

Custer County Republican Committee Clown Show

Lib Insiders Attempt a Coup, Possible Fraudulent Elector

REDACTED -See hard copy

CUSTER COUNTY GOP
see page 24

The Infamous June 29, 2023 BOCC Executive Session, A Window Into Corrupt Government

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

Some background: Earlier this year Custer County Commissioners Kevin Day and Tom Flower pushed to dramatically change the structure of our county government by adding a whole new, all powerful, layer of government to our small structure: That is creating the position of a County Manager (CM) who basically would run the whole show. Apparently, Day and Flower thought that the job they were elected to do was overwhelming and they didn't have enough time to attend meetings around the state with our bureaucrats and elected officials begging for money. So, they wanted somebody to do their work for them.

Well, that didn't go well with the citizens of Happy Valley and they made a huge stink. Day called a workshop meeting and the citizens flattened him and Flower. Commissioner Canda volunteered to form a study group on that idea and to also review the entire county government structure and function. Day and Flower then backed off waiting until Canda's study group gave their report.

We were waiting for the report when in June, our County Finance Director and Human Resources Director Braden Wilson requested a secret Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Executive Session (ES). The official agenda item was "Consideration of Employee Promotion."

It was not for "Consideration of Employee Promotion", it was a proposal to radically change the structure of the county government by creating the County Manager position, and, for Wilson to propose that he, and only he, would be that County Manager. All in secret.

These subjects are clearly not fit for an Executive Session. They should have been made in public. Wilson knew it and as you will see, tried to hide the fact that he knew it was improper.

It was a totally illegal power grab attempt, aided and abetted by Day and Flower.

So how do we know what went on in that ES? A group of local concerned citizens repeatedly confronted Day and Flower at several BOCC meetings about this but with no effect. Finally, after the recall of Flower and the sitting of his replacement, Lucas Epp, a vote

was called and the audio recording was released. (Day, of course, voted no on releasing the recording.)

This group had the recording professionally transcribed and then audited the transcript. (The *Sentinel* has the transcript posted on our website: sdcsentinel.com. Go to the top of the page and click on "Submissions from Concerned Citizens of Custer County".)

It is 14,882 words long so impossible to print. What we will do, however, is review it for you below and highlight some of the points that came up to give you a general sense of what went on.

The first part of the ES is mostly Wilson whining about how tough his job is especially the Human Resource side. Wilson said he has had 17 HR complaints in the two years he has been here and somehow that is too much. This goes on and on. Wilson then noted:

"I had 17 incidents since I've started here, which is, I think, a pretty good clip for a little county. I certainly wasn't expecting that coming in. And of those 17, 16, I believe, could have been addressed solely by that manager or were caused by the manager. And

that would be an elected official, that would be a department head, anybody that would serve in that supervisory capacity. So only one, only one HR issue that I think truly was just an HR issue that wasn't caused by a manager in some way or had a relation to a manager in some way."

Wilson then continued to complain about how hard his job was. Then after a bit, he said the answer is creating the County Manager position, and yes, making him the County Manager, "So, my suggestion for a solution to all of this is the creation of, and my promotion to, county manager."

This is a flat out improper subject for an ES. Totally improper. Wilson then goes on for a long time rehashing all the points about why the county needs a CM. On and on and on. (All the points that were debunked earlier this year.)

In addition, this would have been a newly created, executive level position which means it should be POSTED for people to apply. Including other county employees and outside qualified people.

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**PATRIOT
ALERT!**
The Battle of
Tours
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But my God shall
supply all your needs
according to
his riches in glory by
Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19 KJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County VIN Inspections

Press Release

The Custer County Sheriff's office has created a new program to better serve our community with Certified VIN Inspections.

Beginning November 8, 2023, CCSO will be available to schedule certified VIN inspections and VIN verifications all day at the Sheriff's office located at 702 Rosita Ave., Westcliffe, CO. To schedule an appointment, send an email RSVP to vin@custersheriff.com or by calling 719-783-2270. We will be performing certified VIN inspections

two Wednesdays a month all day long.

From time to time, members of our community need to have a certified VIN inspection completed for a vehicle prior to registration. The need usually arises from a title problem or a salvage / branded vehicle title. In order to have the certified VIN inspection completed, the vehicle must be street legal and roadworthy. State Statute sets the fee for a certified VIN inspection at \$50.00. There is also a less complex VIN verification which is required for out

of state registered vehicles being registered for the first time in Colorado. The fee for a VIN verification is \$10.00. We recently trained six of our staff as Certified VIN examiners with the State of Colorado. In the past we only had one deputy and it could take a long time to get the deputy to the right location between calls for service.

We think this will help members in the community by scheduling set days and times and being able to perform additional inspections with the newly trained staff.

Upcoming SO Sponsored Events

Press Release

The Custer County Sheriff's office released their quarterly calendar with community policing events. Sheriff Rich Smith wants to increase opportunities in the county for community members to interact with members of the Sheriff's office.

The Sheriff's Office is hosting Coffee with the Sheriff each month at rotating locations. The upcoming locations are:

- **Saturday, October 28** (8AM - 10AM): San Isabel Lodge, 59 CR 371, Rye, CO 81069
- **Wednesday, November 8** (5:30AM-7:30AM): Parking Lot of Wetmore Baptist Church - (corner of H96 and H67)
- **Tuesday, December 5** (8AM-10AM): West Custer County Library, 209 Main Street, Westcliffe CO

The Sheriff's Office has received many requests to provide women-only self defense. The Sheriff's Office previously hosted the same self-defense class which was available for all school staff late this summer. On Thursday, November 2nd from 6PM-7PM, the Sheriff's office is hosting a free Self Defense and Situational Awareness Class for women age 12 and up in the East Gym of the Custer County School.

Advance registration is required. Class size is limited to 20 students. Email: BGasper@custersheriff.com to register.

The Sheriff's Office is hosting the National Rifle Association Range Safety Officer class for scout leaders and posse members at the Sangre De Cristo Shooting Sports Range on Saturday, October 14. (The class is full). We hope to host the same class in the spring.

On **Saturday, October 14, 2023**, The Sheriff's Office is teaching a free two hour class on situational awareness at a women's retreat.

A **luncheon for retired law enforcement** and corrections officers, hosted by Custer County Sheriff's Office, will be held at Tony's Mountain Pizza on **November 8 at noon**. Officers are invited to attend the luncheon. Following the luncheon, officers can travel to the firing range for annual qualification for HR218 LEOSA retired officers permits. There is no charge for the firing range qualification. Email BGasper@custersheriff.com to RSVP for one of both events.

We really enjoy these opportunities to interact with the community we serve and hope to see you.

The community can listen to Sheriff Smith talk about his efforts and the importance of law enforcement addressing the problem of auto theft on KLZR radio this Saturday at 10:30 am. Sheriff Smith is the featured guest on the "Automotive ADHD Radio Show" this week. If you can't tune in to the radio show, be sure to listen to the podcast or look for the show on YouTube, searchable as "Automotive ADHD Podcast."

Crime Stats for Custer County

Custer County Sheriff's Office, Shared with Public

Custer County Sheriff's Office publishes crime statistics comparison from 2022 - 2023 (year to date).

The deputies and posse have done tremendous work over the past nine months. You should have been seeing them more while on community patrols in the two towns as well as on all county roads.

We have arrested fewer people this year but combined they are spending more days in jail than in the previous year.

We are still fully staffed with the addition of our three newest deputies.

Crime - January 1st to September 30th	2022	2023
Kidnapping	1	1
Robbery-Business-Strongarm	1	0
Arson	4	1
Extortion	2	1
Burglary	8	4
Vehicle Theft	7	3
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2	1
Possess Stolen Property	0	1
Damage Property-Private	23	6
Obscenity	4	0
Weapon Law Offenses	8	1
Animal Cruelty	2	0
Homicide	1	0
Sexual Assault	3	0
Ag Assault	6	4
Simple Assault	8	7
Intimidation (includes stalking)	16	13
Theft/Larceny	21	12
Fraud	17	6
Narcotic Violations	0	2
Narcotic Equipment	1	0
Human Trafficking - Commercial Sex Acts	1	0
All Group B (DUI, Warrant Arrests, All Other)	56	33
	192	96

EMS Monitor Six Safety Tips for Avoiding Falls

Custer County EMS

Custer County has an aging population; it's no secret. Your local EMS agency wants you to remain safe at home. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one out of four Americans aged 65 and older falls each year. Fortunately, many falls are preventable, and making simple modifications to the home environment can significantly reduce the risk.

1. The Right Footwear: Shoes with non-slip soles and a secure fit can prevent slips and provide better stability. Avoid wearing loose-fitting slippers, as they can increase the risk of tripping.
2. Install Handrails: key locations would be stairways, bathrooms, and hallways.
3. Adapt Bathrooms for Safety: use non-

skid mats and install grab bars to assist seniors in standing from the toilet

4. Preventing Obstacles: Ensure any outside stairs and pathways remain clear and free of debris, especially ice in the colder months. Store extra belongings in closets and avoid accumulation of belongings in areas where a senior might have to navigate and could become a trip hazard.
5. Secure rugs and loose carpet to the floor so they cannot move.
6. Encourage regular strength training and exercise: it's tempting to spend more time on the couch as we age, but staying physically active improves muscle mass, joint flexibility and increases bone density. Mild weight bearing activity such as walking and using stairs can increase balance and strength.

"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."

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“We the People” Speak Letters to the Editor

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

List of School Board Accomplishments

Letter to the Editor

I am a member of the Custer County Schools Board of Education. I would like to share some of the positive things that the current Board has accomplished in the last two years.

- 1. We approved two large raises last year, totaling a little over \$6,000, while the previous board increased salaries by only \$600.
- 2. The previous board maintained a three-month reserve to cover operations. This board has maintained a twelve-month reserve,

while still being able to give our staff competitive salaries.

- 3. We have continued to approve building trade opportunities which have bolstered this program and allowed it to flourish.
- 4. When the previous ag teacher unexpectedly had to resign, we quickly found and approved a great replacement, allowing this awesome program to continue.
- 5. In response to pleas for help for our gifted and talented students, a G&T program has

been instituted. It didn't happen immediately; however, things take time in education. The point is that we listened, heard and acted.

- 6. We approved a new culinary program that will be implemented in the curriculum starting the 2nd semester of the 2023-24 school year. This will provide our students with another educational career path as this program will earn college credits.

Tracy Broll,
Secretary of the BOE

Recommendation Joe McCarthy for BOE

Mr. Editor,

I am writing this rare letter to the editor to make known my strong endorsement for Joseph (Joe) McCarthy to be elected to the Custer County Board of Education during the November 7, 2023 election.

I have known Joe for several years now and have worked closely with him in multiple endeavors including at the Custer County Sheriff's Office, the Sangre Shooting Sports Club and during the National Western Stock Show as well as social events.

It is impossible to not realize the impressive credentials Joe possesses and brings to all his endeavors.

Joe has worked in several high energy, high stress positions as a supervisor in highly competitive environments. Joe has an incredibly broad base of knowledge which is so essential in an educational environment. Joe is meticulous in his research and extremely insightful in his analyses of the information uncovered. Joe is diligent in his application to mission and is untiring in his felt obligation to achieving success. His first work ethic is consensus, being very articulate and engaging, but when a bedrock principle is involved, he is steadfast and adamant.

Joe is an accomplished leader and dedicated citizen. Custer County needs leaders

of Joe's caliber to promote the goal of successful academic achievement and social maturity of the young people of this county and region (as well as the United States of America). His stated objective of "teaching students how to think, and not what to think", I whole heartedly agree with and should be the desired result of all who want the highest attainment possible for the students of Custer County.

I cannot more strongly recommend Joe McCarthy for election to the Custer County Board of Education and hope that the voting citizens make the same decision.

Tom Sullivan,
Bull Domingo,
Custer County



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Dr. Terre Davis to the Custer County School Board

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Having an extensive educational background serving as a teacher, principal, superintendent, university instructor and having my own business of providing workshops for boards of education and doing superintendent searches throughout the country, I felt that I could offer our community a service by serving on the Board of Education. I ran for the board and was elected in 2013. I served on the Board for the following 8 years and was the Board President for the last six years.

In 2014 our board hired Mark Payler as superintendent. He developed and instituted the following:

..job descriptions and evaluation procedures for every employee in the district

..a strategic plan

..applied for and received a Best Grant for a complete renovation of the district facilities

..developed a buget which deleted our necessity to borrow money each year

In 2016 our Board of Education was named the Colorado School Board of the Year

In 2018 our district was named one of the top 18 school districts in the State of Colorado.

When Doreen Newcomb, Pat Vasquez, and I left our positions on the school board Mike McFalls had served as superintendent for two years and we felt that the three new board members, Peggi Collins, a licensed attorney in California, Tracy Broll, a former special education teacher in Cañon City, and Jordan Benson, an employee in the tech department at the Custer County offices, along with the current board members, Newell Woodbury—the budget expert, and Jake Shy, who had already served on the board for six years, that the district would continue its Excellence in Education goals, keep three months of money reserved in the budget, and keep kids as the number one priority.

However, over the past two years, many concerns have come to light and been voiced by several people.

...why have so many of our great teachers and other staff members left the district

...why are so many students being home schooled and/or left to enroll in other school districts

...why hasn't the strategic plan been worked on and updated and provided to the public

...why are our test scores falling

...who is overseeing the budget with no business manager

...who is approving the bills

...what has happened to all the volunteers who used to be involved in our district

...why hasn't there been any communication to the public from the superintendent

...why hasn't the summary of the superintendent evaluation been published—if the policy of a yearly written evaluation has been followed

...why isn't the district website current?

These are just a few of the concerns.

It is hoped that the candidates running for the Board of Education do their research and provide some ideas and background regarding the board's role and responsibilities, understanding of board leadership and know how to follow Robert's Rules of Order, know the State Statutes and School Laws for Colorado, keep kids first, and know that the Board makes policy and holds the superintendent accountable to carry out those policies. Only the superintendent is responsible to the board and everyone else in the district is responsible to the superintendent. Therefore, anything that is a concern in the district is directly responsible to the performance of the superintendent.

Remember: The community owns the schools and the Board of Education is the caretaker of its investment.

Hopefully, the three new board members realize this and will provide the leadership our board needs.

Dr. Terre Davis,
Past CCI Board President

Parents and Citizens of Custer County—

I am writing this in response to the letter from Terr[e] Davis. I have been on the school board for the last eight years. In which I have been president for the past two years. I started off on the board for four reasons Sheyenne, Brylee, Sage and Reagen Shy. I have been through more superintendents than I have kids it seems like. We finally have one that is amazing. She has done more good for our school kids in a year and a half than the others combined. We were able to give our staff the largest sustainable raise in Custer County history last year because of her. In choosing board candidates in this election voters should be aware of any that are wanting her replaced.

We still have and use our strategic Plan. It is something every board has and still uses. The BEST Grant is over now, and we are finding more and more problems with the work done with those funds. The geothermal heat we had installed has never worked right. I was on the board as well when we received it and was never

a fan of it. Our superintendent at the time and our board President at the time seemed more concerned about a plaque on the wall than the safety and comfort of our students and the work done resembles that. Our budget is in better shape now than it was at Mrs. Davis's time on the board hence the large staff raise. In 2016 when we got school board of the year, I was on it. I'm pretty sure we were the only district that applied for that award. We have almost a full year of reserves for our school compared to the three months while Mrs. Davis was president. As a father of four daughters, I was very upset when she said we don't put kids first that is my priority as a board member as well as everyone currently on the board. When I was first on the board or actually all the way back to when my dad was in school here, we have had problems with teacher retention so does virtually every other school district. The superintendent Evaluation is complete. COVID did not help our test scores but I don't like excuses, it seems some are putting that on the Administration and the Board

but as far as I know learning and testing comes from the classroom.

I am concerned for the future of our school as I am sure most people are. We are a small district with a small budget. We have an Admin team now that is making sure we can be sustainable for our students. I am hoping everyone vets the candidate's diligently so as to insure the sustainability of our school. If this next board chases away our current administration my family may have to remove our kids from the school. I sure hope it does not come to that, but my kids are my priority and we will have to see what is best for them. We have not had a superintendent that puts in more time and more miles than Mrs. Crabtree. I have seen her at every out-of-town game no matter how far away they are. Drive by the school at 11 at night and she is there and always there by 7:30 in the morning. She does not do this job for recognition or her name on a plaque. She does it for the love of the students.

Jake Shy,
CCSD-1 School Board

Response Letter to Terre Davis From Peggi Collins

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

—October 14, 2023

As a current member of the Custer County Board of Education, I would like to respond to the concerns voiced by Terre Davis at the BOE meeting, last Tuesday evening.

“...why have so many of our great teachers and other staff members left the district.” As is true, state-wide, teacher retention has always been an issue in this District. The current administration and Board worked diligently to find funding to be competitive with other Districts our size. To that end, our staff were given two substantial raises in the last year, totaling over \$6,000. The

previous board gave them \$600.

“...why are so many students being home schooled and/or left to enroll in other school districts.” There are many reasons, not the least of which is Covid. Many parents realized that they could easily homeschool their children.

“...why hasn't the strategic plan been worked on and updated and provided to the public.” It has been worked on and is available to the public.

“...why are our test scores falling.” Largely due to Covid and students not having in-person learning experiences for a very long time. However, test results are a direct reflection of what happens in the

classroom. The Administration is addressing this failure by establishing Professional Learning Community meetings for all teachers. Many teachers did not know how to interpret the data or how to address it.

“...who is overseeing the budget with no business manager.” An outside firm has taken over the accounting responsibilities, at a financial savings to the District. The Administration and the Board continue to be responsible for the budget.

“...who is approving the bills.” The Administration oversees, and the Board continues to

LTE COLLINS
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CUSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY EVENT

Friday, October 20, 2023
2:30 pm – 5 pm
@ Lange Hall

Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer	Custer County Commissioner Kevin Day
Senator Mark Baisley	Custer County Commissioner Bill Canda
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Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
We Need Local people to
Report on LOCAL News

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Birthday
Jaylen Christopher!



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Happy
Birthday
Audrey!

Events

October 5 - November 13
Sangres Art Guild Art Show ~ Changing Seasons
3rd Street Gallery 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe

October 20 - 22 & 27-29 \$\$
Gaslight: A Steampunk Play
Historic Jones Theater, Westcliffe

Friday, October 20, 2:30 to 5 p.m.
Presentation on Prop HH at Lange Hall
See page 8 for details

October 21, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$\$
Beckwith Ranch Harvest Festival
Now combined with Halloween Fest

Friday, October 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Lighthouse Yard Sale
412 Cliff St., Silver Cliff

Coffee with the Sheriff
Saturday, October 28 (8 - 10a.m.): San Isabel
Lodge, 59 CR 371, Rye, CO 81069

Tuesday, October 31st, TRUNK or TREAT
Candy give away starts 4 p.m. *Park along Main
Street between 3rd and 7th Streets to hand out
candy.*

Community Services

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(719) 783-2462
westcliffepost170.org

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Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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National Suicide HOTLINE
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Veterans Press 1

Solvista 24/7 Crisis Line
for Fremont and Custer Counties
Regional 719-276-5488 Local Office 719-275-2351

VETERANS SERVICE Office (VSO)
Dominic Edginton new VSO
(719) 618-8266
vso@custercounty.co.gov
Courthouse Bldg. (Rosita Rd. Entrance)

West Custer County Library
209 Main Street Westcliffe, CO 81252
(719) 783-9138
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To Place an ad, please call 719-783-3360 or email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com.
The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.

Local Mountain News & Notices



Our prayers and deepest condolences go out to the Brown family, Crowley County High School, and all those grieving.

KIDS

Friday, October 20, 2023

History of the Corn Maze

It's October, the harvest is gathered, corn stalks are decorating porches, and the farmer's markets are selling pumpkins, squash and apples.

Have you ever been to a corn maze? It's quite an enjoyable form of outdoor entertainment for this time of the year. What is a corn maze you might ask? It is a maze cut out of a corn field. Now corn mazes just don't happen, it takes a lot of planning on the part of the farmer. They can appear in many different designs based on artistic designs or characters from movies. Most have a path which goes all around the whole pattern, either to end in the middle or to come back out again, with various false trails diverging from the main path. The design must be planned out before planting of the crop. Sometimes they are combined with other activities such as hayrides and an offering of hot apple cider and doughnuts.

So how did mazes get started? Some of the first complicated gardens are depicted in freizes in the fertile crescent from more than 3,000 years ago. During the Middle Ages as kings and queens built up elaborate gardens, they would often include some sort of hedge maze as a diversion for themselves and guests. The idea was to find your way in and out. Mazes have retained their close relationship with gardens ever since.

In Nebraska, a 54,000 square foot corn maze is so complex that visitors must use their smartphones to navigate the twists and turns.

The world's largest temporary corn maze opened in 2007 in Dixon, California. It measured an incredible 4 0.5 acres and took several hours to walk through.

There are two corn mazes and pumpkin patches In Cañon City.

One is Colon Orchards located at 3175 Grandview Ave., Cañon City. For more information on their field trips, corn maze, and pumpkin patch call 719-275-6359.

Another one is Diane's Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze located at 1649 Poplar Ave., Cañon City. For more information on their hours and activities call 719-812-9133.

There is an admission fee at both sites. Enjoy!

by Audrey Slater. Sources: nbm.org, smithsonianmga.com, Wikipedia .org Photo from Diane's Pumpkin Path & Corn Maze



Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8: 22 KJV



Custer County School District C-1

Weekly Menu

MENU for the WEEK of Oct. 23 through Oct.26 2023

	Breakfast	Lunch	Entrée 2 - Grab 'n Go (MS & HS)
<u>Monday</u>	Cold Cereal Oatmeal Fresh Fruit Applesauce Milk	Chicken nuggets Oven Fries Fruit Milk	<u>Grab 'n Go</u> <u>Veggie wrap</u>
<u>Tuesday</u>	Cheese Omelet Fruit Milk	Soft Tacos / Sante Fe Egg Rolls Rice Beans Fruit Milk	<u>Grab 'n go</u> <u>Ham and cheese Wrap</u>
<u>Wednesda</u> <u>y</u>	Breakfast Bar fruit Milk	Pizza Salad Fruit Milk	<u>Grab 'n Go</u> <u>Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	Biscuit and Gravy Scrambled Eggs Applesauce Milk	Goulash Succotash Fruit Milk	<u>Grab 'n Go</u> <u>Bologna Sandwich</u>

ELEMENTARY - MAIN DISH, GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND MILK
MIDDLE & HIGH - MAIN DISH (OR SALAD BAR), GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND MILK

Cancer “Pink Out” Week

The CCHS Student Council, Sources of Strength, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes are working together during the Cancer “Pink Out” Week during October 23rd - 27th. Student's will be involved in activities to raise awareness of cancer and to support a fellow student's family. Activities include wearing pink accessories, pink face painting and pink hair.

Fundraising efforts will include raffles to give a teacher a pie in the face and a free lunch for students.

During the Volleyball game and Football game, homemade brisket sandwiches will be available and all concession proceeds will go to benefit Elise Hampton, mother of sophomore Hayden, 2nd grader Grace, and preschool twins Allison and Adelyn.

The community is encouraged to come out to the Volleyball game on Thursday night October 26th and the Football game on Friday, October 27th to support the Bobcats in their final home games and to join in the benefit for Elise Hampton.

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Thursday, October 12:
MS Volleyball @ Calhan - *A team won 2-1, B team won 2-0*
HS Volleyball @ Calhan - *lost 2-3*

Friday, October 13:
MS Volleyball vs. Cripple Creek @ HOME - *C team won 2-1, B team won 2-0, A team won 2-0*
HS Volleyball vs. Cotopaxi - *won 3-1*
HS Cross Country League Meet @ Monta Vista
Men's Team
Fisher Cunningham: 19:01.05, 5th SPL
Mason Stover: 19:41.69, 6th SPL
Women's Team
Laurel Zeller: 22:46.00, 2nd SPL
Piper Cunningham: 27:53.31, 9th SPL

Saturday, October 14:
HS Football @ Crowley - *lost 64-6*

Tuesday, October 17:
HS Volleyball @ Crested Butte - *lost 2-3*

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, October 20:
9 am MS Volleyball Tournament @ Cripple Creek (away)
10 am Cross Country Regional Meet @ The Meadows in Buena Vista

Saturday, October 21:
9 am HS Volleyball Crowley Tournament (away)
1 pm HS Football @ Dolores Huerta in Pueblo (away)

Thursday, October 26:
5 pm HS Volleyball @ HOME vs ECA (pink out game)
Last HOME game & Senior Recognition!

Friday, October 27:
7 pm HS Football @ HOME vs Hoehne
Last HOME game & Senior Recognition during halftime!

Saturday, October 28:
12 pm HS Volleyball @ SDC (away)

Tony's Mountain Pizza is hosting a Community Send Off for the HS Football Team on Friday, Oct 20th from 5-8pm. Mention “Bobcat Pride” and 10% of all proceeds will go to the Bobcats Football program. Come for a GREAT meal and support your BOBCATS!



Call to preorder! 719-783-9300



Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

WRITE IN

Linda Brown

FOR

CUSTER COUNTY

SCHOOL BOARD



Please visit my website for more information:
<https://sites.google.com/view/dr-linda-brown-custer-school>



Meet & Greet with School Board Write-In
Candidate Linda Brown
Sugar Lump, Tuesday October 17, 10 -11:30 a.m.
202 Main St., Westcliffe
Bring your questions and get to know Linda!
Nov. 7th Elections

EDUCATION

- Doctorate of Educational Leadership, Montana State University
- Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, Chadron State
- Masters of Education in Computers, Lesley University
- BS in Elementary Education, University of Colorado

EXPERIENCE

- Instructed in multiple colleges and universities.
- Served in both public and private schools as a Superintendent, Principal, and Teacher.
- Awarded for both national and international (educational) presentations.
- NWEA national trainer/workshop facilitator.

PERSONAL

- Custer County resident for 5 years (developed a Scottish Highland Cattle ranch).
- Passion: to create excitement and instill the joy of learning in students and teachers.
- Founded a nondenominational Christian school (still operational) 40 years ago.
- Mother of six children.

Paid for by the Committee to elect Linda Brown, Agent Clifford Brown



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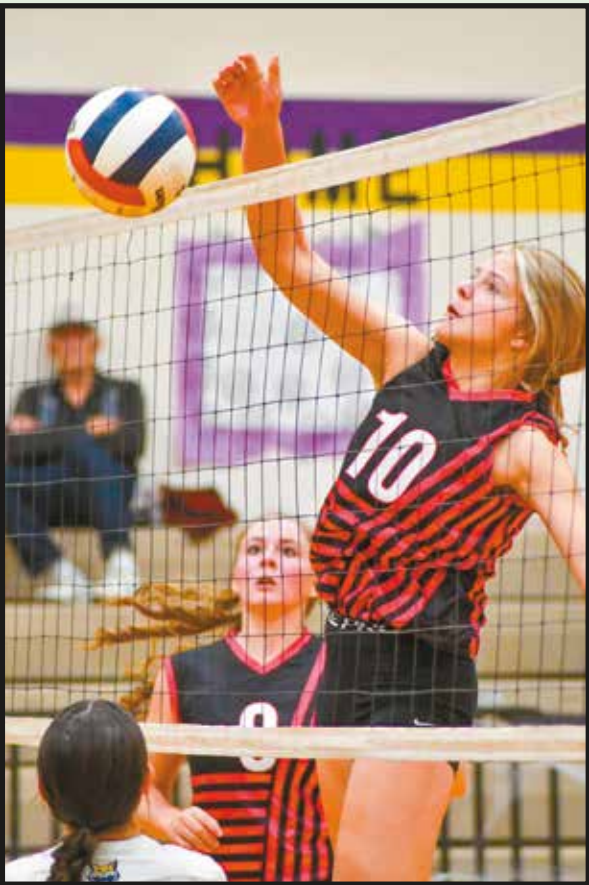
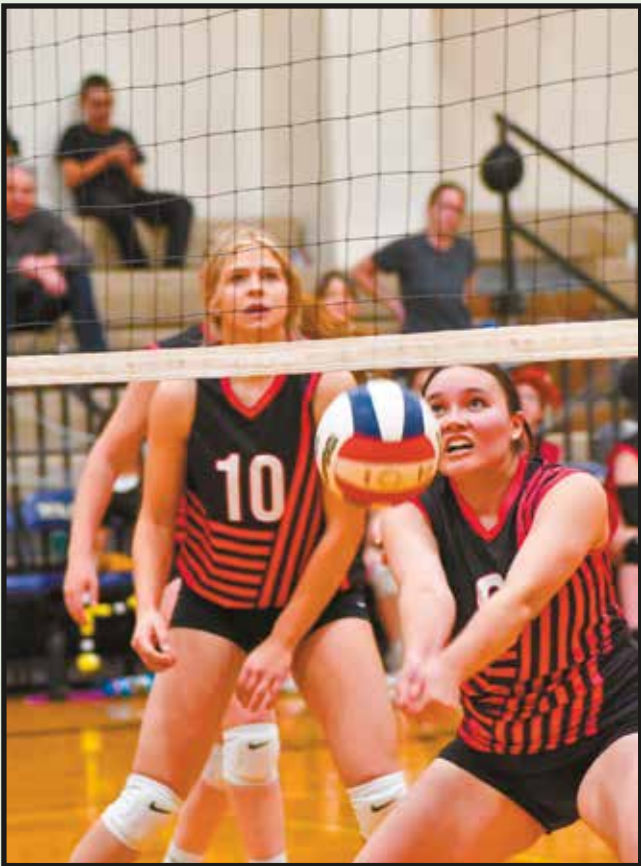
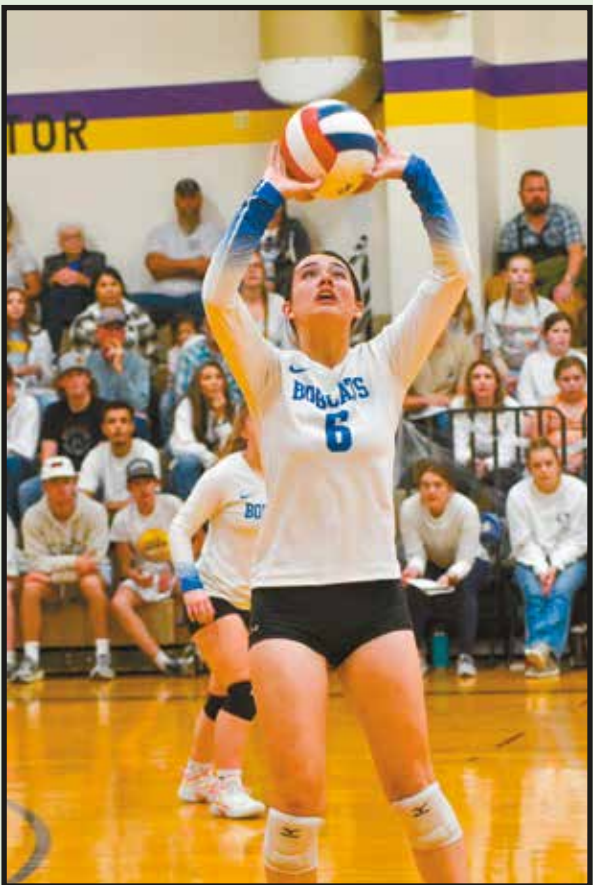
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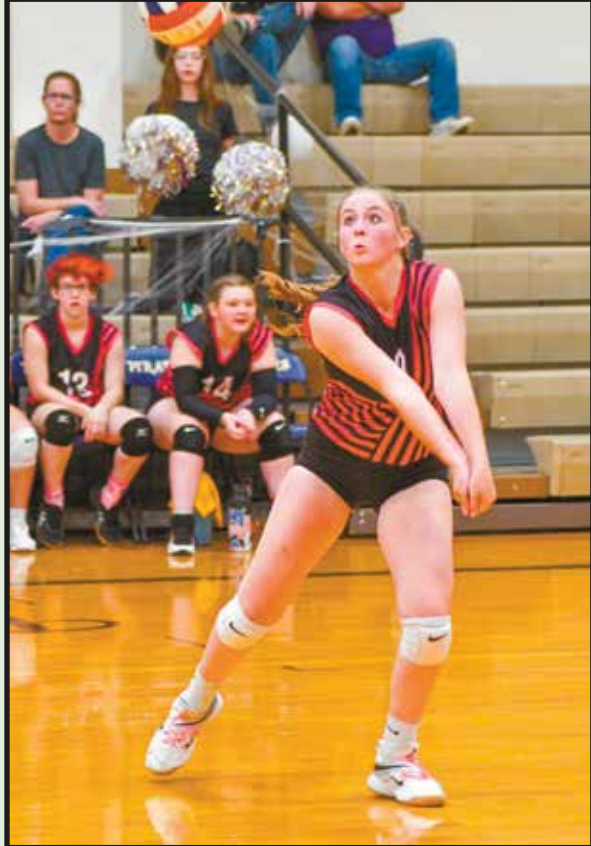
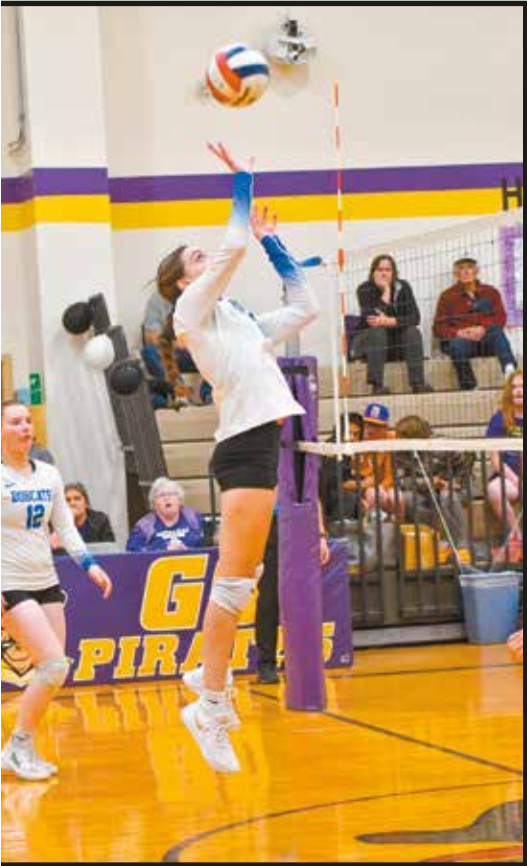
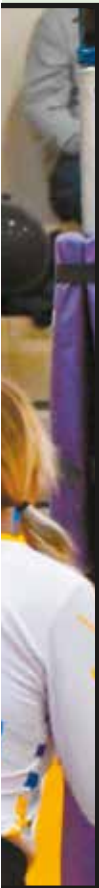
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Custer Bobcats vs



Cotopaxi Pirates



Sentinel Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography, Layout by Katherine Brenchley



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Sentinel's 2023 Ballot Picks

Official Ballot for 2023 Coordinated Election
Custer County, Colorado
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Precinct: C-1

To vote for a named candidate, or for or against a ballot measure, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice. Use blue or black ink.

To vote for an eligible write-in candidate, completely fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line, and print the name of the candidate on the line. If a race does not contain a write-in line, you cannot vote for a write-in candidate.

To make a correction in a race with more than one candidate, draw a bold line through the oval and candidate name marked by mistake, then fill in the oval next to the correct name. If you voted for the only candidate in a race and want to withdraw that vote, you must request a replacement ballot.

WARNING: Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both. Section 1-7.5-107(3)(b), C.R.S.

School District Offices	Ballot Measures	State Ballot Measures
Consolidated School District C-1 Board of Directors - At-Large 4-Year Term (Vote for Three) Jeremy Hockett Regina "Reggie" Foster Daniel Gasper Joseph McCarthy Jennifer Krieger Write-in LINDA BROWN	Ballot questions referred by the general assembly or any political subdivision are listed by letter, and ballot questions initiated by the people are listed numerically. A ballot question listed as an "amendment" proposes a change to the Colorado constitution, and a ballot question listed as a "proposition" proposes a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes. A "yes" vote on any ballot question is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a "no/against" vote on any ballot question is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances. State Ballot Measures Proposition HH (STATUTORY) Shall the state reduce property taxes for homes and businesses, including expanding property tax relief for seniors, and backfill counties, water districts, fire districts, ambulance and hospital districts, and other local governments and fund school districts by using a portion of the state surplus up to the proposition HH cap as defined in this measure? YES/FOR ☐ NO/AGAINST ☒	Proposition II (STATUTORY) Without raising taxes, may the state retain and spend revenues from taxes on cigarettes, tobacco, and other nicotine products and maintain tax rates on cigarettes, tobacco, and other nicotine products and use these revenues to invest twenty-three million six hundred fifty thousand dollars to enhance the voluntary Colorado preschool program and make it widely available for free instead of reducing these tax rates and refunding revenues to cigarette wholesalers, tobacco product distributors, nicotine products distributors, and other taxpayers, for exceeding an estimate included in the ballot information booklet for proposition EE? YES/FOR ☐ NO/AGAINST ☒ Prop HH (A-ch, A-ch) will take away your TABOR REFUNDS on Property Tax over time and your property taxes will still go higher. Vote NO. Prop II (eye-eye) Vote NO. Voting Yes will allow the State to keep excess nicotine taxes. Voting NO will return the funds to the Vendors and lowers the tax by 11.5%

ONLY Pick THREE
READ THE WARNING!

If one choice is Linda Brown as a write-in, it would be easy to choose TOO MANY and invalidate your ballot. Choose only THREE (3)!

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Colorado State News



Counties Come Out Swinging Against Prop HH

by Sherrie Peif,
Complete Colorado Page Two

DENVER — Although the money supporting Proposition HH continues to pile up, so too does the number of organizations in opposition, with the association representing Colorado’s county governments the latest in a growing list of groups to come out against the ballot measure.

Prop HH is a legislature-referred measure, backed by Governor Jared Polis, that purports to offer property tax relief in the face of skyrocketing property valuations. But an August study by the non-partisan Common Sense Institute shows that Coloradans stand to lose more in reduced tax rebates under the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) than they gain from slightly lower property taxes.

“Proposition HH gives Coloradans a choice, trade some property tax relief, for a long-term increase in state taxes,” reads the study in part, noting that households stand to lose over \$5,000 worth of TABOR refunds over the next decade under HH.

Much of the organizational support for Prop HH, such as the Colorado Education Association, the Colorado Association of School Boards, and Progress Now, a left-wing advocacy group, routinely come out in support of raising taxes, which is what critics of HH say the measure actually does.

In a recent *Complete Colorado*

opinion piece, former Colorado State Treasurer Mark Hillman notes that the legislature doesn’t need to ask voter permission to lower taxes, only to raise them.

“With Coloradans facing the largest property tax increase of our lifetime due to soaring home prices, the legislature chose to put a massive expansion of government on the ballot disguised as a property tax cut,” writes Hillman.

Opposition growing

However, the No on HH list, which continues to grow, includes some influential surprises, with Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) the most recent to chime in on why this is a bad idea.

“Prop HH will have a long-term negative effect on TABOR with a minimal short-term benefit,” said 2024 incoming CCI President, Delta County Commissioner Don Suppes in a recent media release announcing the organization’s opposition.

CCI is a non-profit membership association that represents 61 of Colorado’s 64 counties.

Also, on the list of organizations opposing Prop HH:

The National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB): Nine out of 10 members polled in August were opposed to Prop HH. “Small-business owners have been unwavering in their support for TABOR for the 30 years of its existence,” said Tony Gagliardi, Colorado

state director for NFIB in a news release. “So, this result doesn’t really surprise, but it is a shining example of something small business owners cherish—predictability. Predictability in rules, regulations and taxes.”

The Colorado Municipal League (CML): “CML opposes Proposition HH because of the unnecessary constraints on municipal authority to provide appropriate localized property tax relief,” a news release from September 1st said in part.

The Colorado Special Districts Association (SDA): The SDA first came out against the measure during legislative hearings on the matter, saying special districts and their constituents are best suited to determine the revenues necessary to meet their needs, among other reasons.

The SDA board formally opposed Prop HH on August 7th, and is even offering a template for its members to individually oppose Prop HH at their website.

“The Board strongly urges its members and voters to consider the negative impacts of Proposition HH on their communities and vote NO on this proposal,” their resolution said.

Club 20: The influential coalition of individuals, businesses, tribes and local governments in Colorado’s 22 western counties unanimously opposed Prop HH at a September meeting, according to State Rep. Lisa Frizell, who attended the meeting.

Colorado Association of Realtors (CAR): “There are more than 800,000 renting households, or approximately 2,000,000 Coloradans (according to U.S. Census data), that won’t receive any property tax relief, but will likely lose their TABOR refunds,” reads the CAR email to members, in part, announcing the group’s opposition.

Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD): The PPLD Board of Trustees notes that “this ballot initiative will ultimately result in an income tax increase for citizens across the state, while reducing the amount of funding to special districts, such as libraries, throughout Colorado.”

The money game

Money for both sides also continues to add up.

One issue committee —Property Tax Relief Now — has filed to support the measure. The group has to date raised \$1,135,200, with much of it out-of-state dark money, while the five committees opposed to the measure have more than a half-million-dollar edge in fundraising as of their October 3rd filing.

Taxpayer’s for a Better Deal (the Independence Institute), Americans For Prosperity (AFP) Colorado Issue Committee, HH-No (Douglas Bruce, the author of TABOR), No on HH (Advance Colorado Action) and the Tabor Coalition- RejectHH.com, (Jefferson County activist and TABOR Coalition board member

Natalie Menten) have collectively raised \$1,793,881 dollars, the vast majority of which has flowed to the No on HH committee (\$1,561,925), all of which has come from either Colorado individuals or organizations.

However, the one committee[s] supporting HH has more than 35 percent of its money coming in from out-of-state special interests, with large chunks coming from the National Education Association, the Sixteen-Thirty Fund, a Washington, DC dark-money group previously reported on by *Complete Colorado*, and Education Reform Now Advocacy based in New York City.

The majority of the remaining has come from known left-wing Colorado organizations and donors, including Gary Advocacy, the former employer of new Denver Mayor Mike Johnston; Jerrold Glick, the managing partner of a Denver-based investment firm and Polis appointee to the Metropolitan State University of Denver’s Board of Trustees; the Colorado Education Association; Pat Stryker, a Fort Collins-based progressive activist and billionaire heiress, along with a few smaller donations from individuals.

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2023/10/12/counties-come-out-against-proposition-hh-opposition-money-pile-up/>



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2023 Voter's Guide

From the Colorado Freedom Force

Proposition HH

Forego receiving future TABOR refunds for a modest property tax reduction in the short term, but an overall tax increase in the long term?

X No

Proposition II

Can the gov't keep the \$23.65M which was overtaxed on tobacco & nicotine products to use for Jared Polis' failing Pre-K Program?

X No

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Colorado State News





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Colorado's 5.3% Inflation Rate Outpaces National Average of 3.7%

by Joe Mueller,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – Colorado’s inflation rate is slowing but still significantly outpaces the national rate, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The state saw prices increase 0.43% in August and September, down from the 0.65% increase in June and July. The state’s 12-month inflation rate increased from 5.15% to 5.3% during August and September, much higher than the 12-month national inflation average of 3.7%.

“Colorado and Denver inflation continue to outpace national inflation, costing Colorado families thousands more each month than pre-pandemic spending,” an analysis of the data by the Common Sense Institute said. “In the last year, energy prices in particular have risen dramatically in Colorado while dropping nationally.”

A 2.2% increase in gasoline prices drove energy prices up 1.6% for the two-month period ending in September in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area, according to the BLS.

“From September 2022 to September 2023, household fuels and utility prices grew by 11% in the Denver (metropolitan statistical area), yet nationally, fuels and utility prices dropped 1.52% over this same time period,” the CSI analysis stated.

Food prices increased 0.6% for the two-month period, led by grocery prices rising 0.7%. Meats, poultry, fish and eggs increased 6.3% at the grocery store but were offset by a 2.5% decrease in cereals and bakery products and a 2.1% decline in dairy and related products.

Colorado restaurant prices increased 24% between November 2022 and June 2023, the largest increase in the nation during the period, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. Colorado restaurant prices have decreased 0.56% since June.

“Between August and September, the average Colorado household spent an average of \$2,434 more due to inflation, equal to \$1,217 per month,” CSI said. “In September, the Federal Reserve held its key interest rate steady but signaled another hike is likely this year amidst high inflation.”

The average annual inflation rate was 2.51% from 2010 to 2020, according to CSI’s analysis. Ten price categories grew by more than that inflation rate compared to three that grew by less. The two categories rising the fastest during the last 12 months were fuel and utilities (11%) and energy (8.6%).

Denver ranked 10th out of 23 metro state areas for total price growth since the end of 2020, according to the federal agency. The average Colorado household has spent \$21,730 more since 2020 due to inflation.

Denver’s metro area households spent an average of \$84,293 per year in 2021-22, according to the BLS – 20% higher than the national average of \$70,052. Housing accounted for 36.7% of the average household budget in Denver compared to the national average of 33.5%.

(Editor/GG: Why? Because of our state democrats’ insane regulation overload, especially in the energy/pollution arena. It will get worse.)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_530a3e2a-6936-11ee-816e-efe075926de8.html

LTE COLLINS from page 5

approve the bills, as has always been done.

“...what has happened to all the volunteers who used to be involved in our district.” I am not sure what “volunteers” Ms. Davis is referring to, but this Board and Administration has worked very hard to encourage citizens to apply to be substitute teachers and it has succeeded. We have more reliable substitutes than ever before.

“...why hasn’t there been any communication to the public from the superintendent.” The Superintendent makes regular reports to the Board and a monthly report which is presented at its meetings, which are open to the public. She is also an active member of the Rotary Club and the Attainable Housing Committee.

“...why hasn’t the summary of the superintendent evaluation been published—if the policy of a yearly written evaluation has been followed.” Written evaluations of the Superintendent’s performance have been made on a regular basis. Those evaluations are available from the Administration, upon request.

“...why isn’t the district website current.” The website was established during the previous administration and is very difficult to work with or update. This Board approved a budget item to completely replace the current website and it is being worked on.

I take extreme exception to Ms. Davis’ assertion that the current Board has not “... continued [the Board’s] Excellence in Education goals, [kept] three months of money reserved in the budget, and [kept] kids as the number one priority.” This Board has maintained and supported Excellence in Education goals; this Board now has a full year’s reserve in the budget; and every single member of this Board serves solely in our students’ best interests. Ms. Davis has only attended one Board meeting since this Board took over two years ago. She could easily have posed these questions at a Board meeting, or even scheduled a meeting with our Superintendent seeking answers to her questions, but she didn’t.

I am delighted that we have six qualified candidates for the three open Board positions. I attribute that, largely, due to this Board’s proposal to change this District to “at large” representation. I have enjoyed my time serving on the Board and wish the best of luck to the candidates. This will be an extremely important election. I urge everyone to thoroughly research every candidate, and to vote in the election on November 7th.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggi Collins, CCSD-1 School Board



Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



The following is a list of September 2023 bills to be paid by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Silver Cliff, Colorado at their regular meeting on OCTOBER 3, 2023

Item		Amount	Check #
GENERAL FUND			
Amazon	Office/Shop/Museum	\$ 661.96	DC
Tonys Mountain Pizza	meetings/events	\$ 169.58	DC
GSuites	operating	\$ 410.40	EFT
Empower	Retirement	\$ 314.52	EFT
Empower	Retirement	\$ 1,165.60	EFT
Hilltop	operating	\$ 155.45	DC
Galeton	operating	\$ 285.47	DC
Kenetrek Boot	Operating	\$ 350.00	DC
Westcliffe Petroleum	Shop	\$ 491.88	DC
Ducky's Deli	meetings/events	\$ 58.99	DC
Vista Print	Operating	\$ 86.27	DC
Safety Smart	Shop	\$ 194.36	DC
Office Depot	office	\$ 429.99	DC
USPS	Postage	\$ 18.98	DC
Payroll	Payroll	\$ 12,577.06	DD
Conoco	Operating	\$ 50.33	DC
Black Hills Energy	Electric	\$ 710.07	14132
Napa Auto Parts of Westc	Parts	\$ 295.51	14133
Round Mtn. Water/Sewer	Water/Sewer	\$ 265.20	14134
Roger Camper	Insurance	\$ 500.00	14135
Wet Mtn Small Equipmen	Repairs	\$ 592.22	14136
VOID	Void	\$ -	14137
Roger Squire	Benefit Payout	\$ 4,109.80	14138
Town of Westcliffe	District 13	\$ 230.00	14139
AT & T	cell	\$ 142.24	14140
Century Link	Internet	\$ 174.51	14141
21st Century Equipment	Shop Equipment	\$ 349.15	14142
University of Colorado De	Town Square	\$ 3,600.00	14143
void	void	\$ -	14144
Xerox	copies/lease	\$ 170.02	14145
CABS Fingerprinting	operating	\$ 53.50	14146
Road Side Supplies	operating	\$ 131.40	14147
Kirkpatrick Bank	Grader Payment	\$ 21,270.11	14148
Round Mtn. Water/Sewer	Water/Sewer	\$ 3,023.50	14149
High Valley Diesel Repair	Parts	\$ 736.96	14150
Town of Westcliffe	SRTS	\$ 1,000.00	14151
Payroll	Payroll	\$ 12,577.06	DD
Payroll	2 employees	\$ 3,173.54	14152-53
B & L Services	Parts	\$ 1,571.99	11454
Town Attorney	legal	\$ 932.25	11455
Oak Disposal	Trash Removal	\$ 1,300.00	11456
Procom	operating	\$ 68.00	11457
CCR&B	Fuel	\$ 1,529.22	11458
Wet Mountain Tribune	Subscription	\$ 209.08	11459
CBS	operating	\$ 366.01	11460
Yvonne Squire	cleaning	\$ 155.00	11461

WMVSC	Sponsorship	\$ 700.00	11462
Roger Camper	Insurance	\$ 500.00	11463
CEBT	Insurance	\$ 2,090.30	11464
Black Hills Energy	Electric	\$ 683.27	11465
Keys West	shop	\$ 220.00	11466
TOTAL		\$ 80,850.75	

MUSEUM			
Round Mtn	water/sewer	\$ 63.80	2298
CenturyLink	phone	\$ 63.35	2299
Black Hills	electric	\$ 50.97	2300
General Fund	operating	\$ 42.45	2301
TOTAL		\$ 220.57	

CTF			
TOTAL		\$ -	

Published October 20, 2023
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

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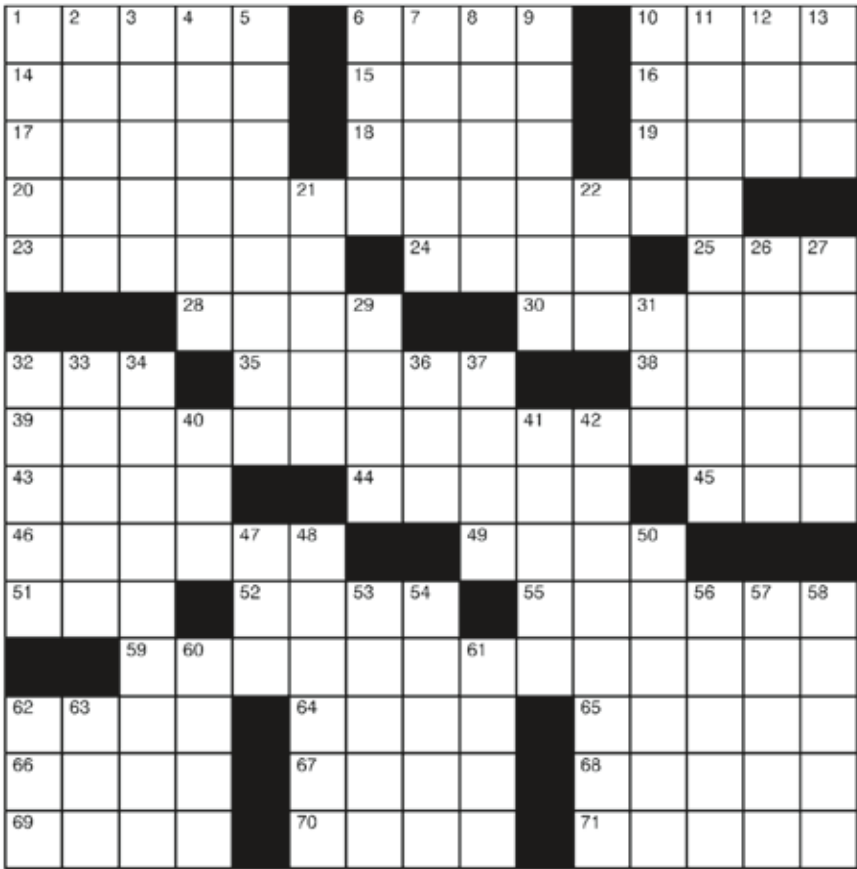
The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the bowling alley.

The American Legion Auxiliary Monlthy Meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Library Community 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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



“What’s the Weather ”

ACROSS

- 1 Smallest
6 French monastery head
10 College sports org.
14 Command.
15 Shoe enclosures
16 500-mile-long European mountain chain
17 Capital of Guam
18 Space or drome lead-in
19 Disagreeable odor
20 Davis/Lindsay film: 1934
23 Cubic meters
24 Shopper's delight
25 Dance step
28 Pt. of NBA
30 Still in existence
32 Peculiar
35 Freshwater ducks
38 Palindromic emperor
39 Robin/Schwartz song hit: 1946
43 Otherwise
44 Gain knowledge
45 Viper
46 Changes
49 Aluminum silicate
51 Tint
52 Secrete

- 55 1st Sunday after late March's full moon
59 Ameche/Grable film: 1941
62 Insect stage
64 Part of a crossword puzzle
65 Decree
66 Arduous voyage
67 Caron/Ferrer film: 1953
68 Appomattox signature
69 Broadcasts
70 Facility
71 Donkeys

DOWN

- 1 Takes it easy
2 Rye disease
3 Metaphorical saying
4 Mrs. in Montevideo
5 Mockery
6 At a distance
7 Complaints
8 Yogi
9 Arch de Triomphe de l'____
10 DEA agent
11 Liz Taylor role
12 Simian
13 Inquire
21 Second largest city in the Ruhr

A Charles Preston Puzzle

- 22 Gender
26 Those opposed
27 Bend down
29 Wood fastener
31 Heavy weight
32 Mountain nymph
33 Dilly partner
34 Canine influenza
36 Garment meas.
37 Mockery
40 Banns word
41 Judge, perhaps
42 Privately (2 wds.)
47 17th Greek letter
48 Solitary
50 Digressions
53 Doomed ocean liner, Andrea ____
54 Wicked forces
56 Follows surreptitiously
57 Roast host
58 Ceremonies
60 Acorn derivatives
61 Falco or Adams
62 School org.
63 Swiss canton

Puzzle Key on page 8

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30: 20-21 ESV

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

The Red Line

The Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah attack on Israeli citizens is a great red line. On one side of the line are those who see the pure evil in the brutal barbarism of the Islamist who vow to eliminate Israel from the face of the earth. On the other side are those who support the actions of the terrorist aggressors. Be assured, there is no moral middle ground. There is no justification. There is no “Yeah, but...” What has been done to Israelis is morally wrong. Sadly, there are those around the world marching and protesting on behalf of the “Palestinians,” under the false and historically inaccurate assumption that these indigenous Arabs are somehow the victims of Israeli occupation of “Palestine.” But it’s about hate.

The red line becomes even brighter when reports come in that these sub-human barbarians dismembered babies in front of their parents before killing the parents; that they beheaded babies; that they not only killed citizens, but dismembered them. It is wicked hateful bloodlust. Supporters of these immoral acts try to say that it is Israeli propaganda. No. It was the terrorists themselves that recorded their atrocities on cell phones and posted their deeds online, bragging about what they had accomplished in the name of “allah.” Imagine being a family member and seeing a young, stripped, contorted dead body in the back of a pickup truck with these terrorists’ legs propped up on it, and upon a closer look, it’s your daughter.

The red line becomes brighter now when Israeli leaders declare war and begin rooting out these satanic allah animals. The evil side claims the Israelis have killed children in their retaliation. They claim war crimes have been committed by the Israelis. They call for a cease fire in the name of humanitarianism. And those in the news media and leaders from around the world join in like a chorus of an evil chant. World sentiment begins to change and starts pointing the finger at Israel for its brutality. This has been the pattern. The evil animals attack, commit unthinkable atrocities, then hide behind schools and hospitals while calling for a ceasefire. It is in this manner that they get away with what they have done, and get the extra propaganda push that the Israelis are killing their women and children—something they use to gain support.

Christ said in Matthew 7:17-20, “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” Cut down and thrown into the fire. That’s what may well happen to the residents evil of Gaza. Deservingly so. On which side of the red line do you stand? What do you say to those who say “hate doesn’t live here,” but support the “Palestinian” cause that drives Hamas and others like it to such evil? Those protesting in support of Hamas are in no uncertain terms advocating evil. It is the side of the red line where we know them by their fruits. Do we want to be remembered in history like those who supported the Holocaust? I think not. Act then appropriately.

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permissions

by Daniel Greenfield,
FrontPageMag.com

We’re in a war between savages and civilization. Everything else is a detail.

Some of us woke up to that war when planes crashed into skyscrapers. Others when we saw beheading videos spread across social media. What we saw in Israel, Hamas terrorists raping, mutilating and defiling corpses, is another bloody wake-up call. There will be many others.

Beyond the politics and the geopolitics, we still haven’t come to terms with what we’re fighting.

The barbarism of murdering women and children, taking them as hostages, and posting photos of their dead bodies to social media, is not a byproduct of Islamic warfare, it’s the whole point.

Cruelty, beheading, burning to death, torturing and mutilating are the essence of Islam. This is how Islamic warfare was practiced beginning with Mohammed for over a thousand years. It’s how it continues to be practiced, whether it’s ISIS fighting other Muslims, Azebajani troops killing Armenians, Hamas attacking Israelis, or Islamic terrorists plotting carnage in Western nations.

Islam was born out of a war by barbarians against the civilized societies of Persia and Byzantium. Despite academic mythmaking, its vision never extended beyond rape and slavery, its empires fell into power struggles, beginning with Sunnis and Shiites, and its cultural and scientific accomplishments were all looted from conquered peoples. When civilization finally toppled the Ottoman Empire with some help from its internal barbarians, the cycle began again.

Israel is just one front in a global war between savages and civilization. And not all of the savages bow to Allah. There are inner city gangs across the American hemisphere that behead and torture their victims. And there are children of civilization that turn into savages. Savagery is not a condition of birth: it is a choice. People born into savagery can become civilized and those born into the highest echelons of civilization can prey on us like the worst vicious animals.

The question is how do civilized societies confront savagery? Do we blame ourselves for having made the savages what they are through our capitalism and colonialism even though they have behaved this way long before modern western civilization amounted to anything? Or do we set forth to reeducate them, to build modern nations for them and teach them to become civilized?

We have sent forth our sons and daughters to make peace with them and to educate them. Our societies opened themselves to embrace and celebrate the virtues of the noble

savage. When we realized that we could not coexist with savages, we tried to remake our societies to serve them. All of that has been tried and civilization is still drowning in the violence of the savages.

The fundamental truth is that civilization and savagery are innately at war with one another.

Savages are offended by the existence of civilization. When they see one, they want to destroy it. There can be no peace with savages because, contrary to Islam, peace is a condition of civilization. To have peace, you must be civilized. Savages don’t even view peace as a value apart from the conclusion of a successful conquest which then sets the stage for the next one.

**“Savagery is not
a condition
of birth...”**

Civilized people develop complex mechanisms of exchange, but savages see no reason why they shouldn’t take something or someone if they are too weak to defend themselves. No amount of lectures will ever convince a savage that anything other than clan relations should prevent him from stealing a car or raping a woman if there will be no clear consequences.

That’s because savages, unlike civilized people, have no conscience, and therefore no soul. *[Editor’s Note: All humans have souls.]*

Islam, unlike Judaism and Christianity, is not a religion of the

**“Israel is just one
front in a global war
between savages and
civilization. And not
all of the savages
bow to Allah.”**

soul, but entirely of power. From its genocidal chant, “Allahu Akbar” that proclaims the physical supremacy of Allah to all other religions through the military victories of its followers, everything is reduced to conquest. The truth of Islam is validated through war. When Jihadists conquer and rape non-Muslims, they are proving that Islam is true and that the religions of the conquered are false. That’s why ISIS Jihadists would tell the Yazidi girls they were raping that rape brought them “closer to Allah”

Civilizations have become too sophisticated and decadent to understand such concepts. When faced with barbarism, they go down a dialectic rabbit hole that explains the

savages in terms of how civilized people interacted with them. Did they hurt their feelings, overthrow their governments or draw mean cartoons? Did capitalism leave them adrift in the world economy? How did we fail to integrate the newest generation of immigrants with all the welfare checks?

These sophomoric sessions are pointless. A hyena doesn’t eat your chickens because you failed to integrate it. That’s just what hyenas do. Man at the base state is a predator and savages strive to be the alpha predators. Civilizations become superior predators because they provide room for arts and sciences, because they think about something other than how they are superior to their neighbors and will prove it by killing their sons and raping their daughters.

But when civilizations spend too much time thinking, they forget that one reason they came into being was to build something better than a state of savagery. Decadent civilizations internalize all the criticism and their peoples endlessly quarrel and think that the worst possible things in the world are the ones that exist among their own people. Savages remind us otherwise.

Much like a hurricane reminds us of the alternative to houses and famine reminds us of the alternative to food, savages remind us of the alternative to civilization. Unfortunately truly decadent civilizations need constant reminders of all of these things. We have to be constantly told that food doesn’t magically emerge from a supermarket, that houses are not the natural state of being and that not being murdered by savages in your home is a new way of life.

Tolerate savages, give them enough rope and they will do all of these things to you. And more.

Savagery should not be confused with stupidity. Civilizations have been brought down by savages and civilizations were built by savages who became civilized. Savages are clever and cunning. They are alert to the weaknesses of civilized people and experts at finding ways around whatever walls and security systems that civilized people build to protect themselves.

Civilizations that spend enough time allowing savages to hang around will fall. Tolerating savages is actually a sign that a civilization has turned decadent. Welcoming and advocating for savages means that the end is nigh. Viable civilizations drive savages away. They do it not just to protect themselves but because banishing savages is what makes a civilization civilized.

When civilizations forget what the difference between themselves and

**SAVAGES
see page 22**

The Victory That Saved Western Civilization: The Battle of Tours



Bataille de Poitiers, Painting by Stueben. Public Domain

by Mark Tapson,
FrontPageMag.com

This week in October marks the anniversary of an epic event that is not widely known except among history buffs, but which nonetheless dramatically shaped the future of the Western world, and which may still hold inspiration for us in the West today.

After the death of the Muslim prophet Muhammad in 632, Islam spread like a bloody tide throughout the Arabian peninsula, north to the Caspian Sea and east through Persia and beyond, westward through Egypt and across North Africa all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. From there it crossed the Straits of Gibraltar and consumed virtually all of the Iberian peninsula, or al-Andalus as the Saracens called it. In a mere one hundred years, the warlord Muhammad’s imperialist legacy was an empire larger than Rome’s had ever been.

By 732 that fallen Roman empire had devolved into a patchwork of warring barbarian tribes across what is now continental Europe. When Abd-al-Rahman al-Ghafiki, the governor of al-Andalus, crossed the Pyrenees with the world’s most successful fighting force and began pillaging through the south of what would become France toward Paris, there was no nation, no central power, no professional army capable of stopping them.

No army except one – led by the Frankish duke Charles, the eventual grandfather of Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne. His infantrymen, as historian Victor Davis Hanson puts it in a fascinating chapter of *Carnage and Culture*, were “hardened veterans of nearly twenty years of constant combat against a variety of Frankish, German, and Islamic enemies.” Hanson writes that the Roman legions had crumbled “because of the dearth of free citizens who were willing to fight for their own freedom and the values of their civilization.” But the seasoned warrior Charles had gathered spirited, free fighters under his command who were willing to defend their Christian society, and he led them to intercept the marauding infidels leaving a ravaged trail toward the ultimate prize, Paris.

On the 10th of October, 732 (some dispute the exact date), the two armies met on a wooded field between Poitiers and Tours (and so the ensuing confrontation is sometimes called the Battle of Poitiers), barely 175 miles from Paris as the crow flies. Abd-al-Rahman arrayed his cavalry against Charles’ solid block of Frankish

foot soldiers, which at 30,000 was by some estimates not even half the size of the Arab and Berber army (Hanson speculates that the armies were more evenly matched, but the Franks were unquestionably greatly outnumbered).

The opposing forces sized each other up for a full week before Abd-al-Rahman ordered the charge that October morning. But his cavalry, which normally counted on speed, mobility, and terror to lay waste to undisciplined tribes, could not penetrate the highly disciplined, heavily-armed Frankish phalanx. In his must-read book *“Sword and Scimitar: Fourteen Centuries of War Between Islam and the West”*, my friend, historian Raymond Ibrahim, quotes a contemporary chronicler who described that the Franks “stood as motionless as a wall, they were like a belt of ice frozen together, and not to be dissolved, as they slew the Arab with the sword.”

At the end of the day’s carnage, both sides regrouped for the next day’s assault. But at dawn, Charles and his men discovered that the Muslim army had vanished, beginning their retreat toward the Pyrenees, leaving the booty stolen from ransacked churches and abbeys behind, as well as at least 10,000 of their dead – including Abd-al-Rahman himself. Exact figures in historical sources are questionable, but Arab chroniclers, Ibrahim reports, “refer to the engagement as the ‘Pavement of Martyrs,’ suggesting that the earth was littered with Muslim corpses.”

It was not the last Muslim incursion into Europe – Charles racked up subsequent victories against the Saracens for a few years afterward – but it was the beginning of the end, and Islam never again penetrated militarily as far into European territory. The victory at Tours helped solidify Charles’ standing among the Franks as a great leader (he was afterward dubbed Martel, or “the Hammer”) and defender of Christendom (the Pope reportedly labeled him “the Hammer of God”). He became ruler over all the Franks, essentially unifying all the fragmented territory of western Europe and paving the way for the rise of his grandson Charlemagne to become “the Father of Europe,” the first great ruler of Christendom.

Some historians today downplay the magnitude of the Muslim threat that Martel countered, claiming that Abd-al-Rahman’s force was only a raiding party

THE VICTORY
see page 23



Sheriffs Call for a Sustained Focus on Causes of Gun Crimes Versus Banning Guns

Washington DC, September 21, 2023 - The National Sheriffs’ Association today called upon the President to reevaluate his so called “gun crime” prevention agenda, emphasizing that the administration must commit to the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving firearms and take decisive measures to curb the influx of illegal narcotics across our borders.

“Today, we again heard the President speak to the symptoms and not the root cause of violence in America. The President has unfortunately limited his solutions to only eradicating assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. We can no longer sit idly-by as our government and many rogue liberal prosecutors regularly neglect to prosecute dangerous violent criminal acts,” proclaimed Sheriff Greg Champagne, president of the National Sheriffs’ Association. “Experts agree that attacking the instrumentality and not the root cause of crime is a failed strategy that caters to political priorities, and not the reality of challenges we face every day on our streets.”

“We have repeatedly attempted to communicate our views to the administration without success. We have recommended they undertake a more holistic approach to preventing violent crime. These efforts should start with some basic principles which I’ve heard repeatedly from Sheriffs across our country.”

These include:

- 1. Combatting Illegal Drug Importation and the Open Border:** Reversing the massive illegal importation of narcotics and synthetic drugs is essential. Drugs remain a root cause of violence in communities. We urge the administration to revisit its current unsustainable open border policy and increase security along all of our borders.
- 2. Gun Crime Prosecution:** Prosecuting every gun crime to its fullest extent must be a starting point. Convicted felons in possession of firearms must be vigorously prosecuted. Armed criminals committing murder with guns will not simply put down their weapons because the law bans the weapon. Violent criminals will always find a way to obtain a gun.
- 3. Changing the Mindset of Violators:** Too many young people have now normalized a culture where even the slightest insult or dispute can be responded to with lethal violence and murder. Social media comments have been the catalyst for a violent reprisal. This dangerous mindset must be reversed with a focus on communities, ministers, and families.
- 4. Mental Health Crisis:** The lack of

mental health treatment and facilities are beyond the crisis level. This national disgrace has been laid at the feet of law enforcement and this is just a blatantly incorrect avenue to solve this massive problem. Both the state and federal governments must act and prioritize rebuilding a national network of mental health facilities. All Governors, with assistance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, must acknowledge that there is a dire need for a significant increase in mental health beds and facilities.

5. Reevaluating the Failed Experiment of No Bail: Bail “reform” has been a dismal failure. Every jurisdiction in which it has been tried has seen record increases in crime. Bail must be high for anyone caught illegally carrying, using or selling a firearm. Dangerousness of the accused as well as his/her prior criminal record is a constitutional factor to be considered by a judge in setting bail. This can include the accused’s connection to organized crime, gangs, cartels and transnational crime organizations.

CONCLUSION

“There are those that argue that taking a strong stance on violent offenders who commit crimes with firearms is immoral or somehow unfair. What about the countless increased number of murder victims who get no opportunity for due process, where is the fairness or morality in that?” said Sheriff Champagne.

Attacking the inanimate object and ignoring the obvious fact that we have a “human” violence problem will not bring a solution, it will only penalize law abiding gun owners and make our communities less safe. The National Sheriffs’ Association calls upon the leaders of this new office to meet with and receive valid input from Sheriffs to learn what is really happening on the streets of America. We remain committed to working with the administration. We hope they will provide us the opportunity to be heard and actually consider a holistic solution to this nationwide problem.

About The National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA)

The National Sheriffs’ Association is one of the largest non-profit associations of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and with a total membership of approximately 14,000 individuals. NSA is dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice. Throughout its eighty-three-year history, NSA has also served as an information resource for all law enforcement, as well as local, state, and federal government agencies.

The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.

Proverbs 16:9 ESV



The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand



2023

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

Hatsan USA's ZADA Rifle Is the Ultimate Beginner Airgun

by F. Riehl, *ammoland.com*

Hatsan's ZADA break barrel air rifle is an exceptional entry-level, spring-action airgun that boasts a refined design and precise engineering, making it an optimal beginner shooting platform. Built to last a lifetime, the ZADA features a precision rifled German steel barrel and a synthetic molded shroud that reduces overall weight.

HatsanUSA's ZADA Rifle

Available in three calibers (.177, .22, and .25), the ZADA can produce up to 24 ft-lbs. of kinetic energy and velocities ranging from 700 to 1300 FPS, depending on the caliber and type of ammunition selected.

Hatsan has prioritized ease of use with the ZADA, equipping it with an easy-cocking break barrel that is specially designed for the beginning shooter. The large muzzle break makes manipulating the single-shot cocking action smooth and nearly effort-less, providing more control to the shooter. Hatsan's QuietEnergy technology and an integrated sound moderator provide quiet-er shots down range.

The ZADA features a new, tactical-style stock with a pistol grip that is designed to be more ergonomic and attractive than similar models. Its ambidextrous, synthetic stock is rock solid and lightweight, with a textured grip and forearm for better control and feel. The Monte Carlo cheekpiece and rubber buttpad provide comfort similar to the most advanced Hatsan air rifles.

This airgun incorporates an integrated, shock-absorbing, advanced-polymer scope rail to keep the included 4×32 Optima scope zeroed for superior accuracy. If you prefer not to use the scope, the ZADA is fitted with contrasting colored fiber optic sights. The rear sight is fully adjustable for both windage and elevation, and the front is a fixed open sight. It boasts a fully adjustable trigger, manual firing safety, and automatic cocking safety, making the ZADA a great entry-level airgun for those interested in picking up a fun hobby.

ZADA Features:

- Single-shot, spring piston, break barrel air rifle
- Available in .177, .22, and .25 calibers
- QuietEnergy (QE) Technology – fully shrouded barrel and integrated sound moderator reduces downrange noise
- Adjustable trigger for weight and break
- Precision rifled and choked German steel barrel
- Large muzzle break for easy cocking
- Combination 11mm dovetail and Weaver rail accepts a wide range of optic mounts.
- Includes 4×32 Optima scope and rings
- Fixed open front sight with red fiber optics
- Micro-adjustable rear sight for both windage and elevation with green fiber optics



HatsanUSA ZADA Air Rifle

- All-weather, tactical pistol grip thumbhole, synthetic stock with ambidextrous design
- Textured grip and forearm for better control and feel
- Monte Carlo cheekrest
- Rubber buttpad
- Anti-bear trap safety mechanism
- Manual and automatic cocking safety
- Max Velocity* – Lead-Free Pellets – .177 cal – 1300 FPS, .22 cal – 1000 FPS, .25 cal – 750 FPS
- Max Velocity* – Lead Pellets – .177 cal – 1100 FPS, .22 cal – 800 FPS, .25 cal

- 700 FPS
- Max Muzzle Energy* – .177 cal – 20 FPE, .22 cal – 21 FPE, .25 cal – 24 FPE
- Overall Length: 45 in.
- Barrel Length: 14.5 in.
- Weight: 6.25 lbs.
- * Velocity and energy results may vary due to pellet weight, pellet shape, pellet material, temperature, elevation, as well as other factors.
- Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2023/10/hatsanusa-zada-rifle-air-gun/#axzz8Fkk5GDO1>

Ruger LCP Centerfire Pistol: One Thousand Rounds Later

by Terril Hebert, *ammoland.com*

Louisiana – The saying goes that “carrying a handgun is not supposed to be comfortable but comforting.” But that isn't the reality for most people.

If you feel the need to have a handgun, I say get the biggest gun you can shoot confidently with. But the truth is that many, if not a majority of gun owners—even amongst first-timers—are turning to pocket pistols for personal defense. Indeed this is a case of “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” Think of those old TV Westerns. You see nothing but .45-caliber Colts and Smith & Wessons riding in plain view, but the truth is less straightforward. Tiny .22 caliber and .32 caliber pistols were frighteningly common.

Why? Convenience.

People often don't feel the need for a big gun or that a big gun would get in the way of their lifestyle, and many of us are unwilling to change our lifestyle or way of life to carry a gun. Something small and easy to have on you if you need it is the name of the game. It was so back then, and it is so today, except our

stereotypical pocket pistols have changed looks. Today, pocket pistols are inevitably tiny auto pistols chambered in .380 ACP. Perhaps the one micro-380 to rule them all is the Ruger LCP.

Ruger introduced the Lightweight Compact Pistol in .380 ACP back in 2008—ten years ago, and it has since experienced a series of upgrades including an “improved” LCP II model. Even with that, sales of the original LCP remain consistent, and it is a staple of any well-stocked gun shop. Given my questionable obsession with pocket pistols, it was only a matter of time before I bought one. The desire to test 380 ACP ammunition and the paltry \$199 price tag finally made me bite, and I did choose the original LCP over the new LCP II (more on that later).

So, I have a Ruger LCP and lots of ammo. But the LCP has been around for over ten years, and it is still in production. What can I tell you that original reviewers of the gun could not? Maybe something, maybe nothing. After eight months of carrying and one thousand rounds sent down range, I have a few pointers. At the very least, you can call this a

referendum on a good design and a wake-up call to the reality of pocket pistols in general.

LCP Features

The original Ruger LCP has remained mostly unchanged throughout its production run, but the more recently manufactured LCP will have somewhat taller sights and a less distinct magazine release. Overall, there is little to talk about when it comes to the LCP and its features. Palm-sized and weighing in at only 10.2 ounces fully loaded, the LCP is one of the lightest and most compact handguns you can buy while still retaining the relatively stout punch of the .380 ACP cartridge. The pistol's lightness can be attributed to its polymer frame, and the minimal carbon steel slide, barrel, and internals add very little to the presentation.

The gun frame itself is stippled on the front strap and backstrap as well as the side panels of the grip. On the right side of the grip next to the trigger guard is the magazine release and further north is a minuscule slide-stop and the takedown pin.

That is the features... Done. Well not quite. The gun wears very

low profile rear notch and front blade sights milled into the slide. The barrel is short at 2.75 inches, and it interfaces with the slide to lock the gun shut. On firing the barrel cams down to unlock. I am referring to the Browning locked-breech design, and it is getting more common even on small .380s that ordinarily wouldn't need a locked breech to work. The pistol is hammer fired and cycling the slide cocks the hammer partially. A long pull of the trigger finishes the cocking and drops the hammer.

The LCP ships with an inexpensive pocket holster and one six-shot magazine. Overall, a bare-bones gun with a bare-bones presentation.

Disassembly

Before shooting any auto pistol, it is a good idea to take the gun apart and clean the factory preservative grease out of it. COMPAT is factory grease isn't for lubrication but to keep the pistol in good shape for months on end in its cardboard coffin. You will need the end of a pen, a butter knife, or something along those lines to disassemble the LCP. With an unloaded pistol, pull the slide slightly to the rear, tuck the

tool under the disassembly pin and pull it out. This action allows you to take off the slide, which disassembles in the usual fashion with the recoil spring, barrel, and slide coming apart in short order. A quick squirt with my favorite 3 in 1 machine oil and I was ready for the range.

On The Range

.380 ammo is expensive, and it took me a while (time and money) to burn through one thousand rounds. This was done off and on in at least a dozen range trips over the last eight months. The LCP digested the following ammunition:

- PPU 94 grain FMJ
- Remington UMC 95 grain FMJ
- Tul-Ammo 94 grain steel cased FMJ
- Barnes 80 grain TAC-PD
- Sig Sauer V-Crown 90 grain HP
- Remington Golden Saber 102 grain HP
- Federal Hydrashock 90 grain HP
- Federal HST 99 grain HP

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see page 21

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- Speer Gold Dot 90 grain HP
- Hornady Critical Defense 90 grain FTX
- Winchester Defender PDX 95 grain HP
- Hornady American Gunner 90 grain HP

The LCP is a basic point and shoot interface that is easy to understand, but perhaps not so easy to hold onto. The gun ships with one six-shot magazine and included is a pinky rest for comfortable shooting and a flat baseplate to attach to the magazine for ease of carry. Fresh out of the cardboard, I loaded up some of the various magazines I brought along, some with and without the pinky rest. The mags loaded well without much tightness, even when loading that sixth round but I can see how some people would want a dedicated magazine loader when dealing with small magazines and even smaller ammunition. Slap your loaded magazine into the well and briskly pull the slide back and let go to chamber your first round. The gun is ready to go as there is no manual safety to flick off and on.

The magazine pinky rests did give me a mostly full grip on the pistol as I fired my first shots on paper at ten yards using some Remington FMJs. On the first shot, the pistol jumped sharply. After tightening my grip, I was able to put my remaining five rounds on target without much effort. The sights moved only slightly with each shot and thanks to the top-heavy feel of the LCP’s slide the pistol’s sights lined up naturally without any thought. I fired my seven shots and squeezed the trigger again. Click. The LCP’s slide does not lock open on the last shot. I was pleasantly surprised that all rounds hit the 9-ring just south of the bulls-eye into a respectable two-inch group. For a gun that is not built for target shooting, that is excellent and far more so than other .380 pocket guns I have tried in the past.

Most of my shooting was done between 7-10 yards, but I did stretch the little pistol out to twenty-five. Here the small sights appear quite large covering up a fair bit of my Shoot-n-See silhouettes. Even so, my rounds reliably made it into the 8-ring. Soon enough I got bored of paper and started plinking at an eight-inch steel plate. I could hit it if I took my time at that distance but I could rapidly hit it as fast as I could squeeze that long trigger all the way back at ten yards.

After four hundred rounds, I gave the pistol a good cleaning and then again at the seven hundred mark. Regular maintenance will undoubtedly help any pistol through a grueling test, but it won’t stop everything, and indeed it did not stop the LCP from having issues.

The first issue was caused by me. On occasion when I first got the pistol, I would rack the slide and not let go of it but ride it back into battery with my hand. Inevitably there were a few occasions where a round would not go all the way into the chamber, preventing the gun from firing. This is an error that is frighteningly common in new shooters, and the LCP is not so forgiving. Racking the slide and letting it go gave no trouble.

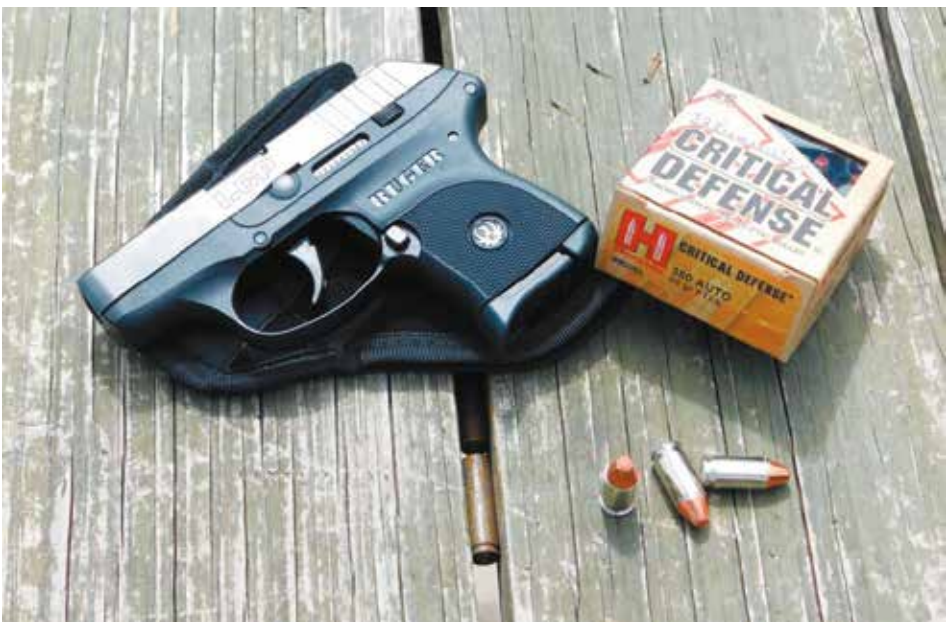
In spite of this, the LCP fed both ball ammunition and hollowpoints reliably. That was until the very end when I decided to finally test the steel cased Tul-Ammo. This

ammunition fired, but it often failed to cycle resulting in either double feeds of the ammunition or more commonly not going entirely into battery several times per magazine. And yes, this ammunition failed when using multiple magazines. In the end, I finally found something that would kill the LCP but boy was it a long run.

Shooting Impressions

The Ruger LCP exceeded even my most optimistic expectations. Some .380 pistols are sensitive when it comes to feeding hollow point ammunition, but all defensive ammo tested fed like a champ. The pistol ran into bobbles only with the cheapest, roughest stuff you can buy. It powered past grit and plenty of pocket lint going from holster to target. Accuracy was far better than you would give the gun at first glance, but that leads me to my next point.

The LCP’s lack of features that make it easy to use also make it hard to shoot. This pistol was intended for close range self-defense, so little thought was put into sights. They are impossible to disturb and will not snag on the draw, but they are very low and may be hard to see or acquire. I think they are excellent for their intended purpose and I encourage you to use them whenever possible while practicing. You will shoot more accurately which is crucial because you will only have up to seven shots at your disposal. Reloading the gun can be awkward if you are changing magazines with a big hand on that little grip. For me, the small slide and its smart serrations allowed for an excellent grip to rack the slide and chamber a new round. Pressure from the gun’s recoil spring is quite light compared to other pocket pistols but I can see



Ruger LCP Centerfire Pistol

how a small slide paired with hands that may be injured or impaired can be an issue for some people—unfortunately some of the very people who choose the LCP as a first or perhaps only gun. Speaking of new shooters, we need to talk about trigger pull and recoil a little more.

The gun’s locked breech absorbs a surprising amount of recoil. Unlike some other guns it was never painful to shoot, but had some jump when lacking a full grip—as is the case when using the flat magazine baseplate instead of slipping on that pinky rest. While not an all-day shooter, I could go through one hundred rounds in a session without any soreness or fear of shooting the gun. That is something I can’t say for some small pistols.

What can certainly be a challenge is the gun’s trigger pull. Touching the trigger will not set the gun off. The trigger weight on my pistol breaks in at seven and a half pounds. This is not a light trigger, but it is not the heaviest. In fact, I am used to triggers nearly twice that heavy. It takes surprisingly little effort to draw that trigger all the way back until it breaks. This long travel and weight finishes cocking the hammer and fires the

gun. The trigger cannot be pulled over and over again to strike a dud round a second time. The slide will have to be drawn back to reset the hammer. While certainly not a trigger to win matches, the weight and length of pull brings a degree of comfort despite a lack of a manual safety.

Carrying

For months, the LCP has lived in my front pants pocket. The gun’s light weight, thin profile, and the inclusion of a decent pocket holster with the purchase allowed me to retire my Smith & Wesson 638 revolver. The pocket holster, by the way, is of decent quality. I won’t brag about it but it does its job by covering the trigger guard, breaking up the outline of the pistol, and keeping gunk out of the works. The hook at the end of the holster keeps it in

the pocket when the gun is drawn. Even with this free option, there are tons of holster options for the LCP. The pistol would be natural in the waistband or on an ankle rig, but I saw no reason to change things up. This pistol is forgettable whether I am in khakis or jogging pants. There were early complaints about the magazine button being too exposed and easy to depress while in a pocket. Ruger minimized the button, but I recall two incidents where the button became depressed in my pocket. Both times were when I was breaking in new pairs of pants. So it looks my days of skinny jeans, and Starbucks lattes are over.

Final Thoughts

The emergence of the Ruger LCP II Pistol with its arguably better grip,

RUGER COMPACT see page 23



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BOCC ES from page 1

Wilson didn’t want anybody to compete for the position, which is WRONG. Remember he is the Human Resources chief and he is supposed to be Mr. Ethical and look out for our county employees. Doesn’t look like that here. He knows once a CM is in, he is in for good so he didn’t want to take any chances that somebody else would take the plum job. This is an ethical and a character issue. Not good.

Wilson then said something that needs to be parsed a bit:

“And currently, I perform most of the essential job functions that are listed on the county manager job description that we went over in November and created.”

Wilson said that he is doing most of the jobs that a CM would do! So why would we need a \$200,000 CM if he is already doing most of the work now? Because Wilson wants more power and control, and of course, the big bucks. Out of control ambition, folks.

And don’t forget, somehow Wilson had the time to write his own CM Job Description and his own CM Policy Manual. So, he not only created his own job, he defined it. Not a peep from Day or Flower.

He then continues to sell himself to the receptive Day and Flower. He spends an enormous amount of secret squirrel time trying to defeat the various issues that could be brought up against a CM. “Excessive government”: No problem said Wilson. The “County Manager doesn’t answer directly to the public”: Wilson said it was not a problem and the Commissioners can handle that. “Commissioners could be doing the work instead”: Wilson said the CM should be doing those jobs the Commissioners were hired to do to free up there time to think about “strategy”. On and on.

Wilson then addresses the salary and expense figures around a CM. He falsely claims that there is a DOLA grant available that will pay 75% of the CM salary for a couple of years. That had already been debunked by Canda as he had talked to DOLA about that and found out that a county only gets **one** CM DOLA grant and the county had received one a long time ago when they tried the CM thing and it didn’t work out. So, Wilson’s head fake on what it is going to cost the county is a no go. (Bottom line: Wilson tried to say it would only cost the county around \$35k more to have him as a CM as he is making something around \$60k now. Note that the Finance/HR department has an assistant who does a lot of the work. He thinks that somehow the new Finance

Director?HR head (he was pushing for the current assistant to become the head) won’t need an assistant. The fact is the Finance/HR department will need an assistant thus the department’s salary cost will remain the same. So, it isn’t a \$35k differential, it is a \$120k salary jump plus Wilson was insisting on a highly paid Executive Administrative Assistant that would answer to HIM and that would cost at least another \$60 with bennies.)

Shamelessly, Wilson then talks about what other CM’s are making trying to get the \$80k figure that has been bouncing around for the job pushed up to \$100k+!

Canda then went on a long rant about we need to actually study the situation before we jump into it. During his talk, Canda insisted that if this happens, that the position be posted for all to apply, “you think for an instant we can’t, we’re going to get off not competing in this position.”

Canda also nailed the core issue in his talk:

“And the amount of employees that are directly under us are very ... even fewer. And all we have to do is do what we should be doing, is letting our people that work for us do their job.”

Canda, apparently was the only one worried about the legality of the subject matter of this:

CANDA: A little worried about this executive session, you know. Is this a ...

DAY: This was ran by, I think, Braden ran it by Dan before we ...

CANDA: By who?

WILSON: Dan.

CANDA: Dan. Good. I was hoping that you did. Be careful.

The problem is Wilson didn’t tell the County Attorney, Dan Slater, what the real subject matter was.

Day and Flower then spend a lot of time attacking Canda for not having his county government study team make their presentation. They basically say it is too late for that and they are going to go ahead with this no matter what. Flower commented:

“I support this. If this comes before the commission today or next week or next month, I will vote to support it. I'm a little concerned about the money end of it. The optics of starting a new county manager at 100 grand could be a little dicey politically. Has nothing to do with whether I believe you’re worth it or not. It's how big of balls I have to do, as a county commissioner, and deal with the political fallout.”

The discussion went on and on. Flower and Day supporting Wilson and Canda trying to slow things down and do it right. Canda noted:

CANDA: But what you just brought, you got to [be] careful here. This is an executive session. We’re not voting. And if we’re coming out of this executive session, I’m gonna put this on the table and vote, to ... with no public hearing on it ... if we’re ... and you guys can out vote me all you want, and live with that consequence and put a guy in here that ... and without competing the position, and going along with this ... it's suicide.

Flower then tried to defend the proportion that the county didn’t need to post the job and they could just flat out “promote” Wilson, his boy, into it. Canda vehemently opposed this and wanted it posted so the county would get the best candidate.

Flower got triggered a bit and said:

“This community knows exactly what we were trying to do. Right? It's not news to them. It’s going to be a shocker to your bunch if, in fact, this goes on an agenda and we promote Braden to be our County Administrator. That’s going to be a shock to their system. Absolutely. But they don't have any say so in the matter. The say so sits right here in these three chairs. And I know you’re saying, yeah, but we have to be accountable. I’ll be accountable.”

Day and Canda then get into it with Canda saying he wasn’t properly informed about the subjects of the ES and Day insisting he was.

After that, Wilson again goes into full sales mode on why he is the only one qualified for the job at one point saying, “I suggest that I would be good for this job.”

This goes on for long time. Wilson then makes a shameless plea that there was a “promise” here and that the Commissioners should vote on this right away (so nobody else can apply for the job):

WILSON: Right, and that was my intention. Is this ... is not something that I thought needed to be voted on or anything like that. It was just, I guess, a promise that this was something that I believe needed to happen, to fully fulfill the picture. I do believe that with the job description, that it’s possible to move forward right away. But this would just fill in some of those gaps that ...(overtalking)

CANDA: So, what's your expectation that we come out of this and we vote to have a County Manager and you are the guy?

WILSON: That was what I asked, was ... fully knowing...

CANDA: That we need a County Manager and we would figure out how to go about it.

Flower then danced around the idea of coming out of a 1.5 hour ES, with no public present, and voting to create the CM and hire Wilson:

FLOWER: Well, here’s where I shake out. I’m saying this straight up. I’m a little concerned about the money. I certainly want to give Bill the opportunity to rally his troops to come in and politically strong arm us. It would be a little chicken shit to come out of this meeting and do it this afternoon. OK. I can handle that political pressure. They can squall all they want. I’ve proven that.

The discussion went on and on. Wilson, Day and Flower against Canda. Most of the end time was spent with Wilson repeating that it was perfectly fine not posting the job and just hiring him right away. (Totally shameless.)

Here are some interesting quotes from the end of the ES:

WILSON: No, I just ... I appreciate the time to be able to bring it forward and certainly isn't me trying to run the county in any way or take personal gain...

CANDA: Yes, it is.

FLOWER: Good. If this initiative moves forward, Bill, do you think we should post it within the county? Do you think we should ... I'm not saying you're going to agree with doing it, I'm just asking you - this job?

CANDA: Has to be posted. I think it would ... I think it has to be competed.

WILSON: And I could speak to that. I did talk to CTSI in a different capacity a few months ago. And we don't need to post anything that's a promotion. If it's ... even if it's a new position. If we were ... if we had to fill it to begin with, we have to post it. But to promote, it doesn't require any sort of posting.

CANDA: Did you tell them we were restructuring the county?

WILSON: No, I said that was in a different situation. But that's ...

CANDA: I don't believe that.

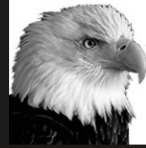
The whole ES was wrong. It should have been totally in the public. The only guy there protesting it was Canda and he should have been more firm about it. But he got totally sandbagged by Wilson, Day and Flower.

This is what dirty, unethical, insider politics look like, citizens. Thank goodness Flower got recalled and Epp got in and Epp and Canda killed this.

Read the entire transcript at our website. It is an eye opener.

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SAVAGES
from page 18

the savages are, they lose their sense of right and wrong, and they can no longer explain why savagery is wrong. When faced with the worst imaginable crimes, they can still equivocate a case for the criminals.

Hamas terrorists can rape and kill their victims, and defenders will rally to explain why the issue is actually more complicated than it seems. This happens with Islamic terrorists all the time.

Savages and decadent civilizations have no firm concept of right and wrong. Everything is subjectively opportunistic and there can be scenarios in which raping a woman, killing her and then posting a photo of her body to social media so her family can see is actually right.

That is why civilization has to defeat savagery, without equivocation, apologies or sympathy, not only to win, but to revive its own soul. Negotiations and laws of war are for peer civilization. Savages offer nothing and so are owed nothing. They keep no agreements except when it suits them. Their word is worthless and their morality is non-existent.

A civilization that does not understand all this will learn it the hard way.

Civilizations are built on the suppression of savagery: both internally and externally. When civilizations defeat savages, learning, art, science and ideas thrive. And when civilizations allow savages to ravage them, they lose their people, their morality and eventually their existence.

No form of war is more sacred than that of civilization against savagery.

It is these wars that made Christianity and Judaism, not to mention all the ideas of western civilization, as well as those of Asia and India, possible. This is once again the defining struggle of our age.

Either civilization or the savages will prevail. Any attempt at a middle ground is suicide.

Our grandchildren will either make great things or they will be hunted by roaming savages like the teenage girls at a concert in Israel or those similarly hunted in venues in Europe.

All the hopes of mankind depend on the utter and total defeat of the savages, not just in Israel, but in America, in Europe, in India and Asia, and around the world. This is not the struggle of any single nation, but the crisis of mankind. Either humanity will rise or we will fall.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/savages>

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THE VICTORY
from page 19

with no grander designs on seizing the whole of the European continent. They minimize the significance of the Battle of Tours’ outcome, too; at least one historian even claims that Europe would have been better off if Islam had conquered it.

But Hanson notes that “most of the renowned historians of the 18th and 19th centuries... saw Poitiers as a landmark battle that signaled the high-water mark of Islamic advance into Europe.” Edward Creasey included it among the fifteen most decisive battles of world history. Many believe that if Charles — had not stopped Abd-al-Rahman at Tours, there would have been nothing to prevent the Islamic tide from sweeping across the continent and making Europe Islamic. Edward Gibbon called Charles “the savior of Christendom” and wrote in “*The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*” in 1776 that if not for Charles’ victory, “perhaps the interpretation of the Koran would now be taught in the schools of Oxford.”

If only Gibbon could see Oxford now. Not only is the interpretation of the Koran taught there, but Islam thrives in Oxford, thanks partly to the patronage of the UK’s current dhimmi king. In his essay “*Islam in Oxford*,” faux moderate Muslim scholar Muqtedar Khan writes that “Gibbon would have been surprised to learn the lesson that military

The Battle of Tours depicted in the *Grandes Chroniques de France*.
Public Domain

defeats do not stop the advance of civilizations and the globalization of Islam is unimpeded by the material and military weaknesses of the Muslim world.”

Apart from his dubious suggestion that Islam has anything to do with the advance of civilization, Khan is right: today the Islamic incursion into Europe is of the demographic, not military, sort. The continent faces an immigration crisis due in no small part to at least one generation of willfully unassimilated young

Muslims. “Nothing can stop the spread of Islam,” insists Islamic apologist Reza Aslan. “There are those who would try, but it simply will not happen. Absolutely nothing can stop the spread of Islam.”

In 732, Charles Martel begged to differ. What it took was the will, the discipline and training, and a warrior spirit and righteous faith.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/the-victory-that-saved-western-civilization/>

RUGER COMPACT
from page 21

sights, and lighter trigger, some have wondered why the original LCP is still in production. The answer is simple. The original works just fine and sometimes it is about saving a few dollars that keep many people from committing to buying a pistol. I actively chose the LCP because I felt I did not need a slide-lock, sandpaper grip, or taller sights. The LCP already hit the nail on the head, and the heavier longer trigger pull was an asset to me as assurance against accidental discharge while the pistol is in a pocket. I saved a few

bucks, sure, but I felt I wasn’t losing anything in the process.

Coming in now at the sub \$200 mark, the LCP is an attractive option to many, and I challenge anyone to find me a pistol at that price point that has the same build quality and track record. The LCP does filter out to the wrong crowd, first-time gun buyers especially. The LCP is not the easiest gun to shoot well and going for a larger gun before going smaller is a safe bet. At the very least you won’t have many problems with the LCP.

Those who buy a gun to use as a magic charm will be equally disappointed. It takes some practice to shoot a small 380 well, and some care is needed

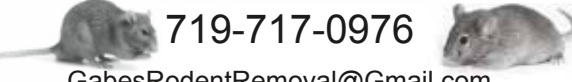
to maintain the pistol. But as an everyday pistol, the LCP is the one I would go with. It is not the pistol that inspires during confidence building exercises on internet forums. Indeed, no one would brag about owning one. But it still the best pocket pistol on the market today and the ideal candidate for an “always” EDC gun. The gun you can have on you at all times even when you are unable to carry a larger, more capable gun. In every category, the LCP by Ruger delivers when others in its class will inevitably fall short.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2023/10/ruger-lcp-centerfire-pistol-thousand-rounds/#axzz8Fkk5GDO1>

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CUSTER COUNTY GOP

from page 1

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