

Huge Data Breach on County Computers Allegedly Including the Sheriff's Office!

Data Theft Involved Multiple Departments/Offices Our Dominion Voting Machine Compromised?

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

In an unbelievable turn of events. It has been alleged by multiple sources, that a county employee, allegedly repeatedly hacked into a multitude of county computers, installed sophisticated “mirroring” software on them, and accessed via the spyware and possibly other methods (including flash drives) unknown amounts of confidential and extremely sensitive Custer County data (including emails). It is alleged that this has been going on for years! It is also reported that this employee allegedly accessed our supposedly protected Dominion voting machine!

The employee has been reported to have been put on paid administrative leave and perhaps fired.

This report is based on multiple, reliable sources.

In an email letter to Custer County elected officials sent by Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith on August 30th, he reviewed the situation is some depth. Here are some notable quotes from the email:

“Last week, a county employee reported an apparent violation of a Colorado law on cyber security by a different employee to a department director and a deputy. We gathered information and con-

sulted with the DA, CBI, and the FBI about the next course of action over the next two days.”

“We determined that the information technology infrastructure at the county was not secure. Vernon Roth worked all weekend to determine what network components from inside the county connected to the outside world. These components are things like modems, routers, hubs and even software packages. We wanted to keep these activities secret to prevent the suspect from being able to log in remotely and cause further damage until the security plan could be implemented.”

“On Monday morning at the beginning of the day we executed search warrants and seized privately owned computers and phones that we learned had the ability to interact and/or control the county government IT infrastructure.”

“While we have a suspect identified, we have not filed charges or made an arrest. This person has had access to every computer in Custer County Government. Going through this electronic media is time consuming and will be on the timetable of the CBI.” (Editor/GG: “CBI” is the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.)

HUGE see page 5

BOCC: Channel 13 on Air!

UAACOG Grant Madness, New Assessor Software, Executive Session on the Hacking Scandal

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The August 29, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting was held at their royal digs across from the county courthouse. It started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were in attendance: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin “Turncoat” Day.

In Commissioner Items, Epp noted that our auditor, Sam DiNardo, has draft copies of the 2023 audit and will be at the Commissioner’s throne room that afternoon. Epp also said he had talked to the engineering firm (that is paving over what is left of the Town of Westcliffe’s natural grass and dirt) and asked them to do an “assessment” on the courthouse roof which needs repair. (I am sure they will recommend a two-foot layer of concrete as a roof. It’s the “Westcliffe Way”.)

Canda said Channel 13 was finally broadcasting from our sacred TV mountain. It will be another four or five weeks for Channel 11 to start as they are waiting for a new antennae.

Day reported that the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments (UAACOG) (a “non-profit”, based in Cañon City, that disperses grants to area governments with money

they get from the state and the feds. It is a bureaucrat run grant machine.) Day says they need a full-time grant writer and that is going to cost the local counties to cough up some more bucks to them. Currently, Custer County is paying them \$6k a year to be a member. If UAACOG gets a grant to hire the grant writer (you can’t make this corrupt gov’t stuff up, folks,) then Custer’s dues for next year would be \$7k. If they don’t get a grant, our share for the grant writer would be either \$11/12k or \$21k, depending on various factors. Epp said we get over “\$100k in benefits” (that is our tax money going from UAACOG to Custer County in various grants for mostly non-important projects) and that he was cool with a \$11k/12k increase but the \$21k was too much. The other “fiscal conservative” Republican Commissioners discussed this for a bit and all agreed they could go \$11/12K but no more.

In New Business, the Accounts Payable for the county in August, \$480,000 was approved.

Our Assessor, JD Heinrich was up next week. He said his current assessor software, CIC Assessor, is losing market share in Colorado and the support from them is bad.

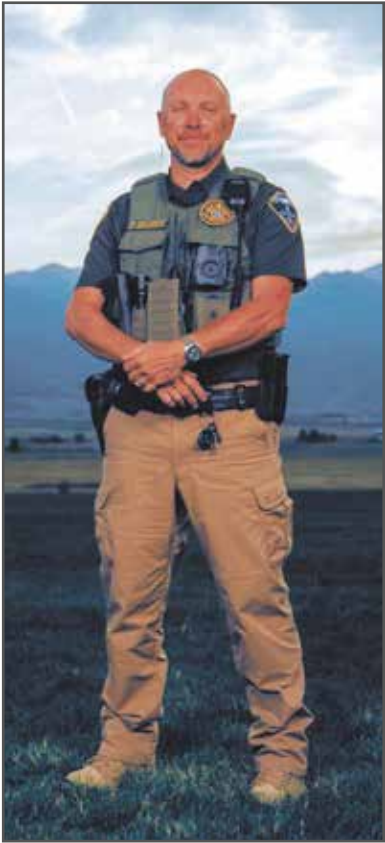
BOCC
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Custer County Sheriff's Office Introduces Sergeant Pete Elliott

by Fred Hernandez

Shots fired! Shots fired! The Scall came in from a neighbor of a drug dealing addict, a repeat offender known well to law enforcement. A team of cops responded immediately. Deployed around the residence they learned that the wife and three small children were somewhere in the house cowering in fear while the perpetrator, obviously high on some substance, walked aimlessly around the central island of the house. At the front door the officers called out to him to put his firearms down, which he did in a nearby bedroom under the watchful eye of the lawmen. He continued his pacing in the kitchen. Other members of the department were at a side window able to keep eyes on him and the weapons as he paced. The plan was made to taze him at the moment he passed an open window. As soon as he was tased by a Sergeant and kept under power, Officer Elliott jumped through another window, tackled and cuffed the miscreant. While in custody it was learned that, high on drugs, he thought there were evil beings in the attic and he was firing at the ceiling. Just one of the many experiences of law enforcement officer Elliott during his exciting career.

It was 1971, when Peter was born in a town just north of Sydney, Australia, called Lismore. Not too



long after his birth he was adopted by an American gentleman, who was in the oil industry and a Navy Veteran, from Houston, Texas, and his wife, an Australian artist who at the time worked for BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.) They also adopted a baby girl in Woolongong,

SO Sergeant Elliott
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Great is the LORD, and
greatly to be praised;
and his greatness is
unsearchable.
Psalm 145:3 KJV

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

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

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Colorado State News

Supporters of Embattled
Colorado GOP Chair
Dave Williams
Vote to Keep Him in His Job

by Bente Birkeland and Dan Boyce,
Colorado Public Radio

The faction of the Colorado Republican Party supporting embattled state chair Dave Williams gathered at a church in Castle Rock on Saturday to reaffirm him as the legitimate head of the state GOP.

The meeting was a direct rebuke to a gathering of Williams' opponents [two] Saturday's [ago] in Brighton, in which they voted to oust him.

In a call to action urging Republican Central Committee members to attend the August 31 meeting, Williams wrote, "This past Saturday we witnessed an attempted coup of our legally elected grassroots leadership. Are you willing to let a fringe minority faction of the Uniparty be your voice and the voice for over 900,000 Colorado Republicans?"

A reporter for *CPR News* attempted to attend the Castle Rock meeting but was told it was closed to the media. Security guards blocked journalists from entering the building or standing outside in the church parking lot.

According to a livestream of the vote at Saturday's meeting, only ten people voted in favor of replacing Williams, while there were 191.5 votes to reject the actions of the previous week's meeting in Brighton. (Some central committee members get fractional votes.)

"Everything that happened last weekend was a complete charade," said former state Sen. Ted Harvey. He called the opponents' meeting an illegal pep rally and told attendees in Castle Rock that Williams simply does what the party's central committee wants.

"He works for you all."

A party rift with no end in sight

This is now the second week in a row that a faction of the Colorado GOP has gathered

for a vote on Williams' leadership. Each side boycotted the other's meeting, arguing that to attend would legitimize an improper vote.

"Today's meeting was not a legitimate meeting because Dave Williams is no longer state party chair," said Lois Landraf of Fountain, a former Republican state representative and current member of the party's central committee. She attended last week's meeting where she also served as a proxy for several current lawmakers who all cast votes to remove Williams.

That vote appears to have changed little regarding the GOP's day-to-day operations on the ground. Williams remains in charge of the party's bank accounts, social media and email lists among other things.

Williams' detractors say his divisiveness and hard right stances, as well as attacks on other Republicans, and his handling of party finances are hurting Republican candidates up and down the ballot. However, the dueling meetings and disputed votes mean the intraparty fight that has been building for months is likely to continue indefinitely.

On Wednesday, Bremer filed a complaint in El Paso County on behalf of the state GOP accusing Williams of being in breach of his contract because he still controls the party mechanics.

"We're going to finish up our actions in court. What happened today makes no difference," Bremer told *CPR News* of Saturday's vote.

"He's been using the party money and we hope to bring that to an end."

The National Republican Congressional Committee said last week that it recognizes Bremer as chair, but the Republican National Committee has yet to weigh in.

CO GOP RUCKUS
see page 17



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Remembering 9/11

Press Release
The American Legion Post 170

Wednesday, 11 September 2024 is the 23rd anniversary of attacks on the United States at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the crash of UAL Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. September 11th has been proclaimed by the U.S. Legislature and the President as "Patriot Day." This date will be forever preserved in the United States as one of remembrance, prayer and resolve. September 11 is a half-staff / mast day for U.S. Flags worldwide.

As part of its Americanism programs, members of The American Legion Post 170 will put up American flags on Main Street from Silver Cliff through Westcliffe. Additionally, they will lower to half-staff the flag at the west end of Main Street at Cliff Lanes.

On Patriot Day we reaffirm the spirit of patriotism, service and community that we felt in those days and months that followed the attack. It is the perfect time



to consider volunteering in activities that will enrich our lives and strengthen our Nation. When you see these flags lining our streets take a moment to remember that act of war on that fateful day in 2001.

On 11 September 2001 3,388 people died in the attack. Over 6,000 were injured. They represented over seventy countries and a multitude of races, religions and professions. None started their day with any idea that it was their last. At the World Trade Center, 2,753 occupants of the building were killed plus 343 firefighters, 60 police officers and 8 civilian EMT's. Most, if not all, were civilians with no connection to our military. At the Pentagon 184 died in the attack, most of which

were members of the military. United 93 went to ground killing 40 civilians in the attack. The aftermath is still being felt with responders who are suffering medical problems during the rescue and recovery at the attack sites.

The War on Terror continues to this day. On September 11th when you see the flags.

Never Forget.

As a reminder, the American Legion collects all torn and tattered flags for proper disposal. Take your flags to the County Annex at 615 Rosita and put your flags in the red, white and blue mail box on the front porch. Thank you for disposing of your flags properly.

Bob Dreher, Public Affairs

BOCC from page 1

Also, he is afraid that since they only have a few customers now in Colorado, they might totally drop support. JD said he has looked at a few other assessor software packages and he likes the Government Software Assurance one. They are cheaper and have better support. He told the Commissioners he wanted to go with them and after a big discussion they agreed.

The conversion will start in September. JD says they will be up and running by January or February of 2025. The Commissioners gave their royal blessing to the effort.

Day then said the BOCC had to go into Executive Session (ES) for a "personnel" matter and a "security" issue. The people in the meeting other than the Commissioners were: County Clerk Kelley Camper, Sheriff Rich Smith, Human Resources Robert

Smith and IT Director Vernon Roth. County Attorney Dan Slater was also there. The ES took over two hours. No decision was given to the public after the ES. Day then adjourned the meeting. (The ES was about the hacking of various county gov't computers by a county employee and what to do about it. See our front-page article for more details.)

Another day in Happy Valley....

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August Town of Westcliffe Regular Meeting

by Gia McNerney

Westcliffe Town Regular Meeting August 20, 2024 at 5:30 p.m

A quorum of Trustees was present, and proceedings commenced. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance with pride. Next, visitors were recognized, and the agenda was agreed to.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

Under Old Business which was filling a vacant planning commission seat. Mayor Wenke made a motion to appoint John Van Doren as a permanent member committee and Leslie Parkes as alternate. Approved unanimously.

Next were the several New Business items to discuss.

First up was consideration of a request to allow a right-of-way easement to install cluster mailboxes on Mineral Road which was approved by the Planning Committee on August 6th. A motion was made to accept the mailboxes at Mineral Road. The motion was approved unanimously.

The second item discussed was a request to approve resolution #6-2024 amending the town of Westcliffe Policies Handbook by adding an inclement weather provision as Section 508. The mayor will be called to make the decision if the office should be closed due to weather. This was approved unanimously.

A request to approve the bid with Langston Concrete for the Powell project and approve overage of \$22,500. Mayor Wenke, trustee, asked the town manager, Caleb Patterson, to explain the project and what is going on there. Caleb explained they are putting concrete curbs, gutters and sidewalks on one side of Powell from Hwy. 69 to 2nd Street. Caleb then explained the overage of \$22,500. The budget was \$277,500, the bid came in at \$380,000 and the negotiated amount was \$300,000. This overage will come out of the chip seal budget that wasn't used so no new money will be needed. A motion was made and unanimously approved.

Fourth was a request to approve the Westcliffe Parks Advisory Committee (WPAC) moving forward with the Hermit/Memorial Parks Complex plans. Mayor Wenke spoke about a presentation given previously and said they were very ambitious plans, but also very impressive plans. The mayor said he asked Caleb to put in next year's budget the cost of hiring an expert to help with the planning and engineering of this. The mayor added that this is a long-term plan. Someone asked about having community input into this. Caleb spoke on this and said after getting approval, they will begin holding public meetings. Mayor Wenke made a motion to approve the request which was unanimously approved.

Next was a request to install stop

signs at the intersection of Main and 2nd which was denied by the Planning Commission. Caleb installed signs for 'stopping for pedestrians' at the street intersections and put 15MPH signs up. Caleb said that the signs will come down in the fall and go back up when things pick up toward summer. A motion was opened to deny the stop sign. Denial was approved unanimously.

Sixth up was appointing the Town Clerk/Administrator/Treasurer as of January 1, 2025. It was unanimously approved to appoint the current deputy town clerk as town clerk as of January 1st.

Next was a request for adopting a master plan, resolution #7-2024. Caleb gave an overview. Mayor Wenke asked if this master plan had a slide going through someone's private property. Caleb said something about taking that part out of the master plan.

While Caleb was trying to find the specific part in the plan, a visitor let Caleb know it was on pages 36 and 39. The visitor said page 36 says "acquiring the land" between the Bluffs and the creek and 39 says the "water park". This visitor was very knowledgeable in the plan and stated that the water park and trails ran through private properties and the owners of those properties do not agree with the plan. He also said he spoke to the division of water resources, and they told him the water park in the master plan is illegal due

to the creek being owned by someone else, such as all those with water rights going down through the creek. Lots of chatter happened with the trustees. Someone suggested to table this. The visitors weren't happy about that. Another visitor spoke of his disagreement with this plan which also impeded his property. Mayor Wenke asked that the master plan be stripped down to not impede on private property. A motion was made to table this.

Last up was Bianca Tenker, Ravens Lodging owner, to present her support of the multi-family zoning project. The mayor started off with some points. Basically, they don't want to call it affordable housing anymore, they want to call it work force housing and be in line with the County and Silver Cliff's terminology. *Changing the name does not change the scope or the grant requirement of this housing, it is still the same.* The mayor added that he didn't think anyone in the room was against this project.

After some technical difficulties, Bianca got started. She was a bit frustrated, because she could not get her slides to show, but people had a copy, and she went on. She explained that she gathered 140 signatures from local people in the businesses along Main Street on the rezoning. She went over all the work she did to try to prove the height of this planned housing is no different than other existing buildings in the community.

Another citizen spoke saying that they did not understand what they were signing for.

This led to a discussion of the multi-family zoning proposed for four blocks, which the town planning committee and town manager are working on. At one point they called it workforce housing. (The name has not changed on any of the proposals.) The mayor said there is workforce housing, low-income housing, subsidized housing and affordable housing. The mayor tried to clarify. He said that Custer County and Silver Cliff have been working on workforce housing.

Another visitor asked a good question, if the system was working in Salida. No one knew. The visitor continued that he saw many ads in Salida for teachers, bus drivers, firemen, etc., he commented since they can't be filled, it can't be working.

They then discussed several minor items in their staff and committee reports.

Public comment from a visitor regarding the master plan was heard. He said the plan called the school a "detriment". He asked if this could be taken out of the master plan and instead include support of the school. He asked if the plan was online. It appears it is on the town of Westcliffe site, but it is not clear where to find it.

With no further comments the meeting was adjourned.



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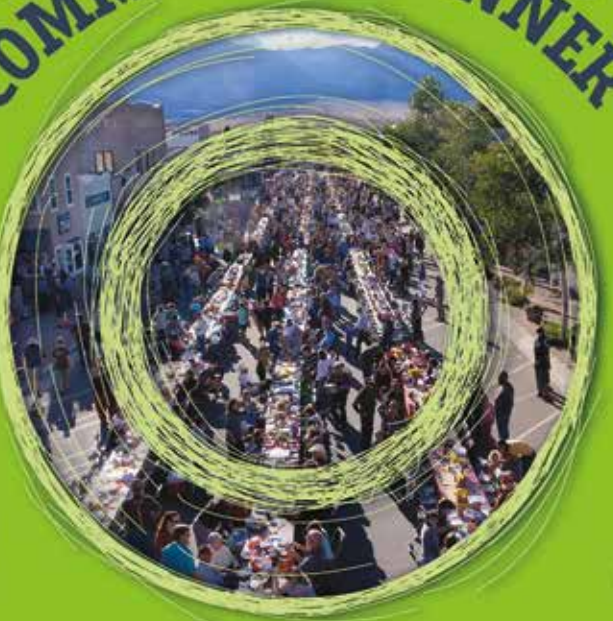
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Local Mountain News & Notices

HMHF Bluegrass Festival Recognized by Int’l Association

Press Release

The High Mountain Hay Fever (HMHF) Bluegrass Festival has been nominated for “Event of the Year” by the prestigious International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Nashville, TN. This nomination is part of the organization’s “Industry Awards” recognizing outstanding work in non-performing industry categories.

Nominees for “Event of the Year” include:

- Bluegrass in La Roche (La Roche-sur-Foron, France)
- Doc at “100” (Various Locations)
- Earl Scruggs Music Festival (Mill Spring, North Carolina)

- High Mountain Hay Fever (Westcliffe, Colorado)
- Industrial Strength Bluegrass Festival (Wilmington, Delaware)

The IBMA Industry Awards winners will be announced on September 26th at the IBMA World of Bluegrass Business Conference in Raleigh.

HMHF, locally known simply as “The Bluegrass” is flattered and excited to be recognized in this group of outstanding events. High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival was originally formed to support local charities around issues of children’s health and has given out over \$850,000 to date.

Trails for All Appreciation Evening

Trails for All held a VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING on Friday, August 23rd at All Aboard Westcliffe Heritage Center. There were approximately 40 people in attendance celebrating the completion of trail maintenance for 2024 and enjoying four different savory lasagnas, garlic bread and two sweet dessert lasagnas, lemon bars and cookies.

Trails for All honored the memory of volunteer James Daulton with his namesake Memorial Award for service, support and dedication embodying the mission of Trails for All presented to past treasurer Herb Kober. We were so pleased to have Patty Daulton attend the event. Trails for All also honored past president Paul Parsons with his namesake Outstanding Volunteer Award presented to Angela Tenaglia for her exemplary volunteer contributions on the trail maintenance crews. David Kill, Volunteer Coordinator for the San Isabel National Forest, was also on hand to present the Trails for All Board with an Excellence in Volunteering Certificate.

2024 Projects:

- Trail Maintenance on eight trails with 20+ miles maintained by 43 volunteers (14 of which were first year volunteers) = 475+ volunteer hours total
- Release of the 2nd Edition Trails for All Hiking Guide to the Sangre de Cristo and Wet Mountains
- South Colony Outreach Weekend on July 27 & 28 – partnering with Custer County Search and Rescue and Rocky Mountain Backcountry Horsemen
- Rainbow Trail Replacement Signage – thanks to a grant from Athletic Brewing
- Colorado Tourism Office Management Grant – Custer County Tourism lead, Trails for All partner to help install new Interactive Kiosks at three Trailheads and new Map Panels at two Trailheads
- Regional Partnership Initiative Grant Submission this fall

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? LEARN MORE: <https://www.trailsforall.co/trail-maintenance.html>

HUGE from page 1

“This breach could have begun as long as four years ago. It was certainly active during early 2022 and ramped up in the past few months.”

It was mentioned to the *Sentinel* months ago that there were suspicions in the Sheriff’s Office that someone was hacking their email account, but nothing was discovered. However, just recently, more evidence surfaced, and a county employee came forward with damaging information which caused Sheriff Smith to request assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and outside cyber security experts to find out what was going on.

A search warrant for an “orange Subaru”, a county office and a local home was executed on Monday, August 26th. Measures were taken by our Information Director, Vernon Roth, during several days to secure our county system from outside interference.

Of huge importance, it was reported that the alleged perpetrator was given access to our County’s Dominion voting machine for some reason. It was reported that he indeed allegedly accessed the machine. If this is true, our Dominion machine could possibly be corrupted. Whether this can be fixed in time before the November election is unknown. Due to the sensitivity of the Dominion machine, simply replacing the software doesn’t seem to be a safe solution. A new, untarnished machine is probably the correct solution. If that can’t be done in time for the November election, perhaps, the counting of paper ballots, proposed by many Custer County citizens, might be the simplest and cost-effective answer.

It is unknown at this point whether there were any accomplices to the alleged cyber hacking or who might have received any stolen data from the alleged hacking. (If

these allegations are true, you have to ask, why? What was the motive/motivation? My guess is it was done to aid others. Who? People with cases, criminal or civil, against the county? Or it could even be politically motivated - a search for some dirt on an elected official. Recall issues? So, we might have a whole cast of characters involved here. This could get interesting...)

It was reported IT Director Vernon Roth, has not been implicated in the alleged crimes.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is handling the case as the Sheriff’s Office is a victim of the alleged crimes, necessitating the need of an outside law enforcement agency to do the job. As the CBI has extensive expertise and experience in cybercrimes, Sheriff Smith asked them to do the investigation. It was reported that CBI has given the job to its Major Crimes office in Pueblo. (Which is a BIG deal.)

Note that, at this point, only a search warrant has been issued and executed. No charges have yet been filed. As the CBI is in the midst of multiple cybercrime investigations, it might be some months before any charges are made.

The Commissioners had a two-hour Executive Session at their August 29 BOCC meeting. The subject was a “personnel matter” and a “security” issue. At the meeting was Sheriff Smith, IT Director Vernon Roth, County Clerk Kelley Camper and Human Resources Director Robert Smith. No decisions were announced after the Executive Session was over.

Note that all the reports/statements etc. noted above are allegations only. No arrest warrant has been issued.

The *Sentinel* will give you a complete update on all the developments as they come out. Any especially important news will be immediately posted on our website, sangredecristosentinel.com or on our Facebook page.

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

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, September 9

Black Bean & Tortilla Casserole
Steamed Brown Rice
Whipped Sweet Potatoes
Mixed Fruit

Tuesday, September 10

Roast Chicken, Mushroom Sauce
Steamed Brown Rice
Cauliflower Broccoli Mix
Apple Pear Salad w/Almonds
WW Bread w/Butter

Thursday, September 12

Stuffed Peppers
Chopped Spinach w/Malt Vinegar
Applesauce Cake
WW Bread w/Butter

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

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

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

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

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Dr. Scott Munger (BA, MA, PhD), atheist turned Christian, served in six countries as a missionary, author, and teacher.

Monday evenings, 6:00-7:30, Sept. 9 - May 19,
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Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 -7:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Meeting Start Sept. 9.
(The Bible and X) w Scott Munger. FBC
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
3rd Tuesday of the Month
Liberty Rocks TUESDAY Sept 17, Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m. Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.

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 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 NOW 3rd TUESDAY

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

SO: Sergeant Elliott from page 1

Australia, two years later. In 1974, the family moved to Houston and Pete grew up in an upper middle-class neighborhood. At the age of twelve, he had everything a young boy could ever want growing up in terms of toys, good school, sports and activities like camping, hunting and fishing. By any measure it was a very good life.

Then, life changed. It was a time when he was left at home with a babysitter who was a little older than him. Pete was introduced to drugs. Everything went downhill from there on. For a while he successfully kept his habit from his parents and most friends until his later teens when he lost it. He left home, lived on the streets and at friends’ houses and hooked up with some unsavory company. He did things he is not proud of including multiple encounters with law enforcement. Although he was never charged with any crime, he kept up his delinquent activity until the day he overdosed for the 9th and last time. He was in a hospital when he gained consciousness. As he focused on his surroundings, he realized the woman standing at the bedside was his mother. She was distraught and crying. The sight broke his heart and at that moment something snapped in his being, and he firmly resolved right then to straighten out his life. He was nineteen years old. The nurse who attended to him, gave Pete her Alcoholics Anonymous book as well as some sage advice. Just as soon as he was discharged from the hospital,

he attended two sessions a day of a 12-step program group religiously and has never again been encumbered by any of his former addictions.

His rehabilitation included an inpatient rehabilitation center, and then time with a group called Outward Bound which featured a month-long stint in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in 1990. In fact, Peter has summited thirteen of the Fourteeners including Crestone Peak and Crestone Needle. It was from this experience he learned to love rock climbing and even more challenging, ice climbing. It was because of this enduring experience that he would return to Custer County sometime in his future.

With recovery fully achieved he went to work. One of these jobs was an outdoor retailer where he learned to love all things mountaineering and skiing. He was also the co-director of the Pikes Peak Colorado Mountain Club where he taught mountaineering including rock and ice climbing. At the same time, to add to his income he did construction and remodeling on the side. However, all this time he was nagged by an interest he held close to his heart. He was always interested in police work. “Even as a bad guy I wanted to be a good guy,” says Peter. Unsure of himself because of his colorful past, he kept delaying until, encouraged by his wife Michelle, he signed up for POST in 2013. Needless to say, he passed the course and applied for a job with Cañon PD and was accepted in 2014. He remained there until 2019 and moved to Florence PD in 2020. He

took some time off in 2021 and went to New Mexico where he bought a ranch with a fixer upper house and proceeded to restore the house. When he returned to Florence as a reservist, he was contacted by the Custer County Sheriff’s Office in 2023. After successfully passing the interview, he was offered a job. Happy that he would be working near the mountains that he loved, he readily accepted the offer.

Fifty-three-year-old Deputy Pete Elliott, soon to be Sergeant Elliott, loves law enforcement. He draws on the vast experiences of his youth and applies everything he learned from those bygone days to his daily work. He can readily tell if someone is stuck in a life of drugs and uses his past as a means to try and create a positive outcome for their future, even if it means having them take responsibility for their actions. He loves the community he works in and is devoted to the service of the residents. “ If you are not taking care of the community, DON’T do this job.”

Pete and Michelle, a federal employee with prior service in the Army, currently live on 40 acres west of Cañon City with two Aussie Heelers, Ed and Erly. They have a 35-year-old daughter (prior Coast Guard) who lives in England with her husband (active-duty Space Force) and have a four-year-old son. Pete’s son, (prior Navy) lives in Colorado Springs with his girlfriend. They have a daughter on the way in November.

It’s great to have you in Custer County, Sergeant Elliott. Congratulations on your promotion.

Come and Worship

Christian Science

9:30 a.m. Worship

8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe

Church of Christ

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff

719/783-4601

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe

Pres: 719/214-4589

Cody Park Community Church

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.

Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study

0157 County Rd. 27A

Cotopaxi 719/942-3526

Community United Methodist Church

8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship

202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe

719/783-2511

Cotopaxi Community Church

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship

6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study

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

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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

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Diocese of Pueblo

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Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church

Pastor: Mike Shields

10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study

11 a.m. Worship

Last Sunday of Month:

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sangredecristocowboychurch.com

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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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Psalms 119: 105 KJV

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Saturday, September 7, 12 noon - 2 pm
End of Summer Splash! At Dundee Dog Park, 1100 Broadway St, Silver Cliff

Sunday, September 8 @ 12:30 to 3 p.m FREE
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Rain: All Aboard Westcliffe Heritage Cntr, 110 Rosita Ave.

Thursday, September 19, Valley Strong Dinner
Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Main Street Westcliffe

You You may arrive beginning at 4 p.m. to decorate and spend time hanging out with your neighbors.

To host a table, register w/o a table or to donate, go online at valleystrong.us. or individually fill out our online registration form at valleystrong.us.

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

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
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Courthouse Bldg. (Rosita Rd. Entrance)

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Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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MS Boys Basketball Coach. Bus Driver, and Substitute Teacher/Staff.
Any Certified Teacher/ Substitute application without a CDE license is incomplete and will not be considered. **Online applications only.**
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KIDS

Friday, September 6, 2024

Red-Lipped Batfish

Here we are again looking at an unusual animal. I'm sure most of us have never heard of this one, but we are about to find out about it.

The red-lipped batfish, also known as the Galapagos batfish, is found off the coast of the Galapagos Islands and Peru. This batfish is closely related to the rosy-lipped batfish, which are found near Cocos Island off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

Their bodies are flat and shaped like a bat, hence the name "batfish". They are not good swimmers, but they use their highly adapted pectoral, pelvic and anal fins to "walk" on the ocean floor. A few specimens of red-lipped batfish were found in fishnets in California, but these types of sightings are extremely rare, and could very well be another type of batfish.

They are bottom dwellers so they are usually found within the sand or ocean floor. Their diet consists of feeding on other small fish and small invertebrates including shrimp, crabs, worms and mollusks found on the seafloor. The red-lipped batfish reaches up to 16 inches in length. As the name of the fish states, the batfish has bright, almost fluorescent, red lips. These bright red lips are thought to be used to attract mates.

The red-lipped batfish 'nose' is actually an illicium to attract prey. They use their illicium almost the same way an angler uses a fishing rod and eye-catching lure. Smaller fish and invertebrates are drawn to the illicium, which then allows for the red-lipped batfish to catch and eat.

The batfish are basically solitary creatures, preferring to explore their surroundings alone. They are primarily nocturnal, venturing out at night to hunt for small crustaceans, worms, and other small invertebrates. During the day, they seek shelter in rocky crevices or coral crests. These fish can live 12 years in the wild.

These batfish are completely harmless to humans, they have no venom or poison. Since they live at such deep depths, with no natural predators, they never needed to adapt any protective measures.

The red-lipped batfish has no known direct threats. However, rising sea temperatures and coral bleaching could pose a threat, as it would alter the natural habitat and may cause a decline in the availability of a natural food source.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://factanimal.com/red-lipped-batfish/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red-lipped_batfish, <https://wildexplained.com/animal-encyclopedia/uncovering-the-mysterious-red-lipped-batfish/>, <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/red-lipped-batfish/>. Photo credit: pygmylorisreid.wordpress.com



Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Jesus said in prayer--

“And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

John 17:3 ESV



Custer County School District C-1

MENU for the week Sept. 9 thru Sept 12 2024

Monday	Cereal Yogurt Oatmeal Fruit, milk	Chicken & Rice Capri Blend Veggie Fruit Milk
Tuesday	Pancakes Sausage Fruit Milk	Nacho Supreme Rice Refried beans Fruit, Milk
Wednesday	Breakfast Sandwich Fruit Cottage cheese Milk	Lasagna Green Beans Garlic Bread Fruit, Milk
Thursday	Biscuit and Gravy Applesauce Milk	Cheese Roll ups Pasta Salad Carrots and Celery 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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The Colorado Running Company

Outfits Bobcat xCountry & Track



Jeff Tarbert, owner of The Colorado Running Company in Colorado Springs, donated \$2,500 worth of new running shoes to the cross country and track program!!!

Photo Courtesy of Leah G.

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, Sept. 6:

4:30 pm HS Volleyball @ **HOME** vs Del Norte

7 pm HS Football @ **HOME** vs Plateau Valley

First Home Football Game!!

Saturday, Sept. 7:

3 pm HS Volleyball @ ECA (away)

Cross Country: Joe Vigil Invit. @ Cattails Golf Course, Alamosa

9:40 HS Girls, 10:15 HS Boys

Friday, Sept. 13:

6 pm HS Football @ Holly (away)

Saturday, Sept 14:

Cross Country: Western Mountaineer Cowboy @ Gunnison

Community School: 11:15 am HS Boys, 11:45 HS Girls

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Liberty Rocks - 2024

Tuesday, September 17th

(Tuesday instead of Thursday since Valley Strong Dinner will be this Thursday)

Tony's Steak & Tavern

Tony's Mountain Pizza's Full Menu will be offered

— All are welcome —

Meet & Greet and Dinner begins at 5:30 pm

Presentation begins at 6pm

Come eat, discuss, engage, and learn

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Guest Speaker from Independence Institute

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Proudly sponsored by: Custer Citizens for the Constitution

Contact: Ann Barthrop (303) 547-4723, abarthrop@msn.com

Facebook: Liberty Rocks in Custer County

Earn The Right

by Leah Grundy

It is the start of a new era for the Custer County High School Football program. Coach Clayton Stallones is the 3rd head coach for this team in the last four years and he has accepted the challenge of “starting over” yet again. He comes to Custer County from Pueblo with his wife, Jade, and their five young children.

EARN THE RIGHT – That is the motto for this season as the program has been redefined around leadership, commitment, work ethic, and community involvement. The past is the past and the focus is on the future creating a program that the school, athletes, and community can be proud of and support. It will take time and Coach Stallones is determined to reach that goal sooner rather than later.

The first “8-man football” game of the season was played on a neutral field in Limon, CO, where our Custer County Bobcats (team of 16 players and one coach) faced Sedgwick County, ranked #7th in the state (who arrived in a custom motor coach with 6 coaches and a 45-man roster. It was awesome and I will admit, intimidating and honestly, I was a little jealous!!).

Thank you to the die-hard parents, and new AD, Aundrea McCormick, that drove 3 hours one way to support these kids as the sun set behind the “Crow’s Nest” and the mosquitos came out in force!

The first half was all about these kids learning to trust their coach by putting into action the new plays and positions that they have been practicing all summer. Yes, there were nerves, “mistakes” that led to learning opportunities, and the lopsided

score would have discouraged anyone but, with a new era, came new perseverance!

The second half was led by heart, and determination as Agi Thomas, #15 had a 70+ yard kick return for a touchdown that put the Bobcats on the scoreboard! Sophomore, Masson Simmons - QB completed a pass to Agi for a second touchdown and the defense, led by Sophomore Taylor Bradford #55 scored a safety! Wyatt Grundy #10 had a fumble recovery in the second half.

The Starters (Seniors Austin Scholl #50, Wyatt Grundy #10, Juniors Ty Stoltzfus #65, Taylor Bradford #55, Drake Knopick #49, Sophomores Agi Thomas #15, Masson Simmons #12 and Freshman Eli Flynn #2) definitely “Earned The Right” and played offense, defense and special teams all night.

When needed, they were supported by team-



mates Seniors Tryston Evans #64, Jordan Craig #88, Sophomores Wade Pierce #22, and Freshman Bode Bridges #25, Ethan Fore #17, Brayden Baker #11, Jacob Tomassoni #6, and Lucas Bradford #3. Everyone was called to step up and play their position and they did!

There were many great tackles, running plays, and the passing game shows great promise for Simmons and his receivers.

Come watch their first home game, this Friday, September 6th at 7 p.m. in the shadows of the great Sangre De Cristo Mountains and see if you can feel a change not only in the season but in the football program as well.

Tony's Mountain Pizza Players of the Week



Offensive Player of the Week: Agi Thomas #15
Defensive Player of the Week: Taylor Bradford #55
Special Teams Player of the Week: Agi Thomas #15
Congratulations Agi Thomas #15,
Tony's Mountain Pizza Player of the Game!!

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday, August 30:
HS Volleyball @ HOME vs Cripple Creek-Victor: Win! 3-0 🐾
HS Football @ Limon vs Sedgwick County (away): Loss 16-58
Saturday, August 31:
Cross Country: Lake County Invitational:
HS times: Mason Stover 9th 20:28 (& won a t-shirt!); 🐾
Levi Carichner 51st 25:15; Piper Cunningham 66th 32:37

Town of Westcliffe Workshop 8 of 28 Property Owners in Proposed Multi-family Zone Respond

TOW Workshop
August 20 2024

by Gia McNerney

Following the regular meeting on August 20th, the trustees went directly into the work session. It started off with a discussion around waiving fees for affordable housing ie. the multi-family housing proposed. A list of suggested incentives for the Multi-Family District. There were 13 incentives that were quickly shown on a slide.

There was some talk about AMI, Area Median Income. Caleb stated it was \$35,000. This confused me since he is using the county population numbers and the county AMI is \$94,200 according to the 2020 census. Caleb kept bringing up the excel sheet that showed the county population, and its estimated growth.

The trustees kept asking Caleb why they can't just start with the county lots and then go from there. The mayor thinks they should start slow and expand from there if needed. Caleb said several times that no developer will

build less than 50 units. Caleb went on about how we need to contain the growth and not have a bunch of single-family homes going up. The mayor kept saying we can grow as we need to grow; we don't have to do this all at once.

As currently written, if a landowner in the proposed rezoning blocks wants to build a single-family house, they can't. It was asked a few times of Caleb if he can go back to DOLA, Department of Local Affairs, to find out if we can get a grant just for the two town owned blocks. Caleb said he could, but he really wants the whole plan and the high density. He feels it would help the town grow. When he said this grant is only for high density, someone commented that this grant had a hook. Caleb said with every grant there is a hook. Caleb added that this grant may not be available next year since this is an election year and things may change.

Shadow Ridge subdivision kept coming up as an example. This was built in 2005 and after 19 years it still has not been fully developed.

It was asked how many letters came back from the property owners of the other lots. Caleb immediately said we got all the letters back from that. He said we just received them from Bianca yesterday. He went on to say most of the owners were in favor of the rezoning. He was corrected that only 8 responses on the survey (sent out certified return receipt) were received. Of the 8 property owners 87.5% were in favor of rezoning. There were 28 surveys sent out and only 8 were received back, so only 28% replied. Caleb went on to say the town can say they did their due diligence.

The mayor said we keep going round and round with this and we can't vote on anything in this workshop, so there was no need to go on. He went on to say there is a Planning workshop meeting on the 21st with Silver Cliff and Custer County. They, too, have been working on getting affordable housing. It's best if they all work together for the same goal. With this they ended the workshop meeting.



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WESTCLIFFE, CO

CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL BUILDING A GEODESIC DOM

CUSTER COUNTY YOUNG ADULTS *Getting Ready For The Real World*

by Fred Hernandez

An excellent program is ongoing at the school (Custer County School District) which prepares students for their impending debut into the real world. Not the world of fun, games and internet chit-chat. The real world where decisions have real life- affecting consequences, the world where choices can have both good and bad effects. The school has a course mentored by a highly qualified professional that trains the students and gives them some of the tools they will definitely need to navigate life in the real world. Ms. Renee Johnson, the teacher for this course, has been at the school for over five years. She has a Masters Degree in Technology and Education with a certification to teach engineering. Her department, based in the building across the west side parking lot of the main school building, is a well equipped workshop and classroom.

Recently, through a grant from American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA); The Housing Authority, the school received enough funds to purchase a beautiful geodesic greenhouse with five hundred fifty (550 sq.ft.) square feet of growing space. Built of the finest materials used in professional greenhouses, this little building can easily cost up to \$20,000. The class of Ms. Johnson was involved in the project from start to finish including some of the hands-on construction work and all the details related to get this project done from buying the materials, contacting suppliers, checking deliveries and the related computer work.

The building itself was acquired through the able assistance of Ms. Jenine Leslie who represents the company that builds the components for the greenhouse. According to Ms. Leslie “If you have a bucket you can grow something in it.”

And grow they will at the school as soon as they get in planting mode now that the building is up and ready for use. They will plant tomatoes which in this environment, the greenhouse, could grow like a tree. They will plant different kinds of beans, peas, chard, lettuce, cucumber and every kind of vegetable there is. They can grow anything in this greenhouse. In working on this project kids will bring something to the table because their knowledge has its own value and after they learn these new skills and information they will be bringing even more knowledge to the table later in life. In fact they will learn critical thinking which is very important in today’s world of cyberspace. They learn problem solving. Working on this project they were immersed in the process of designing, budgets, getting quotes, ordering, checking deliveries of product they ordered, In this class Ms. Johnson also coaches in computer aided drafting and design, building material and woodwork planning and construction for which the students earn a certification for college credits at Pueblo Community College. This alone is such a benefit for those interested in higher education after high school.

The greenhouse (geodesic) project is done. The key has now been turned over to the agriculture group whose program is to do the planting and growing of the produce. We look forward to seeing the results of their endeavors and will report on that as soon as there is more information. In the meantime, Ms. Johnson and her class wish to express their thanks to Mr. Ed Lyons of Mountain Valley Excavation who generously donated the road base for the greenhouse and the soil that will be used for growing all the produce.

This is a most worthwhile endeavor on the part of the school and Ms. Johnson who has some awesome plans for her class in the very near future. Stay tuned for updates.



BUILDING TRADES PROJECT: THE GREENHOUSE



Sentinel Photos by Renee Johnson; Layout by Katherine Brenchley

Westcliffe Planning Commission Workshop Hears From Silver Cliff and County on Housing Project Plans

County and Silver Cliff representatives attend; multiple housing projects going forward. PC adds single-family with ADU to multi-family zoning proposal.

Town of Westcliffe (TOW) Planning Commission Workshop
August 21, 2024

by Laura Vass

There was no introduction of attendees or Pledge of Allegiance and no roll call for this discussion.

Chair Christy Patterson introduced the purpose of the workshop: The workshop was a continuation of the Town’s proposal to rezone lots for multi-family housing and to look at ADU’s (Accessory Dwelling Units) This time the committee wanted to hear from Silver Cliff and the County’s Workforce Housing committee who were invited to discuss what they’re doing on housing.

Silver Cliff Mayor Buck Wenzel gave a summary. The housing needs assessment is in need of an update. He said Silver Cliff supports Caleb on that. *(Westcliffe Town Manager Caleb Patterson has applied for the grant to do that but later in the meeting it sounded like it was only for Westcliffe.)*

Wenzel noted that four teachers turned down employment this year, specifically saying it was a housing issue. The county owns 20 lots north of Main Street with infrastructure in place. The county owns 30 lots east of Butler Street that do not have infrastructure. Silver Cliff has purchased seven of those (not final) for ‘self-help’ houses. Those houses will be developed by a developer and UAACOG.

From the county’s Workforce Housing Committee (CCWFHC), Barry and John alternately spoke. The committee is there to get information and data so when the county or towns go to make policy, they have informed data. He said the 19 lots owned by the county are the work of this county committee and grants that paid for the 12 lots purchased from Colorado Colleges and another grant that bought seven lots which are now dedicated to the self-help program. Silver Cliff and CCWFHC will look at rezoning some of the 12 lots for multi-family, manufactured housing, etc. that would make development affordable.

From the last CCWFHC meeting, the new school superintendent is interested in revisiting the school’s 28 Bobcat lots, six of which have infrastructure.

(This was discussed later in the August 24 County Workforce Committee’s meeting.)

Some of the takeaways from the last housing needs assessment were shared: UAACOG estimates the county will grow 20% by 2030. The county is behind on the 35-50 units recommended. The goal of having a 5% vacancy rate helps keep the rates reasonable. Right now, the lack of rentals affects the rates. Later in the meeting, Barry Keene says he’s been following the trends a long time and that right now, a lot of housing is wrapped up in STRs and that he sees the trend winding down across the state.

Concerning collaboration, CCWFHC recommends the towns and county work together to obtain the needed updated stats, which are required for most grant work.

Caleb said the current study/evaluation he applied to have done via CHAPA is specifically for the TOW housing project.

Caleb went through the Westcliffe multi-housing rezoning project proposal as it stands currently. *(We’ve reported on this repeatedly.)*

Mayor Wenke said he thinks it would be prudent to only rezone the two blocks that Westcliffe owns and get it ready for a potential 50 units. Let’s do it prudently

and cautiously....and get a grant from DOLA for the water/sewer infrastructure just for that. The DOLA grant is going to require us to violate our current subdivision ordinance. He thinks they should take some time to develop that ordinance for future planning.

Barry Keene (CCWFHC) notes that he doesn’t support necessarily coordinating on grants but it’s important to communicate so that the towns and county do not compete for grants. ADU’s and waitlists are helpful in the process.

Someone else notes that ADU’s are great for seasonal worker potential.

Mayor of Silver Cliff Buck Wenzel: An existing ADU is fine, but building a new one could mean that properties would be assessed fees from RMWSD infrastructure. (\$30K)

The committee did agree to a rewrite proposed code for the privately owned blocks. These would be multi-family but will include a duplex on two lots, a fourplex on three lots or a single family house with an ADU (attached or unattached) on two lots, noting that the ADU wouldn’t have to be rented all the time or at all, giving some more flexibility for the land owners.

Caleb will also query Round

Mountain Water (RMWSD) on the difference in costs to only develop infrastructure for the two town blocks. (It’s about a \$100 a foot.)

Chair Christy mentions Clayton Homes is developing single family homes in Florence.

Someone else also mentions that a lot of what they are talking about would be an actual developer question. Developers look at the housing market to determine what to build in terms of unit variety.

The idea that the code is being written to get the grant and then can be changed was identified by someone at the meeting. And Caleb agreed that’s what is going on to a certain extent. This comes up later as Chair Christy says she doesn’t want to lie to DOLA and she doesn’t want the code to have grey areas for a future board or a code enforcer to deal with.

More time was spent on the ADU particulars and number of lots required to build in the proposed zone. Overall, the commission was able to suggest some good changes to make in the proposed zoning for the blocks addressed for the grant application--19&20, 33&34, to Multi-family District (MFD). (Blocks 17&18 taken off the table during the last meeting.)



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Colorado State News

Denver Street Art that Called Out Racism Is Deemed Racist by Democrats

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

It appears that a Colorado street artist known as Sabo may be the person responsible for erecting controversial political signs at several Denver bus stops this week criticizing Kamala Harris’s border policies.

The yellow signs are replicas of those once posted near the southern California border for decades featuring a silhouette of a running family that cautioned motorists of fleeing migrants crossing the road.

The other imitated segregationist era signs that directed black people to the back of the bus to make way for white people, but instead said “Blacks must sit at the back of the bus. Kamala’s migrants sit in the front.”

The political rhetoric is comparable to what Joe Biden once said about Mitt Romney wanting to put black people back in chains. The difference is Biden was never accused of being a racist for saying it.

Yet Sabo was before the identity and political motive of the sign maker was even revealed.

The Denver Post reported one claim that two white women were seen with a ladder in the same area as the signs on Colfax Ave the morning they were discovered.

And yet the signs are not racist.

The implication of these signs is that Harris’s border policies would put the needs of migrants before black people.

They conjure up an age-old racist system as a way to compare Harris’s policies to that same practice.

The signs did not say blacks should sit in the back of a bus, but suggested that’s what she is doing by putting migrants’ needs ahead of U.S. citizens.

Some suggest the signs would be less offensive if it said “everyone,” instead of black people.

True, but then it’s no longer a metaphor of the racist practice of making black people sit at the back of the bus, and the point of such practice as being racist is lost.

Westword appears to be the first media outlet to link Sabo to the street art:

An Instagram account linked to the website for Sabo, an artist known for controversial stencil works and signs that criticize progressive policies and candidates, posted a photo of another “Caution. Kamala’s Illegals” sign at around 11 a.m. on August 29. This sign was in Aurora, at the intersection of East Colfax Avenue and Nome Street.

That intersection is near an apartment complex that was recently shut down by

Aurora for city health and building code violations. The apartment building’s owners said the complex was taken over by gangs of Venezuelan migrants, making maintenance impossible; the city disputed that.

Sabo’s Instagram account [and] his X account [posted photos].

Colorado’s leftist political elite went into a feeding frenzy over the obviously political signs.

Gov. Polis called the iconic signs horrible and racist images, although the caution signs were a response to hundreds of collisions between vehicles and immigrants crossing roads near the border.

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston threatened to hold those responsible for “racist behavior” against ... well, we’re not sure.

“Denver is a welcoming and inclusive city that gives opportunity to people from all walks of life, & we will fight to ensure that remains the case,” Johnston said.

Pathofmostresistance@Pathofmostresil1
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9NEWS Denver @9NEWS

Republican activist takes credit for racist signs in Denver <https://9news.com/article/news/local/next/next-with-kyle-clark/credit-racist-signs-denver-bus-stop/73-4983ef41-702f-486d-92af-14cf3a70214a>

10:55 AM · Aug 30, 2024

Are Democrats really saying the mere suggestion that Jim Crow-era racial preferences would be in practice today to benefit one race over another is in itself being racist?

We would agree that preferring any race before another in terms of government programs is racism, but accusing someone of pursuing such a policy is not in itself being racist, but calling out racism.

Or as some might call it political street art.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/08/30/denver-street-art-that-called-out-racism-is-deemed-racist-by-democrats/>

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Colorado State News

Initiative 138 Threatens School Choice In The Name of Protecting It

by Ari Armstrong
Complete Colorado Page two

I am as invested as anyone in school choice in Colorado, given my wife and I have homeschooled our now-nine-year-old from the beginning. Because Initiative 138 is ambiguously written, it could undermine school choice in Colorado in important ways, depending on how lawmakers write enacting legislation, how school districts interpret it, and how courts decide the inevitable legal battles. The proposal to amend the state constitution, promoted by the conservative group Advance Colorado Action, thus violates the basic principle, first do no harm.

Others have expressed various concerns with the measure. Jon Caldara of the Independence Institute (which is the publisher of *Complete Colorado*) worries that 138 “has a great chance of failing at the ballot box and that defeat will embolden legislators to attack . . . school choice.” Christian Home Educators of Colorado fears the measure invites government interference in homeschooling. On the other side, the teachers’ union sees 138 “as a stepping stone toward a state voucher program in disguise,” as Erica Breunlin summarizes.

My main concern is over the ambiguous language of the proposal. We can pull out three

main statements from the measure (my numbering):

- 1) All children have the right to equal opportunity to access a quality education.
- 2) Parents have the right to direct the education of their children.
- 3) Each K-12 child has the right to school choice, [which] includes neighborhood, charter, private, and home schools, open enrollment options, and future innovations in education.

At first glance, this language seems sensible enough. But take a second look, keeping in mind that those responsible for interpreting, enacting, and enforcing the measure largely will be people who oppose school choice.

Homeschooling threat

The term “quality” in this context practically begs the state to further regulate homeschoolers and other alternative schoolers in the name of ensuring quality. Already bubbling is a nationwide movement to regulate homeschoolers more severely. Elsewhere I have reviewed a couple of flagrantly biased “news” stories calling for more such regulation. By establishing a positive “right” for “all children” to access a “quality” education, Initiative 138 seems to demand that state government intervene to impose the state’s vision of “quality.” For homeschoolers, that is a disaster waiting to happen.

Now, you might wonder, what is wrong with quality in homeschooling? Nothing! For example, my homeschooled child receives a far better education that he could get at any public school. He is reading and doing math ahead of grade level. Recently he scored in the top one percent on a widely recognized standardized test.

The problem is, if state government makes it its businesses to dictate to me what a “quality” education looks like for my son, it will inevitably actively interfere with my ability to provide that quality education. My family needs freedom, not bureaucratic controls. I can’t do my job as a homeschool dad if I have to waste a bunch of time and energy trying to comply with ill-suited government demands.

Incidentally, state government obviously cannot ensure quality in the education it already oversees. Recently released results from the Colorado Measures of Academic Success show that, for not a single grade 3-8, for neither reading nor math, do a majority of students meet or exceed expectations.

Competing rights

Defenders of 138 might point to the bit about parental rights. Isn’t that language sufficient to prevent the sort of problems that worry me? No, it isn’t. Two other parts of the measure explicitly refer to the child’s rights, not

parents’ rights. Nothing in the measure gives priority to parents’ rights or gives legislators, school board members, or judges any guidance on how to balance the “rights” of the child versus the rights of the parents. So those responsible for enacting the measure, if it passes, may well interpret it to mean that parents’ rights to direct the education of their children are constrained by the state’s need to ensure a child’s right to a “quality” education, however the state chooses to define that.

The language of the measure has other problems too. When the measure declares that “all children have the right to equal opportunity to access a quality education,” does that create a positive obligation for the state to provide “quality” universal preschool for all ages? After all, some wealthier parents put their children in expensive schools from infancy, so obviously other children do not have that “equal opportunity” unless the state provides it. Or some plausibly could argue.

Also, when 138 declares that “each K-12 child has the right to school choice,” does that imply that a child should be able to override his parents’ school choices? Again, because the measure states both that parents have rights to direct education and that each child has the right to

school choice, whether parents or the child should get legal priority is entirely unclear.

More government control

Finally, is the teachers’ union right that the measure is a backdoor voucher proposal? If a “child has the right to school choice,” and if school choice includes private schools, then does the state have a positive obligation to fund private schools, directly or indirectly? The answer is anyone’s guess. I think we should seriously consider a universal voucher proposal, but we should do so in the context of a specific proposal that is unambiguously setting up vouchers. We shouldn’t recklessly punt the ball to lawyers and the courts.

School choice is vital to my family. I am begging Advance Colorado Action to stop trying to “help” me with its badly written ballot measure that seems to have more to do with spending donors’ funds than actually helping the families who need school choice. We need real school choice, not the risk of more government controls clothed in the rhetoric of school choice.

Please see <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2024/08/27/armstrong-initiative-138-threatens-school-choice-in-the-name-of-protecting-it/>



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Property Tax Special Session

by Kevin Lundberg
The Lundberg Report

The legislature’s special session was held [last] week with two bills passing. HB24b-1003 was concerning extending and expanding the agricultural personal property exemption. HB24b-1001 was the real reason for the session, giving modest property tax relief in exchange for the proponents cancelling the two initiatives that had qualified for the 2024 ballot which would have given more significant property tax relief.

What struck me as most telling in the discussions leading up to this conclusion was that little attention was given to the actual impact property taxes have on property owners (in a time of excessive inflation and very tight budgets for most citizens). However, much hand wringing was given to how the legislature could hold all of the schools and local governments harmless. This “deal” was designed to virtually guarantee ever increasing tax revenues and give taxpayers as little relief as they

could possibly contrive. Maybe it was all the tax cutting proponents could get, but from my perspective the “deal” did not recognize that government should not have ever increasing revenues at the expense of tightly strapped citizens. Remember, this is not cutting taxes, it is barely slowing down the growth of taxes on the heels of the most extraordinary leap in property taxes the citizens of Colorado have ever seen. Please see KevinLundberg.com

CO GOP RUCKUS from page 2

Bremer told *CPR News* he doesn’t expect the RNC to recognize a chair until after the courts sort things out. During Saturday’s meeting, some of the participants blasted the NRCC for siding with Williams’ opponents and attendees voted unanimously to declare that the NRCC has no authority in the matter. To his supporters, Williams is a ‘Make America Great’ ‘America-first’ leader Republican Dana Bonham came to the Castle Rock meeting in a BMW convertible wrapped with an image

of a bald eagle and an array of conservative slogans, from “Don’t tread on me” and “In God we Trust” to “Let’s go Brandon” and “Make America Great.” Bonham isn’t on the central committee so she didn’t have a vote but said she was there to support Williams. “He’s a Make America Great, America-first candidate and he’s done an excellent job,” Bonham told *CPR News* as she left the church. “We have RINOs (Republicans In Name Only) within our own Republican Party that we are fighting, unfortunately. Instead of fighting the real battle, we are forced to fight these little divisions here, but we’re not going to be distracted.”

Bonham said that for too long establishment Republicans have tried to appease people in the political middle. Williams, she believes, is charting a new course that will help reestablish the party in the state. “We have momentum going and it’s time to give him a chance. It’s time to give the America-first people a chance. We’ve given the RINOs enough chances and they’ve blown it,” she said. (Reprinted with Permission. © 2024 Colorado Public Radio. All Rights Reserved.) Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2024/08/31/dave-williams-supporters-castle-rock-vote-retain-party-split/>

CUSTER COUNTY NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer County seeks sealed bids for Lot 8A Blk 1 Golden Arrow Valley, conveyed by quitclaim deed. Please submit your sealed bid to the County Clerk, Kelley Camper, located at 205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO, no later than close of business on September 10, 2024. All bids will be opened by the Board of County Commissioners on September 11, 2024. Sealed bids must include: Legal description – Lot 8A Blk 1

Golden Arrow Valley
Amount offered for lot
Bidder name, address, phone number, and email address
On the outside of sealed envelope, please reference sealed bid for Golden Arrow Valley lot
Custer County reserves the right to accept or reject the highest bidder.
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ACROSS
1 Asia
5 Improbable drama
10 Actor Alda
14 Bridge support
15 Musical production
16 Comedian Jay
17 Shred
18 A witch lived here
19 They brought gifts
20 OT book
22 Aurora
23 Underworld
24 Word meaning father
26 Unassertive
28 Bullfight cheer
29 Holiday for Jesus’ resurrection
32 Last words of prayers
34 Pressure unit
35 Falls
39 In addition
41 Space

DOWN
42 Biblical weed
46 Ancient board game (India)
50 Sun’s name
51 Neon fish
53 Wife of Ahasuerus
56 Goof
57 Sprite
59 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. ____
60 Braves
62 Single
64 First king of Israel
67 Cheese
68 Regions
70 Air pollution
72 Restaurant’s item list
73 Sticky weeds
74 Off-Broadway award
75 Branch of learning
76 Struck (KJV)
77 Honker

3 Fraud
4 Talking need
5 Enemy
6 Sleep disorder
7 Do it again
8 Where Jesus died
9 Hearing part
10 ____ mater
11 Trick (2 wds.)
12 Heavenly beings
13 Racket
21 Compass point
23 Religious song
25 Women’s undergarment
27 Youngest son of Noah
29 Environmental protection agency (abbr)
30 American sign language
31 Sister for short
33 Time zone
36 Expression
37 Thai
38 Highs
40 Choose
43 Fire remains
44 Decay
45 Samuel’s mentor
47 Greek god of war
48 Calorie
49 Climbing vine
51 Merchant
52 Error-prone
54 Advertisements
55 To every thing there is a ____
56 Swelling
58 Panel
59 Biblical seat of emotions
61 Flightless birds
63 A Roman emperor
65 Convexity
66 Superman’s Ms. Lane
68 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)

Puzzle key on page 22

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The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

Daily reporting and analysis
of current events

from a biblical and prophetic perspective.

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

Common Sense
& Idiocy

During the first week of Joe Biden’s presidency, he put a stop work order on the Keystone pipeline that killed 11,400 jobs. The American Petroleum Institute said halting oil and gas drilling on federal lands will cost a million jobs. The Chamber of Commerce estimated the Paris Climate reentry will cost 6.5 million jobs. All in all, the new president may have put over 7.5 million Americans out of work in his first week. Plus, his actions raised fuel costs, which raises the cost of everything. Since then, we have seen record inflation that continues to this day. When asked why Kamala Harris hasn’t implemented her solutions to fix problems over the past 3 ½ years, her deputy campaign manager said the question is “comical.”

It’s not so funny for all of us who are suffering from the Biden-Harris Administration’s idiocy. Common sense says that if you kill fuel production, prices on everything will soar. Biden-Harris idiocy says that’s a good thing because it will force people to use electricity. In her acceptance speech, Harris said: As President, I will bring together: Labor and workers, Small business owners and entrepreneurs, And American companies. To create jobs. Grow our economy. And lower the cost of everyday needs. Like health care. Housing. And groceries.” In other words, she claims credit for the policies that created joblessness, housing costs, food price increases. Now she wants Americans to trust her to fix the problems.

Under the first three years of Trump, unemployment declined to 3.5%. Democrats and the mainstream news media like to say that Trump’s final employment report was far worse than any president, but they fail to say that the COVID-induced corporate lockdowns turned Trump’s employment record upside down. Prior to the Biden-Harris lockdown, the number of employed Americans broke 25 records, reaching an all-time high of 158.8 million. More Black folk were employed than in any time in U.S. history. All this gone as Democrats locked down the economy, killed jobs, and voted to give you some small payment as a consolation. Now Biden-Harris claims credit for creating 15.8 million jobs after they shut the economy down and millions lost their jobs. Current unemployment is 4.3%. Some progress, right?

After months of creating a border crisis and denying it is a crisis, Biden appointed Harris to handle the issue. Harris accepted the job by saying that she can handle the “problem” at the border because she can chew gum and walk at the same time. On March 24, 2021, she told “CBS This Morning,” “Well, OK, look, it’s a huge problem. I’m not going to pretend it’s not. it’s a huge problem.” Of course it is. When you publicly give an open invitation for all immigrants to come to America as a campaign ploy, they come. Nothing comical about this lack of common sense. Ephesians 5:6 says, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things comes the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” And now Harris is an election away from the presidency. Common sense, anyone?

Sources:

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2024/08/24/harris-campaign-asking-why-she-didnt-implement-solutions-she-says-she-will-comical-her-record-speaks-for-itself/>

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Unserious People

Making for Serious Times

by El Gato Malo,
boriquagato.substack.com

it’s a wild world these days. the collision course is obvious:

on the one hand we have been giving ever more power to governments, regulators, central banks, and central planners.

on the other hand, the people chosen to run such things are getting ever more stupid, incompetent, and uncomprehending.

it’s like trying to fix bad drivers by giving them ever faster formula one cars loaded with ever more volatile and explosive fuels and then letting them drive up into the stands with the crowd.

the risk value seems to be a simple equation:

power X incompetence = danger

and the speed of the growth is making me wonder if there is really some sort of exponential in here. you pass a point and the speed with which wheels come off gets rapid. are we seeing late stage “gato’s postulate” in action?

(a democratic government powerful enough to dictate that which is bought and sold will inevitably devolve into rule by rube.)

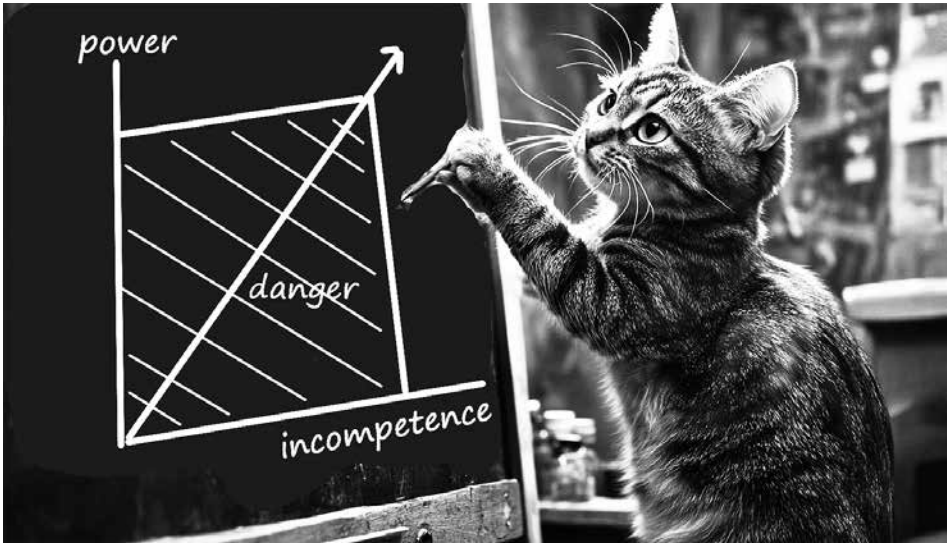
See Graphic---

it’s literally jaw dropping how uninformed and incompetent these people have become.

many of you have seen th[e] video on MMT (“modern monetary theory” or “magic money tree” depending upon whom one asks) in which jared bernstein, head of biden’s economics council shows that he has no idea how anything at all works.

he does not understand bonds or how selling them is different from printing money. he speaks of “confusing terms” but is obviously terribly confused himself.

by the end, this borders on “monty python skit.” and it is NOT as isolated



event. here’s commerce secretary gina raimondo at the DNC.

the reporter has just asked her about the 818k drop in the BLS employment statistics that just came through as a “revision” to

“this is probably the lowest power, stupidest, most incapable cabinet in american history.”

already heavily revised numbers and how it might undermine the “bidenomics” narrative of jobs growth.

trump mentioned it in a speech.

her immediate response: “i don’t believe it. trump lies.”

the reporter tells her it’s bureau of labor data.

gina then says “i’m not familiar with that.”

seriously, watch it. she has no idea what’s going on.

abc news is not trying to play gotcha here, this is meant to be a complete softball.

bonk! right in the face.

this is an astonishing lapse on a huge economic news item. gina does not even seem to know it happened. yet she runs commerce? this is a cabinet level official. and she’s utterly clueless of everything apart from politics. this is the biggest news story of the day, was largely telegraphed for a week (and suspected all year). to be middle of the day and not know it happened would be embarrassing for a first

year boiler room broker. for the secretary of commerce with a staff of who knows how many? it’s inexcusable and the instant spin to “it’s a trump lie” is just plain astonishing.

the whole world is just a couple big squares. this is rule by rube.

we seem to be having some sort of incompetence excursion and the worse it gets, the more convinced the technocrat classes become that they just need more power to fix things. i’m actually getting worried that power accumulation and outright idiocy are not independent variables but are, in practice, accelerators of one another.

these people are so far past their peter principles that they cannot even tell they are past their peter principles. it’s all unknown unknowns. they literally do not even have a concept of what the basics of their jobs entail or what they are supposed to know or how anything is supposed to work.

they are so lost they do not know they are lost and just need “one more power to put it right.”

it’s institutional theory 101:

A’s hire A’s, B’s hire C’s, and these people were all hired by D’s that got their gigs for being outright

illiterate in their areas of alleged focus.

this is probably the lowest power, stupidest, most incapable cabinet in american history.

DEI turned out to be delusion, egotism, and incompetence.

it’s one big conclave of failing upward. blinken, yellen, austin, garland, raimondo, buttigieg, granholm, cardona, it’s just astonishing how little capability any of these people have in their domains.

the secretary of energy is a former AG with zero experience in energy.

the transportation secretary once owned a little red wagon.

the commerce secretary is a “went nowhere” VC who ran an underperforming pension fund for rhode island and parlayed that into being governor with rock bottom approval ratings.

yellen has been failing upward out of academia (and making a godawful mess) her whole career.

blinken may be the most useless empty suit in the whole gang apart from kamala who clearly takes the prize (though was not a cabinet member so escaped the list, but clearly “joe has a type.”)

it’s a band of playschool phonies so bereft that even john kerry, who never met a grift he wouldn’t grab (or marry), left before it all came crashing down.

UNSERIOUS
see page 22

The Real Tim Walz Part 2

by Discover the Networks via FrontPageMag.com

(Editor/GG: Part 2. And it gets worse....)

Background

“The bottom line in all of this is gut wrenching and sad to explain. When the nation called, he quit. He failed to complete the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He failed to serve for two years following completion of the academy, which he dropped out of. He failed to serve two years after the conditional promotion to Command Sergeant Major. He failed to fulfill the full six years of the enlistment he signed on September 18th, 2001. He failed his country. He failed his state. He failed the Minnesota Army National Guard, the 1-125th Field Artillery Battalion, and his fellow Soldiers. And he failed to lead by example. Shameful.”

Notwithstanding the foregoing facts as Behrends and Herr have presented them, Walz, during his 2006 campaign for Congress, referred to himself as “Command Sergeant Major.”

Behrends criticized Walz on subsequent occasions as well, such as when he said in September 2022: “The public needs to know how pathetic his [Walz’s] leadership was as a National Guardsman. He abandoned us. What the hell kind of leader does that? As soon as the shots were fired in Iraq, he turned and ran the other way and hung his hat up and quit. It’s stolen valor is really what it is. I don’t know of anybody else that’s done what he’s done.”

Additional False Military Claims

When Walz first ran for Congress in 2006, his initial campaign announcement identified him as “a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom,” a title widely understood to signify someone who had served on the ground in Afghanistan, or in the airspace above Afghanistan, post-9/11. But Walz had never done either of those things, having spent his time instead in Italy working “in support” of Operation Enduring

Freedom, and in Norway working in support of NATO forces.

Eighteen years later, while campaigning as Democrat presidential nominee Kamala Harris’ vice presidential running mate in 2004, Walz, calling for “common sense” gun-control legislation, advocated a ban on the kind of weapons “that I carried in war.” But in fact, he had never seen active combat during his military service.

Trained as a Radical as He Enters Politics

While preparing in 2005 to launch his 2006 campaign as a Democrat candidate for Minnesota’s 1st Congressional District seat in the U.S. House, Walz attended Camp Wellstone, a “boot camp”-type project of Wellstone Action, the latter of which was a leftwing training organization named in memory of the late Democrat Senator from Minnesota, Paul Wellstone (1944-2002). As *The Jerusalem Post* puts it, Camp Wellstone “was designed to teach aspiring leaders in Minnesota and beyond the basics of door-knocking and coalition-building in a few days.” Some of the notables who, at various times, served stints on Wellstone Action’s advisory committee included: Warren Beatty, Julian Bond, Heather Booth, Robert Borosage, Donna Brazile, Peter Edelman, Keith Ellison, Russell Feingold, Al Franken, Leo Gerard, Tom Harkin, Jonathan Kozol, John Lewis, Gerald McEntee, Walter Mondale, Frances Fox Piven, Robert Redford, Robert Reich, Mark Ritchie, Andrew Stern, Antonio Villaraigosa and Peter Yarrow.

Elected to Congress with Socialist Support

Deceptively portraying himself as a moderate during his campaign, Walz won his 2006 race to represent Minnesota’s 1st Congressional District, whose U.S. House seat had been held for the previous 12 years by a Republican. Walz would subsequently go on to win re-election five times, in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016. A key supporter of his campaigns was the Council for a Livable World, an anti-nuclear organiza-

tion founded in 1962 by the socialist activist and alleged Soviet agent, Leo Szilard.

Netroots Nation

At the 2011 Netroots Nation conference, Walz participated in a “Fight Back for Good Jobs” rally sponsored by the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA). Other notable Democrats in attendance included Van Jones, Sen. Ben Cardin, and Rep. Keith Ellison.

Supporting the Iran Nuclear Deal

In 2015, Rep. Walz voted in favor of the nuclear deal which the Obama–Biden administration — along with the governments of Britain, France, Russia, China, and Germany — together finalized with Iran. The official name of the accord was the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and its key elements included the following:

- Iran was permitted to keep and operate more than 5,000 nuclear centrifuges, machines necessary for enriching uranium to the degree necessary for the production of nuclear weapons.
- Iran received \$150 billion in revenue from sanctions relief, even though Obama-Biden acknowledged that Iran would likely use some portion of that money to fund its military and terrorist activities.
- Iran was prohibited from purchasing weapons from other countries for five years, and from buying missile technology for eight years. But there were two enormously significant exceptions: Russia and China could continue to make weapons deals with Iran.
- Iran was given the discretion to block international inspectors from its military installations.
- Only inspectors from countries that had diplomatic relations with Iran would be given access to Iranian nuclear sites. Thus, there would be no American inspectors.
- Sanctions were lifted on critical

parts of Iran’s military, including a previously existing travel ban against Qasem Suleimani, leader of the terrorist Quds force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

- Iran was not required to renounce terrorism against the United States, as the Obama-Biden administration deemed such an expectation “unrealistic.”
- Iran was not required to affirm its “clear and unambiguous ... recognition of Israel’s right to exist” — a requirement that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had pleaded for.
- Whatever restrictions were placed on Iran’s nuclear program, would expire — due to so-called “sunset clauses” — at various times over the ensuing 5 to 11 years.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the JCPOA as a “bad mistake of historic proportions” that would enable Israel’s mortal enemy, Iran, to “receive a sure path to nuclear weapons” capable of incinerating the tiny Jewish state and all of its inhabitants in a single moment.

But U.S. Democrats were much more ebullient in their assessment of the deal:

- Vice President Joe Biden, dismissing the concerns of critics who warned that the sunset clauses for key parts of the agreement would “pave Iran’s path to a bomb,” stated that such naysayers simply “don’t get it, they’re wrong.”
- Senator Kamala Harris characterized the deal as “the best available option for blocking Iran from developing nuclear weapons capability and to avoid potentially disastrous military conflict in the Middle East.”
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the deal “a diplomatic masterpiece.”
- And Rep. Walz wrote that while “this deal is far from perfect,” he believed it to be “our best path forward.” Moreover, Walz would continue to vocally

defend the agreement in subsequent years, and he criticized President Donald Trump when the latter eventually withdrew the U.S. from the accord in 2018.

Ties to Hamas-Linked CAIR

Walz has heaped praise upon the Hamas-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a Muslim extremist group cofounded in 1994 by individuals affiliated with the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP). The IAP, for its part, was a creation of senior Hamas operative Mousa Abu Marzook and functioned as Hamas’ public-relations and recruitment arm in the United States. Said Walz to a gathering of CAIR members in October 2017: “The years you have spent serving our community and defending civil liberties are an incredible accomplishment. Thank you for the wonderful work you do in Minnesota and across our great nation.”

On March 28, 2019, in the city of St. Paul, Walz spoke at a “Challenging Islamophobia” conference hosted by CAIR’s Minnesota chapter. In the course of his remarks, he proudly announced the formation of a new civil-rights office that would address the alleged prevalence of “Islamophobia” in Minnesota, which was home to more Somali Muslims than any other state in America. Photos taken at the conference showed Walz posing with Hatem Bazian, a prominent anti-Semitic scholar who: (a) has long defended Palestinian terrorist activities targeting Israel; (b) founded Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), a campus group that organizes and sponsors anti-Israel events and campaigns more actively than any other student group in the nation; and (c) founded SJP’s parent group, American Muslims for Palestine, which promotes the Hamas-inspired Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel and has been investigated for allegedly financing Islamic terrorism.

Please see: Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/the-real-tim-walz/>

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The Second Amendment Corner

1776

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2024



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

‘In Common Use’ Can Ultimately Be Used to Make the 2nd Amendment a Moot Point

by David Codrea,
ammoland.com

“The Second Amendment Allows a Ban on the AR-15,” Harvard University Professor of Law Noah Feldman once declared in a Bloomberg/*Washington Post* “opinion” piece.

That it’s an “opinion” is the one truthful admission in this otherwise absurd act of academic gaslighting. Harvard, *Bloomberg*, and *WaPo* are all for eviscerating the right of the people to keep and bear arms and routinely spread whatever lies they can get away with (despite the disingenuous caveat that “This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or *Bloomberg LP* and its owners.”)

“Under current law, the Second Amendment extends only to weapons that are not ‘unusual’ and are ‘in common use’ by law-abiding citizens,” Feldman asserts. “Whether that includes AR-15s is a question the Supreme Court has not yet resolved, although the justices have recently been asked to weigh in. A key question today — though not when the Bill of Rights was ratified — is whether a weapon is ordinarily used for self-defense.”

“To give you a sense of how different things were with respect to gun issues 84 years ago, the court held unanimously that the Second Amendment didn’t protect [short barreled shotguns],” Feldman misstates, citing the case of *U.S. v. Miller*. That’s actually not what they said at all. In the opinion for that case, Justice McReynolds noted:

“In the absence of any evidence tending to show that possession or use of a ‘shotgun having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length’ at this time has some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well regulated militia, we cannot say that the Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear such an instrument. Certainly it is not within judicial notice that this weapon is any part of the ordinary military equipment or that its use could contribute to the common defense.”

They didn’t have evidence because the case wasn’t argued in front of them. Had it been, the military utility of such weapons could have been decisively established, starting with the flintlock Blunderbuss:

“This short shotgun-type firearm utilized about a half-pint of shot. During the Revolutionary War, American warships used Blunderbusses for repelling unwanted borders. Gunsmiths made these specifically for defense at close quarters.”

Using the *Bruen* standard of text, history, and tradition as understood by the men who ratified the Second Amendment, plenty of subsequent “legal” rulings should fall. So would Feldman’s proposed AR ban, as his own words about citizen militias indicate, if he would only heed them.

“Those militias, in turn, were made up of ordinary citizens,” he instructs.

“And the ordinary citizens in the state militia were expected to provide their own weapons.”

What weapons were they expected to bring from home, and how did they compare to what enemy soldiers were issued?

“From this, it followed, for McReynolds, that the Second Amendment protected only weapons that had ‘some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well-regulated militia.’ That did not include the short-barreled shotgun, he added. Such a weapon was not ‘any part of the ordinary military equipment’ nor would its use ‘contribute to the common defense.’”

In fact, citizens reporting for militia duty were expected to bring weaponry suitable for battle, and in many cases, these men “outgunned the police,” especially when considering the standard issue for British troops was the Brown Bess musket, while patriots who owned them came equipped with more accurate and longer-range Kentucky/Pennsylvania rifles. Recall that the Founders considered the militia “necessary to the security of a free State,” and to expect their equipment would be inferior to that of attackers they were defending against would have been suicidally absurd.

The militia deployed with the intent to match and best a professional military threat. Its function was — and still is — to field citizen soldiers, and these citizens bore arms that were suitable for that purpose, “ordinary military equipment” intended to be taken into “common defense” battles.

Still, apparently believing he is making his case, Feldman continues offering pre-*Bruen* examples of infringements, in this case citing Antonin Scalia’s wholly uncalled-for concession that “Like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. *Miller*’s holding that the sorts of weapons protected are those ‘in common use at the time’ finds support in the historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons.”

He used that to imply banning weapons such as “M-16 rifles and the like” would not be an infringement. Otherwise, he asserted, “it would mean that the National Firearms Act’s restrictions on machineguns ... might be unconstitutional, machineguns being useful in warfare in 1939.”

Yes, it would be.

But naturally, Feldman (and all the other prohibitionists) rely on that to exploit, beginning with a lie.

“The virtue of the Supreme Court’s 1939 test is that it was at least true to the original meaning of the Second Amendment,” he claims. “Its practical disadvantage, of course, is that if updated to the present, the rule would protect military-style weapons — not only semiautomatic rifles but machine guns, RPG launchers, predator drones, and the like.”

Notice how he escalates “dangerous and unusual” to lump conventional small arms in with “the like,” which could conceivably escalate up to weaponized anthrax and

suitcase nukes. The 1939 non-test (because it wasn’t a test with no arguments and evidence) is hardly “true” to Founding Era intent, as the Framers never qualified the Second Amendment by declaring “the right of the people to keep and bear non-dangerous and usual arms in common use at the time shall not be infringed.”

“Scalia discounted the introductory clause that explains the purpose of amendment as ensuring a well-regulated militia,” Feldman elaborated. “He shifted the meaning of the right to bear arms to personal self-defense.”

Inexplicably and unjustifiable, he did, and we ignore the first 13 words of the Second Amendment at our peril. Feldman takes full advantage of that, writing “Today, the Second Amendment applies to all weapons that ordinary people carry on an ordinary basis for self-defense ... Logically, it should also exclude AR-15s, which are not commonly carried for self-defense.”

Logically it shouldn’t. But unfortunately for gun owners, too many influencers ostensibly on “our side” won’t explore the militia aspect, and that dereliction makes the Second Amendment more vulnerable to infringements

“Here’s hoping that, when the Supreme Court ultimately addresses the issue, the justices can recognize that that AR-15s do not belong in the same category as handguns,” Feldman concludes. “They are weapons of war — for, in fact, a well-regulated militia — not for ordinary people to carry for ordinary use.”

Going back to the Founding Era for understanding, text, and tradition, we can see what Continental Congress delegate Tench Coxe had to say about that:

“Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birth-right of an American... [T]he unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people.”

The tradition is that citizens have militia-capable firearms. Although “well regulated” is deliberately misrepresented to mean “gun control” is permissible, the militia system envisioned by the Framers is one where the “regulation” is through coordinated training and deployment, not in dictating what citizens are allowed to possess. That this has been intentionally ignored by those whose goal is a monopoly of violence undermines not only Founding intent, but guarantees the citizenry will be left out of all future technological developments. And that’s made inevitable by the “in common use test.”

Because what was in common use in the past is not what is in common use today, nor what will be in common use tomorrow. At least by the military and by law enforcement.

A persistent lie told by the prohibitionists is the Founders only had muskets and would be so horrified by AR-15s that they’d have never written the Second Amendment. That, of course, is a load. It relegates the role of prominent scholars, inventors, and

innovators educated under the influence of the Enlightenment to that of unimaginative and non-observant dullards. They knew about multiple barrel cannon, volley guns, pepperbox revolvers, multiple shot Girardoni air rifles, crank-operated Puckle guns, breech-loading Ferguson rifles... “dangerous and unusual” all, and none of them “in common use at the time” when first developed.

The Founders were at the vanguard of the technology of their day, and of pushing it to see what else could be discovered and achieved. They knew that times were changing, as theirs were the revolutionary, educated minds bringing the changes about. And when new developments did happen, they embraced them, as opposed to suppressing and outlawing them while “swarms of officers” issued arbitrary rule changes to ban them.

That’s what “history, text, and tradition” will tell anyone who wants to look honestly.

By relegating what’s “in common use at the time” to what’s commercially “popular,” as opposed to what modern infantry soldiers are armed with, the advantage will forever be with invaders and enforcers. Ditto the “for lawful purposes” qualifier, as outlawing firearm types makes sure they can’t be legally owned. We see that all the time with the restrictions on “civilian” possession of machine guns (which the government knows we have a right to own), and it won’t end there. (As an aside, if we relegate “in common use” to what’s popular and neither “dangerous” nor “unusual”, so-called “smart guns” would fall into that category and could be banned!)

Think about technological developments in small arms since the founding of the Republic. How would Washington’s troops have fared against Grant’s, Grant’s against Pershing’s, and Pershing’s against Patton’s...? That’s the past. What about the future?

If “the people” of the Second Amendment can be denied arms based on them not being “in common use” for sport and for limited “self-defense” situations, what chance would they have resisting tyranny equipped with weaponry that today would be considered the stuff of science fiction? Who knows what those imposing their demands will have at their disposal, along with the power to withhold from citizens 50 years from now, or 100, or beyond?

Since no innovation begins “in common use,” a government with the power to do so can ban all new weapon developments from those they would rule, retaining them exclusively for itself. It’s what I warned about when I wrote “Things to Come” back in 2002 for *Guns and Ammo* (not online, and it’s copyrighted, so I can’t link to the entire essay):

It’s been said that a battle isn’t won until a man with a rifle occupies the ground. We must keep in mind that someone probably once said the same thing about spears.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/08/in-common-use-can-ultimately-be-used-to-make-the-second-amendment-a-moot-point/#axzz8jl5FnK8>

Federal Court Rules Machine Guns Are Protected by 2nd Amendment

by F. Riehl, Editor in Chief,
ammoland.com

In a groundbreaking decision, the U.S. District Court in Kansas ruled that machine guns and your GOD-given right to have one are protected under the Second Amendment.

This ruling, in the case of *United States vs. Morgan*, has the potential to change the landscape of firearm regulations in America. Judge John Broomes, appointed by former President Donald Trump, dismissed charges against Tamori Morgan, who was indicted for possessing machine guns. Broomes argued that machine guns fall under the category of “arms” protected by the Second Amendment, echoing a fundamental belief held by many gun rights advocates.

Machine Guns are Protected” Key Takeaways from the Ruling

1. Machine Guns Are Considered “Arms”: The ruling highlights that machine guns are classified as “bearable arms” under the Second Amendment. This aligns with the originalist interpretation of the Constitution, which aims to stay true to the framers’ intent. The court’s acknowledgment that these firearms fit within the constitutional definition of protected arms marks a significant moment in Second Amendment jurisprudence.

2. Burden of Proof on the Government: According to Judge Broomes, the government failed to meet the required burden of proof to justify the prohibition of machine guns. The ruling pointed out that existing evidence did not sufficiently demonstrate that machine guns are “dangerous and unusual” to the extent that they can be banned. The judge emphasized the need for historical analogs from the time of the nation’s founding to justify such restrictions, referencing landmark Supreme Court decisions like *Bruen* and *Rahimi*.

3. The Role of “Common Use”: The argument about machine guns being in “common use” played a central role in this case. While the defense presented data showing over 760,000 machine guns are registered under the National Firearms Act (NFA), the court clarified that only those held by law-abiding citizens (around 170,000) should count towards this figure. The rest, owned by law enforcement, do not factor into the “common use” standard. This distinction could impact future legal battles over the classification of certain firearms.

What’s Next?

While this ruling is a significant victory for gun rights advocates, it’s not the final word. The decision is expected to be appealed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, where it may face challenges.



This transferrable MAC-10 is a real machine gun.

IMG Jim Grant

Historically, courts have upheld the regulation of machine guns, classifying them as “dangerous and unusual” weapons that do not enjoy the same protections as other firearms. The appeal’s outcome will likely hinge on whether the appellate judges agree with the district court’s interpretation of historical legal standards.

Moreover, the political landscape could play a crucial role. If a pro-gun administration, such as one led by Donald Trump, comes into power, the Department of Justice might choose not to pursue the appeal, allowing the ruling to stand. On the other hand, a different administration might aggressively challenge this decision.

The Broader Impact

This ruling brings to light a broader debate over the Second Amendment and what types of arms it protects. The original intent behind the Second Amendment was to ensure citizens could bear arms for self-defense and as a check against tyranny. However, what constitutes acceptable arms has evolved over time, with technology and societal changes influencing interpretations.

For gun enthusiasts, this ruling is a reaffirmation of their rights. Many believe that law-abiding citizens should have access to all types of firearms or weapons, including machine guns, howitzers, tanks, and F-15 Eagles, for self-defense and to maintain a balance of

power. Critics argue that such weapons pose a significant threat to public safety, labeling them as “weapons of war” unsuitable for civilian ownership.

The Kansas court’s decision in *United States vs. Morgan* could become a pivotal case in the ongoing battle over Second Amendment rights. While the ruling supports the notion that machine guns are protected arms, the path forward remains uncertain. Appeals and political shifts could alter the landscape, but for now, this decision underscores a critical debate about the scope of constitutional protections for firearms in America. As this case progresses, gun rights advocates and opponents alike will be watching closely, understanding that the implications extend far beyond a single courtroom.

(Editor/GG: They are great for the more exotic kinds of hunting. Like maybe prairie dawgs or other creatures that cause a lot of damage. You might be able to pre-order some pretty soon at Custer County Supply in Westcliffe. You’ll need at least two with one being belt fed. Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr.....)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/08/federal-court-rules-machine-guns-protected-second-amendment/#axzz8jl5FnsK8>

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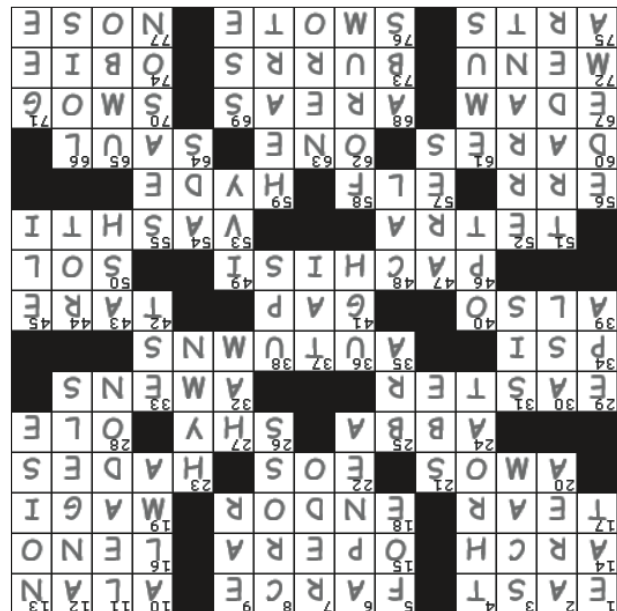


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Who Is Kamala Harris?

A Disturbing and Haunting Record Part 6

by Discover the Networks via FrontPageMag.com

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

Religious Liberty & The Equality Act

In January 2019, Harris tweeted: “Passing the Equality Act won’t only end discrimination against sexual orientation and gender identity, it’s a pivotal part in ending homophobia and transphobia and moving our culture forward to be more inclusive and respectful.”

The Equality Act was designed to force employers and workers to either accept and abide by left-wing dogma regarding marriage, sexuality, and gender, or lose their businesses and jobs. The most widely publicized example of what the Equality Act sought to achieve involved Colorado baker Jack Phillips, who declined to create a custom cake for a same-sex wedding and was subsequently sued by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission for discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. As the Alliance Defending Freedom explains: “In an exchange lasting about 30 seconds, Phillips politely declined, explaining that he would gladly make them any other type of baked item they wanted, but that he could not design a cake promoting a same-sex ceremony because of his faith.” Phillips’ case eventually went all the way to the Supreme Court.

When the Trump Justice Department in September 2017 sided with Jack Phillips, Harris tweeted: “Shame on the Justice Department for siding with discrimination. It has no place in our society.”

In June 2018, the Supreme Court issued a 7-2 ruling which held that although a baker is a business person who serves the general public and thus “might have his right to the free exercise of his religion limited by generally

applicable laws,” the Colorado Civil Rights Commission’s complaint was objectionable because the Commission itself had exhibited hostility towards Mr. Phillips’ religious views.

As the Heritage Foundation points out: “Other cases involving disagreement over the meaning of marriage feature florists, bakers, photographers, wedding venue owners, videographers, web designers, calligraphers, and public servants.”

The Equality Act would also politicize the medical profession by forcing hospitals and insurers to provide, and pay for, various gender-reassignment surgeries and therapies against any moral or medical objections they might have. Such abominations are already occurring. Catholic hospitals in California and New Jersey have been sued for refusing to perform hysterectomies on physically healthy women who said that they wished to transition themselves to male. Similarly, a Catholic hospital in Washington was sued by the ACLU for refusing to perform a double mastectomy on a sixteen-year-old girl with gender dysphoria.

The Equality Act also calls for the banning of all sex-specific sports teams and sex-specific facilities such as bathrooms and locker rooms. Neither schools nor charities would be exempt from this mandate.

The Equality Act would cause grievous harm to faith-based charities and the populations they serve. Indeed, state and local laws regulating sexual-orientation and gender-identity issues have forced faith-based adoption and foster care agencies in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, California, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia to permanently close their doors – all for the purported transgression of promoting the “discriminatory” belief that wherever possible, children should be placed in a home with both a female mother and a male father.

Religious Liberty & The “Do No Harm” Act

In February 2019, Harris introduced the Do No Harm Act in the U.S. Senate, to counter the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993 and similar legislation in approximately 20 U.S. states. As Kenneth Craycraft writes in First Things: “The purpose of RFRA was to ... carve out exemptions from generally applicable laws for some religious practices that are fundamental to religious belief. For example, a RFRA law might protect a church from another law that prohibits consideration of sexual orientation for employment, promotion, or retention. Or it might protect a physician who participates in public health reimbursement programs from a law requiring such physicians to perform a broad scope of so-called healthcare services, such as abortion.”

On the website introducing the Do No Harm Act to the American public, Harris explained that the bill’s overriding objective was to prevent RFRA laws from “being used to deny” such things as “healthcare access,... coverage or services to which persons are otherwise legally entitled,” or “services that the government has contracted to be beneficiaries through a government ... grant.”

In making her case for the Do No Harm Act, Harris defined “religious freedom” very narrowly as “the freedom to worship,” as guaranteed by the First Amendment. But as Craycraft points out:

“‘The freedom to worship’ is not a ‘First Amendment guarantee.’ The First Amendment guarantees the ‘free exercise’ of religion, which has a much more expansive scope than mere ‘worship.’ The free exercise clause of the First Amendment provides that ‘Congress shall make no law . . . prohibiting the free exercise of’ religion’ Harris misquotes the clause, changing ‘free exercise’ to ‘freedom to worship,’ betraying a definition of religious practice that would

remove it from any meaningful legislative or political protection. In doing so, she turns the free exercise clause on its head, driving religious faith to the margins of public life and religious exercise out of public life altogether. In Harris’s tendentious reading, ‘free exercise’ of religion means ‘freedom to worship,’ and nothing more. If the doors of the church are not locked and guarded, or if you are not prevented from praying in your home, you have the full range of ‘the First Amendment guarantee,’ and you are guaranteed nothing more.... Free exercise of religion equals private prayer or conviction, and nothing else.”

Foreign Policy

Harris’ campaign website said: “As president, Kamala will invest in new technology to fortify America’s critical infrastructure, including by passing her Secure Elections Act to protect against foreign interference in our democracy. She’ll immediately re-enter the Paris Agreement and make climate cooperation a key diplomatic priority for the United States. And she’ll confront white supremacy by re-establishing the Domestic Terror Intelligence Unit and reversing President Trump’s cuts to programs designed to combat white nationalism. As president, she’ll end the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and protracted military engagements in places like Syria.... She’ll continue her unshakable support for Israel and work towards a two-State solution so that Palestinians and Israelis can govern themselves in security, dignity, and peace. She’ll stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, but without isolating the United States diplomatically and risking an unnecessary war.”

Racial Matters

According to Harris: “The reality is that the life of a black person in America has never been treated as fully human... It’s no wonder people are taking to the streets [to protest]. And I support them.”

At a February 2019 campaign stop in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Harris said she was in favor of doing away with Columbus Day and replacing it with Indigenous People’s Day. She told the crowd that “we are the scene of a crime when it comes to what we did with slavery and Jim Crow and institutionalized racism in this country, and we have to be honest about that.”

In January 2019, Democrat Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee introduced legislation designed to address, by means of reparations payments, the “lingering negative effects of slavery on living African Americans and society.” The bill had 125 co-sponsors, all Democrats. Harris, for her part, said “we need to study the effects of generations of discrimination and institutional racism and determine what can be done, in terms of intervention, to correct course.”

Notwithstanding activist Al Sharpton’s long history as a highly prominent racist, black supremacist, and Jew-hater, Harris in July 2019 lauded him as a “friend” who “has spent his life fighting for what’s right.”

For details about Harris’s support for Black Lives Matter, scroll down to the section titled “Supporting Black Lives Matter & the George Floyd Riots.”

Electoral College

Harris stated that she is “open to the discussion” of abolishing the Electoral College. “There’s no question that the popular vote has been diminished in terms of making the final decision about who’s the president of the United States and we need to deal with that,” she said, “so I’m open to the discussion.”

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

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

Your Voice, Your Vote

VOTE REPUBLICAN!

Federal Office

President and Vice-President

✓ Donald J Trump/JD Vance

Representative to the 119th United States Congress - District 7

✓ Sergei Matveyuk

State Office

State Representative - Distict 60

✓ Stephanie Luck

District Attorney - 11th Judicial District

✓ Jeffrey D. Lindsey

County Offices

County Commissioner - District 3

✓ Lucas Epp

County Commissioner - District 2

✓ Paul Vogelsong

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

ELECTION DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Ballot Drop Box Locations:

Westcliffe:
Custer County Court House
205 S. 6th St., Westcliffe

Wetmore:
Wetmore Community Bldg.
95 County Rd 393, Wetmore

Paid for by the Custer County Republican Committee, Nancy Drummond as Registered Agent

WHO THE BOCC NEEDS NOW

PAUL VOGELSONG

• 25+ YEARS AS A SUPERVISOR

• FINANCE AUDITOR FOR THE U.S. NAVY

• FINANCE AND BUDGET FORECASTING

• HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

• PROVEN EXPERIENCE

• SOUND DECISION MAKING

COME TO THE NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING

SEPT. 7TH

10:00-NOON AT LANGE HALL

ELECT PAUL VOGELSONG

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

AD PAID FOR BY PAUL VOGELSONG FOR COMMISSIONER

Voters Will Decide Whether to Set Aside \$350 Million for Colorado Law Enforcement

by Matt Moret,
Colorado Public Radio

A proposal that would require Colorado lawmakers to allocate \$350 million to support law enforcement agencies qualified for the November ballot Thursday.

If approved, Proposed Initiative 157 would create a “Peace Officer Training and Support Fund” to help hire, train and retain new officers. State lawmakers would decide how to divide the grant money between various local police departments and sheriff’s offices. They would also decide on a timetable for when those payouts would occur.

Money from the fund would go toward things like expanded training, pay increases and recruitment of out-of-state officers.

The ballot measure would additionally require the state to start paying a one-time \$1 million death benefit to families of first responders killed in the line of duty. The benefit would cover police officers, sheriff’s deputies and firefighters. Families would still be entitled to any other death and disability benefits they would normally receive.

“Providing additional compensation for families of fallen officers upholds a social obligation to honor their sacrifice,” wrote the measure’s backers in arguments they submitted for the state’s nonpartisan voter guide. “Local law enforcement agency death benefits differ, with some providing fewer benefits than others. This measure guarantees that no matter where a fallen officer worked, their family will receive compensation for their loss.”

The nonpartisan Colorado Legislative Council estimates the death benefit would cost the state an average of \$4 million per year. That money would come from the Peace Officer Training Fund until it runs out of cash, at which point lawmakers would need to pass a new appropriation to continue the payments.

Because the measure specifies that the state can’t raise taxes to pay for the new funding, the money would come from the state’s general budget, leaving less for other departments.

The measure, nicknamed by supporters the “Back the Blue” initiative, is backed by the conservative policy group, Advance Colorado, which was also at the heart of the recent legislative deal to pass new property tax reductions.

Secretary of State Jenna Griswold’s office said supporters of Initiative 157 submitted 185,889 petition signatures to put the issue before voters.

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2024/09/01/voters-will-decide-whether-to-set-aside-350-million-for-colorado-law-enforcement/>

Lowered Expectations: Colorado Wants to Cut Math Scores to Boost Graduation Numbers

by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

The Polis administration thinks they have found the answer to making sure our high school students are proficient at math before graduating — they’re just going to lower those expectations.

Instead of fixing the learning problem, the Colorado Education Department plans to lower the passing math scores on high school tests.

Bingo!

Kids fail upwards, but graduate on time.

From *Chalkbeat* and *Denver Post*:

“The proposed change the State Board is considering would lower the minimum passing score on the math portion of the SAT from 500 to 480. Without that change, officials say the percentage of students who can use their SAT score to meet graduation requirements will drop from 45% in 2023 to 39% with these results. That means about 3,400 students might be looking for a last-minute alternative to meet graduation requirements before May.”

It’s only a matter of time before Coloradans forget the educational standards were lowered, and employers start questioning why their workers lack math skills.

We’re betting Gov. Polis won’t tout this accomplishment the next time he’s trying to recruit new high-tech jobs to the state.

Do better, Colorado.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/08/30/lowered-expectations-colorado-wants-to-cut-math-scores-to-boost-graduation-numbers/>

