

Rhapsody of a Rodeo Rookie

Thrills and Stills from the Wet Mountain Valley Stampede

by Vahaken Mouradian,
The National Review

(Editor/GG: Many thanks to Mr. Mouradian and The National Review for this excellent article on our rodeo and Custer County and for their permission for us to reprint the piece. The National Review is a top-notch conservative magazine that has been around a long time. A subscription is well worth the money.)

Bareback bronc doesn't look as fun as it sounds. A fearsome sight: lurch, rear kick, 180-degree spin, thump-thump-thrash. If one hoof is touching the ground, at least two aren't. The mad undulation of a runaway seesaw. We're not even three seconds in



Thrills and stills from the Wet Mountain Valley Stampede

Photo by Valahen Mouradian

yet. Lightning punctures the somber Sangre de Cristo slopes as if it's part of the show. No need for pyrotechnics. Look away if

you can: A crash-test dummy is demonstrating Newton's second law of motion while hitched to the back of an equine bodybuilder. The

beast has a neck like Ronnie Coleman's left quadricep. Who taught it to perform superman push-ups? Buckspin's the move: The

cowboy's center of gravity momentarily shifts to someplace over equatorial Asia. The timer goes off; his chaps take wing — horizontal ejection. Godspeed and good night. Hearing the thud alone makes me slip a spinal disc. It's my first rodeo.

"Son of a biscuit!

"Is he all right?"

He's all right. He gets up, gestures to the crowd. Clamor and cheers. He shambles away. Bob Edmonds on horseback relays the score: "Seventy-nine for Bill Tutor." Frequent-flyer points for the gentleman's eight-second journey. Calculated by some mystical formula

RHAPSODY
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ALL STAR DINING ARRIVES IN CUSTER

Tony's Steak and Tavern Now Open To Serve You

by Fred Hernandez

Many residents in Happy Valley have pined for a good steak without having to trek all the way down to the lowlands of Fremont. A good steak, especially during the winter months, can be truly appreciated. Now, finally, those community wishes have come true in a big way. Tony's Steak and Tavern, in the same building as the popular Tony's Mountain Pizza, is now ready to deliver to your table an eye-popping, mouth-watering steak expertly cut and done perfectly to your individual specification. Thick as you desire, carefully grilled by highly trained and experienced Chefs, these culinary delicacies are marbled marvels of excellent cuisine.

It really all began almost ten years ago when Sam and Carol Hepp decided to venture into the food service industry by buying the building and business that is now Tony's Pizza. Sam provided the day-to-day physical handy work in the building and Carol was the heart and spirit of the enterprise. Together, they and their daughter Jill, built the brand with the now familiar logo in Custer and surrounding counties; Tony's Mountain Pizza. It was a successful enterprise by all measures with an upward trajectory into the future. Then life happened and with the loss of Carol, Sam and the Hepp family decided it was time to move on.

After almost a decade of successful

operations serving the community, the business was for sale sometime in 2022.

Attracted by the beauty of Wet Mountain Valley and the majestic, iconic Sangre de Cristo Mountain range, Johnny Winton bought a lovely home in Happy Valley about four years ago and moved from Miami, Florida. A successful entrepreneur in commercial real estate, he traveled as needed from his new Custer County home to Texas and Florida where he continued to have business interests. In the meantime, some evenings or when his business partners were in town, he would dine or socialize at Tony's. He got to know the owners and the staff well and over time developed friendships with them. So it was not surprising in the least that at some point Johnny's entrepreneurial interest would be piqued, a conversation exchanged and, against all advice, he and his partners bought the business.

Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he was born and raised until, at the age of twenty-one, he moved to the Scottsdale/Tempe area in Arizona to take a job in the medical field where he rose to management positions over a period of twelve years. But Johnny is a visionary type who felt he could achieve more in his lifetime. And so, he moved to Miami where he focused on commercial real estate. His timing was perfect. Over his thirty-three years in The Magic City, one of the many nicknames



of that megapolis due to how fast it developed, as if materializing from thin air, Johnny was part of that magic. He served on several boards including the Downtown Development Authority, Downtown Miami Partnership, Building Owners Association, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce before finally deciding, after much pleading from his colleagues, business owners and partners, to run for the office of City Commissioner. At first he resisted the idea because he knew how challenging it would be to go up against an incumbent who had been in office for twenty nine years and to run in a field of four

other contenders for a position in a city that was, for all intents and purposes, bankrupt at that point in time. In fact Miami was in such dire straits that the office of the governor, then Jeb Bush, who eventually became a friend, had taken over the city's checkbook, literally. In spite of it all, Johnny plodded on and launched his candidacy.

His campaign manager's strategy was simply based on the hope of achieving a runoff with the incumbent. The work was hard as Johnny went knocking door to door on

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Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
Psalm 145:13 NKJV

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

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

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel (USPS 11280) is an independent newspaper, published weekly by The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 179, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 179, Westcliffe, CO 81252. Periodicals postage paid at Westcliffe, CO and additional mailing offices.

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Business Hours:

Mon: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tues: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wedn: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fri: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Closed Thursdays & Weekends

Subscription Rates:

\$49 yearly for 81252 zip code
\$59 yearly elsewhere
\$29 yearly for Digital Edition

How to contact us:

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July 17 BOCC: Fire Suppression Ponds, Day Gets His Big Grant, One Finance Director Applicant, CC Claybusters Shot Down

by George Gramlich, News and Commentary

The Custer County Board of County Commissioners regular weekly meeting on July 17, 2024 started at 9 a.m. in their throne room across from the county courthouse. All three commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day.

In New Business, Day announced that his primary project during his entire 3.5 year stint as commissioner was coming to fruition as he has obtained tax money in the form of a grant from the grant machine, the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments to buy playground equipment "for the children" in Wetmore. However, this gift money needs county matching funds so we are all on the hook for half of this.

Budget Resolution 24-17 was next. Our Veterans Service Office honcho, Dominic Edginton requested a loan of \$5k to "kickstart" a \$50k grant he is getting for our Veterans. This will be repaid as soon as the grant money is received. This passed.

A big presentation by various people including state and local offices was

next concerning establishing three "fire suppression ponds" on the valley floor. The locations are at/near the Beckwith Ranch, the Rusk Ranch and the "Coleman Pond". As with anything concerning water and the State of Colorado, it was a long and complicated presentation with a ton of red tape and bureaucrat nonsense needed to get it done. It was decided that the players involved would proceed with the attempt.

Epp was next with a proposal to combine two county positions, Maintenance and Custodial, into one job. He noted that the Maintenance contract with an outside contractor is expiring soon and we have an opportunity to streamline things a bit. Epp estimated that the two jobs would take around 50 hours per week and that a full-time person and a part-time person could handle the job. The rate would be \$22.50 per hour.

In Additional Items of Business, Epp said we have only received one application for the Finance Director's job and that was sent to the screening committee for review. (This is after months of advertising all over the state and country. The problem is the

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TONY'S STEAK from page 1

a daily basis including the not particularly friendly areas of the Hispanic communities. Finally, it was election day. Johnny's tenacity paid off. He won the election to the office of commissioner with 54% of the votes. Quite an achievement given the odds and for someone who had never been a politician.

Years later, and now living in Custer County, with some time on his hands, Johnny turned his magic on Tony's. From the start of his taking over the management of Tony's Johnny had always thought that a steakhouse was needed in Custer County. Hearing about the wishes of the community confirmed the need and he decided to act on a vision he had for the back room of the building.

Also in listening to the community, Johnny has gotten involved in the



needs of the school, the veterans and other community projects.

The function room where in the past community activities were held or, when necessary, the overflow diners from the



main dining area were ushered into, has now been magically transformed into Johnny's vision. To experience the new ambiance is in itself an uplifting experience that reminds one of an old mining office in the bygone days of silver mines. Today, the only restaurant in Silver Cliff that is fully air conditioned, it is also the only restaurant in the county that has

in its employ four culinary school trained and certified Chefs able to design/create and deliver a world class menu that would satisfy most international gourmets. The warm, cozy and friendly aura of the bar area is especially conducive to joyful moments of camaraderie with friends, family and acquaintances.

The restaurant and entertainment scene in Custer County has definitely improved with the opening of the upscale Steak and Tavern. Now serving lunch and dinner from Thursday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For lunch the Chefs recommend the most delicious half pound burgers with all the fixins' and fries or chips made fresh in house. Also for lunch the most appetizing salads featuring classic arugula, different varieties of let-

tuce, fresh sun-drenched tomatoes and delectable homemade dressings guaranteed to satisfy the most discriminating tastes. The dinner menu, with its variety of out-standing steak cuts and other entrees, reminds one of the famous steak houses in New York and Chicago.

All the class and the quality of a high-end steakhouse yet competitively priced so that everyone can enjoy a delicious fare and beverage at Tony's Steak and Tavern. Located on Highway 69 (Main Street) on the east end of Silver Cliff, and certain to become a destination restaurant, you are invited to come in for the ambiance and stay for the great cuisine. Truly a great experience. Bon Appetit!

(For the Menu and updates, see Tony's Steak & Tavern's Facebook page.)




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Local Mountain News & Notices

Letter to the Editor Paul Vogel song to Host First Town Hall



Come One, Come All to the first Town Hall meeting being hosted by Paul Vogel song, Candidate on Saturday, August 3rd at Ranchers Roost in the Bowling Alley. (11 a.m. -1 p.m.)

Regardless of political affiliation, or your registered status you are invited to bring your questions and concerns to Paul's attention.

As a concerned member of this community, I urge you to participate in helping

voice your opinions so Paul will know what issues you wish to get resolved.

As a resident and voting member of this community, I would like to stress the importance to voice your concerns, and issues of our community to the town, managers, mayors, county departments, and commissioners.

Respectfully,

Cindy H.
Citizen for Candidate Paul Vogel song

KLZR's Free Summer Concerts Start this Weekend!

Press Release

KLZR's is pleased to offer the 2024 Summer in the Park Concert Series beginning this weekend. All Shows are free and please bring chairs and sun protection (some shade provided). We are excited to be partnering with All Aboard Westcliffe at a new venue this year, the backyard of All Aboard Westcliffe (AAW) Historic Rail Depot at 102 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252, in the shadow of the caboose. All concerts begin at a new earlier starting time, 12:30 p.m., in an attempt to beat the occasional midafternoon rain. Food from Dwags Dawgs and soft drinks and modest-

ly priced beer and wine available this year. In case of rain, the AAW Building on Rosita Street will be used. Dogs on leashes welcome at the outside venue, but not allowed in the rain venue.

Scheduled to appear:

- **Aug 4** - The Wild Elderberries (original Americana)
- **Aug 11** - Hogan and Moss (scorch folk)
- **Aug 18** - The Blue Canyon Boys (bluegrass)
- **Aug 25** Exit 101 (oldies)

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salary is way too low and the commissioners don't have the cajoles to raise it because it would be way higher than any other county official.)

Epp then said the six-month budget review will be next Wednesday (July 24) at the SAR building.

In Public Comments, Jerry Tracewell from the Custer County Claybusters Club (a local club that teaches clay and trapshooting to our kids and they also go to competitions) made a statement that all the equipment that they have at the Sheriff's Office shooting range came from donations, mostly from the Friends of the NRA. He said rumors that the school paid for anything are false.

Then the real subject came up when Day told Tracewell that the club can only use the range during the school year as the school has insurance for the training. Once the school year ends, Day said "you are not welcome" as the club, apparently, has no other insurance. Day said it was a county owned range, on county property and the club has no Memorandum of Understanding with the county and they "have no insurance in place". This set Tracewell off as he and a bunch of volunteers have spent a huge amount of time and effort in getting the club going and this would end the effort for the kids to learn and compete. Tracewell said, "I have put hundreds of hours into this. You have wiped it out." And that is how it ended.

And that was that. Another day in Happy Valley.

Hanme Clark Preliminary Hearing: Judge Finds Sufficient Evidence for Trial in Triple Homicide

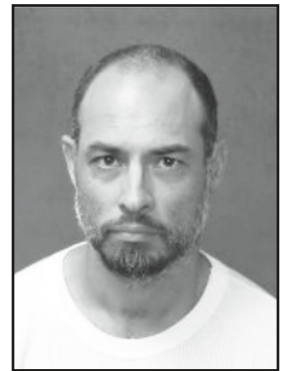
by George Gramlich

11th Judicial District Judge Lynette Wenner, after hearing testimony from various witnesses, including Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith, found that there was sufficient evidence to proceed to trial on six felony counts, three of which are for first degree murder. (A first-degree murder charge can carry a penalty to life imprisonment without any chance of parole.)

The hearing was held on Wednesday, July 24th, at the Custer County Courthouse.

The charges allege that Clark killed three people just off of County Road 255 (Oak Creek Grade) over a property dispute. Those killed were: Rob Geers, Beth Wade and James Daulton. They all died via gunshot wounds.

The arraignment hearing is scheduled for September. Clark remains in the Pueblo County Jail on \$2,000,000



bond. During the hearing, Clark's attorney wanted bond reduced but that was denied.

Local Arrested on Felony Charges

Press Release

via Facebook
Custer County Sheriff's Office (CCSO)

This morning (*Editor/ GG: 7/24/24*) at approximately 8:15 AM the CCSO was notified of a disturbance at Dollar General Store. Deputies arrived and contacted the suspect. The suspect fled in his own car, a silver Pontiac Trans Am, sideswiped a deputy vehicle and drove northbound on H69. Deputies followed a

few blocks and terminated the pursuit.

The vehicle continued northbound on H69 at very high speed. A short time later the suspect returned to his home on Lea Lane in Westcliffe. Deputies attempted to talk him out of the home. An ambulance was staged nearby and a crisis intervention negotiator contacted the suspect by telephone. The suspect refused to exit the home. CCSO contacted our

psychologist for input on the strategy to end the barricade peacefully.

The suspect later exited the home at approximately 10:37 without incident.

The suspect was identified as Derek Ming of Westcliffe. Derek Ming is facing charges of felony vehicular eluding and other charges.

There were no injuries. There was minor damage to the deputies vehicle.

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Matt Troyer: 719-221-8940

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Jared Smith, DMD
618 Main St, Cañon City
719-275-0661
www.jaredsmithdmd.com

Firewood

Westcliffe Firewood
Ryan Stover
719-371-6074
westcliffefirewood@gmail.com

Florist

Salty Pine Floral & Boutique
411 Main St, Westcliffe
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www.westcliffeflowershop.com

Funeral Homes

Holt Family Funeral Home
806 Macon Ave, Cañon City
719-275-4113
www.holtfamilyfuneralhomes.com

Furniture & Home Goods

Yoder's Home Outfitting
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Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear
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Lowe's Market
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tonysmountainpizza.com
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 email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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Colorado Forestry & Earthworks, LLC
 has Commercial Shop Bays for rent!
 822 Cliff St. in Silver Cliff
 Contact 719-285-9992 for more info.

Wet Mountain Storage
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www.westcliffecoloradoselfstorage.com

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 402 Main St. Westcliffe (805) 680-5712
contact@thriftycliffe.com
 Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tractor/Trailer Sales

True Value Hardware and Trailers
 635 Shoop Dr, Penrose
 719-784-0123
<https://www.truevaluetrailer.com>

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 719-783-0648

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 email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Classifieds

For Rent

2 bedroom, 1 bath.
 Living room and office space on Main St. above Sugar Lump in Westcliffe. \$1,500. per month. Call 303-748-2218

Help Wanted

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
 We Need Local people to Report on LOCAL News Stop by Mon. 10-2. Tues -Wedn. 9-4, Fri. 9-12 601 Main St., Westcliffe

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Mom and Sons Mowing Service
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Happy Birthday
Lisa Frank!



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4 Male Pups.
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Happy Anniversary
Jerry and Wanda Jennings



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American Legion Post #170
 PO Box 424, Westcliffe, CO 81252
 talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com
 (719) 783-2462 westcliffepost170.org

Custer County Community Sharing Food Pantry
 120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994
OPEN First 3 Fridays of the month 12 - 3 p.m.
 An Equal Opportunity Provider

Family Crisis Services
 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center for Fremont and Custer Counties
 (719) 275-2429 FamilyCrisisOnline.org

Front Range Clinic
 Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)
 1-866-MAT-STAT
www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
 Monday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 (719) 783-4357

National Suicide HOTLINE
 1-800-273-8255 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
 Tue. - Fri.: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..
 Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wet Mountain Rotary Van Service
 Limited Dispatch 719-783-2343

Westcliffe Farmers Market Vendor of the Week

Big Nugget Farms is a small, off-grid family farm raising pigs, chickens, hemp, produce, and four young boys. We're passionate about people knowing what they're putting both on and in their bodies. Everything we raise and grow is done organically. We have a full line of bath and body products including scrubs, soaps, and shampoo bars, made from scratch using clean ingredients.




Farmers Market

TUESDAY 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
CAÑON CITY Farmers Market
 211 South 3rd St. Cañon City

THURSDAY 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
FLORENCE Farmers Market
 Pioneer Park E 3rd & E 4th, Florence

FRIDAY 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
WESTCLIFFE Farmers Market
 (North of Jess Price Park)
 59000 N Hwy 69, Westcliffe

Porches & Decks - Roofing & Siding
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Local Mountain News & Notices



Sangre Art Guild Home School Art Program

3rd Street Gallery
59000 Hwy 69, Westcliffe, CO

25, October 9 and 23, November 12 and
December 10.

Press Release

**A Parent Meeting on Wednesday,
August 28th from 1 - 1:45 p.m.**

Registration for the fall semester of RSAG's Home School Art Program is now open for all our community's children in grades 1 - 8, first come first serve as space allows.

Attendance to that meeting is important for us to be a cohesive, successful and exciting program. Your family's commitment to this program is important, as is your child's attendance in these classes.

The classes are free and will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of September, October, and the 2nd Wednesdays of November and December from 1 - 2:15 p.m. Those dates are September 11 and

To reserve a place for your children: Contact Liz VanSomeren, Lvsomeren@sagboard.org with this information: Parent's name and phone number Students' name, grade, and age

2024 Custer County 4H and FFA Sales

PLACE.	Seller	Tag#	WGT	Unit Price	TOTAL Price	Buyer	
Grand Champion Beef:	Jalane Gonzalez	#92	1348	\$ 9.00	\$ 12,132.00	Norup Gas	
Grand Champion Pig:	Rafael Gonzalez	#213	274	\$ 21.50	\$ 5,891.00	Samuelson Ranch	
Grand Champion Lamb:	Jalane Gonzalez	# 180	129	\$ 40.00	\$ 5,160.00	Gene & Jan Burleson	
Grand Champion Goat:	Madiynn Berry	#165	73	\$ 51.00	\$ 3,723.00	Farm Credit	
Res. Gr.Champion Beef	Grant Rusk	#94	1346	\$ 6.00	\$ 8,076.00	Texas Creek Ranch	
Res. Gr. Champion Pig	Jalane Gonzalez	#180	283	\$ 20.00	\$ 5,660.00	Norup Gas	
Res. Gr.Champion Lamb	Lily Bomgardner	#193	131	\$ 29.50	\$ 3,864.50	Trails End	
Res. Gr.Champion Goat:	Alexis Grundy	#165	59	\$ 44.00	\$ 2,596.00	Westcliffe Meats	
Class 5 Beef First:	Rafael Gonzalez	#91	1407	\$ 6.75	\$ 9,497.25	Connie & Jack Thompson	
Class 4 Pig First:	Jolene Mullett	#225	261	\$ 16.00	\$ 4,176.00	Custer County Buyers Grp.	
Class 5 Lamb First:	Kord Goff	#189	146	\$ 20.00	\$ 2,920.00	Hillside	
Class 4 Goat First:	Sierra Foster	#171	88	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,200.00	Brady Pitt	
Class 4 Lamb First:	Stephanie Lewis	#192	136	\$ 22.00	\$ 2,992.00	Martin and Tope	
Class 3 Beef First:	Docerty McCoy	#93	1215	\$ 6.00	\$ 7,290.00	P-O Disposal	
Class 3 Pig First:	Mitchell VanDeusen	#217	248	\$ 21.00	\$ 5,208.00	Tipton	
Class 3 Goat First:	Masha Muzhzhavlev	#174	78	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,950.00	Jim Kauten	
Class 2 Beef First:	Alexis Grossardt	#89	1199	\$ 6.00	\$ 7,194.00	Lazy V	
Class 2 Pig First:	Owyn Clark	#200	244	\$ 18.00	\$ 4,392.00	Trails End	
Class 1 Lamb First:	Brentley Curtis	#170	111	\$ 27.00	\$ 2,997.00	Samuelson Ranch	
Class 1 Beef First:	Noel Green	#90	1043	\$ 5.50	\$ 5,736.50	Bud and Patti Dunn	
Class 1 Pig First:	London Dean	#222	222	\$ 18.00	\$ 3,996.00	Trails End	
Class 5 Lamb Second:	Ben Smith	#163	165	\$ 27.50	\$ 4,537.50	Custer County Buyers Grp.	
Class 4 Lamb Second:	Evangeline Golovanoff	#175	135	\$ 24.00	\$ 3,240.00	5E Angus	
Class 3 Beef Second:	Christopher Mullett	#95	1235	\$ 5.25	\$ 6,483.75	Mill Iron Ranch	
Class 4 Pig Second:	Jennica Mullett	#224	267	\$ 20.00	\$ 5,340.00	Dunn Ranch	
Class 3 Lamb Second:	Masha Muzhzhavlev	#173	133	\$ 37.00	\$ 4,921.00	Sangre De Cristo Electric	
Class 2 Beef Second:	Sage Shy	#86	1161	\$ 6.25	\$ 7,256.25	Colorado Quarries	
Class 2 Goat Second:	Paisley Berry	#167	67	\$ 43.00	\$ 2,881.00	Samuelson Ranch	
Class 1 Pig Second:	Evangeline Golovanoff	#209	227	\$ 25.00	\$ 5,675.00	17 Trucking	
Class 4 Beef Third:	Addie Banning	#96	1325	\$ 6.75	\$ 8,943.75	Brad Padula	
Class 2 Lamb Third:	Jennica Mullett	#194	130	\$ 22.00	\$ 2,860.00	Custer County Buyers Grp.	
Class 3 Pig Third:	Ty Stoltzfus	#216	288	\$ 23.00	\$ 6,624.00	Seifert Ranch	
Class 3 Lamb Third:	Marin Foster	#191	132	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,300.00	Custer County Buyers Grp	
Class 4 Pig Third:	Kord Goff	#210	263	\$ 12.50	\$ 3,287.50	Rusler Implement	
Class 1 Beef Third:	Brylee Shy	#88	1099	\$ 5.00	\$ 5,495.00	5E Angus	
Class 3 Pig Third:	Rowan Saathoff	#205	250	\$ 14.00	\$ 3,500.00	Terri Wells	
Class 4 Lamb Third:	Reagan Hatfield	#190	135	\$ 28.00	\$ 3,780.00	Wayne Aigaki	
Class 2 Pig Third:	Brylee Shy	#208	242	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,050.00	Colorado Quarries	
Class 1 Pig Third:	Paisley Berry	#203	229	\$ 15.00	\$ 3,435.00	Kirkpatrick Bank	
Class 3 Lamb Fourth:	Jolene Mullett	#195	134	\$ 27.50	\$ 3,685.00	Trails End	
Class 5 Pig Fourth:	Addie Banning	#220	278	\$ 17.50	\$ 4,865.00	Trent & Pepper Stafford	
Class 4 Pig Fourth:	Madiynn Berry	#202	256	\$ 15.00	\$ 3,840.00	Samuelson Ranch	
Class 3 Pig Fourth:	Joseph Mullett	#226	248	\$ 16.00	\$ 3,968.00	Mullett Roofing	
Prem. sale for over wgt.	Haylie Shaffer	Animal Prem.			\$ 2,750.00	San Isabel Ranch	
				Avg. Per Pound	\$ 21.41	\$ 214,369.00	Total Sales

Custer County Fair Results will be published next week.

WMVCF Launches Youth in Philanthropy Initiative

Press Releases

WESTCLIFFE, Colorado

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) is pleased to announce the launch of the Youth in Philanthropy Initiative (YIPI). In recognition of the 25th birthday of the WMVCF and in honor of Dick and Audrey Stermer, the founders of the WMVCF, the Initiative will provide \$25K in local grants to Wet Mountain Valley nonprofits. Five groups/ organizations have provided \$5,000 each to be awarded based on individual and different grant criteria, which will be available to the public on our website. Please follow us on Facebook for the most current information.

The YIPI grant program will involve five volunteer young adult teams identified from the Wet Mountain Valley. Students and young adults will learn about philanthropy, grant processes, and ultimately evaluate all grant proposals and make their recommendations for awards. Each grant team's time commitment will vary, but will generally last 4 - 6 weeks totalling approx-

imately 8 hours. Each team will establish its own meeting time and place with a WMVCF facilitator at each session.

YIPI hopes to engage the younger population with the nonprofit sector in the Valley and the impact philanthropy has on our community. YIPI will connect students and young adults to community needs and local charities, as well as develop critical thinking, decision-making, and leadership skills through skilled mentorship. The Initiative will be managed through the Succession and Sustainability Fund of the WMVCF, the donor-advised fund created by Dick and Audrey Stermer.

If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on a YIPI grant team, please email Dr. Howerton at director@wmvcf.org.

This opportunity is available to the Wet Mountain Valley thanks, in part, to a Boettcher Catalyst grant provided by the Boettcher Foundation. For more information about the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation, please visit www.wmvcf.org.

KIDS

Friday, August 2, 2024

Sumatran Orangutan

I think you are going to really enjoy this week's topic. We will be talking about the Sumatran Orangutan. The pictures of this animal are gorgeous. Let's get started.

The Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) is one of the three species of orangutans. Critically endangered and found only in the north of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. They are restricted to the northern tip of the island. They primarily live in lowland tropical forests, including mangrove, riparian forests and swamp forests. Sumatran orangutans can be distinguished by their lighter, orange-colored hair and long facial hair compared to the other two orangutan species.



Their diets tend to be frugivorous, meaning they thrive mostly on raw fruits or succulent fruit-like produce of plants such as roots, shoots, nuts and seeds. Preferred fruits include figs and jackfruits.

It will also eat bird eggs and small vertebrates. They are highly intelligent animals. They are the most intelligent of the great apes, they recognize themselves in a mirror and they have been seen using tools. Scientists have even taught them communication skills, such as human sign language and the use of computer touch-screens. They will break off a tree branch about a foot long, snap off the twigs and fray one end with its teeth. They will then use this tool to dig holes in trees looking for termites. They also will use this tool to poke a hole in a bee's nest wall to catch the honey.

They lead solitary lives and they move slowly during the day through the trees in search of food. Half a mile a day is the most they usually travel. They are not very territorial and they share their home ranges with others.

They mate mostly during the rainy season, December to May. They have a nine-month gestation period after which the female will give birth to a single infant. The mother has built a new nest high in a tree for her infant. They may be weaned by the age of three. They generally stay with the mother till the age of eight or nine. During this time, they are taught special forest survival skills.

According to the IUCN Red List, the total Sumatran orangutan population is around 7,300 individuals. Their numbers are decreasing and they are classified as critically endangered on the list of threatened species.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://animals.howstuffworks.com/wild-animals/rainforest-animals.htm>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumatran_orangutan, <https://animalia.bio/sumatran-orangutan>, <https://sumatranorangutan.org/orangutans/>.
Photo by By Rufus46 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=36136936>

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Jesus said

“for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God.”

John 16:27 ESV

2024 4-H AND FFA LIVESTOCK SALE



Grand Champion Steer, Jaliane Gonzalez
Sold to Norup Gas for \$12,132



Reserve Grand Champion Steer, Grant Rusk
Sold to Texas Creek Ranch for \$8,076



Grand Champion Swine, Rafael Gonzalez
Sold to Samuelson Ranch for \$5,891



Reserve Grand Champion Swine, Jaliane Gonzalez
Sold to Norup Gas for \$5,660



Grand Champion Lamb, Jaliane Gonzalez
Sold to Gene & Jan Burleson for \$5,160



Reserve Grand Champion Lamb, Lily Bomgardner
Sold to Trails End Ranch for \$3,864.50



Grand Champion Goat, Madilynn Berry
Sold to Farm Credit for \$3,723



Reserve Grand Champion Goat, Alexis Grundy
Sold to Westcliffe Meats for \$2,596

CUSTER COUNTY FAIR



FAIR WEEK.. PART 1!



The Fawn Next Door



Doe and fawn munching on one of Westcliffe's most flower filled yards on Main St.

Photo by Yvonne Phillips

Man Arrested After Drive-By Shooting Results in Vehicle Pursuit

Press Release
Cañon City Police
Department

Heroic efforts by Cañon City Police officers to end a dangerous police pursuit resulted in the arrest of Andrew Seymour (34), of Cañon City, after Seymour allegedly committed a drive-by shooting in the 2100 block of Central Ave. at approximately 3 p.m. July 24. Seymour, who is currently on parole, was arrested on the following charges:

- Criminal Attempt to commit Assault in the First Degree (Class 4 Felony)
- Illegal Discharge of a Firearm (Class 5 Felony)
- Menacing (Class 5 Felony)
- 18-12-108 (1),(2) Possession of Weapons by Previous Offenders (Class 5 Felony)
- 18-5-105 Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument (Class 6 Felony)
- 18-4-501(1),(4)(c) Criminal Mischief (Class 1 Misdemeanor)
- 18-3-208 Reckless Endangerment (Class 2 Misdemeanor)
- 18-18-403.5 Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Class 1 Drug Misdemeanor)

On July 24 at approximately 3 p.m. officers were dispatched to the 2100 block of Central Avenue on reports of shots fired. When

officers arrived on scene, they discovered evidence that led them to believe that multiple shots were fired at a house and vehicle in that location.

Officers quickly went to work, collecting statements and evidence and were able to develop information on a possible suspect. Working with the Cañon City Police Department Crime Analyst, and in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Corrections parole office, officers were able to gather intelligence regarding the location of the suspect, identified as Seymour.

Following up on that information, officers were able to locate Seymour, who was driving a vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle that was last seen leaving the area of the shooting. Officers attempted to make a traffic stop which resulted in Seymour attempting to flee in the vehicle. After a brief vehicle pursuit, the officers saw an opportunity to execute a vehicle pursuit intervention technique and safely pushed and pinned the vehicle between a telephone pole and two CCPD patrol vehicles, effectively disabling the operation of the vehicle and ending the pursuit. Seymour was taken into custody with no injuries and was booked at the Fremont County Jail on the charges listed above. It should also be noted that a subsequent search of the vehicle yielded the discovery of a semi-automatic handgun that is believed



to have been used in the shooting, as well as a small amount of suspected Fentanyl and MDMA.

Chief Schick stated, "The efforts by the officers to conduct this maneuver to safely end a dangerous vehicle pursuit before the vehicle could be driven into more populated areas of the city, during the mid-afternoon hours, coupled with the fact that the driver was suspected of committing a violent felony act with a firearm and not knowing if the suspect was still armed, was nothing short of heroic and both officers are to be commended for their action. Further, the ability of our officers to funnel real-time information to a crime analyst, who was able to filter information through intelligence communities and outside law enforcement partners, was a direct reason why this incident was handled in such a timely manner."

Because of their efforts, a dangerous felon is now off the streets and will be required to answer for the chaos caused on July 24. Seymour is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Joseph Orgeron

Graveside Service and Interment
Thursday, August 1 @ 10:30 a.m.
Silver Cliff Cemetery (South of Hwy 96 on Mill St.)

Anna Orgeron

Interment
Thursday, August 1 @ 10:30 a.m.
Silver Cliff Cemetery

Richard David Colwell, passed away peacefully on July 23, 2024, in Colorado Springs, at the age of 59. Born on August 7, 1964, in San Luis Obispo, California, then raised in Tacoma, Washington.

Richard was the eldest son of David Colwell and the late Donna Brock Colwell. Born in San Luis Obispo, his formative years were in Tacoma, Washington, where he became first in his family to graduate high school. He maintained a close bond with his family, including his big sister, Tamera Colwell Brewer and his little brother James. Richard was also blessed with a brother of his heart, Brian Haines. Together, they shared countless adventures and formed an unbreakable bond that stood the test of time.

Richard was blessed with

Obituary Richard Colwell

a devoted wife of 25 years. Hannah Nelson Colwell joined the marriage with three grown daughters. He very much loved being a father to Connie Nelson, Zenita Hormas, and Sami Kleinschmidt. Richard's role as a husband and father was the one he cherished most.

Richard's life could sometimes be difficult due to health concerns from birth. He overcame and persevered beyond the limitations set for him by the world. Richard's life was a testament to his passions. He was an ardent fan of '80s hair bands, and his soul would light up at the sounds of Kiss, ACDC, Motorhead, Steelheart, and Scorpions. His love for music was only matched by his dedication to the Seattle Seahawks, whose games he never missed, and his immense affection for all

things *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*. Many an evening was spent with family and friends, discussing the finer points of intergalactic lore or reliving the adventures of *The Fall Guy*.

As we say goodbye to Richard, we celebrate a life lived with many obstacles he overcame. His was a spirit that refused to be dimmed, touching the lives of all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Richard's story is one of love, laughter, strength, and a zest for life that will continue to inspire those he left behind.

In honoring Richard's memory, we reflect on the words of one of his favorite *Star Wars* characters, Yoda: "Death is a natural part of life. Rejoice for those around you who transform into the Force." Richard has now transformed into the Force that surrounds us,



guides us, and binds us together in the tapestry of life.

Farewell, Richard David Colwell. May your journey be filled with the music you loved, the adventures you cherished, and the laughter that you shared with us all. May you never again experience pain. Your passion and dry sense of humor have left an indelible mark on this world, and you will forever be in our hearts.

Services were held July 29, 2024, through Harwood Funeral Services in Cañon City, Colorado.

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RHAPSODY
from page 1

in the judges' booth: a raised shed sponsored by Beach Redi-Mix and Tony's Mountain Pizza.

"I told you, he should've extended his legs." The old boy next to me demonstrates by holding out his arms at 45-degree angles, palms facing the ground. "Spurs *in*."

Prompted by his accent, I ask. He left West Texas for Westcliffe last year and is now retired.

A volunteer rodeo sage, then.

Prompted by my accent, he asks. I explain.

"No kidding."

"None at all."

He takes his pedagogical duties more seriously now. "W'lemme let you go with this: The Wet Mountain Valley Stampede's really summ'n'. The professionals tomorrow'll get you stirred up as all get-out."

This is a professional sport, but it was a profession before it became a sport. Plaid-collar jobs can still be had at these altitudes. You can estimate how prosperous a nation has grown by how much of its agriculture has been repackaged as leisure and recreation. The primary-to-tertiary industrial crossover. It pays well. Livestock can sustain only so many: a couple of thousand between Westcliffe and her conjoined twin, Silver Cliff. (The two share a Main Street.) It's three or four times that from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Appreciable numbers for a town whose Broadway is gravel.

At the Rancher's Roost, a staid diner in a bowling alley, I hear a herd of cowboys saunter in: *clack-clack, clack-clack*. Bootheels and hats add height, gravity. Next to them, at the register to settle the bill, I look like the representative of an early primate in Gifford's diagram of human evolution, theirs being the fully upright stage. I check my posture. The first night of the rodeo is for them: the ranchers. These are their workhorses and this their lifework. Filial franchises, often. Perhaps it's the only way an event so cinogenic can avoid celebrity. All I can tell about Roper No. 31 — who could be 31 or 13; Stetson pulled over the eyes, shirtsleeves billowing, an androgynous silhouette — is that he has immense forearm strength, which is all I can tell about any of them. The names don't help make distinctions: Talon, Cash, Shade, Jayce, Jase, Blaze. Not a single Philip. Not one Hector, breaker of horses: That's nominative determinism debunked.

The second night's the real deal. Here are the professional, rather than vocational, cowboys. The merger of agribusiness and entertainment is consummated. The opening acts require crowd participation. Mutton-bustin' is no ring-around-the-rosie, but it's a children's game (six and under). Look at little Kelsey go: She emerges from Bucking Chute 3 (sponsored by Yoder's Home Furnishings), sheepborne, upside down somehow, eyes flickering like electrical charges in a cloud. It's a game. Much as Late Bronze Age Minoan bull-somersaulting was probably a game. Much as hog-tying cattle and the rest of it is not. No, in the main, the rodeo is an exhibition of an ancient human art: the subjection of nonhuman species. A battle of wills and flexor tendons. Cowboys demonstrate homesteading skill. The community isn't celebrating sporting ability. It's

celebrating itself — its existence. (The Minoans didn't make it.)

The rules for team roping are inscrutable, but you don't mind. Quadrupeds scatter. One calf lies on the thick dirt and declares it should like not to be disturbed. A horseman casts a confident lasso at a runner. Sling and a miss. It catches a hind shank and the tail. The animal is anchored but won't say uncle. It prances, tripod, to the beat of the main riff of "Money for Nothing." Another fella dismounts and steers the steer to the ground by the horns. He fetches a branding iron (unheated). Tag. You're it. Bob Edmonds announces various integers. "Three, fourteen, ten!" He's excited. Then, "One, fifty-three, twenty-six!" The cryptic ramblings of a seer. Nobody cares. I don't remember from which state the winning team is. There are no breakaway-roping or barrel-racing drafts, no NCAA scholarships or shoe deals. This is bigger than a sport; the arena has no room for "personalities."

The periphery is a different story. Joining the audience is a teenager with a mopy mullet and a T-shirt that reads "Easily distracted by t*ts and tacos." One could've gathered as much. From the opposite direction totters a stylish granny escorted by what looks like Sam Elliott's mustache saddled on a different man's face. Two disposable vapes roll out of a woman's kangaroo pocket as she labors up the grandstand. Her kid retrieves them. Descending the stand is an Amish girl in a blue cape dress and a bonnet, followed by Miss Stampede herself: high-school royalty with a sash to prove it. I look for the newspapermen in the crowd. The 50th-most-populous county in Colorado (out of 64) has two of them. Jordan Hedberg edits what he says, and his rival disputes, is the nonpartisan *Wet Mountain Tribune*. George Gramlich edits what he says, and everybody agrees, is the openly partisan *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel*. Both were business studs long before they decided to make the regional press profitable again. Gramlich seems to believe that a man like Donald Trump comes about only roughly once per century. Hedberg agrees, I imagine, but he's comfortable with that frequency. Many locals subscribe to both papers. Custer County is real-life Mayberry.

In the contestants' section, a woman in a shimmering jumpsuit tends to three palominos. I ask for their names. Mojo, Cowboy, and Vanilla. (The woman is Bethany.) They're about to perform something called "three-up Roman riding." *Bonam fortunam*. I later find out that she's one half of a championship-winning, trick-riding, trick-roping, whip-cracking, fire-taming, gun-spinning husband-and-wife act. The feat she mentioned looks like charioteering without a chariot. She starts with two engines. Then adds Vanilla. Even Achilles amid an Anatolian siege was content to be chauffeured by just two steeds (though one could talk, and both were godly). Romans are gaudy. There's a modern monoculture, of course: Little Americas everywhere. You can find baseball in Johannesburg, flag football in Jakarta. But then there's this. Where else will you get the whole jamboree? Mild hypoxia — the Wet Mountain Valley is a mile-and-a-half-high trip — elevates the spectacle.

And the provisions. The provisions! Once in my boyhood I ate caramel-covered popcorn out of a white bucket with Old Glory printed on it. It's a good time to reenact the memory. I ask for the largest bag available (who says city folk don't get their hands dirty at work?). No Stars and

Stripes on this packaging, but the label says "Don't poke the bear" — it's the same message. Now, the deep-fried corn dog: that thing I would feed to Mojo if I could be convinced it didn't contain horse meat. I toss it and try a "tater twister." Pairs well with a Banquet. (Tribute to the Coors Brewing Company — which celebrated its centennial three years *before* the Centennial State did — is piously paid.) Late on the first night, I'll end up at the town's historic feedstore. A Second Street fixture since the late 1800s. Its fare now has been adjusted to human tastes. You can park by the hitching post. Its old storage basement serves as a speakeasy for a clique of Mennonite kids, but not tonight. I'll ask Jessa, a young artist, where the crowds are. At the only other spot open past 8 p.m.: the Silverdome Saloon & Music Hall. A large globular thing on a blasted heath. It looks like a signals-intelligence-gathering and radar station. But it has a full bar. All roads lead to Dome.

Bull-riding serves no pastoral purpose; working ranchers have no reason to attempt it. It's the second night's headline performance by the pros. A lad from the Wyoming town of Thermopolis scores 83 points atop a brute for whose mug natural selection has disclaimed responsibility.

"Holy cow, am I right?"

I turn around.

"Was lookin' for you. Did you see him extend his legs?" The Texan sage is back, arms outstretched with approval. "Spurs *in*."

I ask whether he was a rancher. He talks about how he met a lady at last night's rodeo and, this morning, helped her brand 63 cattle. All right. "I used to be a

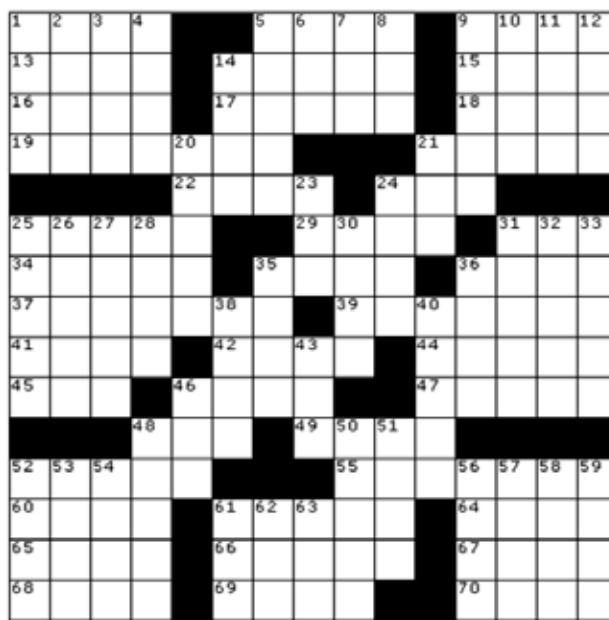
rodeo clown," he confesses. I tell him he shouldn't be so hard on himself. No — he explains — his job in the arena was to distract bulls from downed riders. "Bulls ain't like 'orses. They'll be fixin' to trample ya, sit on ya, gore ya!" Now he regularly sends Colorado-grade THC products to an old colleague whose rear end has met too many bovine front ends: The man would turn his back on bulls and goad them to launch him into the ionosphere. Different strokes . . . My sensei shuffles off with promises of beer and a reunion. I never catch his name.

How are the email-pushing proles supposed to go about their own business after watching these guys and gals make such a festival out of theirs? Host a Prezi party? Plan a family trip to Las Vegas to catch the finals of the Microsoft Excel World Championship? "Work-life balance" is bunk. When the two aren't the same, you've neither. I decide to look into the Dome. It's a dive and a sports bar and a beer garden and a swing-dance hall and a pool parlor and a music venue and a pizza joint and a karaoke lounge. (Why not also a signals-intelligence-gathering and radar station?) A patron croons with a handsome rasp. "What a Wonderful World." Easy for you to say. You don't have to spend two hours on I-25 tomorrow. A Ute with a long braid, black as the dark sacred night, buys drinks for his pals. He asks if I'll have one. Will I have one? I'll have one. Wild horses couldn't drag me away.

Reprinted with Permission. This article was originally published in the September 2024 issue of National Review.

Please see: <https://www.nationalreview.com/magazine/2024/09/rhapsody-of-a-rodeo-rookie/>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- 1 Eat quickly
- 2 Healing plant
- 3 Bluish green
- 4 Meat alternative
- 5 Prophet swallowed by fish
- 6 Ship initials
- 7 "To the right!"
- 8 Concord e.g.
- 9 Statement of beliefs
- 10 Fibber
- 11 Hairstyle
- 12 Combine
- 14 Mineral
- 20 Raccoon-like animal
- 21 That woman
- 23 United States of America
- 24 Italian money
- 25 Opium plant
- 26 Sporty car brand
- 27 Type of mail
- 28 Steering apparatus
- 30 What a clock tells
- 31 Room decoration
- 32 Painter Freida
- 33 Remorse
- 35 Tints
- 36 Reduce
- 38 Adam and Eve's garden
- 40 Rabbit
- 43 Modern
- 46 Dessert
- 48 Sackcloth and ___
- 50 First son of Cain
- 51 Plague of Egypt
- 52 Leap
- 53 Decorative needle case
- 54 Sold at a discount
- 56 Tails
- 57 Blood carrier
- 58 Writer Bombeck
- 59 Hospital (abbr.)
- 61 Inclined
- 62 Behold
- 63 Pouch

ACROSS

- 1 Power unit
- 5 Containers
- 9 Chowder ingredient
- 13 Margarine
- 14 Leader of Exodus
- 15 Abundant
- 16 Bread unit
- 17 A map within a map
- 18 British peer
- 19 Narrow ship used in Mediterranean
- 21 King when Jesus was born
- 22 Hawaiian island
- 24 Christmas light
- 25 High ranking man-used formerly
- 29 Mix
- 31 Dekagram (abbr.)
- 34 Group of eight
- 35 Secret of Samson's strength
- 36 Boyfriend

DOWN

- 37 Neighboring area
- 39 Short OT book of prophecy
- 41 Proper
- 42 Districts of ancient Attica
- 44 Coral reef
- 45 Talk incessantly
- 46 Shekel
- 47 Ross ____, philanthropist
- 48 Old Testament city
- 49 Restaurant
- 52 Father of King David
- 55 Jonah was a prophet to this city
- 60 Beehive State
- 61 Association (abbr.)
- 64 A Roman emperor
- 65 Donkey/horse hybrid
- 66 __ be with you
- 67 Fades
- 68 Filled crusts
- 69 High __
- 70 Fasten

Puzzle Key on page 21

Familiarity breeds contempt— and children.

Mark Twain notebook

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

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

Shame: Government Media Complex

It's been termed the "Government Media Complex" by some conservative writers. It refers to the mainstream, corporate media that is taking the hard-left position in its coverage of the presidential race, a mouthpiece for the Biden Administration, and ongoing purveyor of dog whistle rhetoric spewed by the hateful left. Americans wake up! Just read the headlines of what has happened over the past two weeks. CNN, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, MSNBC, NBC, CBS, ABC and various other left-leaning propaganda machines downplayed the assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump and subsequently refused to report the substance of his Republican nomination acceptance speech.

In the moments after the Trump shooting, I went to the aforementioned media sites to get updated information. They actually downplayed the assassination attempt. Collectively, they portrayed the event as something totally other than what it was. Anybody watching the speech could tell that there were rapid fire shots at the former president. The government media complex reported that there was a "security incident" and Trump had to be escorted off the stage. It was literally over an hour before these giants of news got around to reporting the truth. They downplayed the assassination attempt as if some sort of technical glitch had taken place. Nothing to see here.

Their coverage of Trump's nomination acceptance speech was much the same. The government media complex talked about everything except the substance of the speech. Politico reported about the 92-minute record speech and showed pictures of the convention audience dozing off in boredom. AFP talked about what Melania wore and how Trump has "reshaped" the Republican Party into his own image (isn't that what presidential nominees do?). The *Washington Post* did a story on what Trump DID NOT have in his speech. Reuters wrote about how critics of Trump worry that his power will go unchecked. AP continued its coverage of the assassination attempt by calling the would-be assassin a "Rally Shooter."

This is the kind of coverage we would expect from Soviet-era Russian media like Tass and Pravda. For nearly a decade the government media complex has had Trump in its sites and has been the attack dog of the left. This is not becoming to a nation where heroic men and women have died to protect freedom of speech and religion. Yet this government media complex attack both regularly, disrespecting the very constitution that guarantees their right to do it. Maybe it's time to recognize them for what they are and encourage people to seek the truth, not what they are being spoon-fed by propagandists. In John 8:32, Christ says, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." There is freedom in truth, but neither freedom nor truth is found in news that is filtered through an extreme agenda.

Bill Wilson

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Who Is Kamala Harris?

A Disturbing and Haunting Record Part 1

by Discover the Networks via
FrontPageMag.com

(Editor/GG: Excerpts from an outstanding article. A couple of more to come. For the whole magilla, see the link at the bottom.)

Editor's note: This past Sunday, Joe Biden, whose polling numbers and political donations were dropping ever-more precipitously with each passing day, announced that he was terminating his re-election campaign and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to replace him at the top of the Democratic Party ticket. In a social media post which he released on Sunday afternoon, Biden wrote:

"My fellow Democrats, I have decided not to accept the nomination and to focus all my energies on my duties as President for the remainder of my term. My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President. And it's been the best decision I've made. Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this."

In light of this important development, let us take a close look at who Kamala Harris is, and exactly what she stands for.

Read Discover The Networks' profile on Kamala Harris below:

- *Kamala Harris.
- * Served as San Francisco District Attorney from 2004-2011
- * Served as Attorney General of California from 2011-2017
- * Was elected U.S. Senator from California in 2016
- * Was elected U.S. Vice President in 2020
- * Views America as a nation thoroughly infested with racism

Radical Roots & Communist Ties

Kamala Devi Harris was born to an Indian mother and a Jamaican father in Oakland, California on October 20, 1964. She is, in part, a descendant of a Jamaican slave owner, as Harris' father, Donald J. Harris, explained in a January 2019 essay which he wrote about his family's heritage:

"My roots go back, within my lifetime, to my paternal grandmother Miss Chrishy (née Christiana Brown, descendant of Hamilton Brown who is on record as plantation and slave owner and founder of Brown's Town) and to my maternal grandmother Miss Iris (née Iris Finegan, farmer and educator, from Aeon Town and Inverness, ancestry unknown to me). The Harris name comes from my paternal grandfather Joseph Alexander Harris, land-owner and agricultural 'produce' exporter (mostly pimento or all-spice), who

died in 1939 one year after I was born and is buried in the church yard of the magnificent Anglican Church which Hamilton Brown built in Brown's Town (and where, as a child, I learned the catechism, was baptized and confirmed, and served as an acolyte)."

Harris' mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, was an internationally famous cancer researcher and the daughter of P.V. Gopalan, a high-ranking Indian diplomat from the Brahmin caste. As a *Los Angeles Times* article described Shyamala, she was the "privileged child of foreign grad students." She taught at universities in France, Italy and Canada, and she once told *Modern Luxury* magazine: "When Kamala was in first grade one of her teachers said to me, 'You know, your child has a great imagination. Every time we talk about someplace in the world she says, Oh, I've been there. So I told her [the teacher], 'Well, she has been there!' India, England, the Caribbean, Africa—she had been there." *Modern Luxury* also quoted "one of Harris's Nob Hill friends" as saying that "her Brahmin background accounts for her ease around wealthy, powerful people."

Both sides of Harris' family were upper-class political figures in their respective countries, with money and power. Harris' father was a professor of economics at Stanford University who served as an adviser to multiple Jamaican prime ministers.

Both of Harris' parents were far leftists who, in the early 1960s, were active in the Berkeley-based Afro-American Association (AAA), which, according to one former member, consisted of many people who looked to "Fidel Castro and Che Guevara" as their "heroes." "We would talk about Black Muslims, the liberation movements going on in Africa, everything," this member recalls. AAA leader Donald Warden mentored two of the group's members, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, who in 1966 would collaborate to establish the Black Panther Party. Years thereafter, Warden — who by then had changed his name to Khalid al-Mansour — would use his influence to help Barack Obama gain admission to Harvard Law School.

The blogger/author/documentarian Trevor Loudon also lays out the facts about the radical ties of Harris' sister, Maya:

"Harris' sister Maya Harris was a student activist at Stanford University. She was a friend of Steve Phillips, one of the leading Marxist-Leninists on campus and a longtime affiliate of a pro-China group League of Revolutionary Struggle. According to Phillips' blog, Political Intelligence: 'First, let me make clear that I come out of the Left. I've studied Marx, Mao, and Lenin. In college, I organized

solidarity efforts for freedom struggles in South Africa and Nicaragua, and I palled around with folks who considered themselves communists and revolutionaries . . . , and I did my research paper on the Black Panther Party."

"After leaving Stanford in the early 1990s, Phillips led many of his comrades into the Democratic Party. He also married into the multi-billion Sandler family Golden West savings and loan fortune, which enabled the young revolutionary to buy himself considerable political influence.... In 2008, Phillips spent \$10 million through his PowerPAC-plus on voter registration drives in Southern and South Western states that got his friend Barack Obama ahead of Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary. In 2013, Phillips helped elect his old Stanford friend Cory Booker to the U.S. Senate from New Jersey. In 2018, he almost made his proteges Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum the governors of Georgia and Florida, respectively.

"Phillips is a friend of the Harris family and helped Maya Harris' husband Tony West become associate attorney general in the Obama administration. He has also been a major sponsor of Kamala Harris' political career. In 2003, Phillips helped elect Harris as San Francisco district attorney.... Phillips' PowerPAC-plus helped elect Harris as California attorney general in 2010 and then to the U.S. Senate in 2016."

Harris moved to Montreal in 1976, after her parents separated; her mother was hired to teach at McGill University and to conduct research at the Jewish General Hospital. Kamala returned to the United States after graduating from the exclusive Westmount High School, located in one of Montreal's wealthiest suburbs.

Harris' husband, Doug Emhoff, is an attorney with the law firm DLA Piper, which, according to Natalie Winters in the *National Pulse*, "boasts nearly 30 years of experience in China and over 140 lawyers dedicated to its 'China Investment Services' branch." Adds Winters:

"To facilitate DLA Piper's China practice—which has received countless prestigious awards from the *China Business Law Journal* and *China Law and Practice*—the company employs a host of former Chinese Communist Party officials.

"Ernest Yang, who serves as the firm's Head of Litigation & Regulatory department and Co-Head of International Arbitration, was appointed to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in 2013. The CPPCC serves as the top advisory board for

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Politico Frets About Vance's 'Weird View on Gender' Normal Is the New Weird

by Mark Tapson, Frontpagemag.com

Fresh on the heels of *Politico's* fear-mongering article warning about the ominous Christian influence of Lord of the Rings genius JRR Tolkien on Trump VP pick JD Vance, the outlet now devotes space to a profile of Vance's "weird views on gender." And by "weird," *Politico* means "normal" – the traditional, biologically based understanding of sex and family that has held for all but the last ten minutes or so of human history.

In an opinion piece titled, "JD Vance Has a Bunch of Weird Views on Gender," *Politico's* Laura K. Field begins by calling Vance "a rabid participant in the culture wars" – that's a dog whistle to leftists that Vance threatens the cultural hegemony the Left spent over half a century establishing precisely because the culture is where the real ideological war is waged and won. Conservative politicians like Vance and, say, Ron DeSantis, who understand this and are willing to get in the trenches of that fight, terrify the Left.

Politico's Field then takes exception to a comment Vance once made to then-Fox News host Tucker Carlson that "We are effectively run in the country, via the Democrats, via our corporate oligarchs, by a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives and the choices that they've made,

and so they want to make the rest of the country miserable, too." Vance named Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as examples.

Is he wrong about that characterization? No. Leftists are anti-family Karens driven by a deep hatred of the bourgeois values of their political opponents: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Nothing brings them greater satisfaction than to impose their own miserable worldview on others by curtailing those values.

Field goes on to describe Vance "and the rest of the New Right" as sharing "a deep skepticism about modern feminism and gender equality" and an "[o]vert chauvinism that seeks to roll back much of feminism's gains." Well, bravo for him then, because modern feminism and gender ideology are the tip of the spear of the cultural Marxist subversion of Western civilization (change my mind). What Field and *Politico* laughably call "feminism's gains" have been disastrous for America (more on that below); we can't roll them back fast enough.

The article does concede that Vance, a father of three whose wife is an Indian legal immigrant, "appears to be a decent family man — someone who supports traditional conservative values." But it claims "his thoughts on women and gender reveal some unusual opinions that lie outside the American mainstream,"

including opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage. Those may be minority positions now, thanks to the degrading influence of the Left and the moral weakness of the Republican Party, but they were not "unusual" until very recently. Remember how Barack Obama only came around to embracing same-sex marriage in time for his re-election campaign?

Field goes on to try in vain to damn Vance by association with "postliberal," "New Right" figures and institutions she finds very ominous, like Regime Change author Patrick Deneen or the Claremont Institute. She cites a 2021 speech of his for Claremont's Center for the American Way of Life in which Vance stated, "I think that we should fight for the right of every American to live a good life in the country they call their own, to raise a family and dignity on a single middle-class job." Every single word of that normal goal is like a stake through radical leftist hearts.

Then Field tries to connect Vance to the "musings of far-right extremists" like former American Enterprise Institute president Chris DeMuth, who opened a National Conservatism conference earlier this month by declaring, "A revival of faith, family, and fertility are not far right; they are the new mainstream!" The fact that *Politico* finds faith, family, and fertility to be threatening, "far-right" values speaks volumes about the Left, none of it good.

Field also cites a 2022 *Vanity Fair* interview in which Vance said his vision for the country "will mean that my son grows up in a world where his masculinity — his support of his family and his community, his love of his community — is more important than whether it works for f___g McKinsey." The Left bears a visceral hatred of traditional masculinity, so of course Field finds the thought of an America in which masculinity is valued repugnant.

In all fairness, *Politico* isn't the only left-wing outlet to demonize Vance's normal views on sex and family. MSNBC, to name just one more, predictably smeared him (and by extension, all normals) as holding "a host of bizarre, ultra-conservative views on gender." Of course, they're not bizarre or ultra-conservative at all; they're normal.

Politico concludes by warning Trump supporters that his VP choice is going to be a barrier to picking up more women voters: "While Trump's sexism has manifested as a crude machismo, Vance, along with his New Right fellow-travelers, is about to introduce voters to a more conceptual take on sexism — one which many women, and indeed many men, might find even more alarming."

Politico believes Vance's brand of "sexism" is alarming not because it is sexist but because it is normal. Nowhere in the article does *Politico* acknowledge that calls for faith, family and fertility resonate


with greater numbers of Americans now because since the Sexual Revolution, which launched a nuclear attack on faith, family and fertility, our culture has degenerated into one in which: our elites are now unwilling to define the word "woman"; the sexual grooming of children in classrooms by non-binary identifying gender activists posing as educators, and in public libraries by demonically-costumed drag queens, is normalized; men claiming to be women are destroying women's sports and eradicating women's private spaces; marriage and fertility rates are collapsing; young women, indoctrinated by feminism to embrace promiscuity, now view degrading themselves on OnlyFans as a legitimate path to financial security; and young men are "going their own way," rejecting marriage and children as a bankrupting trap.

These are the feminist "gains" that *Politico* calls Vance "sexist" and "weird" for rejecting. They are not gains but markers of civilizational collapse, and growing numbers of Americans have had enough. They want a return to sexual morality, not cultural deviancy; social stability, not disorder and fragmentation; and gender sanity, not the eradication of masculine and feminine. You know — normalcy.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/politico-frets-about-vances-weird-views-on-gender/>

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 Office Hours are Monday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. - noon.
 Deadline for classified ad copy is Monday by 4 p.m.
 Deadline for display ad copy is noon on Friday the week before the ad is to appear in the paper.
 Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to sdcsentinel@gmail.com
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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2024



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

Why The 2nd Amendment Is More Crucial Than Ever After Attempt to Kill Trump

by Amy Swearer,
The Daily Signal

A 20-year-old man with a rifle, perched atop a nearby roof, fired several rounds July 13th at Donald Trump as the former president spoke at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, killing one attendee and wounding at least two others.

As we know now, one round nicked Trump's right ear and he avoided a serious wound or death with a fortuitous head turn that moved him out of the bullet's path at the last second.

Almost immediately, some gun control activists saw the attempted assassination as an opportunity to call for their wish list of more restrictions on the constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Talk about missing the point.

If the government can't protect the former (and possibly future) president of the United States from a single, highly motivated amateur bent on violence, it certainly can't protect ordinary Americans from every potential threat at all times and in all places. Nor should we want to live in a police state that is remotely capable of offering such assurances of our physical safety.

Highlighting the fact that no one—not even Donald Trump—is ever truly safe from violent threats to life, liberty, and property doesn't simultaneously highlight a need for more gun control.

Arguably, for those of us without professional security details, it underscores the importance of the Second Amendment's fundamental purpose—not hunting or sport shooting, but the unalienable right to self-defense.

Ordinary, peaceable Americans rely on their right to keep and bear arms to protect themselves and their loved ones from criminals and crime far more often than many others realize.

Almost every major study has found that Americans use their firearms in self-defense between 500,000 and 3 million times annually, according to a 2013 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2021, the most comprehensive study ever conducted on the issue concluded that roughly 1.6 million defensive gun uses occur in the United States every year.

For this reason, *The Daily Signal* publishes a monthly article highlighting some of the previous month's many news stories

on defensive gun use that you may have missed—or that might not have made it to the national spotlight in the first place. (Read other accounts I covered at www.heritage.org [in] past years.)

The 12 examples below represent only a small portion of the news stories on defensive gun use that we found in June. You may explore more using The Heritage Foundation's interactive **Defensive Gun Use Database**.

- **June 1, Ormond Beach, Florida:** When a couple parked at a gas station were getting out of their car to use the restrooms, a woman pushed the driver out of the way, got into the driver's seat, and tried to steal the car, police said. An armed bystander saw what was happening and intervened, drawing his gun on the woman and prompting her to stop. Police arrested the woman, who was held without bond.
- **June 2, Stanton, California:** An armed ride-share driver was dropping off a passenger when he saw a naked man violently assaulting a much older woman, police said. The driver quickly tried to intervene by firing a warning shot, but the naked assailant charged at the car and "hit the glass repeatedly." The driver shot the assailant, critically wounding him.
- **June 5, Lufkin, Texas:** Within an hour of being released from jail after an arrest for domestic violence, a man tried to steal a truck in which a mother and young child were sitting, police said. The woman's husband, who owns the truck, drew his weapon on the man but tried to de-escalate the situation by offering him a different vehicle. The man instead began to fight the truck owner, who fatally shot him.
- **June 9, Plainfield, Illinois:** When a woman's ex-boyfriend broke into her home, two juveniles inside tried to barricade themselves in a bedroom, police said. The intruder followed them and kicked down the bedroom door, prompting one of the minors to get a firearm and hold the intruder at gunpoint until police arrived. The suspect faced numerous charges, including possession of a controlled substance after investigators said he dropped a bag of cocaine while breaking in.
- **June 12, Henderson, Nevada:** Police said a man in a Walmart parking lot fatally shot an armed assailant in self-defense after the assailant approached his vehicle "with a firearm in a confrontational manner."

- **June 15, Plainfield, Michigan:** Police said a homeowner awoke to screams from his daughter's bedroom and found an intoxicated intruder—sans pants—stabbing his daughter's 11-year-old friend, who was there for a sleepover. The homeowner held the intruder at gunpoint until police arrived and arrested him. The intruder later told officers that he planned to kill everyone there and have sex with the body of the 11-year-old.

- **June 17, Uniontown, Pennsylvania:** An assailant with an illegally possessed gun shot and wounded someone. The victim, also armed, returned fire in self-defense, hitting the assailant once in the leg. Police said the victim wouldn't be charged with a crime.

- **June 20, D'Iberville, Mississippi:** An armed resident fatally shot a man who drove to his home and threatened him with a gun. The dead man had a history of threatening the resident, police said. Investigators said they believe that on the way to the resident's home, he shot at another driver. Neither the resident nor the victim of the road rage shooting was hurt.

- **June 23, East Klamath County, Oregon:** A local sheriff's office publicly thanked an armed citizen for helping to detain one of two suspected car thieves who fled in the car after deputies interrupted them as they committed a burglary. "Often it is the eyes, ears, and actions of neighbors that make the difference, especially in rural areas," the sheriff's office said in a press release. "While the sheriff's office would never request someone put themselves in harm's way, in this case, the citizen's efforts are greatly appreciated." The arrested suspect faced a slew of criminal charges.

- **June 26, Alliance, Nebraska:** An armed homeowner fatally shot an intruder who local police say had a history of burglary. Police determined that the evidence at the scene was consistent with the homeowner's account and didn't recommend charges against him.

- **June 29, Louisville, Kentucky:** Two armed men tried to rob a gaming store at gunpoint but were thwarted by an armed customer who was walking by, saw the robbery in progress, and shot both robbers—one fatally. Neither of two employees in the store was hurt, nor was the armed customer, apparently.

The manager of a nearby business told reporters that this was at least the fourth time that robbers had targeted the gaming store.

- **June 30, Martinsburg, West Virginia:** Police said a woman watched as her godson was physically assaulted and then threatened with a gun by two individuals while he was taking out the trash. She grabbed her gun and went to the door, at which point one of the two began shooting at her. The woman returned fire in self-defense, police said. Unfortunately, she was fighting an eviction notice even though the rental office agreed she acted in self-defense and the sheriff's department publicly announced that her actions "likely prevented injury, loss of life, or further damage."

As these stories demonstrate, the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms isn't some dangerous and outdated relic that undermines public safety.

It is, rather, one of the best tools ordinary Americans have when faced with violent threats to their unalienable rights.

The attempted assassination of Trump should cause the nation to reevaluate plenty of things and give many an opportunity to pause for a moment of self-reflection.

But in no world should it lead us to reevaluate the Second Amendment.

And in no way ought that self-reflection lead us to hamstringing our right to an armed defense.

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/07/23/assassination-attempt-on-trump-shows-second-amendment-more-important-than-ever/>



Amy Swearer is a Senior Legal Fellow in The Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies.

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Anti-Gunners Can't Get Enough of Ammo Vending Machines

by Cam Edwards, BearingArms.com

The gun control lobby may not have a financial interest in American Rounds' Automated Ammo Retail System, but gun control activists are most definitely emotionally invested in the ammunition vending machines that are in operation in a handful of grocery stores around the country. In fact, if I were more conspiratorially minded, I might think that groups like Giffords and Everytown are silent partners with American Rounds given all the free press that the groups have generated for the company.

The latest earned media for American Rounds comes from Alabama public radio affiliate WBHM, which spoke to several gun control activists about the company's machines, which are in operation in four Fresh Value grocery stores around the state.

"The thing that is shocking is that our federal laws with respect to ammunition sales are so weak in this country that something like this is possible," said David Pacino, the legal director for Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

That's the organization former Arizona Congressperson Gabby Giffords formed after she and 18 other people were shot in 2011. Pacino added, with a vending machine, there's virtually no way to stop someone prohibited from purchasing ammo from doing so, as long as they are of legal age.

"While it's illegal for people with certain criminal histories or other disqualifying facts to buy ammunition, there's no check to make sure that

somebody is prohibited, doesn't buy them," Pacino said.

In most states, a store clerk selling ammo has the responsibility to stop a sale in certain situations. For instance, if a person is inebriated or seems mentally unstable.

"If you have a human being who is on the other side of that sale, they can have a responsibility and do have the responsibility to make sure at least some of the most egregious forms of misconduct, or the most egregious red flags, aren't being met," Pacino said.

And if someone is sloppy drunk or acting deranged in a grocery store, one of the humans who work there is probably going to call police, whether they're purchasing ammo for a vending machine or Ajax from the household goods aisle.

While Giffords' David Pacino (yep, the NPR affiliate couldn't even get his name right) just wants to see the ammo vending machines shut down, his colleague at Everytown sees an upside in the machines.

Nick Suplina is the senior vice president for law and policy at Everytown for Gun Safety. He liked the technology American Rounds is using, just not on a vending machine.

"Innovations that make ammunition sales more secure, like facial recognition, age verification or potentially tracking serial sales are promising safety measures, but they belong in gun stores, not in the place where you buy your kids milk," Suplina said.

I guess Suplina is unaware of the fact that you can purchase ammo at Walmart,

right along with your milk (and cookies too, if you're in the mood). Heck, my local feed store offers everything from scratch grains to nightcrawlers to 12-gauge shotgun shells, and one of my local gas stations has a pretty decent selection of ammunition for sale along with standard convenience store items like soda and candy.

There's nothing new or particularly unusual about ammo being sold in places other than gun stores, at least in rural America. What's different about American Rounds is the automated process... and the full-throated freakout by gun control activists, which has only helped the popularity of the vending machines.

The manager of the Pell City, Alabama Fresh Value store even told WBHM that the machine in his store's lobby wasn't getting a lot of use until the media and gun control groups discovered its existence, but "since the publicity, people are picking it up now."

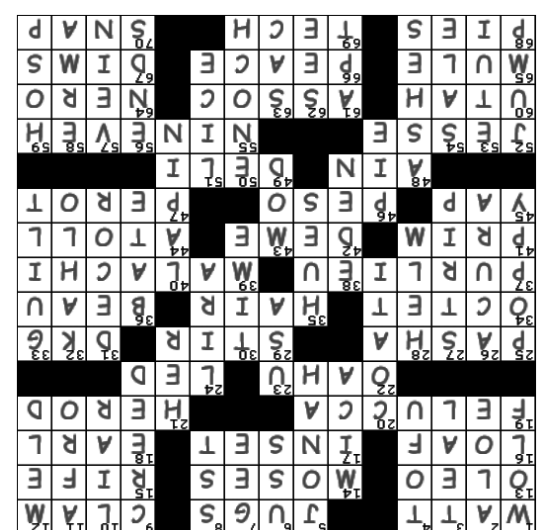
American Rounds CEO Grant Magers should write some "thank you" letters to Pacino and Suplina, along with Brady head Kris Brown, who's also melted down over the vending machines. Their outrage is the best press that Magers could hope for, and he didn't have to spend a penny to generate buzz from coast-to-coast.

(Editor/GG: Pretty sure at least two are coming to Happy Valley. And one at LaGreens in Buena Vista. Let's have a parade when they get here!)

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2024/07/24/anti-gunners-cant-get-enough-of-vending-ammo-machines-n1225719>

SENTINEL'S 2024 OLYMPICS UPDATE

DAY 1:



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the Chinese Communist Party, and Yang was promoted to the body's Standing Committee in 2019.

"Jessica Zhao, a Senior Advisor, served as the Deputy Secretary-General of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), a government-owned body established by the Chinese Communist Party in 1956. It was developed under the auspices of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, 'a governmental body for the furtherance of Chinese trade promotion.'"

Several other high-level employees of DLA Piper have served the Chinese regime in various capacities.

Kamala Harris earned a B.A. from Howard University in 1986 and a JD from the UC Hastings College of Law in 1989. During her student years, she organized mentor programs for nonwhite minorities, demonstrated against South African apartheid, and pledged a black sorority named Alpha Kappa Alpha, which was engaged in social activism.

Remember back when Kamala was just one of Montell Williams' side chicks? Well, we do. But if you don't do a quick Internet search, it's pretty interesting.



After graduating from law school, Harris spent the next quarter-century serving variously as: Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County from 1990-98; Managing Attorney of the Career Criminal Unit of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office from 1998-2000; head of the San Francisco City Attorney's Division on Families and Children from 2000-03; San Francisco's District Attorney from 2004-11; and Attorney General of California from 2011-17.

California State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Who Had Deep Communist Ties, Appoints Harris to Key Positions

In 1994 the 30-year-old Harris was dating 60-year-old Willie Brown, who at that time was the Democratic speaker of the California State Assembly, making him one of the most powerful politicians in the state. Brown had been separated but not divorced from his wife since the 1980s. In June of '94, Harris took a leave of absence from her job as a deputy prosecutor in Alameda County and was appointed by Brown to a \$97,000-per-year position with the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board (CUIAB).

Harris then resigned from that board five months later and was immediately appointed by Brown to a \$70,000-per-year job with the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC), a post she would hold until 1998. Harris had no medical background whatsoever when she joined the CMAC, which was noteworthy in light of the fact that Commission members were technically required to have experience



in health-and-medical-related fields. Moreover, all the other CMAC members were former state officials who were either nearing retirement or already semi-retired, thus Harris was approximately three decades younger than anyone else on the Commission. According to former California Republican state assemblyman Brett Granlund: "Both boards [CUIAB and CMAC] are reserved for political payback or occasionally for personal rewards for personal service. The boards are considered plumb appointments as they require no work, no policy credentials, and are paid the equivalent of a full-time [state] senator for arriving at a one-to-two-hour meeting each month."

In October 2020, Trevor Loudon provided the following vital background information about Willie Brown's Communist ties: "Brown was a long-time communist sympathizer. He was first elected to public office with the help of the Communist Party USA youth wing. He was funded by Dr. Carlton Goodlett, a communist newspaper owner who was once awarded the Lenin Prize by the government of the former Soviet Union. Several years after his affair with Harris, Brown was still openly sponsoring Communist Party fundraisers in the Bay Area while serving as San Francisco mayor. Today, Brown is widely regarded as one of the Chinese Communist Party's best friends in the Bay Area."

Soft on Crime

During her tenure as San Francisco district attorney (2004-11), the number of prison terms per arrest in San Francisco were California's lowest — ten times lower than the corresponding rate in San Diego County.

Opposing the Death Penalty for a Gang Member Who Murdered a Police Officer

A few days after a San Francisco police officer named Isaac Espinoza was shot and killed by a gang member with an AK-47 assault rifle during a routine traffic stop in 2004, District Attorney Harris — who had campaigned for that office on a pledge that she would never pursue capital punishment for any criminal, because she considered it unjust and immoral — announced that she would not seek a death sentence for Officer Espinoza's killer. When Espinoza's family subsequently pleaded that she reconsider her position for this particular case, Harris said: "I approach the work of being a prosecutor as the responsibility to do justice. It's not about the responsibility to lock people up for the maximum amount of time. It is the responsibility to make sure the criminal justice system has integrity."

Ties to the Marxist-Leninist "Workers World Party" & ACORN

In the early 2000s, Harris' Chief of Staff, Karine Jean-Pierre, was active with the New York-based Haiti Support Network, which worked closely with the Marxist-Leninist Workers World Party and supported Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the far-left former president of Haiti. Jean-Pierre also worked on the re-election campaign of China-friendly New York

City Council member James Sanders. In that role, Jean-Pierre collaborated with the notoriously corrupt community organization ACORN.

Rejecting the Individual's Right to Gun Ownership

As San Francisco District Attorney in 2008, Harris filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. She argued that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual's right to own a gun.

Refusing to Defend Proposition 8, a California State Amendment Supporting Traditional Marriage

In 2008, Harris was disturbed when California voters approved Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in that state. In December 2010, as she prepared to commence her tenure as California Attorney General, Harris announced that her AG office — in a departure from the custom whereby AGs traditionally defend state laws — would not defend Proposition 8 before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The reason for Harris' refusal to defend Prop. 8, was that she personally disagreed with it. "It's well within the authority vested in me as the elected attorney general to use the discretion of my office to make decisions about how we will use our resources and what issue we will weigh in on or not," she said. When Proposition 8 eventually went before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013, Harris stated: "I declined to defend Proposition 8 because it violates the Constitution. The Supreme Court has described marriage as a fundamental right 14 times since 1888. The time has come for this right to be afforded to every citizen."

When the Supreme Court decided in June 2015, to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide, Harris called it an "incredible day in history." "California is validated. We are validated," she said during a news conference in Sacramento. "Each day that one of those couples have to go without being able to have their marriage and their love legally recognized," Harris added, "... is one day too long." Harris also directed a message to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who dissented from the decision and depicted California as a cultural outlier. "Don't hate the playa, hate the game," said Harris.

Refusal to Seek the Death Penalty for Illegal-Alien MS-13 Member & Triple Murderer

In 2009, Harris announced that she would seek life imprisonment, rather than capital punishment, against El Salvadoran illegal alien Edwin Ramos, an MS-13 gang member who in 2008 had murdered a father and two of his sons (while critically wounding a third son) in a drive-by shooting. Ramos, mistaking the victims for gang rivals, killed them when they were returning home from a family picnic.

Narrow Victory in Election for California Attorney General in 2010

In 2010, Harris narrowly defeated Los Angeles County district attorney Steve Cooley, a moderate Republican, in a race for California Attorney General. Her margin of victory was just 74,000 out of 8.8 million votes, or a margin of 0.8 percent. Cooley had been leading in her in most pre-election polls, and he actually declared victory on election night. But Harris eventually prevailed after all provisional and mail-in ballots were counted. She went on to serve as A.G. from 2011-2017.

Refusing to Sue a Professor Who Used Public University Website

to Promote the Anti-Semitic BDS Movement

In 2011, pro-Israel legal experts affiliated with the AMCHA Initiative, the Israel Law Center, and the Global Frontier Justice Center petitioned then-Attorney General Harris to sue David Klein, a California State University at Northridge (CSUN) mathematics professor who was a member of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, and who served as the faculty adviser to CSUN's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine. Specifically, the three pro-Israel groups charged that Klein was using his publicly funded, university-provided website to promote the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, a pro-Hamas initiative, in violation of laws prohibiting taxpayer dollars from being used to finance non-business-related endeavors. But Harris rejected all efforts to persuade her to bring charges against Klein. When the pro-Israel groups tried again, in 2012, to push Harris to take action against the professor, Harris said there was insufficient evidence upon which to base a lawsuit. AMCHA co-founder and director Tammi Benjamin described Harris' response to AMCHA's overtures as "very curt and short."

Allowing California Law-Enforcement Agencies to Ignore ICE Detainers for Deportation of Criminal Aliens

On December 4, 2012, Attorney General Harris issued a memo informing all the executives of California's state and local law-enforcement agencies that they could "make their own decisions about whether to fulfill" Immigration & Customs Enforcement detainers — i.e., temporary holds that federal immigration authorities may place on municipal prisoners who are suspected of being eligible for deportation.

Refusal to Oppose Ballot Measure That Would Result in the Release of Thousands of Prisoners

In 2014, Attorney General Harris refused to take a position either for or against Proposition 47, a ballot measure that would reduce several felony offenses to misdemeanors, and would thereby result in thousands of prisoners being released. Though Prop 47 was opposed by every professional law-enforcement organization in California, and by 55 of the state's 58 county district attorneys, the measure was passed by voters.

Supporting Taxpayer-Funded Sex-Change Operations for Prison Inmates

In 2014 as well, Harris agreed to a settlement with Rodney Quine, a transgender prisoner who was serving a life sentence for murder without possibility of parole. The settlement — which came after Quine's attorneys had argued that a denial of their client's desire to change his genitalia would violate the Eighth Amendment's ban on "cruel and unusual punishment" — permitted the prisoner to undergo a costly sex-change operation at taxpayer expense. Harris called the settlement "an important step forward in the ongoing effort to protect transgender rights in California."

Please see <https://www.frontpagemag.com/who-is-kamala-harris/>

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Introducing the Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 2.0 Micro Pistol

by Duncan Johnson, ammoland.com

Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc. (NASDAQ Global Select: SWBI), a leader in firearm manufacturing and design, announces today the release of the Bodyguard 2.0.

The Bodyguard 380 caught the attention of many when it first launched in 2010 at Shot Show® in Las Vegas. Since then, the series has offered various models with lasers, external safeties, and even engraved slide finishes. With this next generation of micro handguns, Smith & Wesson set out to deliver a pistol with unparalleled performance in a small and lightweight platform.



Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 2.0

When compared to the original model, the Bodyguard 2.0 boasts a new profile, has a higher capacity, and includes modern design enhancements that make this the ultimate concealed carry choice. Chambered in 380 Auto, the pistol ships with a flush fit 10-round magazine and an extended 12-round magazine giving the user substantially more capacity, and models will be available with or without a thumb safety. The Bodyguard 2.0 has an overall height of 4-inches, a width just under 1-inch, and weighs in at 9.8 oz unloaded, which provides the user a more comfortable



fit and improved control. It also includes a striker-fired design and new flat-face trigger for better consistency for more accurate shots. Out of the box, the pistol ships with a black u-notch rear sight, and a bright tritium-insert front sight, that allows the user to rapidly acquire and stay on target.

“The Bodyguard 2.0 is a breakthrough new micro-sized striker-fired pistol from Smith & Wesson. Although small in size, the Bodyguard 2.0 has an impressive capacity, crisp trigger-pull, and exceptional controllability. The combination of new aggressive, but not sharp, slide serrations, and strategic texturing over the frame aid in the pistol’s superior performance leading it to the front of the micro category. The Bodyguard 2.0 is the micro pistol you have always wanted, and now can have,” said Andrew Gore, Handgun Product Manager.

(Editor/GG: If you think a .380 round is good enough for you, this is one amazing pistol. The reviews on it have been exceptional. Great price too. An easy shooting gun for the ladies or a deep concealment for anybody.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/07/introducing-the-smith-wesson-bodyguard-2-0/>
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—Thomas Jefferson



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