

Town of Westcliffe Mtg: Beer Cave Dead, Rodeo Lights Special Permit, Land Grab Language

by Laura Vass,
News and Commentary

Westcliffe Town held their regular meeting July 16, 2024.

Under Old Business, a request to continue work on the wireless camera system that began in 2019 with Cross Country/Travis Roundtree was taken into consideration. Town Manager Caleb Patterson looked at the old contracts since last month and recommended not going forward with that due to costs. He believes they can get better results with another company. Wenke moves that they not continue to work on the abandoned project and to put a new system in the budget for 2025.

Under New Business, the Board approved a lighting variance for WMV Saddle Club’s lights for the upcoming rodeos preparation and events July 17-21. Ileen Squire presented a thorough account of what lights would be on with all of them off by 10 p.m. except those needed for the professional livestock company. The variance and permit

cost \$350 and were approved. After some questions about working with Dark Skies, Ileen said they are working with Dark Skies and got light readings done earlier this month.

Next was the Sheriff’s Office report. The National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 6th, from 5 to 7 p.m. Sheriff Rich Smith gave a summary of the planned event. The data the SO has been using to report calls and SO activity in Westcliffe doesn’t provide an accurate account. Sheriff Smith said he’s going to start giving them accounts of calls for service, which have doubled since last year. The SO has a new Lazer-Radar handheld system to watch traffic speeds in the narrow area of downtown and a few more deputies need to be trained on it. He’s hoping to add five more volunteers for posse for events.

Wenke asked questions about ATV’s being on the highway. Smith said these need to be licensed to use on the highway. They can cross it

but not use it without a license. And there was also a discussion about the large trucks/semi’s speeding in town. Also pedestrians’ tendency to not use the crosswalks downtown. Someone suggested painting the speed limit of 15 mph across the street.

Alta gas station was next. The board considered a request to approve a Modification of Premises adding a Beer Cave at 425 S. 6th Street for CF Altitude, LLC dba, Alta #6340. Apparently the “Beer Cave” was not on the plans submitted and they built it and then went back to the board with modifications. Mayor Wenke asked a lot of questions, trying to clarify the order of things and just where exactly the company was in the process. The representative said it was not their plan to build and then apply and that there was a mix-up between the company and the contractor, both thinking the other had turned in the modifications for approval. This did not go over well with the board.

A business owner, Brian Clince of Antler Liquors, commented that Alta did something similar to what the Lowes grocery store did by modifying and then getting approval. Clince said that it starts with beer and then it’s wine and that corporations don’t increase the amount of beer sold in town, they just take business away from those already selling beer by taking the corporate bulk buying advantage and undercutting with lower prices. He also suggested the board take Pueblo as a learning lesson – which has the most beer licenses per capita and the highest crime in the state.

There was some discussion on this. The board decided not to approve the modification. At this time, then, Alta has put money into to coolers etc. that will not be a “Beer Cave”.

Andy Mast was next. He brought a plan for a mural outside of his gallery. It would be a vinyl

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Colorado Tax Hike: Another Burden on Hardworking Families

by Steve Collier,
Douglas County GOP

Starting July 1st, Coloradans will be hit with yet another grab to their take-home pay - this time at the pump. The state’s road usage fee is set to increase from 3 cents per gallon to 4 cents per gallon, with the environmental fee portion set to more than double from 0.6 cents per gallon to nearly 1.3 cents per gallon. These fees are in addition to the already hefty 22-cent gas tax, bringing the total taxes and fees to nearly 28 cents per gallon.

This increase, once again, impacts hardworking Colorado families making it even more expensive to fill up their tanks. And, of course, the tone deafness from the so-called “party of the working class,” the Democrats, is on full display.

In a state where fees and taxes compete to see which can enter orbit first, it was noticeable that Governor Jared Polis attempted to buck the ideologues of his party and coerce his EPA friends to grant a waiver to Colorado. That request was met swiftly with a denial (although his Democrat friends in D.C. left the door open to it if “supply” was threatened). Polis’s involvement only came after he

saw political pressure would become unavoidable, highlighting how disconnected the \$250 million-plus net worth leader is from the financial realities faced by all of us.

The justification for these hikes is to help curb the use of fossil fuels, namely within the metro area (which also happens to be where the highest consumption rates in gasoline also takes place). Other components of the gas tax go to road investments and upkeep. But when coupled with the 40% pop in property taxes over the last 24 months as well as increases to fees across the board for every Democrat boondoggle in the state budget, the burden continues to fall disproportionately on the shoulders of those who can least afford it. Families who rely on their cars for commuting to work, school, and running essential errands get to feel even more strain of these increased costs – not to mention, inflation.

Polis’s delayed response raises questions about his priorities. And closer to Douglas County, Rep. “Biden Bob” Marshall is nowhere to be found on making the cost of living in Colorado any more

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J.D. Vance and Meemaw’s Guns

by Cam Edwards,
BearingArms.com

J.D. Vance made his first national address as the Republican vice-presidential nominee on Wednesday night in Milwaukee, and took the opportunity to introduce himself to the American people. For those who’ve read his biography *Hillbilly Elegy* (or watched the Netflix adaptation), Vance’s story of growing up in Middletown, Ohio and being raised by his “Meemaw” after his mother became addicted to drugs wouldn’t have come as a surprise, but Vance included a few anecdotes that even many of his fans might not have heard before... including one story about Meemaw’s gun collection.

“And our movement, ladies and gentlemen, is about grandparents all across this country who are living on Social Security and raising grandchildren they didn’t expect to raise,” he said. “And while we are on the topic of grandparents, let me tell you another Mamaw story. My Mamaw died shortly before I left for Iraq in 2005. And when we went through her things, we found 19 loaded handguns.”

Members of the audience guffawed and cheered. Vance explained further.

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“Now, the thing is, they were stashed all over her house,” the senator continued. “Under her bed, in her closet, in the silverware drawer. And we wondered what was going on. And it occurred to us that towards the end of her life, Meemaw couldn’t get around so well. And so, this frail old woman made sure that no matter where she was, she was within arm’s length of whatever she needed to protect her family. That’s who we fight for. That’s American spirit!”

Over at HotAir’s live blog, my friend Ed Morrissey called the story “awesome”, and rightfully guessed that I loved Vance’s story.

I did, but not just because Vance’s anecdote was one of the first moments where the Second Amendment took center stage at the RNC this week. Vance’s story about his grandmother was a poignant reminder that while the right to keep and bear arms is a right of We the People, it’s also a right that benefits the most vulnerable members of our community. This “frail old woman” wasn’t going to be able to take down a home invader with her bare hands, no matter how tough she was or how strong her fighting spirit. She knew that a firearm was

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Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. James 1:1-2 ESV

SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

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The Voice
of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

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

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Key Personnel

George Gramlich - President & Managing Editor
George.Gramlich.sdc@gmail.com

Fred Hernandez - Vice President
Fr3ddie.sentinel@gmail.com

L. Vass - Secretary and
Asst Editor / Graphics Layout
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Katherine Branchley -
Advertising Coordinator
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support

Accounting Services
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com

Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery
Galen Studebaker

Sentinel Founders

Mike Hess
George Gramlich
Mary Seifert
Rob Canterbury

Sentinel Honor Roll

Dan Bubis
Jackie Bubis
Carol Clemenson
Scott Clemenson
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors

Audrey Slater
Mtn. Photo in Logo
by Peggi Collins

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Business Directory QR (Scan to download)

website <http://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

From the Editorial Board

The Denver Post Does a Hit Piece on the Sentinel

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

A few weeks ago a reporter from the lefty *Denver Post* showed up at the *Sentinel* and wanted to interview me about the "newspaper war" in Happy Valley. He said he was a big-time reporter and had been to Iraq twice, blah, blah, blah. (He looked like a lib. He talked like a lib. He even smelled like a lib. His bio says, "He has focused on environmental and climate issues" and he's a "licensed lawyer". Case closed.) *Sentinel* honcho Fred Hernandez was there, too. I said I didn't want to get interviewed as the DP is a lib paper and the odds of this reporter and them doing a fair piece on the free speech plethora in Happy Valley were ZERO. We talked to him for about ten minutes, all off the record and showed him the door. I knew what was coming. (Remember the hit piece the *Colorado Sun* did on us a few months ago.)

And it came last week. A Classic, one sided, lib drivel, moaning about guns, violence, anti-government attitude, etc. The usual progressive hysteria over conservative free speech and the 2nd Amendment. According to the reporter, the libs in town are petrified that we open carry at the *Sentinel*, and God forbid, walk on Main Street with a scary pistol. (Like many other people do.) Plus, we criticize our local government entities when they do bad things. Mon Dieu!

It was one of the most biased newspaper articles I have ever read. And I read a lot of them.

See the link below to read it, but I pulled out some precious quotes from the article for your amusement: (Note how non-biased the "reporter" is.)

Reporter: "At the right-wing *Sentinel*, managing editor and president George Gramlich, 73, and his staff work wearing holstered guns as they churn out overtly partisan news..." (Editor/GG: *Yup. 9mm handguns give us guidance and helps us write better. AR15's are mandatory for Editorials. Grenade Launchers for BOCC articles.*)

"Longtime *Tribune* reporter W.A. Ewing calls the *Sentinel* "the neo-fascist agit-prop pamphlet up the street" and said it is creating confusion and doubt about

government — "softening up the citizenry for authoritarian rule" — and raising risks of violence." (Editor/GG: *Oh, my! I don't think Ewing likes us rednecks. But you gotta like him, he always stays in character. We like creating "confusion and doubt about government". That's a newspaper's job. Plus, I love when the libs go full lib gibberish progressive jargon, "neo-fascist agitprop". I thought that might be an agricultural term used here in Happy Valley, but it is not. Might be a complement, though. And, of course, there is the mandatory lib mention of "violence". They always fail to mention that the vast majority of that comes from them.*)

Tribune Editor Hedberg: "The *Sentinel* draws support from a group of about 50 right-wing extremists..." (Editor/GG: *Libs are bad with math. I think we got a few more than 50. So, in the Trib's and the reporters's delusional bubble of persecution perception, the Sentinel subscribers are "right-wing extremists". I guess that is the liberal definition of Christian, conservative Republicans and Unaffiliated citizens who read the Sentinel every week. Which is most of the people in the county. And a huge percentage of the people in the country. Nice way to describe your neighbors who pay the taxes that keeps Custer County going.*)

But there was a snippet of sanity at one point in the article. Apparently disagreeing with the hyped-up gun/violence theme the reporter created, the Westcliffe Town Manager, Caleb Patterson noted what most of the county believes, "On balance, Custer County residents benefit from news competition, town manager Caleb Patterson said." (Editor/GG: *Thank you, Caleb. He, and most of the county knows where the negativity and extremism is coming from. And it ain't the Sentinel.*)

So let's do a little recap on this totally biased story from the reporter and the *Denver Post*:

Where are all the derogatory and negative comments against the *Sentinel* coming from in this article? ("right-wing *Sentinel*", "partisan news", "neofascist", "agitprop",

HIT PIECE see page 5

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C: 214-577-5421
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Sangre Art Guild August Show

"For the Love of Animals"

August 3rd Reception

Gallery Donates part of Commissions to Benefit Local Animal Welfare

Press Release
Wet Mountain Animal Welfare

Wet Mountain Animal Welfare (WMAW) is excited to announce that we are collaborating with Sangre Art Guild to hold an art show and benefit for WMAW at the 3rd Street Gallery.

For the Love of Animals will be judged by internationally recognized pencil artist Andy Mast. While all themes will be accepted in the show, only animal-themed work is eligible for judging. The 1st place award is \$150, and 2nd place is \$100.

Art intake dates are July 28 - 29. 50% of gallery commissions on the sale of artworks in the show will go to Wet Mountain Animal Welfare.

Opening Reception is August 3rd, 4-6 p.m., with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Local wild-

life photographer Elaine S. Coleman will be performing a demo. Visitors can vote for People's Choice awards. The reception is free to attend.

Wet Mountain Animal Welfare, LLC, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. For more show information please visit sangresartguild.org or call 719-315-6045.

Planet Trump: Biggest Tourist Attraction in Happy Valley

by George Gramlich

The *Sentinel's* Trump Poster on our lawn on Main Street has become

quite the tourist attraction. In the last week alone, literally hundreds of tourists have stopped and taken

pictures/selfies of themselves next to The Donald. You should see the smiles on their faces. Many of them have come into the *Sentinel's* office to talk about the poster and some have even asked if we sold Trump signs. Quite a few said it was the highlight of their visit to Happy Valley.

If you notice, our Trump poster has been updated with his right ear wound bandage and Trump now sports a MAGA Replica AR15 with a huuuuge magazine as he appears to be scanning the rooftop of Antler's Liquor across the street for some reason.

A friend of the *Sentinel* commented that the Dark Skies/Tourism folks skipped the *Sentinel* when putting up their planet displays and that we should name the Trump poster, Planet Trump. So be it.

Planet Trump



“We the People” Speak Letters to the Editor

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

Divine Intervention



Submitted by Pat Schulze

Could this be divine intervention? Did God save President Trump so that he can save America? Is there a reason why the shooter is an innocent-looking young man with a baby face, instead of a radical leftist in a hoodie and mask which would inflame the country even more? Creating even more division and making unity an impossible dream.

Instead, thanks to a miracle, Trump has a golden opportunity to bring our nation together. He certainly must believe that God saved his life. But why was he saved? Did God choose him to lead and unify our country? Wouldn't it be wonderful if Trump forgave the shooter? God forgives sinners. Imagine how this would unite America; reaching across the aisle with a sign of forgiveness. Let the healing process begin. Trump certainly has

good reason to believe in miracles. Maybe that bullet whizzing past his ear was actually God whispering to him; telling him to serve his country, save his country.

Listen to God, President Trump. Lead ALL Americans toward the peace and prosperity that our country needs and deserves.

The RNC is very energizing with a feel-good vibe. Lots of positive talk and rah-rah. But do not forget that the left is very determined. This won't be easy. Now the real work begins. It's our duty to actively support Donald Trump. He can't do it alone. Fight hard, but be respectful and stay within the law. Reach out to the other side and find solutions. We the people must use this God-given opportunity to heal our nation. It could be our last chance.

Guy Richter. San Isabel

Why Do So Many People Love Trump?

Why do so many people love Trump?

At his rallies he gives us hope for America. He succeeded in so many things despite the votes of the Senate and the House while he was President. His dealings with foreign countries didn't always make the leaders if those countries love him, but his dealings made them respect him. He knew all he could do about happenings in certain states during the horrors of his last year as President was to offer aid and advice. In other words he respects the sovereignty of each state given to them by the Constitution.

It comes down to this. Because Trump loves America! He loves and has faith in the American people. He wants to put America first. He wants to make America Great once again. He made America great while he was President. When Covid came along he gave great advice to the American states. Those states, counties, cities, towns, and villages which took his advice went through the craziness of the Covid year with flying colors.

The only thing that I can see which makes a patriot be a Never Trumper is his tweets. I loved them. They made the news. Every single tweet tricked the media into revealing what was going on. That became a source of hilarity for me.

The love and respect his family has for him and which he has for them, shows what type of person he truly is. No wonder that tens of thousands of people

TRUMP see page 5

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Letters to the Editor Cont'd

Our Colorado Water

Dear Mr. Gramlich,

Since January, 2021, Division 2 has taken the lead in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Pond Enforcement initiative. However, there are facts the DWR is not revealing when telling property owners they must fill in or augment their ponds. Either choice could cost property owners tens of thousands of dollars. I believe pond owners should have all the pertinent information before making a decision involving that kind of money. Following are only a few of the factors that should be considered.

WHAT IS PAN EVAPORATION?

According to Colorado University-Boulder, the outdated method of pan evaporation is what the Colorado DWR uses to measure evaporation from ponds. Developed in the 1920s, pan evaporation is determined by taking a 4-foot-in-diameter, 10-inch-deep pan filled with water, and setting it next to a selected reservoir. Evaporation is measured every twenty-four hours, and the results are used to calculate evaporation on corresponding reservoirs. This may have changed, but in 2020, while working for the DWR, I was told evaporation research for Division 2 is done at the Pueblo Reservoir. The problem is no two reservoirs are the same, let alone the Pueblo Reservoir and any pond in the headwaters of the Arkansas River Basin (Division 2). Size, shape, elevation, location, wind speed, air and reservoir temperatures at the surface, humidity, solar radiation and vegetation around the reservoir, all play a part in determining evaporation. I have proof from a 1990s water court case in Division 2, where an owner augmented his two ponds and the actual evaporation from those ponds is less than half of what was calculated in the water court case. One reason for this could be that most of the ponds in the headwaters area of Division 2 are fed by cold water springs, which

are colder than the Arkansas River. Less evaporation in the ponds and creeks of the headwaters than the river itself.

WHAT IS A RECHARGE POND?

By definition, recharge ponds are engineered ponds that are used to prevent flooding and downstream erosion and are designed to let water seep into groundwater aquifers. In mountainous regions recharge ponds are also used to catch surface runoff and increase infiltration to recharge groundwater and aid in natural spring recharge. I asked Rachel Zancanella, Division 2 Engineer, on May 11, 2023, in front of a group of people in Westcliffe, if draining some of the area ponds wouldn't cause the level of the aquifers to decrease, and in turn cause area wells to dry up. I was told no, however I still think yes!

DWR DATA - POND CRACKDOWN

The Colorado Department of Water Resources was recently asked for data on the amount of water that has been added back to the total system for the Kansas Compact and downstream senior priorities, because of their pond crackdown. The DWR is not giving up data for anyone to see, and not talking about why.

IN CONCLUSION - MY OPINION

I think that because of these reasons plus several others I have researched, the DWR should cease and desist any activity having to do with their Pond Enforcement initiative. At least until the DWR provides confirmed data that their pond crackdown is actually adding to the total amount of water in the system for the Kansas Compact and downstream senior priorities.

Thank you,

Laurie Assemany,
Coaldale, Colorado

Vogelsong Town Hall

Candidate Paul Vogelsong has just come through with his very first promise to the citizens of Custer County making the announcement for the first town hall meeting.

This meeting as well as all future meetings are open to every Custer County citizen regardless of political affiliation or voter registration status.

The first meeting will be held August 3rd at the Rancher's Roost conference room at the bowling alley from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m..

Paul has also set up tentative townhall meeting dates at the Eagle Summit Ranch, and the Community Center in Wetmore. Dates and times will be announced shortly.

The town hall meetings will be a great opportunity to not only inform him of your own concerns and needs of our community, but will also provide and opportunity to meet the candidate [who] will hopefully be our next County Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Couch

GAS TAX from page 1

reasonable or attainable. The lack of proactive leadership up and down the Democrat ranks is exactly what Republicans have highlighted for at least 2 years. Instead of imposing more taxes on gasoline, a regressive approach that hits lower- and middle-income families the hardest who don't get the privilege of mileage per diem reimbursement like Mr. Marshall, state leaders

should be clamoring to find more relief for our people. Good luck there.

Fortunately, Republicans continue to advocate for policies that don't penalize hard work and thriftiness. This gas tax hike is a clear example of more government overreach, where the state opts for the easy route of increasing taxes rather than making tough budgetary decisions. We must demand accountability and transparency from our elected officials and ensure they work in the best inter-

ests of all Coloradans, not just for their special interest donors in the environmental lobby.

November gives us an opportunity to put out to pasture those who just don't get it, or more accurately, simply just don't care.

Steve Collier,
Highlands Ranch, CO

Please see: <https://www.dcgop.org/news/collier-colorado-gas-tax-hike-another-burden-on-hardworking-families>

TRUMP from page 4

attend his rallies and show their love and respect for him. The smiles and tears of relief of the people in the stands mirror my own reac-

tion to him. His up raised arm and the words fight fight fight after he stood onto his feet after being shot and his look of pure love he gave the members of his family while they gave their speeches at the

Republican National Convention left no doubt of his loving nature and his will to fight against all odds for America and we the people.

Linda Anderson, Rural
Custer County

HIT PIECE from page 2

"right-wing extremists") From the *Tribune* people and the reporter. There are no negative comments at all about the *Tribune*, which, I guess, is the perfect example of mainstream media. That might be surprising to people who live here and know what is going on. Plus, the three non-*Trib* people interviewed all said having two papers in the county was a good thing. Strange that the people in the county want the *Sentinel* but somehow the reporter spends the whole article knocking us. This

is the mainstream media at its best. And, as you can see, it is a pathetic, transparent joke.

So, go read it and get some belly laughs.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2024/07/15/newspaper-feud-westcliff-tribune-sentinel-defamation/>

Or try this archive to retrieve the article: <https://archive.ph/bTQru>

(Addendum: David Codrea's Second Amendment blog site, one of the biggest in the country, has picked up on this piece of lib propaganda: <https://waronguns.com/paper-trail/>)



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Recurring Events

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

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

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

1st Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort Quilters @Valley Bible
6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM
2nd Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Meeting @Valley Bible

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3rd Saturday of Month
8 a.m. Valley Bible Fellowship Men’s Breakfast Open to all Men of the Community, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff Questions, **Mike @ 719-650-0362**

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



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

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



Roever Rocks At Liberty Rocks
Dave Roever Founder of Eagle Summit

by Fred Hernandez

July 18, 2024: another third Thursday of the month and time for Liberty Rocks. Planns to hold a summer barbeque at the Pavilion on Hermit Lane Park were thwarted by the weather. Immediately Plan B went into effect and the affair, now reduced to about thirty-eight, was moved to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church on the corner of Rosita St. and Third Street in Westcliffe town.

Off to a rather late start, Chair Ann Barthrop called the meeting to order in the main sanctuary of the church. After the *de rigueur* Pledge of Allegiance and group song “*America the Beautiful*”, the invocation was given by Dr. Ann Willson who read from the book of “*Prayers and Presidents*” by W. Federer. Quoting from the famous Abraham Lincoln speech of November 19, 1863, *The Gettysburg Address*, beginning with the unforgettable lines “Four Score and Seven Years Ago “ the short delivery gave emphasis to the paramount importance of freedom for which brave patriots made their ultimate sacrifice for the nation. A fitting message for the times we are going through in this day and age in a country that was once known as the beacon of justice and freedom.

A nation now embroiled in a struggle against the forces of evil that seek to subdue the rule of law, gut the Constitution and control the population. To meet their anti-American objectives they apply any means legal or otherwise.

The featured speaker introduced by Chair Ann was no stranger to giving it all for the sake of freedom from tyranny. He served in the Vietnam War and suffered severe burns over most of his body after taking a bullet from enemy fire as he was about to toss a phosphorus grenade.

Although the result was personally devastating he turned his misfortune

into a foundation that helps those who had similar unfortunate experiences as a result of war. Dave Roever founded Eagle Summit Ranch in rural Custer County, and another facility in the Lone Star State, that has seen more than six thousand veterans of war, handicapped, injured and otherwise physically and mentally affected by the results of warfare come through their rehabilitation programs with outstanding success. Dave was eloquent in delivering his message and at times quite entertaining with some funny quips such as, when he related that his first language was Spanish. His mother passed on when he was an infant and was then raised by a Hispanic lady who spoke to him in her native tongue. It was a great shock for him when at age six he found out he was not Mexican.

He then introduced his son-in-law Phil Chapin, Captain of the Fire Department in Pueblo. Together they expanded the welcome at the ranch for others who are also affected by traumatic experiences such as firefighters, first responders, law enforcement personnel. Individuals with PTSD and those who are prone to suicides; retreats are now available for all of them.

On a more serious note he referred to the attempted assassination of the former president recently and referred to the event as a time when “Evil drew blood” and it broke his heart. He went on to firmly state that we must not lose our country. “Don’t quit when it hurts” says Dave and reminds everyone that God is the cornerstone of a good nation.

His closing statements were about the work of his foundation and how it has successfully established schools in forty countries teaching over four hundred thousand students worldwide in fourteen languages. Finally he reminds everyone of the event at Eagle Summit Ranch on July 27th called Christmas in July.

A fundraising event with live music, great food and entertainment for all. Everyone is invited. *See the ad in the Sentinel.* Everyone stood to thank Dave with warm applause and as he exited the building many came forward to shake his hand or to give him a big hug.

The meeting then moved to the dining area where the group heard from Paul Vogelsong who seeks the commissioner’s post for District # 2. Briefly, Paul reiterated his two main goals if elected:

One-- to host town hall meetings in the towns including the Community Center in Wetmore. He promises to have a town hall meeting every month until election day.

Two-- To gather the young people (40 yrs. old and under) and to create a group of business owners, tradesmen, government officials and community leaders to form a team that will study ways and means to keep the young in the county. To help them get training and development of skills to serve the community gainfully.

The second speaker was Lucas Epp, current commissioner of District # 3 who has been in office since August of last year.

He started his brief talk by stating that he is not a perfect person, the county is not perfect, and the government is not perfect. He went on to say that he has never given up on a job and he never quits. He informed the group that there is still a lot of work to do and a lot of coordinating with county officials in solving the mistakes of the past before we can move on to the future. He would like the chance to do the rest of the work “if you will have me”. At this point Paul Vogelsong interjected his opinion with kudos for Lucas who up to date has done a professional job.

LIBERTY ROCKS
see page 10

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe</i> Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601</i> Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints <i>240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589</i> Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study <i>0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526</i> Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship <i>202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511</i> Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com <i>20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi</i>	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship <i>417 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2498</i> High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School <i>103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045</i> Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study <i>603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053</i> Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study <i>3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561</i> Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 pm Sunday Mornings: 9:30 am in the Amphitheater <i>830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863</i>	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. Tuesday Mass (summer) 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass <i>109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507</i> Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month <i>210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491</i> Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. <i>215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence 719/784-1184</i> St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays <i>3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477</i> St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500 Sacred Heart Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner <i>Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037</i>	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church <i>Pastor: Mike Shields</i> 10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook <i>60260 HWY 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372</i> Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service <i>120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903</i> Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship <i>6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822</i> Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship <i>116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572</i> Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship <i>Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230</i> Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship <i>699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596</i>
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Events

Thursday-Saturdays 11 a.m to 4 p.m.
Sangres Art Guild Show -- July is Poppin!
August 1st: For The Love of Animals
3rd Street Gallery 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe

Friday, July 26, 4 - 7 p.m. FREE
24th Annual Jazz in the Sangres ~ Youth Camp Concerts @ Hanssen Hall & All the Range on Main St, Westcliffe

Saturday, July 27, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. FREE
WMFD Chalk the Firehouse
Free Food, Ice Cream and Fun Activities!
@ Wet Mountain Fire Protection District Firehouse
215 4th St, Westcliffe

July 27, 2 - 5 p.m. \$20
Day Of The Cowboy Celebration
Historic Jones Theater 119 Main St, Westcliffe

July 27, 9:30 - 11:30 p.m. FREE
SJO Public Star Party
Smokey Jack Observatory By the Bluffs Park

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

August 1-4 WCPA Live Theater
~ Children's Musical ~ Cinderella
Performances on Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 6:30 p.m. & Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. @Jones Theater

SaturdayAugust 3, 5 p.m. Dinner& 6 p.m. Concert
SONS and BROTHERS Benefit Concert for SDC Christian School @ Cowboy Church

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

Friday-Saturday, August 9 and 10
Florence Outdoorsman Days
Pathfinder Park, Florence, CO See ad on page 24

Saturday, August 10, 7:30 a.m. gates open.
SilverWest Airstest 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Pancake Breakfast 8 to 10 a.m.
For more info see SilverWestAirstest.com
South Hwy 69 at the airport enter South gate.

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talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com
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www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit

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Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. I Peter 5: 10-11 ESV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Our Hours are Changing

Follow us on to stay on top of all of our changing specials and upcoming spring and summer events!

Beginning May 15th
Sunday 12-8
Monday closed
Tuesday & Wednesday 11-8
Thursday-Saturday 11-9



630 Main Street Westcliffe, CO 81252
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Old School House Quilters 25th Annual Quilt Show

The Olde Schoolhouse Quilters will be hosting their 25th annual quilt show over Labor Day weekend. The quilt show is open to the public.

August 29 - September 1, 2024
10 AM - 5 PM
Hope Lutheran Church's Lange Hall
312 South Third Street,
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Raffle ticket(s) are available for purchase at the door. Enter to win one or more quilted items including wall hangings, table runners and placemats. The raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, September 1, 2024 at 5 PM. You do not need to be present to win. Please join us and visit the boutique selling quilts, fabric, home decor items, books and much more!

WMV Community Foundation Appoints Erin Christie to Board

Press Release

—WESTCLIFFE, Colorado

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Erin Christie to its Board of Directors, effective July 16, 2024.

Erin brings a wealth of legal and civic experience and expertise to the WMVCF. Her proven leadership and commitment to the Valley align seamlessly with our organization's goals and

objectives. Erin currently serves as Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Westcliffe. "We are thrilled to welcome Erin to our Board of Directors," said Dr. Jennifer Howerton, Managing Director. "Her background will undoubtedly enhance our strategic initiatives and strengthen our ability to meet the nonprofit needs of the community."

As a member of the board, Erin will play a pivotal role in guiding the WMVCF as it continues to create

positive change through grantmaking, donor engagement, collaboration, and capacity-building with our nonprofit organizations and leadership. The Foundation aims to help local nonprofits build a stronger and healthier community by providing donors with a range of charitable giving options.

For more information about the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation, please visit www.wmvcf.org.

KIDS

Friday, July 26, 2024

The Potoo

Welcome to this week's article. We will learn about the Potoo. No, I didn't misspell potato. We will learn about the Potoo, I'm not even sure how to pronounce it but it sure looks cute.

Potoos are a group of birds related to the nightjars and frogmouths and they are nocturnal. They are sometimes called poor-me-ones, after their haunting calls. They can be found in every central and South American country, on Caribbean islands and have the greatest diversity in the Amazon, which holds five of the seven species. Fossil remains of potoos have been found in Germany. A complete skeleton of the genus *Paraprefica* has been found in Messel, Germany. It had skull and leg features similar to those of modern potoos.



During the day you can find them on tree branches with eyes closed and sitting still, in the 'freeze position' at this position they closely resemble a broken branch. You may not see them though because their coloring camouflages them and you usually can't see them for the branch. Their complex patterns of grey, black and brown resemble tree bark, so they are literally hiding in plain sight.

They have what is called "magic eyes". There are small folds along the upper eyelids that allow them to sense movement with their eyes closed. This means that from their camouflaged positions during the day, they can still watch for predators. The eyes can appear as giant black dots with a small yellow ring, or as giant yellow irises with small pupils due to voluntary pupil constriction.

Instead of building a nest, female potoos lay a single egg in a knot hole or a crevice in a branch. They lay a single egg in the same place they perch for camouflage during the day. The egg hatches in about a month and both parents help take care of the chick. They also are meticulously clean, removing all of the chick's poop from the nest. This makes it hard for predators to find them by smell. By the time it's two weeks old, the chick is already learning how to stretch out and point its bill to make itself look more like a branch.

So, now you have the skinny on the potoo. Hope you enjoyed this week's article. See you again next week.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://factanimal.com/potoo/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_potoo, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potoo>, <https://www.britannica.com/animal/potoo>, <https://abcbirds.org/blog21/potoos/>
Photo credit: <https://factanimal.com/potoo/>

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

LIBERTY ROCKS from page 8

Finally, Charley Ellison, who is the lead man in the process for taking back control of the election process, informed everyone that "lots of counties" are now working together to defund the Dominion machines.. Contrary to the official narrative that hand counting takes an inordinate amount of time and is very expensive, Charlie has done a simulation based on county statistics, the results of which show that the amount of time to count the roughly less

than four thousand ballots in this county is very quick and totally inexpensive. On the other hand because voter information is not properly maintained there have been many anomalies such as miscounting people who no longer live in the county or state, wrong addresses and other miscounted details of voters. He needs a volunteer force of between 60-80 for a short-term commitment to take back control of the election process.

With that another interesting meeting of Liberty Rocks came to an end.

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I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are Your works;
my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 139:14 ESV

Free Art Classes for Veterans

Press Release
West Custer County Library

Thanks to a grant from the Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center, the Veteran Service Office (VSO), Sangres Art Guild (SAG), and the West Custer County Library are partnering to offer four free art classes to local Veterans over the summer and early fall. Classes are free and all supplies are included veterans sign up for one or all four classes!

Registration for the workshops is required. Please register at www.westcusterlibrary.org events page or call the library staff at (719) 783-9138 for registration assistance.

The schedule of classes is as follows:

- *July 31st Watercolors 1 – 2:30 p.m. led by Julie Hutslar
- *August 14th Pastel Class 1 – 2:30 p.m. led by Terri Wiebke
- * August 21st Drawing Class 1 – 2:30 p.m. led by Liz VanSomeran
- *September 18th Acrylic Class 1 – 2:30 p.m. led by Danica Lee

All classes will be held at SAG’s 3rd St. Gallery, 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe, located on the 1st floor with handicap access.

Healthy Living in a Synthetic World

Press Release
West Custer County Library

Synthetics are found in almost everything on store shelves these days. Join us **Tuesday, August 6th at 10 a.m.** and **Tuesday, August 13th at 10 a.m.** for the two-part series “Healthy Living in a Synthetic World” led by Michealle Woolery. She will explore the “dirty dozen,” the top 12 common synthetic chemicals that can be “health disruptors.” Woolery will discuss what to look for when reading product labels, how to replace them with healthier alternatives and discover how to find relief from living in

a synthetic world. The sessions will cover personal products, cleaning products, and food additives.

Back in the early 2000s her eyes were opened to synthetic chemicals and how they were responsible for a good portion of her health issues. On her wellness journey she discovered information she wants to share with the audience. Woolery always strives to become a healthier version of herself.

For more information, please contact the Library at 719-783-9138, visit www.westcusterlibrary.org, or email info@westcusterlibrary.org.

MEEMAW from page 1

an equalizer; a tool that would help to keep her and her family safe.

It’s also fascinating to me that gun control activists have largely ignored Vance’s tale, at least for the moment. I figured groups like Brady, Everytown, and Moms Demand Action would have been quick to label Meemaw a danger to herself and others for leaving 19 loaded handguns stashed around a home;

perhaps using Vance’s story as a springboard to tout mandatory gun storage laws or to repeat their call for gun rationing laws that limit purchases to one per month. Maybe they’ll trot out those talking points today, but with the Biden campaign imploding I imagine the gun control lobby is also a little distracted at the moment.

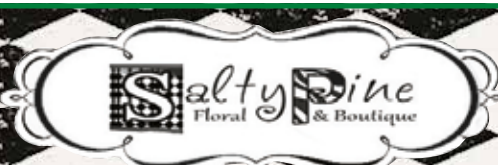
Vance’s story helped to show that (as sociologist David Yamane says) guns are normal and normal people own guns. Of course, some pretty extraordinary

people own guns too. I’d put Vance’s grandmother in that class, and I love that he gave Meemaw and her gun collection a shout-out from the RNC stage on Wednesday night.

(Editor/GG: Vance’s story is extraordinary. A man’s man.

Read the book or view the movie on NetFlix. Inspirational to say the least.)

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/carnedwards/2024/07/18/jd-vance-and-meemaws-guns-n1225644>



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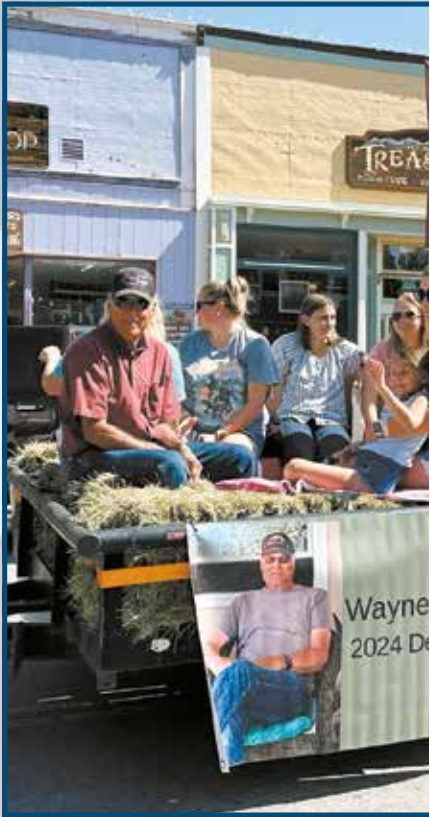
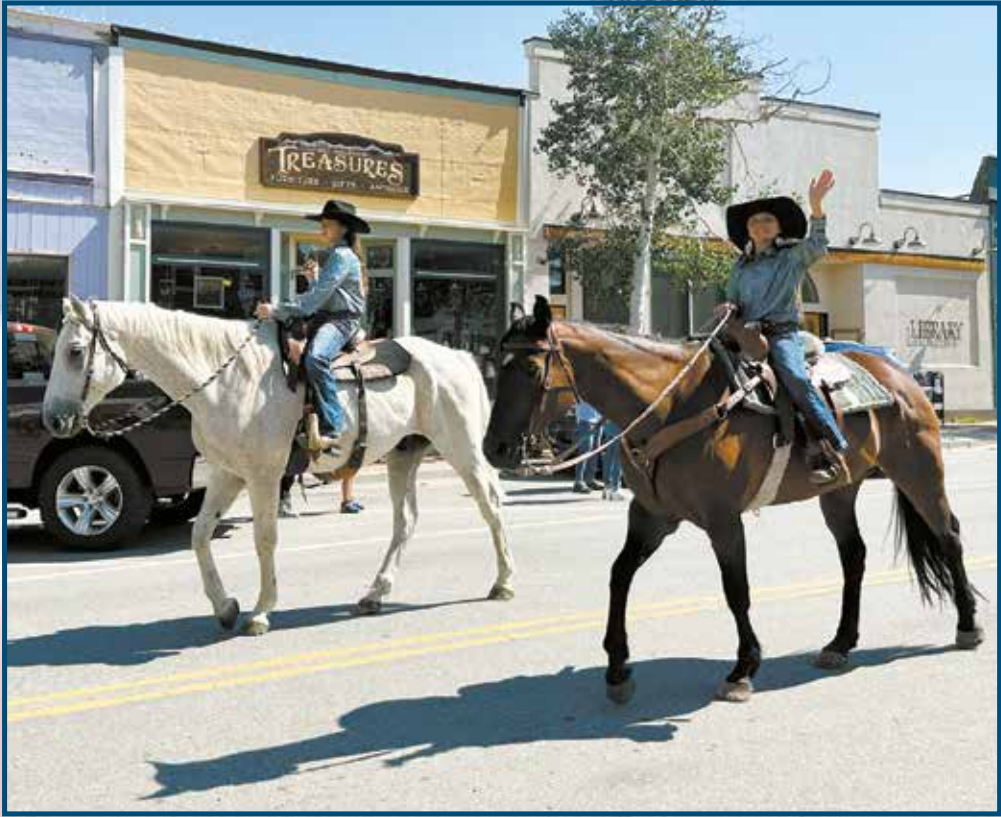
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HIPEDE RODEO PARADE



Sentinel photos by Katherine Brenchley & Katie Johnson; Layout by Katherine Brenchley

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Obituary

Mary Jo "Jodi" King

Mary Jo "Jodi" King passed away peacefully on Monday, June 10th, at Vali Assisted Living in Westcliffe, Colorado. Mary Jo, affectionately known as "Jodi," was born March 4, 1941, in Topeka, Kansas, to Carl and Laura Rieck. She was the oldest of two girls, Karla being the youngest. Jodi grew up in Burlingame, Kansas, but spent her high school and college years in Lamar, Colorado. She eventually moved back to Kansas, where she met the love of her life, Allen "Al" King. She married Al on June 17, 1966, and immediately became a military wife living all across the United States, even spending two years in Germany. In 1972, along with being a caring and supportive wife, she became a mother to their first child, Kellie, and in 1974, she welcomed their second child, Tracie, and their family was complete. In 1975, Al and Jodi moved back to Topeka, Kansas, to build a life and raise their girls.

In 2001, after 25 years of employment at the Security Benefit Life Insurance, Jodi retired, and she and Al were

finally able to move and settle down in Westcliffe, Colorado. She was an active member of Community United Methodist Church for several decades, where she contributed not only her resources but her time. In her retirement, she enjoyed crossword puzzles, solitaire, and spending quality time with friends and family. After her beloved Allen passed in 2017, nothing was more important to Jodi than being the family matriarch, participating in the lives of her daughters and grandchildren. Jodi was a private woman with a wry sense of humor and a no-nonsense personality, but that honesty made her both funny and endearing. The King family legacy of dedication to God, family, and community will live on through her daughters and her grandchildren who were the joy of her life.

Prior to his passing, Jodi was able to celebrate 50 years of marriage to Al. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Allen King, and her younger sister, Karla. She is survived by her two daughters,

Kellie and Tracie King, as well as her grandchildren, Sydney Borgen, Seani Millard, Danny Cain, and Jaymes Cain.

The celebration of life service for Mary Jo "Jodi" King will be held at Community United Methodist Church at 202 S 6th Street, Westcliffe on Saturday, August 3rd at 11:30 a.m.

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Salad w/Lite Ranch
Orange, WW Bread w/Butter

Tuesday, July 30
#86 Spinach Lasagna
Seasoned Green Beans
Salad w/Lite Italian
Banana
WW Bread w/Butter

Thursday, August 1
#43 French Dip Sandwich w/Au Jus
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Colorado State News



One Proud American and a Pair of Ingrates

by Mike Rosen,
Complete Colorado Page Two

On July 4th, an inspiring column in the *Denver Gazette* by Luige Del Puerto, a native of the Philippines, expressed his pride and gratitude to be an American. He did so on the 12th anniversary of the day he and his wife took their oath of American citizenship – while holding their one-year-old son in his arms.

Most of us are familiar with the section of that oath that reads, in part, “I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all agents foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law...”

But he also cited the first part that reads: “I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen.” That doesn’t mean one has to forsake their roots and fondness for

another country. Italian-Americans, for example, who become U.S. citizens can still love Italy. But the U.S. now becomes your chosen first loyalty.

Of course, you can recite that clause with no intention of honoring it just to get the benefits of citizenship in a country you really dislike. And you can even run for Congress. Which gets me to what stimulated this column.

The antithesis of Luige Del Puerto’s heartfelt love of America is what I regard as two of the most detestable members of the U.S. Congress: Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan) and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minnesota), the first two Muslim women to be elected to the U.S. House. Both are members of the so-called Squad, a quartet of radical left-wing progressives that also includes the theatrical but merely annoying Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY). Tlaib and Omar are so acrimonious, they make AOC seems almost charming by comparison.

Tlaib is a Palestinian-American born in Detroit to Middle-Eastern

immigrants. Her father was born in a Palestinian neighborhood of Jerusalem and her mother lived in the West Bank near Ramallah. Her 13th Congressional District is heavily Democrat. Biden carried it with 74% of the vote in 2020. It’s also known as “majority-minority,” with only 46% white, 44% black and a large Arab community. Tlaib isn’t just pro-Palestinian, which is understandable given her heritage, she’s militantly so and blatantly anti-Israel and antisemitic. She’s a social justice warrior who hates capitalism. Her demeanor is grating and even profane. At a progressive shindig in D.C. hours after being sworn into Congress following Trump’s election she screeched, “we’re gonna go in there and we’re gonna impeach the mother—.”

At a recent Palestinian conference in Detroit, she accused Biden of “cowardice” for not supporting Hamas against Israel, and declaring, “We’re not gonna forget in November, are we?”

Biden talks a good game on supporting Israel but vacillates in practice when he pressures it to

hold back on crushing Hamas for good. Outside of the rare congressional district with large Muslim communities — that will reelect Democrats anyway — it’s unlikely the anti-Israel Muslim vote will matter much in the election. It’s not worth pandering to and neither is Tlaib. If Biden’s concerned about losing the support of the foolish pro-Hamas anti-Israel college kids who temporarily obstructed campuses and the outside agitators who manipulated the protests he overestimates their number. And they’re certainly not going to vote for Trump, instead.

And then there’s Rep. Ilhan Omar who was born in Mogadishu, Somalia embroiled in a hell hole of civil war. She escaped with her family in 1991 at the age of eight to a camp in Kenya with 30,000 refugees for four years before immigrating to the U.S. when she was twelve, settling in Minneapolis. Omar was elected to the House from the 5th Congressional District, centered in Minneapolis, in 2018. The district has a large Somali community and has attracted many other African immigrants.

It’s solidly in the Democrat camp giving 80% of its vote to Biden in 2020.

Omar’s attitude and politics mirrors Tlaib’s: radically progressive, antisemitic, and anti-Israel, calling for the “dismantling of its Zionist apartheid regime.” Omar was rebuked by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for a tweet equating Israel and the U.S. with Hamas and the Taliban, in response to which she branded her critics as Islamophobic. Whatever our and Israel’s imperfections, Israel is an ally; Hamas is the enemy of Israel, the U.S. and “infidels” like us everywhere.

Given their roots, this duo should thank the Heavens (or Allah) for their safety, freedom, and citizenship in America. It’s obvious their loyalty to America is subordinate to Islam, Palestinians, and Hamas’s dictatorial aggressors. To say nothing of their disgraceful ingratitude.

Please see: <https://pag-etwo.completecolorado.com/2024/07/22/rosen-one-proud-american-and-a-pair-of-ingrates/>



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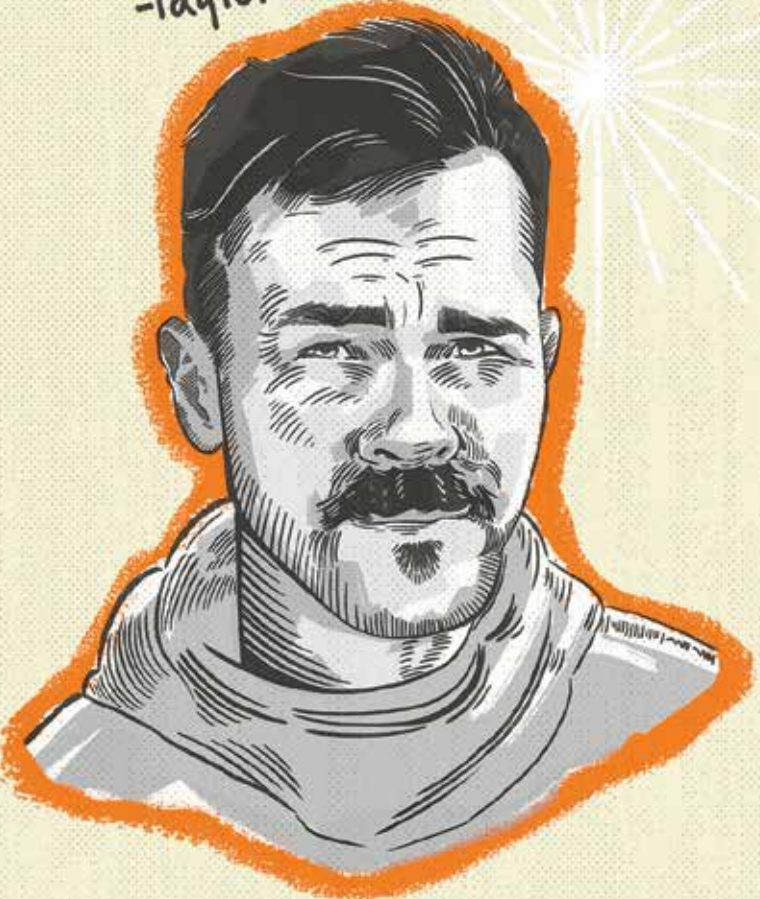
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From Sanism to Support

by Dr. Tom & Jaclyn Manzione

We understand the importance of raising awareness about mental health issues and fighting against stigma. It’s essential to recognize that sanism, which is prejudice against individuals with mental illness, can lead to harassment, bullying, discrimination, and even violence. These behaviors can have a devastating impact on the lives of those affected and their loved ones.

Mental health stigma often results in individuals being labeled, stereotyped, or discriminated against, causing feelings of shame and worthlessness. Despite significant progress in understanding mental illness and improving treatment options, stigma persists. It is heartening to see efforts from individuals, organizations, and societies to address mental health stigma and its consequences.

The CCSO’s administration, deputies and co-responders are dedicated to standing against mental health stigma. We appreciate the need to increase awareness and knowledge about mental health, and we acknowledge that this alone may not be sufficient to reduce stigma. What truly makes a difference is the power of personal interactions with individuals experiencing mental health conditions. Building genuine relationships and showing empathy towards them can truly make a significant impact in shifting attitudes.

As a community, there are various steps we can take to combat mental health stigma. Educating ourselves about mental health, stereotypes, and myths, as well as exploring factors contributing to stigma, is key. We can also work on addressing any self-stigma and practice self-compassion and empowerment. Volunteering and advocating on behalf of individuals with mental health conditions can also contribute to positive change.

Our law enforcement officers understand the importance of open conversations about mental health. They continually educate themselves about different mental health conditions, symptoms, and treatment options while using appropriate, sensitive language. They approach individuals with empathy and compassion. Our deputies actively work to de-escalate situations and connect those in need with the appropriate resources, such as our co-responders who are mental health professionals.

Creating a stigma-free environment is a priority for the Sheriff’s Office. We avoid criminalizing mental health crises and focus on supporting our community by fostering a compassionate and understanding approach to mental health (CCSO Co-Responders 719-783-2270 Option 1).

Reference: www.nami.org

Lawsuit Settlement Statement

by George Gramlich

Early this year, the owner/editor of the *Wet Mountain Tribune*, Jordan Hedberg, filed a lawsuit against me personally in the 11th Judicial District in Custer County. The lawsuit alleged that I had defamed him multiple times in articles that I had written in the *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel*. He alleged that he was severely damaged financially by this and he demanded a large sum of money to settle the case.

After I had hired a very good legal team and some motions were made, it became obvious that my legal cost for a jury trial in Custer County would be enormous. Thus, I made the decision to mediate the case. The mediation session was a success. In it, I agreed to publish the below statement that was prepared by Hedberg and his lawyer and the mediator.

a. Quoting the following language from Judge Wenner’s Order Denying Special Motion to Dismiss, dated April 29, 2024, *Hedberg v. Gramlich*:

i. The gist of the statements as false is further shown by the fact that the statements did not inform the reader that 2021M30 was dismissed by the court. ... He did not plead guilty, nor was he found guilty. No sentence was imposed. No deferred sentence entered. No “conditional sentence” was imposed. The statements at issue leave the false impression that Mr. Hedberg remains a convicted criminal. ... Finally, as to actual malice, the court is told that defendant had the sheriff’s report and defendant admits he was in court for Mr. Hedberg’s criminal case. Plaintiff presents clear and convincing evidence that defendant would have had actual knowledge that the gist of his statements were false.

b. Gramlich’s statements referenced in the above quote are hereby retracted. Gramlich apologizes for making those statements and acknowledges that those statements improperly characterized what occurred.

c. Each party shall publish the apology/retraction in their respective newspapers (the Sentinel and the Wet Mountain Tribune).



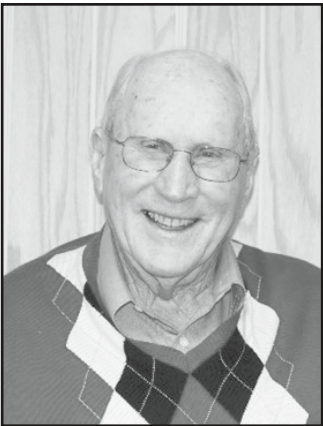
There are no dangerous weapons; there are only dangerous men.

Robert A. Heinlein

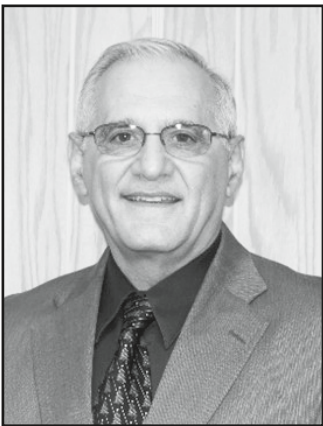
Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

The Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District Announces Its Next General Manager



Ken Baker



Terry Scanga



Greg Felt

Press Release
UAWCD

At the July 11th meeting of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, the Board of Directors selected Mr. Gregory W. Felt to become the District’s next General Manager. Felt will assume this position on January 1, 2025. He will be replacing the long-time manager Mr. Ralph “Terry” Scanga, who is retiring at the end of 2024, and will be only the third General Manager of the UAWCD in its 45-year history. Founded in 1979, the District serves the Upper Arkansas Basin by protecting water rights and working to maintain and increase the beneficial use of water in the basin.

Felt, an eighteen-year member of the Board of Directors, arrived in Chaffee County in 1985 to work as a guide on the Arkansas River. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Yale University while guiding rafting and fishing trips each summer. Felt and his wife, Susan went on to start their own rafting company, Canyon

Marine, and to co-found ArkAnglers with Rod and Connie Patch. His early years in business led Felt to take a strong interest in the hydrology and water management of the river.

“It was a vulnerable feeling to depend on this river for our livelihood and yet not have much knowledge or voice in how the river is managed,” said Felt.

Seeking to strengthen protections for flows and the fishery, he worked with the Arkansas River Outfitters Association to constrain the impacts of Aurora and Pueblo West as they converted irrigation water rights to municipal use. In turn, he was appointed to the UAWCD board of directors in 2006 and to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District board in 2017. In 2020 and 2023, Governor Jared Polis appointed Felt to consecutive terms as Arkansas Basin Director on the Colorado Water Conservation Board. A two-term Chaffee County Commissioner, first elected in 2016, Felt remarked that the timing of the UAWCD job is perfect.

“I am term-limited as commissioner at the end of 2024. I will finish my term while training part-time with Mr. Scanga for the remainder of this year. His are big shoes to fill but I look forward to the challenge and thank the Board for the opportunity.”

Scanga assumed the District General Manager position in 2001, after serving on the UAWCD board of directors for 12 years. He followed Mr. Ken Baker, the District’s first General Manager and water attorney, who led the organizational effort for the District in 1979. During Mr. Baker’s tenure the District adopted the state’s first ever umbrella augmentation plan assisting District constituents in obtaining well permits and protecting water rights in the basin. Mr. Scanga continued implementation of additional plans of augmentation, acquisition of water rights and decrees, and expansion of augmentation services throughout the District expanding the District’s territory to encompass more than 3000 square miles.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a vacancy to fill the unexpired term of office of Director of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District representing Division 2 (Chaffee County School District R-32-J Including the Saguache County Portion) which shall expire June 1, 2026. Property owners having resided for one year in such Division may apply for appointment to the term of office commencing upon appointment for the term expiring June 1, 2026.

Property owners having resided for one year in such division may apply for appointment to fill the unexpired term of this office which will expire June 1, 2026. Any property owner eighteen years of age or older owning property within the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District and residing within the Division for which the appointment is sought is eligible for appointment to office. Applicants shall have backgrounds reflecting agricultural, municipal and industrial, and other interests in the beneficial use of water within the District.

Applications should be made to all of the following: The Honorable Patrick W. Murphy, Chief District Judge, 11th Judicial District, P.O. Box 279, Salida, CO 81201-0279, The Honorable Amanda C. Hopkins, Chief District Judge, 12th Judicial District, Alamosa County Courthouse, 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101, and The Honorable Erin Sokol, Chief District Judge, 4th Judicial District, 270 South Tejon, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Applicants should submit a letter in writing setting forth the applicant’s desire and qualifications to be on the Board. Applications will be accepted for fifteen days from date of publication of this notice.

/s/ Timothy C. Canterbury

Timothy C. Canterbury
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District

Published July 26,, 2024
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ACROSS

1 Impose a tax

7 Yearn

11 Deface

14 Celtic

15 Opp. of yeses

16 Bullfight cheer

17 Type of Am, Express card

18 Snare

19 What a nurse gives

20 Shade tree

22 For

23 Color

24 Incidental

29 Radios

31 Brother of Moses

32 Stamping tool

34 Wounds

35 Baths

36 Real busy

38 Summer skin color

39 Buck’s mate

40 Pea holder

41 Villain

44 A ghost

46 Sanctified

47 Bustling

50 Sticky black substance

51 Packed

52 Pieces of wood

54 Pilate was one

56 Dowel

57 Nothing

59 Rock group

60 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)

61 Muslim ruler

63 Pasta

68 Street abbr.

69 Achy

70 Biased

71 Scarlet

72 Fasten

73 Cousin of Mordecai

DOWN

1 Gone by

2 Drain

3 Put

4 Samuel’s mentor

5 Tribe of Israel

6 Hot liquid burn

7 Picnic pest

8 Corporation (abbr.)

9 Biblical seat of emotions

10 Betrothed (KJV)

11 Honor your father and ____

12 Attract

13 Niche

21 Region between Rockies and Ohio

24 Asia

25 Male parent

26 Iraq’s neighbor

27 Distress call

28 Central Intelligence Agency

30 Cain fled to this land

33 Roman Empire sovereign

36 Child

37 “Raven” author

39 Plague of Egypt

41 Connecticut (abbr.)

42 In addition

43 Colorer

44 Box

45 Old woman

46 That woman

47 Emerge

48 Arm covering

49 Followed closely

51 Evil angels

53 Peter’s other name

55 Locale

58 Italian money

62 Representative

64 Often poetically

65 Dit’s partner

66 Tell a tall tale

67 Stray

Puzzle key on page 20

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The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

Daily reporting and analysis
of current events

from a biblical and prophetic perspective.

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

A word about
Christianity and
politics

Many conservative Christians are upset about the Republican Party Platform softening its stance on abortion and sexual depravity. Some even have vowed not to vote in this year’s presidential election because they see no candidate that upholds the sanctity of life and marriage between a man and a woman. As Christians, are we so wrapped around the political axel, that we forget who we are in Christ and our responsibility as his disciples? What defines us? Are we defined by political stances or spiritual truths? Where do we put our faith? Is our faith in a political party or some candidate, or is it in Christ? These are pertinent questions to ask when it comes to the moral issues with which we are faced as a society.

America seems to be a lot like the Roman Empire. In ancient Roman civilization, child sacrifice to the gods was not practiced and was considered barbaric. Infanticide, however, was not only legal, but encouraged. Fathers were allowed to kill their offspring without reprisal. In “The Rise of Christianity” Rodney Stark writes: “Not only was the exposure of infants a very common practice, it was justified by law and advocated by philosophers.” Table IV of the Twelve Tables of Roman Law—the basis of the Roman Constitution—stated “an obviously deformed child must be put to death.” This law justified the killing of any baby that was unwanted, especially females when Romans wanted perhaps only one daughter and many sons.

Apologist Christopher Price points out in his paper “Pagans, Christianity, and Infanticide” that if not for Christians, infanticide would have continued as common practice in Roman society. Price writes that early Christian documents such as the *Didache* and the *Epistle of Barnabas* expressly prohibited infanticide and abortion as murder. It was Christians in ancient Rome who converted pagans one heart at a time and changed the world’s perspective on abortion and infanticide. Even though infanticide was legal in Roman society, Christians worked to end it. How? They converted pagans one heart at a time. In other words, they held accountability to God’s law not to Roman law. In contemporary America, Christians are still a substantial majority. Yet a large part of Christianity and the “Church” have embraced the world on moral issues.

Neither abortion nor sexual depravity would be an issue if the “Church” and Christians were holding accountability—even just to ourselves as a majority. The mess with abortion and sexual depravity began when the “Church” acquiesced its authority to the body politic rather than leading, teaching and holding accountability to the precepts of God. And now we are angry when a politician doesn’t meet our specific expectations. 1 Peter 4:17-18 says, “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” Yes, this is a hard message. It’s not meant to offend, but to exhort. We have a lot of work to do and we need to choose leaders that best reflect our values.

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

The Secret Service Was Created
to Stop Leftist Terror
It Became the Left

by Daniel Greenfield,
FrontPageMag.com

“The strength of our organization,” Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle argued in the 2023 report, lay in, among other things, “seeking out the boundless benefits of diversity.”

The Secret Service offers “leadership training on how best to support LGBTQ+ employees” and “training on unconscious bias” which is the idea that all white people are innately racist, and tries to guide more “more inclusive decisions” while “increasing empathy” for minorities.

Special Agents in Charge are tasked with DEI which distracts from their core duties, but diversity and its boundless benefits was not why the Secret Service existed. The Left was.

“Anarchy is a crime against the whole human race; and all mankind should band against the anarchist,” President Theodore Roosevelt had warned in his annual message to Congress.

Several months earlier, a leftist anarchist had murdered President McKinley. Roosevelt, always a man of action, headed out by boat, train and wagon, to the scene, took the oath of office in borrowed clothes and launched a war against the Left.

“When compared with the suppression of anarchy, every other question sinks into insignificance,” he declared while urging Congress to ban leftist literature from the mails.

He wanted to give the federal government the authority to suppress the leftist radicals by signing treaties with other nations to outlaw anarchy “like piracy and that form of man-stealing known as the slave trade; for it is of far blacker infamy than either.”

While these efforts failed, Congress did approve the expansion of the Secret Service to protect the president. And Theodore Roosevelt became the first president to be formally protected. (Roosevelt was shot later by an assassin at a campaign event in Milwaukee, but continued his speech. The bullet remained embedded in the muscle tissue of his chest for the rest of his life.)

The track record for preventing leftist presidential assassinations was mixed. After the radical terrorists Sacco and Vanzetti were executed in Massachusetts, a plot by anarchists to bomb President Herbert Hoover’s rail car in Argentina was averted locally. The Secret Service successfully stopped a Puerto Rican nationalist terror attack against President Harry Truman, but failed to prevent a Communist from murdering President John F. Kennedy.

And it once again failed to stop President Donald J. Trump’s assassin until he had taken his shot. The nation’s first true federal law enforcement agency had been designated to protect presidents in response to a wave of radical leftist terror. Earlier proposals to retask the Secret Service, including after the assassination of President Lincoln, who had created it to stop counterfeiting, to protect presidents had been turned down until the anarchist reign of terror.

Unfortunately the Secret Service, like much of federal law enforcement, drifted from its original mission. Rather than fighting leftist radicalism, the Secret Service embraced it.

Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle, formerly of Biden’s protective detail, and boosted by Jill Biden to serve as director, made it her mission to remake the organization into a 30% female force and to pursue DEI. “I am very conscious as I sit in this chair now that we need to attract diverse candidates,” she told CBS News.



While the Secret Service may not work so well at stopping assassins, it has an ‘Equity’ team that works “diligently to address the needs of the agency’s diverse workforce” through “caring support, informative training sessions” and “cultural awareness events”.

Two of the three top executive roles in the Secret Service were held by women, by Cheatle and Chief Operating Officer Cynthia Sjoberg Radway who was brought in to find new recruits.

Beyond 30% female recruits, the Secret Service was committed to a 12% disabled workforce, hiring without regard to “disability (physical or mental)” or “gender identity” which is very promising for mentally ill transgender recruits, but not those whom they are supposed to protect.

And it holds an annual “Unity Day” to “pay homage to the unique accomplishments that various ethnic

groups, cultures and individuals with disabilities have made to our organization.”

“Embracing a diverse and inclusive workforce enables the Secret Service to be more responsive and better prepared to address the evolving security threats facing our nation’s leaders,” the Secret Service claims, without clarifying exactly how using diversity rather than ability saves lives. Was Trump better protected because the Secret Service has a more “diverse” workforce?

The Secret Service claims that it only hires 1 out of 250 Special Agent applicants and DEI ensures that many of those will be hired for affirmative action reasons rather than merit.

The Secret Service career page images of its ideal recruits features three women, two of them minorities, and one minority man; a promotional recruitment video centers on a black woman with no white men in sight. The same tends to be true across Secret Service literature where I had to flip through endless pages of ideal diverse agents in search of one single white man. But the pictures of white men usually only appeared in the photographs of actual training exercises.

“I’m a black female and that’s not what people imagine when they think of a Secret Service Agent,” a pull quote from the protective assignments section gushes.

An organization once tasked with fighting leftist assassins is now instead focused on “positive organizational change where fairness, equality, diversity and inclusion are put into practice by all Secret Service employees.” And perhaps not stopping Trump’s assassin was one example.

DEI is a fundamentally ideological program and beyond lowering the effectiveness of any organization, it also introduces radical political agendas into the body of the group. Did those biases play any role in the failures of the Secret Service during the assassination attempt?

It’s difficult to know, but the only way to be sure is by weeding politics out of the Secret Service.

President Theodore Roosevelt turned to the Secret Service to protect presidents from the Left. But if the Secret Service and other federal law enforcement agencies are infiltrated by the Left, who will protect Republican and conservative public officials from their radical ‘protectors’.

(Editor/GG: Unbelievable. And this is just one small branch of the government. Can’t wait till Trump cleans house...)

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/the-secret-service-was-created-to-stop-leftist-terror-it-became-the-left/>

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No, President Biden, the Supreme Court Did NOT Remove All Limits on the Presidency

by Jonathan Turley,
JonathanTurley.Org

President Joe Biden delivered an address from the White House last night on the presidential immunity decision by the Supreme Court. While pledging that he will defend the rule of law, President Biden misrepresented what that law is in the aftermath of Trump v. United States. While we have often discussed false constitutional claims by the President as well as other false statements, an address of this kind is particularly concerning in misleading citizens on the meaning of one of the most important decisions in history.

As I have previously written, I am not someone who has favored expansive presidential powers. As a Madisonian scholar, I favor Congress in most disputes with presidents. However, I saw good-faith arguments on both sides of this case and the Court adopted a middle road on immunity — rejecting the extreme positions of both the Trump team and the lower court.

One of the most glaring moments in the address came when President Biden declared that “for all...for all practical purposes, today’s decision almost certainly means that there are virtually no limits on what a president can do.”

That is not true.

The Court found that there was absolute immunity for actions that

fall within their “exclusive sphere of constitutional authority” while they enjoy presumptive immunity for other official acts. They do not enjoy immunity for unofficial, or private actions.

The Court has often adopted tiered approaches in balancing the powers of the branches. For example, in his famous concurrence to *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579 (1952), Justice Robert Jackson broke down the line of authority between Congress and the White House into three groups where the President is acting with express or implied authority from Congress; where Congress is silent (“the zone of twilight” area); and where the President is acting in defiance of Congress.

Here the Court separated cases into actions taken in core areas of executive authority, official actions taken outside those core areas, and unofficial actions. Actions deemed personal or unofficial are not protected under this ruling.

It is certainly true that the case affords considerable immunity, including for conversations with subordinates. However, this did not spring suddenly from the head Zeus. As Chief Justice John Roberts lays out in the majority opinion, there has long been robust protections afforded to presidents.

There are also a host of checks and

balances on executive authority in our constitutional system. This includes judicial intervention to prevent violations of the law as well as impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Biden’s hyper-ventilated response is crushingly ironic. He was vice president when President Barack Obama killed an American citizen without a trial or a charge. When former Attorney General Eric Holder announced the “kill list” policy (that included the right to kill any American citizen), he was met with applause, not condemnation.

The Obama-Biden administration then fought every effort by the family to sue the government. President Biden would have been outraged by any attempt of a Republican district attorney to charge him or President Obama with murder.

He would also be outraged by prosecutors pursuing criminal charges for the deaths associated with the deluge of undocumented persons over the Southern border.

In his address, President Biden also claimed that “the law would no longer” define “the limits of the presidency.”

That is also untrue. This case was remanded for the purpose of defining what of these functions would be deemed private as opposed to official. Even on official actions, former president Donald Trump could be prosecuted if the

presumptive immunity is rebutted by prosecutors.

What was most glaring for many civil libertarians was President Biden’s portrayal of himself as a paragon of constitutional fealty. He declared that “I know I will respect the limits of the presidential powers as I have for the last three-and-a-half years.”

That was also untrue. President Biden has racked up an impressive array of losses in federal courts where he was found to have violated the Constitution.

This includes rulings that his administration has exceeded his authority and engaged in racial discrimination in federal programs. Indeed, Biden has often displayed a cavalier attitude toward such violations.

For example, the Biden administration was found to have violated the Constitution in its imposition of a nationwide eviction moratorium through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Biden admitted that his White House counsel and most legal experts told him the move was unconstitutional. But he ignored their advice and went with that of Harvard University Professor Laurence Tribe, the one person who would tell him what he wanted to hear. It was, of course, then quickly found to be unconstitutional.

Biden showed the same disregard over the unconstitutionality of

his effort to unilaterally forgive roughly half a trillion dollars in student debt. Courts have already enjoined that effort as presumptively unconstitutional (though an appellate court in one of those cases relaxed aspects of the injunction).

The address was used to reinforce his “democracy is on the ballot” campaign theme. Pundits have repeated the mantra, claiming that if Biden is not elected, American democracy will perish.

While some of us have challenged these predictions, the other presidential candidates are missing a far more compelling argument going into this election. While democracy is not on the ballot this election, free speech is.

For many of us in the free speech community, President Biden has become the most anti-free speech president since John Adams. As discussed in my new book, “The Indispensable Right: Free Speech in an Age of Rage,” the Biden Administration has helped fund and maintain an unprecedented censorship system in the United States.

That record is hardly supportive for a president claiming to be the defender, if not the savior, of the Constitution.

Please see: <https://jonathanurley.org/2024/07/02/no-president-biden-the-supreme-court-did-not-remove-any-limits-on-the-presidency/>

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The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.

Office Hours are Monday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. - noon.

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Deadline for display ad copy is noon on Friday the week before the ad is to appear in the paper.

Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

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WESTLIFFE
from page 1

reproduction placed on wood and mounted flush with the building’s exterior wall. A whole conversation took place on whether this would be advertising or a mural and what the current definitions are for both in the town of Westcliffe. Mr. Mast said the siding on the building doesn’t lend itself to painting a mural and this method would hold up better. He could do this without his signature, and it would have Westcliffe written on the reproduction. He just wants to add the aesthetic to the town. The board approves the plan as a mural and not an advertisement.

Next the board approved a Special Event Liquor Permit at 102 Main Street for Wet Mountain Broadcasting LLC (KLZR) afternoon events/free concerts coming up in August. They want to defray some of the cost of having the free events and by serving alcohol at their new venue.

Consideration of a request to amend the Capital Assets Planning and Capital Reserves Plan. The change in wording to the plan from 1 cent sales tax will “sunsets on December 31, 2024” to read “in perpetuity”. (The voters approved this in the April 2, 2024 election.) Changes were approved.

Consideration of a request to approve the revised Town Clerk job description was approved for January 1, 2025 start date.

Consideration of an appointment to vacant Planning Commission seat had to be open until the 17th, so they tabled this to the next meeting.

Consideration of appointing a new WPAC committee member and restructuring the current committee. Caleb Patterson said they want to change it to two trustees and three community members on the Westcliffe Parks Committee. The title of ‘citizen’ was changed to ‘community member’ and WPAC recommends Mr. VanDorn for one position. Approved.

Consideration of a request to approve the FEMA Study Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). This is for a flood study. Mayor Wenke described the flooding Westcliffe gets from Hermit Ln. over toward the Clinic and then back to Grape Creek. CWCB rep, Marta Blanco said they can develop some data on that which can be used internally and not be part of the report for FEMA. She said they study “drain ways” leading to

the creeks. (i.e. Grape Creek.) She also answered questions about the reports they would create that might affect insurance requirements. If a property’s risk increases it would be reported to federal agencies issuing loans in that area. CWCB would identify flood hazards and flood potential but do not provide grant monies for the actual improvements. Doug Mahon, also on Zoom for CWCB, said that kind of mitigation would best be served by what is called a ‘Building Resilience and Infrastructure for Communities grant, issued through Colorado Homeland Security. The board approved the MoA.

Next was Staff Reports: Town Manager Caleb Patterson gave an update on street work and the park. August 16th is the tentative date for an Opening of Jess Price Park.

Public Comments

A Mr. Dale Coleman voiced his perturbation with some language in the master plan (which, because

it is being worked on currently, was made available in the July 10 workshop packet.) He pointed out the plan contains water park ideas and “acquiring land”. He wants it removed since he and other landowners abutting the Bluff Park and Grape Creek have no intention of selling land or giving access to Grape Creek.

Caleb said it would really just be a diversion from the creek and then return to it.

Mr. Coleman asks how they can include something like that in the plan without ever talking to the landowners about it.

MT Caleb Patterson says, “It’s really just a wish list.”

Mr. Coleman says, “Okay. Will you take it off your wish list? Because it will not happen.”

He also took affront to the proposed bike trail toward the mountains described in the 5-year plan.

Caleb said he would bring it up next month at the meeting. Mr. Coleman said, “Okay, I’ll be there.”

The Board was either taken aback and speechless or smugly quiet

on this. And the meeting was adjourned.

(Editor/llv/ Opinion: “Connecting through a trail network, linking residential, commercial and recreational areas” (see excerpts below) is straight out of smart growth plans that began to sprout up in the 70s. Other elements of those plans tend to hike housing prices and local sales tax. Multimodal trails and recreational areas are a popular selling point used by most smart growth organizations and are currently at the heart of several lawsuits fighting eminent domain for a trail, river access or carbon recapture pipeline networks. Colorado has had cases. Ohio has many cases still pending. Colorado and Ohio both allow for special districts, the state, a town, or a utility to try for eminent domain. So if you think that Mr. Coleman is overreacting, you need to read back issues of *The Fence Post or Farm and Dairy* magazines describing landowner nightmares. Pay attention.

Hopefully the board will remove the language as a good faith measure before they approve their final 5-year plan update.)

RECREATION	
Direction	
R-1	The Parks Committee and the Town of Westcliffe should encourage and develop recreational opportunities for visitors and residents of Westcliffe.
Actions	
• Bolster the Town Parks to enhance the community. • Start to design and incorporate the Hermit and Memorial Park complex. • Acquire the land between Bluff Park and grape creek to create a park attraction for families to play in the creek. • Town Trails should be enhanced and expanded along Chloride Gulch to connect to Silver Cliff and possibly the San de Cristo trail heads. • Partner with other non-profit groups like Trails for all in order to take the heavy lifting off the Town when applying for grants through CPW and other government and non-profit groups.	

Excerpts from page 36 and 37 of the proposed update to the Westcliffe 5-year Plan

Policies	
R-1A	The Town of Westcliffe shall maintain and continue to improve its park system.
R-1B	The Town of Westcliffe shall encourage any opportunities to build a regional indoor recreational center to serve residents and visitors.
R-1C	The Town shall support the development opportunities to develop a community trail network, linking residential, commercial, and recreational areas.
Actions	
Work with the Westcliffe Park Advisory Committee and public to encourage the development of a community trail network, linking residential, commercial, and recreational areas. Time Frame-Mid Term	

EV Boosters Cannot Do Math

by Duggan Flanakin,
RealClearWire.com

According to Electrly, the electric vehicle charging manufacturer, it takes an average of 90 kilowatt-hours of electricity to fully charge a Tesla Model Y long range all-wheel-drive vehicle, 83 kWh for the Model Y performance version, and 67 kWh for the standard range Model Y.

Each Tesla uses between 0.24 to 0.30 kWh per mile, or about 4,500 kWh over a year for 15,000 miles of driving. Other electric vehicles use more or less, but within a similar range. At 0.30 kWh per mile, that's 90 kWh for 300 miles of driving for the typical week.

The average American household without an in-home EV charging station consumes about 30 kWh per day, or about 10,720 kWh over a year's time. With just one electric vehicle being charged at home, that total increases to about 15,220 kWh. For two-EV households, that total runs up to nearly 20,000 kWh per year (assuming both drivers commute to work). That's nearly double current electricity usage for such families.

Without an EV in the garage, air conditioning uses nearly a fifth of household electricity, followed by space heating and water heating (a combined 25%). But adding just one home-charged EV changes that calculus dramatically. The EV takes up about 30% of the much higher total electricity use, dropping the share for all other uses significantly.

Two home-charged EVs would eat up nearly half the household's total electricity usage – and require thousands of dollars to upgrade the house's electric panel. Today's 50-kva transformers, which cost about

\$8,000 each, can power about 60 homes; that number drops closer to 40 if each of those homes houses one electric vehicle, closer to 30 with two EVs using home chargers.

For a city with 120,000 homes, which today may require about 2,000 transformers, the addition of 120,000 home-charged electric vehicles means adding 1,000 transformers, about \$8 million. But that's just the tip of the iceberg, because distributing 50 to 100% more household electricity requires generating 50 to 100% more electricity.

All this costs money that most Americans today do not have, especially at the generation end. Especially with the push to eliminate electric generation from coal and natural gas and even nuclear energy. It also requires massive construction of electric infrastructure, from transmission lines to transformers to in-home charging stations accompanied by larger electric fuse boxes.

One might see all this as a great booster of the economy. One problem with this is that the U.S. is projected to have a shortfall of 550,000 electricians by 2027. Who will do all this work? Another problem is that most "studies" of the impact of electrifying the vehicle fleet and relying nearly entirely on wind and solar energy pay little attention to the impact on individual households and local communities.

Who will benefit – and who will be harmed? The "experts" either do not know or will not say.

Do they play chess? Do they realize that wise policy making requires a chess-like approach of evaluating the impact of today's moves six or seven moves down the road?

Then there are the side issues.

Many of those who strongly advocate for an all-EV future live in cities governed by progressives whose public officials have been "soft" on property crimes. This may explain why thieves in the Seattle metro area have stolen the copper cables from over 100 EV charging stations in the past 12 months, leaving these stations totally useless until the cables are replaced (and then, often as not, stolen again).

Belgian firefighters are lobbying to ban the parking of electric vehicles in underground garages, just as liquefied petroleum gas vehicles without safety valves cannot park in them. The reason?

It takes up to 70 hours to extinguish an EV electric fire by immersing the vehicle in a skip filled with water – which can hardly be done in an underground car park. Worse, the water used to extinguish these fires reveals a chemical load up to 70 times higher than typical load limits for industrial wastewater.

Ars Technica reports one concern motorists have with buying EVs is the shortfall of public charging stations. The U.S. Department of Energy says that, of the nation's 64,000 public charging stations, only 10,000 are direct current chargers that can replenish an EV battery is 30 minutes rather than several hours – and that's if there is no line.

What the EV-promoting journal misses in its excuse-me post is that those fueling up at the nation's 120,000 gasoline and diesel stations can do so in far less than 30 minutes, usually waiting a maximum 60 seconds to access a free pump.

As the old adage says, time is money.

Speaking of money, remember that Biden Administration promise two years ago to spend \$7.5 billion to install about 20,000 EV charging stations with up to 500,000 charging points in operation? As of March 2024, only seven of these stations had been built with Biden dollars.

Maybe the reason is a lack of qualified personnel, maybe a lack of spare parts. Or is this money going down the same rabbit hole as the Solyndra and First Solar handouts?

Even in super-green Germany, whose zeal for environmental purity was such that it shut down its nuclear power industry (but reopened coal plants), half of EV owners regret their purchase or lease, many citing "rising electricity prices." That same sentiment is growing in America and around the developed world despite the machinations of the globalist power elites.

The day of reckoning for the Biden (and other nations') EV mandates may come soon, especially as defiant automakers have moved forward with hydrogen-fueled vehicles, cleaner internal combustion engines, and other alternatives to the electricity- sucking, highway-crushing (yes, the heavier EVs add wear and tear to public roadways) marvels, many of which rely on diesel generators or coal-fired power plants to operate.

But mostly, people just want to be free to make their own economic and transportation choices and not have some unelected bureaucrat making those decisions for them.

Please see: https://www.realclearwire.com/articles/2024/07/08/ev_boosters_cannot_do_math_1043078.html



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Mayorkas’ Parole Programs Enable Violent Crimes to be Committed Against Americans

by Bethany Blankley,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – A wave of violent crime has befallen Americans nationwide connected to parole programs created by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, according to several reports.

A pattern has emerged of single men illegally entering the U.S. who are considered inadmissible under federal law. Instead of being processed for removal, Border Patrol agents released them with a “notice to appear” before an immigration judge several years into the future.

DHS Inspector General reports found the agents weren’t vetting everyone they apprehended and released and ICE agents weren’t detaining them, *The Center Square* reported. Months later, many of the released men were arrested for allegedly committing violent crimes, including thousands of miles away from the border.

This is the first in a multi-part series examining violent crimes allegedly committed against Americans by illegal foreign nationals released into the U.S. through Mayorkas’ policies.

Recent examples include Venezuelans who allegedly strangled to death a 12-year-old girl in Houston, a Salvadoran who allegedly raped and murdered a mother of five in Maryland, and an Ecuadorian who allegedly sexually assaulted a 13-year-old in New York City.

“These tragedies could have been avoided if the Biden administra-

tion would simply enforce the laws they swore to uphold,” U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security Rep. Mark Green, R-Tenn., said. “It’s truly that simple. Americans no longer feel safe in their own communities and neighborhoods. It does not have to be this way. Our Committee will continue to do everything possible to ensure justice for these victims, and accountability for the public officials ultimately responsible for these tragedies.”

After the alleged perpetrators are arrested, local law enforcement officials discovered they were released by Border Patrol agents, weren’t properly vetted, and or came in through new parole programs Mayorkas created. House Republicans identified them as illegal and used them as evidence to impeach Mayorkas in February. Republican attorneys general have sued trying to stop them, arguing they are illegal.

Within months of being released, the alleged perpetrators were arrested and charged with having committed violent crimes, *The Center Square*, law enforcement officials and news organizations have reported. Their entries have been traced back to the Central American Minors Parole Program (implemented in April 2022) and parole programs created specifically for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV, implemented between October 2022 and January 2023), and for Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Columbians through a so-called family unification process (implemented in July 2023).

DHS used more than 50 airports worldwide “to help process into

the country more than 400,000 inadmissible aliens through the administration’s unlawful ... CHNV mass-parole program,” the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security said. In April 2024, the committee reported that since mid-October 2023, “there were 1.6 million inadmissible aliens awaiting travel authorizations through the CHNV program.”

DHS documents the committee obtained state that none admitted through CHNV have a legal basis to enter the country: “All individuals paroled into the United States are, by definition, inadmissible, including those paroled under the CHNV Processes.”

Green said the mass parole programs “continue to make a mockery of our laws. The simple fact is that [President Joe] Biden and Mayorkas want to import more inadmissible aliens into the United States because they see political benefit in doing so, not to protect those legitimately persecuted in their home countries.”

Former President Donald Trump first warned that criminals would be released from prisons in other countries, illegally enter the U.S. and harm Americans.

At a border event in Texas three years ago, Trump said he made deals with the leaders of Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador to take back their own citizens who were violent criminals that the U.S. processed for removal. This agreement ended under the Biden administration. Trump warned these countries would open their prisons “and prisoners, murderers, human traffickers ... drug dealers” would illegally enter the U.S.

Among them are members of a violent Venezuelan prison gang, Tren de Aragua, who have embedded themselves in Houston, Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McGraw told a state legislative committee.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, called on the Biden administration to designate the cartel as a Transnational Criminal Organization. Members are known for committing murder, orchestrating bribery and money laundering schemes, drug and arms trafficking, and kidnappings for ransom money.

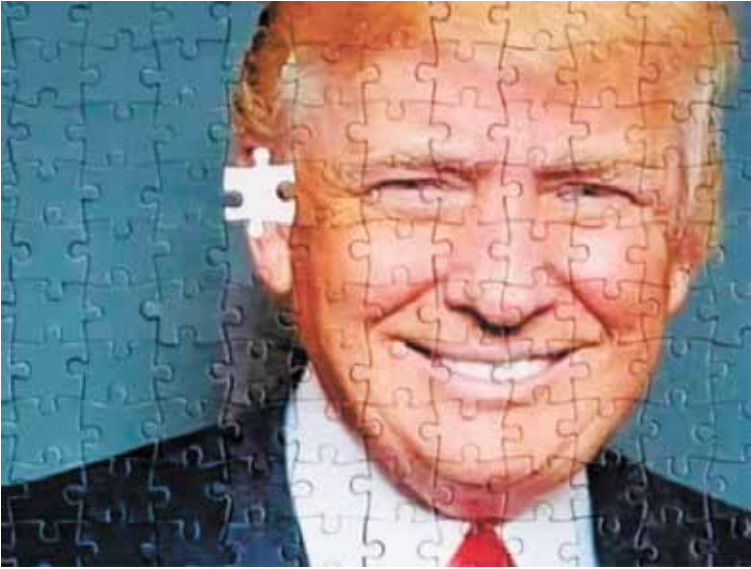
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have been arresting Tren de Aragua gang members nation-wide, including recently in New York City and Chicago, *The Center Square* reported. From fiscal 2021 through fiscal 2023, ICE agents also arrested a record 387,000 criminal noncitizens; the majority were citizens of Mexico, Nicaragua,

Columbia and Venezuela, *The Center Square* reported.

Despite House Republicans demanding answers nearly two years ago from Mayorkas “about Venezuela releasing violent prisoners early and pushing them to join caravans heading towards our southern border,” *The Center Square* reported, how many are illegally in the U.S. are unknown.

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_1f49fe92-397c-11ef-bacb-1ba433aa2e0e.html







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