

Colorado Highways Crumble Under CDOT Neglect

by Mark Hillman,
Complete Colorado Page Two

Colorado highways are among the worst in the nation. That's hardly news to anyone who travels across our state.

Only two states report a larger share of interstate highway in poorer condition than Colorado. Less-traveled highways are even worse.

In 2021, the Democrat-controlled legislature passed a \$5.4 billion package of new "fees" – including an annual increase in fuel prices and that irritating 29 cents only Coloradans pay on every Amazon order – supposedly to boost the transportation budget.

Despite that infusion of money, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) predicts the condition of every category of state-maintained highways will get even worse over the next seven years. By 2031, just 25% of

interstate highways will be in good condition; state highways will be even worse.

Many communities may complain about their highways, but the roads in my home of Kit Carson County could be the most dangerous in Colorado.

I-70 neglect

Visitors from Kansas enter Colorado on Interstate 70. Until late last year, the "Welcome to Colorful Colorado" sign was instantly accompanied by the teeth-rattling rumble caused by a concrete highway falling apart. Embarrassed by social media posts, Colorado put a band-aid repair on the first half mile inside the state line.

This year, CDOT issued a contract for an on-the-cheap project to "resurface" 23 miles of I-70 starting at the Kansas border. For the first 13 miles, a thin layer of asphalt will cover crumbling concrete beneath. Potholes aren't fixed but

filled with asphalt – a temporary patch soon eroded by underlying decay.

For the next 10 miles, CDOT has ordered a better, but still inadequate, repair. Contractors grind up old asphalt and replace it with six inches of new asphalt. However, asphalt doesn't [last] as long as concrete.

CDOT's public announcement laughably claims, "Resurfacing can greatly extend the life of the asphalt pavement; (s)ome highways may last more than 50 years with periodic resurfacing of the top layer of asphalt and timely repairs" (emphasis added).

As they used to say on "Saturday Night Live", "Yeah, and monkeys might fly out of my butt!"

Timely repairs clearly are not a priority for the Colorado Transportation Commission, which is more concerned about discouraging Coloradans from driving at all.

The I-70 project ostentatiously omits the last 13 miles of eastbound I-70 approaching the Kansas border. This stretch of highway is a minefield of enormous potholes. The shoulder is littered with chunks of concrete which broke loose when unsuspecting drivers hit these craters at 75 mph.

For eastbound I-70 drivers, the most-welcome sight is Kansas where roads are properly maintained.

Ignoring rural roads

Two secondary US highways in this county are equally embarrassing.

US-24 parallels I-70 and is preferred by local residents and farm traffic hauling grain or cattle. Craters on US-24 were so bad earlier this summer that locals began using spray paint to point out the worst hazards. An embarrassed CDOT instructed the local crew

CDOT NEGLECT
see page 8

The Wolff Hotel 65 Years Later

by George Gramlich

Sixty-five years ago, newlywed Texans Don and Paula Graham took a trip through Colorado as part of their honeymoon. They were married in Plainview, Texas, in 1959. The honeymooners spent time at Pike's Peak and even drove across the Royal Gorge Bridge.

They weren't planning on staying overnight in Westcliffe but they wound up here anyway. Asking around for a place to stay, they were told the Wolff Hotel on South 2nd Street in Westcliffe had rooms. So they stayed the night.

Just recently they were driving through Colorado and decided to visit Westcliffe and the hotel they had stayed in sixty-five years ago. Seeing a Custer County Realty for sale sign there, they contacted the realtor to see if they could get a brief tour inside. The owner of Custer County Realty, Bob Senderhauf, responded and took them through the building and down memory lane. Mr. Graham said the



Don and Paula 65 years later. Photo by Bob Senderhauf

BOCC: Another \$50K Down the Drain in Nanny State Happy Valley

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The October 9, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners special meeting was held in the Search & Rescue building and started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin "Turncoat" Day.

The meeting was a rush job as the Office of Emergency Management Director, Robyn Knappe, had a grant deadline to meet which required the Commissioners to make a financial decision regarding it. The deadline for responding for the state grant was the next day. Why Knappe waited so long is unknown.

The proposed grant was from Colorado's Forest and Management Grant program. Some background first: Knappe has been trying to get local landowners to mitigate their properties through various means. This year she had a program that trained eight local people on how to run a chainsaw and do mitigation work including trimming trees and cutting them down. Knappe was here to ask for money to aid the citizen run mitigation efforts.

At this meeting, Knappe said she wanted to "grow the mitigation program" and "provide additional services". She said there were six HOA/neighborhoods on board with the program.

Knappe then got to the issue of the day noting that the few civilians who were mitigating had to rent a chipper machine (where you feed cut branches into it and it cuts them into chips) and that was costing them money. And it was an inconvenience as they had to rent the machine in Cañon City and drive it up and back. She mentioned that the daily cost was around \$500 and somehow this was too much for these poor large landowners.

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I will call on the
LORD, who is worthy
to be praised: so shall
I be saved from mine
enemies.
2 Samuel 22: 4 KJV

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SENTINEL

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

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

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

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Key Personnel
George Gramlich - President & Managing Editor
George.Gramlich.sdc@gmail.com
Fred Hernandez - Vice President
FredHer8@proton.me
L. Vass - Secretary and Asst Editor / Graphics Layout
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com
Katherine Branchley - Advertising Coordinator
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support
Accounting Services
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com
Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery
Galen Studebaker

Sentinel Founders
Mike Hess
George Gramlich
Mary Seifert
Rob Canterbury

Sentinel Honor Roll
Dan Bubis
Jackie Bubis
Carol Clemenson
Scott Clemenson
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors
Audrey Slater
Mtn. Photo in Logo by Peggi Collins

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601 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
www.SDCSentinel.com
Please send your letters to sdc.sentinel@gmail.com
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‘Lil Bobcat’ Program Debut

The “Lil Bobcat” program debuted for football and cheer on Thursday, October 2nd when the “Lil Bobcats” were paired with their “Big Bobcats”!!

This program was developed by Jade Stallones, wife of our Custer County High School football head coach, Clayton Stallones.

Jade worked with Cheer Coach, Rachel Simpson, to recruit youngsters four years old through 6th grade to participate in this program designed to encourage mentorship and community throughout our school.

There was a tremendous response as 11 boys were matched with football players and 21 girls will be working with our cheer team.

These kids will receive a “Lil Bobcat” T-shirt. They will also lead the charge onto the field at 6:40 p.m. at the Homecoming Game on Friday, October 18th! Don’t miss it!!

The “Lil Bobcats” also participate in halftime games and cheers!

Photos by Sarah Flynn



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SHERIFF'S OFFICE INTRODUCES Deputy Kobe Lewsader

by Fred Hernandez

He was only eighteen when he joined the U.S. Army stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served for four years and learned his craft as a helicopter mechanic. As part of his service he was sent on rotation to Camp Humphreys, the U.S. garrison located near Anjeong and Pyeontaek metropolitan areas in South Korea, the busiest U.S. Army airfield in Asia with eight thousand plus feet of runway, and also the largest U.S. overseas military base. He specialized in all the mechanical articles and devices in the Apache helicopters, a key weapon of the Army known as a flying tank designed to survive heavy attack and inflict massive damage. Over the nine-month period of his Korean stint he learned to love Kimchi, the popular and spicy vegetable dish; a staple food of that country.

When he finally got back to Custer after his honorable discharge, he volunteered at the local fire district, although his interest was always in a law enforcement career. One night during the school's homecoming events (home games, dance and a bonfire), he was in one of the fire trucks at the football field where the firefighters were to oversee the evening's bonfire after the football game. It was then that they were toned about a solo car crash that had just happened on Hwy 69 north. Arriving just minutes after the EMS team, they assisted with the extrication of the elderly victim from the heavily damaged vehicle that had rolled several times and landed in a ditch. Kobe applied the battery powered spreader, a device that forces open metal parts to allow the other team member to use the cutter to sever the entire door panel. The flight for life chopper landed on the road as they carried the patient in a stretcher up the embankment. This was an experience that remains with Kobe. A reminder of his longing to be of service to his fellow citizens.



The name Kobe is really a nickname for Jacob but in Kobe's case it is his formal name. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, the Hoosier State, in 1999, his family moved to Custer County when he was only a two-year-old toddler. So he really has spent almost his entire life in the county and went to grade school and high school at the local school. Always interested in sports, Kobe played football and baseball but was better known for his skills in basketball. Happily married just over five years to Elizabeth they have a girl and a boy.

It is a real bonus to have young men like Kobe Lewsader who grew up in the county to be members of our local Sheriff's Office. They know the area well, they are acquainted with a lot of the local folks and are in tune with the rhythm of the county. Welcome Kobe. It's good to have you here.

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The Pastry Chef at Tony's Steak & Tavern

Press Release
Tony's Steak & Tavern

We at Tony's want to thank all of you in the community for your support, encouragement and even constructive criticism as we have undergone so many changes in the restaurant(s) over the last couple of years.

With your support and voices, our team is continuing to work hard to make Tony's restaurants ones that everyone can enjoy.

We'd like to start shining light on that amazing team (your friends, family and neighbors) beginning with Mickayla Lynch! Mickayla is married to our Tavern chef, Josh, and is the talent behind many of the homemade desserts we are so proud to offer you!

Meet Mickayla in her own words:

"I'm from Show Low, Arizona. I grew up baking with my Mama and developed a love for food at a young age. I started out in the restaurant industry as a prep cook and that's where I met my wonderful husband. Baking started as a hobby and with the support of my family and friends, I decided to go to school to try to make a career out of it. I took the baking and pastry course at Oregon culinary institute. It was a great experience and I learned so much. After school I did an externship at a place called Fat Cupcake. The people there are some of the best and it helped me improve my decorating skills. We decided to move to Col-

orado to be closer to my family and wound up in the cute little town of Westcliffe. My husband has always encouraged my baking career and helped me get a job baking for Tony's. I love to make all kinds of desserts and right now the big one has been from-scratch cheesecakes. It's been a blast to have the creative freedom to try new recipes so I can provide the community with fun homemade desserts!"

We are so pleased to have Mickayla as part of our team and look forward to trying every new dessert she creates! We know you will love her desserts as much as we do!

Tony's Steak & Tavern is located at 630 Main Street, Silver Cliff. (719) 783-9300. tonysmountainpizza.com

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Wellness Event for all Ages

Press Release

A family-friendly fall wellness day, focusing on Mental Health activities will take place Saturday, October 19, 2024 at The Pines Ranch in Westcliffe. The event is designed to include activities for all ages with ten classes scheduled during the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. open house-style event.

Attendees can expect to be treated to a variety of mini classes and presentations, conversations with holistic practitioners, cooking demonstrations and an all-day

mini farmer's market, designed to provide community members with a network of local healthy resources.

The day will also include children's activities such as arts and crafts, kid's yoga and indoor and outdoor games and fun.

Co-sponsored by The Pines Ranch, West Custer County Library and Wellness Day Coordinator, Rosi Blaesus, this is the fourth in a series of quarterly wellness events designed to empower people to improve their health and wellness.

"The Pines Ranch has been known as a place to restore health and well-being since the late 1800's," said Director, Tracey Schlafer, "and that purpose continues to this day."

For more information, please contact the West Custer County Community Library at 719-783-9138, visit www.westcusterlibrary.org, or email info@westcusterlibrary.org. The Pines Ranch is located at 379 Chalice Road in Westcliffe. Visit thepinesranch.org for detailed directions.

Letters to the Editor



Do Your Homework

Editor;

Recently there has been an attack on Commissioner Bill Canda. Certain people have accused him of forging his name on a Custer County check and embezzling funds by using a Custer County credit card for personal use. It didn't take long to prove these accusations to be nothing but blatant lies and vicious rumors!

When I asked Commissioner Canda about the credit card and forgery issues, his response was simple. I don't even have access to a county credit card! As per the forgery, crossing out one's name so it's still visible and signing your own, is not forgery! This he did to save our county \$54,000! A cost accrued because of the reckless behavior of Commissioner Kevin Day and former commissioner Tom Flower!

So why would anyone bring up charges in the first place without doing their homework and verifying the validity of such allegations? The quick answer is, "You can't fix stupid!"

Well, Commissioner Day, instead of standing up for your colleague until the truth was proven, you were quick to push him under the train! Great job Commissioner, as once again you were wrong! Had you and Flower not out-voted Bill Canda, in hiring an unnecessary county manager, none of this would have happened in the first place! May I suggest that in the future Commissioner Day, you take the advice of Commissioner Canda who has far more experience and intelligence than yourself and also listen to the people for whom you work! We are tired of your "loose cannon approach!" Commissioner Canda was simply doing the job for which he was voted in, and protecting Custer County from a frivolous unnecessary expense! You and Flower on the other hand, not only out-voted Commissioner Canda and went against the will of the majority of the people, but gave Braden Wilson a golden parachute of \$54,000 for roughly a week's worth of work!

As is the case, Bill Canda does in fact have the authority to sign checks for Custer County and doesn't have access to a county credit card! Day, as a commissioner yourself, you should have known these things! May I suggest in the future you do your homework big boy and just maybe you won't look so ignorant!

Jim Wilde, Custer County

(Editor/GG: Jim wrote an opus to us on Canda's background and various other subjects. Too long to print here but read it at our website.)

Education Legacy Fund Announces New Board



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ALMA GOLDEN



KRISTEN IVERSEN



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LOCKETT PITMAN



2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Education Legacy Fund is delighted to announce the new Board of Directors elected for a one-year term from 2024 – 2025.

- Kate Vickery, President
- Richard Hacker, Secretary
- Clark Maxam, Treasurer
- Dirk Anderson
- Alma Golden
- Kristen Iversen
- Rick Meckstroth
- Lockett Pitman

More information on each respective Board Member can be found at elfcc.org

Kamala To Visit Antler Liquor Next Week

"I love Antler Liquor and Antler Motel! You can liquor up at Antler Liquor and just a short stagger to Antler Motel. I also like that Antler Motel is a no-tell hotel. Antler no-tell motel and Antler no-tell liquor. Antler liquor and hotel. I mean motel. No seriously it is an Antler motel with Antlers on the wall, I mean Walz." ~Kamala Harris

(Venezuelan beer will be on sale during the campaign stop.)



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Statewide Ballot Initiatives

The Colorado Republican Committee makes the following voting recommendations for the 2024 Statewide Ballot Initiatives:

VOTE YES!

AMENDMENT G: Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities

AMENDMENT I: Constitutional Bail Exception for first Degree Murder

AMENDMENT K: Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

PROP. 128: Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence

PROP. 129: Establishing Veterinary Professional Associates

PROP. 130: Funding for Law Enforcement

VOTE NO!

AMENDMENT 79: Constitutional Right to Abortion

AMENDMENT 80: Constitutional Right to School Choice

PROPOSITION 131: Establishing an All-Candidates Primary Election and Ranked Choice Voting General Election

PROPOSITION JJ: Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue

PROPOSITION KK: Firearms and Ammunition Tax

**IF YOU ARE UNSURE, VOTE NO!
DON'T LEAVE IT BLANK**

PROPOSITION 131 (#310)

Concerning the Conduct of Elections (RANKED CHOICE VOTING)

VOTE NO

“Establish top-four primaries and ranked-choice voting (RCV) for federal and state offices in Colorado”

This initiative establishes a top-four ranked choice voting system in Colorado for Congressional, Gubernatorial, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, University of Colorado Regent, State Board of Education and Legislative elections.

RCV confuses voters, whose ballots will be discarded if all candidates are not ranked. In extreme liberal Colorado, RCV ensures the most extreme Democrats prevail, and less conservative choices for office end up winning elected offices. RCV is supported by Kent Thiry, whose goal is to eliminate parties and move to a centrist government.

A “yes” vote supports establishing top-four primary elections and ranked-choice voting for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, University of Colorado University Regent, State Board of Education, and State Legislature.

A “no” vote on Proposition 131 continues the existing primary election system and the current method of selecting candidates and counting votes at general elections.

Alaska uses an all-candidate primary system where the top four vote-getters advance to a ranked choice voting general election. That system was adopted by voters in 2020 and first used in 2022. There is a measure on Alaska’s November ballot asking voters to repeal the state’s system.

In Alaska a share of general election races in the state this year will pit only candidates from the same party against each other, leaving supporters of the opposite party with no one who aligns with their political views.

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www.westcliffeflowershop.com

Funeral Homes

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

Furniture & Home Goods

Yoder’s Home Outfitting
57965 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear
Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Grocery & Health Foods

Lowe’s Market
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719-783-0550
www.lowesmarket.com

DUTCH PANTRY & DELI
404 E. Main St., Silver Cliff
719-298-6689 STORE HOURS:
Mon-Thur: 9-5, Fri: 6:30-5, Sat: 7-4

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Custer County Supply Co
206 Main St. Westcliffe | 719-659-8743
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Lincolnparkpawn@hotmail.com
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Sangre Shooting Sports Club
P.O. Box 1554, Westcliffe
http://sangreshooting.com



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, October 21 #6 Baked Potato Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce Salad w/Lite French Plum, Fruit Cocktail Drop Biscuit w/Butter	Tuesday, October 22 #39 Corned Beef Dinner Parsley Buttered New Potatoes Cabbage and Carrots Spinach Salad w/Mandarin Oranges Apple	Thursday, October 24 #23 Chicken a la King Smashed Red Potatoes Seasoned Asparagus Tossed Veg. Salad w/Lite Ranch Apple, WW Bread w/Butter
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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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CranioSacral Therapy, Visceral Manipulation, MLD
114 N 2nd Street, Westcliffe
wetmountainmanualtherapy.com 719.639.8447

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Premier Pest Control LLC
719-371-7404 ~ ppc16@privategarden.org
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Wildfire Mitigation and Excavation
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rswota@gmail.com

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Brenda Bosse HomeSmart Preferred Real Estate
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Tony's Steak & Tavern
719-783-9300
630 Main St., Silver Cliff
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Solar Solutions Ltd
Off Grid and Grid Tie
10 Hermit Lane. Silver Cliff 719-783-9666
email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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Wet Mountain Storage
300 Main St, Westcliffe (office)
719-783-9321
www.westcliffecoloradoselfstorage.com

Tractor/Trailer Sales

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719-784-0123
https://www.truevaluetrailers.com

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719-783-3770
www.highpeaksanimal.com

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Finney Drilling
Cañon City
719-275-9525
larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ADVERTISERS!

Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 -7:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Meeting (The Bible and X) w/ Scott Munger. at First Baptist Church.
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, 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 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.

9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study “Names of God” at Sangre de Cristo Fellowship, 120 Jerry Dr. Westcliffe. September 18- December 4 Questions? Holly 703-338-4100

10 a.m. Pickle Ball (SCMP) info: lizbrannen@gmail.com

6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

First Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters, FBC (log bldg next to the church) 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.

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

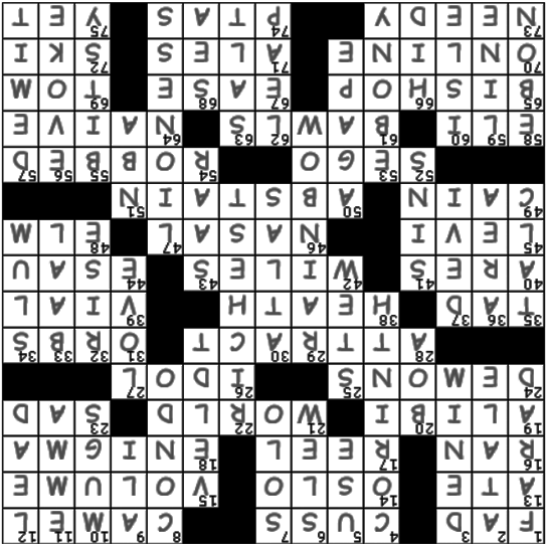
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853

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



High Peaks
Animal Hospital

Dr. Kayla Ingram

Call for an appointment:
719-783-3770

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719-371-6074

WMVCF Closes First & Announces Second ‘Youth in Philanthropy’ Initiative Grant

Press Release

WESTCLIFFE, Colorado - The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) is pleased to announce the first of five \$5,000 grant cycles offered in celebration of its 25th anniversary - \$25K for 25 Years Youth in Philanthropy Initiative (YIPI) - has successfully closed. This first grant, Music in the Valley, will provide funding to programs, projects, and events that foster and strengthen music in the Wet Mountain Valley. Numerous grant applications were received and are currently being evaluated by our Youth in Philanthropy team. Grant awards will be announced later this month.

The WMVCF is thrilled to announce its 2nd Youth in Philanthropy grant initiative. The Community Strength and Vitality Grant will provide funding to programs, projects, and events in the Wet Mountain Valley that improve community health, capacity, preservation, or vitality. A total of \$5,000 will be awarded to one or more projects, with a grant request minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000. This grant is available to any entity serving Custer County and the Wet Mountain Valley with an established and documented nonprofit status, including educational institutions, libraries, churches, and government entities in good standing with the IRS.

Applications can be completed online at <http://wmvcf.org/youth-in-philanthropy/> or obtained by emailing Dr. Jennifer Howerton, WMVCF Managing Director, at director@wmvcf.org. The deadline for the Community Strength and Vitality Grant is November 30, 2024.

CDOT NEGLECT from page 1

to fill potholes. But with traffic often diverted to US-24 due to construction and weather closures on I-70, this highway will get worse fast.

North-south traffic travels US-385 which parallels Colorado’s eastern border. This two-lane highway rarely has more than a few inches of shoulder and is a favorite route for oversize loads, including wind farm components and off-road equipment that can cover the entire roadway.

Oversize loads pay expensive fees to use US-385, but those fees clearly aren’t reinvested in road maintenance. Highway shoulders are disintegrating so badly that the white line often disappears. Elsewhere the center stripe looks like yellow islands surrounded by endless “cracks” which have been patched and re-patched.

For this, Coloradans can thank Gov. Jared Polis and his appointees to the Transportation Commission whose unwritten policy must be: “Make drivers miserable.” They brag to the *New York Times* that Colorado isn’t building new roads: “Polis signed a law that required the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent within 30 years. As the state tried to figure out how it would get there, it zeroed in on drivers. ... To reduce emissions, Coloradans would have to drive less.”

Neither Polis nor the Commission seem to care that good highways are essential to rural life where walking and biking are impractical. Nine northeastern counties in CDOT District 11 have been without representation for several months, a vacancy that lies squarely at the feet of Polis who has purged the commission of members who prioritize maintaining rural roads.

Sometimes the War on Rural Colorado is waged aggressively. When it comes to rural roads, it’s waged by outright neglect.

Mark Hillman represented the Eastern Plains in the Colorado Senate from 1999 to 2005.

Please see: [https:// page twocompletemontecolorado.com/2024/10/11/hillman-colorado-highways-crumble-under-cdot-neglect/](https://page.twocompletemontecolorado.com/2024/10/11/hillman-colorado-highways-crumble-under-cdot-neglect/)

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589 Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study 0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526 Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511 Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS 417 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe Pastor Josh Olsteen 719/783-2498 High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045 Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053 Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study 3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561 Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m. 830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863 Our Lady of the Assumption Send Church updates to sdcsentinel@gmail.com (719) 783-3360	Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass 109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507 Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491 Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence 719/784-1184 St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays 3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477 St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500 Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church Pastor: Mike Shields 10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredcristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook 60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372 Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903 Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822 Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572 Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230 Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596
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For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?
Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?
Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
Matthew 5: 46-47 ESV



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Events

October 18 @ 7:30 p.m. - October 20 @ 2 p.m.
WCPA Live Theater – Squirrels \$\$
Historic Jones Theater 119 Main St, Westcliffe

October 18, 19 Bobcat Homecoming Weekend

October 19 @ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Pines Ranch Wellness Event The Pines Ranch 379
Chalice Road, Westcliffe, CO. More info on page 4

October 20, 3 - 5 p.m.
Pie Sale Fund Raiser for Artist Edge Competition Team @ First Baptist Church see ad page 11

October 22, 1- 5 p.m.
Integrity Insurance Presentation @ Custer County Senior Center in Silver Cliff

Friday, October 25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Annual Fall Yard Sale - Lighthouse Pregnancy & Family Resource Center @ 417 Cliff St., Silver Cliff

November 28, 2024 Free Thanksgiving Dinner @ Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp.. RSVP (719) 276-5233 or (719) 942-4220

Classifieds

Announcements

FREE BOOKS
At the Sentinel's Lending Library:
History, biography, war, crime, etc. Good quality.

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Help Wanted

Custer County is accepting employment applications for the following full-time non exempt positions. Minimum starting wage \$21.00/hr DOQ

Accounts Payable Technician

Human Resources Technician

Employment application and job descriptions are available on Custer County website <https://www.custercounty-co.gov/employment>. Custer County is an equal opportunity employer.

Employment application and resume may be submitted to:

Custer County Human Resources
P.O. Box 150
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Email: HR@custercounty-co.gov

Lighthouse Pregnancy and Family Resources is seeking to fill a part-time Administrator position.
Applicant must have administrative experience preferably working in a nonprofit setting but we are willing to train the right individual. This position is 15hrs/wk. Monday, Thursday & Friday 11A to 4P, with occasional additional hours for meetings and events. Pay range is \$15-18/hr. For information regarding our organization please review our website www.lighthousepfr.org. To apply email resume to lighthousehelp1@gmail.com. and kathleen.koelling@yahoo.com

The Town of Silver Cliff is accepting applications for the Building and Zoning Official, a full-time 40 hour a week position.
Pay is commensurate with experience and qualifications base pay starts at \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hour with full benefits.

Applicants must have a valid Driver's License, be able to lift 50 pounds, and pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol screening.

Education: High school diploma or GED, with at least 10 years combined construction related experience and/or certifications required. ICC Certification is preferred or will need to achieve certifications within one to three years of the 2021 International Codes, in a timeline set by the Board of Trustees.

Technical skills: including but not limited to blueprint reading, interpretation and calculations, interpretate

and enforce the 2006 & 2021 International Codes, Silver Cliff Zoning Ordinances, and all other pertinent land use regulations. Must have communication and organizational skills, work well with others.

Computer skills; basic knowledge, word processing, spreadsheets, and database applications.

For more information or to receive a full job description and application contact Ileen Squire, Town Clerk at 719-783-2615 or pickup at 612 E. Main St., Silver Cliff, CO 81252, Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. or visit our website www.silvercliffco.com.

A complete application and resume including all education and references must be submitted by October 21, at 4:00 p.m.

Custer County School District is now hiring for the following positions: Substitute Teachers. Coaching positions include

MS Boys Head Basketball Coach, MS Girls Assistant Basketball Coach, MS C-Team Volleyball Coach, MS Head Track Coach, MS Assistant Track Coach, HS Head Baseball Coach, and HS Assistant Track Coach (Throwing). Any Certified Teacher/ Substitute application without a CDE license is incomplete and will not be considered. Online applications only. Please visit us on the web at: <https://custercountyschools.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx> or South Central BOCES - Westcliffe openings for more information and to apply.

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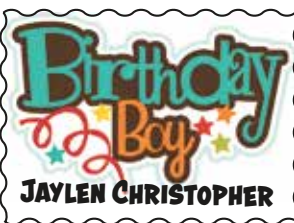
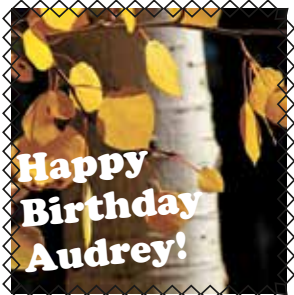
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PO Box 424, Westcliffe, CO 81252
talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com
(719) 783-2462 westcliffepost170.org

Custer County Community Sharing Food Pantry
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994
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Family Crisis Services
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(719) 275-2429 FamilyCrisisOnline.org

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

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

National Suicide HOTLINE
1-800-273-8255 Veterans Press 1

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

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

West Custer County Library
209 Main Street Westcliffe, CO 81252
(719) 783-9138
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Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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STAGE I FIRE BAN FOR CUSTER COUNTY

As of 10/8/2024, there were no restrictions for Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

SEE CC SO Facebook or SDCSentinel.com for full press release

KIDS

October 18, 2024

Aye-Aye

We are back to weird and probably never heard of animals. Today, we will look at the Aye-Aye. The Aye-Aye is a rare lemur that is native to Madagascar. It is on the endangered list. So, let's get started investigating this creature. Here are some interesting facts about the Aye-Aye.

They are one of only two species that uses the percussive foraging method to hunt for food. The other species is the woodpecker. The Aye-Aye has a bizarre, long and multi-purpose middle finger that's used for tapping wood and foraging grubs. Their third finger on each hand is thinner than the rest of them. They will tap on trees up to eight times a second and, will spend between five and 41-percent of its foraging time tapping and gnawing on wood to make holes to catch its prey. This tapping finger also has a ball and socket joint which gives it complete 360-degree movement which enables it to reach into little holes and pull-out grubs.

When they were first discovered, it was thought to be a type of large squirrel. In the 1870s it was finally recognized as being a member of the lemur family. Aye-Ayes are known for their bizarre appearance which includes rodent-like teeth, a bushy tail and large, sensitive ears. They have a slim body that measures about 14-17 inches excluding the tail. Its tail is bushy and can grow up to 22-24 inches, making it longer than its body.

Despite their weird appearance and reputation in local folklore, Aye-Ayes pose no threat to humans. They are often killed on sight by local people, however, due to cultural beliefs that associate them with evil or bad luck. Some local legends in Madagascar consider the aye-aye an omen of bad luck or even death.

The Aye- Aye is a nocturnal and arboreal animal, meaning that it spends most of its life high in the trees, although they are known to come down to the ground on occasion. During the day they sleep in round nests in the forks of tree branches. They are solitary animals, and they mark their large home range with their scent.

That's the skinny on the skinny-fingered creature known as the Aye-Aye. Come back next week to see what we have in store for you.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://factanimal.com/aye-aye/>, <https://animalia.bio/aye-aye>. Photo: Wikicommons.



Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Jesus said

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 4: 19b ESV

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday, October 11:

HS Volleyball @ HOME vs Center:

Varsity: 3-0 Win! JV: 2-0 Win!

HS Football @ Fowler (away): 0-48, lost

Saturday, October 12:

HS Volleyball Tournament @ Swink:

vs Swink: 0-3; vs Vanguard: 0-3;vs Sangre de Cristo: 3-1

Tuesday, October 15:

HS Volleyball @ HOME vs La Veta: 3-2 Win!



Custer County School District C-1

WEEK of October 21 thru October 24 2024

	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Cereal, Oatmeal Mixed Fruit, Yogurt Milk	Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Fruit, Milk
Tuesday	Biscuit Sandwich Fruit Choice of Milk	Nacho Supreme Beans, Rice Choice of Milk
Wednesday	Cheese Omelet Fruit Choice of Milk	Cheese ravioli w/sauce Cali Blend Veg. Fruit, Choice of Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Choice	Baked Chicken Sandwich Tomato Soup Fruit, Choice of Milk

ELEMENTARY - MAIN DISH, GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND MILK

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

This institution is an equal employer



Bookends

October 2024

Library News

It's spooky how many powerful resources lie just below the surface at the library. But don't be afraid to use them; that's what they're for!

Did the Oktoberfest activities celebrating our Valley's German heritage get you curious about your own roots? The library has a rich online genealogy database you can access either in the Library or from your home computer. Visit WestCuster Library.org, then click on the "Online Resources" tab to find the MyHeritage database. All you need is your library card number to access it!

As daylight shortens and we anticipate colder temps and uncertain road conditions, you don't have to stop making important appointments. The library has virtual meeting kits you can check out and use from the privacy of your own home, even if you don't have internet at home.

The kits contain a laptop, camera, and hotspot, along with other helpful equipment (like a pulse-oximeter, blood pressure cuff, and forehead thermometer) if your virtual appointment is with a medical doctor. You can also use the kits to talk to your lawyer, or accountant, or therapist. Don't have private space at home? The library also has a sound-proof privacy booth you can reserve for confidential online meetings. Reserve online via our web page or call us at 719-783-9138 for more information.

Whether you're looking for workers or looking for work, the library can connect you with services provided by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, a free service. From training and resume help to recruitment and employee retention, check with Adult Programs Coordinator, Cathy McCarthy for more information.

There are plenty of October events that you can attend in person at the library:

If you're looking for a live person to help you figure out your smart phone or laptop, stop in for our free Tech Cafe, a drop-in device lab, every second Thursday, 10 -11 a.m.

Want to see a fun family movie while the Jones Theater waits to repair their projector? Come view our free kids and family film showing on Friday, October 25th from 3-5 p.m. in the Community Room.

Need some support as you consider whether someone you love might be facing severe memory challenges? Join the Alzheimer's Association "Dementia Conversations" workshop on Tuesday, October 29th, 10 - 11 a.m.

And, of course, the Library will be participating in the Main Street Trick-or-Treat event on Thursday, October 31st, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Bring the kids out for a safe, fun event. We can't wait to see their costumes!

Speaking of candy, in that early November gap between plenty of sweets and Thanksgiving dinner, you might want to learn more about how ultra-processed foods impact our health. Come hear Ashley Melchiorre, MSN, FNP-C talk about the power of nutrition November 12th, 10 - 11 a.m.

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your

Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, October 18:

7 pm HS Football @ HOME vs Crowley County

Cross Country: Southern Peaks League @ Monte Vista

Golf Course: 10 am HS Girls, 10:45 am HS Boys

Saturday, October 19:

1 pm HS Volleyball @ HOME vs Monte Vista

Tuesday, October 22:

4:30 pm HS Volleyball vs Sanford (away)

Friday, October 25:

Cross Country: Regionals - location TBD

10 am HS Girls, 10:45 HS Boys

TBD, HS Football @ Hoehne (away)

HOMECOMING WEEK!

Friday, October 18th is the Football Homecoming Game!

Saturday, October 19th is the

Volleyball Homecoming Game and Senior Night!

The HOMECOMING PARADE

will begin at 10 am Saturday, October 19th!

Come out to show your support for your

Custer County Bobcats!

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Tony's Pizza Player of the Week



JV player of the week:
Madilyn Sears - Madi was flexible and really worked hard. She did her best no matter where she was put in and she kept a positive attitude the whole time.

Varsity: Trinity Downing
- Even though we experienced a tough weekend, Trinity tried to execute the skills we've been asking her to focus on and she's consistently a hard worker who tries to remain positive.



L to R Madilyn, Trinity and Mary Webber (from last week) Bottom Wade Pierce Photo Credits Jennifer Russ Photography

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Football MVP: Wade Pierce #22
@ Fowler
7 Catches
82 Yards

Photo-Walsenberg game

FFA Creed Presentation



Left to Right: Jacob Tomassoni - 2nd Place, Eddie Crispe - FFA Advisor. Lucas Bradford - 1st Place, Sierra Foster - 3rd Place

Photo by Mariah Bradford

The National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Organization - Custer County Chapter held its annual Creed Presentation on Sunday, October 11, 2024 where 11 new members recited E.M. Tiffany's "The FFA Creed" as a step to earning their Greenhand degrees. Parents, staff, and community members were wowed by their collective performance.

Judges, Katlyn Womack, Cheryl Laramore, and Christie Coleman-Holt scored each member on their recitation of "The FFA Creed" as well as three impromptu questions, "Why do you believe in the future of agriculture?", "What does "playing square" mean to you?" and "How can you influence your community?"

Congratulations to Freshman, Lucas Bradford for his winning citation which he will also present at the National FFA Organization district competition in January.

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Official Ballot for 2024 General Election
Custer County, Colorado
Tuesday, November 5, 2024

County Offices
Custer County Board of County Commissioners - District 2
(Vote for One)

Republican	Paul Raymond Vogelsong	☐
Unaffiliated	Kevin V. Day	☐
Write-In:	Lynn Attebery	☒

Paid for by Citizens for Lynn Attebery

TRUMP / VANCE
2024 SIGNS
AVAILABLE AT THE
SENTINEL
COST IS \$10 PAYABLE
TO JACK CANTEBURY
COME AND GET 'UM
WHILE THEY LAST

PIE AUCTION

ALL proceeds benefit
the ARTISTIC EDGE
COMPETITION DANCE
TEAM!

Sunday October 20th
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
417 S. 6th Street Westcliffe
Co. 81252

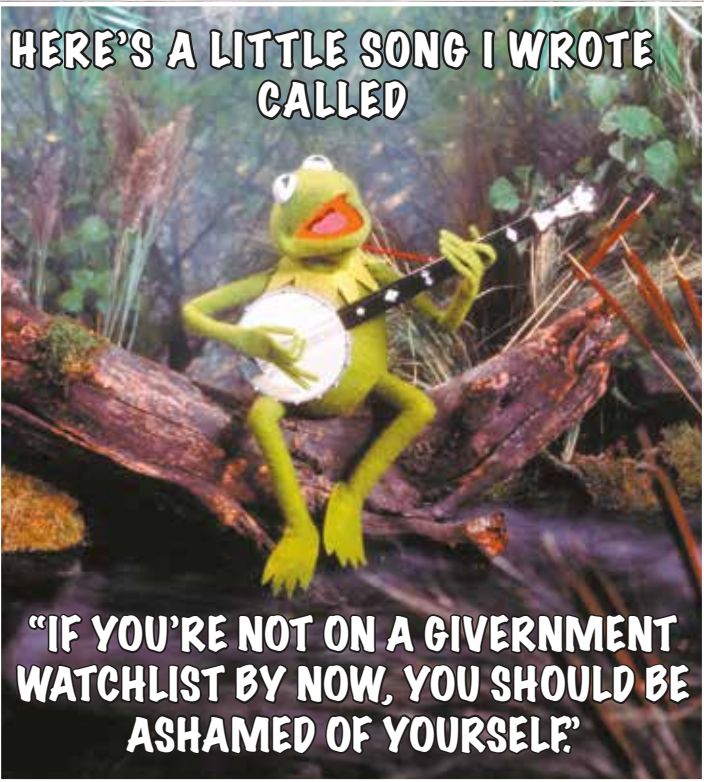
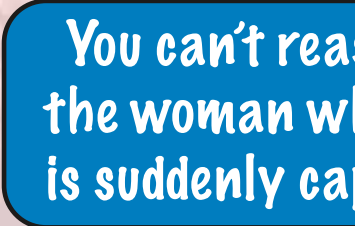
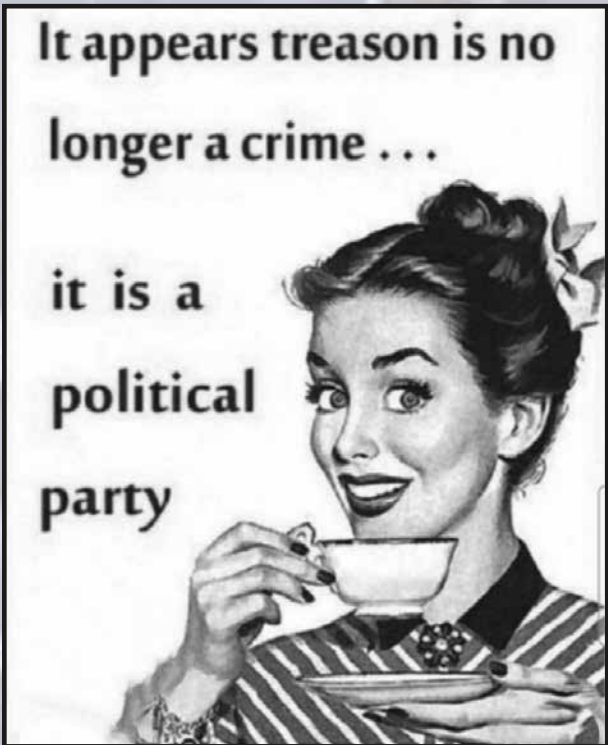
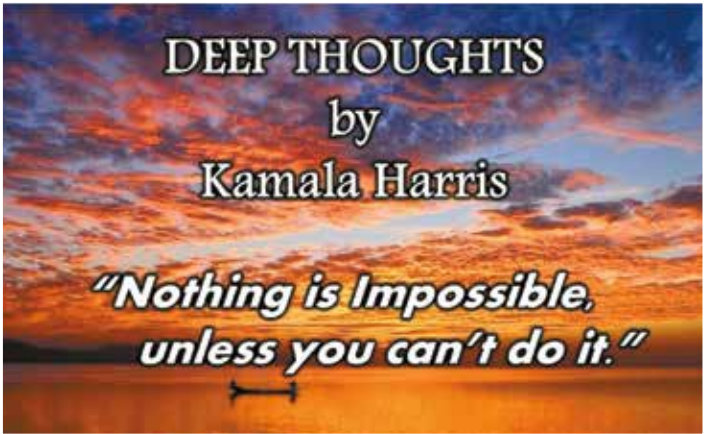
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MEMES TO VO



TO VOTE BY



Being disarmed in the face of tyrants is a mistake free people only get to make once...



**LIVE FREE.
REMAIN ARMED.
VOTE WISELY.**



OS
D
GHT

GAIS



You can't reason with people who believe the woman who has done nothing for years is suddenly capable of fixing everything.

VOTE

VOTE AS IF THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ACT AS A FREE PERSON...



BECAUSE IT JUST MAY BE.

UNINSTALLING BARACK OBAMA

IN PROGRESS 65%



PLEASE BE PATIENT. YOUR COUNTRY WILL BE RESTORED SOON.

 **Bad Hombre** @joma_gc

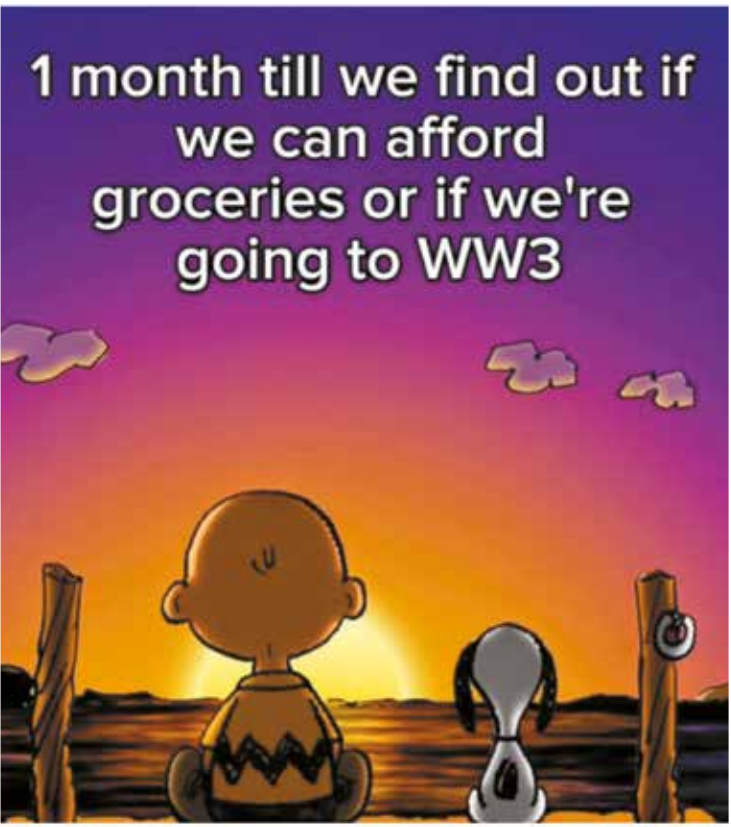
Trump interview with:

- Adin Ross: 6 million views
- Dr. Phil: 27 million views
- Dave Ramsey: 5 million views
- Theo Vonn: 14 million views
- Shawn Ryan: 4 million views
- Lex Fridman: 6 million views

Kamala interview on Call Her Daddy: 170,000 views

The joy is gone.

3:27 PM Oct 6, 2024 1.7M Views



SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL

WHERE TO PURCHASE THE PAPER

SILVER CLIFF *

Conoco Country Store
Dutch Pantry
Tony's Pizza

WESTCLIFFE

Antlers' Liquor Store
Lowes Market (Box outside)
Stage Stop Gourmet
Sundaes & Espresso
Sunflower Natural Foods

SDC Sentinel Office
Inside or Box outside
USPS (Box out side)



The Voice of Conservative Colorado!

2024 Election Information

Independence Institute 2024 Voter Guide

policy not to weigh in on social issues, including same-sex marriage. However, this amendment would simply remove a section of the Colorado Constitution that defines marriage exclusively as a union between a man and a woman— language that is no longer valid law—to align the state with rulings issued by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Colorado Supreme Court, and legislation enacted by the federal government. Despite being an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, the fact that Amendment J is repealing a section of the constitution means it only requires a simple majority to pass, rather than the usual 55%.

Amendment K – Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines Recommendation: VOTE NO

This amendment would move the deadline up by one week for citizen initiatives to file their petition signatures. The changes would give the Secretary of State and county clerks extra time to finalize content of ballots before they must be printed and sent to voters. Because this is an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, a 55% majority is required to pass it.

While extra time to finalize content of ballots might be beneficial to the Secretary of State and county clerks, those benefits should not come at the expense of citizens wishing to make their voices heard at the ballot. Amendment K would reduce the time for citizens to gather and submit petition signatures to get a proposed initiative on the ballot, an already difficult and extremely costly procedure. As such, we recommend a no vote.

Amendment 79 – Constitutional Right to Abortion Recommendation: VOTE NO

It is generally Independence Institute policy not to weigh in on social issues, including abortion. This amendment, however, goes beyond questions of morality surrounding abortion to include the potential for future taxpayer-funded mandates for public health insurance plans.

This amendment would explicitly protect access to legal abortion via the constitution. It also would remove Colorado’s 40-year-old ban on the use of public funds for abortion services. This would allow Colorado to cover more abortions under Medicaid and state and local governments to add abortion coverage to their employee health insurance plans. Because this is an amendment to the Colorado Constitution, a 55% majority is required to pass it.

Abortion is already legal without any gestational limits in Colorado. The failure of this measure at the ballot would not change that. It would, however, prevent the Colorado General Assembly and local governments from creating new public health insurance coverage mandates, keeping taxpayers off the hook for funding procedures that may or may not violate their conscience.

Amendment 80 – Constitutional Right to School Choice Recommendation: VOTE YES

This amendment would establish the right to school choice in the Colorado Constitution for children in kindergarten through 12th grade and create the right for parents to direct the education of their children. It would also define school choice to include public neighborhood and charter schools, private schools, home schools, open enrollment options, and “future innovations in education.” Because this is an amendment to the constitution, a 55% majority is required to pass it.

As one of Colorado’s original school choice advocates, Independence Institute has long worked toward the expansion of educational opportunities for Colorado kids ranging from charter schools to private schools to homeschool. For that reason, and because we believe the failure of this initiative would send an inaccurate message to already hostile policymakers, we recommend a yes on Amendment 80.

However, voters should note that this amendment does NOT create a new school choice program or expand existing options for parents. Instead, it creates the possibility of lawsuits on the issue of choice that may or may not lead to new—or preserve current—school options in the future. If passed, care will be required to ensure that the language of this amendment is not used by lawmakers or the courts in a way that leads to expanded government influence or control over independent schools and providers.

Proposition JJ – Retain Additional Sports Betting Tax Revenue Recommendation: VOTE NO

This proposition would ask voters to

<https://i2i.org/>
See page 17

2024 Election: Custer County BOCC Candidates Ballot Guide & Commentary

by George Gramlich, Commentary

Here’s some background on the candidates showing why we backed Vogelsong and Epp.

Local Races:

Board of County Commissioners District 2 Race:

Vote for Paul Vogelsong.

Paul Vogelsong has a lot of management experience, in the service and in the private sector. He knows accounting and finance. Not afraid to get his hands dirty to finish the job. Has worked big jobs and small. He will represent the taxpayers vs. being a shill for big government.

The other candidate on the ballot, Incumbent Kevin Day has been a total disaster. He failed to supervise the Finance Department for two years, allowing all kinds of mayhem to happen. Hired a TOTALLY unqualified person to run it. Pushed to create the unneeded County Manager job (and did it illegally by failing to follow the statutory rules to establish that office.) Then hired the same failed Finance Director to be the County Manager! Put in a morally wrong \$45k separation payment for the County Manager into the contract so that if he was fired or the job eliminated, the CM would get a big payout. He did this, KNOWING that the job would likely be eliminated after the recall election just days away from the decision. That was \$45k of OUR money flying out the door due to Day’s arrogance. Day acts like a petty juvenile in his relations with fellow Commissioner Canda. Being a lifelong government employee, Day always defends the government vs. protection of the people’s rights on issues. Which invariably costs us taxpayers money. Also Day was elected as a Republican and then abandoned the party to run as Unaffiliated this year, as he knew he would not be nominated again due to his abysmal performance. Thus, not a loyal person. His candidacy is all about Day and not about the people.

There is also a write-in candidate running, Lynn Attebury. Lynn is a Republican and ran for the slot at the Republican Assembly but was beaten out by Vogelsong. Lynn then decided to still run but as a write-in candidate. Lynn was a County Commissioner about ten years ago and did a decent job. But the world, and local government has changed dramatically since then. We invited Lynn in for an interview, but it didn’t go well. He avoided discussing many of the current local gov issues. He seemed unprepared. He kept referring back to when he was Commissioner. He failed to

present a concrete plan to address our problems. The interview was almost confrontational, which was regrettable. Lynn is a good guy but not the guy we would want now.

We need somebody to represent the people again and that is Vogelsong.

Board of County Commissioner Race District 3:

Vote for Lucas Epp.

Lucas Epp has done a good job. Couple of little bobbles early on but has spent the time to get things done. He accepted the job of overseeing the Finance Department after Day’s epic failing of managing it and has done a great job on maneuvering through this minefield. This was the biggest problem the county has had and Epp voluntarily took it on and he is getting it done. Very organized. Sometimes a little too friendly with our fringe lefties to suit me, personally, but nobody is perfect. And you can definitely say he listens to all the citizens. Epp will put in the time to get the job done. He has demonstrated that he is detail oriented. He schedules the Commissioners various meetings (which Day should be doing.) Epp tries to keep things moving along while Day snores. Vote for Epp.

The other candidate on the ballot, the *Wet Mountain Tribune’s* Editor, Jordan “Redbug” Hedberg is probably the most unqualified candidate ever to run for county office in decades. (And folks, we are knocking him because of his attributes and not because he is a competitor. We like having the *Trib* around. Two papers are a good thing. It’s a sign of life and a healthy opportunity for all voices to be heard in this small county.)

Hedberg has so many issues we can only touch on a few. Temperament: Hedberg is known for his many public and private outbursts of anger and profanity. We have seen it right here at the *Sentinel* in the middle of the day. Business Acumen: Hedberg apparently has been an employee for this entire life until recently. He tried to run a restaurant in Westcliffe a few years ago and that didn’t last long. He borrowed a bunch of money to buy the *Wet Mountain Tribune* and according to an affidavit he filed in his lawsuit against me, the *Trib’s* gross income and subscriber numbers have plunged dramatically in the last few years. You don’t want him managing our money. Property Taxes: At a BOCC meeting early this year, when the Commissioners were working on dropping the mill rate to save us property owners from the draconian property tax increase caused by our state legislature’s refusal to extend the tax breaks. Hedberg called in at the end of

meeting. He said he was for NOT reducing the huge increase so the county would have the money to do all the things they couldn’t do before. Easy for him to say, as he owns no property in Custer County that we’re aware of. So Hedberg is for more taxes (as long as he doesn’t have to pay them?)

Public Interaction: Hedberg basically closed the *Trib’s* office months ago. Apparently working out of his rental home. The reason given: Threats were made against him because of the *Trib*. So he ran and hid. Dude, you bought a local newspaper, dealing with threats is part and parcel of this business. Put on your big boy pants and act like a man. What are you going to do if you are elected? Have 24 hours police protection? Work from home and attend meetings via Zoom?

Legal System Abuse: Hedberg sued the County over legal notices. Hedberg has sued me personally, apparently trying to put the *Sentinel* out of business. Hedberg filed a criminal complaint against Commissioner Canda that the DA had to spend money to investigate, and the DA eventually deemed it totally bogus. Hedberg filed an ethics complaint against our ex Public Health Director which was declined. Hedberg threatened to sue the BOCC if they voted to hold a voter integrity seminar. And just recently, Hedberg sued our County Sheriff to get a Temporary Restraining Order citing a rather bizarre reason. This necessitated retaining a criminal lawyer for the County to defend the lawsuit. Yet another County legal expense due to Hedberg’s lawfare. You get the picture, instead of resolving disputes person to person like a man, he appears to prefer using the legal system to get his way. Plus, he has had other legal issues.

Use of Extreme Profanity in Public: Tons of examples but maybe the worst was Hedberg using EXTREME profanity in various people’s discussions on some of our local Facebook community pages when the discussion was very courteous. The posters were often mature, local ladies who were having a chat about something and then—wham---Hedberg drops in with vulgarity out of nowhere.

You get the picture. Not the guy you want at the helm of a \$9 million a year operation requiring a lot of personal interaction, thick skin, and financial wisdom. Why he is running for Commissioner is unknown. Probably just another ego trip thing with him. It’s a shame. Hedberg’s got half a brain, but it is just wasted due to his personality issues. Suggest Hedberg read Andrew Murray’s “*Humility*”. It is a good place to start....

2024 Election Information

Independence Institute 2024 Voter Guide Cont'd

allow retention of all revenues collected from sports betting. The additional money would be used for water conservation and protection projects.

TABOR is a key provision in Colorado’s constitution to protect taxpayers from government growth and overreach. Propositions like this seem appealing to many because they only affect a small proportion of the populace and because sports betting is often considered a vice. It is convenient to say “Sure, raise taxes on them because it doesn’t affect me.” But what happens when the government wants to tax you on one of your hobbies?

In this endless cycle of taxation, it is the government who wins and takes more money than it needs for oftentimes wasteful projects. We recommend a no vote.

Proposition KK – Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax

Recommendation: **VOTE NO**

This proposition would ask voters to impose a new 6.5 percent excise tax on gun and ammunition sales. The tax would be paid by gun dealers, manufacturers, and ammunition vendors, who would then pass the cost on to consumers. The funds would go to behavioral health support for veterans and youth, school safety and gun violence prevention programs, and services for victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes.

The federal government already levies a 10 percent excise tax on handguns and an 11 percent tax on all other firearms and all ammunition to fund conservation efforts. If passed, the new 6.5 percent tax would be additive to the federal government’s and would make Colorado only the second state in the country (behind California, of course) to levy a state excise tax on gun and ammunition sales.

To quote Governor Jared Polis, “In effect, when you tax something, you penalize it.” Coloradans have a state and federal constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Those exercising that fundamental right should not be “penalized” in order to compensate for crimes they did not commit.

The added tax also risks exacerbating socioeconomic disparities in who has access to the best tools to defend themselves by pricing those with limited economic means out of the ability to purchase and train with firearms.

Proposition 127 – Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx, and Mountain Lion Hunting

Recommendation: **VOTE NO**

This initiative would permanently end hunting seasons for mountain lions and bobcats in Colorado. It would also bar the state from allowing lynx hunting should the species ever be delisted by the Feds as “endangered.” The animals could still be killed by state or federal employees for population management, or, with state permission, by ranchers to prevent livestock depredation.

Policymaking by duplicity is no way to govern a state. The proponents of the Proposition 127 ban have compared the lawful taking of mountain lions to “trophy hunting” to give the impression that the animals are merely killed for sport and left to waste. Yet, current Colorado law explicitly requires all successful mountain lion hunters to prepare their quarry for human consumption, and many thousands of Colorado hunters do just that each year.

The measure is also not about the health of Colorado’s big cat populations. Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists

estimate that the state’s population of mountain lions has grown since the species was classified as a big game species in 1965, as has the state’s bobcat population.

Instead, the measure is about using the force of law to take away long-cherished practices of certain residents that offend the sensibilities of urban Colorado, the latest instance of waging culture war at the ballot box. The ban would have both direct and indirect economic impacts by ending the big cat hunting industry. A larger, unmanaged big cat population could damage other big game populations and increase big cat encounters in rural and exurban areas of the state.

We hope that the voters of Colorado have learned their lesson from the reintroduction of wolves about the perils of ballot-box biology and opening new fissures between urban and rural parts of the state. We strongly recommend a no vote.

Proposition 128 – Parole Eligibility for Crimes of Violence

Recommendation: **VOTE YES**

Proposition 128 would require persons convicted of certain violent crimes to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence in prison before being eligible for parole. It would also make a person convicted for the third or more times of certain violent offenses ineligible for parole.

We agree with the idea that violent offenders, particularly those who repeatedly victimize others through violent criminal acts, should remain incapacitated and removed from our communities until they have paid their debts to society.

Voters should temper their expectations about the impact of this measure, in that judges will likely just reduce their sentencing to account for the new requirement. The measure does not create minimum sentences for certain crimes. And judges are fully aware of the percentage of time served behind bars when they order a sentence. The measure also risks taking away a potential tool for encouraging good behavior behind bars.

On balance, however, it is the duty of a well-governed state to remove violent offenders from polite society to preserve public order and enable human flourishing. We recommend a yes vote, with an understanding that it may be a modest change.

Proposition 129 – Establishing Veterinary Professional Associates

Recommendation: **VOTE YES**

This initiative would create a new mid-level position between a vet technician (2-year associates degree) and a veterinarian (8 or more years of education). Functioning similarly to a Physician’s Assistant (PA) role in human health care, the position would be for those with a master’s degree and given the title of a veterinary professional associate or VPA. VPAs would be licensed and regulated by the State Board of Veterinary Medicine and could diagnose, perform routine surgeries, and order/perform tests and procedures under supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

It is no secret that Coloradans love their pets. Unfortunately, the state is also facing a shortage of veterinarians to care for those pets, particularly in rural Colorado. Creating a VPA position would help ease this problem by allowing educated and highly trained animal medical professionals to enter practice more quickly to help shoulder some of

the workload of existing veterinarians.

Ultimately, Proposition 129 is a positive “scope-of-practice” reform for animal healthcare that has the potential to help pet owners get increased access to quality veterinary care at lower costs. We recommend a yes vote.

Proposition 130 – Funding for Law Enforcement

Recommendation: **VOTE YES**

Proposition 130 would direct the Colorado General Assembly to make a one-time \$350 million appropriation from the General Fund to a newly created “Peace Officer Training and Support Fund” administered by the Department of Public Safety (CDPS).

Proposition 130 – Funding for Law Enforcement Cont’d

The CDPS would be tasked with distributing that money in grants to local law enforcement agencies to improve officer recruitment, training, and retention. It would also require the state to provide a one-time \$1 million death benefit to the family of each state and local law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. The state would be required to maintain the benefit even after the initial \$350 million fund is depleted.

It should be noted that the measure does not specify when legislature must make the \$350 million appropriation to create this new fund, meaning lawmakers could put it off potentially indefinitely. It does, however, require the money to come from existing General Fund revenue rather than from a new tax.

Proposition 131 –

Establishing All-Candidate Primary and Ranked Choice Voting General Elections

Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

This initiative would end party primaries in favor of jungle primaries for candidates running for certain offices, including Governor, state and federal legislative seats, Attorney General, and Secretary of State. All qualified candidates, regardless of party affiliation, would be put on the same primary ballot to be voted on by all registered voters. The top four vote getters would then move on to the general election, where a winner would be selected by voters rank-ordering candidates by preference. The winner is then determined by tabulating the ranked votes using a method called instant runoff voting, whereby the candidate with the least number of first-choice votes is eliminated in rounds until a candidate secures more than half of the active remaining votes.

Overall, we like the measure’s innovative approach to shaking up a stale system for selecting candidates for office. A jungle primary could force candidates to campaign on issues that appeal to a broader cross-section of voters, rather than just to committed partisans that may or may not be representative of the rest of the state.

However, we have some concerns that ranked-choice voting could add complexity and expense to conducting elections, especially in the short-run. This, in turn, could risk reduced trust in election integrity. The state legislature has also erected a series of benchmarks that must be hit before the measure, even if it is adopted by the voters, can take effect.

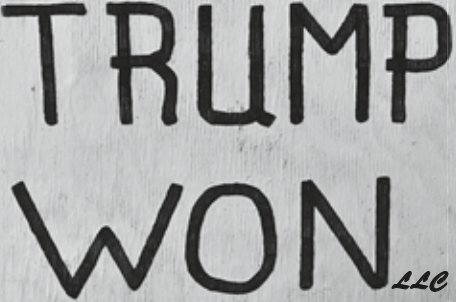
Because of the potential upsides as well as the lingering uncertainty surrounding the measure, we remain neutral on Proposition 131.

Please see: <https://i2i.org/election2024/>



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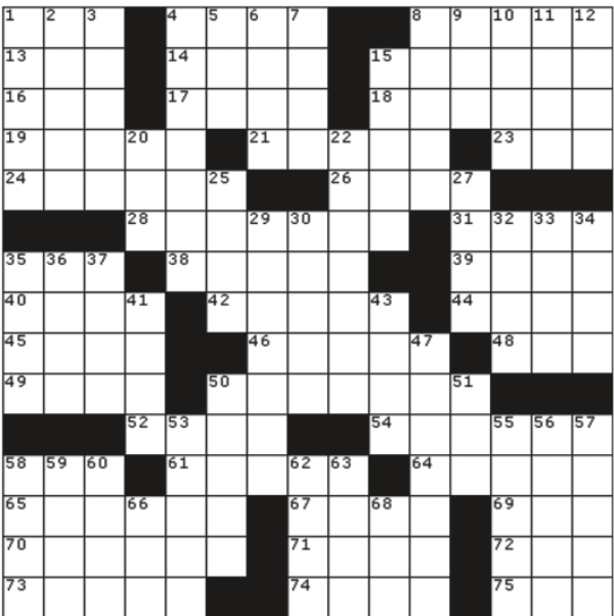


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Craze
4 Swear
8 Hard to pass through a needle?
13 Dined
14 Scandinavian capital
15 Amount
16 Jogged
17 Pull in a fish
18 Puzzle
19 Excuse
21 For God so loved the ____
23 Melancholy
24 Evil angels
26 Object of false worship
28 Allure
31 Globes
35 Little bit
38 Wasteland
39 Bottle
40 Greek god of war
42 Cunning

- 44 Twin brother of Jacob
45 Tribe of Israel
46 Whining speech
48 Shade tree
49 Abel's brother
50 Do without
52 Sego lily's bulb
54 Looted
58 Samuel's mentor
61 Cries
64 Gullible
65 Church official
67 Soothe
69 Turkey
70 Connected
71 Beers
72 Winter sport
73 Indigent
74 Parent teacher groups
75 Still

DOWN

- 1 Unit of electric capacitance

- 2 Dickens' "____" of Two Cities" (2 wds.)
3 Cloth
4 Ancient Greek city
5 Employ
6 Killed
7 Fly alone
8 Condominium
9 Boxer Muhammad
10 Cups
11 Austin novel
12 Guide
15 World (German)
20 Snake
22 Wealthiest
25 Brood
27 ____ your neighbor
29 Heavenly sign for Noah
30 Book of maps
32 Ascent
33 Phoenician god
34 Ghetto
35 Baby powder
36 Location
37 Hindu goddess, consort of Siva
41 Transgressions
43 France & Germany river
47 Queen of beasts
50 Biblical Greek word for love
51 BB association
53 Black
55 Wee
56 Provoke
57 Dismiss
58 Black
59 Cover the interior
60 Island
62 Skip
63 You are the ____ of the earth
66 Lurked
68 Body of water
- Puzzle key on page 8**

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PRAY God's Word

Psalm 94 (*The Living Bible*) ²⁰ Will you permit a corrupt government to rule under your protection—a government permitting wrong to defeat right? ²¹⁻²² Do you approve of those who condemn the innocent to death? No! The Lord my God is my fortress—the mighty Rock where I can hide. ²³ God has made the sins of evil men to boomerang upon them! He will destroy them by their own plans. Jehovah our God will cut them off.

Lord God be with President Trump, Melania, Baron, and all family members. Cover all those involved especially the people murdered, their families and all 1st responders.

Please share with your pastor. Wouldn't it be great if ONE MILLION believing people would PRAY God's word!

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 5, 2024
OFFICE OF THE CLERK & RECORDER
CUSTER COUNTY, COLORADO

In accordance with §1-5-205(1) C.R.S., notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held by Mail Ballot Election process, in the County of Custer, State of Colorado, on Tuesday, the 5th day of November 2024.

Mail Ballots – Ballots will be mailed starting October 11, 2024 to all active registered voters in the county. If you have recently moved and not updated your physical and/or mailing address, you can either come into our office to update your address or go online to govotecolorado.gov. Ballots **cannot** be forwarded.

Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) – You may obtain a replacement ballot, drop off your ballot, update your voter registration, register to vote, or vote using a voting machine at the Custer County Clerk's Office located at 205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO. Dates and hours of operation are:

October 21st through November 5th

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 2nd, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 5th, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A voting machine will be available at this location only, starting Monday, October 21st.

Ballot drop-box locations – A 24-hour ballot drop-box is located at the rear entrance of the County Building, 205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO; and at the Wetmore Community Center, 95 County Road 393, Wetmore, CO.

Sample ballots may be obtained at the Custer County Clerk's Office, or under "Clerk and Recorder" on the County website at custercounty-co.gov.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto, set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Custer this 3rd day of October 2024.

Kelley S. Camper
Custer County Clerk and Recorder

Published October 11 & 18, 2024
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

Mountain Fire Protection District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.

Teri Munson
Secretary to the Board
Wet Mountain Fire Protection District

Published October 18, 2024
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE OF BUDGET
West Custer County Hospital District
(Pursuant to 29-1-106, C.R.S.)

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the West Custer County Hospital District for the ensuing year of 2025; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of West Custer County Hospital District, where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at Special meeting of the Board of Directors to be held at 704 Edwards Ave on 10/14/24 at 9:00 a.m.

Any interested elector of West Custer County Hospital District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budgeted budget.

Published October 18, 2024
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

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

Ruling Elites vs. Main Street: Poll Reveals Wide Ideological, Cultural Divides

by Jarrett Stepman,
The Daily Signal

American elites really have become a toxic, ideological class apart—even if they don’t want to admit it.

A recent survey by Scott Rasmussen called “Elite 1%,” which was a project of the polling firm Napolitan Institute, reveals that there’s a stark divide between the viewpoints of ruling elites and the rest of the American people on a wide range of questions.

The report, released Friday, not only found wide differences in opinion between the American people and the elites, it also concluded that the gap in ideology and power between the groups may be leading to America’s fraught political situation.

The research categorized Americans into several groups, but focused on the gap between a small subset of elites and the rest of the country, which it defined as “Main Street Americans” who represent “70-75% of the U.S. population” and have none of the attributes of those categorized into the “elite” groups.

“They do NOT have postgraduate degrees, do NOT live in densely populated urban areas, and earn LESS than \$150,000 annually” is how the survey defined so-called Main Street Americans.

The findings on the differences between the elites and the rest of America clearly represent an unmistakable political split between institutional insiders versus outsiders.

According to the report, “members of the Elite 1% have very favorable opinions of university professors, lawyers, union leaders, journalists, and members of Congress.”

While the elites leaned strongly toward the Democratic Party, those who were Republicans tended to be much more similar to their partisan counterparts rather than to Main Street Americans.

The elite insiders are typically more socially liberal, less likely to trust citizens to govern themselves, and—perhaps unsurprisingly—tend to be far more trusting in institutions to make the right decisions for the country (without much or any input from people outside their class).

They are also far more comfortable with censorship and regulating the lives of ordinary people.

On social issues, the poll found that there’s an enormous gap between most Americans and the elite on the issue of transgenderism and whether biological males should be allowed to participate in female sports.

“If a biological male identifies as a woman, just 17% of Main Street

voters believe that person should be allowed to compete in women’s sports,” the research found. “Among the Elite 1%, 29% believe such athletes should be allowed to compete in women’s sports.”

It’s not just women’s sports on which there’s such a wide gap in opinion on the transgender issue.

“Perhaps most surprisingly, the polls found that most elites had no idea that their ideas were so different from those of the mainstream.”

“Only 9% of voters favor a regulation being developed by the Biden administration that would make misgendering a co-worker a fireable offense,” the study found. “Seventy-five percent (75%) of voters are opposed.”

The elites are also far more likely to announce their pronouns when introducing themselves.

“Only 10% of voters have introduced themselves by expressing their preferred pronouns,” the polling found. “Among the Elite 1%, more than 4 out of 10 have done so. Among the Politically Active Elites, 61% have introduced themselves by expressing their preferred pronouns.”

“Most voters (51%) ... would prefer to live in communities where guns are allowed.”

The research found that 77% of the elites polled want to ban the private ownership of firearms.

The elites are suspicious of the Second Amendment and even the First Amendment. Those amendments to the Bill of Rights protect the right to bear arms and the freedom of speech and assembly, respectively.

The polling divide between elites and average Americans on speech is stark:

Voters, by a 59% to 34% margin, believe that letting the government decide what counts as misinformation is more dangerous than the disinformation itself. Among the Elite 1%, the numbers are reversed: by a 57% to 39% margin, they see letting the government decide as the lesser problem.

The elites don’t just want to censor speech, they want to disarm Americans, according to the polling data.

“Seventy-two percent (72%) of the Elite 1% would prefer to live in communities where guns are outlawed,” the report found. “Most voters (51%) take the opposite view and would prefer to live in communities where guns are allowed.”

The research found that 77% of the elites polled want to ban the private ownership of firearms.

On the concept of self-government, elites were far more likely to not only make arbitrary decisions for society, but also to be OK with rigging the system to ensure they stay in power.

“If their campaign team thought they could get away with cheating to win, 7% of voters would want their team to cheat,” the polling found. “Among the Elite 1%, the support for cheating rose to 35%. And, among the Politically Active Elites, 69% would want their team to cheat, rather than accept voters’ decisions.”

Perhaps most surprisingly, the polls found that most elites had no idea that their ideas were so different from those of the mainstream.

The report found that “two-thirds (65%) of the Elite 1%—and 82% of Politically Active Elites—think most voters agree with them on important issues. As has been documented throughout this report, that is far from an accurate assessment.”

The creators of the project noted that while there is nothing wrong with there being large gaps in opinions on serious questions in a society, the Elite 1% “hold tremendous institutional and media power that amplifies their voices at the expense of the American people.”

This power is enhanced, they wrote, by the alliance between the elites “and the unelected managers of the federal government.”

They concluded that the views and overwhelming influence of out-of-touch elites “may be the root cause of the political toxicity in our nation today” and that their “underlying attitudes reflect an implicit rejection of the founding ideal that governments derive their only just authority from the consent of the governed.”

(Editor/GG: We got a bunch of the elites around here now. They fled the demonic swamps they created and wound up in Happy Valley. Doing the same thing here that they did there: destroy our Christian country and replace it with a land of dependent serfs with them ruling over us like Mao Tse Tung’s Red Guard. Note to Elites: You picked the wrong county, bro.)

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2024/10/08/ruling-elites-vs-main-street-poll-reveals-wide-ideological-cultural-divides/>

The Daily Jot

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

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

The ugly and beauty of Helene—a first hand account

There has been a lot of discussion and back and forth about Hurricane Helene, its devastation and whether the “government” is doing all it can to save lives, assist with rebuilding and restore normalcy. All that aside, my friend Linda Bishop was part of a church group that actually went onsite to assist those in need. She raised money, helped with supplies, and actively participated in recovery operations in Black Mountain and Swannanoa, NC. Her report is a testament to the nature of true Americans, bonded together as sons and daughters of the one true God, with resilience, tenacity and kindness. She shared with *The Daily Jot* some of that beauty she experienced in her ventures to help.

Linda writes: “Hurricane Helene left so much devastation, some beyond comprehension. My town was hit very hard and recovery continues. There are still homes without power, but businesses are open and life is getting back to normal. But, how do we process what we’ve seen? How do the people in the devastated areas keep going amongst the devastation, the lives lost, homes destroyed, roads gone, towns wiped out, infrastructures destroyed, and the list goes on? In the midst of this ugly destruction there is also much beauty found in the spirit of those impacted. I’ve witnessed a mountain community of about 100 homes that had at least four large mudslides and trapped people in their homes move from 50% maneuverable roads to 100% in just two days. All because the people in this little community worked hard together.

“In this same community, I witnessed the story of people who decided to leave, for now, and give their food to those who have decided to stay. I saw this little community coming together and having meals together, sharing what they have with each other. Declining our offer of supplies saying they had what they needed, they asked us to take them to others in greater need. Despite their own devastation, they were thinking beyond themselves. A woman who lived in another community put many cases of water on her front lawn so those in need could take it anytime. Turning away our supplies, she asked us to find others who needed them more. An 84-year-old woman in an assisted-living home was able to get back into her apartment because some guys from another town brought a chainsaw and moved fallen trees away from her place. This woman had been sleeping on her friend’s sofa for a week.

“I witnessed a story of some people turning away a gas can full of fuel because they didn’t need it. Again, no hoarding there. That same gas can was used in the car of a young woman who was found sitting on the side of a road because she had just run out of gas. These acts from people in so much devastation and destruction are at the core of how we should live as Christians.” Sometimes disasters bring out the best in people. This is like an Acts 5:32 moment where they “were of one heart and of one soul: No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they owned.”

While the conspiracy theorists and politicians can argue what’s important to them, the survivors of Helene are giving their best to one another. From the ugliness of Helene comes the beauty of human kindness.

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

More than 13,000 Gender Reassignment Procedures on Minors Between 2019-23!

by TJ Martinell,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – Sex reassignment procedures and surgeries on children have gained national prominence in recent years, and half of U.S. states now have laws passed either restricting or banning them.

Newly released data provided by the nonprofit Do No Harm indicates that the number of procedures overall has increased since at least 2019.

While many of those procedures from 2019 through 2023 occurred in states known for championing the right of juveniles to have irreversible medical procedures done even without parental knowledge or consent, such as California and Washington, some states that have since placed restrictions or outright bans on the procedures also have some of the highest numbers.

According to Do No Harm, between 2019 and 2023, there were at least 13,394 gender reassignment procedures nationwide on individuals 17.5 years old or younger, with the youngest seven years old.

“Procedures” are defined as either the use of puberty or hormone blockers, or gender reassignment surgeries such as mastectomies and penile reconstruction. The organization reports that of those, there were 4,160 breast removal

procedures on minors and 660 phalloplasty procedures.

Do No Harm Director of Programs Michelle Havrilla said in a statement that “body modification surgeries such as so-called vaginoplasties and phalloplasties are irreversible. The majority of these patients will end up with life-long complications related to these procedures.”

Phalloplasty is a complex surgery that involves constructing or reconstructing a penis using other skin parts, according to John Hopkins Medicine, while in vaginoplasties, “tissue in the genital area is rearranged to create a vaginal canal (or opening) and vulva.”

“Phalloplasties carry uncertain long-term health risks; these may include fistulas, chronic infection, the need for a colostomy, atrophy, and complete loss of sensation, sexual or otherwise,” Havrilla said.

Do No Harm is a nonprofit group of physicians and other medical professionals that gets its name from the Hippocratic oath: “First, do no harm.” According to its website, Do No Harm is “fighting to curtail the unscientific and individually harmful practice of so-called ‘gender affirming care’” for children.

“‘Gender-affirming care’ is based on the dangerous premise that any child who has distress that

he or she thinks is related to their sex should automatically be treated with social transition to the sex of their choice followed by hormonal interventions and then possibly surgery to remove healthy body parts,” it says. “Underlying mental health problems are usually not addressed.”

According to Do No Harm’s data, 2022 was the highest year for every state except for one when it came to the number of puberty or hormone blockers prescribed; the outlier was Alabama, which had 10 in both 2022 and 2023.

When it came to the total number of transgender surgeries on minors, 21 out of 50 states had increases from 2022 to 2023.

Surgeries in California – which recorded the most gender reassignment procedures during the time period – dropped from 344 to 266 between 2022-23, while the number in Washington fell from 90 to 67 during the same time period.

Nationwide, 42 states had higher puberty or hormone blocker prescriptions given to minors in 2023 than 2019, while 31 states had a higher number of surgeries in 2023 compared to 2019.

Do No Harm says its data was obtained through a variety of sources including “claims clearing houses, data aggregators, payors, health systems, CMS, and multiple open data sources. The final product includes data from commercial

insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and VA claims.” Do No Harm says it was conservative when counting the number of procedures on children; if there was any doubt whether a procedure involved sex reassignment on a minor, it was excluded.

Of those procedures involving a minor, almost 40% were performed in just four states – California, New York, Washington and Ohio. California had the highest number of total procedures at 2,083.

California was not among the top 10 states for procedures per capita, however. While Ohio ranked fourth in total procedures (1,020), it also ranked seventh in procedures per capita, at one per 11,568 residents. California’s per capita was one procedure per 18,981 residents, which was less than New Hampshire’s one per 10,678 residents.

Washington. ranked eighth for the number of total procedures (718), Massachusetts medical centers billed the third most for gender reassignment procedures on minors at \$10 million. That’s compared to \$7 million in total charges in Washington, which had 364 more procedures. New York billed \$19 million, while California medical providers billed the most at \$29 million.

Although states such as Montana and Alabama enacted bans on those procedures in 2022,

and Arkansas in 2021, Do No Harm’s data shows that all three states continued to have medical providers billing for these procedures into 2023.

Ohio now has a ban on gender reassignment surgery and hormone blockers. That law passed in January, beyond the scope of Do No Harm’s data timeframe. The law was upheld by a judge in August. Before the law went into effect, hospitals in Ohio treated 1,004 minors, including 224 surgeries.

Do No Harm also published a new database listing the hospitals where these procedures were conducted the most. According to Do No Harm’s database, called “Does my hospital transition kids?”, the hospitals where the most sex reassignment procedures and surgeries on children were conducted were at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Children’s Minnesota, Seattle Children’s and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

The database, which is searchable by state, lists 225 hospitals where such procedures have occurred.

(Editor/GG: Child mutilation. Period.)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_3ba00f86-84c3-11ef-a67f-83907421ede3.html

5,700 Children!? Medical Group Debunks Harvard Claim Denying Minors Are Getting Trans Surgery

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

A new national database reveals that between 2019 and 2023, a total of 13,994 minors in the U.S. have received ‘gender-affirming care’ - of which more than 5,700 were operated on.

Researchers with Do No Harm analyzed insurance claims filed nationwide, finding 5,747 unique patients receiving gender affirming surgery, which ranges from

mastectomies to genital reassignment surgery. They also found 8,519 minors who have been prescribed **puberty blockers and/or hormone replacement therapy**. Overall there were more than 60,000 total prescriptions written.

The cost of the insurance claims added up to **\$119 million**, according to the website, which provides a searchable database that allows parents to search over 225 hospitals.

The researchers say they were extremely conservative in their estimates - and therefore their database likely underestimates the actual number of children receiving ‘care,’ the *NY Post* reports.

“We’ve really been meticulous in trying to make sure that the data are as clear as possible and are as accurate as possible,” said Do No Harm chairman, Dr. Stanley Goldfarb.

Detransitioners speak out

Detransitioner Chloe Cole, who

is now 19-years-old, received a **double mastectomy at the age of 15**.

“Once I even said that I was detransitioning, that I regretted it, in that I was talking about my experience and how transitioning damaged my life, the immediate response from my transgender friends in this community that I once looked up to, that I once saw as a second family ... was now entirely against me,” she told *Fox News* in January.

Harvard study BTFO

The database **completely dismantles** a July study by researchers at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, which found ‘little to no utilization of gender-affirming surgeries by transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) minors in the U.S.’

The study found no gender-affirming surgeries performed on

HARVARD CLAIM DEBUNKED see page 22

FYI...

for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.

Office Hours are Monday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. - noon.

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Deadline for display ad copy is noon on Friday the week before the ad is to appear in the paper.

Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to sdcsentinel@gmail.com

Please send us information on clubs and organizations, news stories and pictures, and upcoming events.

Please limit Letters to the Editor to 500 words or less. Please include your name, address and phone number.

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2024



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

Center Point Optics CPNV01: Advanced Night Vision Monocular

by F. Riehl, ammoland.com

CenterPoint Optics, a leader in outdoor optics, unveiled the CPNV01, a powerful night vision monocular that sets a new standard for low-light visibility. Designed for hunters, boaters, security professionals and outdoor enthusiasts, the CPNV01 offers unparalleled performance at an accessible price point.

"The CPNV01 is a versatile night vision monocular that offers exceptional performance and ease of use at a competitive price point," said Jesse Newman, Director of Product Development. "With its superior optics, long battery life, and convenient features, the CPNV01 is the perfect tool for anyone who needs to see clearly in low-light conditions."

The CenterPoint Optics CPNV01 boasts both day and night vision modes, ensuring clear visibility around the clock. With its 2.5k UHD AVI video resolution, users can capture high-quality footage



for documentation or sharing their experiences. The device's versatility makes it an indispensable tool for various applications, from wildlife observation to nighttime navigation

and security surveillance.

Key features of the CenterPoint Optics CPNV01 Night Vision Monocular include:

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The CenterPoint Optics CPNV01 is priced at \$129.99 (MSRP) and is available for purchase at centerpointoptics.com, select local retailers, and online sellers. For more information about the CenterPoint Optics CPNV01 and to explore our full range of products, please visit centerpointoptics.com.

(Editor/GG: This is a brand new product. Couldn't find any reviews on it as of this writing. The company looks good and the specs are decent. For the unbelievable price of \$130 it would be hard to go wrong. Things go bang in the night and you want to see them. You can also get it at Amazon.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/10/centerpoint-optics-cpnv01-night-vision-monocular/>

A Rifle Is Not Enough Part 3

by Tunnel Rabbit, SurvivalBlog.com

(Continued from Part 2.)

SLINGS

Bottom line, a sling is a necessary part of the rifle. But it should be detachable, to suit particular situations. For those on a budget, Com-Bloc rifle sling will suffice. These are inexpensive, ruggedly built, and with the right swivels work on just about any rifle. If you can do better, then please do. But when building up an arsenal I would economize where possible so that the budget can buy more spare magazines, replacement parts and ammo. Gucci is nice, but it saps precious funds away from more important items we might be willing to die for later.

Here is some wisdom from Steve

A., from his SurvivalBlog article "Thoughts on a General Purpose AR-15 Rifle – Part 2":

"The importance and utility of a sling is easily overlooked. A basic, adjustable-length two-point sling that attaches to the front and rear of the rifle has stood the test of time. While it is slightly less versatile than a multi-point sling it is simpler, does not get in the way as much, and is quite functional. A quick-release sling swivel on the front will allow you to quickly separate the upper and lower for cleaning.

Being able to sling your rifle safely will allow you to do many tasks without losing contact with the rifle when you set it down somewhere. A slim front-hand guard that uses the M-LOC system of fasteners will allow

you to attach a sling at any point. The one used here is light and allows the barrel to float, so sling tension does not then affect the point of aim. A "hasty" sling is a surprisingly good way to help stabilize the rifle during firing."

AMMUNITION

At a minimum store 2,000 rounds per rifle, and another 500 rounds for training. There is almost no way to have too much unless, of course, you do not have enough food stored. More is better and currently, ammunition is approaching the lowest prices seen in years. However, you'll also need cleaning supplies, CLP (Cleaner Lubricant, and Protectant Protect), bore solvents (Hoppe's #9 or Sweets 7.62), an iron sight adjustment tool, cleaning rod, brushes, pipe cleaners, spare

springs and pins, a spare ejector, spare bolt carrier group, and so forth. If someone is not able to repair the rifle themselves, then they should have a whole replacement rifle as a spare.

Because 5.56 NATO is a relatively weak round, especially when using FMJ, I would choose the 20-inch barrel with the 7:1 twist rate for all occasions and all ammunition types. If I could not afford to buy 75/77 expanding and fragment OTM ammunition, then I would still prefer the 20-inch barrel and use the inexpensive and common 55-grain ball (FMJ) ammunition. Given the tests that I've seen using various test mediums when a 20-inch barrel is used, it always does the most damage. FMJ is the

best choice for reliability in all rifles and for penetrating through cover and concealment.

Often, 5.56 ball cannot penetrate cover (or body armor) and stop a fight. This is why M855 and now the new and improved M855A1 were created. The latter is still *unobtainium* for the general public. Standard M855 62-grain is a serious improvement over 55-grain FMJ. Currently, this is a good point in market history to top off your ammunition. The price is right and not likely to go much lower. If faced with a steel barrier, the higher the velocity of a round and the harder the projectile, the

A RIFLE Pt. 3
see page 22



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HARVARD CLAIM DEBUNKED from page 20

TGD youth ages 12 and younger in 2019. This was expected, the researchers said, as current international guidelines do not suggest any medical or surgical intervention for TGD individuals prior to puberty. -Harvard University

“We found that gender-affirming surgeries are rarely performed for transgender minors, suggesting that U.S. surgeons are appropriately following international guidelines around assessment and care,” said Elizabeth Boskey, instructor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences - while lead author Dannie Dai, research data analyst in the Department of

Health Policy and Management, added, “Our findings suggest that legislation blocking gender-affirming care among TGD youth is not about protecting children, but is rooted in bias and stigma against TGD identities **and seeks to address a perceived problem that does not actually exist.”**

Except that’s total b*****t, as we now know.

The Harvard report accompanying the study specifically mentions the fact that at present, **half of U.S. states have bans on ‘gender-affirming’ care for minors.**

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/5700-children-medical-group-debunks-harvard-claim-denying-minors-getting-trans-surgery>



Graphic from Stop The Harm

A RIFLE Pt. 3 from page 21

better it will penetrate. Standard 55-grain M193 FMJ fired with a muzzle velocity of 3,100 fps will, inside of 50 yards, penetrate Level 3 body armor. Projectile mass, its sectional density, and its construction are secondary factors that contribute to penetrating Level 3 armor. (Not to be confused with modern Level 3 plus). Velocity is the primary factor and determinor. Projectile hardness is secondary — the factor that further enhances the potential to penetrate thick armor at lower threshold velocities.

A prime example and still the military standard is M2AP armor piercing .30-06 black-tipped ammunition that uses a molybdenum or tungsten penetrating core in 165 grain .30 caliber bullet at a muzzle velocity of only 2,750 fps. (For rifles in 7.62 NATO, look up M80A1.) See the testing performed here.

In the future M855A1 might become available at premium prices. But some of the benefits of armor-piercing ammunition can be had a low cost when using a combination of M193 ball fired from a 20 inch AR-15 barrel. I expect body armor to be widely used in the future and for good and not-so-good reasons.

Prices for loaded M2AP .3-06 ammunition and for pulled M2AP projectiles (suitable for handloading in 7.62 NATO and .308 Winchester rifles) are now sky high and are best reserved for ‘elephant hunting’ or Terminator hunting, whichever comes first. But we can approach this capability in an inexpensive AR with a 20-inch barrel. Imagine if you will, using M855A1 where available what it might perform on a steel target if fired at maximum pressures and velocities from a 20-inch or longer barrel. To stimulate the imagination let’s watch this demonstration video: M855A1 vs M855 vs SS109 vs XM193: Crazy Results on Steel.

BACK TO BASICS, OPEN SIGHTS

Reportedly, Ukrainian soldiers spend their personal funds to acquire better gear including optics. While we have the luxury of many optics to choose from, we currently have an advantage the average Ukrainian solder could only dream of. However, if there had been no way to import and purchase optics, they would only have Cold War-era sights, or iron sights to work with. However, expensive optics are not as high a priority as ammunition and other supplies that must also be purchased. If purchasing optics at any price point, having iron sights as a backup is *necessary*.

In the Ukraine, there is a proliferation of optics of many kinds. But iron sights are tough to break and do not require batteries. Most firefights occur inside of 100 yards making magnified optics a disadvantage for me, since I prefer the widest field of view so that I might detect movement if nothing else. The professionals would however recommend a high-end red dot, an ACOG, or LPVO and they would not be wrong. I just go with what I know and what I can afford.

Ukraine is receiving resupply from NATO countries, and via gray or black markets, or even orders via the Internet. I would not expect to be able to replace my optics in a grid-down collapse, and I cannot afford to purchase spares of a good-quality optic. I will first have iron sights, and then if I can afford electrically powered optics for faster target acquisition at a later date, then I’d get that too. But only later and only after all my rifles are squared away, and their means of support them in adequate supply. Even if I had the most rugged optics, I will have iron sights as a backup, preferably mounted on the rifle or at least carried in my web gear.

OPTICS ARE GOOD, BUT TRAINING IS A BETTER SOLUTION

The best way to quickly acquire a sight picture and hit a target is to train, train, and train again, until the process is automatic where the mind’s eye knows it has acquired a target and tells the finger to pull the trigger. Optics do not fix this, but practice does. Literally, a thousand repetitions are needed to make the process automatic be it magazine changes or the process of target acquisition. This process involves developing muscle memory. It is necessary to establish this neuro pathway to be able to perform what some call is ‘instinctive shooting’, ‘snap shooting’ or ‘snap-to’ at close or longer ranges under stress. Within 25 yards I almost do not need sights to hit a moving target that could be a bird or rabbit. Train with irons first, then optics. Open sights or ‘iron sights’ will always be there. Consider that in a societal collapse you will run out of batteries, or eventually break the optic. The increasing reliance upon optics alone, without backup sights is very concerning to me, as new shooters do not know enough to appreciate the risk.

Even if iron sights are tried and true, our aging eyes however might need magnified optics or optics that allow us to better see a target at a distance. But again, open sights should always be a part of our rifles. When there is a need to identify a target at a distance magnifying optics are priceless. But optics can hamper our peripheral view and our ability to spot movement at closer ranges. So I will use irons more often than not when and where the rifle will be used mostly in the woods.

THE FLAT-TOP AR-15

For flat-top ARs that do not have fixed front sights, adding detachable open sights can be a good low-cost option. Backup sights are needed should an optic fails. Flip-up backup sights have their place, but a more rugged sight is needed for constant use and is my choice. Flip-up or low-profile sights can be mounted at a 45-degree angle off of the top rail or used on the top rail set up to co-witness with the optic. Low-cost examples of these kinds of sights are in the links below.

Red dot and other optics have their advantages, but you’ll need to spend the money to get a rugged optic and also backup iron sights. And there could be unanticipated negative issues. For example, if the person has an astigmatism with uncorrected vision, the 2 MOA red dot can become a much larger MOA red dot as the

eyes do not clearly see a solid point but a sort of blurry dot. When snap shooting at targets that are close by during CQB, use the front sight only and you’ll be close enough when aiming at the center of mass. Put the target between the wings on either side of the sight post and that is good enough, and fast. A red dot sight would however have a huge advantage in low light conditions and would be helpful at longer distances.

CARRY HANDLE SIGHTS

I am not discouraging the use of optics, but discussing their limitations and the advantages of open or iron sights. Yes, I would love to own an ACOG or a LPVO (Low Powered Variable Optic) scope, but I will always have iron sights. I have 3×9 scopes for each AR-15 as well, but because I have trained exclusively with iron sights on this type of rifle, I am very comfortable and fast with them and only need a scope for targets at 200 yards and beyond. On my ARs I have the A1 style carry handles instead as I would like to have a carry handle if the rifle has been used for suppressive fire (high volume fire). When the barrel becomes very hot that it melts plastic handguards, it will require two hands to keep the rifle away from yourself to avoid burning gear or skin. With a carry handle, I could carry an overheated rifle and an ammo can full of ammo, or another rifle that is not overheated.

The last time I practiced this drill, the sling caught on fire on the AKM used. Unfortunately, there is no carry handle on the AKM. With a carry handle, only one hand is needed to carry the rifle safely. Of course, overheating the civilian AR-15 that does not have full auto is likely.---the M16 is less likely to occur and only in the heat of a future battle would we fully understand this problem. I do not advocate performing ‘mag dumps.’ That can ruin a barrel on any rifle. The 7.62×39 rifles with chromed chambers and barrels can tolerate more abuse than other rifles, yet I am doubtful that a low-cost AR-15 can. However, I am inclined to test myself and a rifle in extreme circumstances to learn now rather than later.

The best way to avoid overheating a rifle and potentially ruining it, is to use two rifles for suppressive fire, alternating between the rifles when the magazine is empty, and intentionally slowing the rate of fire. Before the rifle becomes literally too hot to handle and potentially failing to function reliably, switch to the second rifle. The only reason to provide suppressive fire is in a situation where we might be forced to “use it or lose it” during a desperate attempt to hold off attackers and to buy time for maneuver or a retrograde action. (Falling back to another fighting position.) As citizen defenders, we should not use or abuse our equipment. The tactics used to defend ourselves should include the limitations of our equipment, the depth of our ammunition supply, and our manpower.

There are good quality lightweight aluminum carry hand rear sights available from PSA and fixed or folding sights that use primarily a polymer. Whenever possible use aluminum rings or sights machined from aluminum or a polymer to

avoid excessive wear to the Picatinny rail on a flat-top upper. Detachable sights can be sighted in and then removed and carried. Scribe a line, use dots of fingernail polish, or otherwise mark the sight adjustment knobs to help ensure that the sight adjustment has not been altered. These can quickly be installed on a rail and replace an optic. While the sight may not hold a precise zero when removed and then reinstalled, the rifleman would at least have iron sights of any kind to keep the rifle operational should his primary sight or optic become compromised in some way.

Open sights would be used for ranges typically well under 200 yards and be battlefield accurate, or good enough. Use a ‘hasty’ 25-yard zero to confirm that the sight or optic is sighted in with a 200-yard zero. For better quality A1/A2 styled carry handles get the PSA version (Palmetto State Armory). This carry handle may or may not work with the other fixed or folding sights, depending on their height above the bore. If the price is right, it is my experience that aftermarket sights are usually at about the same height and will work together in various combinations. For an AR, I intend to carry during the day, I prefer a front folding sight and a fixed front sight and nothing else on the rifle. My nighttime rig is configured differently, and heavier.

The AR-15 has been so refined, modified, and accessorized (adding weight) that there are an endless array of options. If you need to solve an issue with your particular rifle, there is likely an option available for purchase that could be used to improve that rifle in some way. To keep it simple and perhaps to a fault, I will suggest these low-cost iron (open) sights as a starting point. There is an endless variety at all price points:

Nonfolding iron sights I prefer given their low cost and design. These sights are for rifles with a Picatinny rail.

[On Ebay] as [Tactical Flip-up Low Profile Metal Sight Folding Iron Sights Front and Rear Set](#).

Here are backup sights that can and should be on all rifles that use an optic if they can be fit onto the rifle. These sights are for rifles that have a method to install the necessary Picatinny rail. Some are mounted at a 45-degree angle. To use these, angle the rifle to the left and the open sights are then usable, and good enough for close-range work.

Again, I am providing the lowest cost options. There is better quality available, but keep in mind that perfection is the enemy of good enough and we’ll need redundancy or a deep supply of all essential supplies and tools. I would rather buy two mid-grade quality items rather than one high-quality item that costs the price of two mid-grade items. [See on Ebay]: [Front and Rear 45 Degree Offset Adjustable Tactical Iron Sight Set](#). and, [Tactical Polymer Front And Rear AR Flip Up Sight Set](#).

(To be continued in Part 4.)

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BOCC from page 1

Knappe proposed that the county buy these landowners a very expensive, industrial grade chipper which costs around \$100,000! The county would own and maintain it and the landowners would simply borrow the machine from the county to use for free. The county would have to chip in \$50,000 of our own tax money for the chipper and the grant would cover the other \$50k.

(Notes from the Taxpaying Peasants: First, these landowners are not poor. Why should the rest of us taxpayers subsidize mitigating THEIR properties. They knew what they had when they bought it. Why do we, the taxpayers, have to subsidize improvements to their property? What happened to the idea that people are responsible for their own affairs and not big gov? Second: Where will this stop? \$50,000 is a LOT of money for most of us. Giving that to a few, yes, privileged landowners, smells like nanny state spending. I need a bulldozer to make some fire breaks on my land and the cost to rent a decent dozer is like \$10k a day. I think the county should buy one so I can improve my land using county money. Everybody could use new Stihl weed whackers to mitigate brush, we should get them free too. Third: The company that rents out the chipper in Cañon City has one because people want to rent one. The BOCC just took a good revenue stream away from this business and maybe now they can't afford to rent it out anymore. The BOCC just hurt this private enterprise

for the benefit of a few, select property owners. How is this a “pro business” effort? Plus, there are multiple mitigation companies locally that have chippers and you have hurt them, too.

Where are you going to draw the line Commissioners? We are a small county with very limited revenue. There are other areas where this money could be spent much more effectively without hurting local businesses and benefiting a small number of not poor landowners. \$50,000 is a LOT of money to us peasants, Commissioners. Why isn't it to you? Welcome, fellow peasants, to the new Happy Valley Nanny State. Grants are like heroin to some of our local officials elected, hired or appointed.)

During the discussion, in a rare moment of clarity, Day actually made a good point (*for a change*) and asked Knappe about liability in using the machine. (Folks, these things are super dangerous. We had one on our ranch back east and you have to have your act together to run a big one.) Knappe talked about “training” and somehow this satisfied the Commissioners. (WRONG! The County will be lending an extremely dangerous machine to civilians with little or no professional training on it and you can guarantee that we will be sued for big money someday. Not a smart move, Commissioners.)

At the end of the meeting, our three, supposedly fiscally conservative Commissioners, voted to spend \$50,000 to buy a few landowners a dangerous machine to improve THEIR properties. Nice. Where is my bulldozer, boys?

Colorado Taxpayers to Receive Billion Dollar TABOR Refund

by Tom Joyce,
The Center Square.com

(The Center Square) - An audit by the Office of the State Auditor (COSA) confirmed this week that Colorado taxpayers have a refund coming their way.

The refund comes because the state collected \$1.4 billion more in revenue in Fiscal Year 2024 than the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights allows, according to the Office of the State Auditor.

Colorado voters added TABOR to the state constitution in the November 1992 general election.

TABOR reins in government spending by limiting the growth of state revenues to the sum of inflation and the percentage change to the state's population to create a TABOR growth rate.

The state must return any money beyond that amount to its taxpayers.

Auditors found three possible mechanisms for refunding excess state revenues this year, a release said. These include, “a local government property tax exemption reimbursement, a temporary income tax rate reduction, and a six-tier sales tax refund mechanism that distributes refunds to taxpayers based on their adjusted gross income if the refund amount will exceed \$15 per person,” the release said.

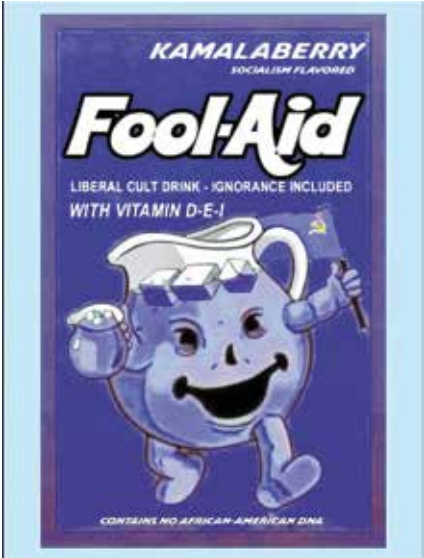
“The excess state revenues are expected to trigger all three of the refund mechanisms,” Audit Manager Maya Rosochacova said.

State law says the OSA must conduct an annual audit of the State Controller's report that shows how much revenue Colorado amasses each fiscal year. The report makes sure that the state complies with TABOR requirements.

Colorado finished its Fiscal Year 2024 TABOR Financial Report this summer, and the State Controller certified it on August 31, 2024.

View the full report here: https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/audits/2457p_schedule_tabor_revenue_fy_24.pdf

Please see https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_094a77ee-8b47-11ef-95cf-8b0a96f74bfc.html





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