

Trump Sign Offerings

A pilgrim or pilgrims to our Trump Sign shrine in front of the Sentinel left a whole bunch of beautifully hand painted Trump rock offerings at the base the other night. A wonderful, heartfelt effort. Many thanks.

God Bless free Custer County and God Bless The Donald.



BOCC: From Cameras to Raw Sewage

Laser Speed Camera, R&B Costs, Building Permits Down, Raw Sewage Dumping on Private Land Proposed

by George Gramlich, News and Commentary

The August 14, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular meeting was held in their bunker across from the county courthouse. at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin “Turncoat” Day. (*“Turncoat”?* Yup. Day abandoned the Republican Party and the people who elected him this year and registered as Unaffiliated. Why? Because he wants to be Commissioner for another four years. He knew he couldn’t win the Republican primary because of his totally disastrous three-year reign where he almost singlehandedly destroyed our county government. Day wants four more years as the big important commissioner, attending all the important government meetings

around the state, but not managing the departments he is in charge of. What say you, Happy Valley tax-paying voter?)

In Commissioner Items, Canda said the crew pushing to get three fire suppression ponds certified are dropping the Christie Coleman pond. They are still pursuing the other two.

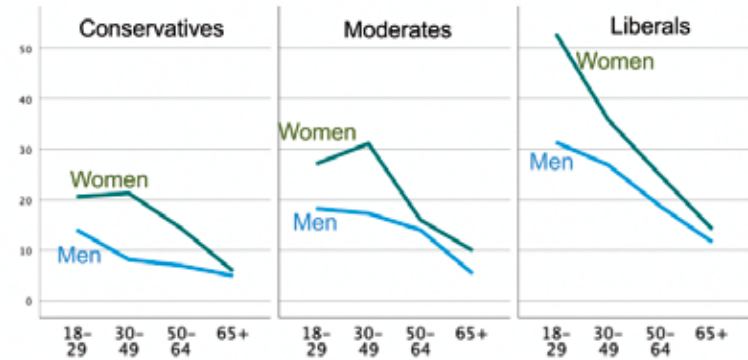
Elected Officials’ Reports were next. Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith was first up. Smith said that the Sheriff’s Office (SO) is “fully staffed”. Smith asked the Commissioners permission to lease and install two security cameras, one at the airport and one at Road & Bridge. These would be installed and maintained by the camera company. Live footage would

BOCC see page 4

Libs and Their Mental Health

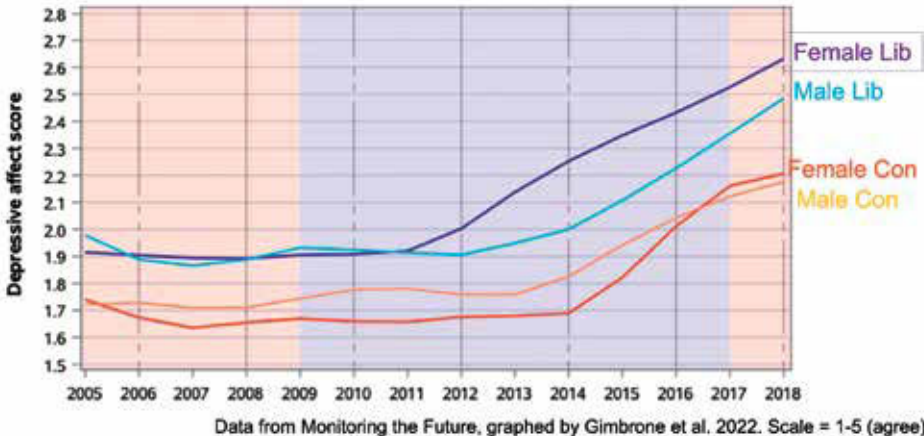
by George Gramlich, News and Commentary

Pew (2020): “Has a doctor or healthcare provider EVER told you that you have a mental health condition?” % saying yes:



A few tables from The Free Press’s 2023 article, “Why the Mental Health of Liberals Sank First and Fastest”:

Depression scores, by gender and politics



The charts speak for themselves. Lib men and women have a ton more of mental health issues than conservatives. Explains the actions of the state/national/international bolshies and our very own local loony lefties. There is no solution.

See the article for more melt down stats on the mental and emotional issues of the left.

Please see: <https://www.thefp.com/p/why-the-mental-health-of-liberal>

Memology

STATE OF THE NATION

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ALERT!

The Real Tim

Walz

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For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

“For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.”

Hebrews 10: 36-37 KJV

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of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

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

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

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

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

Subscription Rates:

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

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Our Opinion...

America's Path to Perdition

By Usurping The Authority of God

by Fred Hernandez

The evidence is piling up daily that our country is definitely on the path to ruin and tragic loss. There was a time when the country had strong pillars that supported a way of life envied by the rest of the world. The belief that God, country and family were the foundational principles that upheld the rest of the values held dear by most if not all Americans—The necessity of law and order, the paramount importance of The Constitution—the ideals of hard work and honesty, fair play, charity, privacy and basic decency—These were all pillars that are today being undermined, corrupted and systematically destroyed. In fact, we are not on a path, we are actually on a superhighway and going at full speed.

A war is in progress in these united, and disunited, states. The enemy has breached our defenses and is holding strategic positions in government, academia, business, media and our culture in general.

Positions that are key to the final results in winning the national conflict. Nothing is left but a final, and literal, "Hail Mary" effort that might miraculously turn the tide.

The main problem is totalitarianism in the costume, as it were, of democracy. "I am doing this for democracy" and "We are a democracy". We hear it all the time from the very politicians who are themselves undermining the rule of law and the sacred rights of personal sovereignty. Most of us recognize the lies but many still fall for the allure that comes with deception. Why is there such a division in the nation? How did it happen? The answer is simple: those in power want to usurp the authority of God. That's it! That's the bottom line. According to the state, they know best what is good for those over whom they govern.

Here are a few samples: The state says they can decide what marriage is when marriage was existing long before the state was even dreamed of. Marriage is the union of a man and woman to

form families from which these very states are founded. Same sex marriage is a non sequitur. What is more, to destroy the family is to eventually eliminate society. The state says they have a right to decide who is human and who is not, when, in some states, if a mother is assaulted and the baby in the womb dies the baby is treated as a person and the assailant can be tried for murder. On the other hand, if the same woman has an abortion the baby is deemed a non-person and therefore can be destroyed. The state decides who is a person and who is not. Utterly wrong. Most states are in financial distress and cannot even stay on a budget, but they can decide who is human and who is not? Downright ridiculous!

The most incredible of all usurpations is the notion that gender is a social construct. A man with XY chromosomes can be a woman if he wants to and a woman with XX chromosomes can be a male. Total insanity and total usurpation of the authority of

The Creator of the universe and everything in it.

As we approach the election in November, perdition begins to come into focus on the horizon. The radical left has managed, almost unintentionally, to put together a team to compete for the highest office in the land. A team of two of the most radical, totally unqualified to serve in any political office anywhere leave alone the United States of America. Yet, there they are one hundred percent for abortion of human babies all the way to the very last moment before birth and, who knows, maybe after birth. In favor of the entire agenda related to transgenderism all the way to the gross mutilation of the bodies of little boys and girls and all this without the knowledge of their parents. These are the pathways to perdition. These are the arrogant and demonic usurpations of the Authority of God. Still, we ask God to Bless America and guide us away from the path of perdition.

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:39 KJV

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4H Shooting Sports News

Custer County Team

via Custer County 4-H

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our shooters who competed at the Colorado State Shooting Sports Championships this past weekend!

Junior .22 Rifle Hunt Results:
London Dean: 27th, score 179.6
Christopher Tenaglia: 68th, score 100.8
Team placement: 19th

Junior Compound Limited Results:
Hesston VanDeusen: 15th, score 161
Aubrynn Cozzetto: 27th, score 151
Shelby Compton: 81st, score 110
Mitchell VanDeusen: 97th, score 90
Team placement: 13th

Complete results can be found at: <https://www.orionresults.com/costate4h>



.22 Rifle Junior Team
L to R: London, Christopher, Coach Marvin



Compound Limited Junior Team
L to R: Shelby, Aubrynn, Hesston, Mitchell. Not pictured is Coach Craig

The Valley Strong High Altitude Horsepower Car Show

Press Release

Enter your antique, vintage, classic, rat rod, or hot rod/muscle car, while you share the day with other car enthusiasts, or just come enjoy the cars on Main Street and vote for your favorites.

August 31st will be a busy day on Main Street! The day includes not only the High Altitude Horsepower Car Show beginning at 9 a.m. but also the Wet Mountain Weavers Fiber Art Show & Sale, the Olde Schoolhouse Quilters Quilt Show, Wyatt Earp at the WCPA theater, the Love of Animals Art Show at 3rd Street Gallery, and a Star Party at Smokey Jack Observatory!

To register your vehicle, or for more information, please visit valleystrong.us. You may also contact us at: info.valleystrong@gmail.com with questions.

How the Precinct Process Works

Letter to the Editor from Jean Canterbury

Getting involved in politics at the local level can be daunting, especially because different political parties do have different rules and structures, and different states can be very different in how the local political parties conduct their business.

Colorado is a Caucus state and Custer County is divided into 3 political precincts at present. They follow the same lines as the County Commissioner Districts but are for a totally different purpose. Caucus is held in the spring of every election year. This is where the candidates for county and state office get to speak directly to the registered Republican voters who attend and ask for their votes to be elected to run in the primary. Typically, in Colorado, a Precinct consists of between 400-800 registered voters (in Custer County our Precincts average over 1500 registered voters per Precinct) Registered Republicans

vote at their Precinct Caucus for 2 Precinct Committee Persons to represent them in the Republican Central Committee for the next 2 years. The Democrat party calls these people "Community Organizers" which is a more accurate description of them. According to the Bylaws of the Custer County Republican Committee, the definition of a PCP is "A Precinct Committee Person (PCP) is a duly elected office, elected by the people at the caucus meeting to be their representative in the County Central Committee. The PCP's main duty is to organize their precinct to encourage Republicans to vote on Election Day for all Republican candidates and issues supported by a majority vote of the County Central Committee."

If you would like to reach out to your PCP, they can be found on the Custer County Republican Central Committee website, custerGOP.org.

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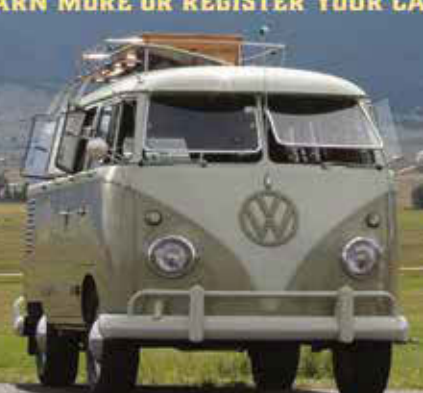
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BOCC
from page 1

be available to the SO. These cameras can also read license plates which is very handy in tracking down bad guys. The cost is \$5k per camera per year. The expense would be in next year's budget. After the usual jawing the Commissioners ok'd it.

Smith then asked for permission to purchase a handheld laser speed camera. He said it was difficult to catch speeders on Main Street in "downtown" Westcliffe due to the parking, etc. and a handheld would solve that problem. He said he also wanted to lower the ticket price for a handheld laser ticket to \$40 from about \$200 for a current ticket. Smith noted that the camera company can read the license plate and automatically send the ticket to the offender. Smith said there would be no license points for these tickets. Smith would like the money to go into a "safety fund" for Road & Bridge. A county ordinance is needed for this. The county Attorney will write up one for the Commissioners.

Custer County Coroner, Brad Baltzly, was next up before the Commissioners' mighty throne. He said the county has had four deaths since the last BOCC meeting with three being in hospice. But, there was a body discovered Saturday. Baltzly said he counts hospice deaths as regular county deaths but many counties don't. He said that this gives the complete death picture for the county and is more accurate.

Department Reports were next.

In the Road & Bridge report, some interesting cost figures were discussed. In the Rosita asphalt project, it cost \$64k a mile to blade patch the road. The oil for chip sealing costs \$16k per mile and chip rock costs \$1.2k per mile. The total cost to do four miles was \$69.5k. R&B asked the Commissioners for permission to stop county maintenance on County Road 111 (Blizzardine) as there was only one resident on it and it is 5.73 miles long. Maintenance in the winter is a nightmare. It was unclear if this was ok'd.

Dorothy Carsten gave the Planning & Zoning report. She said new building permits were down dramatically from last

year and septic permits were also down a lot. She also said gross YTD income was down \$154k from the prior year. Carsten noted she was spending a lot of her time on "compliance" issues.

She then brought up a new subject, that of allowing septic tank pumping/cleaning companies to dump the toxic human waste sludge they pump out of septic tanks on Custer County private land. She said currently the septic pumpers have to drive down the hill to dump the waste and that is costly. She also said it would be a "great way to keep water in our county". (Which is insane. The amount of septic pumped water dumped by these companies is trivial compared to our overall water resources. Using the old "save our water" argument here is pathetic. Also, the negative environmental impact of dumping thousands of gallons of RAW HUMAN WASTE AND OTHER BAD THINGS SEWAGE on our land are huge. Do you want YOUR neighbor to do this, folks? Do we occasionally have a little WIND around here, fellow land-owners? Plus, I believe Carsten's husband owns a septic pumping company here and that conflict of interest was not disclosed in her talk. That doesn't look good.) Carsten told the Commissioners that the fed EPA has regulations for doing this and somehow that makes it ok. She noted that P&Z has had two Special Use Permit (SUP's) applications to do this in Happy Valley but the applicants withdrew both due to their neighbors being "upset" about it. ("Upset" is not the correct term.) Carsten wants the Commissioners to amend the county's zoning regulation to allow this. Canda asked her, "How much water are we actually saving" and there was no real answer. (Comment: This is the LAST thing we need here in Happy Valley. Dumping contaminated raw sewage on our pristine land. It is mind boggling that she is asking for this. For what? To save a few bucks for the septic pumpers. One of which is her husband.)

The Commissioners seemed to not make any decision on this outrageous proposal.

Clyde Butler, Airport Manager, gave the SilverWest Airport report. He said the Airfest was a big success with around 750 people showing up.

The Landfill Report was brief: They took in \$141k so far and

all equipment is running good. The new compactor will be here, hopefully, in the middle of October.

Human Services reported that they will be having Goodwill Industries process LEAP applications going forward. HR will do the interviews and then send the date to Goodwill for processing.

The Finance Department report was next up. Lisa Hemann from Redlands Accounting gave the report. Redlands is the private accounting firm that the county hired to help with the innumerable accounting, processing, credit card and audit issues we have due to the prior Finance Director, Braden Wilson, disastrous two-year reign. Lisa said she and her firm have been working diligently on a variety of issues including account reconciliation and monitoring various accounting functions. She said they had been working with the Treasurer's Department on cash reconciliation and she is having some problems with our new accounting system (CIC) as it is a "little clunky". (Meaning there are "issues" with it.) Her firm is also examining the income statement and is spending a lot of time on accounting entries that are being "misclassified". She noted that due to a "clerical error" the county has been overpaying on insurance but that is fixed now.

She said the county's credit card data is still not up to speed as some departments are not entering the date or doing it wrong. The county's credit card outstanding balance at the end of July was \$53.6k with \$34.5k being overdue. Lisa said she has proposed a credit card processing policy for the county and Epp said he is working on it.

Canda asked Lisa if the credit card issues could be a "qualifying" item on our current audit and she said probably not. Epp said our auditor is looking into that. At the end of the report, Epp said that our auditor told Epp that "we will not have a qualified audit" but it will "still look bad" as we still have a lot of cleaning up work to do. (Note: A continued payback from the disastrous decision by Kevin Day to hire Braden Wilson, a person with NO accounting experience, to be our Finance Director of our NINE MILLION DOLLAR a year operation three years ago. That decision has cost the county

hundreds of thousands of dollars and we are not even close to cleaning up the mess.)

Vernon Roth, our Information & Technology Director, gave the IT report. Vernon noted that there are (of course) new state regulations "coming down" on secure communications and we need new policies for that. He also said that the Commissioners have again given IT the Public Information Officer (PIO) job as the Commissioner's Admin Assist quit. Vernon said he also bundled together all the Xerox maintenance contracts for the county to make the process simpler.

Vernon has been working on the 2025 budget and will deliver the proposed budgets to the departments that day. (Remember after Finance Director Wilson got the heave ho, and the accounting department was in total disarray, Vernon volunteered to help out and SINGLE HANDILY saved the day by putting in hundreds of hours of work in fixing things and keeping things going. At this point, Vernon knows our CIC accounting system better than anybody. Without this guy, folks, we would have crashed completely. When you see Vernon on the street, give him a hearty thanks. Vernon is the epitome of public service.) Vernon said he will be having meetings with the department heads over the next week and a half to go over the budget process. He also has nine new policies for the Commissioners to review.

Our superhero Veteran Service Officer, Dominic Edginton then gave his report. Dominic said that he had 52 scheduled appointments last month and 43 walk-ins. Plus 15 new VA claims filed. He has filed 263 new claims since he arrived last year and got \$1.55 MILLION dollars in compensation for our veterans. He noted that 12% of Custer County citizens are veterans and we are basically tied with El Paso County at having the highest rate in the state. (I can't state often enough how Dominic has completely changed the lives of our Veterans here. The guy is a human dynamo and knows the VA system as well as anybody in the whole country. We are so blessed to have him.)

Office of Emergency Management was the next reporting department. Robin Knappe, Director, gave the report. As usual it was all about trying to get grants from the feds and the state to do

"projects" here in Happy Valley. Grants, grants, grants, grants. Projects, projects, projects, projects. (For what? All these "projects" seem like make-work efforts. A little mitigation here, a little there. Trying to get some computers as back up if we get hacked.

Where is the cost/benefit analysis on these projects to see if it is worth spending our tax money on? Where is the Return on Investment analysis? The country is totally bankrupt, and we are wasting thousands of dollars here on truly totally trivial and non-essential stuff. The Commissioners should try to reign in this wasteful spending and set an example about being fiscally conservative. The only real danger we have here is fire and we have one of the best Fire Districts in the country and also an outstanding Sheriff's Office (and Road & Bridge). If a fire goes big, the feds are right here. There is no need for a full-time OEM Director. Part-time would do it, just fill out all the state and fed reports that need to be filed. Let's get real, folks. Hard times are coming, and we need to get our house in order. We can start here.)

New Business was the next Agenda item.

The first item was approving July Accounts Payable. This passed.

Chair Day then read the next Agenda Item, Hiring a Public Health Director. (Hmmm, something wrong here....) Day says we did the interviews the other day and should we hire now? County Attorney Slater then suddenly pipes up and says the obvious (to everybody but Day): Is this a Board of Health decision or a BOCC decision? (You see, the Public Health Director works in the Board of Public Health which is a COMPLETELY different legal entity than the BOCC. They have their own board meetings and hire their own people. The BOCC has NOTHING to do with their operation. Somehow the BOCC MENSA team forgot about that.) Confusion reigns. After some babbling, the Commissioners decide to have a Board of Health Board meeting the next day to handle this.

Lastly, Epp says the BOCC is having a special staff meeting, September 21st at 2 p.m. To discuss staffing for Finance, BOCC Admin Assist and the PIO slot.

And that was it. Another perfect day in Happy Valley.

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LIBERTY ROCKS WARNING

John DiGirolamo Sounds Alarm

by Fred Hernandez

One of the most important events presented by Liberty Rocks took place on August 15, 2024 at Lange Hall on 3rd Street in the town of Westcliffe. It had to do with the safety and possibly even the very life of the most vulnerable in our community: our children, your children.

Chairperson Ann Barthrop called to order the meeting at 6 p.m. and after the standard opening procedures including the Pledge of Allegiance and the group song “America The Beautiful”, the invocation was given by Dr. Ann Willson. Directly from the book “Prayers and Presidents” by W.J. Federer, she quoted from Abraham Lincoln on April 6, 1859. referring to the dark days of slavery in the country. The significant part of the quote was “Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God, cannot long retain it.” These are very fitting words for the times as we see powerful politicians attempting to move our country in that wrong direction. She followed up with a quote from Dwight Eisenhower while he was on a European trip in September 10, 1959; “We venerate more widely than any other document, except only the Bible, the American Declaration of Independence. The Declaration was more than

a call to national action. It is a voice of conscience establishing clear, enduring values applicable to the lives of all men. It stands enshrined today as a charter of human liberty and dignity.” Once again. words most appropo for these times in history.

With much ground to cover on a most important topic affecting thousands of children and families across the United States the Chair immediately introduced the guest speaker for the evening, author John DiGirolamo, who has written several books pertaining to one of the most pernicious of criminal activities potentially affecting many families everywhere. John is a member of the board of bvhope.org a non profit founded ten years ago in Buena Vista, Colorado, where he is from. This organization has been bringing awareness and education about human trafficking to the general public. They visit police departments, hospitals, schools and the communities at large. But, unfortunately, as John himself has experienced, there is scant interest and in most cases he has experienced a rate of 90% turn downs. Tragically this is the prevailing mood of society and there will be some dire consequences eventually.

This apathetic mood was on full display on the evening of August

15 at Lange Hall where most of the attendees were older residents. It was truly sad that more parents of young children were not in attendance to learn of the very real danger faced by their beloved children and the ways to protect them against all the evil that is arrayed against them by human trafficking and the destructive, potentially deadly results of encountering the demonic denizens of that evil world. Yes, apathy. The lack of feeling or emotion, the lack of concern. If it is not happening directly to me or my family it does not matter. The warnings are very clear and they are all around us everyday.

Author DiGirolamo, the harbinger of all the evil that could be heaped on an unsuspecting family, has done a great job. The work he has accomplished in his “It Is Not About...” collection of books is truly a very important contribution to the information and education of parents. A service of unparalleled value if it saves the life of one child let alone many. If only the parents would take a little more interest in the safety and well being of their children.

Once again in his talk author John reiterates the clear and present danger of the internet and the cell phone. The applications, so called APPs, for the cell phones are so many and difficult to keep

track of. The most notorious are Instagram, Tik-Tok and Snapchat to which children easily gravitate. They wrongly believe that in a group chat (sometimes as many as twenty or more) they are safe. Never. Everything they say and do says in cyberspace forever. Even worse is if they send pictures of themselves, it gets passed around multiple times. In the meantime predators are lurking in the shadows waiting for the right victim. It is on the internet that they “groom” their victims. They are friendly. They seem to be kind and loving. They are experts at manipulation. At what age should I give my kid a phone, you might ask? The answer is simple: when you want them to see porn!

Statistics show that the average age of children viewing porn is a shocking 10 years old. TEN! Author John during his presentation showed videos of actual children talking about their sordid experiences with one of them stating unequivocally “ it destroyed my brain”. BIG PORN AND BIG TECH are responsible for destroying many of the children in this country. When a child watches porn at a young age it is not unusual to do sexting. Evil is watching at all times given the fact that there are over 750,000 registered child predators in the USA.

The books of author John DiGirolamo are an important resource when it comes to bringing up ‘young children’ today. By ‘young children’ is meant between the tender ages of seven through at the very least eighteen, keeping in mind that a person’s brain is not fully developed until at least twenty five. These books are readily available and highly recommended: *It Is Not About The Sex, It Is Not About The Badge, It Is Not About The dEvil, It Is Not About The Predator.* Every story is based on personal interviews and facts. Much can be learned from them for the protection of your child. (These books are available at Amazon.)

The great and ancient battle between good and evil has intensified tremendously with the advent of the internet. While it can be used for much good, conversely it can also be used for much evil. Dabbling in the occult is one grave evil and 62% of Americans have admitted to having done. Little do they know that it opens the doorway to the netherworld. Actual, true to life stories can be found in these books by John DiGirolamo. We are all called to stand up and fight against evil in all its forms. Most especially we must stand and fight against the evil that focuses on our children.



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District 2 Kevin Day (CHAIR)
Cell 719-371-1488 Kevin@custercounty-co.gov

District 3 Lucas Epp
Cell 719-371-9267 Lucas@custercounty-co.gov

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, August 26 #82 Smothered Chicken Cornbread Stuffing Peas & Carrots Cauliflower & Broccoli Applesauce Waldorf Salad	Tuesday August 27 #97 Teriyaki Beef Brown Rice Asian Vegetables Cabbage Salad Orange, Fortune Cookie	Thursday, August 29 #112 Turkey Tetrazzini Italian Green Beans Strawberry, Applesauce Choc. Chip Cookie WW Bread w/Butter
Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level) <i>The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.</i>		
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 September 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



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.



Pain Reliever Paradox
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by Fred Hernandez

PAIN! The one condition ALL human beings have in common. Pain. A sensation triggered by the nervous system to indicate something is not right. It ranges from simply annoying to debilitating. It may be sharp, dull, throbbing, pinching, stinging, burning or just plain sore. It might be consistent or start and stop under certain conditions. It can develop suddenly and last a short time or may be chronic. It may be in a specific area or more generalized. One never knows with PAIN. Humanity has wrestled with pain and has actually made significant progress in finding relief. But the search continues unabated to find better, safer, and more effective ways to provide relief for day to day common aches and pains.

Not too long ago two men of science, here in Colorado, got together to discuss the pains of some of their regular patients. Doctor Gary Alan Mohr, who has practiced family medicine for more than four decades, and his friend Dr. William Shelver, Ph.D. Pharmacologist and owner of a compounding pharmacy



in Cañon City, Colorado, compared notes related to some of the ailments they hear about almost daily. Loyal to their sworn oath to give care and find relief for those who seek their aid, they decided to look into developing a simple, inexpensive, over the counter product that could offer relief of ordinary, day to day discomfort, spasms, miseries and myalgia, the muscle aches and pains involving ligaments, tendons and tissues that connect muscles. Their goal was an all around product that could relieve the pain of arthritis, carpal tunnel, minor burns and bruises.

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ent for their pain reliever. After it is processed for commercial purposes, it has been used as a food preservative since the middle ages. It required testing at multiple strengths until the ideal concentration was established.

With the main ingredient identified, the product was soon developed. Now friends and associates tested its efficacy on various ailments. A lady who suffered from diabetic neuropathic pain on both legs used the product on one leg and continued the use of her usual pain reliever on the other. She was pleasantly surprised to discover that the leg using the new product fared much better than the other one. Another one had such success with her arthritis that she only uses the new product. A young man sustained a significant contusion and was delighted that the pain

disappeared within just a few minutes. A writer who suffers from carpal tunnel pain on a couple of fingers of one hand marveled at the rapid recovery from the constant ache. Another woman with chronic back pain was surprised at the relief she experienced. One man with rheumatoid arthritis calls it “gold”.

So what to call this product before taking it to market for more people to benefit? Since it was conceived and produced by a pair of doctors the mind might go to a “pair of docs” which quickly morphed into PARADOX. And so, now available over the counter at Palace Drugs in Cañon City and Palace Drugs in Silver Cliff, Colorado, the new TEMPORARY TOPICAL PAIN RELIEF product with no cocaine, no marijuana, no CBD or THC and a main ingredient from nature. Experience the full benefits of PARADOX, a true and tested pain reliever. It is greaseless and odorless, and it does not cause numbness like lidocaine products. Free samples are available at both Palace Drug locations, Cañon City and Silver Cliff. A 100 ml tube is available for sale for \$20.

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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 Pastor Steve Holcomb@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. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 5:30 p.m. Thursday 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 sangredecrislocowboychurch.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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Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10: 23-25 NKJV



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Events

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Saturday, August 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lighthouse Pregnancy & Family Resources Community Appreciation and BBQ
412 Cliff St., Silver Cliff

Saturday, August 24 @ 11- 12 p.m.
SJO Sun Observing Hou @Smokey Jack Observatory 100 S. Adams Blvd

Saturday, August 24 @ 3 - 6 p.m.
Inaugural Mountain Valley Veterans Tribute
All Aboard Westcliffe Heritage Campus,
110 Rosita Avenue, Westcliffe

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

Sunday, August 25 @ 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.

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 *See ad on page 3*

Classifieds

Announcements

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



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Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS Friday, August 23, 2024

80 Years of Smokey Bear

Smokey Bear’s 80th Birthday was officially August 9, 2024, but the U.S. Forest Service is celebrating all year long. We all have seen the posters of Smokey so let’s take a look at how he got started.

It was 1944 when the ad campaign began featuring Smokey and the slogan “Smokey Says – Care Will Prevent 9 out of 10 Forest Fires”. In 1947 his slogan was changed to “Remember... Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires” and this has stuck with Smokey for decades. In April 2001, the message was officially updated to “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires”. He has had many slogans throughout the years but these have remained his central ones.



The U. S. Forest Service had been fighting wildfires long before WWII. However, the war brought on a new urgency to their efforts. Many able-bodied men and experienced fire fighters were in the armed services fighting the war, leaving fewer fire fighters left to fight fires. The Forest Service began using colorful posters to educate Americans about the dangers of wildfires. They did this hoping to prevent fires from starting in the first place. Careless citizens were not the only threats at the time. In the spring of 1942, Japanese submarines surfaced near the coast of Santa Barbara, CA, and fired shells that exploded on an oil field very close to Los Padres National Forest.

In the spring of 1950, there was a wildfire in the Capitan mountains of New Mexico. After the fire they found a five pound, three-month-old black bear who climbed a tree to escape the blaze but sustained burns to his paws and hind legs. After the fire the cub was flown to Santa Fe, NM, where his injuries were treated and bandaged.

News spread quickly about the cub who survived the fire. The cub was soon on his way to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., becoming the living symbol of Smokey Bear.

In 1952, Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins wrote a song about Smokey. To maintain the rhythm of the song, they added “the” between “Smokey” and “Bear.” And now you know why we today call him Smokey the Bear. You can see him this year in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/features/coming-2024-smokey-bear-turns-80>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smokey_Bear,
Photo: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e7/Uncle_Sam_style_Smokey_Bear_Only_You.jpg.

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Custer County School District C-1 Weekly Menu

MENU for the week Aug.26 thru Aug. 29 2024

	Breakfast	Lunch
 Monday	Cereal yogurt Oatmeal Fruit, Milk	Mac n Cheese GreenBeans Fruit, Milk
Tuesday	Cheesy Omelet Oatmeal Toast Fruit , Milk	Tostadoes Rice Squash Fruit, Milk
Wednesday	Sausage Egg Cheese Muffin Fruit Cottage cheese, Milk	Pizza Salad Fruit, Milk
Thursday	Biscuit and Gravy Applesauce Milk	Chicken Patty Sandwich Oven fries Broccoli and Cauliflower Fruit, Milk

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

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Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your
Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

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 24:

HS Volleyball Tournament @ HOME vs Cripple Creek-Victor,
Sierra Grande, Nucla - Times TBD
First Home Games!!

Thursday, August 29:

4:30 pm MS Volleyball @ Gardner Valley (away)

Friday, August 30:

11 am HS Volleyball @ HOME vs Cripple Creek-Victor

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 (away)

Thursday, Sept 5:

4:30 pm MS Volleyball @ Pikes Peak Christian (away)

Friday, Sept. 6:

7 pm HS Football @ HOME vs Plateau Valley
First Home Game!!

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Judgement without mercy is cruelty.
Mercy without judgment is lawlessness.

Obituary

Gregory Lee Shattuck

Gregory Lee Shattuck passed away August 10, 2024, at the age of 72, while watching a final sunrise overlooking the Sangre de Cristo mountains from his cabin outside Westcliffe, CO.

He was born to Olive Uhl and Richard Shattuck on November 4, 1951, in Mapleton, IA, and grew up in Smithland, IA. Greg graduated from West Wood High School in Sloan, IA, where he was the drum major for the marching band and taught himself the guitar in order to be in the choir. Rumor had it, he never learned to read music, but had a couple of very willing tutors.

Greg married his high school sweetheart, Cinda Longval in 1974, and moved to Arizona where they had their daughter Lindsey Lee in 1979. Shortly thereafter, Greg moved to Durango, CO, and fell in love with the mountains and Karen Lynn Dages, who he married in 1988. Karen and Greg spent the next 42 years between Colorado, Texas, and Florida where he found a new passion for the sea and sailing. He was content but the mountains were calling.

Retiring in 2015, they moved to their mountain cabin outside of Westcliffe, where he enjoyed the wildlife, majestic mountains and photography which he shared with family and friends through social media.

Greg is survived by his wife, Karen Dages Shattuck of Westcliffe, CO; daughter,



Lindsey Lee Trumbull of San Tan Valley, AZ; grandson, Chase Anthony Trumbull of San Tan Valley, AZ; sister, Kay (Johnny) Hollowell of Montrose, CO; brother, Wayne (Carol Bailey) of Clearwater, FL; nieces, Roxanne Woodward of Lake Havasu City, AZ , Danielle Woodward of Lake Havasu City, AZ, Debbie Woodward, of Lake Havasu City, AZ, Kathy Woodward of Grand Junction, CO, and Jill Hollowell, of Portland, OR; nephews, Bruce Hollowell (Chris) of Durango, CO, and Barry Hollowell of Hugo, CO; special friends, Jim and Cinda Kelafas and Karen Droessler; as well as many great-nieces and nephews and many great-great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Olive and Richard Shattuck; brother, Lloyd; sister, Patricia Woodward; brother-in-law, Rex Woodward; and nephew, Robert Woodward.

Tech Café Pilot Program

The Library staff is excited to announce the launch of a Tech Café Pilot Program on Thursday, September 12th from 10 a.m. till 11 a.m. in the Community Room at the West Custer County Library. The Tech Café is a free drop-in lab for folks to get expert, one-on-one help with their devices, from phones to tablets, laptops, and more. Veteran and IT

consultant Geoff Schram will be on hand to answer your tech questions and help with devices. Members of the community are encouraged to come hangout, enjoy free coffee and Wi-Fi. The café will be held once a month on the second Thursday of the month. No appointment is needed. For more information, please visit www.westcusterlibrary.org.

Suicide Awareness Month “Art Walk”

September is Suicide Awareness Month and the West Custer County Library staff is asking the community and Veterans to help shine a light on suicide with a Library “Art Walk” from September 3rd through September 28th. Custer County residents of any age can drop off artwork at the Library beginning Thursday, August 29th through Friday, September 13th. Art should be no larger than 8” by 11”, and can be any medium, such as: photos, drawings,

paintings, pottery, collages, poems, etc. The art will be displayed anonymously throughout the month of September and will be returned in early October. Suicide is one of the top ten leading causes of death in Colorado. Let’s show our support for Suicide Awareness; residents and visitors can view the “Art Walk” throughout September at the West Custer County Library. For more information, visit www.westcusterlibrary.org.

Library to Host a Workshop Series on Grief

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.

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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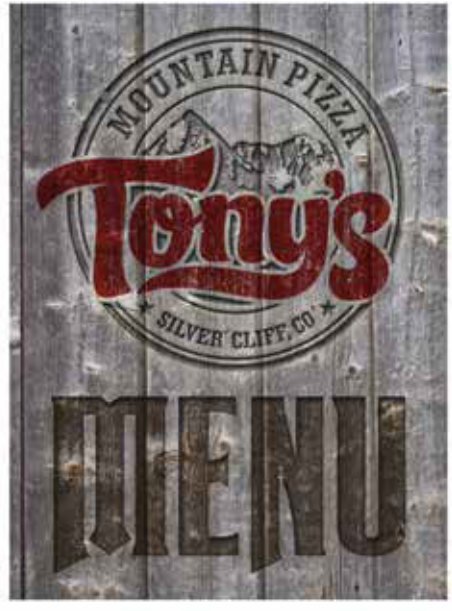
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Me: Sitting quietly, watching another episode of "Diversity is our Strength"



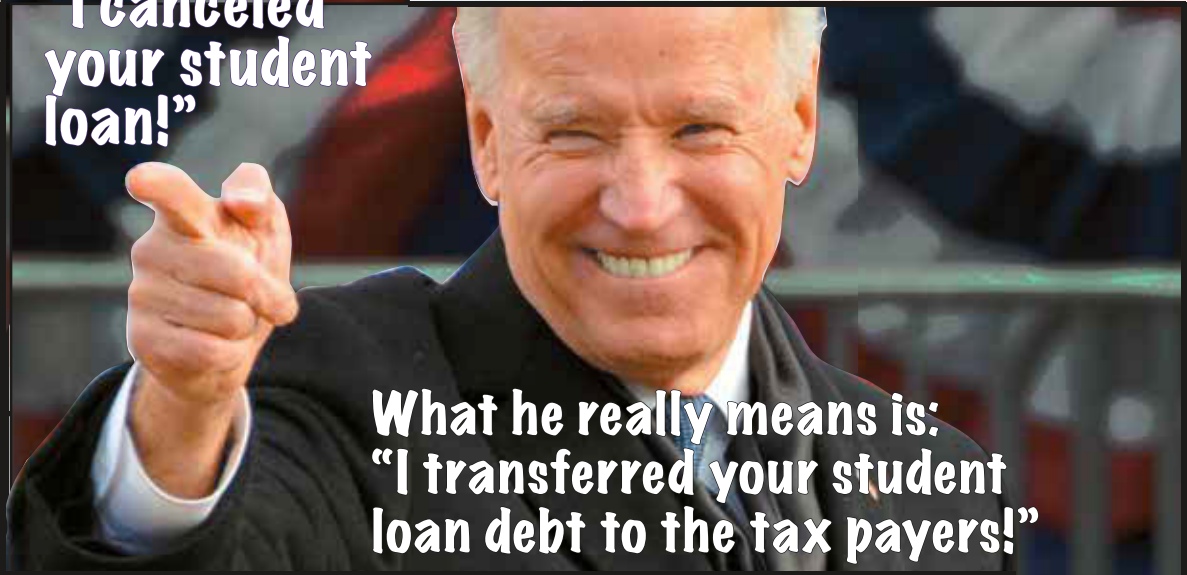
FAST IS FINE BUT ACCURACY IS FINAL

A friend who has worked in Chicago his entire life tells me it's not that violent. He's a tail gunner on a school bus.



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Can I have a beer? No, you're 5
Can I drive the car? No, you're 5
Can I take hormones and change my sex? Sure! You know best!

When he says: "I canceled your student loan!"



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Report: Colorado Must Review Academic, Overall Performance of 4-Day School Week

by Joe Mueller,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – A nonprofit policy organization is recommending the Colorado Department of Education immediately examine the effectiveness of four-day school weeks in the state.

The Keystone Policy Center published a 21-page report with both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the outcomes of the four-day school week. It found academic performance of districts with five-day weeks exceeded those with a four-day schedule. The report found four-day schedules have no significant impact on budgets or teacher recruitment and retention.

“Given these facts – that four-day weeks are not better for students and don’t demonstrably meet the goals of districts making the change – the Keystone Policy Center recommends that the Colorado Department of Education take a long, hard look at the practice as soon as possible,” according to the report, “Doing Less With Less: How a four-day school week affects student learning and the teacher workforce.”

After the state legislature passed a law providing public school districts with more scheduling flexibility in the 1980s, the concept gradually spread from rural areas to metropolitan districts.

“One of Colorado’s overarching policy goals in public education is to prepare students for life after high school, be that higher education, vocational training, or employment,” according to the report. “But, as the data and perspectives presented in this report show, the trend toward four-day school weeks in Colorado does not provide a net benefit to the state’s public school students. In fact, student achievement is not even the top consideration when districts make the switch.”

Many districts implemented four-day weeks to improve teacher recruitment and retention. The report cited several small studies showing the concept can positively impact teacher retention, although other factors were just as significant.

“And even that top consideration – teacher recruitment and retention – seems little affected by the altered calendar,” according to the report. “Budget savings are also negligible to nonexistent.”

The report cited several national studies showing four-day weeks had a negative impact on student achievement and academic growth. Other studies show the concept can positively impact attendance, lead to a decrease in bullying, improve student mental health but negatively impact physical health.

The report stated overall school district performance, measured by state standards, is significantly higher in five-day districts. Math and English language arts scores were seven percentage points higher in five-day districts compared to four-day districts.

“The Colorado Dept. of Education should create a panel composed of experts and stakeholders to investigate and provide recommendations... around the four-day school week,” the report recommended. “The panel’s work would be to ensure that all students whether in four-day or five-day school districts are receiving the support necessary to enable them to meet the state’s education standards.”

The report recommends the state adopt a rigorous approval process for districts when seeking to change to four-day weeks and the primary focus must be on whether the change will improve student outcomes.

(Editor/GG: This is the 2nd article on this report. Going to a 4-day school week here was a big mistake. Our academic scores are way below where they should be. The easiest, and smartest fix is to go back to a 5-day school week. Do you have what it takes school board members?)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_73b206da-5a71-11ef-9a24-f7d1de1079b8.html

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Colorado State News

Colorado's Crime Crisis

Keeping Violent Criminals Behind Bars and Off Our Streets

by Michael Tsogt,
Advance Colorado

House Bill 19-1263, a disastrous bill signed into law by Governor Polis in 2019, lowered the charge for schedule II drugs, including fentanyl, from a level four drug felony to a level one drug misdemeanor. In 2020 and 2021, over 1,440 people died from a fentanyl over-dose in Colorado. A documentary on the fentanyl crisis in Colorado, "Devastated," was released just this past May. House Bill 22-1326, also known as the "Fentanyl Accountability and Prevention" law, increased penalties for possessing or distributing fentanyl – a common sense idea – but was one of the most hotly debated bills heard in the 2022 legislative session.

The law passed but has since been found effectively obsolete. Due to the weak details in the bill, District Attorneys across the state were unable to convict any fentanyl dealers. Because coroners kept finding other substances along with fentanyl in the victims'

bodies, no increased convictions were allowed. The fentanyl law did not apply if other substances were found in the victims' bodies in addition to fentanyl.

Once again, Colorado's political leadership proved itself weak and irresponsible, even when passing laws that seem designed to solve problems. Messaging bills do not fix crime.

The Problematic Parole Board

One of the most significant problems facing Colorado's crime crisis is the State Parole Board, which dictates how early violent criminals will be released on parole.

The board is made up of nine members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The board members serve three-year terms and may be reappointed once. The board has a long list of assessment criteria they use to determine whether a convicted criminal should be released early, but it has proven

ineffective, based on Colorado's high recidivism rate.

A job posting for the parole board states: "Attention to the need to reduce recidivism is an important goal for the Colorado Board of Parole," but the goal is not being accomplished, "with more than 50% of people released from prison ending up back behind bars within three years."

Most offenders convicted of violent crimes are subject to an FBR – a "Full Board Review." However, an FBR requires only four board members to evaluate the offender – rather than the "full board" – and four votes are required to release early.

Despite a statutory requirement that they serve 75 percent of their sentence, the parole board has released violent offenders in Colorado after they have served on average, only 43 percent of their sentence.

In 2019, Westword reported that District Attorney Pete Weir "admits that instances

of individuals who committed crimes that were either violent or non-violent in nature being released after serving well under half their initial jolt are far from uncommon as a result of overcrowding and limited resources for detention facilities operated by the Colorado Department of Corrections."

In the 2024 session, a party-line vote of 8-3 in the House Judiciary killed the Truth In Sentencing bill HB24-1127 that would have fixed the problem with the parole board and required that violent offenders serve 85 percent of their sentences, without exception, and that three-time offenders serve 100 percent of their sentence.

When political leaders fail to prioritize justice and public safety, citizens can use the initiative process to enact responsible laws.

The Consequences of Our Failed Justice System

Current Colorado statute pre-scribes that offenders of violent

crime must serve at least 75 percent of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole. But this statute has too many exceptions and work-arounds to be effective. According to George Brauchler, former district attorney for the 18th Judicial District, this is "100% fake."

"In reality, Colorado has so watered down its sentencing structure with good time, earned time, finally-got-an-education time, didn't-stab- your-inmate-this-week-time, getting-ready-to-transition-into-a-halfway-house time, coloring-book time and many other sentence reductions for who-knows-what — nobody knows the minimum sentence a violent felon will spend in prison before joining us back on our streets. Not the judge, prosecutor, defendant, victims — not even the executive director of the Department of Corrections can

CO CRIME - Truth In Sentencing see page 17

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Deal to Get Property Tax Items Off Ballot Is Focus of Colorado Special Session

by Joe Mueller,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – In an attempt to remove two property tax initiatives from the November ballot, Democratic Gov. Jared Polis called the Colorado General Assembly into a special session next week to retool a tax bill passed earlier this year.

“We are focused on saving Coloradans money on property taxes, and in doing so, protecting school funding and higher education, preserving our economic competitiveness, and avoiding risky ballot measures,” Polis said in a statement. “The cost of inaction is too high. We refuse to gamble with our schools, our economy, our future. Proposed ballot measures threaten to gut funding for K-12 and higher education, and Coloradans are counting on us to find a path forward that saves people money on property taxes while preserving these critical institutions.”

Polis signed into law **Senate Bill 24-233** earlier this year to reduce property taxes by \$1.3 billion for 2024 and 2025, providing an average of \$500 in relief for Colorado families. It also protected revenue for schools.

The ballot initiatives, called a “cut and a cap,” were led by Advance Colorado, a conservative organization. It agreed to withdraw its initiatives if “agreed-upon bill” is signed into law, according to a media release from the organization, and not bring similar ballot initiatives in the future, unless the state reverses the agreement in the future.

The agreement would cut residential property tax rates to 6.3% or 6.4%, depending on assessment growth, and commercial rates to 25%. It includes a property tax cap of 5.25% for local governments and 6% or the rate of inflation, whichever is greater, for school districts.

“This property tax cut and cap agreement provides the permanent tax relief that Coloradans have been demanding and will prevent future spikes in property tax bills going forward,” Michael Fields, president of Advance Colorado, said in a statement. “This is the result of two years of consistent pro-taxpayer advocacy to ensure that we can solve the current property tax crisis for the benefit of Colorado families and businesses.”

Initiative 50 would conditionally decrease property tax revenue in years when statewide property taxes are projected to increase more than 4% compared to the prior year.

The measure would allow voters to approve a measure allowing the additional revenue to be retained.

Initiative 108 would reduce property tax revenue by an estimated \$3 billion in tax year 2025 and in larger amounts in the following years.

Senate President Steve Fenberg, D-Boulder, harshly criticized the ballot initiatives.

“The reckless and irresponsible ballot measures we are contending with pose an existential threat to critical state and local services, and it is incumbent on us to act in Colorado’s best interests,” Fenberg said in a statement.

Republicans said the continuing property tax dilemma can be traced to the state’s Democrats.

“The blame for our property tax crisis lies squarely with Colorado Democrats and the governor,” Rep. Ryan Armagost, R-Berthoud, posted on X. “I genuinely hope both sides can come to the table and provide a real fix... The working people of Colorado cannot afford another half-baked solution to a complex issue.”

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_eb-3c084a-5bfc-11ef-8e7b-3bb717cb8057.html

Westcliffe Farmers Market Vender of the Week

Levadura: Spanish for yeast or leaven. I’m Justin S. Raymos, Chef/owner of **Levadura Artisal Breads**, a chef by trade with a culinary degree from the “American Culinary Federation”. I make breads with fresh all natural ingredients and no preservatives or additives.

WC Farmers Market, Fri. 9-1, 3rd & Main Patio, Sat. 9-1, & Back-to-Basics/Wild Flour Donuts & Co. year round.





Colorado State News



CO CRIME - Truth In Sentencing from page 15

tell us that minimum number. That is a dysfunctional system disconnected from justice and transparency. It is broken.”

In 2014, Kenneth Dean Lee was sentenced to serve 23 years to life for sexually assaulting vulnerable children by posing as an immigration official. In 2021, after serving only six years of his sentence, Lee was out on parole and sexually assaulted a 7-year-old girl by again posing as an immigration official.

Lee was sentenced to four decades behind bars for his latest assault in 2021. (42) Because of progressive sentencing policies, Lee will likely be out on parole before serving even half of his sentence.

In September 2023, Goitom Hagos was murdered in a random shooting as he was driving for Uber in Denver’s historic City Park West area. Hagos, an immigrant who fled from war-torn Ethiopia and a member of a tight-knit Orthodox church community in Aurora, was “remembered as a fun-loving, bright and charismatic person whose life was cut all too short.”

Michael G. Jackson, in an alleged kidnapping and assault, was charged with four counts of domestic violence and subsequently released on a personal recognizance bond. This means that Jackson did not have to post bail to be released from jail while waiting for his court date. In less than one month, Jackson would go on to randomly murder Goitom Hagos.

Before committing this crime, Jackson was already waiting to be sentenced for assaulting two Denver police officers earlier in the year on February 25th. Even then, in February, law enforcement found out he already had three extraditable warrants. Common sense suggests Jackson

should have been behind bars a long time ago for a long time.

With alarming stories like this constantly in the news, Coloradans are waking up to the crime crisis and want leaders in the state to do something about it. Surveys and polling consistently show that crime is one of the top concerns of Colorado voters.

The Solution Colorado Needs Truth In Sentencing

As the past few legislative sessions show, the majority of legislators are not interested in lowering Colorado’s crime rate through effective victim-centered policies. Bill after bill that would crack down on crime and deter criminals fails to pass. Colorado needs significant change in its criminal justice system, but one of the priorities must be a Truth In Sentencing law to reduce the rates of violent crime and recidivism. The citizens’ initiative process can get this law on the books and hold criminals accountable.

Currently, convicted felons serve only 43 percent of their sentence on average.

In 2015, Eric Garcia was sentenced to 47 years in prison “after being convicted of possession of meth, robbery, car theft, escape and burglary.” He was released on parole after serving only eight years in prison.

Garcia, while out on parole, committed five different armed robberies in Colorado Springs gas stations, earning five additional felony charges, which added 36 years in prison.

Without Truth In Sentencing, it is unclear how many years Garcia will serve in prison and when he will be released to reoffend again.

Truth In Sentencing would dictate that any person convicted for violent crimes such as second-degree murder, first-degree assault, class 2 felony kidnapping, sexual assault, first-degree arson, first-

degree burglary, and aggravated battery, must serve at least 85 percent before being eligible for parole. Repeat violent criminals would be required to serve 100 percent of their sentence.

According to the Legislative Council Staff’s fiscal summary for Initiative #112, this measure would affect about 449 offenders per year on average.

Ensuring Colorado’s worst criminals serve at least 85 percent of their sentence and that repeat offenders serve 100 percent creates a safer Colorado for everyone.

Abolish No-Cost, Personal Recognizance Bonds

Colorado also needs to ban no-cost, personal recognizance bonds for repeat violent offenders, as we have one of the highest rates of recidivism in the country.

Alex Cabriaes, a supporter of House Bill 24-1282, which would have limited PR bonds, testified that “his sister’s killer had been released on a PR bond for six gun-related crimes before he killed her over a fender bender in Denver.”

Marius Suffian testified that he continues to live in fear of a career criminal who brutally beat him and is now out on bond. (22) Yet, despite personal and specific testimony from victims, this bill still failed in the 2024 legislative session, falling one vote short in committee.

Colorado needs to remove no-cost, PR bonds for repeat violent offenders and lower the state’s recidivism rates. Too many of our most violent criminals are being let out on the streets while awaiting their court dates and reoffending – often

with even more violent crimes – in the meantime. Years of failure illustrate that the current policy is harming our communities and creating more victims. Legislators should listen to victims and their families rather than special interest, criminals’ rights groups.

Summary

Colorado ranks as the third most dangerous state in the country due to its high rates of property crime and violent crime. Our recidivism rates are the fourth highest in the country. The crime wave in our beautiful state is not only costing taxpayers billions of dollars, but it is also costing the lives and safety of our fellow Coloradans.

Soft-on-crime ideologies and state-level policies and laws

have created this mess. The Governor’s parole board releases violent criminals after serving, on average, only 43 percent of their sentence. Colorado must return to responsible leadership and real penalties for violent crime.

Voters will have the opportunity to pass Truth In Sentencing this November, and legislators will likely have another chance next session to abandon their commitment to violent criminals and begin protecting the innocent by banning zero-cost, personal recognizance bonds.

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

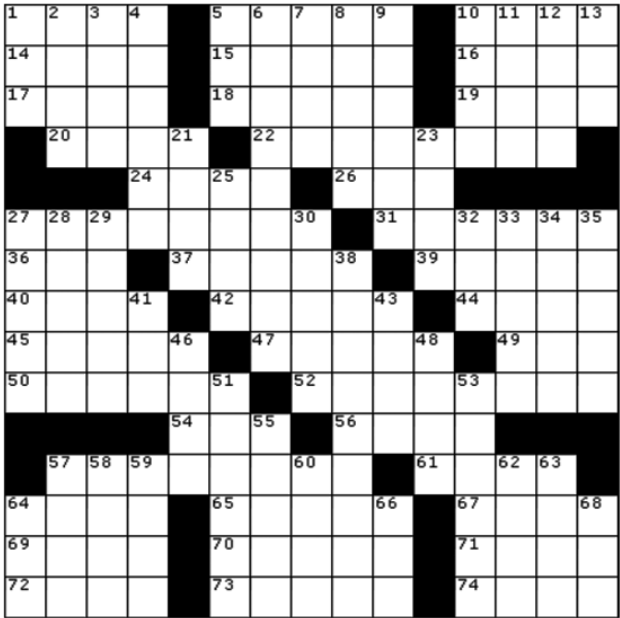
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Dash
- 5 Urchin
- 10 Last word of a prayer
- 14 Magma
- 15 Music used as practice
- 16 You must be ___ again
- 17 Capital of the Ukraine
- 18 He received Ten Commandments
- 19 Traditional knowledge
- 20 Lure
- 22 Tidiness
- 24 Faith, ___ and charity
- 26 Visit
- 27 Vista
- 31 Plays
- 36 Time period
- 37 Laundry detergent brand
- 39 Bore
- 40 Opera solo
- 42 Schnozzle

- 44 Triad
 - 45 Carp
 - 47 ___ of Babel
 - 49 Trinitrotoluene
 - 50 Blinker
 - 52 Flails
 - 54 Moray
 - 56 Give off
 - 57 Eye disease
 - 61 He survived the Great Flood
 - 64 Idol
 - 65 Remain
 - 67 Peachy
 - 69 Writer Bombeck
 - 70 Horses’ neck hair
 - 71 Canal
 - 72 Sports channel
 - 73 ___ goes before destruction
 - 74 Achy
- DOWN**
- 1 Antlered animal
 - 2 Put down

- 3 Declare
- 4 Southwestern Indian tribe
- 5 Precious stone
- 6 Reconciliation
- 7 Think
- 8 Thoughts
- 9 Got comfy, like a bird
- 10 Qualified
- 11 Cow comments
- 12 Goofs
- 13 Compass point
- 21 Part of a sentence
- 23 Techie
- 25 Standard golf scores
- 27 On earth ___, good will toward men
- 28 Orderly arrangement
- 29 Innocent
- 30 Walking (KJV)
- 32 Creative work
- 33 Joy (KJV)
- 34 Tight at the top, flaring at

- the bottom (2 wds.)
 - 35 Narrow openings
 - 38 Blonde
 - 41 Be sick
 - 43 Time in office
 - 46 In ___ of
 - 48 Shower
 - 51 Leave camp
 - 53 Large pebbles
 - 55 Rounded part
 - 57 Long fish
 - 58 Thy word is a ___ unto my feet
 - 59 Actor Alda
 - 60 Short
 - 62 Air (prefix)
 - 63 Secret of Samson’s strength
 - 64 Hive dweller
 - 66 Compass point
 - 68 Ball holder
- Puzzle Key on page 22**

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

Daily reporting and analysis
of current events

from a biblical and prophetic perspective.

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

The Farse of Election Integrity

Americans should be concerned about election integrity. If a citizen’s vote is frustrated by a rigged system, then “democracy” is no less a tyranny. There are three areas that will control whether your vote counts in the upcoming presidential election: Whether a state requires voter identification to vote; if voter rolls are up to date; and if ballots can be authenticated. In this constitutional republic only qualified voters are allowed to vote in a presidential election. Those requirements are one must be 18 years of age, an American citizen, meet their state’s residency requirements, and be registered to vote. Some states, as you will see in this analysis, game the system toward democrats.

Currently, there are 15 states that do not require voter identification to cast a vote for president. They are: ME, VT, MA, NY, PA, MD, NJ, IL, MN, NM, NV, CA, OR, WA, HA. These states comprise 207 of the 270 electoral votes needed to secure the presidency. Interesting that all these states are traditional Democratic Party strongholds and have voted for Democratic Party presidential candidates in the past. In addition, states won by Democrats in the last three of four presidential elections or all four of the last four elections are MI, WS, CO, VA, NH. They represent another 51 electoral votes. Before any presidential election even begins, the Democratic Party candidate has an advantage of 258 electoral votes.

“Mail-in ballots without excuse” allowed for massive mail-in votes that were virtually impossible to authenticate. In addition, there are 27 states and the District of Columbia that allow ballot drop boxes. Most of those states vote or lean Democratic. Twelve states specifically prohibit ballot drop boxes. Interesting, those states vote or lean Republican. In both non-voter ID states and those allowing ballot drop boxes, the prohibition on voter roll purging comes into play. Unqualified voters—such as illegal aliens and dead people—can pose as someone and cast their votes without authentication. It is no coincidence that states leaning or voting for Democratic Party presidential candidates have these methods written into law.

Considering the mail-in and voter roll issues in Georgia, Arizona and Washington, DC during the last election, Democrats were able to gain another 30 electoral votes, bringing the built-in electoral vote advantage to 288 of the 270 needed to elect a president. Republicans have to be extremely effective to win a presidency under these conditions. This is why ballots need to be secure and the best way to secure a ballot is by paper ballot, that way ballots match the number of voters in each precinct—no over-voting. Voter ID, up to date voter rolls, and ballot security are paramount. They are all compromised in Democratic Party-controlled states, making it nearly impossible for a Republican to win the presidency. Christ said in Matthew 24:4, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Allowing this to continue and expecting different results is, say it with me... Stupidocrisy.

Sources:

https://ballotpedia.org/Voter_identification_laws_by_state

<https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/table-9-ballot-drop-box-laws>

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

God the Hen, God the Baker...

Tim Walz’s “Church” Is About

What You’d Expect

by Robert Spencer,
FrontPageMag.com

Hey, Tim Walz isn’t so bad. In an age when leftists compete with one another in how much they can repudiate and mock traditional values, it is surprising and refreshing to discover that the Democrats’ shiny new vice-presidential candidate, America’s dad, is a regular church-goer. Walz’s Christian piety, however, is not exactly the sort of thing that would put you in mind of Augustine, Aquinas, Martin Luther, Mother Theresa, or any other prominent Christian you’d care to name. In fact, it’s just the sort of thing you’d expect: the far left at prayer.

The Daily Caller reported recently that Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz attends a church, all right, but you will not be surprised to learn that it’s not exactly a bastion of Christianity as it has been known up until these enlightened days. Walz attends Pilgrim Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN, where the worship is as woke as it can be. If it weren’t for the folks walking around in robes and the occasional prayers, Walz might sometimes get confused and think that he is at a Democrat party meeting, for Pilgrim Lutheran is little more than the Democrat platform in ecclesiastical trappings.

Pilgrim Lutheran’s stances on everything are tediously predictable, and 100% in line with the latest far-left wisdom. The Caller notes that “materials published by Pilgrim Lutheran Church instruct parishioners not to refer to God using male pronouns, push congregants to support reparation funds, encourage them to celebrate Ramadan and include a modified gender-neutral version of the Lord’s Prayer, among other liberal practices.” Of course. Anything else would be racist, bigoted, sexist, and “Islamophobic.” Pilgrim Lutheran’s leadership would no doubt rather be burned at the stake rather than be accused of any of those beyond-mortal sins.

Walz’s church is, of course, not singular to his corner of the Minnesota Soviet Socialist Republic. Woke churches have spread all over our fair land, and are full of the blue-haired, gender-confused, and heavily tattooed whenever they feel the need to give the appearance that God or

Gaia or Almighty Whoever heartily approves of their activities.

Pilgrim Lutheran itself is an outpost of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which ditched traditional Protestant Christianity quite some time ago in order to chase after the left’s latest cultural fads and imbue them with a patina of sanctity. And so it is no surprise once again that the ELCA not only has female bishops but lesbian bishops, as well as female bishops who are really men but have demanded that everyone around them pretend that they’re women.

Unchanging dogma? Inspired scripture? Come on, man! Pilgrim Lutheran Church is far too up-to-date for that. In 2015, it adopted “Commitments and Guidelines for Language in Worship” that call for “recognition that a patriarchal culture gave birth to the writing of scripture and the selection of the canon. Unless the language is adjusted as we use scripture in the more inclusive culture of the 21st century, the worship service can be an alienating rather than a welcoming and evangelizing experience.”

All right. It’s reasonable in principle to try to communicate with the people you’re trying to reach in their own language, but when Pilgrim Lutheran speaks of “evangelizing,” it’s not at all clear which gospel it is exactly that they’re trying to spread. The guidelines direct people at Pilgrim Lutheran to “choose non-anthropomorphic language for God (examples: Eagle, baker, hen, bread), being careful not to limit these by following them with male or female pronouns.”

Okay, so God is an eagle, God is a baker, God is a hen, but never fear, God is still also Father, sort of. The guidelines say that people at Pilgrim Lutheran should “choose titles that suggest the activity of God but do not imply gender. (Examples: Advocate, Healer, Refuge, Sustainer, Creator).” However, they also use an ersatz Lord’s Prayer that ditches “Our Father who art in heaven” for the trendier “Our Guardian, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven.” At least they got “Father” in there, but the way things are going, He may soon lose his place to Our Trans God.

No aspect of traditional Christianity is spared. The Incarnate God of tra-

ditional Christianity became a male, but the guidelines try to help church-goers gloss over that embarrassing detail: “Keep in mind that although Jesus was male, his humanity is more significant to our faith than his gender. Consider using terms like Christ, Teacher, Emmanuel, Savior, Redeemer, Word in addition to or as substitute for Lord or other exclusively male descriptors.”

Despite all this, Walz’s church calls itself Lutheran, which implies that it’s still Christian in some way, but if old Martin Luther himself were to walk into it, he would scarcely recognize it as having anything to do with what he preached. And of course, most of the focus is not on anything religious at all, but on aspects of the far-left’s agenda.

The church issued a statement recently that read: “We white citizens and congregants have been complicit in the systematic exclusion of Black, Indigenous, Immigrant and other People of Color from full participation in and benefit from the common good. We lament the suffering caused by our racism. We endeavor to live more fully a Gospel commitment to love our neighbors as ourselves by listening well, changing our hearts, and partnering with our neighbors in building an antiracist community of justice where all may thrive.” In other words, press that blue lever in November.

Pilgrim Lutheran is hardly Christian, and as Chesterton said, when men discard Christianity, they don’t believe in nothing — they believe in anything. At Walz’s church, that includes Islam: Pilgrim Lutheran encouraged its people to “attend meals celebrating the Muslim holy day of Ramadan and by providing them signs to paste in their windows wishing those around them a ‘Blessed Ramadan.’” Got to be inclusive, doncha know. Never mind that one can become so very inclusive as to have no principles of one’s own, and that’s where Pilgrim Lutheran and Tim Walz are. If the Democrats ever change their stance on an issue, so will Pilgrim Lutheran Church. It’s a leftist mouthpiece posing as a church, just as Walz himself is a leftist mouthpiece posing as a patriot.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/god-the-hen-god-the-baker/>

Who Is Kamala Harris?

A Disturbing and Haunting Record

Who Is Kamala Harris? Part 4

by Discover the Networks
via FrontPageMag.com

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

Harris Launches Presidential Campaign With a Speech Depicting America As a Nation Replete with “Racism, Sexism, Anti-Semitism, Homophobia, Transphobia”

On January 21, 2019, Harris announced that she was launching a campaign for the presidential election of 2020. Six days later, she kicked off her campaign with a speech before thousands of supporters in Oakland, CA. Early in her talk, Harris asserted that: (a) “our criminal justice system [is] deeply flawed” and needs to become “more fair”; (b) “middle class families” had been “defrauded” by “wealthy bankers” whose “arrogance of power” enabled them to “accus[e] innocent homeowners of fault, as if Wall Street’s mess was of the people’s making”; (c) President Trump’s proposed border wall was nothing more than a “medieval vanity project” that would do nothing to protect Americans; and (d) “our Dreamers [illegal aliens who first arrived in the U.S. as minors] ... came by the thousands ... because they believe in our democracy and the only country they’ve ever known as home.”

As she continued her speech, Harris recited a series of declarations purporting to describe how the policies of the Trump administration were ruining the United States. Some excerpts:

- “When we have leaders who lie and bully and attack a free press and undermine our democratic institutions, that’s not our America.”
- “When white supremacists

march and murder in Charlottesville or massacre innocent worshipers at a Pittsburgh synagogue, that’s not our America.”

- “When we have children in cages crying for their mothers and fathers, don’t you dare call it border security, that’s a human rights abuse and that’s not our America.”
- “When we have leaders who attack public schools and vilify public school teachers, that’s not our America.”
- “When bankers who crashed our economy get bonuses but workers who brought our country back can’t even get a raise, that’s not our America.”
- “And when American families are barely living paycheck to paycheck, what is this administration’s response? Their response is to try to take away health care from millions of families. Their response is to give away a trillion dollars to the biggest corporations in this country. And their response is to blame immigrants as the source of all our problems.”

Harris subsequently enumerated a series of unflattering “truths” about American life. Among them were the following:

- “Women are paid on average 80 cents on the dollar. Black women, 63 cents. Latinas, 53 cents.”
- “Big pharmaceutical companies have unleashed an opioid crisis from the California coast to the mountains of West Virginia.”
- “Climate change is real and it is happening now. From wildfires in the west to hurricanes in the east, to floods and droughts in the heartland, we’re not gonna buy the lie. We’re gonna act, based on science fact, not science fiction.”

- “Racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia are real in this country. They are age-old forms of hate with new fuel. And we need to speak that truth so we can deal with it.”
- “[T]oo many unarmed black men and women are killed in America. Too many black and brown Americans are locked up. From mass incarceration to cash bail to policing, our criminal justice system needs drastic repair.”

After laying out her description of a nation where racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and all manner of hatred and intolerance were ubiquitous, Harris proceeded to condemn the “powerful forces trying to sow hate and division among us.” After that, she laid out the top agenda items of her campaign. Among the most noteworthy:

- “I am running to declare, once and for all, that health care is a fundamental right, and we will deliver that right with Medicare for All!”
- “I am running to declare education is a fundamental right, and we will guarantee that right with universal pre-k and debt free college!”
- “I’m running to fight for an America where no mother or father has to teach their young son that people may stop him, arrest him, chase him, or kill him, because of his race.”
- “An America where we welcome refugees and bring people out of the shadows, and provide a pathway to citizenship.”
- “An America where ... reproductive rights are not just protected by the Constitution of the United States but guaranteed in every state.”

Harris’ 2020 Presidential Campaign Platform

Immigration

Harris’ campaign website said:

“As president, Kamala will fight to pass immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million people living in our communities and contributing to our economy. While she wages that fight, she will immediately reinstate DACA and implement DAPA to protect DREAMers and their parents from deportation. She will also restore and expand Temporary Protected Status for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who would face war or catastrophe if forced to return home.”

“Kamala also believes we must fundamentally overhaul our immigration enforcement policies and practices—they are cruel and out of control. As president, she’ll close private immigrant detention centers, increase oversight of agencies like Customs and Border Protection, and focus enforcement on increasing public safety, not on tearing apart immigrant families.... It’s why she’ll reverse President Trump’s Muslim Ban on Day One and fix the family visa backlog.... She understands that for many immigrant families, leaving home and arriving at our Southern border is not a choice. That’s why she will ensure those fleeing persecution have a full and fair opportunity to make their claim, aggressively pursue a foreign policy focused on stabilizing Central America where conditions have forced families to flee, and increase funding for processing centers and child welfare workers.”

Vowing to expand the number of people covered by DACA from about 700,000 to approximately 6 million, Harris said: “These young people are just as American as I am, and they deserve a president who will fight for them from day one.”

a wall along the southern U.S. border, Harris said: “Let’s get this straight: Billions of dollars for a border wall is a waste of money. American taxpayers shouldn’t foot the bill for the President’s vanity project. We simply don’t need it.”

Harris opposed the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, which called for the withholding of federal grants to sanctuary cities.

Healthcare & Abortion

In every year which she served as a senator, Harris had a 100% voting record with NARAL Pro-Choice America’s Congressional Record on Choice.

During her campaign, Harris announced a Medicare for All plan that promised to cover comprehensive abortion services for all women, and to establish a list of politically conservative states that would be required to get approval from the Department of Justice before they would be permitted to pass any pro-life legislation into law. As Vox.com explains: “Under Harris’s proposal, states whose abortion-related laws have recently been struck down by courts for violating *Roe v. Wade* would have to obtain federal approval from the Justice Department before they’re able to implement any new abortion laws. It’s similar to a key provision of the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act, which required states that had implemented discriminatory voting practices in the past to get Justice Department clearance to enforce additional laws.... Harris’s plan ... would establish a list of states that aren’t able to impose abortion-related laws without Justice Department approval. Any state that’s demonstrated a pattern of violating *Roe* in the past 25 years would be on this list.... In states like South

KAMALA Pt 4
see page 22

Regarding the construction of

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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2024



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

Second Circuit Rules Legal Gun Ownership Is Not Probable Cause for Warrantless Search

by Cam Edwards,
BearingArms.com

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals hasn't traditionally been a welcoming place for gun owners. This is the same appellate court that originally upheld New York's "may issue" carry regime before the Supreme Court overturned their decision in *Bruen*, and since then the court has upheld many of New York's post-*Bruen* restrictions on lawful gun owners.

Today, however, a three-judge panel on the court got it absolutely right when it ruled that a Connecticut police officer isn't entitled to qualified immunity after handcuffing, detaining, and conducting a warrantless search on a resident after he produced a valid handgun permit.

Defendant-Appellant Nicholas Andrzejewski, an officer of the Waterbury, Connecticut police department, appeals from the judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut (Arterton, J.) denying in part his motion for summary judgment on the grounds that his

purported conduct was not shielded by qualified immunity. That conduct, as alleged by Plaintiff-Appellee Basel Soukaneh, is that in the course of a routine traffic stop, Andrzejewski unlawfully and violently handcuffed and detained Soukaneh in the back of a police vehicle for over half an hour and conducted a warrantless search of Soukaneh's vehicle after Soukaneh presented a facially valid firearms permit and disclosed that he possessed a firearm pursuant to the permit. On appeal, Andrzejewski argues we should reverse the district court's denial of qualified immunity because the presence of the lawfully owned firearm in the vehicle gave him the requisite probable cause to detain Soukaneh, search the interior of his car, and search his trunk.

Andrzejewski's argument is essentially that, by exercising our Second Amendment rights, we give up our Fourth Amendment right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures. In fact, he basically maintained that possessing a valid pistol permit gave him reasonable suspicion to search Soukaneh's vehicle for some evidence of wrongdoing.

After the district court ruled that the officer wasn't entitled to qualified immunity for his actions, Andrzejewski introduced a new argument in his appeal to the Second Circuit; it wasn't solely Soukaneh's gun permit that led him to handcuff the gun owner and search his car, it was the fact that Soukaneh had stopped his vehicle in a "high crime area known for drug transactions". As the panel noted, however, "a location's reputation as a high crime area alone is typically not enough to suggest reasonable suspicion [of a crime], let alone probable cause." And the court found that Andrzejewski offered no evidence whatsoever that Soukaneh was illegally possessing a gun when he was confronted by the officer. To the contrary, as a matter of fact, Andrzejewski was able to conclusively determine that Soukaneh had a valid pistol permit and lawfully possessed the firearm that he informed the officer he was carrying.

The desire to confirm the legitimacy of the facially valid firearms permit that Soukaneh presented did not—with nothing more—provide Andrzejewski with prob-

able cause for the half-hour or longer handcuffed detention that occurred. It is uncontested that Soukaneh presented Andrzejewski with a gun license, the legitimacy of which Andrzejewski himself admits he had no reason to question. Moreover, Andrzejewski concedes that he was informed of the facially valid license before Soukaneh told him that he had a gun and specified its location. Andrzejewski does not allege that the permit appeared abnormal in any fashion or that Soukaneh engaged in any suspicious or threatening behavior. On the facts before us, Andrzejewski does not provide an articulable reason why he, or any other reasonable officer, could conclude that there was probable cause to believe that Soukaneh possessed his firearm unlawfully in violation of Section 29-38(a). To find otherwise would consign those validly carrying firearms pursuant to a license to automatic detention because it would effectively presume that gun permits are invalid until proven valid, or that lawfully owned guns are per se contraband until proven otherwise. Such a finding would effectively ren-

der armed individuals' Fourth Amendment rights meaningless when they are lawfully carrying firearms.

As common sense as that position is, it's still somewhat surprising to see the Second Circuit panel unanimously reach that conclusion especially since the panel was comprised of two Biden appointees and one judge appointed by Barack Obama.

Andrzejewski could still appeal to an en banc panel of the Second Circuit or take his case directly to the Supreme Court, but I doubt he's going to find a more receptive audience for his arguments at SCOTUS. The Supreme Court has already declared that the Second Amendment isn't a second-class right, so I doubt a majority would go along with the officer's contention that exercising your right to keep and bear arms negates your Fourth Amendment rights altogether.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2024/08/12/second-circuit-rules-legal-gun-ownership-not-probable-cause-for-warrantless-search-n1225903>

CZ P-10S: A More Compact Version of the P-10

By Tim Potter, ammoland.com

I've said it before, and I'm going to say it again: CZ firearms can be addictive; getting one will more than likely lead to getting more, which can be detrimental to the health of your bank account. You should probably just stay away. It'll start off with something small like a P10; next thing you know you're getting SP01, then that escalates to a Scorpion, then a Bren. Next thing you know, you're looking at a Shadow, then a Tactical Sport Orange, and at that point, there's no going back. You're beyond help, there really should be a surgeon general's warning on the side of the box.

If you're still reading this, let's talk about the CZ P10 S. Where the masterminds at CZ took everything that was phenomenal about the P10 C (in my opinion, one of the best service pistols currently available), and made it a little smaller than the mid-size P10 C.

There are so many great aspects to the CZ P10 S, but it's hard to figure out where to start, so let's

start with an exceptional trigger. I like everything about this trigger, I like the shape, it's kind of a happy medium between a flat and traditional trigger; and feels very good. It's also nice and smooth, much like the early 90's rap group. The little bit of take-up is very smooth, and a clean, crisp break at just over 4 pounds. Then, the reset is short, tactile, and audible. It's pretty much everything you could ever ask for in a trigger. Triggers that are this good aren't usually seen in service pistols. I think this is probably the best factory trigger available. If it's not the absolute best, it's right at the top of the pack.

The grip is nothing short of amazing; it is instantly nice and slim, and it has a more vertical grip angle closer to that of a 1911 than the extreme angle of a Glock.

I personally find this angle more pleasing and comfortable for my shooting. The trigger guard has a really nice deep undercut, and that coupled with the really high beavertail lets you grip the gun up nice and high. This minimizes muzzle flip and helps control



Size comparison between the CZ P-10 S Subcompact Pistol (left) and the P10 C

recoil. The trigger guard is also nice and large; you could easily use it with gloves on. The grip is also reminiscent of the great grips on other CZ pistols like the CZ 75 lineup.

The grip is the one area where I could see some people having an issue with the P10; as the texture is on the rough side. I personally love this and Glock guys spend a lot of money trying to make their grips have this much texture. But

I can see people with really soft hands having issues with the P10 texture. There's a nice little spot for your finger when it's not on the trigger. It has slight little indentions around the magazine well should you ever need to rip out the magazine, and interchangeable palm swells to let you dial in your grip, just for you.

Now, one of the bigger changes from the P10 C to the P10 S model is that the grip got about

half an inch shorter, making it a little easier to conceal.

I would say that my hands are about average size, and I can still get a full grip on the S model without any issues. One of the guys we shoot with has larger hands, and his pinky couldn't quite get on the bottom of the grip, just to give you an idea about how it might fit a larger hand and grip. I think most people will be able to get a solid grip on the P10S, but if you do have really large hands, finding room for your pinky on the grip may be an issue. The smaller grip also brings the capacity down a bit to 12 plus one from the 15 plus one of the C models.

Magazines are another change for the CZ P10 S.

Some of the original CZ P10 C had really stiff magazine release buttons. To remedy this, CZ has changed the design from an ambidextrous out-of-the-box design to a release that is reversible for

CZ P-10 S
see page 21

PSA Dagger

Micro 9mm Pistol Review

Y Travis Pike, ammoland.com

Palmetto State Armory’s entrance into the world of the micro compact wasn’t a surprise. SIG started the trend in 2018, and everyone has been playing catch-up since then. The PSA Dagger Micro is an evolution of the Dagger series into a more compact, easier-to-carry, but still loaded-for-bear option.

The PSA Dagger Micro 9mm pistol features a full-length grip with a compact optics-ready slide. Externally and internally, the guns are very similar, but the Dagger Micro adds a few different twists.

The Dagger Micro – What’s On The Inside

The PSA Dagger Micro isn’t stuck with a 10-round single-stack magazine. PSA developed its own Dagger Micro magazine that holds 15 rounds instead of the typical 10. The Dagger Micro magazines are an interesting polymer-metal hybrid design that outclasses the competition.

These magazines work in the G43X, by the way. They aren’t the first 15-round G43X/G48 magazine. Shield Arms creates all metal mags



PSA Dagger Micro 9mm Pistol

that offer the same capacity. The difference is the need for a metal magazine release. Due to their hybrid design, the Dagger Micro mags don’t require a different magazine release.

I got a handful of the mags to test various of them to ensure they remain reliable. It’s a radical departure from the other manufacturer’s magazines and deserves to be a major part of the Dagger Micro’s evaluation.

More Than the Magazine

The Dagger Micro comes ready with a Picatinny rail and an optics cut for Shield RMSc optics. PSA makes various Dagger models, so I wouldn’t be surprised to see alternative options in the near future. The RMSc is the

PSA DAGGER MICRO
see page 24

CZ P-10 S from page 20

lefties. This new magazine release works extremely well, and I would say I like it a little better than my older models. However, sadly, the magazine had to change. You’ll notice two notches on the newer CZ P10 S mag and only one on the older P10 C mag. Apparently, going forward, all new mags will be backward compatible with the older models, but unfortunately, the older mags won’t work in the newer models.

Another change worth noting is internally, on the S, they’ve gone to a dual recoil spring versus the single recoil spring in the C model. All of the internals are very robust, just like the original. The S also has a shorter slide than the C, again about half an inch shorter. It still retains the great front and rear slide serrations and can even accept a flashlight or other accessory, which some compacts cannot.

One thing I found very interesting is because of some importation laws and the size of the CZ P10 S. This gun is now being made right here in Kansas City.

I think that’s cool for a number of reasons. it’s awesome to have more super high-quality offerings like this pistol being made in the States. Not having to import these pistols should make them more readily available and allow CZ to import more of their harder-to-get offerings from the Czech Republic. At least, as I understand it.

This is an optics-ready pistol, and it will be cool to have a gun this compact with an RMR on it. The manual states that plates will be available for the Trijicon RMR and Leupold Delta Point. I know some people are going



CZ P-10 S Subcompact Pistol

to complain that none come in the box; I actually like that, and here’s why. When you get a gun that comes with like four plates, that adds a huge cost to the pistol, and in all reality, most people will only ever use one. Purchasing the plate afterward keeps the cost of the pistol down, and you only spend money on the plate you need. You won’t have a bunch of plates you’re not using lying around.

Shooting the CZ P10 S is great. Much like its bigger brother the P10 C, the P10 S is extremely accurate, soft recoiling, and just a general pleasure to shoot.

The sights on this model have a serrated rear blade with a fiber optic and tritium front. This makes target acquisition quick and easy in any lighting condition. We ran 1,000 rounds through this CZ P10 S without a single malfunction, and the reliability is exceptional, as I have come to expect from all my P10s. CZ went with the mindset of let’s make the gun a little smaller but still very comfortable to shoot. I really like this because I’m personally not a fan of making a gun so small that its hard to shoot well.

While there are smaller offerings, I think you’d be hard-pressed to find a smaller, better shooting offering.

The P10 is my service pistol of choice. I know that people always ask do you like it better than this gun or that gun, and my answer is the P10 is always my first choice.

Now, if you want to start adding some \$1,000+ guns to the comparison, I can find some that I like better. However, I wouldn’t consider guns in that price range a service pistol or a carry gun. I always tell people you can buy something else, put a lot of extra money in it, and try to get something close to the P10, or you can save yourself a lot of cash and time. Just buy a P10; they’re ready to go right out of the box, and now they’re available in mini and massive sizes.

(Editor/GG: These P-10’s are great guns and a very good price. Super good triggers.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/08/cz-p-10s-a-more-compact-version-of-the-p-10-video-review/#axzz8iF3rK84Z>



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KAMALA Pt 4 from page 19

Carolina, Iowa, Georgia, and Mississippi, federal judges have already ruled that laws approved by state legislatures contradict *Roe*. Such decisions would land these states on a ‘preclearance’ list.”

Advocating the repeal of the Hyde Amendment, which since 1976 had barred the use of public money to fund abortions, Harris said that “no woman’s access to reproductive health care should be based on how much money she has.”

When CNN’s Jake Tapper asked Harris whether she supported granting taxpayer-funded benefits “to people who are in this country illegally,” she responded: “Let me just be very clear about this. I am opposed to any policy that would deny in our country any human being from access to public safety, public education or public health, period.”

In a June 2019 Democratic presidential primary debate, co-moderator Savannah Guthrie asked the candidates to raise their hand if their healthcare plan would cover “undocumented immigrants.” Kamala Harris, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Andrew Yang, Pete Buttigieg, Kirsten Gillibrand, Michael Bennet, Marianne Williamson, John Hickenlooper, and Eric Swalwell all raised their hands.

Energy and Environmental Issues

Harris’ campaign website said:

“My plan sets out a bold target to exceed the Paris Agreement climate goals and achieve a clean economy by 2045, investing \$10 trillion in public and private funding to meet the initial 10-year mobilization necessary to stave off the worst climate impacts. It modernizes our transportation, energy, and water infrastructure. It accelerates the spread of electric vehicles, solar panels, and wind turbines. And it makes big investments in battery storage, climate-smart agriculture, advanced manufacturing,

and the innovative technologies that will build our carbon-free future. By 2030, we will run on 100 percent carbon-neutral electricity, all new buses, heavy-duty vehicles, and vehicle fleets will be zero-emission. All new buildings will be carbon-neutral.... We will transition our public lands from producing the fossil fuels that represent 24 percent of national emissions to carbon sinks.”

In September 2019, Harris stated that she would absolutely commit to a federal ban on hydraulic fracturing — i.e., fracking. Said Harris: “There’s no question I’m in favor of banning fracking.”

Green New Deal

In an October 2018 campaign appearance, Democrat congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez made reference to a “Green New Deal” that would aim to make the U.S. 100 percent reliant on renewable energy sources (wind, water, solar) by the year 2035. Joe Biden appointed Ocasio-Cortez to co-chair his presidential campaign task force on climate change along with John Kerry.

The Green New Deal would strive to eliminate all fossil fuels from the U.S. electric grid by 2030, thereby forcing Americans to use much more expensive and much less reliable energy sources such as wind and solar, neither of which is capable of fulfilling more than a tiny fraction of America’s energy needs. The plan would also mandate trillions of dollars in public expenditures on government-approved “upgrades” and “retrofits” to make existing homes and businesses more “energy efficient” — and would impose zero-carbon standards for all new building construction.

In addition to environmental and energy matters, the Green New Deal would “build on FDR’s second bill of rights by guaranteeing” a number of major benefits:

- “economic security for all who are unable or unwilling to work”
- “a [federal] job with a family-sustaining wage” for those who are in fact able and willing to work

- “family and medical leave, vacations, and retirement security” for all workers
- “high-quality education, including higher education and trade schools,” with all tuition costs covered by the government
- “high-quality health care” administered by the federal government
- “safe, affordable, adequate housing”

Noting that “none of these proposals has anything at all to do with climate change,” Heartland Institute president Tim Huelskamp describes the Green New Deal as “the most radical socialist proposal in modern congressional history.” In a *Washington Post* interview in July 2019, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s chief-of-staff, Saikat Chakrabarti, candidly acknowledged that the Green New Deal had not been devised to protect the environment, but rather to implement socialism. “The interesting thing about the Green New Deal,” he said, “is it wasn’t originally a climate thing at all. Do you guys [reporters] think of it as a climate thing? Because we really think of it as a how-do-you-change-the-entire-economy thing.”

While Ocasio-Cortez introduced the Green New Deal in the U.S. House, Democrat Senator Ed Markey introduced a Senate version of the bill. By March 14, 2019, eleven U.S. Senators and ninety U.S. House Members — all Democrats (except “Independent” Bernie Sanders) — had officially signed on as co-sponsors of the Green New Deal. Among those 101 individuals were 2020 presidential candidates Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand, Amy Klobuchar, and Bernie Sanders. In March 2019, Harris said: “I’m a proud co-sponsor of Senator Markey’s Green New Deal resolution.”

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

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



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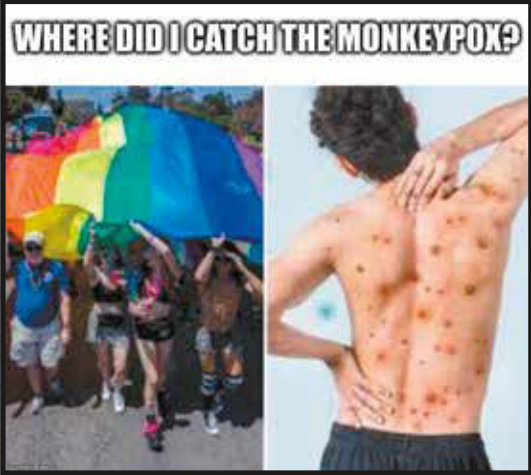
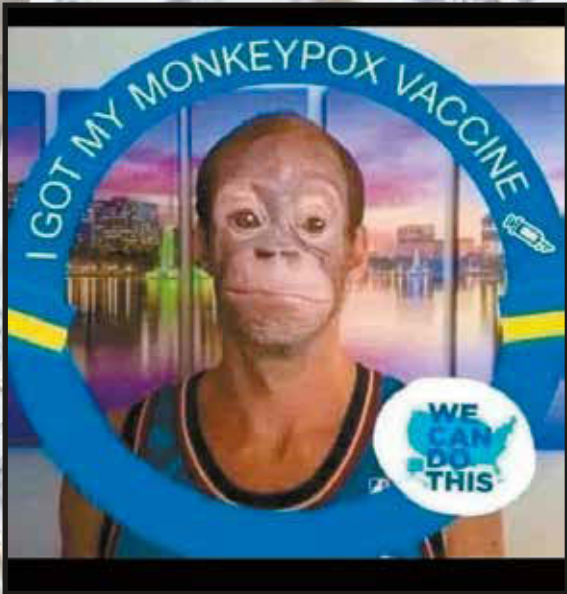
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PSA DAGGER MICRO
from page 22

most popular for small guns, and tons of optics exist for this footprint. A big bonus of the Dagger Micro comes from the sight height. Most RMs-cut optics seem to co-witness without the need for taller sights.

PSA went for a unique frame for the Dagger Micro. The rear of the gun features a more aggressive, hand-protecting overhang. The trigger guard also has a higher undercut to provide the most comfortable high grip possible. At the bottom of the grip, we have relief cuts to grip and rip should a complicated malfunction get the magazine stuck in the gun.

The trigger on the PSA Dagger Micro is also a departure from similar pistols. The trigger shoe is split in two, and the bottom portion of the trigger must be pressed so that the weapon can fire. PSA also went the extra mile and included metal sights with the Dagger Micro.

You get all this, plus a soft carry case for \$339.99.

The Dagger Micro At the Range

The Dagger Micro features an excellent and svelte grip that fits my hands quite well. I'm not a huge nerd for grip angle and all the somewhat useless drama people who can't shoot opine about. Still, I do enjoy it when a gun feels nice in my hand. You can hold the gun quite high without any discomfort.

A high grip translates into a comfy recoil experience. There is no rubbing on the middle finger or slide bite present. We get a bit of snap with every shot. A short barrel and lightweight gun aren't going to handle like a Shadow 2. It's snappy but controllable and isn't painful.

With standard 115-grain plinker's grade ammo, you'll have no problems and won't develop a flinch. Some hotter 124-grain +P loads will ensure you feel that snap and acknowledge that muzzle rise.

I fired a Bill Drill with 115-grain FMJs and landed my six shots in 2.7 to 3 seconds on average. It's not my fastest, but it's not bad for a brand-new gun and holster combo. I use the Bill Drill to illustrate the gun's recoil and ease of control.

The Bill Drill consists of firing six rounds into a rectangular target as fast as possible from the draw. Firing six rounds as fast as possible into a small target is a great way to test recoil and recoil control. Even when going fast, I always felt like I controlled the gun. I was never lucky and passed the drill because I yanked the trigger fast enough and didn't walk off target.

If I add a red dot, I can also imagine that time shrinking because dots are faster.

Shooting Straight

A dot would improve speed and likely accuracy. For a micro-compact handgun, the Dagger Micro doesn't disappoint in the accuracy department. The sights are plain but functional. It's likely the most common sight arrangement we see on modern handguns.

The big three-dot iron sights aren't bad. They are standard and better than you deserve from a sub-350-dollar gun. Align the three dots and start shooting. They aren't high visibility and aren't the fastest option, but we are splitting hairs. Where they tend to suffer is at increased

distances.

Their size starts to obscure targets at 25 yards quite a bit. When most of the target is covered by the sight and the target is small, it's tough to hit. At 25 yards, you can still put them into the chest of an FBI Q Target at 25 yards. That's acceptable for most use cases of this gun.

Run and Gun

The full-length grip of the Dagger Micro makes reloading much easier than your average-sized Micro Compact. Most micro-compact handguns have a fairly short grip, and my palm and pinky will often pin the magazine into the grip and prevent it from dropping free.

That's not a problem here. I can reload the Dagger Micro quite quickly. The mags drop without a problem, and I can slam one home, hit the slide release, and get back on target in what seems like a heartbeat.

In going to one-handed manipulation, the snappiness of the pistol rears its head. Dear lord, [am I bad] with my non-dominant hand. Luckily, I'm good with my dominant hand and could

shoot a 3.7-second Bill Drill with no misses. I had to slow down with one hand, but it's given me something to work on.

To The Mattresses

The Dagger Micro works well as a gun and is accurate, controllable and reliable. Outside of the range and on the waist, it carries nicely. The longer grip makes drawing easier for me, and the short barrel makes it comfy to carry IWB or well-hidden when carried in a high OWB position. It's lightweight and thin enough to disappear and not to poke and prod.

PSA's goal was to produce a competent carry pistol, and they've done just that. My highest praise goes to the magazine design. I had no noticeable problems with the six magazines I had on hand. As a gun, it's a functional micro compact option in that X configuration that people seem to like. Plus, it's less than 350 dollars. That makes the Micro Dagger a certified banger in my eyes.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/07/psa-dagger-micro-9mm-pistol-review/#axzz8hTpDCy6v>

“Remember the first rule of gunfighting ... have a gun.”

– Jeff Cooper