Silver Cliff in the past. The waitlists were shorter here than Denver and Colorado Springs and they were advised to apply here. --There is a difference between Low Income Housing and Affordable Housing when government agencies are make a reference to it. -- Most attendees want housing for those already working here and those willing to relocate AND work here in hard-to-fill positions ie. teachers, deputies, jobs with steep expertise requirements and customer service jobs. **This project is not even in its infancy, and yet** the decisions made on special zoning could change the physical and societal landscape of the town in years to come.)

Agenda Item B: Recommend to the Board the new Master Plan.

Without discussion, the committee did approve updates and changes to the Master Plan which will then go to the town board.

Adjournment followed.

(Editor/GG: This massive low-income population infusion could be a disaster. Huge increases in county welfare costs, crime, drugs, etc. Couple that with Colorado’s new law which allows an unlimited number of unrelated people to live in any housing unit and you are talking “slums”. Plus, this is outright socialism. The government is under NO obligation to provide housing and assistance to a certain group of people. Plus, Westcliffe has no experience in this type of project and if the government is in charge, results may vary.)



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