

# Hedberg Skewered in Court Case Injunction Demand Thrown Out More County Money Wasted

by George Gramlich,  
News and Commentary

It was pretty big drama in Happy Valley at the County Courthouse Tuesday, October 22, with Jordan “Red Bug” Hedberg’s Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Injunction case against the Custer County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) and Sheriff Rich Smith, finally being held in the 11th Judicial District Court. The case was heard before our new Custer County 11th Judicial District Judge, Dayna Vise. (Judge Vise did a good job. She looked very comfortable and ran the trial like a seasoned pro.)

As you recall, Hedberg, the owner/editor of the local *Wet Mountain Tribune* newspaper obtained a TRO against the CCSO/Smith preventing them from seizing any of the *Trib*’s computers or electronic devices. Hedberg got the TRO after a friend/acquaintance of his, who was a Custer

County employee, had his county computer and personal computers and electronic devices seized by the CCSO in an alleged cyber hacking of Custer County computers, including several in the Sheriff’s Office. (No charges or arrests have been made to date.)

After the seizure, Hedberg, based on a simple email inquiry by Sheriff Smith about whether this county employee was politically associated with Hedberg, got his lawyer to request a TRO from our prior District Judge preventing Smith from seizing the *Trib*’s computers and cell phones. (Looking at the TRO filing, it is obvious, for multiple reasons, that the prior Judge should not have granted it, but she did.)

In order to defend the case, due to some potential issues with our County Attorney, Smith was forced to hire an outside attorney experienced in this arena. This

cost the county \$5,000. (Which was a good deal considering the experience of this attorney.) Smith filed a motion to dismiss the TRO and a hearing was set up to try the case. And that was Tuesday.

The case was held in our good old, paid for, court room starting at 2 p.m. I sauntered over about 1:50 p.m., somehow got past security, and entered the sacred chambers. There are two tables before the judge’s throne, Smith was sitting at the one nearest the door with his attorney.

The spectator seating is behind the two tables with a corridor running down the middle. So each table has its own “bleacher” section behind it. The protocol for seating, at least in Happy Valley, is that you sit behind the party you are supporting. Well, when I walked in the whole section behind Smith was already full and there was NOT ONE person in Hedberg’s

section. Just Hedberg, Mr. Lonely, sitting at his table, looking straight ahead and ignoring everybody.

Two nice ladies made room for me in Smith’s section and people kept pouring in and jamming into Smith’s bleachers. It got to a point where you could not fit another human being into that section so late comers, regrettably, starting sitting in the back of Red Bug’s section. When the hearing started, there were about 60 or so people there rooting for Sheriff Smith and MAYBE ONE person, sitting behind Hedberg, who might have been a supporter.

Hedberg was alone at his table. Apparently his lawyer, a guy named Ernst, (that’s the same shill that Hedberg used to sue me), could not make it in person so, after some difficulties, came through remotely but with audio only.

**HEDBERG TRO TOSSED**  
see page 4

## The Case for Kicking Out Colorado’s Supreme Court Justices this Election

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Colorado voters are staring down a jam-packed ballot this election of candidates, amendments, and propositions that the local media has covered ad nauseum.

Yet getting scant attention is the critical question of whether to retain three of Colorado’s Supreme Court Justices for another term.

Those justices are not elected to the bench, rather they are appointed by the governor at the time a seat becomes vacant.

Voters only get a voice when their term is up and their name goes on the ballot for a “yes” or “no” vote for a 10-year term.

This election, Justices Maria Berkenkotter, Brian Boatright, and Monica Márquez are on the ballot.

Cutting to the chase, *The Gazette* has endorsed a no vote on all of them with several good reasons for kicking them to the curb and trying again.

Does it really matter that Gov. Polis would replace them? Well, Polis installed Berkenkotter, Boatright was appointed by John Hickenlooper, and Márquez dates back to Bill Ritter, so ...

As the *Gazette* noted, and originally reported, all three of the justices served during the “pay for silence” scandal thereby tainting their tenure.

The scandal involved then-Chief Justice Ben Coats, who in 2019 allegedly offered a \$2.5 million contract to a court administrator to head off a sex discrimination lawsuit that threatened to unleash skeletons of judicial misconduct from the high chamber’s esteemed closets.

From *The Gazette*:

*Berkenkotter, Boatright and Márquez were aware of what had transpired, or should have been, but failed to intervene and might have even hindered the investigation. In any event, it happened on their watch. They now should be held accountable by voters.*

A special tribunal censured Coats last year for the entire mess.

*The Gazette* also endorsed Amendment H to bring some obviously required judicial reform on the bench.

Please see <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/10/21/the-case-for-kicking-out-colorados-supreme-court-justices-this-election/>

## Tragic Loss of EMS Paramedic Andrew Fernandez

From the Custer County Sheriff’s Office:

On October 19, emergency responders in Custer County responded to a two vehicle fatality crash just north of Westcliffe. A Custer EMS paramedic, Andrew Fernandez, was killed instantly in the crash. Andrew was loved by all of his responder family in Custer County. He was a highly experienced paramedic and a valued mentor to his fellow team members. He leaves behind a wife and two-year-old daughter. A gofundme account (see link below) has been created by Custer EMS to raise money for his wife’s immediate and future financial needs. A special account is also set up at Kirkpatrick Bank in Westcliffe to accept donations. All of the funds raised will go directly to his wife.

The crash also seriously injured a Westcliffe man in a second vehicle. [...]

Please keep the families of these two people and the Custer emergency responder community in your thoughts and prayers. Cards and flowers may be dropped off at Custer EMS.

**From Custer County Emergency Medical Services Facebook Page:**

On October 19th, 2024, we lost our paramedic, Andrew Fernandez, in a fatal car crash on

his drive into work. Andrew was a top-notch paramedic and an even better human being. Andrew was a clever, intelligent and warm person. He was highly respected at Custer County EMS for his diligent patient care and willingness to serve. Andrew has been a paramedic for 10+ years and he remained the kind of provider who was willing to learn, grow, and take on new challenges. He was an amazing person who made a difference in peoples’ lives.

Andrew leaves behind a wife, Justine, and two-year-old daughter, Journey.

Andrew spent his life giving to others and we want to see that his family is taken care of in this tragic situation. Please consider donating to honor Andrew’s memory and assist his family as they navigate this unimaginable loss. Every contribution, no matter how small, will make a difference and show the love and support our community has for them.

<https://gofund.me/704c7ba8>

There is also an account set up at Kirkpatrick Bank [Westcliffe, CO 81252] in Andrew’s memory.

All funds raised will go directly to Andrew’s wife, Justine.



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ALERT!**  
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with all your heart,  
And lean not on your  
own understanding;  
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knowledge Him,  
And He shall direct  
your paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

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

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

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# BOCC: Channel 11 Going Live! R&B Dingd \$100k, New Traffic Control Ordinance Proposed, Chipper Update, County Attorney Might be Going Bye-Bye

by George Gramlich,  
News and Commentary

The October 16, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular meeting was held at the Wetmore Community Center and started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day.

Commissioner Comments: Canda announced that the long-awaited antennae for the county's local TV transmitter had arrived and should be installed "tomorrow", thus, bringing Channel 11 to us peasants. Epp stated that he had attended, via Zoom, a Colorado Counties Inc. meeting where all kinds of wonderful things about how to get more of our money were discussed. Epp also said that the county's audit was "posted yesterday" and that the draft of the 2025 budget was posted. He said that the Commissioners had to take \$100k of our Road & Bridge's 2025 budget because of "reserve

money" issues. (Note that last week the mighty, fiscally conservative Commissioners spent \$100k of our tax money on a woodchipper for land-owners in the county to chew up some branches. Further note that R&B is supposed to maintain this machine for these wealthy people. Commissioners: Cops and Roads. That is where the money is to be spent. Not on toys for the wealthy....) Epp also said that the proposed 2025 county budget is \$800k over projected revenue. They will address this in future budget hearings.

In New Business, a young lady bureaucrat from the deep state in Denver was here to tell the Commissioners all about a total waste of money the new state bureaucracy (started in 2018) regarding analyzing local social services activity. This is called All in the Family Voice Counsel. This went on and on and on... (As our roads crumble, the libs grow their social vampire network to control the masses...)

The Commissioners then ok'd last month's Accounts Payable of \$275k.

A new traffic control ordinance, sponsored by our Sheriff Rich Smith, was next. Smith wants to buy a standalone radar speed detector portable machine that will identify speeders, read their license plate and send them a \$30 ticket to pay. (If a regular deputy writes you a speeding ticket it is a lot more.) Smith wants to reduce speeding in several road areas but not overly burden the drivers with big fines. Smith also wants to ticket money to go to Road & Bridges budget and not his. The discussion went on and on with the Commissioners finally deciding to post the proposed ordinance on the county's website so the serfs can see and comment on it. The ordinance will be discussed November 11th.

In Additional Items of Business, Epp announced that next week's BOCC meeting will be on Thursday, October 31st.

Canda then commented on last week's \$100k woodchipper purchase. The Sentinel had reported that the chipper would be used by "trained" civilians (as the Commissioners and the OEM Director had stated in the meeting) and stated that this would be a liability nightmare as these machines can kill you in a heartbeat. Canda reported that only a trained R&B or an OEM employee would actually be using the machine at the

citizens' residences. (We again state: total waste of money. R&B has enough work to do and too few employees and equipment. Let the folks pay for their own land mitigation.)

Lastly, Canda stated he is putting an item on next week's agenda about wanting to change the county's attorney. (The Sentinel hinted at that a few weeks ago. Could be interesting.)



OEM Robyn Knapp in May of 2024 with a Verneer BC 1000 XL ( a little smaller than the one she wants to get.)  
Photo from Custer County press release on OEM

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Tireless Drain

Incumbent Lucas Epp Weighs in as Election Approaches

Dear Editor,

Another day in the life of Jordan Hedberg and his tireless drain on our county's finances or us, you and me. I attended Tuesday's hearing whereby Hedberg attempted to turn his temporary protection order (TPO) into a permanent protection order against the Custer County Sheriff's Department, which he didn't get. This district judge informed the public that the (restraining) protection order should not have been granted in the first place (a parting gift from Judge Wenner) and that when it was granted it was also absent the required security (dollar) amount. The security is to be posted by the party requesting the TPO in case the person is filing it frivolously and costing the entity being filed against time and money. Of course it was frivolous, frivolous and headline grabbing for his paper and another financial negative for Custer County or us, you and me. Unfortunately the judge did not grant the county repayment for our legal fees, but she did toss out Hedberg's plea. The Denver lawyer Hedberg hired to represent him may cost him a pretty penny unless he's doing it pro-bono. I wonder how one could find that out? My thinking is that Jordan pulled this stunt to appear righteous and to give the SO a black eye, freedom of the press and all that. The freedom that the Press enjoys should not be used to harm individuals, law enforcement or communities. The American people are fast losing their trust in politicians, the medical profession and the media. You would think a small town newspaper might not want to be added to that list just to sell a few papers or to get name recognition while running for a political office. Shame on you Jordan Hedberg.

Lisa Frank, Rural Custer County

Letter to the Editor:

To the community of citizens: Many of you do not really know who I am or what I have been doing in my short tenure as commissioner because I have had my head in the trenches. I am an electrician by trade but my time at Sundt has been much more than executing that one trade. Just one example is coordinating all the critical lifts on a project for three superstructure cranes at the same time from their engineering to the responsible party sign offs to the moment that the piece being lifted was set down in its final resting place. What is a critical lift you ask yourself? It's a two-crane lift, it's a crane and another piece of equipment lift, it's lifting a long lead item, it's lifting a piece over either 230kV Transmission lines or a 6" main gas line, and it's lifting any piece over 75% of crane capacity or lifting highly sensitive equipment. This experience and others like it in my past work life have taught me that it is not just leading from the edge but

getting down into the trenches with both the men and women doing the work. Learning from the challenges they face to be able to make better decisions.

This has not been my first foray into public service. I once was a mayor for four years in Henderson, Nebraska, from 2005 to 2008. It is a small town of around one thousand citizens. Two of the projects the city executed were controversial for the citizens of that community. Oil skyrocketed and asphalt costs shot up well above concrete, so when the city council members and I chose to pave a few blocks with concrete it riled up the folks a bit. The town also had water wells that were testing above 10 PPM nitrates, and we were in trouble with the state guidelines. The town had been faced with less than \$20 dollars a month in water and sewer fees and that by taking out a bond to replace our wells, the rate would go up to just below \$50. Let us just say the citizens were not happy about

this project either. It took a town hall and many individual conversations to point out the consequences of not moving forward with these projects. We did get to a place where the community accepted the projects even though they did not like the cost due to the benefits of cleaner lower nitrate drinking water.

Our family owns two local year-round businesses along Main Street Westcliffe. We currently employ twelve to eighteen employees depending on the season. Even though my wife Jolie is the managing partner in these ventures, there is always work to do from taking out the trash, washing dishes when they get busy on a weekend to taking the aprons and oven mitts home to launder. It is a unique opportunity for me to serve whether it be my wife, or our employees. There are always things wearing out or needing

EPP see page 23

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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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email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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719-275-0661  
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Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear  
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719-783-0550  
www.lowesmarket.com

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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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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

|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday, October 28</b><br>#83 Spaghetti & Meat Sauce<br>Salad w/Lite Italian<br>Green Beans<br>Orange<br>WW Bread w/Butter | <b>Tuesday, October 29</b><br>#24 Chicken Cacciatore<br>Green Beans<br>Smashed Red Potatoes<br>Banana<br>WW Bread w/Butter | <b>Thursday, October 31</b><br>#111 Turkey on WW<br>Mustard & Salad Dressing<br>Tomato Soup<br>Seasoned Green Beans<br>Tangerine<br>Almond Peaches |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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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wetmountainmanualtherapy.com 719.639.8447

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719-783-9338

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WestcliffeBroker.com

Restaurants & Dining

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tonysmountainpizza.com  
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**Tony's Steak & Tavern**  
719-783-9300  
630 Main St., Silver Cliff  
Open Thurs-Sat 11-9, Sun 12-8

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719-783-2757 info@SBCompanies.com

Solar / Renewable Energy

**Solar Solutions Ltd**  
Off Grid and Grid Tie  
10 Hermit Lane. Silver Cliff 719-783-9666  
email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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719-783-9321  
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Tractor/Trailer Sales

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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

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Veterans Rescue Ranch Hosts  
Inaugural Veterans Day  
Pig Roast in Westcliffe

WESTCLIFFE, Colo.

Veterans Rescue Ranch is excited to announce the Inaugural Veterans Day Pig Roast, a community event exclusively for local veterans and their families. This celebration will be held at the Courtyard Country Inn on November 11th, and their families. The aim is to ensure an intimate gathering that allows us to properly honor and celebrate those who have served. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase, with ID required for service.

“We’re excited to host this special event, which allows our community to come together in support of veterans,” said Geoff Schram from Veterans Rescue Ranch. “We’re grateful to our sponsors, including Courtyard Country Inn, Flick Kennel Dachshunds, NO-KA-OI Island Bistro, and Hidden Peak Tiki Lounge, for making this event possible.”

Details:  
• Event: Inaugural Veterans Day Pig Roast

Guests will enjoy a delicious pig roast, with the pig generously donated by Flick Kennel Dachshunds. (It is still to be confirmed whether the pig will be roasted on-site.) The event will also feature a Tiki Bar hosted by Hidden Peak Tiki Lounge, serving specialty cocktails such as “Three Dots and a Dash” and the “1944 Mai Tai,” inspired by classic Tiki traditions.

Due to limited food and space, this event will be open only to veterans

and their families. The aim is to ensure an intimate gathering that allows us to properly honor and celebrate those who have served. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase, with ID required for service.

“We’re excited to host this special event, which allows our community to come together in support of veterans,” said Geoff Schram from Veterans Rescue Ranch. “We’re grateful to our sponsors, including Courtyard Country Inn, Flick Kennel Dachshunds, NO-KA-OI Island Bistro, and Hidden Peak Tiki Lounge, for making this event possible.”

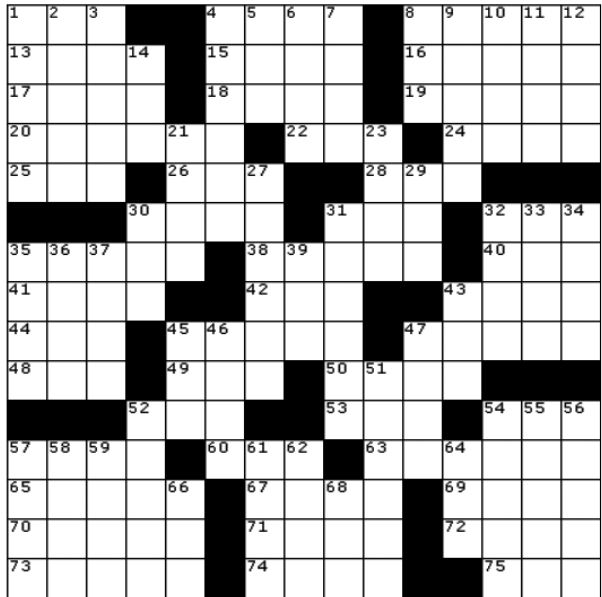
Details:  
• Event: Inaugural Veterans Day Pig Roast

• Location: Courtyard Country Inn, 410 Main St., Westcliffe, Colorado  
• Date: November 11th, 2024  
• Time: 2 to 8 p.m.  
• Admission: Free, exclusive to veterans and their families  
• Alcohol: Available for purchase (ID required, cash or card)

Veterans Rescue Ranch is seeking additional sponsorship from local businesses, specifically for alcohol donations, tables and chairs, and patio heaters to help enhance the event experience. Interested businesses can contact Geoff Schram directly at GSchram@VeteransRescueRanch.org.

For event questions, please email info@VeteransRescueRanch.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Expert
- 4 Evils
- 8 Bare
- 13 Appoint
- 15 Nifty
- 16 Brother of Moses
- 17 What a mosquito bite does
- 18 Bird; symbol of Holy Spirit
- 19 Group of related families
- 20 Tennis' Graf
- 22 Ram's mate
- 24 Move gently
- 25 Peeper
- 26 Maturity

DOWN

- 28 Discs
- 30 The \_\_\_ of Judah
- 31 Expression of surprise
- 32 Border
- 35 Type of food
- 38 Authoritative list of scripture
- 40 Poem
- 41 A king of the Amalekites
- 42 Aged
- 43 Start
- 44 Doze
- 45 NT church leader
- 47 Do not cast your pearls before \_\_\_
- 48 Exist

49 Regret

- 50 Fencing sword
- 52 \_\_\_ of the Covenant
- 53 Compass point
- 54 Compass point
- 57 Absent without leave
- 60 Tree
- 63 Heavenly beings
- 65 Broken bone coverings
- 67 Holler
- 69 Brews
- 70 A Hindu's red dot
- 71 Space
- 72 Entreaty
- 73 Give \_\_\_ to God
- 74 Son of Seth
- 75 Pigpen

- 14 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 21 Gladly, willingly (KJV)
- 23 Reverberate
- 27 Encrypt
- 29 Tribe of Israel
- 30 Tote
- 31 One of the apostles
- 32 Pueblo Tribe that speaks Shoshonean
- 33 Garden of \_\_\_
- 34 Word written on the wall (Daniel)
- 35 Jesus turned water into wine here
- 36 Seaweed substance
- 37 Make fun
- 39 Brew
- 43 Be in debt
- 45 Be incorrect
- 46 One of the Gospels
- 47 Stitched together
- 51 Book near Proverbs
- 52 Sacrificial table
- 54 Offers to consumers
- 55 Partly frozen rain
- 56 Written material
- 57 Acting (abbr.)
- 58 Whimper
- 59 Capital of Norway

Puzzle key on page 24

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EST. 2018

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CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE  
2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

The 2025 Proposed Budget will be adopted during the December 11, 2024 Board of County Commissioner’s meeting.

The 2025 Proposed Budget is available for inspection in the County Clerk and Recorder’s Office, located at 205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO; and on the county website at [custercounty-co.gov](http://custercounty-co.gov).

Any interested elector of Custer County may file an objection to the 2025 Proposed Budget anytime prior to the final adoption on December 11, 2024.

Published October 25, 2024  
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel  
Westcliffe, Colorado

Classifieds

Announcements

**FREE BOOKS**  
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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](mailto:HR@custercounty-co.gov)  
\*\*\*

**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 InternationalCodes, 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 pick up 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](http://www.silvercliffco.com). A complete application and resume including all education and references must be submitted. Job will be open until filled.  
\*\*\*

**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](http://www.lighthousepfr.org). To apply email resume to [lighthousehelp1@gmail.com](mailto:lighthousehelp1@gmail.com). and kathleen.koelling@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*

**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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601 Main St., Westcliffe

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**Hunting couple looking** to buy Archery landowners vouchers for Elk and Mule deer. Will pay top dollar. Fully insured. Reference available. Call Dylan at 715-495-3241

**Don’t forget to VOTE**

Events

**October 25 @ 7:30 p.m. - October 27 @ 2 p.m. \$20**  
**WCPA Live Theater – Squirrels \$\$**  
Historic Jones Theater 119 Main St, Westcliffe

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

**Thursday, October 31 @ 5 -7 p.m.**  
**Harvest Festival** A fun family event with food, carnival booths, prizes, and so much more. Wet Mountain Fire Main Station 215 4th St, Westcliffe.

**November 11, 2-8 p.m.**  
**Inaugural Veterans Day Pig Roast** Veterans & Family invited Courtyard Country Inn, 410 Main St.

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

**A new local podcast at Red County Blue Nation, set for Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. MST started this week, featuring Steve Rorick and Jim McMahon interviewing Custer County Republican Chair, Jack Canterbury.**  
The Podcast will also be on X (Formerly Twitter) and recorded versions will be available via the website.  
**See RedCountyBlueNation.com**

Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness  
(719) 783-0750

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

Custer County  
Community Sharing Food Pantry  
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994  
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12 – 2 p.m.  
An Equal Opportunity Provider

Family Crisis Services  
*Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center for Fremont and Custer Counties*  
(719) 275-2429 [FamilyCrisisOnline.org](http://FamilyCrisisOnline.org)

Front Range Clinic  
Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)  
1-866-MAT-STAT  
[www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit](http://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](mailto:vso@custercounty.co.gov)  
Courthouse Bldg. (Rosita Rd. Entrance)

West Custer County Library  
209 Main Street Westcliffe, CO 81252  
(719) 783-9138  
Tue. – Fri.: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m..  
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

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

**“The people are not to be disarmed of their weapons.  
They are left in full possession of them.”**  
—Zachariah Johnson, Virginia Ratifying Convention, June 25, 1788

# Tony's Pizza Player of the Week



Picture of Jacob Weeks  
Photo taken by Sarah Handy

**Cross Country**

PRs for both Levi Carichner and Jacob Weeks!

**Monte Vista League Times**

**Mason Stover 18:26 (15th)**

**Levi Carichner 19:09 (25th) PR**

**Jacob Weeks 19:18 (29th) PR**

This week's athlete of the week is Jacob Weeks. Jacob is new to cross country this season yet continues to prove that he can compete with the best. Jacob set a massive PR this week-end at 19:18--over a minute faster than his previous best time. We are all looking forward to what Jacob does for the Bobcats in the future!



**JV player of the week:**

**Miranda Benoit** - Her defensive presence helped us extend rallies and for her continued work ethic and effort she brings to the team energy.

*Photos by Jenn Russ*

**Varsity player of the week:**

**Brylee Shy** - Brylee has worked hard at controlling the highs and lows of the emotions that are often experienced playing volleyball. This is a huge key to our success. She also had several kills to help finish out our win against Monte Vista. (3-0)

**MOST  
VALUABLE  
PLAYER**

## KIDS October 25, 2024

### Black Swan

Black swans are native to Australia. They sport dark, black feathers, white flight feathers and red beaks. Like all swans they have the distinctive "S" neck, they are large birds, with a wingspan of 6 feet or more, and a maximum weight of 20 pounds. These swans will attack anything they view as a threat, especially while they are nesting.



This species largely breeds in southeast and southwest regions of Australia. They were introduced to various countries as an ornamental bird in the late 1800s but have also established feral populations in New Zealand and North America. The largest feral populations of black swans in North America are found in Maryland, Virginia, New York and Texas. There are smaller populations in South Carolina, Florida, California, Oregon, and British Columbia in Canada.

The males are known as "cobs" and they are slightly larger than the females known as "pens". Swans are monogamous. Once they pair up, they remain together for the rest of their lives. A black swan nest is reused every year and repaired as necessary. They typically have four to eight greenish-white eggs that are incubated for about 35-40 days. After breeding they molt and lose their flight feathers all at once and are unable to fly for about a month.

Their diets consist mostly of underwater plants. In shallow waters they just put their heads under water and eat, but in deeper waters they will turn completely upside down to reach the deep vegetation.

You might ask do they make good pets? The quick answer is, "No they do not." They require plenty of space and an appropriate water source to thrive. If you have agricultural property with water bodies that have underwater vegetation suitable for the birds you could potentially own one as a pet, but they are quite expensive and you must purchase them from a breeder.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://animals.net/black-swan/>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_swam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_swam), <https://www.birdful.org/are-black-swans-in-north-america/>.  
Photo: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Black\\_swam\\_jan09.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Black_swam_jan09.jpg).

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

## CORNER

My child, never forget the things I have taught you.  
Store My commands in your heart.  
If you do this, you will live many years,  
and your life will be satisfying.  
Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!  
Tie them around your neck as a reminder.  
Write them deep within your heart.

Proverbs 3: 1--3

### Bobcats Scoreboard!

**Friday, October 18:**  
**HS Football @ HOME vs Crowley County: 6-58, loss**  
**Cross Country: Southern Peaks League @ Monte Vista**  
**Mason Stover 18:26 (15th); Levi Carichner 19:09 (25th) PR; Jacob Weeks 19:18 (29th) PR** 🐾

**Saturday, October 19:**  
**HS Volleyball @ HOME vs Monte Vista:**  
🐾 **Varsity: 3-0 Win! JV: 0-2, loss**

**Tuesday, October 22:**  
**HS Valleyball @ Sanford: Varsity: 0-3, loss; JV: 0-2, loss**

### Booster Club Bobcat Corner



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

**Friday, October 25:**  
**Cross Country: Regionals @ South Fork**  
**10 am HS Girls, 10:45 HS Boys**  
**TBD, HS Football @ Hoehne (away)**

**Friday, November 1:**  
**7 pm HS Football @ HOME vs Sangre de Cristo**  
**(Last game for the season!)**

**Saturday, November 2:**  
**TBD: HS Volleyball @ Crowley County Tournament (away)**

**Don't forget to grab your  
TONY'S PIZZA & COMMUNITY  
DISCOUNT CARDS**  
**to support your Bobcat athletes!**  
**Only \$20 each, and BIG savings on both!**  
**Stop into Tony's, find your favorite volleyball player**  
**or contact Lea Grundy at 720-234-7751**

**Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!**

# Town of Westcliffe October 2024 Meeting: DOLA REP Attends, Another Mural Approved, ADU Municipal Code in Place, Dark Skies Compliant Lighting vs. Ace Hardware War Continues

by Laura Vass, News and Commentary

The October 15 Town of Westcliffe (TOW) Board of Trustees meeting was called to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The board called roll and had a quorum.

The Trustees approved a Domestic Violence Awareness month declarations with one word change from ‘her’ to ‘their’. Next, Resolution #8-2024 amending the TOW Policies handbook to state the Town will pay 90% of health insurance for employees was approved. The board also approved the contract with Allyant, a company already working with the Town, to also have the contract for making official documents for the website meet accessibility standards. (Under reports, it was noted that he SIPA grant money came in for this purpose.)

Ordinance #6-2024 adopting Title 10, Chapter 1, Section 17 “ADU’s” to the Municipal Code per the Planning Commission’s recommendation was back on the table for approval .The board, needed to pass it “as is” to check off a compliance box on the 123 Grant application and vowed to consider ADU’s on Commercial industrial later on. This passed.

Discussion and consideration of amending the Town of Westcliffe Policies Handbook, Section 203, Performance Evaluations. Mayor Wenke said he will be out of Town for several months and wanted to implement some changes. It sounded like no changes would be made to the policy until January and a workshop was not scheduled. This was a discussion. No decisions were made.

At this point, the DOLA Representative ,

Randi, came in and after introducing herself, the board and some in attendance did a short Q&A. Takeaways: She did submit a recommendation for the low match grant for the housing assessment for the Custer County area. Caleb Patterson, Town Manager, said that on the chance that that DOLA didn’t approve the low-match grant, he put in for a market study with CHAFA.

“DOLA is not prescriptive about what’s best for the Towns applying, but we are often the clearing house for one-time grants that have a different set of protocols.” With the Housing 123 grant, Wenke wanted to know if they can restrict the housing to the need of workforce housing. She said, one remedy is “Workforce Right of First Refusal” so that a unit has to stay on the market for a certain amount of time before it goes on the market. *(That kind of restriction would only work if the County or something like Upper Arkansas Housing Authority was involved and the county is not giving or selling the land for the housing, but rather, leasing it with restrictions/guidelines.)*

There was a great deal of discussion. The TOW Planning & Zoning chair, Christy Patterson, did ask questions about what grants might require guidelines that would bring renters from other areas rather than serving the community. The DOLA reps’ answer was that DOLA really doesn’t deal with that issue but when you get into the Federal grants, you have more guidelines that must be met.

Under Reports: Caleb Patterson, Building and Zoning Official, reported that the Westcliffe charging stations are in and they are just waiting on programming and the

stepdown transformers from BlackHills Energy. TOW will set their own rates once these are operational. Sidewalk work is done. (The Hearing for rezoning proposed for lots 19, 20, 33 and 34 was moved to 5:30 p.m. on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Westcliffe Town Hall.)

The Mayor then ended the Town meeting and call the **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS meeting** to order (same trustees).

The Old Business up for discussion was the Ace Hardware lights and the Town’s “Dark Skies” light ordinance. Paul Zawacki issued a complaint back in April or May concerning the non-compliant lights at Ace Hardware. He thanked Mr. Wenke for leaving the lights off this summer. The board and the Town lawyer, Mr. Buchner, did their due diligence to get Mayor Wenke, also owner or co-owner of Ace Hardware, to leave the room and his spot at the table, not to just recuse himself.

Trustee Mark Dembosky, who has been working with Jeremy, manager at Ace Hardware, on the lighting, took the pro tem chair slot and moved forward. Some background: At one point some of the lights were shut off for the summer and most of the lights at Ace on the main building were made compliant in regards to shielding. There are apparently some newer lights on the auxiliary building which are 90% done. Three of lights on the poles apparently don’t have the right shielding and also don’t comply and there doesn’t seem to be a bulb replacement for those units that meets the standard. The Kelvins and the whiteness of the lights are the second problem and thirdly the lumens -- according to Mr. Zawacki who made the complaint. Zawacki voiced

impatience with the long wait to get it fixed. (Eight months so far.)

Mark Dembosky noted what had gotten done and that with all the summer activities, they’d given Jeremy a reprieve. He asked Mr. Zawacki if they get those pole lights shielded would Mr. Zawacki be satisfied with the progress. Somewhat in a huff, Zawacki, said no. The ordinance that the Town of Westcliffe put in place was to meet the Dark Skies guidelines to get Dark Skies designation. Zawacki’s goal is that Ace Hardware comply with the Westcliffe ordinance. Zawacki whined that he wants Caleb to fine Ace Hardware and he wants Caleb to give him more updates because he’s a taxpayer. *(This was serious, liberal whining, folks.)*

This goes on and on with Chuck Jagow and other board members discussing the Kelvins and lumens and also noting that the light path when they *measured its downward scope, doesn’t seem to expand outside the parking lot. (A reminder of how complicated and (Za) wacky it can get when dealing with the Dark Skies ordinances and the zealots who want them enforced to the letter.)* When the Adjustment meeting is almost over, Mr. Wenke returned to his seat. There was some discussion about whether or not both meetings had ended or not and an effort made to end both, just to make sure. Mr. Wenke produced a last minute dramatic visual and oral interlude but we won’t get into that.

Genesis 1:3-4, King James Version: “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good .....



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### High Country Mennonite Church

would like to invite all local widows to a  
**Thanksgiving luncheon on**  
**Wednesday, November 13, at 11:00 a.m.**

The event will be held at  
**High Country Mennonite Church,**  
**103 N. Adams Street in Westcliffe.**

The menu will include turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potato  
casserole, sweet corn, homemade bread, and yummy desserts.  
There will be time for inspiration and fellowship as well.  
You are welcome to bring a family member or  
friend along with you.

**Please RSVP to Jen Miller @ 719.371.0713**

WELL SHOT &  
SKULL SHOT GLASS \$7

MUG & BEER \$10  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

## Tony's 3RD ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

Stop by Halloween week  
& vote for your favorite  
pumpkin carved by a  
Tony's employee!

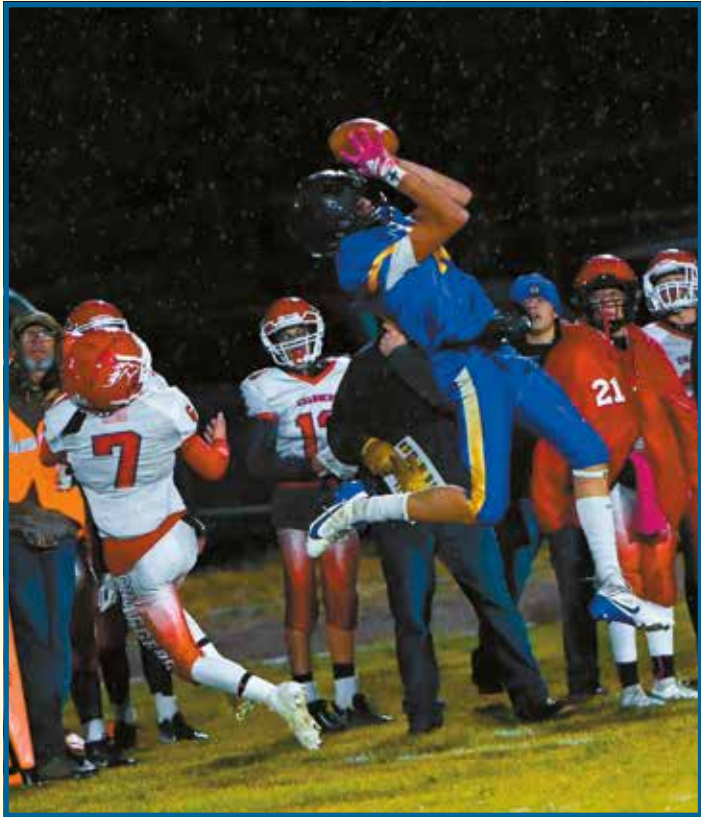
You help us choose a  
winner and we will  
choose a prize winner  
from all of your votes!

**630 MAIN ST. SILVER CLIFF**

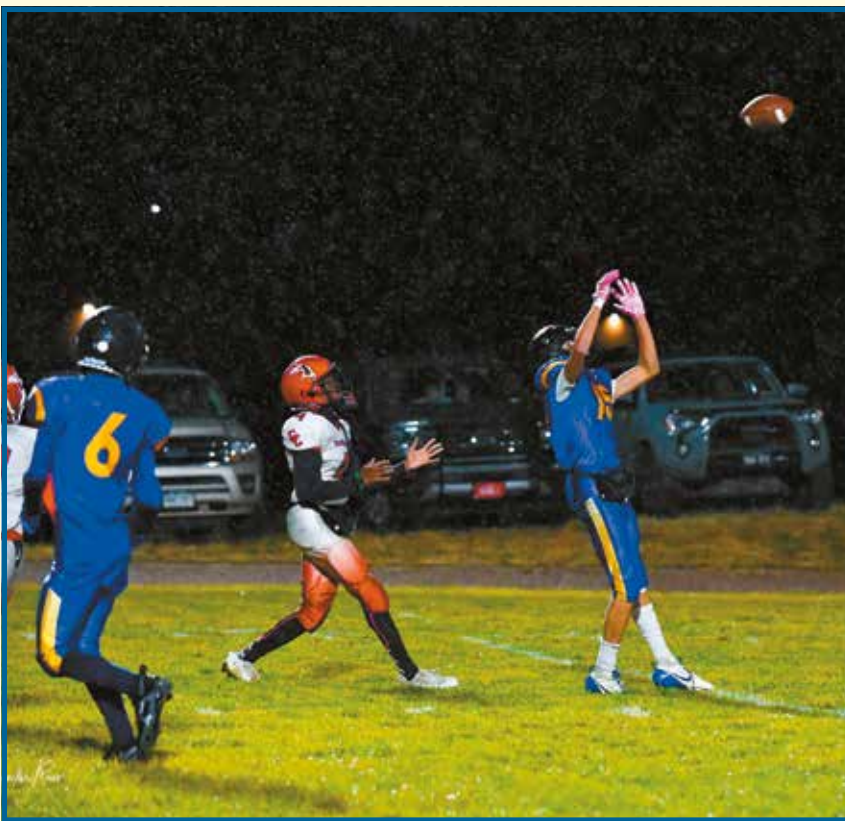


# BOBCAT FOOTBALL H

# CUSTER COUNTY BOBCCATS



# HOMECOMING GAME! S VS CROWLEY CHARGERS



Sentinel Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography; Layout by Katherine Brenchley

# 2024 Election Information

## Independence Institute 2024 Voter Guide

The following are Independence Institute’s voting recommendations based on its review of all ballot measures.

(Editor/GG: Here’s the Independent Institute’s recommendations.)

### STATEWIDE MEASURES

#### Amendment G – Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities

Recommendation: **VOTE YES**

This amendment would increase the number of disabled veterans (by about 3,400) who qualify for a property tax exemption. Currently, the homestead exemption is limited to veterans with service-related disability rated 100 percent permanent. Upon voter approval, the exemption would be expanded to those classified as having “individual unemployability” status. Because this is an amendment to the Colorado constitution, a 55% majority is required to pass it.

Our veterans have put their lives and limbs on the line to secure our freedom. We support expanding property tax exemptions to those veterans who are unemployable due to service-related disabilities.

#### Amendment H – Judicial Discipline Procedures and Confidentiality

Recommendation: **VOTE YES**

This measure would create a new administrative board to preside over ethical misconduct hearings involving state court judges. The board would be comprised of an equal number of judges, attorneys, and citizens, but they would all be appointed by the Governor and the Colorado Supreme Court. The board would conduct disciplinary hearings and hear appeals of informal remedial sanctions handed down by the Commission on Judicial Discipline. Because this is an amendment to the Colorado constitution, a 55% majority is required to pass it.

The amendment was brought forward due to a string of scandals in the judicial branch and has the potential to be a positive first step in rectifying existing issues and regaining public trust in the judiciary.

#### Amendment I – Constitutional Bail Exception for First Degree Murder

Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

This amendment would make persons arrested and charged with first degree murder ineligible for bail if prosecutors could prove they had a strong enough case. The state constitution currently says only those who have committed “capital offenses” can be denied bail.

This has been deemed a problem since the repeal of the death penalty in 2020 because first degree murder no longer meets the “capital offence” criteria without execution as a potential punishment. Because this is an amendment to the Colorado constitution, a 55% majority is required to pass it.

#### Amendment J – Repealing the Definition of Marriage in the Constitution

Recommendation: **VOTE YES**

It is generally Independence Institute 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.

<https://i2i.org/>  
See page 16

## 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....

\*\*\*\*Before you Vote on Judges \*\*\*\*  
Please Read about Colorado Judges, Scandal and Corruption --  
see our 9/27/24 issue page 14 or Goto: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2024/09/16/maes-dont-reward-judicial-misconduct-in-november/>

# 2024 Election Information

## The Sentinel's 2024 Voter Guide

This is the *Sentinel's* take on the ballot. This guide follows the ballot brackets.

**Federal Offices:**

Presidential Electors:

Donald J. Trump/JD Vance. Republican.  
Representative to the 11th United States Congress  
- District 7: Vote for Sergei Matveyuk. Republican.

**State Offices:**

Regent of the University of Colorado - At Large:  
Vote for Eric Rinard. Republican.  
State Representative - District 60:  
Vote for Stephanie Luck. Republican.  
District Attorney - 11th District:  
Vote for Jeffrey D. Lindsey. Republican.

**County Offices:**

Custer County Board of County Commissioners  
- District 2:  
Vote for Paul Raymond Vogelsong. Republican.  
Custer County Board of County Commissioners  
- District 3.  
Vote for Lucas Epp. Republican.

**Judicial Retention Questions:**

Colorado Supreme Court Justices:  
Vote NO on all three. All extreme libs.  
Colorado Court of Appeals Judges.  
Vote NO on all five. Extreme libs.  
District Court Judge - 11th Judicial District:  
Vote NO on Katlin B. Turner. Extreme lib.

**State Ballot Measures:**

Amendment G (Constitutional): Allow More Disabled Veterans to Access a State Property Tax Exemption.  
Vote YES.  
Amendment H (Constitutional): Setting Up a Judicial Discipline Board.  
Vote YES.

Amendment I (Constitutional): No Bail for Defendants in First Degree Murder Cases.

Vote YES.

Amendment J (Constitutional): Remove the Same-Sex Marriage Ban from the State Constitution.  
Vote NO.

Amendment K (Constitutional): Earlier Deadlines to Set the Ballot.  
Vote NO.

Amendment 79 (Constitutional): Enshrine Legal Abortion in the State Constitution.

Vote NO.

Amendment 80 (Constitutional): Constitutional Right to School Choice.

Vote YES.

Proposition JJ (Statutory): Allow the State to Keep All of the Taxes It's Collected from Sports Betting.

Tough Call. Vote NO.

Proposition KK (Statutory): A New Excise Tax on Gun and Ammunition Sales.

Vote NO.

Proposition 127 (Statutory): Ban the Sport Hunting of Big Cats.

Vote NO.

Proposition 128 (Statutory): Parole Eligibility for People Convicted of Crimes.

Vote YES.

Proposition 129 (Statutory): Creating the Position of Veterinary Professional Associate. Tough call.

Vote - Your Call.

Proposition 130 (Statutory): \$350 Million in State Funding for Law Enforcement.

Vote YES.

Proposition 131 (Statutory): All Candidate Primaries and Ranked Choice Voting.

Vote NO.

## Colorado Freedom Force Ballot Guide

Here are a few different takes from the Colorado Freedom Force that either differ from the *Sentinel's* initial take or add information you might find vauluble as you make your choices.

**AMENDMENT G: Modify Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with a Disability**

**Recommended Vote: LEAN NO**

Amendment G, which will require a 55% voter majority to pass, seeks to expand the homestead exemption on property taxes to more military veterans. The exemption would expand from those with 100% permanent service-related disabilities to include those who are classified as having "individual unemployability" status from a non service-related disability.

We will always stand tall and salute our veterans, but manipulating our respect for those who served our country will **only lead to bad policy dividing our population and treating different groups of people differently.** Most Coloradans are struggling to cope with property taxes and **we need a solution for everyone and not just a select few.**

**Amendment 80: Constitutional Right to School Choice in Colorado**

**Recommended Vote:NO**

The Colorado Freedom Force supports school choice.

Unfortunately, Amendment 80 was **not drafted properly** to be the next, best step towards enhancing school choice in Colorado.

Like other issues we have seen in the past, such as the repeal of the Gallagher Amendment, sometimes there is a wrong way to do it. (Take a look at your property taxes).

Amendment 80, if passed with 55% of the vote, will not expand school choice options for parents or create any new programs for school choice. What it will do is **set the stage for a series of different lawsuits on the issue of school choice which could serve as a barrier for future advancement opportunities.** It's best to reject this option in order to proceed with a clearer path in the near future.

**PROPOSITION 131: Move Colorado to a Ranked Choice Voting Election System**

**Recommended Vote:NO**

Proposition 131 would make significant changes to the way we elect our representation here in Colorado. For primary elections, 131 would move us to an all-candidate primary, otherwise known as a **"Jungle Primary"**. Then for the general election, the winner would be chosen through a "Ranked Choice" voting system.

On the surface, ranked choice voting seems like a clever way to conduct elections, but it's a complicated system. Other States in the U.S. which were first to test this idea have run headfirst into numerous problems, including seeing top vote-getters be eliminated and weaker candidates be **propped up by the algorithms** of the "instant runoff voting" which decides the winner. Trustworthiness is a major concern.

Additionally, **this particular Proposition is backed by more than \$9M in funding by mega-donors, many of which do not live in Colorado. Their interest in meddling in our elections is sure to benefit them more than it will benefit the average Coloradan.**

For th whole guide see See <https://coloradofreedomforce.com/2024guide/>

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Official Ballot for 2024 General Election

Custer County, Colorado

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Precinct: 7046014001

Ballot Type: 1

Ballot Style: 001-1

WRITE IN: JANE DOE

WRITE IN: Jane Doe

WRITE IN: Jane Doe

To vote for a named candidate, or for or against a ballot measure, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice. Use blue or black ink.

If a race includes a write-in line, you may vote for a write-in candidate by completely filling in the oval to the right of the line and printing at least the last name of an eligible write-in candidate on the line.

To make a correction, draw a bold line through the oval and candidate name or ballot measure selection marked by mistake, then fill in the oval next to the correct name. If you voted for the only candidate in a race and want to withdraw that vote, you must request a replacement ballot.

WARNING: Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both. Section 1-7.5-107(3)(b), C.R.S.

Federal Offices

Presidential Electors

(Vote for One Pair)

Democratic

Kamala D. Harris / Tim Walz

Republican

Donald J. Trump / JD Vance

Approval Voting

Blake Huber / Andrea Denault

Libertarian

Chase Russell Oliver / Mike ter Maat

Green

Jill Stein / Rudolph Ware

American Constitution

Randall Terry / Stephen E Broden

Unity

Cornel West / Melina Abdullah

Unaffiliated

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. / Nicole Shanahan

Write-In:

Representative to the 119th United States Congress - District 7

(Vote for One)

Republican

Sergei Matveyuk

Democratic

Brittany Pettersen

Libertarian

Patrick Bohan

Unity

Ron Tupa

Write-In:

State Offices

Regent of the University of Colorado - At Large

(Vote for One)

Republican

Eric Rinard

Democratic

Elliott Hood

Approval Voting

Thomas Reasoner

Unity

T.J. Cole

State Representative - District 60

(Vote for One)

Democratic

Kathryn Green

Republican

Stephanie Luck

District Attorney - 11th Judicial District

(Vote for One)

Republican

Jeffrey D. Lindsey

County Offices

Custer County Board of County Commissioners - District 2

(Vote for One)

Republican

Paul Raymond Vogelsong

Unaffiliated

Kevin V. Day

Write-In:

Custer County Board of County Commissioners - District 3

(Vote for One)

Republican

Lucas Epp

Unaffiliated

Jordan Hedberg

Write-In:

Judicial Retention Questions

(Vote YES or NO)

Colorado Supreme Court Justice

Shall Justice Maria E. Berkenkotter of the Colorado Supreme Court be retained in office?

YES

NO

Shall Justice Brian D. Boatright of the Colorado Supreme Court be retained in office?

YES

NO

Shall Justice Monica M. Márquez of the Colorado Supreme Court be retained in office?

YES

NO

Colorado Court of Appeals Judge

Shall Judge Stephanie Dunn of the Colorado Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

Shall Judge Jerry N. Jones of the Colorado Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

Shall Judge W. Eric Kuhn of the Colorado Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

Shall Judge Gilbert M. Roman of the Colorado Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

Shall Judge Timothy J. Schultz of the Colorado Court of Appeals be retained in office?

YES

NO

District Court Judge - 11th Judicial District

Shall Judge Kaitlin B. Turner of the 11th Judicial District be retained in office?

YES

NO

NOTE: EVERY CUSTER COUNTY VOTER CAN VOTE FOR ALL COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS. (IF IT IS ON YOUR BALLOT, YOU CAN VOTE ON IT.)

# 2024 Election Information

## Your Voice, Your Vote

### VOTE REPUBLICAN!

Federal Office

President and Vice-President

✓ Donald J Trump/JD Vance

Representative to the 119th United States Congress - District 7

✓ Sergei Matveyuk

State Office

State Representative - Distict 60

✓ Stephanie Luck

District Attorney - 11th Judicial District

✓ Jeffrey D. Lindsey

County Offices

County Commissioner - District 3

✓ Lucas Epp

County Commissioner - District 2

✓ Paul Vogelsong

## YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

### ELECTION DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Ballot Drop Box Locations:

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

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

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

Independence Institute

2024 Voter Guide

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

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

**GOP-CUSTER COUNTY (CCRCC)**

**GOP CHAIR**

Jack Canterbury C 719-429-5411  
custerchair@proton.me

**VICE CHAIR    SECRETARY**

Anne Barthrop   Sandra Attebery

**TREASURER**

Nancy Drummond

**Precinct Committee Person:**

Precinct 1: Linda Pollack and OPEN

Precinct 2: Harald Frank and Joanie Wilcox

Precinct 3: Nikita Phillips and Dawn Ramsdell

<https://custergop.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/custergop/>

My child, listen to what I say,  
and treasure My commands.  
Tune your ears to wisdom,  
and concentrate on understanding.  
Cry out for insight,  
and ask for understanding.  
Search for them as you would for silver;  
seek them like hidden treasures.  
Then you will understand what it means  
to fear the LORD,  
and you will gain knowledge of God.  
For the LORD grants wisdom!  
From His mouth come knowledge  
and understanding.

Proverbs 2: 1-6

**Vote “No” on Amendment 79: “Right to Abortion”**



**DIOCESE OF PUEBLO**  
COLORADO

Amendment 79 intends to increase the attack on the unborn, their mothers, and the family structure and the integrity of the communities of Colorado in three ways:

It bans any limits on late-term abortion. Period.

It eliminates parental notification laws. Period.

It enables and directs taxpayer-funded abortion. Period.

I encourage you to be informed. Go to our diocesan website at [diopueblo.org](http://diopueblo.org) and read the Voter's Guide. Check out the Right To Know website at [righttoknowco.com](http://righttoknowco.com), a coalition of pro-life groups of Colorado. It will also be helpful to review the USCCB website, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.”

And as always, prayer is the key to hope, healing, and compassion, as we strive for truth, justice and life.

We are called to protect life in all its stages and forms, preborn and living, all God’s children.



Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
  
Most Reverend Stephen J. Berg  
Bishop of Pueblo

**Vote “No” on Amendment 79: “Right to Abortion”**

# 2024 Election Information

## Independence Institute 2024 Voter Guide

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/>

## FREMONT County Republican Committee Recommendations

**Federal Offices:**  
Presidential Electors:  
Donald J. Trump/JD Vance- Republican.  
Representative to the 11th United States Congress - District 7: Vote for Sergei Matveyuk. Republican.  
**State Offices:**  
State Representative - District 60:  
Vote for Stephanie Luck. Republican.  
District Attorney - 11th District:  
Vote for Jeffrey D. Lindsey. Republican.  
**County Offices:**  
Fremont County Board of County Commissioners - District 1: Vote for Kevin Grantham -Republican.  
Fremont County Board of County Commissioners - District 3. Vote for Dwayne McFall- Republican.

**State Ballot Measures:**  
Amendment G (Constitutional): Modify State Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities. Vote YES.  
Amendment H (Constitutional): Setting Up a Judicial Discipline Board. Vote YES.  
Amendment I (Constitutional): No Bail for Defendants in First Degree Murder Cases. Vote YES.  
Amendment J (Constitutional): Remove the Same-Sex Marriage Ban from the State Constitution. Vote NO.  
Amendment K (Constitutional): Earlier Deadlines to Set the Ballot. Vote NO.  
Amendment 79 (Constitutional): Enshrine Legal Abortion in the State Constitution. Vote NO.  
Amendment 80 (Constitutional): Constitutional Right to School Choice. Vote NO.

Proposition JJ (Statutory): Retain the Taxes Collected from Sports Betting.. Vote NO.  
Proposition KK (Statutory): New additoinal Firearms and Ammo Tax. Vote NO.  
Proposition 127 (Statutory): Prohibit Bobcat, Lynx and Mt. Lion Hunting permits. Vote NO.  
Proposition 128 (Statutory): Parole Eligibility for People Convicted of Crimes. Vote YES.  
Proposition 129 (Statutory): Creating the Position of Veterinary Professional Associate. Vote - YES.  
Proposition 130 (Statutory): \$350 Million in State Funding for Law Enforcement. Vote YES.  
Proposition 131 (Statutory): All Candidate Primaries and Ranked Choice Voting. Vote NO.

\*\*\*\*Another Important Ballot Guide\*\*\*\*  
Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University- see our 10/11/24 issue or Goto <https://centennial.ccu.edu/2024-voter-guide/>

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

The Burden of Habakkuk

The world is in disarray. People everywhere are on edge. The slightest of disagreement quickly turns to acrimony and bitterness. We see families torn apart over politics and opinions on government. A ruthless spiritual cloud covers the earth and manifests in wars and rumors of wars. Innocents are killed in the womb or trafficked for pleasure and profit. Evil attacks at will and when the victims fight back, many side with the evil and say “you’ve gone too far.” The courts are unjust, using laws as weapons against any who disagree with certain political philosophies. Mankind looks to governments for protection and salvation. These are days like those seen in the vision called the Burden of Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 1-4 says, “This is the burden that Habakkuk the prophet received in a vision: How long, O LORD, must I call for help but You do not hear, or cry out to You, “Violence!” but You do not save? Why do You make me see iniquity? Why do You tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me. Strife is ongoing, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.” The LORD replied in verse 5, in part: “Look at the nations and observe—be utterly astounded! For I am doing a work in your days that you would never believe even if someone told you.” The Lord answers that He is raising up the Chaldeans, a dreaded, ruthless, people whose god is their own strength. Habakkuk realizes they are appointed for judgment and correction.

The prophet Habakkuk was given this vision by the LORD to prepare his people for the impending Babylonian invasion when in 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem, taking many, including Daniel, into exile. It was indeed a dreaded time. It is a pattern that we see in the Bible, where the LORD allows evil to advance for both judgment and correction. It’s similar to the adage that like dissolves like. Evil devours itself. Good is honed in the fire, purified by the chastening. As Christ explains in Matthew 5:45, “for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust,” reminding us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you “that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.”

You see, government in any form is not God. We can see what a mess governments have made of things. Corruption, injustice, evil, even in the name of humanitarianism and equality, all come to a vicious space. They are the results of the fallen human condition. Only God through his true son provides salvation. This turmoil that we are seeing today is the lead up to end of times. Those of us who know and are led by the Holy Spirit share the Burden of Habakkuk, we see what is happening and are troubled by it from an earthly perspective. But like Habakkuk, we must use these times to stimulate our faith and inspire the remnant that the LORD, not man or government, will restore peace and deliverance in due time. Be encouraged. Be the light unto others. Keep the faith. Stand fast. The best is yet to come.

Bill Wilson  
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Our Out-of-Control Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

by Ryan Cleckner, Businessman, Attorney and Author; Imprimis, Hillsdale College

The following is adapted from a talk delivered on July 23, 2024, at Hillsdale College’s Blake Center for Faith and Freedom in Somers, Connecticut.

In March of this year, Bryan Malinowski, the executive director of the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock, Arkansas, was killed by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) during a pre-dawn raid of his home. It was an unwarranted and indefensible killing of a kind that should never, ever happen in a free country like the United States. Because we have a media that no longer serves in its traditional role as a government watchdog, this incident was not widely reported. Because too many members of Congress no longer take seriously their responsibility to protect the rights of those who elect them, the ATF has suffered no repercussions.

How and why did this killing take place?

Bryan Malinowski grew up as an avid collector of coins and, more recently, firearms. He took to displaying his coin and firearm collections at gun shows, where he would occasionally purchase and sell firearms.

Under federal law, it is perfectly legal to buy and sell firearms as a collector or hobbyist, even without a Federal Firearms License (FFL). An individual doesn’t need to obtain an FFL unless he is “engaged in the business” of selling firearms. Congress has defined “engaged in the business” to apply to those who deal in firearms “as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit” as opposed to those who make “occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby.”

Malinowski already had a livelihood—indeed, as the executive director of the airport, he was one of the highest paid city employees in Little Rock. Buying or selling firearms was something he did in his spare time. So it makes sense that he did not see the need to obtain a license. At some point, however, the ATF came to the view that Malinowski had crossed over the nebulous line from hobbyist to “engaged in the business” and that he therefore did need to obtain an FFL.

Leaving aside the question of whether the ATF was right about this—a moot issue now, given the fact that the ATF killed him—the obvious thing for the ATF to have done was to contact Malinowski through the mail, by phone, or in person, to inform him that it had determined he needed a license. If it had, he could have decided whether to stop selling firearms or to pay the nominal annual fee of \$65 for an FFL.

But the ATF didn’t do the obvious thing and contact Malinowski. Here is what we know happened instead. Multiple undercover ATF agents were sent to observe Malinowski selling firearms at a gun show, a GPS tracker was secretly placed on Malinowski’s car, and a search warrant was obtained for his home. Malinowski wasn’t home the first time ATF agents showed up to serve the warrant, so the second time they left nothing to chance. Dressed in SWAT gear, together with Little Rock police, they showed up in ten vehicles at Malinowski’s house before dawn on March 19. They cut the power to his

they pounded on the door until Stone showed up barefoot in his pajamas. Topping things off, there was a boat offshore behind Stone’s home manned by armed agents and equipped with floodlights.

In October 2021, pro-life activist **Mark Houck** and his twelve-year-old son were conducting a weekly prayer vigil near an abortion clinic in Philadelphia. Their standard practice was to hand out literature and, if women were interested, to help them find alternatives to abortion. Bruce Love, a volunteer escort at the facility,

“...the first and most important thing in bringing the ATF and these other agencies back under control is to impress firmly upon them the fact that they are accountable to Congress and are the servants and not the enemies of the American people...”

house and put a piece of tape over the doorbell camera so that Malinowski couldn’t see who they were. Less than a minute later, after an exchange of gunfire, Malinowski was dead. And in violation of both ATF and Little Rock police policies requiring body cameras, not one of the law enforcement agents involved in this deadly raid was wearing an activated camera.

After the killing, Malinowski’s wife was forcibly taken outside in her nightgown in 34-degree weather and was kept outside for over four hours despite multiple requests to see her husband and use the bathroom. In an audio recording from a police vehicle she can be heard sobbing, asking why they killed her husband, and insisting that the agents must have the wrong house because she and her husband are honest, law-abiding people.

\*\*\*

What happened to Bryan Malinowski is not an isolated incident. It is part of a growing pattern of KGB-style behavior by U.S. federal law enforcement agencies. Let me mention briefly just a few other cases.

Back during the Trump presidency, **Roger Stone**, a Republican political consultant since the Nixon era, was targeted by Special Counsel Robert Mueller for obstruction of justice and making false statements regarding the WikiLeaks release of Hillary Clinton’s emails. These are non-violent crimes, and the nattily dressed, 72-year-old Stone has given no indication over his long life that he is prone to violence of any kind. But on January 25, 2019, the FBI conducted a pre-dawn raid at Stone’s Fort Lauderdale home in a manner befitting a raid on an armed compound of a Mexican drug lord. Nearly 30 heavily armed agents swarmed Stone’s home at 6 a.m. With guns aimed at his entryway,

began to harass Houck’s son using vulgar language. During the ensuing argument, Houck pushed Love and Love fell to the ground. Philadelphia police reviewed the incident and no charges were filed. Love later pressed charges, but the case was reviewed and dismissed. Soon thereafter, Houck received notice that he was the target of a federal grand jury investigation for violating the FACE Act, which prohibits blocking access to abortion clinics. Houck’s attorney offered video evidence that Houck had not blocked access. He also told federal prosecutors that if they insisted on bringing charges, Houck would voluntarily surrender. The FBI ignored the offer, and on September 23, 2022, at 6:30 a.m., roughly two dozen FBI agents and Pennsylvania law enforcement officers showed up at Houck’s home in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Houck’s wife and seven children were still sleeping when five agents armed with rifles, tactical gear, and battering rams, began pounding on the door. Additional agents surrounded the property. Houck came to the door and his wife wandered down in her bathrobe. Houck was not allowed to say goodbye to his screaming children. Taken to a federal building, he was belly chained and had his wrists shackled to a table for six hours. Four months later a jury found him not guilty.

**Craig Robertson** was a 75-year-old Air Force veteran from Provo, Utah, likely demented, who made online threats against elected leaders, including President Biden. Neighbors described Robertson as “barely [able to] get around with a cane.” But instead of confronting Robertson on his regular outings to church or to

OUT-OF-CONTROL  
see page 22

# Who Is Kamala Harris?

## A Disturbing and Haunting Record – Part 11

by Discover the Networks  
via FrontPageMag.com

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

DHS Secretary Mayorkas Cannot Explain What Harris Does in Her Immigration Role

On November 16, 2020, Republican Senator Josh Hawley questioned Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas about what Vice President Harris had been doing during her nearly eight months as the purported leader of the Biden administration's response to mass illegal migration across America's southern border. The following *New York Post* report provides details of how a portion of their exchange went:

"Do you report to her?" Hawley asked Mayorkas.

"Senator, I report to the vice president and the president, and your question misstates the facts," the DHS secretary responded. "The president did not appoint the vice president to be the border czar. He asked her to lead the effort in addressing the root causes of irregular migration. Those are two very different things."

"Ah, I see," Hawley answered. "So is she working closely with you on that important endeavor? How often do you meet with her?"

"I am certainly in close touch with the vice president," Mayorkas said.

"How often do you meet on this subject?" Hawley pressed.

"I've met with the vice president more than a handful of times," answered Mayorkas, who was con-

firmed as DHS secretary in February.

"More than a handful? Well, so what's that, six or seven times in the last year?" Hawley said.

"Well, no, first of all, I have not been in office for a year, senator," said Mayorkas before repeating that he was in "close touch" with Harris.

When Hawley asked Mayorkas if the vice president had traveled to the border with him, the DHS chief recalled a late June visit by Harris to El Paso, Texas. The vice president received criticism for the trip from Republicans like Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who pointed out at the time that Harris was going nowhere near the epicenter of the ongoing crisis.

"And has she been part of your policies, your decision to end the 'Remain in Mexico' policy, to end the public charge rule, to change the ICE guidance, has she been part of those decisions?" asked Hawley.

"I have not consulted with the vice president directly about those policies," Mayorkas admitted.

"So what is she doing, exactly?" the Missourian asked. "You said she's not the borders czar. That's not her role. We're wrong about that. She's not doing anything like that. She's doing something very different, is what your testimony is, but you're not actually consulting with her on any policy. So what is it that she's doing, exactly?"

"Senator, as I have repeatedly testified, she is focused on addressing the root causes of irregular migration in the context of the migration channels," Mayorkas responded.

"How's that been going?" snarked Hawley.

"That is a — We are ad-

vancing considerably, and in fact, I am contributing to that effort," said Mayorkas, who cited trips he had made to meet with officials in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and other countries.

"And those efforts are working? That's been successful?" Hawley asked.

"This is a process that takes time and delivers an enduring solution," Mayorkas insisted.

### Harris Condemns the Kyle Rittenhouse Jury Verdict

On August 25, 2020 — during a violent Black Lives Matter/Antifa riot which followed an incident where a white Kenosha, Wisconsin police officer had shot and permanently disabled a knife-wielding black criminal named Jacob Blake — Kyle Rittenhouse, a 17-year-old white youth from Antioch, Illinois, drove to Kenosha, where his father resided, with the intent of: (a) helping to prevent further vandalism in that city, and (b) providing medical aid to people injured in the melee. At the scene of the unrest, Rittenhouse was armed with a semi-automatic rifle that had been purchased (with his money) and held for him by his friend Dominick Black, a resident of Kenosha. When white rioter and Kenosha resident Joseph Rosenbaum — who had spent 15 years in prison for multiple child molestation convictions that included anal rape — chased Rittenhouse, threatened to kill him, and tried to take away his rifle, Rittenhouse fatally shot Rosenbaum. While subsequently being chased by a crowd of approximately a dozen rioters, Rittenhouse ran down a street toward police vehicles, in hopes

KAMALA  
see page 22

# The Real Tim Walz

by Discover the Networks  
via FrontPageMag.com

*(Editor/GG: Part 7. And it gets worse....)*

### Education

Walz believes that voucher programs designed to enable low-income parents to send their children to private schools rather than to failing public schools, constitute bad policy because they rob the public schools of vital resources.

In October 2015, Rep. Walz voted against the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act, which sought to allow eligible students in Washington, D.C.'s abysmal public schools to enroll in participating private schools.

In October 2018, Rep. Walz articulated his desire to provide 2 years of tuition-free education at Minnesota state colleges for all students hailing from families with annual incomes of \$125,000 or less.

In May 2023, Governor Walz approved an education funding measure that authorized the use of state tax dollars to pay all college and university tuition costs for illegal aliens from families with annual incomes below \$80,000. In most states, such benefits are typically reserved only for legal immigrants and American citizens.

### Electoral College

Walz has said: "I do believe the Constitution is a living document. I think Jefferson's quote, about as mankind progressed and as technology progressed, the document was to progress with it, [unintelligible] how you deal with these things. But I do think you have to be very careful about some of those core principles. It always seems to me, going back to the Senate and the filibuster, the Electoral College seems very undemocratic to me."

### Energy & Environment

In November 2006, Rep. Walz advocated "reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and the negative effects on our air, water and climate."

In October 2018, Rep. Walz characterized climate change as a very real and urgent threat to humanity and the natural world.

In January 2022, Governor Walz called for an investment of \$13.8 million of taxpayer funds in a statewide electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

In June 2024, Governor Walz pledged that by the year 2040, Minnesota would be 100 percent reliant on wind, solar, and other sources of power favored by environmentalists — i.e., a carbon-free electrical grid. "We are going to see these projects get in the ground, we are going to see them create jobs, we are going to see them create energy independence for Minnesota, and at the same time we are doing our part to reduce carbon emissions," he said. Moreover, Walz's policy stipulated that by January 2025, all Minnesotans would be legally required to obtain at least one-fourth of their electricity from "green" sources. Minnesotans would also be barred from selling conventional power to other states, a prohibition that prompted neighboring states to charge that the policy was "constitutionally suspect" and represented "an improper attempt by Minnesota to export its wholly internal energy policy decisions to its neighboring states in patent violation of those states' rights and sovereignty."

As of June 2024 as well, Minnesota had enacted no fewer than 132 policies and fiscal incentives that encouraged the use of green energy — more than any other U.S. state except California. Among those incentives, as *National Review* noted,

were: "a state energy rebate, renewable-energy credits, property tax exemptions, and an exemption from the 7 percent state sales tax" — all of which shifted many of the financial burdens associated with green energy onto the shoulders of Minnesota's taxpayers.

### Free Speech Restrictions

In a 2022 interview on Joy Reid's MSNBC program "*The ReidOut*", Governor Walz — referring to what he called the spread of "insidious" "misinformation" that could potentially threaten America's government and way-of-life — stated that "there's no guarantee to free speech on misinformation or hate speech, especially around our democracy."

In a subsequent commentary regarding Walz's remark, *The Post Millennial* noted that such professed concerns about "misinformation" could be exploited as justifications for abuse-of-power and selective prosecution by the legal system:

"Douglass Mackey, a meme maker, was prosecuted for posting a joke about voting and how to vote. Mackey shared a meme that said people could text their vote for Hillary Clinton in 2016. He was convicted of violating rights.

"Kristina Wong, also in 2016, posted a video instructing Trump voters to vote on the wrong day, the day after the election that year. She was not prosecuted, the assumption being that everyone knew she was joking around. When prosecuting Mackey, the Department of Justice could not find a single person who believed his post or thought they could vote for Hillary via text. He was sentenced to prison time anyway."

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

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# The Second Amendment Corner

## Liberty's Line in the Sand



2024

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

# Smith & Wesson 1854 Lever Rifle: A Review

by Mike Hardesty,  
ammoland.com

“A lever action rifle? C’mon – this isn’t the 19th century. – why would anyone want one of those museum pieces?” I’ve heard that from time to time, and I’m amazed every time I hear it. Modern lever actions, like the Smith & Wesson 1854 Lever Action Rifle, have everything necessary to take this thumper from deer hunting to self-defense.

Deer hunters have never given up on them. Companies such as Winchester, Marlin, Mossberg, and Henry, bolstered in more recent years by Rossi and now Smith & Wesson, continue to make rifles that have always been popular with hunters. Levers are not only good for hunting. There are new self-defense-purposed rifles chambered in 9mm that use a lever action for those states that don’t allow AR-type rifles. I’ve owned a few levers in both .22 and centerfire calibers and like to shoot them. My brother had a Winchester 9422 .22 Magnum lever rifle that he could pick a gray squirrel off a limb with at 50 yards. (I was going to say “Shoot the nuts off a gnat” but that didn’t sound politically correct...). They tend to be accurate, easy to pack, and fast into action.

We’re going to narrow our lever action focus on the new Smith & Wesson 1854 in .44 Magnum. This is one interesting rifle!

Most shooters have at least some knowledge of lever action rifles (and shotguns, too), particularly those made by Winchester, Henry, Marlin, Rossi, and Mossberg – these are the big players. Suffice it to say that this new Smith and Wesson rifle (the 1854 line was introduced in January 2024)

brings some interesting, new features to the mix. This ain’t your granddaddy’s deer-thumper.

Specs

- Width: 1.6 in
- Length: 36 in
- Weight: 6 lbs., 12 oz. empty – my measurement
- Caliber: 44 Magnum (also offered in .45 Colt, same price)
- Capacity: 9
- Barrel Length: 19.25"
- Stock/Grip: Polymer
- Sights: Aperture rear, gold bead front
- Optic Ready: Yes (rail section on top)
- Safety: Cross-bolt
- Color/Finish: Black/matte stainless
- Threaded Barrel: Yes
- Barrel Material: 410 SS
- Frame: Stainless steel
- 11/16-24 Threaded Barrel
- Accepts mounts compatible with Marlin® 1894 hole patterns
- Black synthetic stock with textured grip panels
- M-LOK® synthetic forend with textured grip panels
- Gold bead front sight
- XS Sights ghost ring rear sight
- 1:20" RH Twist 8-Groove Rifling
- Large loop operating lever
- Forged 416 SS Receiver
- 19.25" 410 SS Barrel
- Thumb hammer extension included

And, if you want a fancier walnut/blue version, they make one for \$120 more.

Musings



Smith & Wesson 1854 Lever Rifle | Review

The rifle is interesting in my hands. It weighs over 6 pounds, but it doesn’t feel heavy – actually, it’s pretty light to carry around. The sights are interesting – a large XS ghost ring coupled with a gold bead up front. Of course, if you want something else, you have a nice-size Pic rail, which makes adding a light or laser easy. You might consider doing that, as that huge rear ghost ring aperture allowed for quick target acquisition but made precision shooting hard. The included M-Lok slots up front are new, for a factory-stock lever gun. And, if you need to clear the rifle, you can pull the mag tube off without having to jack all the rounds through the chamber. That’s a nice feature.

Hunting in winter is perpetually a challenge when it comes to keeping your hands warm. Stiff, frozen fingers aren’t the best way to manipulate a rifle. So, S&W decided to include a large loop that allows you to wear your favorite warm gloves.

I own a Henry Big Boy in .44, the shiny brass receiver/luxurious-blued barrel version. I hesi-

tate to take it to the deer woods because I don’t want to scratch it, and I also don’t want to cover that mirror-like, shiny brass with tape that might leave goo all over. So, I use other guns. I would not be afraid to take the Smith & Wesson 1854 outside, though. The stainless finish is tough and easily fixed if it gets scratched. Would I prefer a fancy walnut stock with old-school-blue metal? Sure, but plain ol’ polymer has its place. There’s no beating yourself up if you scratch that nice walnut stock because there is no nice walnut stock. This rifle is briar-patch-friendly in terms of scratch resistance and short enough to fit through the brambles.

One last thought concerns the barrel length. At 19.25 inches, you have the best of two worlds. Many lever guns have barrel lengths of either 16 or 20 inches. A few stretch to 24 inches, but I have never been interested in those. For deer-caliber rifles in our close-range woods, the shorter barrels work just fine. This gun, with its under-twenty-inch barrel length, is good the way it is. Or, you could add a suppressor

and still have a rifle that handles well. The caliber is very good for our close-in Indiana whitetails... I mentioned above that I don’t know how many deer I’ve killed with my S&W 629 8-3/8” revolver stoked with my homemade mid-range cast bullet loads. This 19.25-inch barrel will be better. I placed my Garmin Xero C1 Pro chronograph beside the rifle when we shot it to see just how much faster the bullets are flying than from my revolver. Talk about knock-down energy from a pistol cartridge! I’ll have those results below.

Range Time

Speaking of shooting, how did the Smith & Wesson 1854 do? My supply of factory .44 Mag ammo is a bit limited, so I shot what I had. Once upon a time, I was an unrepentant .44 hand loader, but factory ammo is what interests shooters who do not live next door to me.

I am blessed to have a 100-yard range in my backyard, so I headed there. I set up targets relatively close-in at 25 yards to check the zero – I had to adjust the rear sight quite a lot, so I kept the targets close. At any rate, deer we shoot around my house are usually no more than 50 yards out, so a 25-yard zero is workable. Anyway, the final zero was towards the top of the target so bullet drop at 50 yards would not be an issue. I used a Caldwell Ultimate Target Stand which makes it easy to spread three targets out at a time.

Anyway, my oldest son and I put some factory .44 loads through it.

**S&W 1854 Lever Rifle**  
see page 21

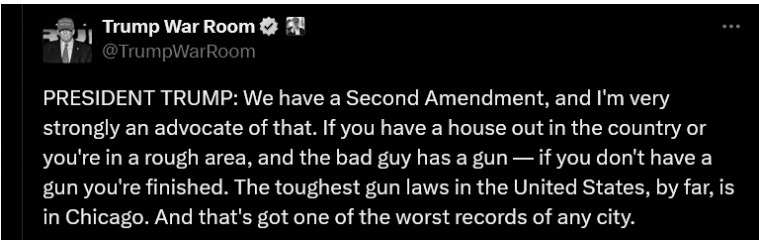
# Trump Talks 2A in Univision Townhall

by Cam Edwards,  
BearingArms.com

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump both stepped out of their comfort zones on Wednesday, with Harris sitting down for an interview with Fox News’ Bret Baier and Trump joining Univision for a televised townhall. Only one of the candidates spoke about their views on the Second Amendment, however, after Baier didn’t bring up Harris’s demand for an “assault weapons” ban or her past support for handgun bans in San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Trump, on the other hand, did talk about the right to keep and bear arms on Univision after receiving a loaded question about how he’d explain his gun policies to the parents of school shooting victims.

[see screen shot]



Trump pointed to the extensive gun control laws in the city of Chicago and their failure to curb violent crime, adding “it’s the person pulling the trigger, not the gun.”

Trump then turned his attention to Kamala Harris’s anti-gun record, telling the Univision audience that she’s “always” wanted to take guns away from lawful owners. While Harris has declared on multiple occasions over the past few months that neither she nor Tim Walz want to take anyone’s guns away, her campaign rhetoric is belied by the fact that Harris

has supported confiscation efforts over the years.

In 2005, she backed San Francisco’s Prop H, which would have banned the possession of handguns in the city and forced existing owners to turn their pistols over to police. Five years ago she declared that it would be a “good idea” to include a mandatory “buyback” of so-called assault weapons in her semi-auto ban. Though her campaign now says she no longer supports a compensated confiscation of modern sporting rifles, Harris routinely says that those guns “don’t be-

long on the streets of a civil society”, which suggests she wants to do something with the more than 20 million modern sporting rifles in legal hands across the country.

After reminding his audience that criminals aren’t going to abide by a gun ban, Trump closed out his remarks by saying “we want safety. We want security, but we still have to adhere to the Second Amendment.”

It was a decent answer to a loaded question, though Trump could have been more specific in outlining both his own support for increasing school security and Harris’s previous calls to “demilitarize” schools by booting police and school resource officers from campus. It’s not just that Harris believes the road to public safety must pave over our right to keep and bear arms, which is atrocious enough. She’s now portraying herself as a champion of school

safety when just a few years ago she was calling for the removal of law enforcement from school campuses.

Trump missed an opportunity to point out yet another of Harris’s attempts to reinvent herself on the campaign trail by flip-flopping on the issues of gun bans and having school resource officers in place, but he did remind the Univision audience that the policies she supports affect lawful gun owners far more than violent criminals. I’d give Trump a “B+” for his answer. I wish I could give Kamala Harris a grade for her sit down with Baier, but sadly she once again got a pass when a reporter had the chance to press her on her history of anti-2A extremism.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2024/10/17/trump-talks-2a-in-univision-townhall-n1226588>

### S&W 1854 Lever Rifle from page 20

We shot the following from my supply of .44 Mag ammo:

- **PMC Bronze 180-gr JHP** — 2174 fps/1889 fpe
- **Hornady Leverevoltion 225-gr FTX** — 2165 fps/2342 fpe
- **Fiocchi Range Dynamics 240-grain JSP** — 1478 fps/1164 fpe



Accuracy Results



The 180-grain PMC did well.



Hornady .44 Mag 225 gr FTX

Fiocchi's 240-grain wasn't bad – definitely worth checking out.

I think that if I take this rifle into the woods come deer season, I might buy a box or two of the Hornady Leverevoltion. The poly tip keeps the rounds safe in the tubular magazine, and the accuracy potential – coupled with over a ton of energy – would make quick work of a whitetail. The 180-grain load did very well, too... another option!

#### Sighting The Accuracy Solution

I purposely did not put an optic on the rifle, as I tried to test everything as it came from the box. However, as I found out, this rifle will benefit from an added optic. I set up at 50 yards, and we both fired groups with all the ammo. The groups were not that great, to be honest. It shot low and not very tight.

We decided that the XS ghost ring rear sight, which was very large, would be really good in the woods with lower levels of light since it is so big and allows quick target acquisition. How-

ever, it wasn't easy for us to get extreme precision from it, since it was designed for fast shooting at closer-in ranges. A snap shot at a doe 30 yards away? No problem... both the ammo and the rifle would be up for that. A closely-aimed shot at the same deer at 75 yards? You might want to wait for her to get in a little closer. At least the targets showed promise with the loads I used...all three targets show groups of slightly more than an inch at 25 yards.

The ultimate sighting solution, of course, is to stick a scope or a red dot on the rifle. S&W has made that dead-nuts easy with the Picatinny rail on the top of the gun. Here's where side-ejection shines. I noticed that they designed the 1854 to use side ejection and not top ejection (a la Winchester), so any optic you want to use is acceptable. As our Aussie friends might say, good on ya, S&W!

After testing the rifle more carefully at the range with its open sights for the review at closer range, I will put some sort of optic on it and really wring it out. I have zero doubt that the groups will tighten up and add yards to my effective range. Those of you who are used to using an aperture sight like the XS will probably not have any trouble at all shooting the rifle as it comes out of the box. But, my aged eyeballs need a bit of a boost.

One other thing... a six-pound-plus rifle in .44 Magnum will not kick very hard. Oh sure, it let you know when you pulled the trigger but it wasn't bad. I figured it delivered around 10 pounds of

recoil energy, depending upon the load. That is tolerable. The efficient rubber butt pad helped tame the recoil. Also, the threaded barrel will accept a muzzle brake or suppressor which may further help lessen the kick you feel.

#### Alternative Sighting

I am adding this paragraph later, as I just received a Burris Fast Fire 4 red dot sight from that company. This is a sight that works on handguns and long guns. I can't wait to sight it in, although I'm not sure I could improve on the iron sights in terms of accuracy. The FF4 is a continuation of the Fast Fire series, has four reticles and four brightness settings, and comes with a weather shield. This is one nice sight for a rifle like this.

#### To Sum Up



The hammer with its included extension.

Since I was a very young whipper-snapper and a family friend brought my brother and me lever-action BB rifles for Christmas one year, I've been a fan of that style of action. I once owned a Winchester 94 in .30-30. I kick myself every time I think of it for selling it back in the '80s but at

that time, you couldn't hunt deer with centerfire rifles in Indiana. That's changed now. I also own a Henry Big Boy in .44 Magnum.

Even with the pistol-caliber .44 Magnum, you are getting some serious oomph in the ballistics department out of this rifle. Consider that a .30-30 170-grain bullet will fly at around 2200 fps. Now, I'm not knocking the ol' warhorse – plenty of freezers have been filled by hunters using that caliber. All I'm saying is that you can come close to the .30-30 with a 180-grain .44 Magnum load in terms of velocity and energy out of this long barrel. Granted, the .30-30 bullet is more streamlined and provides better down-range ballistics but at across-the-hollow deer ranges, that hardly matters. If you already own a .44 revolver, this rifle makes a great companion for it in terms of shared ammo. Add in the additional speed this rifle's 19.25-inch barrel provides and you have a winner.

If you've been thinking about adding a lever-action rifle to your gun safe, you might want to check out the Smith & Wesson 1854. It is very light, handy, and versatile in terms of adding optics, lights, lasers, etc. – that adds to its value in my opinion. Plus, it is practically weather- and scratch-proof. Even if you want the fancy walnut-shiny-blue version, you're covered. This one is not going back. Let's hear from you below if you're a lever fan!

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/10/smith-wesson-1854-lever-rifle-review/>



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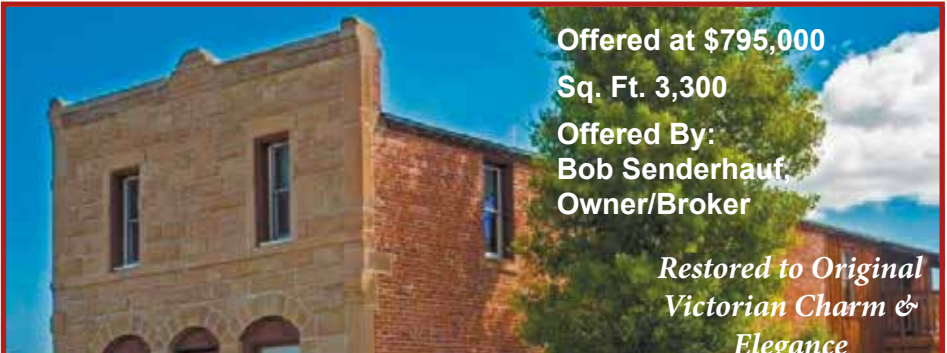
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OUT-OF-CONTROL  
from page 18

the grocery store, the FBI again decided on a pre-dawn raid. At 6 a.m. on August 9, 2023, FBI agents first attempted to break down Robertson's door with a battering ram, then resorted to using an armored vehicle to smash a hole in his house. The FBI claims that Robertson shot at agents before its agents shot and killed him—though the agency has refused to release any bodycam footage. Robertson's body was moved to the sidewalk and left unattended for hours.

Other cases could be cited—including the FBI's unprecedented raid on **President Trump's home** in Palm Beach, Florida, in which the use of "deadly force" was authorized—but the point is clear enough. Such actions by federal law enforcement agencies go far beyond what is justified by law and custom in America. The agencies involved respond to criticism by saying that their actions are "by the book." But this lie, parroted by corporate media, is preposterous on its face. If such a book exists, it represents a radical departure from the historical constraints of constitutional authority and the idea of equality before the law.

I served in the military as a Special Operations sniper and Sniper Team leader in 1st Ranger Battalion. I could have gone on to become a sharpshooter on a police SWAT team or even joined the FBI or one of the other three-letter federal agencies that were widely considered, in the past, to be the cream of the crop in terms of law

enforcement. Sadly, they are no longer thought of in the same way. The flip side of the increasingly thuggish character of these agencies is their diminished effectiveness in fulfilling their core missions, to the point that the American public cannot help but notice. Consider the recent assassination attempt—very nearly successful—on President Trump. The U.S. Secret Service and the FBI are being anything but transparent about their investigations and seem to be going out of their way to make it as difficult as possible for Congress and the public to learn what happened. But the most obvious fact about it, which cannot be covered up, is that the Secret Service allowed a 20-year-old shooter to access the most ideal location for a sniper, even after he had been spotted acting suspiciously and using a laser rangefinder and had been watched for almost 30 minutes. This alone is enough to know the Secret Service that day was more Keystone Cop than cream of the crop.

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In closing, let me return to the agency I know best, having a lot of first-hand experience dealing with it—the ATF. Like all these federal law enforcement agencies, the ATF was created by Congress and is tasked with executing laws passed by Congress. Congress, in turn, represents and acts on behalf of the American people. In this context, the first and most important thing in bringing the ATF and these other agencies back under control is to impress firmly upon them the fact that they are accountable to Congress and are

the servants and not the enemies of the American people—and in the case of the ATF, the fact that one of the people it would still be serving, had ATF agents not killed him, is Bryan Malinowski. Most of the cases in which I have dealt with the ATF have to do with companies that are licensed to sell firearms—companies that have FFLs—and are under threat of losing their license and thus being put out of business. The Gun Control Act of 1968 is the main body of law concerning this, and in 1986 this law was amended to allow the ATF to revoke an FFL only for a "willful" violation of the law. The willfulness standard was added "to ensure that licenses are not revoked for inadvertent errors or technical mistakes." In recent years, however, the ATF has adopted what it calls a "Zero Tolerance Policy" that flies in the face of the willfulness standard—and therefore in the face of laws passed by Congress on behalf of the American people.

The ATF's egregious treatment of **Point Blank Firearms**, a Michigan company that it is trying to put out of business, provides an example of the harm caused by ATF overreach.

During compliance inspections, the ATF is largely concerned with determining three things: if there are any missing firearms, if all the required records have been filled out and kept properly, and if the licensed company is doing its job as the front line of defense against the criminal possession of firearms.

In the case of Point Blank, the ATF makes three claims, one of which

amounts to an inadvertent clerical error. The other two are provably false. The first is that Point Blank was missing firearms transaction forms, which, if true, would be serious. These forms are filled out by the purchaser of a firearm and contain information about the gun, the purchaser, and the background check results. They are the only way for the ATF to prove who ended up with a firearm or who possibly lied on the form. But every single form at Point Blank has been accounted for, complete with the customer's signature and background check information.

The second claim is that Point Blank transferred a firearm to someone more than 30 days after his background check was run. Again, if true, this is a violation of the law. However, it has been proven that the firearm was transferred on the very same day as the background check. Yet the Detroit field division of the ATF continues to threaten Point Blank with the loss of its license.

Point Blank is a client of mine, so I understand if you don't take my word on faith. But if you look into it, you will see that the ATF is not only overreaching, but is violating the very rules it requires everyone else to follow. Indeed, of the many ATF inspections I've been a part of, not once have the ATF's records been accurate.

Do you remember Operation Fast and Furious, a program in which the ATF used licensed firearms dealers to funnel thousands of American firearms to Mexican drug cartels? Due to sheer incompetence, most of those firearms were lost and never recovered, and none of the

high-level Mexican drug cartel members who ended up with the firearms have been arrested. When U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was killed in a shootout at the border, the weapon that was used to kill him was one of the guns that the ATF intentionally gave to the drug cartels. Needless to say, no heads ever rolled at the ATF as a result.

Another area in which the ATF is violating federal law is in keeping a firearms registry. The Firearms Owners Protection Act passed by Congress in 1986 specifically prohibits the ATF from having an electronic database of firearms and their owners. But Georgia Congressman Andrew Clyde recently visited the ATF records center in West Virginia and discovered that the ATF currently has over 900 million such records scanned and stored electronically.

So how do we regain control over the ATF and other federal law enforcement agencies? It is not going to happen through congressional hearings that provide a forum for political showboating and partisan posturing and that go nowhere. We the American people must demand that Congress, on our behalf, either reassert its authority over these agencies in a way to make it stick or else abolish the agencies and start anew.

If we don't, Bryan Malinowski will have died in vain and the rest of us, as if we are no longer Americans, will be looking over our shoulders.

Please see: <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/our-out-of-control-federal-law-enforcement-agencies/>

KAMALA from page 19

that the officers might protect him from his pursuers. But the fleeing Rittenhouse tripped and fell to the ground, at which point he was struck on the head by a 39-year-old white man who jumpkicked him. Then, while Rittenhouse was still on the ground, white Silver Lake resident Anthony Huber — a domestic abuse repeater and an exconvict who in 2013 had plead guilty to multiple felony counts

of strangulation, suffocation, and false imprisonment — struck him on the head and neck with a skateboard and attempted to pull away his rifle, at which point Rittenhouse killed Huber with a single gunshot to the chest. And when white West Allis resident Gaige Grosskreutz — who had a long arrest history that included multiple misdemeanors and felonies — then approached the fallen Rittenhouse and pointed a handgun directly at him, Rittenhouse shot him once in

the right arm, wounding but not killing the man. Rittenhouse was subsequently tried on six criminal charges which included homicide, reckless endangerment, and possession of a dangerous weapon by a person under the age of 18. A large number of leftists portrayed him as a racist, Trump-supporting white vigilante who had recklessly fired his gun at "social justice" and "racial justice" demonstrators in Kenosha.

After a jury found Rittenhouse not guilty on all counts on November

19, 2021, Harris said: "The verdict really speaks for itself. As many of you know, I've spent the majority of my career working to make the criminal justice system more equitable, and clearly there's a lot more to do."

**Expressing Respect for the View That Israel's "Iron Dome" System Is a Tool of "Ethnic Genocide"**

During a 2021 appearance at George Mason University, Vice President Harris nodded along as

a student ranted that American funding for Israel's anti-missile defense system, the Iron Dome, "hurts my heart because it's an ethnic genocide." Harris then assured the student that "your voice, your perspective, your experience, your truth, should not be suppressed."

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

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

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EPP  
from page 3

to be repaired, and yes that keeps me in the trenches. It keeps my perspective refreshed and open to what the minimum wage worker goes through in the workforce and some of the challenges they face as citizens. enges they face as citizens.

I am also one of the newly minted remote workers here who works within the county but is employed elsewhere. It is a job that I do not work full time anymore but that I do not take lightly either in consulting nationally on industrial plant electrical system designs. It is a job I enjoy in the background. I am term limited and not anywhere near retirement and will need a job to go back to when this is all over be it January 25 or in four years.

In my short tenure as commissioner, I have learned so much. Talk about drinking out of a fire hose. It brought me back to many projects I have worked on in my past. I had to get down and get dirty. I had to spend a lot of time in the trenches, and I will stay there until a department gets to where it needs to be. I will also go back if that is the case too. I am working along with everyone else in the county to raise everything we do to be above the bar so in case the state or federal government decides to move that bar again, well we do not have to adjust so much then. I would like Custer to set an example of how to execute government so that other counties are looking at us for solutions. I know we can do it if we all work together.

Collaboration will be the name of the game to move us all forward in everything we do for decades to come. I do not think it is a new concept, but a reality that we sometimes walk away from because it takes work.

Examples of what I have been working on in this past year include:

- Cooperation with the Town of Silver Cliff and UAACOG; accelerated milestones for self-sustaining workforce housing, which is culturally appropriate and costing the County as little as possible.

- Cooperating with the Town of Westcliffe to share a required updated Housing Needs Analysis at an incredibly low cost to County Citizens.

- Working with Public Health Department Director to engage with several other local parties toward a shared goal to create a critically needed Home Health Initiative.

- Collaborating with the other commissioners along with our partners and the towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff to bring in the ground fiber optic broadband to our communities for redundancy and future expansion into our neighborhoods. Emerging education models and the remote working environment all rely on broadband. It will be part of the bucket of tools we hope to use to keep our cherished youth here in our community.

- Working with the Custer County Hospital District in sharing our human resources manager to help them with policy. It is part of a larger plan to share resources between the county and all the other taxing districts to alleviate

redundancy and bring value to the citizens.

- Working to make minor changes or course corrections in every department to bring us into the 21st century and into compliance with all local, state, and federal laws. There is usually no need for knee jerk reactions to anything but careful thought and consideration in moving forward one step at a time. Slow and steady wins the race and I believe we will win. This county has a future.

As an incumbent County Commissioner, I am constantly considering how to attract business models fitting the valley resources and culture. Those that yield sustainable economic import, balancing new private capital with demand on local resources and governmental services. Always in moderation and in balance of who we all are as people.

I understand and apply long term balance sheet decision making to the decisions I make for the county. This is intrinsic to my thinking and comes from all that I do as a remote worker, as a part owner of a couple of businesses and from my past. It all adds up to "Value Added" for all citizens. My time as commissioner has taught me to grasp what can be promised verses what can be delivered. This helps me to navigate straight to realistic achievable goals.

This is a little about who I am, what I have done and where I want us to continue to go. At your pleasure as voters will continue to pursue in the next term.

Thanking our community of citizens in advance,

Lucas Epp

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