

Colorado’s Crime Crisis

Keeping Violent Criminals Behind Bars & Off Our Streets

Part 1 of 2

by Michael Tsogt,
Advance Colorado

Issue Summary
Introduction

Communities across Colorado are suffering through a years-long crime wave so significant that it earned our state the title of America’s “third most dangerous state.” Soft-on-crime progressive policies (and policymakers) have worsened this crisis in two ways.

First, by enacting legislation that has aided criminals at the expense of public safety. And secondly, they have defeated proposals, many of which had bipartisan support, that would substantively confront Colorado’s crime problems.

This report details the depths of Colorado’s crime problems, analyzes

a wide range of crime statistics and proposes two solutions – Truth In Sentencing and the Abolition of no-cost Personal Recognizance (PR) bonds – that could cut the crime rate and make communities safer.

violent crime if the “simple assault” category is removed. These are the latest finalized federal statistics on crime.

According to a 2024 *U.S. News & World Report*, Colorado is ranked

“In those years, Colorado ranked 1st for people who had been victimized but did not report it to the police.”

Colorado’s Crime Wave

America is in the middle of a massive rise in violent crime, affecting our nation’s cities the most. The Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey revealed a 58 percent increase in violent crime in urban areas from 2019 to 2022. This becomes a 73 percent increase in

the third most dangerous state in the country. Colorado received this ranking due to the high rates of violent crime and property crime.

Even before the pandemic, between 2017 and 2019, Colorado was already suffering from a crime wave. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Colorado had the “highest rate of violent crime victimizations

among the 22 most populous states – twice the national average.” In those years, Colorado ranked 1st for people who had been victimized but did not report it to the police.

Violent crime rates among Colorado’s young people have also increased. According to a 2022 annual report by the Division of Youth Services, Colorado is now seeing the percentage of young people sent to a juvenile detention center for a violent crime increase from 35 percent to 41 percent in just one year.

The dramatic increase in violent crime, especially among young people in Colorado, is not an accident.

CO CRIME
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Who Is Tim Walz, Kamala’s VP Candidate?

by Ben Johnson,
The Washington Stand

Vice President Kamala Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz (D) as her vice presidential running mate on Tuesday. The obscure governor and former congressman has signed bills that would remove children from their parents’ custody if the parents refused to carry out transgender procedures, allowed abortion until birth, and left churches meeting online while so-called “essential businesses” were permitted to open their doors more fully during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vice-presidential nod had narrowed to Walz and Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro (D), whose ardent support of Israel would have complicated Harris’s ability to win Michigan. The 60-year-old Walz — who is in his fifth year as governor of Minnesota and served 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives — has sometimes drawn comparisons with Bernie Sanders by comparing socialism to “neighborliness.”

“It just highlights how radical Kamala Harris is,” because she “listened to the Hamas wing of her own party in selecting a nominee,” Republican vice-presidential candidate J.D. Vance told a press gaggle late Tuesday morning. Tim Walz “has proposed defunding the

police just as Kamala Harris has,” said Vance. “Tim Walz allowed rioters to burn down Minneapolis in the summer of 2020, and then the few who got caught, Kamala Harris helped bail them out of jail. So, it is more instructive about what it says about Kamala Harris. She doesn’t care about the border. She doesn’t care about crime. She doesn’t care about energy. And most of all, she doesn’t care about Americans who have been made to suffer under those policies.”

Walz’s career could be split into two halves, said those who have clashed with him over the years: his time as a congressman in a swing district, where he had to modulate his own liberal views, and his tack to the left once he became governor. In Congress, “he focused on veterans issues, and kept his head down to some extent,” explained Moses Bratrud, director of strategy at the Minnesota Family Council, on Tuesday’s *“Washington Watch.”* But as governor, he has appealed more to the Ilhan Omar wing of the Democratic Party, said Bratrud. “It’s almost like there are two Tim Walzes.”

Walz served six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives (2007 to 2019) after defeating a Republican congressman in a rural district.

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BOCC: Workforce Housing, Audit Coming, Day’s Disneyland

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The August 7, 2024 regular meeting of the Custer County Board of County Commissioners took place in their hideout across from the courthouse. It started at 9 am. All three Commissioners were in attendance: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day.

In Commissioner Items, Epp said the workforce housing project committee will be meeting on Thursday to discuss deed restrictions on the lots that the county is giving to the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Government (UAACOG) to build houses on. Regarding the upcoming release of the County’s audit, Epp said “We shouldn’t have a qualified opinion.” (Which is good thing.) Epp reported that the audit results will be presented to the Commissioners at the August 28 BOCC meeting. This would be an “open meeting” in the afternoon.

In New Business, the Commissioners approved the purchase of a new landfill compactor. This will be coming soon.

Day then presented Budget Resolution 24-18, which was money for the playground equipment in Wetmore that Day has been pushing for quite a while. The money is to come from the Conservation Trust Fund and the amount was \$15k.

(Folks have been calling Day’s playground “Day’s Disneyland”. I wonder who is going to play Daffy Duck?)

Then the BOCC Administrative Assistant job opening came up. (The guy we recently hired suddenly quit two weeks ago.) Epp said that the Commissioners should consider “peeling off the PIO” role from the Admin Assist job and giving it to someone else. Epp also talked about an Accounts Payable clerk position that would also do county credit card monitoring. All the Commissioners then talked about the Admin Assist job description and how it needs to be better defined.

The last item was approving a new Short-Term Rental. All voted to approve it.

Thankfully, a short meeting. Another day in Happy Valley.

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and He destroys them;
He enlarges nations, and
leads them away.
Job 12:23 ESV

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of Conservative
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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.

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Largest Study of Its Kind Finds Excess Deaths During Pandemic Caused by Public Health Response, Not the Virus

by Dr. Brenda Baletti, Global Research, The Centre for Research on Globalization

A study released today of excess mortality in 125 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic found the major causes of death globally stemmed from public health establishment's response, including mandates and lockdowns that caused severe stress, harmful medical interventions and the COVID-19 vaccines.

"We conclude that nothing special would have occurred in terms of mortality had a pandemic not been declared and had the declaration not been acted upon," the authors of the study wrote.

Researchers from the Canadian nonprofit Correlation Research in the Public Interest and the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières analyzed excess all-cause mortality data prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning with the March 11, 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic declaration and ending on May 5, 2023, when the WHO declared the pandemic over.

The results, presented in a detailed 521-page analysis, establish baseline all-cause mortality rates across 125 countries and use those to determine the variations in excess deaths during the pandemic.

The researchers also used the baseline rates to investigate how the individual country variations in excess death rates correlated to different pandemic-related interventions, including vaccination and booster campaigns.

Not all of the results on a country-by-country basis were the same. For example, in some countries, mortality spikes occurred before the vaccines were rolled out, while in other places, the mortality spikes tracked closely with vaccine or booster campaigns.

In some places, excess mortality rates returned to baseline or close to baseline in 2022, while in others, the rates persisted well into 2023. **Denis Rancourt, Ph.D.**, lead author of the study, told *The Defender* the disparities result from the complex nature of pandemic measures — and the data — in different areas.

Once Rancourt's team was able to establish the baseline and excess mortality data for each place, they clustered and examined the data through different filters to interpret it and drew several conclusions.

Data 'Incompatible with a Pandemic Viral Respiratory Disease as a Primary Cause of Death'

The researchers established that there was significant excess mortality worldwide between March 11, 2020, and May 5, 2023.

Overall excess mortality during the three years in the 93 countries with sufficient data to make an estimate is approximately 0.392% of the 2021 population — or approximately 30.9 million excess deaths from all causes.

The conventional explanation for the excess mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rancourt said, is that the SARS-CoV-2 virus caused virtually all deaths — and there would have been even more deaths if there hadn't been a vaccine.

The variations in excess all-cause mortality rates across space and time, the authors wrote, "allow us

to conclude that the Covid-period (2020-2023) excess all-cause mortality in the world is incompatible with a pandemic viral respiratory disease as a primary cause of death."

They said the theory that the virus caused the deaths is propped up by mass virus-testing campaigns that should be abandoned.

'Idea that Vaccines Saved Lives Is Ridiculous'

Rancourt and his team cited several factors they believe disprove the theory that the virus caused a spike in all-cause mortality.

For example, they wrote that excess mortality surged almost simultaneously across several continents when a pandemic was declared, while there were no comparable surges in areas that had not yet declared a pandemic.

This suggests that pandemic interventions like lockdowns, which were implemented synchronously across many countries, likely caused the surges.

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Local Mountain News & Notices



Bookends August 2024 Library News

West Custer County Library

It's August and kids aren't the only ones getting ready to learn new things. On Tuesday, August 20, the library invites the more mature members of our community to Senior Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your questions about investing, Medicare, prescription services, and technology and talk to representatives in person. A Public Health nurse will answer questions about immunizations from 10 a.m. until noon. And from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. learn about brain function from dietitian nutritionist Darcy Rhodes. All this (including snacks) is free!

Opportunities for our Veterans continue to be a key part of library programming. In addition to the ongoing VSO coffee chat every Thursday morning from 8-9 in the Community Room, there is also an art class specifically for Veterans, hosted at the 3rd Street Gallery. To register, visit the library website or call us at 719-783-9138.

Summer reading was a big hit with kids this year! More than 2,500 children participated. While that

program is over, library goodness for youth continues with the family movie Kung Fu Panda playing in the Community Room Friday, August 23rd from 2 - 4 p.m. All ages are welcome.

And then, there are books! Come in and take a look at the displays in the library this month, which feature feel-good reads about fantastic adventures, saints, missionaries and inspiring athletes. Meanwhile our busy staff has still managed to fit in some time to read themselves. Here are a few of our recommendations right now:

- “MacBeth”: the graphic novel. This graphic adaptation brings the Shakespeare script to new life. Drawn in manga style (you should see the hair on MacBeth and Lady MacBeth!), it's a rich cross pollination of cultures.
- “Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder” by Salman Rushdie. Rushdie suffered a horrific act of violence and this memoir, his reflection on his long physical, mental and emotional recovery, is deeply meaningful and full of hope.

• “Count Down” by (local author!) Sarah Scoles. This non-fiction book is a reader-friendly update on the conversation around nuclear weapons, presenting the financial challenges the industry faces and offering many interviews with people working in the field currently.

• “Instructions for Traveling West” by Joy Sullivan. A collection of poetry particularly relevant for people at major crossroads in life. Even non-poetry lovers will find these poems fresh and accessible.

• “Trail of the Lost” by Andrea Lankford. This non-fiction book is a gripping examination of the Pacific Crest Trail, thru-hiker culture, search and rescue operations, and the challenges that plague missing persons cases in the wilderness.

• “I Cheerfully Refuse” by Leif Enger. This novel is a tale of love and adventure set in a not too distant, semi-dystopian future. Full of heart as well as hijinks, humor and bass blues, it's a well-told story of surviving with full humanity.

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Bowling Fundraiser

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Legion Post #170

Letter to the Editor

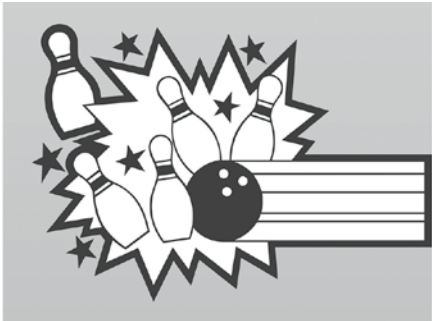
If you like bowling; then give it a try for a tournament fundraiser hosted by The American Legion Post 170 to support Wreaths Across America Program

The American Legion Post 170 will have trophies and prizes for the winners. The Tournament is on August 24th at Cliff Lanes 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

There is a modest entry fee of \$50 to participate in the tournament.

Register online at

<https://westcliffpost170.org/2nd-annual-bowling-tournament/> or sign up and pay your fee when you get to Cliff Lanes.



We hope our bowlers participate to support our Custer County Veterans. Have some fun.

Bob Dreher,
Member of The American Legion
Post 170, Westcliffe

A Journey to Priesthood:

Andrew Dernovsek

By Fred Hernandez

He is a young man originally from Pueblo, Colorado. He loved the mountains and would visit Custer County very regularly. Through his friends he met some of the parishioners of Our Lady of The Assumption Catholic Church in Westcliffe. He returned often to attend services and ultimately joined the Parish. He became a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, an international Catholic men’s organization with over two million members worldwide performing almost a billion hours of volunteer work in their communities and other charitable activities.

In Custer County the Knights provide firewood in the winter and other services for needy families. The young Knight is Andrew Dernovsek. Several years ago after many months of discernment he decided his vocation was to serve God as a priest. Recently he was here on vacation after seven years of studies in Paris, France, where the order he joined is based. He will be officially ordained a Deacon in October of this year and a full fledged Catholic priest in June of next year. His order will then assign him to a country where the incidence of Christianity among the population is



Steve Yackley Grand Knight of the local Knights of Columbus and Andrew Dernovsek local young man studying for priesthood in Paris, France.

Photo by Debbie Yackley

either very low or non-existent. We will be doing a more comprehensive write up and bringing relevant information about the vocation of Andrew in coming issues as we keep track of him and his journey to serve God and His Holy Church.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Westcliffe Planning Commission Votes No on Multifamily Rezoning in Shadow Ridge Subdivision

—WESTCLIFFE, Colo.

by Gia Mc Nerney, Reporter

-- Mailboxes on Mineral Road for the local people approved. Application for rezoning 2 lots in the ... subdivision from single family to Multifamily denied. --

The regular monthly meeting of the Westcliffe Planning Commission was held on August 7th, 2024 at 3 p.m. in Patterson Hall. A quorum of Trustees was present, and proceedings commenced. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance with pride. Next visitors were recognized, and the agenda was agreed to.

All approved last meeting’s minutes.

The trustees discussed old business which was a request for community mailboxes on the south side of Mineral Road for the local people. Leslie Parks got up to speak on behalf of this request. She received the Post Office approval for putting up community mailboxes on the south side of Mineral Road. She provided a hand drawn map, explained there was room for growth, and it would be set back to not hinder any traffic. The current need for mailboxes would be clusters of 16 for which they will need two and maybe three. This request was unanimously approved.

The next old business to be discussed was an application for rezoning BLK 12 & 13 of Shadow Ridge subdivision. Chris Lund, trustee, summarized and spoke of items from the last meeting on this business. He went on to explain Travis Oshman of PACCT Investments LLC from Pueblo is the owner of the BLKs 12 and 13 and is the applicant applying for rezoning to multifamily housing from single family. He then turned it over to Caleb Patterson, Town Manager, for 15 minutes. Caleb went over evidence that shows BLK 12 & 13 are zoned for single family. The lots were originally zoned as multifamily but were amended to single family many years ago. He presented evidence of this amendment and stated the fact that the county has it zoned as single family makes it so. After Caleb finished, Chris then gave time to hear from the applicant Travis. Travis is

deaf and had two interpreters with him. Travis insisted his BLKs 12 & 13 are zoned multifamily. He said he does not believe the evidence Caleb presented and called it hearsay. He is asking for more evidence. The visitors kept asking where the town lawyer was. No clear answer was given. Caleb kept stating this is a court issue and it will be handled in court if it goes that far.

After Travis’s time, Chris Lund, gave 30 minutes for public comments, limiting three minutes to each. Resident of Shadow Ridge, Kit Shy, got up to speak. When Chris explained he had only 3 minutes, the rest of the visitors gave Kit their time, too. Kit spoke about the zoning of the subdivision. He spoke about the covenants and how everyone mows their weeds down. He noted the only lots that weren’t mowed were the two lots in question and the town lot. Travis took offense to that but was quickly quieted. Kit proceeded to talk about how they moved to this area for the quiet and peace of a small town and the scenery. He also spoke about our famous dark sky that the town is known for. He and other neighbors are afraid they will lose all of this if this rezoning is approved. He brought up the fact that the county is the main place for all our records. Since the county has this zoned as single family and this is a request to change what is there, they do not feel this is reasonable. After Kit finished speaking, he received nice applause from the visitors. Two more Shadow Ridge residents got up to speak against this application.

After the public comments, Caleb was given 15 minutes to speak on more evidence he gathered up. Caleb read from the Westcliffe Municipal code book regarding the requirements for rezoning. After Caleb was done presenting his points, Travis was given 15 minutes to speak. He gave his reasons why he wants to build multifamily housing. His reasoning was very general and in line with the push for housing by our current federal government. If I’m correct, the owners receive large financial incentives. Travis used the phrase ‘you have taken away my rights’ quite a few times for which the visitors moaned. He continued about

how he doesn’t agree with this zoning and how he wants more evidence. He kept talking about a plat map he was given that showed his two lots as multifamily. Chris asked to see his plat map and Travis handed it to him. Chris said the two lots did show as multifamily on the map, but then he noted the date on this plat map was February 7, 2005. Paul Wenke, Mayor, asked when he purchased the land which Travis replied in 2023. It is not clear where and who gave him this outdated plat map.

Chris reserved the next section for the Planning Commission to talk and ask questions of the applicant, town manager and visitors. Chris asked to hear from the visitors first. Connie Thompson got up to say since none of the three conditions that Caleb stated previously was a requirement for rezoning were met, this rezoning should not be approved.

Next, Mark Middendorf asked some good questions about why the town lawyer wasn’t there. It got heated. Then Mark asked why the applicant applied for rezoning if he thought it was already multifamily. It got a little loud when Chris said stop, he wasn’t going to let it become a zoo. They did address the question. It appears Travis found out the lots were previously rezoned when he went for his permit to build these multifamily housings. Caleb was sure to then add that the lawyer was stuck in court. Chris suggested since the lawyer wasn’t there, maybe they should put this off again. The visitors loudly disagreed, and Chris said ‘do you want to be decided against or...’ that really ticked off the visitors as it felt like a threat to them. More disagreeing went on between the applicant and the trustees. Chris asked does anyone have a motion to make. John Van Doren said he had certainly heard enough and he made a move to deny the application. Finally, the rezoning application was unanimously denied. Chris concluded the hearing of BLK 12 13 of Shadow Ridge and the room cleared out with huge smiles.

The new business of rezoning 106 South 7th Street was put off so this will now become old business. With no further items or public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

Library to Host a Workshop Series on Grief

Press Release

The Upper Arkansas Area Agency on Aging will teach five grief workshops every Tuesday, from August 27th through September 24th beginning at 10 a.m. at the West Custer County Library.

Grief is a universal human experience. Each of us experiences grief in our own way. There is no right or wrong

way to process grief. The one hour workshops will include a 30-minute presentation followed by a Q & A session. Please feel free to attend one or all of the workshops, the events are free. Registration is recommended please visit the Library website at www.westcusterlibrary.org events page to register or call the library at (719) 783-9138.

• **Aug. 27th The many faces of grief:** types and symptoms of grief

- Sept. 3rd **How do I get through this?** four tasks of mourning
- Sept. 10th **My neighbor’s grief:** what to say, what not to say, and how to listen
- Sept. 17th **Who decided that?** dispelling myths around grieving
- Sept. 24th **GRIEF: gratitude** radically invites you to explore for growth



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

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, August 19

#35 Chili Relleno Casserole
Corn & Zucchini Mexicana
WW Tortilla w/Salsa
Salad w/Lemon Wedge
Plums

Tuesday, August 20

#23 Chicken a la King
Smashed Red Potatoes
Seasoned Asparagus
Salad w/Lite Ranch
Apple, WW Bread w/Butter

Thursday, August 22

#59 Macaroni & Cheese
Vegetable Salad
Asparagus
Banana
WW Bread w/Butter

Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)

The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.

Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations

A \$3 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.

Recurring Events

Mondays

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

1st Monday of the Month

5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting (year-round) at Cliffe Lanes

2nd and 4th Monday

6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

Tuesdays

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

1st Tuesday of the Month

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

2nd Tuesday of the Month

9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Meeting @Valley Bible

Wednesdays

8 -9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.

10 -11 a.m. ENDED FOR SUMMER Westcliffe Band of Brothers & Sisters Bible Study Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff

10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, in Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.
6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

Last Wednesday of the Month

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

First Thursday of the Month

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

2nd Thursday of the Month

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

3rd Thursday of the Month

2 p.m. Round Mt Water District Meeting.

Liberty Rocks Septmember TBA All welcome

Fridays

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

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

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

2nd Friday of the Month

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

Saturdays

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

3rd Saturday of Month

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

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

NYC Illegal Crisis to Cost Staggering \$5 BILLION for Shelters, Security and Food

by Tyler Durden, ZeroHedge.com

The tab for New York City to house and feed scores of illegal migrants has likely surpassed \$5 billion, of which \$2 billion alone has been spent on housing, according to city data cited by the *NY Post*.

Since the spring of 2022, some 212,000 ‘asylum seekers’ have flowed through the system, according to City Hall.

Money spent so far includes:

- \$1.98 billion on housing and rent.
- About \$2 billion on services and supplies.
- Nearly \$500 million on food and medical costs.
- Another \$500 million on IT, administrative and other costs.

The NYPD has spent \$21 million on public safety and security related to the migrants.

The eye-popping figures, listed on the city’s online asylum-seeker funding tracker, shows the city overall spent \$4.88 billion combined through fiscal years 2023 and ‘24. Based on the rate of spending, the city likely exceeded more than \$112 million since the start of the new fiscal year beginning July 1, or will soon, cracking \$5 billion.

Mayor Eric Adams’ administration has even projected the cost could double, hitting \$10 billion over the three year period ending June 30, 2025.

In a recent posting, the city’s Department of Homeless Services revealed two more contracts this week totaling a combined \$40 million in order to provide services to migrants at hotels

converted into emergency shelters - which include hotels at the heart of the Broadway tourist district.

According to Mayor Eric Adams’ chief of staff Camille Joseph Varlack, “This is not a New York City issue or even a United States issue, this is a worldwide issue,” adding “We’ve had the opportunity to speak to other cities who are expecting and experiencing migration and we expect that to continue between wars and climate change and all the other issues.”

As noted last month by *The Blaze*, and *The New York Post*, New York City hotels will be taking in more than \$1 billion in taxpayer cash to support migrants. Their reports note that the city currently uses 193 migrant shelters, with about 80% housed in motels, hotels, or inns.

According to a May analysis by Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, the average cost per hotel room is \$156, though some reports suggest these locations may be charging over \$300 per night since migrants began arriving in spring 2022.

The report highlights that **by May 31, the city had spent about \$4.88 billion on the migrant crisis, with \$1.98 billion allocated specifically to migrant housing, including hotels, motels, and tent cities at Randall’s Island and Floyd Bennett Field.**

The Blaze wrote that CoStar reported in November 2023 that up to 16,000 hotel rooms have been taken off the market for migrants, impacting the hotel industry negatively.

William Shandler, who is a manager at Iron Bar commented: “Our taxes are being used to pay for the migrants, and where are we supposed to make

revenue? How as a business could we function?”

Councilwoman Joann Ariola added that hotels are “not for sheltering the masses of people pouring over our borders every day,” but rather for tourism. “These locations were meant to boost the economy of this city, but instead they’ve become a net drain and are costing us enormously,” she told the *New York Post*.

The Post wrote that the city’s financial support has bolstered the hotel industry, which added 21,000 rooms in the four years before the pandemic, according to the Department of Planning. When tourism plummeted in 2020, former Mayor Bill de Blasio provided a lifeline by contracting hotels to house the homeless.

Mayor Eric Adams has continued this practice. By September, the city extended a three-year, \$1.3 billion contract with the Hotel Association of New York City to house migrants. Additionally, a \$76.69 million emergency contract was signed in January for shelter at 15 hotels.

HANYC’s president, Vijay Dandapani, stated they’re working to keep costs low while supporting the city’s efforts to care for asylum seekers.

Enjoy your next vacation to New York City!

(Editor/GG: Can you imagine what this is costing us across the whole country? Thanks to the democrats we are bankrupting our country. Oh ya, let’s build hundreds of low income housing in Westcliffe and see what happens. You can’t fix stupid.)

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/nyc-migrant-crisis-cost-staggering-5-billion-just-shelters-security-and-food>

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589 Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study 0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526 Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511 Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 417 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2498 High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045 Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053 Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study 3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561 Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 pm Sunday Mornings: 9:30 am in the Amphitheater 830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. Tuesday Mass (summer) 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507 Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491 Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence 719/784-1184 St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays 3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477 St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500 Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church Pastor: Mike Shields 10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecriscotocowboychurch.com also on Facebook 60260 HWY 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372 Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903 Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822 Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572 Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230 Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596
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Send Church updates to sdcsentinel@gmail.com
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Whom have I in heaven but thee?
and there is none upon earth
that I desire beside thee.
My flesh and my heart faileth:
but God is the strength of my heart,
and my portion for ever. Psalm 73: 25-26 KJV

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at Beckwith Ranch, six miles N. of Westcliffe

Saturday, August 17 @ 11- 12 p.m.
SJO Sun Observing Hou @Smokey Jack
Observatory 100 S. Adams Blvd

August 18@ 12:30 to 3 p.m **FREE**
KLZR Summer in the Park Concert Series
Food & Beverages available \$\$
Backyard of All Aboard Westcliffe Depot at 102 Main St.
Rain: All Aboard Westcliffe Heritage Cntr, 110 Rosita Ave

Saturday, August 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$\$
Bowling for Wreaths Tournament @Cliff Lanes,
Proceeds benefit Wreaths Across America Program
Sponsored by The American Legion Post 170

Thursday, August 29 - Sunday, September 1,
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Old Schoolhouse Quilt Show
Lange Hall, 312 South 3rd St., Westcliffe

Wednesday, August 28-Sunday, September 1
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wet Mt. Weavers Fiber Arts Show and Sale
Green Stone Artworks, Main St.

Saturday August 31, 9 a.m.
Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Westcliffe Main Street

Saturday, August 31, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$20
Wyatt Earp - One-Man Show
Historic Jones Theater, Westcliffe

Saturday, August 31, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
High Altitude Horsepower Car Show
Westcliffe Main Street

Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness
(719) 783-0750

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 11a.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

To Place an ad, please call 719-783-3360 or email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com.
The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you,
than he that is in the world.

1 John 4:4



Pictured: 24-25 Custer County School District Teachers and Staff
Custer County Schools FB page



KIDS

Friday, August 16, 2024

A Bear Who Became A Soldier

Wojtek, Polish pronunciation: ['vojtek]; is in English, sometimes phonetically spelled Voytek. Wojtek was a Syrian brown bear, who the Polish soldiers of the Polish II Corps during World War II enlisted into their unit. It was 1943 when the soldiers made Wojtek an official member of the army (with a rank, service number, and pay book).

As a young cub, his mother was shot by hunters, and he was found in the mountains of Iran by a young boy. The boy then sold him to a group of Polish soldiers. In order to pay for his rations and transportation they officially enlisted him as a soldier with the rank of private and he was subsequently promoted to corporal. Serving with the 22nd Artillery Supply Company, he accompanied the bulk of the II Corps to Italy. In 1944, Wojtek the bear, helped move crates of ammunition and became a celebrity with visiting allied generals and statesmen. He soon became an unofficial mascot to all the units stationed nearby. The soldiers named him Wojtek. The name Wojtek is the nickname or diminutive form, of “Wojciech” (Happy Warrior), an old Slavic name still common in Poland. As an enlisted soldier he was able to live with the other men in tents or in a special wooden crate, which was transported by truck.

The bear mimicked the soldiers: when he saw the men lifting crates, he copied them. He was able to carry boxes that would have required four men to carry. In recognition of Wojtek’s popularity, a depiction of a bear carrying an artillery shell was adopted as the official emblem of the 22nd Company.

In 1945, at the end of WWII, Wojtek was transported to Berwickshire, Scotland, with the rest of the 22nd Company, where he soon became popular among local civilians and the press, and the Polish-Scottish Association made him an honorary member.

On November 15, 1947, following demobilization, he was given to Edinburgh Zoo, where he spent the rest of his life, often visited by journalists and former Polish soldiers, some of whom tossed cigarettes for him to eat, as he did during his time in the army. He still happily responded to being spoken to in Polish.

Wojtek died December 2, 1963, aged 21 years old and weighing nearly 1,100 pounds, and over 5 foot 11 inches tall.

Thank you for your service, Wojtek.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojtek_\(bear\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojtek_(bear)), <https://allthatsinteresting.com/history-facts>,

Photo: Wojtek sits in front of a Polish Soldier
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wojtek_the_bear.jpg.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and
for training in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete,
equipped for every good work.

II Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

Custer County School District

MENU for the WEEK of August 19 thru Aug 22, 2024

	Breakfast	Lunch
<u>Monday</u>	Cereal Oatmeal Fruit Yogurt, Choice of Milk	Sloppy Joes Oven Fries Carrots w/ ranch Fruit, Choice of Milk
<u>Tuesday</u>	French Toast Sticks yogurt Fruit, Choice of Milk	Beef and Bean Burrito Corn Fruit, Choice of Milk
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sausage, Egg & Cheese Biscuit Fruit, Choice of Milk	Spaghetti Green Beans, Garlic Roll Fruit, Choice of Milk
<u>Thursday</u>	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Choice	Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes, Cali Blend Fruit, Choice of Milk

ELEMENTARY - MAIN DISH, GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND MILK
MIDDLE & HIGH - MAIN DISH (OR SALAD BAR), GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND MILK This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Booster Club Bobcat Corner

Come out and support your Custer County Bobcats!
All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Welcome Back Bobcats!

Friday, August 23:
HS Cross Country: Cheyenne Mountain Stampede
@ Norris Penrose Event Center in Colo Springs:
2 pm Girls, 2:40 pm Boys

Saturday, August 31:
HS & MS Cross Country: Lake County Invitational
@ Colo Mtn College in Leadville:
10:20 HS Girls, 11:00 HS Boys, 11:45 MS Girls, 12:15 MS Boys
1:30 pm HS Football @ Limon vs Sedgwich County

Friday, Sept. 6:
7 pm HS Football@ HOME vs Plateau Valley
First Home Game!!

Want to become a sponsor of the Custer County Bobcats?
Contact Lea Grundy at 720-234-7751 for more information!
Go Bobcats!

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Is the Four-Day School Week in Many Colorado School Districts Helping Students and Teachers?

by Jenny Brundin,
Colorado Public Radio

A new report shows the trend toward four-day school weeks in Colorado doesn't provide a net benefit to the state's public-school students. It also shows the practice might not even be achieving a main goal — boosting teacher recruitment and retention, according to researchers.

More than 60 percent of Colorado's school districts are on a four-day schedule, but they are mostly small, rural districts. Just 14 percent of the state's students attend one of these districts.

But some urban districts have switched, with more open to the idea and monitoring whether this experiment is yielding benefits. The state's low funding of education has forced many districts that were losing educators to higher-paying districts to opt for a four-day week as a way to attract teachers.

Colorado districts with four-day school weeks

The number of districts that have switched to four-day weeks has increased in the last decade, but most of the districts on the four-day schedule are small and rural. The four-day districts represent 14 percent of Colorado students. There are 178 school districts in Colorado.

"I'm concerned that if that's the reason for why we're doing four day versus five day, that maybe we should be addressing those issues (teacher pay)," said Van Schoales, senior policy director at the Keystone Policy Center, which wrote the report. "And in

fact, we think that it's better for kids, let's put forth the evidence for that. We didn't see evidence that it was better for kids."

The center, which also says budget savings from four-day school weeks are negligible to nonexistent, looks at the impacts on student achievement, teacher talent and enrollment. The report includes interviews with district officials, students and teachers in urban and rural districts, painting a nuanced and mixed portrait of how communities have responded to the four-day week.

Four-day weeks aren't something district superintendents want

"Colorado is among the leaders in the nation in the four-day week, and I think we should be embarrassed by that," Philip Qualman, superintendent of Eagle County Schools told the report's authors. Eagle County continues to have a five-day school week.

He blames the state's lack of education funding, and not superintendents and school boards, for the situation. Superintendents, particularly in rural areas, said funding is so low, it is impossible to be competitive, according to the report.

Researchers also interviewed supporters of the four-day week such as Jean Schneider, who teaches business classes at Prairie View High School in Brighton. She said it gives educators and students time to attend to other issues in life so that their four days in school are more intentional and focused. Many of her students work to help support their families so the extra

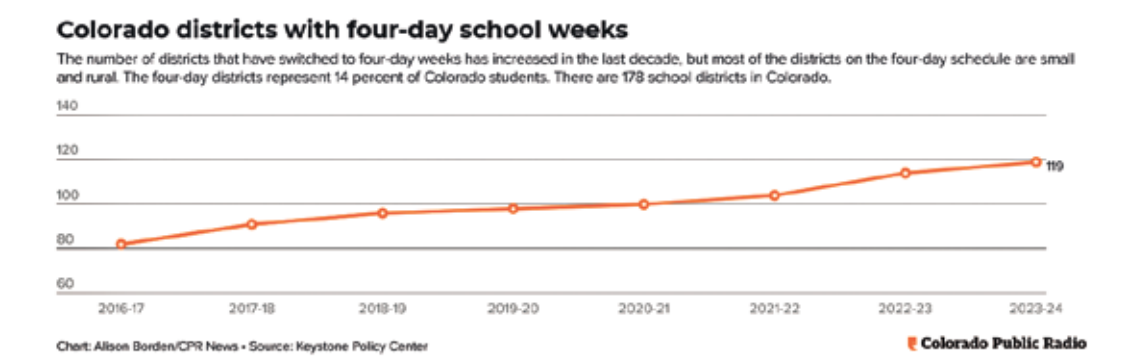


Chart: Alison Borden/CPR News Source: Keystone Policy Center

day gives them time to bring in income and do homework.

"It really has improved my personal quality of life, which makes me a better professional," Schneider told the researchers.

Student academic outcomes in four- versus five-day school weeks

School districts in session for five days a week significantly outperform districts with a four-day calendar as measured by state standardized test scores, according to the report.

But the report emphasizes that how well students do academically is heavily correlated with demographics. The gap is largely insignificant for low-income students. This suggests that much of the difference in proficiency rates might be a result of differences in demographics, according to the report.

"But we did find that overall, there were some pretty significant differences," said Schoales.

The report also looked at academic growth, which shows how much progress individual

students have made over a year compared to their "academic peers." The report shows that students in five-day districts are making more progress toward the standards than those in four-day districts. Data show more four-day districts are falling behind their peers.

It concludes that more research needs to be done on how instructional time is used and how school-day-off programs support student learning.

Does a four-day week boost staff recruitment and retention?

The report found some impact but said the shift to a four-day week doesn't drastically improve staff recruitment and retention.

"Teacher turnover is not meaningfully different based on number of school days and, in many districts, teacher turnover did not improve when they made the shift from five- to four-day calendars despite this being an explicit goal of the shift," the report states.

Officials in some districts, like 27J, which covers Brighton and surrounding areas, however,

believe that the move to a four-day week has had a positive impact on teacher retention.

Stories from the field

The district made the switch in 2018 after voters six times in a row rejected a property tax increase to raise teachers' salaries. The district has the lowest-funded school district among 15 metro Denver districts.

The report notes that despite having the lowest median teacher salary, \$54,900, in the metro area, it had among the lowest teacher turnover rates between 2018-23. However, a 2023 study of 27J by Brown University showed the switch didn't make a difference for everyone. It found experienced teachers were 5 percentage points less likely to return to 27J after the school district switched to a four-day school week.

"This finding does not necessarily mean that teachers do not value a 4DSW (four-day school week.) Instead, it suggests that the

FOUR -DAY SCHOOL
see page 24



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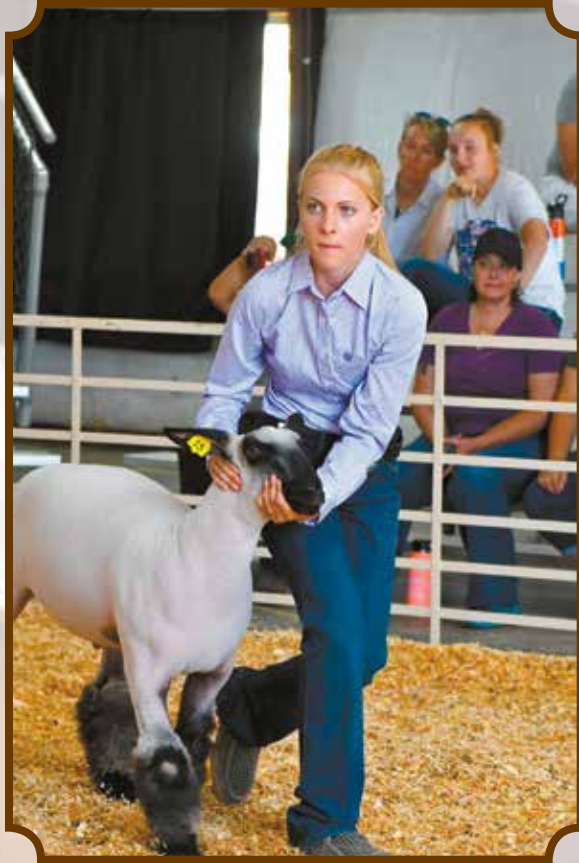
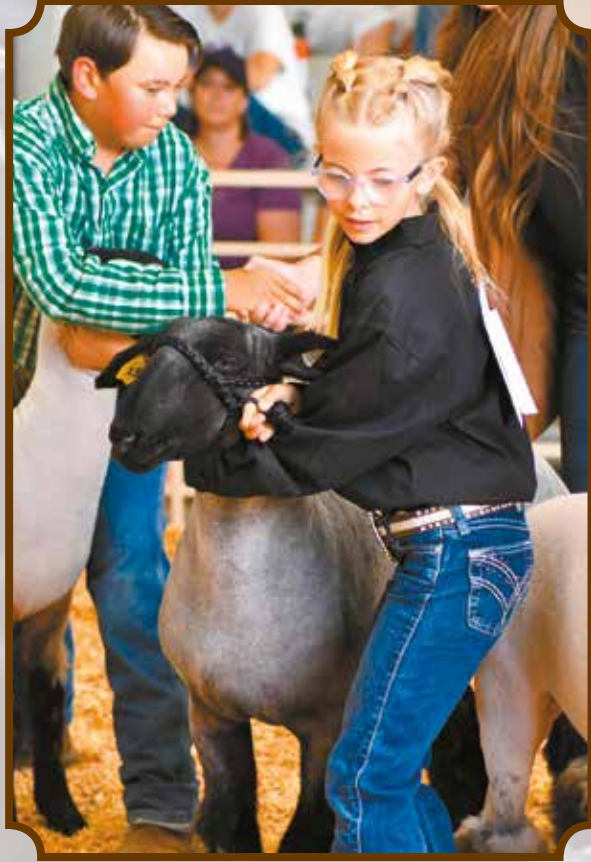
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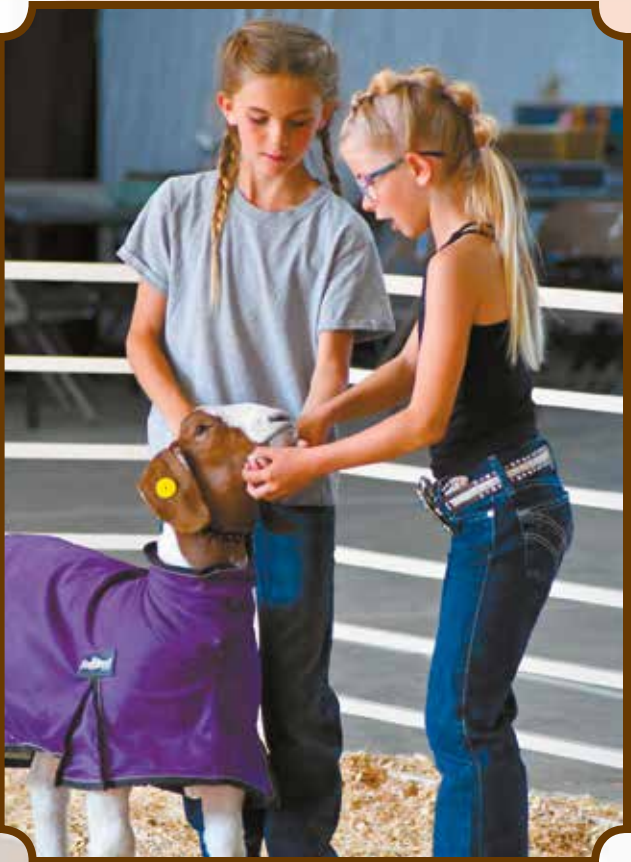
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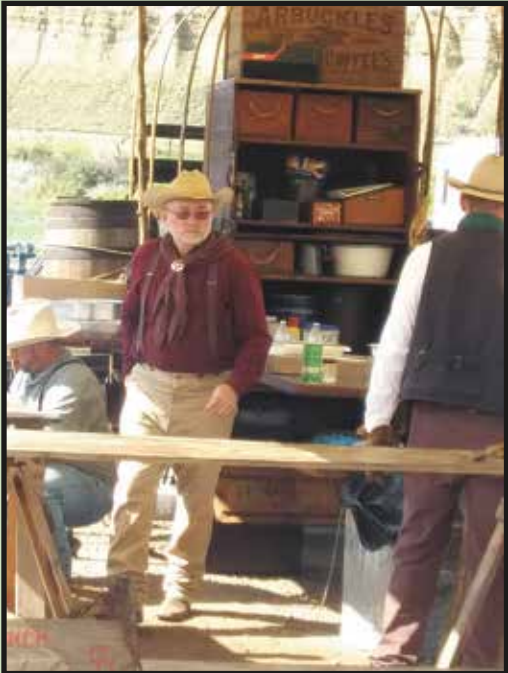
Florence Outdoorsman Days 2024

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BEAR SKINNING > FIELD DRESSING > HOUND HUNTING > WILD GAME COOKING > ELK CALLING > LONG DISTANCE SHOOTING > NEXT YEAR- AUGUST 8 & 9



Colorado State News



Colorado Once Again Ranked the Worst This Time for Retirement

By ColoradoPeak Politics.com

Colorado is now ranked as one of the worst place to retire, coming in at number 44 out of 50 states, according to a study by Bankrate.

Delaware, where President Biden spends most of his time instead of the White House in Washington, D.C., is the number one state for retirees.

The top five best states are:

1. Delaware

2. West Virginia

3. Georgia

4. South Carolina

5. Missouri

The worst states are:

50. Alaska

49. New York

48. Washington

47. California

46. North Dakota

45. Massachusetts

44. Colorado

43. Maryland

42. Texas

41. Minnesota

The rankings were based primarily on affordability, which accounted for 40% of the score.

Overall wellbeing took up 25% and included factors such as access to food and healthcare, and the number of adults over 62 per 100,000 residents.

Colorado's saving grace is that crime

only accounted for 5% of the ranking score.

Weather made up the remaining 10%.

(Editor/GG: If they would have counted crime more, we could have been the worst. In 25 years the libs have taken Colorado from a paradise to a purgatory. No wonder more citizens are now leaving Colorado than coming to it.)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/08/08/colorado-once-again-ranked-the-worst-this-time-for-retirement/>

COVID from page 2

The researchers also pointed out the significant variation in mortality rates during the pandemic in all time periods, even across different political jurisdictions directly adjacent to each other. If the virus caused the deaths, it would follow that the infection fatality rate would be the same, or at least similar across political boundaries.

The researchers also found a lot of variability in death rates within countries over time, which also would not be an expected outcome if those deaths were caused by a pathogen.

Rancourt said they found "the idea that the vaccine saved lives is ridiculous," and based on flawed modeling as he and colleagues also showed in a previous paper.

Here again, they found no systematic or statistically significant trends showing that vaccination campaigns in 2020 and 2021 reduced all-cause mortality.

Instead, they found that in many places, there was no excess mortality until the vaccines were rolled out, and most countries showed temporal associations between vaccine rollouts and increases in all-cause mortality.

Medical Interventions — Including Denial of Treatment — Caused Premature Deaths

Rancourt said the excess deaths his team identified are strongly associated with the combination of two major factors — the proportion of elderly in a country's population and the number of people living in poverty. Both factors increased peoples' vulnerability to "sudden and profound structural societal changes" and "medical assaults."

While the proximal cause of death may be classified on death certificates as a respiratory condition or infection, the researchers noted, they argue the true primary causes of death are ac-

tually biological stress, non-COVID-19-vaccine medical interventions and the COVID-19 vaccination rollouts.

The study provides an overview of plausible mechanisms for this hypothesis, including research showing that some people experienced severe biological stress from measures like mandates and lockdowns.

"If you structurally change the society by preventing people from moving, breathing, working, having their lives, having to stay at home, lock them in. If you do all these incredibly huge changes, structural changes in society, that is going to induce biological stress," Rancourt told *The Defender*.

"There's very compelling scientific evidence that biological stress is a massive killer," he added.

Rancourt also pointed out that the stress of lockdowns affected poor people quite differently than it did people who could easily work from home, have food delivered and live relatively comfortably.

The authors also pointed to extensive evidence showing that medical interventions — including denial of treatment — caused premature deaths.

Such interventions included but were not limited to the denial of antibiotics and ivermectin against bacterial pneumonia, the systematic use of mechanical ventilators, experimental treatment protocols, new palliative medications and overdoses, isolation of vulnerable people and encouraged voluntary or involuntary suicide.

The March-April 2020 COVID-19 peak they identified in several countries is difficult to explain without such medical interventions, they wrote.

17 Million Excess Deaths Tied to COVID Vaccines

Finally, the researchers projected that 17 million of the excess deaths they identified were associated with the

COVID-19 vaccines, confirming the findings of their previous research on a smaller sample of countries.

Those vaccine-related estimations were based on analyses of places that had large spikes immediately following vaccination or booster campaigns and also by examining the numbers of vaccine doses and their relation to deaths over time.

Thirty percent of the countries they analyzed had no excess deaths until either the vaccine rollouts or the booster campaigns. And there were significant correlations between COVID-19 vaccine rollouts and peaks or increases in excess all-cause mortality. Ninety-seven percent of countries showed a late-2021 or early-2022 peak in excess all-cause mortality temporally associated with booster rollouts.

It is highly unlikely, the researchers wrote, that the vaccine-mortality associations are coincidental.

Rancourt noticed that people critical of this idea point to the fact that in some places, there are sometimes campaigns or booster campaigns that aren't associated with spikes in excess mortality.

However, he said vaccination campaigns don't always lead to such spikes because vaccination was not related to death in the same way in every situation. Vulnerability factors like the age of those vaccinated, the health of the population and other sociological factors related to stressors on the immune system change how they are affected by vaccine toxicity or the vaccines' effects on the immune system.

Based on their analysis and interpretations, they concluded,

"We are compelled to state that the public health establishment and its agents fundamentally caused all the excess mortality in the Covid period."

Please see: <https://www.globalresearch.ca/excess-deaths-pandemic-response/5863267>

Westcliffe Market Vender of the Week



Ashley Melchiorre FNP-BC, MSN, is a nurse practitioner and owns the practice Amelioration Health at 500 Rosita Ave. in the Wellness Center.

She helps individuals heal themselves and learn WHY things happen in the body. She loves empowering clients to take control of their health using lifestyle and nutrition. She offers support healing the gut, detox, food sensitivities and allergies, thyroid health, hormone optimization, weight loss and so much more. Ashley is offering IV vitamin infusions and B12 injections. Some see her at the market on Friday or at her office.

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USPS (Box outside)

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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

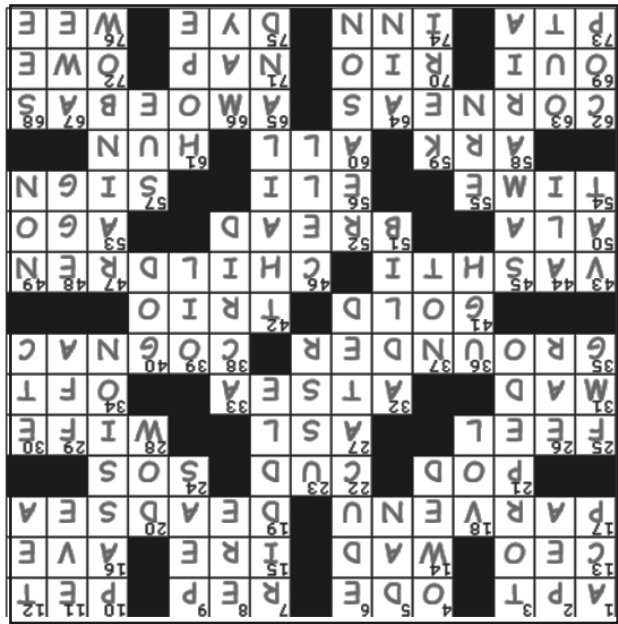
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Tina Peters guilty: Former Mesa County Clerk Convicted on 7 charges

by Bente Birkeland & Tom Hesse,
Colorado Public Radio

Updated at 8:16 p.m. on Aug. 12, 2024.

Twelve Mesa County jurors found Tina Peters guilty of four felonies on Monday after a lengthy criminal trial, marking yet another conviction tied to post-2020 election conspiracy theories.

Peters faced a total of 10 criminal charges related to her role in helping a man gain unauthorized access to voting equipment during a secure software update in May 2021. The county’s voting machine’s passwords and copies of its hard drive were later posted online by people trying to undermine the validity of the election system.

The jury deliberated for around four and a half hours Monday afternoon before reaching their decision, which was read out to a packed courtroom just after 5 p.m.

Peters was found guilty of three counts of attempting to influence a public servant and one count of

conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation. She was also convicted of first-degree official misconduct, violation of duty and failure to comply with an order from the Secretary of State, all misdemeanors.

The jury acquitted Peters on three counts — criminal impersonation, conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation and identity theft.

How did we get here?

The investigation into Peters’ actions began almost exactly three years ago when images taken during a secure update — including of machine passwords — surfaced online. At the same time, a copy of Mesa County’s hard drive was displayed and discussed at a “cyber symposium” hosted by Mike Lindell, the MyPillow CEO who has been at the center of claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

Investigations by the 21st Judicial District in Mesa County as well as the Colorado Secretary of State’s office found that Peters began meeting with people concerned about election integrity

in April of 2021, prompted both by the outcome of the 2020 presidential election and the results of the spring 2021 Grand Junction municipal election. Peters has said the victory of a number of more moderate candidates made her believe something was amiss with the county’s Dominion Voting Systems machines.

Some of the facts in the case have never been disputed. Peters admits that in May 2021, she used the identity of a Fruita man named Gerald Wood to give a different man — Conan Hayes, a self-described data expert from California — access to county voting equipment, both to copy its hard drive and a few days later to attend a secure update of the machine’s software. Hayes is a retired surfer with ties to Lindell and his campaign of spreading falsehoods about the country’s election system.

“This case was a simple case centered around the use of deceit to commit a fraud,” prosecutor Robert Shapiro told the jury during his closing arguments on Monday.

“It’s not about computers, it’s not about election records, it’s

about using deceit to trick and manipulate others, specifically public servants who were simply trying to do their job.”

He said the update of the voting machine software is a very sensitive, secured and confidential process that Peters violated.

What did the prosecution and the defense argue in the Tina Peters trial?

The prosecution also spent substantial time trying to show that Peters knew she’d done something wrong, based on her reaction when the security breach started to come to light. Two former staffers recalled Peters telling them, “I’m f—d.” One added that Peters told her she was “going to jail.” Peters also allegedly told staff involved with the plan to get burner phones and not say anything.

“The defendant was a fox guarding the henhouse. It was her job to protect the election equipment and she turned on it and used her power for her own advantage,” said prosecutor Janet Drake.

Peters’ defense team has painted

her as a clerk who broke no rules by copying her equipment’s hard drives. They say everything she did was within her authority to preserve election records.

“There’s also no dispute about what was going to happen when the state got in there to do the trusted build. They were going to erase all the records,” said Defense Attorney John Case during his closing remarks.

The Secretary of State’s office and Dominion Voting Systems dispute the idea that the files updated during the secure update constitute ‘election records’ under Colorado law. They also say there are other ways to work with the state to preserve any information on the machines prior to the update.

The nine-day trial was rife with discussions of relevance and admissibility, often leading to lengthy delays as attorneys argued outside the presence of the jury whether or not the trial could wade into national conspiracies

**TINA PETERS
see page 23**

"I am you, father, grandfather...recovering"
-Ted

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CO CRIME
from page 1

In those years, Colorado ranked 1st for people who had been victimized but did not report it to the police.

First, Colorado needs to implement Truth In Sentencing. Since violent offenders typically serve just 43 percent of their sentences, these felons are back on the streets far earlier than their victims and communities expected, and, due to Colorado’s high recidivism rate, often go on to reoffend quickly.

Colorado is the fourth worst state in the nation for recidivism, showing what we’re doing right now in the criminal justice system simply isn’t working. Having a Truth In Sentencing law would require violent criminals to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences before being released early on parole.

Truth In Sentencing has been a recognized policy issue since 1984 when Washington became the first state to pass this law. Tennessee became the most recent state when it passed a t ruth in sentencing bill into law in 2022.

The *Journal of Law & Economics* published a study in the early 2000s finding that “Truth in Sentencing laws decrease murders by 16 percent, aggravated assaults by 12 percent, robberies by 24 percent, rapes by 12 percent, and larcenies by 3 percent.” Now, roughly 30 states have Truth In Sentencing laws on the books.

Second, Colorado must ban Personal Recognizance bonds, or PR bonds, for repeat perpetrators of violent crime. Currently, Colorado law allows for PR bonds that let these offenders out with no financial costs. Simply by the word of violent criminals, our justice system trusts that they will stay out of trouble and return voluntarily for their court date.

Banning PR bonds will create a financial deterrence for these offenders when they are let back into the communities where they have just committed a violent crime.

Furthermore, studies show that

suspects released on similar zero bail policies had twice the felony rearrests and three times the violent crime rearrests. By eliminating PR bonds for violent and repeat offenders, Colorado can more effectively keep dangerous criminals off our streets.

The Statistics

Colorado currently ranks as the third most dangerous state in the country, according to a 2024 *U.S. News & World Report*. Only New Mexico and Louisiana were determined to be more dangerous.

As of 2022, Colorado “ranked 4th highest nationally for combined property and violent crime rates according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation data.” In 2012, just ten years prior, Colorado ranked 31st. We’ve plummeted hard and fast, due to soft-on-crime laws passed at the state level.

Common Sense Institute’s 2022 “Cost of Crime” report sheds light on the dangerous crime climate in Colorado and its economic costs. For example, the report found that the crime rate in Colorado was “28% higher in 2022 than in 2008.”

In addition, the report found that for 2022, the total cost of police-reported crime was \$10.9 billion. The total cost of crime, including the crime that went unreported, was \$27.2 billion and equaled around \$4,623 per Coloradan in 2022 – a hefty price tag.

Repeat offenders, created by soft-on-crime policies, are at the center of Colorado’s crime crisis. The recidivism rate in Colorado, (the tendency for convicted criminals to re-offend) is 44.9 percent according to the Colorado District Attorney’s Council.

To solve the problem of having the fourth highest recidivism rate in the country, Colorado progressives thought it was a good idea to award \$3,000 cash to criminals upon their release – from taxpayer funds. According to Sen. Dylan Roberts (D), this bill, costing over \$15 million a year, lacked accountability compared to other re-entry programs. The bill failed to make it out of committee, with Senators from both parties voting no during the 2024 legislative session.

High recidivism rates significantly diminish public safety, and without responsible leadership addressing this issue, recidivism rates will continue to cause havoc. The writing is on the wall in other states, and Colorado is following suit.

For example, in California, a 2022 study published by the Yolo County District Attorney found that zero bail policies resulted in 163 percent more total crime. The study found that individuals released on zero bail committed new felonies 90 percent, new misdemeanors 123 percent, and new violent offenses 200 percent more often than those who posted bail.

In addition, a new study by the Data Collaborative for Justice found that bail reform in New York has “emboldened repeat, violent defendants with lengthy rap sheets.”

It further found that repeat, violent felons with a prior record re-offend at a 66.6 percent rate over two years. In addition, those same offenders were 60.7 percent more likely to commit new firearms offenses than the control group.

“Bail reform” in New York primarily made most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies subject to “mandatory release”, which is similar to zero bail and Personal Recognizance bonds policies.

There are few serious policy propositions for Colorado’s high recidivism rates by current state leaders. This failure to actively solve rising crime has a lasting effect on our state and has made Colorado one of the most dangerous states in the nation in 2024.

The Problem
Progressive Legislators & Legislation

Current state leaders in Colorado seem to care more about the perpetrators than the victims of crime. Here are several examples of how the far left furthers the crime wave in our state.

House Bill 24-1284, a bill targeting repeat offenders of violent crime, was a bipartisan effort led by State Representatives Gabe Evans (R) and Shannon Bird (D).

This bill would have “required judges to set monetary bonds for defendants charged with violent crimes if they’ve been convicted of another violent crime or charged with two or more violent crimes within the previous two years unless a district attorney agreed to a non-monetary personal recognizance – or PR – bond.” Even with bipartisan support, the bill failed to make it out of a House committee dominated by the progressive left.

House Bill 23-1135 created more significant consequences for those convicted of sex crimes against children. It was a bipartisan effort to make indecent exposure a class 6 felony “if committed when the person who commits indecent exposure knew there was a child under 15 years of age in view of the exposure and the person is more than 18 years of age and more than 4 years older than the child.”

Fortunately, the bill passed and was signed into law in the 2023 legislative session. Unfortunately, 27 House Democrats voted against it, revealing that their loyalties lie in ideological commitments rather than innocent children.

House Bill 24-1092, a bill targeting child rapists, would have “required that adults convicted of sex with child prostitutes serve full sentences of four years for class 3 felony acts and eight years for

class four felonies involving sex with child prostitutes.”

Given that the United States is consistently one of the top consumers of sex trafficking worldwide, creating harsher penalties on child rapists will begin to decrease the demand for child prostitution in Colorado – an end that the overwhelming majority of Coloradans want. House progressives successfully killed the bill on an 8-3 party-line vote.

The *Gazette* Editorial Board had this to say about this disaster:

“Adults who rape children create demand for traffickers. They ruin lives. Penalties should be so severe the risk far outweighs any thrill a pervert seeks at the expense of children. Incredibly, child prostitution is of little concern to Colorado’s power-obsessed Democratic majority that has made Colorado a bastion of crime. If they cared, they would have fine-tuned the bill and sent it to the full House for further perfection. Instead, they made clear they don’t care. They care more about state-funded lawyers who defend rapists. Each time a child gets raped, know that Colorado’s controlling party seems fine with it.”

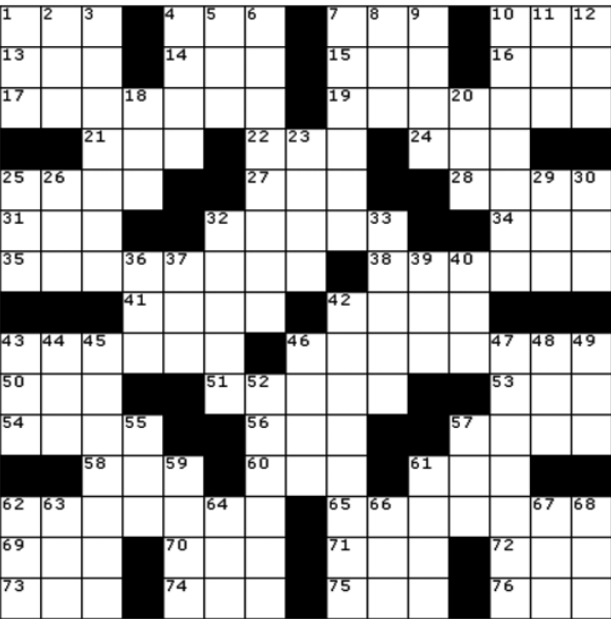
Please see: Please see: <https://www.advancecolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/COLORADOS-CRIME-CRISIS.pdf>

Mitigation Team
Volunteers Needed
Free Training

Custer County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Join us on September 16-19, 2024, for chainsaw certification training. It is free for volunteers and all equipment will be provided. We are building a wildland fire mitigation team to help those who may not have the abilities to mitigate their property. The team will be a Custer County mitigation team and will partner with other agencies to accomplish tasks for the homeowners and community. Please email robyn@custercounty-co.gov or call 719-269-7952 for more information. The training will be held at a local ranch and all snacks and lunch will be provided. An application and background check is required and can be sent via email. This effort is part of a grant to Custer County to make the community safer by building a team who can thin trees, get rid of slash branches and making the property and forest healthier. Please join us at the Custer County Office of Emergency Management.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Liable
- 4 Poem
- 7 Representative
- 10 Touch an animal
- 13 Executive director
- 14 Bundle
- 15 Anger
- 16 Street abbr.
- 17 Upstart
- 19 Palestinian body of water
- 21 Spacecraft detachment
- 22 Cow’s chow
- 24 Distress call
- 25 Sense
- 27 American sign language
- 28 Missus
- 31 Insane
- 32 Afloat (2 wds.)
- 34 Often poetically
- 35 Infield hit
- 38 French brandy
- 41 Yellow metal
- 42 Three

- 43 Wife of Ahasuerus
- 46 Let the little ___ come to Me
- 50 In the manner of
- 51 Man shall not live by ___ alone
- 53 Gone by
- 54 What a clock tells
- 56 Samuel’s mentor
- 57 Ratify
- 58 Noah’s ___
- 60 Every
- 61 Attila the ___
- 62 Eye part (pl.)
- 65 One-celled animals
- 69 French “yes”
- 70 River (Spanish)
- 71 Catch some Z’s
- 72 To be in debt
- 73 School group
- 74 No room for them in the ___
- 75 Tint
- 76 Teeny

DOWN

- 1 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 2 Legume
- 3 Sub’s weapon
- 4 Due
- 5 Tribe of Israel
- 6 Urbane
- 7 Samson’s brain teaser
- 8 Before, poetically
- 9 Green legumes
- 10 The suffing of Christ on the cross
- 11 Adam and ___
- 12 British drink
- 18 Volume (abbr.)
- 20 ___ Jones Industrial average
- 23 Soviet Union
- 25 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 26 Serving of corn
- 29 Future Farmers of America (abr.)
- 30 And so forth
- 32 Speak without preparation
- 33 Pungent

- 36 Expression
- 37 Negative
- 39 Lubricate
- 40 The Creator
- 42 Siam
- 43 Basin
- 44 Boxer Muhammad
- 45 Region of Palestine
- 46 Tiny body part
- 47 Heavenly sign for Noah
- 48 Scrambled food
- 49 Not (refix)
- 52 Justification
- 55 Sea eagle
- 57 Take to court
- 59 Lotion brand
- 61 Faith, ___ and charity
- 62 Officer
- 63 Away
- 64 Old Testament city
- 66 Can
- 67 Respect
- 68 Visit

Puzzle key on page 15

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

The Battlefield
of the Mind

The headlines these days are alarming. The world seems to be in a panic over the election and a possible recession. The narrative seems to be pointing toward economic, government, political, and social disruption. Disruption on all levels. There is no rest from disruption. It is so, because the media and the disrupters make it so. So there they are making their noise, accusing others of what they are doing, judging people from the content of their own hearts, spewing forth hate, derision, suspicion and darkness. What is it to us? Why do we have to allow them to occupy the battlefield of our minds? Does their darkness overcome the light of Christ and the Holy Spirit in each of us? I stand to say “NO.”

In John 8:12, Christ said, “I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” In Matthew 5:14-16, Christ affirms this transfer of light, saying, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Philipians 2:14-15 says, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

Proverbs 4:14-18 says, “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day.” Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” There is a path we all travel, but we do not have to travel in darkness because Christ is the light for the just. He transfers it to his disciples that they might also be the light of the world.

As you engage friends and family, even strangers, you do not have to take part in the darkness around us. You can be that light to others, that joy in the midst of sorrow. Everyone seems to be at everyone else. Peace is but a fleeting moment like an insincere greeting. Remember, though, that as the light of the world, you are also an ambassador of Christ, an emissary of the kingdom of God. We don’t have to enter into the darkness because it already has been defeated by the King of Kings. Renew your mind. Have a perspective of light. As is written in 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.” So let your light shine.

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Who Is Kamala Harris?

A Disturbing and Haunting Record Part 3

by Discover the Networks via FrontPageMag.com

(Editor/GG: Excerpts from an outstanding article. A bunch more to come. For the whole magilla, see the whole article at the link at the bottom. So, here’s the real Kamala Harris...)

Victory in 2016 Senate Race

Harris defeated Orange County Rep. Loretta Sanchez by a margin of 23 percentage points in a June 2016 Democratic primary race, and subsequently became a U.S. Senator when she ran unopposed by any Republican in the November general election.

Close Ties to Maxine Waters

Over the years, Harris has cultivated a close political and ideological kinship with California Congresswoman Maxine Waters, whose federal campaign committee, Citizens for Waters (CfW), since 2006 has accepted fees from political candidates wishing to be featured in CfW mailers and to gain Waters’ endorsement. In 2010, Harris paid \$28,000 to Waters’ campaign committee in order to appear on the CfW mailers during her bid for the post of California Attorney General. And when Harris ran for the U.S. Senate in 2016, she gave CfW another \$30,000 in order to appear on the mailers.

Sexual Harassment Ignored by Harris’ California Attorney General Office

After Donald Trump’s election as president in 2016, Harris became an outspoken supporter of the #MeToo movement against workplace sexual harassment. But on December 30, 2016, as Harris was preparing to transition from California Attorney General to U.S. Senator, Danielle Hartley — who since 2011 had served as executive assistant to Larry Wallace, director of the Division of Law Enforcement at Harris’ California Department of Justice — filed a lawsuit alleging that she (Hartley) had long been “harassed and demeaned” by Wallace “due to her gender.” The suit claimed that: (a) Wallace kept his printer on the floor beneath his desk and ordered Hartley, on a daily basis, to crawl there to replace the paper or ink, frequently in full view of other male executives from the division; (b) Wallace had taken away Hartley’s “meaningful tasks” and instead placed her in charge of running his personal errands; (c) after Hartley eventually informed her supervisor, Shannon Patterson, of the harassment, she began to experience various forms of retaliation by Wallace; and (d) Hartley suffered from panic attacks and depression as a result of the mistreatment to which she was subjected.

Hartley’s harassment and retaliation lawsuit was settled for \$400,000 on May 16, 2017 by Xavier Becerra, who was appointed to replace Kamala Harris as California’s Attorney General. By that time, Wallace was working as a

senior advisor to Harris in the senator’s Sacramento office.

When the *Sacramento Bee* asked Harris in December 2018 about the \$400,000 settlement, she claimed not to have known anything about the harassment while it was occurring.

Comparing Modern-Day Muslim Refugees to Jews Who Fled the Third Reich, & Condemning President Trump’s “Muslim Ban”

In a series of tweets which she posted on January 27, 2017 — International Holocaust Memorial Day — Harris compared Jews escaping Nazi genocide during the Third Reich, to modern-day Muslims from terrorism-connected countries in the Middle East seeking refuge in the United States. She also used the occasion to condemn President Donald Trump’s then-recent executive order declaring a temporary moratorium on travel to the U.S. by people from a small handful of such terror-tied nations. (NOTE: Harris chose not to mention the fact that the residents of those same countries had likewise been subjected to travel restrictions by Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama.) Tweeted Harris:

- “On #HolocaustMemorialDay, Trump restricted refugees from Muslim-majority countries. Make no mistake — this is a Muslim ban.”
- “We can’t turn our backs on the millions of refugees who are contributing to our country and our economy.”
- “During the Holocaust, we failed to let refugees like Anne Frank into our country. We can’t let history repeat itself.”

Condoning Favoritism in the Courts, Rather Than Strict Adherence to the Law

When President Donald Trump nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court in March 2017, Harris tweet: “Judge Gorsuch has consistently valued legalisms over real lives. I won’t support his nomination.” As the *American Thinker* pointed out: “[L]egalisms’ (a.k.a. what the law actually says) are the very basis of the rule of law. When [Harris] touts ‘real lives,’ [and] not the law, as the proper basis for SCOTUS rulings, she openly endorses a political system based on favoritism, not the rule of law.”

Condemning President Trump’s Withdrawal from Paris Climate Accord

When President Trump in June 2017 announced his intention to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, Harris said that Trump’s “disastrous decision” would have “catastrophic repercussions for our planet’s future,” and would “threaten the world our children and children’s children will live in.”

Support for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

In October 2017, Harris said the following about the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR): “The council has strived to improve understanding about Islam, and move toward a future in which we welcome people of all faiths and nationalities into our neighborhoods and our schools, as well as our hearts and our minds.”

In September 2018, Harris wrote a letter of support to CAIR on the occasion of the organization’s 24th anniversary. Said the letter: “As you celebrate this milestone, please accept my gratitude and admiration for your tireless work to promote peace, justice, and mutual understanding. For nearly a quarter century, CAIR has worked diligently to dismantle Islamophobic rhetoric, mobilize the American Muslim community, and encourage civic engagement.... In the face of intolerant and exclusionary policies, CAIR has steadfastly defended the Constitutional rights of American Muslims ... Today, as we continue to promote tolerance and eliminate hate in our society, CAIR’s work remains as important as it was the day of its founding in 1994.”

Ties to the Democracy Alliance

In the fall of 2017, Harris delivered an address, via teleconference, to the Democracy Alliance, a network of ultra-wealthy donors who support Democrat and leftist causes.

Harris Brings an Illegal Alien to the 2018 State of the Union Address

On January 30, 2018, Harris was one of several Democrats who brought illegal aliens as their guests to President Trump’s State of the Union address. Harris’ guest was Denea Joseph, communications coordinator for the UndocuBlack Network, an advocacy group for black illegal aliens. “Dreamers like Denea represent the best of who we are as a nation,” said Harris. “Her commitment to the representation and empowerment of black immigrant communities is inspiring. We must continue to fight to give her and the hundreds of thousands of other young people like her who are living in fear, the security they need to live up to their full potential.”

Advocating Identity Politics

At a Netroots Nation conference in August 2018, Harris charged that critics of “identity politics” were employing that term to disparage the notion that issues of race, gender and sexual orientation were worthy of public concern. “I have a problem, guys, with that phrase, ‘identity politics,’” said the senator. “Because let’s be clear, when people say that, it’s a pejorative. That phrase is used to divide, and it is used to distract. Its purpose is to minimize and marginalize issues that impact all of us. It is used to try and shut us up.... These issues that they’re trying to diminish and demean are the very issues that will define our identity as Americans.” “We’ve all heard how critical black women were to Doug Jones’ victory,” Harris said of the

KAMALA Pt 3
see page 19

Some Facts About Bamboo

by The Nature Archive

1. Fast Growth: Bamboo is the fastest-growing plant in the world. It has been recorded at growing 47.6 inches in 24 hours. Some species can even grow over a meter per day under optimal conditions. A new bamboo shoot reaches its full height in less than a year.
2. Oxygen Release: A grove of bamboo releases 35% more oxygen than any other tree out there.
3. Carbon Dioxide Absorption: Bamboo absorbs carbon dioxide at a rate of 17 tons per hectare every year. It can act as a valuable carbon sink given how fast the plant grows.
4. No Fertilizer Required: Bamboo doesn't need fertilizer to grow. It can self-mulch by dropping its leaves and use the nutrients to grow.
5. Drought Resistance: Bamboos are

- drought-tolerant plants. They can grow in the desert.
6. Wood Replacement: Bamboos can be harvested in 3-5 years compared to the 20-30 years of most softwood trees.
7. Building Material: Bamboo is incredibly strong and sturdy. It has been used as support for concrete as well as scaffolding, bridges and houses.
8. Soil Stability: Bamboo has a wide network of underground roots and rhizomes that prevent soil erosion.
9. Natural Air Conditioner: Bamboo cools the air surrounding it by up to 8 degrees in the summer.
10. Invasiveness: Some species of bamboo, especially 'running' bamboos, can be invasive due to their extensive root systems, which allow them to spread rapidly. However, not all species are invasive, and with proper management, the environmental impact can be minimized.

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KAMALA Pt 3 from page 18

Democrat who had won a 2017 special election to determine who would fill the U.S. Senate seat recently vacated by Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama). “But that didn’t just magically happen. It happened because black women have been putting in the work, going door to door, organizing even when the cameras were focused elsewhere.”

During the February 24, 2019 airing of MSNBC’s AM host Joy Reid asked Harris if, during her presidential campaign, it “would it be difficult for you to advocate race-based policy.” In her response, Harris said:

“I want to talk about the issue of identity politics, Joy. This term identity politics, people will use that term — it’s like people used to talk about the race card. They bring this term up when you talk about issues that are about race, about sexual orientation, about religion. They’ll bring it up when we are talking about civil rights issues as a way to marginalize the issue, as a way to frankly try to silence you or shut you up. We need to call it what it is, which is

to try and divert away from a conversation that needs to happen in America. Why? One, because we must speak truth. Racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism are all real in this country, so we need to have that conversation and address it. Two, and this is equally important, how America deals with the issues and the disparities, and also the hate that can be — that causes these issues to become lethal in proportion — how America deals with these issues is a matter of American identity. This is not about identity politics, and if it is, it’s about the identity of the United States of America. How we handle the issues will be about our collective identity.”

Ethics Violation of Fundraising Rules

On October 29, 2018, the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT), a non-partisan ethics watchdog group, filed a complaint with the Senate Select Committee on Ethics against Senator Harris and Senator Elizabeth Warren. Said the FACT complaint: “Senators Warren and Harris both sent campaign fundraising emails before the Senate vote on Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Specifically, the campaign emails both stated Senators Warren and Harris’ official role and positions on the ongoing confirmation hearing and then made direct requests for campaign donations with ‘DONATE NOW’ and ‘CONTRIBUTE’ buttons. Senate ethics laws prohibit candidates from using the promise of official action or legislative work in a direct ask for campaign cash.” “This is a clear violation of the Senate Ethics rules which safeguard against the appearance or actuality of elected officials ‘cashing in’ on their official position for political purposes,” said FACT executive director Kendra Arnold.

Likening ICE to the Ku Klux Klan

In November 2018, Harris asked Ronald Vitiello, whom President Trump had nominated to head the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, if he believed that the public’s perception of ICE was creating fear and distrust in a manner similar to how the KKK had done in the 20th century. “Are you aware of the perception of many about how the power and the discretion at ICE is being used to enforce the laws and do you see

any parallels ...?” asked Harris. At that point, Vitiello interjected: “I do not see any parallels. That puts ICE in the same category as the KKK....” A moment later, Harris asked: “Are you aware that there is a perception that ICE is administering its power in a way that is causing fear and intimidation, particularly among immigrants and specifically among immigrants coming from Mexico and Central America?”

Viewing Devout Catholics As Unqualified to Serve As Federal Judges

In December 2018, Harris joined fellow senator Mazie Hirono in challenging President Trump’s nomination of Brian Buescher to the U.S. District Court for Nebraska — because the judge belonged to the Knights Of Columbus (KOC), the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organization, which the two lawmakers characterized as an “extreme” entity. The senators’ bone of contention was the fact that KOC affirms traditional Catholic teaching on issues such as marriage, sexuality and abortion. Both senators pressured Buescher to resign from KOC. In a Senate hearing, Harris asked the nominee: “Were you

aware that the Knights of Columbus opposed a woman’s right to choose when you joined the organization?”

Columnist Kevin D. Williamson noted in the *New York Post*: “[T]he Constitution explicitly forbids imposing any religious test for public office, which is what Sens. Harris and Hirono here propose to do for the federal judiciary. The second and related issue is that it is not the Knights of Columbus that opposes abortion and same-sex marriage, but the Catholic Church. If a KOC member is ineligible to serve on the federal bench because of the beliefs of that organization, then every Catholic in the United States — and the world, for that matter, all 1.2 billion of them — is ineligible for similar office, since they belong to a much larger and much more prominent organization that is the source of those ‘extreme positions.’”

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

And: <https://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individuals/kamala-harris/>

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1776

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

Courts Attacking 2nd Amendment Right to Legally Acquire Firearms

by Larry Keane, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Opinion, via ammoland.com

There’s an interesting – if not devious – trend emerging in some Second Amendment cases. The first step of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Bruen* test is to ask whether the conduct at issue is covered by the text of the Second Amendment, which protects a pre-existing “right to keep and bear arms.” Some lower courts in purporting to apply the *Bruen* test are upholding gun control laws by holding that you do not have a Second Amendment right to buy a firearm.

That’s intellectually dishonest, to say the least. The ability to freely approach the gun counter to legally purchase a firearm is paramount to exercising the Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms. There is no “keeping” of firearms if there is no legal right to lawfully acquire those same firearms. The ramifications of this flawed legal reasoning are self-evident. The government could simply ban the buying (and selling) of firearms and therefore eviscerate the Second Amendment all without infringing upon the right.

Right to Buy

The most recent example comes from New Mexico, where a federal district court judge refused to preliminarily enjoin the state’s seven-day waiting period for purchasing a firearm. There were several serious concerns with this decision, including the judge’s determination that the lengthy waiting period doesn’t constrain the rights to keep and bear arms. The judge contended that the waiting period only minimally burdens the “ancillary right to acquire firearms.”

That might come as news to an individual facing imminent threat to their safety or even their life. A woman who is the victim of domestic violence who considers purchasing a firearm to protect herself and her family could argue

that the state’s seven-day waiting period is a seven-day ban on her ability to lawfully keep and bear arms when she knows there’s a threat to her life.

That wasn’t the worst of it. The same judge concluded that the waiting-period law is presumptively constitutional” given that the first waiting period laws were enacted in the 1920s – long after U.S. Constitution was ratified, and the 14th Amendment adopted. The judge even pointed to past, discriminatory laws that restricted the sale of firearms to slaves, freedmen and Native Americans. It is astonishing that a federal judge relied on racist laws that have been repudiated by the courts and American society to justify a gun control law.

However, that’s not what the Supreme Court held in the *Bruen* decision. That test, the Court said, is that gun control laws must have a “history and tradition” consistent with when the Second Amendment was signed into law in 1791 at the nation’s founding.

Court Concerns

It would be tempting to dismiss this judge’s decision as a “one-off” aberration. Unfortunately, that’s not the case. A 2024 decision by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York explicitly said that there is no Second Amendment right to purchase a second handgun within a 90-day window of purchasing a previous handgun.

“The question thus becomes whether a waiting period before the purchase of a second handgun is conduct covered by the text of the Second Amendment. It is not,” the court ruled in its opinion of Knight v. City of New York.

What the court is saying is that the government can ration the exercise of a Constitutionally-protected right, in this case, to just once every 90 days. This would be unthinkable if a court ruled that a law-abiding American could only exercise their rights to

free speech or attend a church, mosque or synagogue of their choosing every three months. The federal court here is relegating the Second Amendment to a second-class right, that Justice Clarence Thomas has warned about.

That line of thinking wasn’t limited to New York. The U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont upheld the state’s waiting-period law, in *Vermont Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs v. Birmingham* this year, by claiming there’s no Second Amendment right to legally purchasing a firearm.

“The Court finds that the relevant conduct – acquiring a firearm through a commercial transaction on-demand – is not covered by the plain text of the Second Amendment,” wrote Judge William Sessions III. He quizzically added, “Plaintiffs may keep and bear arms without immediately acquiring them.”

That defies logic. It is impossible to legally keep and bear anything without the ability to lawfully purchase it first.

In 2023, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado ruled against **Rocky Mountain Gun Owners** seeking to enjoin a three-day-waiting period law signed by Gov. Jared Polis. In this decision, the federal court ruled that the Second Amendment doesn’t explicitly say anything about legally acquiring a firearm.

“From this reading of the plain text, it is clear the relevant conduct impacted by the waiting period – the receipt of a paid-for firearm without delay – is not covered,” the decision reads, adding, “To ‘keep,’ under the definitions provided in Heller, meant to retain an object one already possessed. It did not mean to receive a newly paid-for item, and it certainly did not mean to receive that item without delay. Likewise, ‘hav[ing] weapons’ indicates the weapons are already in one’s possession, not that one is receiving them.”

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania ruled in 2023 in *U.S. v. King* that there is no right to buy and sell firearms. In fact, Judge Joseph Leeson Jr. clearly states that it is a factor he didn’t – and wouldn’t – consider, writing, “...the Court looks at the Second Amendment’s plain text; it does not consider ‘implicit’ rights that may be lurking beneath the surface of the plain text.”

“Even if the Court assumed that there is an implicit right in the Second Amendment to buy and sell firearms in order to keep and bear arms, that is not the same thing as a right to buy and sell firearms as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit through the repetitive purchase and resale of firearms,” Judge Leeson wrote. “In other words, the Second Amendment does not protect the commercial dealing of firearms.” Of course, while Heller said commercial regulations could be presumptively valid, it never suggested that the buying and selling of commonly used “arms” could be banned.

Governors Knew in 2020

Juxtapose that with governors who, just four years ago, quickly reversed their policies to order firearm retailers to close their doors during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. New Jersey’s Gov. Phil Murphy reversed course from his initial ordering of gun stores to be closed. He recognized that denying the ability of law-abiding citizens to legally obtain a firearm is denying them the ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights. Pennsylvania’s former Gov. Tom Wolf did the same, even after Pennsylvania’s Supreme Court denied a challenge to the order. The quiet about-face was in light of what could have become a U.S. Supreme Court challenge.

A federal judge ordered former Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker to allow firearm retailers there to reopen. The judge ordering the

injunction wrote, “The exigencies surrounding this viral pandemic both justify and necessitate changes in the manner in which people live their lives and conduct their daily business. However, this emergency – like any other emergency – has its constitutional limits. It would not justify a prior restraint on speech nor a suspension of the right to vote. Just the same, it does not justify a ban on obtaining guns and ammunition.”

Divorcing the right to freely approach the gun counter at a firearm retailer and the right to keep and bear arms is a dangerous slope. Firearms are legal products available for anyone to freely purchase who is over the age of 18 for long guns or 21 for handguns, provided that the individual is purchasing the firearm for him or herself and can pass the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Conditioning that right – whether through waiting periods, which are an attempt to delay the exercise of that right – or by unmooring the right to legally purchase a firearm is a violation of the rights that belong to the people.

Imagine a court ruling that the First Amendment doesn’t include the right to buy a book. Or a law that said you can only buy a newspaper after waiting seven days. Or a law that limits how many books you can buy in a month. Or a law in which the government decides which books you are allowed to buy and read? Obviously, no one would tolerate such laws. So why is it acceptable for Second Amendment rights?

The answer, sadly, is that despite the Heller, McDonald, and Bruen decisions, some legislative bodies and judges treat the Second Amendment as a “second-class right.”

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/08/courts-attacking-second-amendment-right-to-legally-acquire-firearms/#axzz8iF3rK84Z>

“In the make-believe world you will automatically get paid what you are worth. The real world doesn’t work that way. You get paid what you are worth only when the person you are dealing with has no other choice.”

— Donald J. Trump

Battle for the Best 22 Rifle: Marlin Model 60 vs. Ruger 10/22

by Terril Hebert,
ammoland.com

I am often asked what caliber or firearm is best for a given task. This is surprising, considering I don't look like a guy you would ask for directions to the airport, let alone anything of consequence like guns and ammo. Which is better? 9 or 45? Revolver or autoloader? SD9VE versus anything by Taurus?

I don't keep a dog in those fights, but I have long wondered which 22 rifle was best: the Marlin Model 60 or the Ruger 10/22.

Taken together, these have been the best-selling rimfire rifles on the American market for decades, and each rifle has its cult following. I have not swallowed the flavor-aid and slashed my palms to initiate myself into the cult of the Microgroove or the Bill Ruger, but I have a sampling of both rifles, and I decided to put them side by side at the range for a little comparison.

The Marlin Model 60

The Marlin Firearms Company, a legend in the rifle world, is still producing several variations of their bread-and-butter rifle—the Model 60. The Model 60 came out in...1960. It was not the first auto-loading 22 rifle, but it is one that has stood the test of time and company mergers. Sporting a twenty-one-inch Microgroove-rifled bull barrel and an eighteen-shot tubular magazine, the Model 60 has developed a reputation as an unusually accurate rimfire rifle. In the 1980s, Marlin ditched their long gun in response to magazine capacity legislation. The modern configuration you will see now sports a shorter nineteen-inch barrel and a fifteen-shot magazine, allowing it to be sold in more places where three rounds mean the difference between a friendly hunting rifle and an instrument of mass destruction.

In 2007, Remington bought Marlin. There are complaints about the quality control on many of their models in the years since, but in my experience, the Model 60 has suffered little. My 2017-produced "Remlin" Model 60 has been an excellent shooter, but compared to the Ruger 10/22, the Model 60 is old-school.

The Ruger 10/22

Bill Ruger started his company on 22 caliber pistols and revolvers like the Mk I pistol and the Single-Six. Naturally, a 22 rifle was in order. As it was introduced in 1964, the Ruger 10/22 has changed very little. But aftermarket improvements on the platform have become an industry unto itself, from higher capacity magazines, to target triggers, to stock options. In my case, I have the base-model Takedown model first



The Ruger 10/22 (top) and the Marlin Model 60 (bottom) represent two of the best selling 22 caliber rifles on the market today.

introduced a few years ago. Other than that, it has a stock ten-shot detachable rotary magazine and a tapered 18.5-inch barrel. The rifle's modularity and the advent of relatively reliable higher-capacity magazines like the BX-25 put it in an arena of firepower that its competitors struggle to keep up. But the battle continues.

Accuracy

Proponents of the Marlin Model 60 adhere to the model's inherent out-of-the-box accuracy. Marlin's Microgroove rifling—essentially smaller and more numerous grooves in the barrel—leads to less deformation of the bullet on its journey out of bore on its way to the target, making for better accuracy.

I am no engineer. I am a lazy liberal arts guy. I will say that my Model 60 is generally a little more accurate for me, but that statement is complicated.

The black-on-black sheet metal u-notch rear sight is adjustable for windage and elevation, while the front blade is fixed on the barrel. The iron sights don't leave much room for taking a very fine sight-picture, especially in low light. However, the Model 60 is a heavier rifle with a heavier bull barrel, which allows for a steadier hold, provided you are adult-sized. The Ruger 10/22 is a lighter rifle and more prone to moving around if you aren't steady and the lighter, tapered barrel would lead to the assumption of less accuracy. However, the Ruger's white-diamond rear sight and gold-beaded post front are quite clean compared to the Marlin.

It is a combination of gun, ammo, and shooter that makes for accurate shooting. I put both guns on paper from a rest at fifty yards' distance using Federal High-Velocity Match 40 grain loads, a load that provides consistent results in the 22 LR firearms I have. The Marlin was slightly more accurate when I took my fliers out of the picture. But when I switched ammunition to Federal Target 40 grain standard velocity loads, loads I now shot sub-MOA groups out of my Ruger, the Ruger spanked

the Marlin. The Marlin might be more steady, but it is not automatically more accurate than the Ruger.

Reliability

Both the Marlin and the Ruger exhibit excellent reliability for what they are, but all rimfire rifles are subject to misfires from bulk or bad ammunition and hung-up cases once the guns become very dirty. I don't shoot both rifles excessively, but I have over two thousand rounds through both rifles and a few interesting observations. I won't dwell on this for too long as reliability is dependent on maintenance and the diet of ammunition you feed the rifle, but there are unique problems that affect both rifles.

The Ruger 10/22s I have shot through the years tend to feed round-nosed ammunition better than flat-faced rounds. I had no such problem in the Marlin's I have run.

Magazine Woes

One aspect of reliability lies in the magazines when it comes to autoloaders, especially 22s. There is also the issue of spring compression, an issue some ascribe as a myth. In the case of rimfire rifles, it most certainly is not. As it pertains to our samples, I generally leave the Marlin's tube magazine downloaded with thirteen rounds loaded for two or three months on end. The rifle runs those rounds perfectly fine. The same is true for a fully loaded ten-round magazine in the Ruger. The few BX-25 magazines I kept loaded with twenty-three rounds for that same period of time choke constantly with the spring and follower getting stuck in place unable to move rounds further up into the magazine. I have to take the magazine out, strike it once, and reinsert to keep firing.

The Marlin has just one magazine to worry about but even that is not perfect. Too much gun oil on the brass magazine tube combined with a chilly day meant a stuck magazine tube that left me red and raw trying to get it out, which I eventually did.

The Marlin also uses a *feed throat* to feed rounds from the

magazine to the chamber. Some shooters with tens of thousands of rounds in their guns state that the feed throat wears out over time and needs to be swapped out. In the case of the Ruger, discarding old magazines and replacing them seems like a more straight-forward bet.

Points of Disassembly

The Marlin and the Ruger disassemble in a similar fashion. The components that come out of the receiver are a heavy steel bolt, a stout spring, the charging handle, and a guide rod. In the case of the Marlin, the charging handle is pulled out as the bolt is lifted out of the receiver. The guide rod, spring, and charging handle are all one integral unit with the Ruger. I have to fight to get this unit back in while sandwiching the bolt back on top of it for reassembling. The Marlin does not have such a problem. It is worth pointing out that the Marlin has two opposing extractors on the bolt, whereas the Ruger only has one. This might explain why I get fewer stuck cases when firing the Marlin to the point of being fouled out.

Features

The Marlin Model 60 and the Ruger 10/22 are both excellent rifles with their own downsides, but it is the features that are the true deciding factor. Perhaps the biggest difference is loading and unloading.

The Ruger 10/22 uses a polymer-based rotary magazine with steel feed lips. In the box, you will get one ten-shot magazine. The Marlin uses an under-barrel tubular magazine. The magazine tube needs to be pulled out and individual cartridges dropped in the tube all the while you are working around the muzzle of the gun. The magazine holds fifteen shots, but it is not as fast as switching out Ruger magazines, nevermind the potential safety concerns. The Marlin does have a last-shot hold open that the Ruger does not. Both rifles can be locked open by jacking the charging handle back and pushing inward so you are working with a safe gun. On the other hand, inserting a new magazine beats fumbling with loose ammunition in cold weather if you are having to reload in the field. My friends in the Colorado Rockies can attest to that.

Perhaps more importantly, feeding also translates into malfunction clearance. In the worst double feed, in which one round feeds behind a stuck case or an otherwise unspent round, I have to pull the Marlin's magazine tube out and dump the ammunition to clear the jam. With the Ruger, just take out the magazine, run the charging

handle, insert the magazine and go back to the task.

The Ruger 10/22 has a clearly better scope mounting option. The receiver is tapped and drilled for a Weaver scope base, allowing you to install anything from red-dots to high-power rifle scopes. Whereas the Model 60 has a traditional 3/8 inch dovetail milled into the receiver. This allows you to fit a conventional low-powered rimfire scope. You would have to buy a 3/8 inch to Weaver adapter to make the jump to more sophisticated optics.

The Model 60 is an adult-sized gun with a full-length buttstock. The comb of the stock is more pronounced than on the Ruger. When looking down the sights, I have to press my head further down on the stock to line up a shot. The Ruger's stock is a little shorter and the drop of the comb is more pronounced allowing for a more comfortable sight picture. I got my first 10/22 when I was a foot and a half shorter and the rifle fits me like a glove then and now.

The Price You Pay

I avoid naming prices because they fluctuate with time, location, and variation away from the base model of firearm. Some, including myself, feel that the Marlin is a lot of gun for only \$150-\$180. The Ruger is easily \$50 more. Throw in a few extra magazines and the price tag is more than negligible if you have or want to invest as little as possible.

The Bottom Line

It has been some time since I reviewed both the Marlin Model 60 and the Ruger 10/22 separately but throwing them together with more trigger time gave me more to like and dislike. The Marlin is generally more accurate with cheap ammo, has an easier-to-understand disassembly procedure, and a higher out-of-the-box capacity in an all-inclusive package that needs only a scope to complete. For a little more money and with good ammo, you can get a Ruger that can best the Marlin in accuracy with a modularity that the latter can't touch, though both rifles have their fair share of aftermarket support. Both have their weak points. The Marlin is slower to load and the feeding mechanism can wear over time, whereas the Ruger's issues can be fixed by changing magazines. The Ruger is easier to shoulder, but the Marlin holds steadier. In my subjective view, the Ruger 10/22 is the more versatile rifle, but the Marlin Model 60 is the most complete package at a somewhat better price tag.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/07/marlin-model-60-vs-ruger-10-22-battle-for-the-best-22-rifle-video/#axzz8h6Yxm3Ja>

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Progressive Dems in Michigan Tell Undercover Journo They Were ‘Ballot Harvested’ Out of Office by Muslim Voter Fraud Network

by Project Veritas

Key Quotes:

- “These guys go door to door and take people’s ballots. They bully them... intimidate.” - August Gitschlag, Certified Michigan Elections Official
- “They call it the Midnight Meetings... and they auction them, they bid for them [ballots]. - Lynn Blasey, Hamtramck City Council Candidate (2021, 2023)
- “This is another thing that you can’t say out loud. The absentee ballots are being filled out in people’s dining rooms by the candidates.” - Karen Majewski, Former Hamtramck Mayor (2006-2021)
- If everything’s good, we can drop [the ballots] to the City Hall. City Hall has that [ballot] box. We can drop it there.” - Hamtramck Councilman Mohammed Hassan
- “They hire black people to go to black houses. They hire Bangladeshi people to go to Bangladeshi houses... they pay them for their ballots.” - Lynn Blasey, Hamtramck City Council Candidate (2021, 2023)
- “We have a serious... absentee ballot problem. That’s been going on for 20 years.” - Karen Majewski, Former Hamtramck Mayor (2006-2021)
- “I’m a democrat and I busted other democrats.” - August Gitschlag, Michigan Elections Clerk

Democrats in Hamtramck, Michigan, are having buyer’s remorse now that their once celebrated all-Muslim City Council is wielding power in controversial ways. Local left-wingers, who enjoyed the Detroit enclave as a stronghold of progressive values and tolerance, are quickly learning that their new Muslim Democrat leaders have different plans for their city, and they are unhappy how they took power.

Americans are regularly told there is ‘no systemic voter fraud in elections’, and yet these elected Democrats explain the way in which Democrat factions out-fraud one another to gain power.

Project Veritas spent five months in Hamtramck, Michigan, uncovering shocking descriptions of voter fraud within the Muslim communities, which includes threats of intimidation, bribery, and secret “midnight meetings” where blank absentee ballots are auctioned to the highest bidder, who is often the elected official.

Project Veritas’ investigation began in 2023 when the newly-elected Muslim leadership banned the LGBTQ pride flag on city property. We spoke to dozens of locals, Democrat officials, and liberal activists who all described how Muslim politicians are using illegal ballot harvesting operations to secure permanent power. Under Michigan law, ballot harvesting and the handling of multiple ballots has been illegal.

Prominent media figures and government officials insist that election fraud is a myth. They actively work to use propaganda and lawfare to shut down any dissenting voices with evidence to the contrary. But after a decade of successful election fraud investigations leading to arrests and voting law changes, Project Veritas is determined to uncover the truth of these allegations in Democrat-ruled Hamtramck, and once again document systemic voter fraud.

Hamtramck’s Democrat officials admitted to Project Veritas that ethnic minorities have been using absentee ballot fraud to win city elections for over twenty years. But it was the election of Conservative Yemeni Muslims to the mayorship and council in 2021 which put an end to 100 years of continuous Polish political power. Locals expressed to our journalists that life under Muslim leadership isn’t the Democrat unity that many had hoped. The growing influx of Arab immigrants means that burqas, animal sacrifice, and the Muslim call to prayer blasting through city loudspeakers five times a day is now common.

Progressives who once eagerly welcomed Middle Eastern immigrants now express a feeling of betrayal and fear that their progressive LGBTQ sanctuary may be lost forever as Muslim politicians appear to perfect the use of voter fraud.

Hamtramck’s first woman mayor told our journalist she is “absolutely positive” she was ballot harvested out of office. Karen Majewski lost her election bid in 2021 after serving the city of Hamtramck for 18 years, first as a city council president, and then 16 years as mayor. A true Hamtramck insider, Majewski shepherded her city through major ethnic, racial, and religious shifts only to see the town’s progressive open door policy result in her ouster.

“This is another thing that you can’t say out loud. The absentee ballots are being filled out in people’s dining rooms by the candidates.” - Karen Majewski, Former Hamtramck Mayor (2006-2021)

Hamtramck Democrats apparently fear allegations of racism and discrimination if they bring attention to election fraud coordinated by Bangladeshi and Yemeni ethnic minorities.

“So, who’s going to say ‘brown-skinned people are... doing election fraud?’” - Karen Majewski, Former Hamtramck Mayor (2006-2021)

Multiple Hamtramck residents in the know say that voter fraud is primarily committed within closed ethnic communities within the city, where immigrants who are unfamiliar with the voting process are intimidated and bullied to turn over their ballots by harvesters working for the candidates.

August Gitschlag, a Michigan certified election official with nearly a decade of experience as Hamtramck’s city clerk, explained to a Project Veritas journalist how voter fraud occurs through intimidation and threats.

“They go around the neighborhood with the AB (absentee ballot) applications, and they have people sign the application. They bully them and they give them their ballots. [They] say, ‘if you don’t vote for me your cousin has nowhere to live next year when he comes in.’ It’s ethnic communities... whoever gets here can run the show.” - August Gitschlag, Michigan Elections Clerk

Despite the legacy media’s claims that widespread voter fraud doesn’t exist, Gitschlag, a Michigan Democrat has seen it up close, even confronting the corruption within his own party. “I’ve busted other Democrats... I got three people busted back in 2013,” he said.

Like the former mayor, Democrat city council hopeful Lynn Blasey, also claims to have experienced the seedy side of Hamtramck elections up close. Blasey, who identifies as asexual queer ran as the only non-Muslim candidate for Hamtramck city council in 2021 and 2023. Blasey told our Project Veritas journalist that her Muslim political opponents, current Councilmen Mohammed Hassan and Abu Musa, won because of coordinated ballot harvesting campaigns.

“They hire black people to go to black houses. They hire Bangladeshi people to go to Bangladeshi houses... they pay them for their ballots.” Lynn Blasey, Hamtramck City Council Candidate (2021, 2023)

Blasey spoke to our journalist about a secret late-night meeting where the harvested ballots are then auctioned off to the highest bidder.

“The people who have participated in that late night auction before and have been in the room when it’s happening have told me about it. They get together late at night. They jokingly call it ‘the midnight meeting.’” - Lynn Blasey, Hamtramck City Council Candidate (2021, 2023)

Project Veritas arranged a meeting with Councilman Abu Musa to play him the audio recordings detailing these allegations of voter fraud and secret ballot auctions. When confronted with the claims, Musa did not deny the existence of the “midnight meeting,” but in fact claimed fellow councilman Hassan had admitted to an illegal purchase of 300 ballots in 2023.

Journalist: “Is it true that he [Hassan] paid for 300 ballots?”

Hamtramck Councilman Abu Musa: He, [Councilman Mohammed Hassan] said so. I don’t have any proof. He [Hassan] told, ‘Yeah, I did those things.’ If somebody properly, or improperly handled the ballot, he’s the one.”

To see how these alleged ballot harvesters would react to an offer of unmarked absentee ballots, a Project Veritas journalist contacted Councilmen Hassan and Musa with an opportunity to acquire what they believed to be ballots gathered for their benefit. They accepted the fraudulent ballots and Hassan explained how they could get those fraudulent ballots counted: by dropping them into a ballot drop box.

Hamtramck Councilman Mohammed Hassan: “This is a trap. We have to see the name, is it Muslim, or not? If it is not signed... give me the address. I’ll go there. If everything’s good, we can drop [the ballots] to the City Hall. City Hall [sic] parking lot has that [ballot] box. We can drop it there.”

Hamtramck Councilman, Mayor Pro Tem Abu Musa: “You touched my heart, brother. Thank you very much. Listen, I’ll come up. I’ll meet you. How about this evening?”

Rather than rejecting the illegal offer, both councilmen agreed to meet our journalist to retrieve the imaginary illegal ballots.

August Gitschlag told our journalist that Michigan and Attorney General Dana Nessel is pursuing an investigation of voter fraud among the Muslim city council. “We know who’s doing it and the attorney general is on to them,” he said.

Nessel, a Democrat and Trump critic, became controversial in 2023 when she charged 16 Michigan GOP electors with felony fraud charges and other crimes for signing certificates based on their belief that Donald Trump won the state in 2020. A key issue in that felony case is whether there was any reasonable belief that ongoing, systemic, voter fraud is ongoing in Michigan.

Progressives face real problems as the issues of election integrity and cultural diversity appear to be colliding for Democrats in Hamtramck.

How will the city fare now that Muslims are securing power through apparent ballot harvesting?

(Editor/GG: Hmmm... Our local Dems insist there is no voter fraud at all. Anywhere. Plus, the libs have imported their own destruction into our country with this invasion of Islamic people. Of all the people in the whole world that the Muslims hate the most, are liberals. Remember the Muslims throwing homosexuals off the roofs in the Middle East a few years ago? You don’t see LGBTQ trannies marching through this Michigan Muslim neighborhood.)

Please see: <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/votes-for-sale-progressive-democrats-say-muslims-used-voter-fraud>

WALZ from page 1

His record sometimes tracked with his constituents’ more centrist views — for instance, his work on veterans affairs — although Walz’s social liberalism earned him a 0% rating from FRC Action in his next-to-last year in Congress.

As governor, he has signed abortion-expanding legislation, placed transgender ideology over parents’ rights, and limited religious liberty.

Abortion

In January 2023, Walz signed the Protection of Reproductive Options (PRO) Act, which allows unlimited abortion-on-demand until birth. He also increased the payments abortionists receive from the government when they carry out taxpayer-funded abortions, removed informed consent laws, curtailed funding for pro-life pregnancy resource centers, and removed a requirement that babies born alive during botched abortions receive life-saving emergency care.

“Kamala Harris and Tim Walz make up the most pro-abortion presidential ticket America has ever seen. There is no daylight between them on this issue,” said SBA Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser in a statement emailed to *The Washington Stand* (TWS).

Walz called his state an “island of decency” for allowing abortion in an area allegedly dominated by pro-life policies. Walz said among “the things we value most around freedom” include “reproductive freedom,” a euphemism for abortion. At times he has said the “golden rule” is: “Mind your own d--n business!” about who people “marry, their own health care

decisions, what books they read.”

“Sadly, these aggressive attacks against vulnerable women and children have earned Walz a place as Harris’s running mate on the Democratic ticket,” said Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life Action, in an email to TWS.

Transgender Policy

Walz has aggressively sided with the transgender industry and promoted extreme gender ideology in the state, including for minors against their parents’ will. Among his most controversial actions, Walz declared Minnesota a so-called sanctuary state for transgenderism. In April 2023, Walz signed a bill (House File 146) that would take minors into state emergency custody if the child has been “unable to obtain gender-affirming health care” — that is, if parents objected to transitioning their minor child. Critics like Bratrud call it “the kidnapping bill,” because it will remove children from any state in the union from their parents’ care if those parents do not enact Walz’s view of transgender ideology.

Instead, Walz has barred parents from getting any alternative, banning so-called “conversion therapy.” He signed a bill that “threatens mental health practitioners who offer voluntary, compassionate care to young people who just want to live according to their faith in the area of gender and sexuality,” explained Bratrud.

Walz’s guidelines have seen schools put feminine hygiene products in boys’ restrooms. “That’s just crazy. That makes no sense whatsoever,” Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Fla.) told Newsmax on Tuesday morning.

“When it comes to transgenderism — the anti-science movement that promotes the right of males and females (including minors)

to switch their sex — the Biden-Harris team is the most radical administration in American history,” said Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League, in an email sent to TWS.

“Freedom is on the march in Minnesota. Decency is on the march in Minnesota. Compassion is on the march in Minnesota,” said Walz after signing the “kidnapping bill,” compassionate therapy ban, and abortion expansion bills on the same day.

Walz has portrayed his socially liberal policies as a matter of personal “freedom,” the key word Kamala Harris has used to brand her presidential campaign. “Here in Minnesota, we believe in protecting personal freedoms. It’s why we established reproductive freedom and gender-affirming care as fundamental rights in Minnesota. And it’s why we banned the practice of ‘conversion therapy’ and ended book bans based on ideology,” Walz posted on X on July 26th.

Yet religious denominations say they experienced little freedom during the 2020 COVID lockdowns, when Walz’s policies kept houses of worship closed while bars and casinos opened more fully. Walz issued an executive order that allowed so-called essential businesses to expand their capacity — but in-person church services remained limited to 10 people. The Becket Fund sued, and Roman Catholic and conservative Lutheran church leaders announced they would ignore his executive order and reopen on Pentecost Sunday. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison (D), a Muslim, tenaciously defended Walz’s lockdown policies, contending that since houses of worship “are not buildings,” then “churches, synagogues, mosques and temples have never been closed because Minnesotans have been doing

the work of worship outside the buildings: serving the poor, sick, and needy, delivering meals, ministering online to the spiritual needs of their people.”

“[I]t is so disheartening that the Governor has subordinated our spiritual well-being to the economic well-being of the State,” said Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, president of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Socialism, Lawlessness, Immigration, and China

Walz has earned comparisons with Bernie Sanders for his embrace of the term socialism. “Don’t ever shy away from our progressive values. One person’s socialism is another person’s neighborliness. Just do the d--n work!” said Walz.

Walz was governor in May 2020, when George Floyd’s death in police custody touched off the Black Lives Matter (BLM) riots. Rioters burned down the Minneapolis Police Department’s 3rd precinct en route to inflicting an estimated half-a-billion dollars of damage statewide. Walz faced steep criticism for waiting three days to call in the National Guard, due to strained relations with then-President Donald Trump.

Walz has favored amnesty for illegal immigration, as well as legal immigration expansion, earning an F- from NumbersUSA. Walz once vowed that, if the U.S. built a wall to stop the flow of illegal immigrants over the southern border, he would “invest in a ... ladder factory” to help illegals climb the wall. Walz has also voiced his support for so-called “sanctuary cities,” which do not comply with federal law enforcement’s efforts to deport criminal aliens and others who entered the country unlawfully.

Walz summed up his views of the

last four years in a social media post, stating, “Joe Biden is and has always been an American hero. History will look fondly on his legacy.”

Walz was born on April 6, 1964, in West Point, Nebraska, to James F. Walz and Darlene Rose Reiman Walz. He served 24 years in the Army National Guard and worked as a teacher, including a year on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The Democratic vice presidential candidate has longstanding ties to America’s most potent foreign adversary, China. Walz spent a year teaching in the People’s Republic of China, instructing students at Guangdong province’s Foshan No. 1 High School in English and American history in 1989 — the year of the Tiananmen Square massacre. If it left unpleasant memories, they were soon forgotten, as Walz and his wife, Gwen (nee Whipple), took their honeymoon in China in 1994. They set up a company that carried out exchange visits to China, Educational Travel Adventures. Walz said he had visited China 30 times by 2016.

Walz belongs to the liberal Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which has paid for its employees’ abortions through its health care plan, ordained non-celibate homosexual clergy, and promoted transgenerism and “queerness” as “beauty.” He and his wife, Gwen, have two children, Hope and Gus, both conceived through in vitro fertilization (IVF), a fact Walz has used as a political weapon in his campaign speeches. Walz got his first political job in 2004 as an organizer for the John Kerry presidential campaign.

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/who-is-tim-walz-kamala-harriss-vp-candidate>

TINA PETERS from page 16

around Dominion Voting Systems and election results. The defense team also raised the claim, with no evidence, that Hayes was somehow a government informant, or that Peters believed he was an informant whose identity needed to be protected. In closing, Case again brushed up against those lines, drawing numerous objections from prosecutors.

He mused to jurors about why the jury was not shown the video that was leaked online and why Hayes wasn’t subpoenaed for the trial.

“Well, why didn’t they produce him? He’s the key to the whole

case, but they didn’t have the guts to call him as a witness,” Case said. “They knew what he would say.”

Throughout the trial, the defense spent considerable time trying to show that Wood was in on the plan to let Hayes use his ID badge and name. They emphasized messages the defense said came from chats on the encrypted app Signal, in which Wood communicated with Peters and a local conservative activist Sherronna Bishop, who helped organize the plan to copy the hard drives.

“He knew all along,” said Case of Wood in his closing statements. “That’s why he’s in this text chat. Now what happened when he was on the stand? I walked up, I showed and he looked like he’d

been hit with a four-by-four.”

Wood said he couldn’t recall being part of the text message chat labeled “tech team” but did concede it included his cell phone number and username.

Prosecutors urged the jury not to trust Bishop’s testimony, noting the authenticity of the text chain hadn’t been corroborated by anyone else and investigators never found it on any of the devices seized from her, Peters or Wood.

“If you believe Sherronna Bishop, then we submit that you’ll probably find Jerry Wood consented,” Shapiro acknowledged to the jury.

The trial was closely watched because of its ties to broader election conspiracies. Brad Barker

lives in Mesa County and regularly serves as a volunteer election judge. He closely followed the case and said he was surprised she wasn’t found guilty on all counts, but he was pleased nonetheless.

“The jury did a good job going through the counts and I’m satisfied with the verdict,” Barker said, adding that he’s a little more confident helping out at the polls this November.

“Hopefully both sides of this will be able to accept the verdict and not stir up too much trouble. As an election judge, that could make it difficult if it continues to be a problem here in Mesa County and I just don’t want that,” Barker said in the hallway after the verdict.

The group that represents Colorado’s clerks expressed satisfaction with the verdict.

“Clerks across the state are pleased to see justice done today. We take seriously our role as guardians of the best election process in the nation and are grateful to see the justice system hold those who would harm our elections accountable,” said the association’s executive director Matt Crane in a statement.

Sentencing in the case is set for October 3rd.

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2024/08/12/tina-peters-trial-verdict/>





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FOUR-DAY SCHOOL
from page 11

27J’s former superintendent Chris Fiedler, who retired this spring, said the impact on student achievement has been neutral.

What’s happening on that fifth day in 27J?

There are no classes on Mondays but the district offers out-of-school programming at four centers for \$35 a day. It only offers programming at four centers because of lower-than-anticipated demand from families. Across the state, the report notes that other districts report a similar phenomenon of families skipping fifth-day programs.

Brighton extended its four days of school to eight-hour days. Families and students have reported appreciating Monday as a rest and catch-up day.

“Mondays have become school- and work-related for us,” Brighton High senior Jaydn Ybarra told Keystone researchers. “If I have a job I can get regularly scheduled on Mondays, or I can use it as a designated homework day. It is a change for the better. I really like the four-day week.”

Southwest Colorado

The motivation of several rural school districts to adopt a four-day school week was to compete with wages in neighboring districts and nearby New Mexico.

In Mancos, superintendent Todd Cordrey has seen no significant difference in student achievement, but the four-day week has helped with teacher recruitment and retention. But he said the five-day week is not grounded in brain science.

“The fact that we really don’t know how learning happens in the brain is critical to this question for knowing what is the appropriate length of time,” he told Keystone researchers. “We know that the formation of the five-day week had nothing to do with student learning and had everything to do with how best to organize a society to make it efficient, and to align with parent work schedules.”

Friday programming in Mancos is popular. It isn’t as popular in the Dolores school district where families rely on extended family to cover childcare. Superintendent Reece Blincoe believes on balance the switch to four days has been beneficial

for recruitment (new teacher pay is \$37,000) but hasn’t helped recover pandemic learning loss. There is no publicly reported data on what is offered for students in Colorado on the fifth day.

Montezuma-Cortez RE-1 originally switched to four days in the early 2000s to save money, which didn’t work. It switched back to five days in 2012 and then back to four days in 2021 after major administrative turnover and teachers leaving for higher-paying districts. Jim Parr, the district’s executive director of student academic services, told researchers that ultimately having a five-day week is better for students.

The region’s largest school district Durango has stuck with a five-day school week. A higher tax base allows the district to pay teachers more than surrounding districts. Superintendent Karen Cheser has been told by colleagues in districts with four-day weeks that educators have to cut corners on activities like field trips and project-based learning.

What does the national research show?

It is difficult to draw clear conclusions about the impact of

four-day school weeks. Overall, most studies found that four-day school weeks had a negative impact on student achievement and academic growth, though the degree of impact varied based on a range of factors.

Several small studies suggest that a four-day week can have a positive impact on teacher retention, though other factors can be just as important.

Surveys show students and parents support four-day weeks, with one study showing a decrease in bullying, but another study showed negative impacts on students’ health, such as students being more likely to be food insecure and use drugs than five-day school week students.

Studies show different impacts on attendance. Some show a positive impact while another shows it could lead to an increase in chronic absenteeism.

Recommendations

Because the benefits to students aren’t clear, the Keystone Policy Center recommends that the Colorado Department of Education set up a panel to examine four-day school schedules and to make sure all students are getting the support

needed to meet state education standards.

The center argues that the decision to have a four-day school week should be driven solely by evidence that it benefits students. It would like to see CDE create a process for state approval of four-day school weeks driven by that central question. Right now, districts ask for a waiver from the state, which appears to be universally approved.

“There hasn’t been a significant public discussion about the benefits of four day versus five day. We think it’s important that policymakers and communities really understand what the tradeoffs are,” said Schoales.

In addition, the center recommends a statewide program to raise rural teacher salaries and offer more affordable housing to attract teachers to rural areas.

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2024/08/13/colorado-four-day-school-week-study/>

(Editor/GG: Our school going to four days was a huge mistake. Huge.)

“Criticism is easier to take when you realize that the only people who aren’t criticized are those who don’t take risks.” — Donald J. Trump