

Colorado Hands-Free Driving Law Taking Effect in the New Year

by Tom Joyce,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – A new, hands-free driving law will take effect in Colorado at the start of the new year.

Beginning on January 1, 2025, Colorado drivers will no longer be allowed to use a mobile electronic device while driving unless they use it via hands-free accessories.

“This new legislation is a crucial step toward making Colorado’s roads safer for everyone,” Shoshana Lew, executive director of CDOT, said in a news release. “By encouraging drivers to focus solely on the task of driving, we can reduce the number of distracted driving incidents and prevent crashes that often come with

such behavior. This law aligns with best practices from across the nation and reflects our commitment to protecting all road users, whether in a vehicle, on a bike or walking.”

Colorado has a law against texting and driving, but this new law expands the rule to include manually using a phone or any other mobile device for a phone call or any other reason.

First-time offenders will face a \$75 fine and two license suspension points, while repeat offenders will face stiffer penalties.

The law offers some exemptions. Those include, “reporting emergencies, utility workers, code enforcement officers, animal protection officers, first responders

and individuals in parked vehicles,” according to the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Additionally, people driving a commercial vehicle with a commercial driver’s license are exempt from the law.

The Colorado Department of Transportation says many car crashes are preventable, and mitigating distracted driving is one way to reduce instances of it.

“For a long time, troopers have been able to detect when someone is driving distracted by a vehicle weaving between lanes, delayed starts at stop signs and lights, not to mention seeing a phone or other device in a driver’s hand,” Col. Matthew Packard,

chief of the Colorado State Patrol, said in the release. “This legislation allows us to address risky and careless behaviors in a proactive way to increase the safety of all roadway users.”

Here are the hands-free devices the Colorado Department of Transportation says the new law will permit:

- **D a s h b o a r d / P h o n e Mounts:** These secure your phone in a visible but safe position, enabling the use of navigation or hands-free calls without holding the device.
- **Apple CarPlay/Android Auto:** Built-in or aftermarket systems that integrate your smartphone with your vehicle’s display, allowing you to control your phone

through voice commands or your car’s interface.

- **Built-in Car Speaker Systems:** Many cars come equipped with Bluetooth-enabled speaker systems that allow hands-free communication and audio navigation. If your car does not have Bluetooth, there are plug-in devices for purchase that enable the feature through your vehicle’s existing stereo system.

Governor Jared Polis signed this policy into law in June 2024. The legislation, Senate Bill 65, passed in both chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_60ef9422-b72d-11ef-96f1-07c9b7ac6072.html?a

Details on Lawsuit Against Ex DA Linda Stanley

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

This article is based on the lawsuit filed by Fremont, Chaffee and Custer Counties, December 5, 2024, against our ex 11th Judicial District DA, Linda Stanley. (Hat tip to KRDO.com on their article on this and link to the actual lawsuit complaint filed in the Fremont District Court. See <https://krdo.b-cdn.net/2024/12/Stanley-Complaint-12-4-24-1.pdf>).

The complaint alleges that Stanley used regular budgeted funds from the three counties for her normal 11th Judicial District expenses to defend herself personally against “ethical violations”. The ethical violations were brought before the Office of Attorney Regulation for the State of Colorado. Stanley was found guilty and was disbarred.

The complaint alleges that Stanley used \$111,971.35 of her regular budgeted funds to defend herself in the ethical complaints. The complaint states that, “Defendant willfully, knowingly and fraudulently converted funds appropriated by County to her own use and benefit, and/or to a use other than the public use authorized by law.” The complaint also alleges that Stanley failed to notify the counties that she was, or was going to, use county funds to defend herself.

The complaint has two claims against Stanley, the first one being Fraud and the second one being Civil Theft. The Plaintiff’s want Stanley to pay “For actual damages suffered by the Plaintiffs in an amount to be determined by trial”, “treble damages”, judgement interest, and “attorney’s fees and costs as provided by law”.

(See KRDO.com’s article at <https://krdo.com/news/2024/12/05/disbarred-district-attorney-linda-stanley-sued-by-multiple-counties-for-using-tax-dollars-on-legal-fees/>)

Another Democrat Boondoggle: Denver Transit Eats Our Tax Dollars

by Elyse Apel,
The Center Square

Denver’s transit system continues to face financial challenges, even as it moves forward with expansion programs.

According to the Regional Transportation District, (RTD) the system maintains a “strong near-term outlook.”

Yet, like many other transits throughout the country which have seen little recovery in ridership since the COVID-19 pandemic, RTD ridership in 2023 was less than two-thirds of the pre-pandemic level.

Unlike other transits, RTD’s ridership has been declining since 2014, when it was 5% higher than in 2019.

In 2021, the transit, which includes buses, rail, and on-demand services, reported 50 million annual boardings. In 2023, that number had increased to 65 million annual boardings.

So far, 2024 has seen only

slight increases in ridership, still much less than 2019’s ridership of 106 million.

Revenue from fares has also been consistently dropping over the past few years.

“TD reports that, in 2024, only 5% of the revenue was generated from rider fares. The rest of the revenue was acquired from either taxes or grants.”

In 2021, the transit brought in \$79 million from fares. Each year since then, revenue from fares has consistently decreased. In 2023, RTD brought in only \$64 million from fares. That is a 19% decrease in just three years.

RTD reports that, in 2024, only 5% of the revenue was generated from rider fares. The rest of the revenue was acquired from either taxes or grants.

Revenue from grants also saw a slight decrease over that period, while revenue from taxes increased from

\$757 million in 2021 to \$858 million in 2023.

While riders and some streams of revenue drop, the total operating budget for the transit has seen a massive increase of 65%

since 2021, increasing from \$630 million to \$1 billion in 2023.

That comes as the transit says its current financial strategies include increasing revenue and decreasing expenses.

Yet, the transit is consistently spending more on each individual ride. In August 2024, RTD reported that each boarding had an operating expense of \$17.49. That is up from

RTD BOONDOGGLE
see page 5

Bobcat HS Girls BB Photo Feature
pages 12-13

By Rail and River
page 2

Christmas Ads
page 3 & 11

Hold On, We’re Coming
page 8

Veteran’s Rescue Ranch
page 10

Admin Growth in Schools
page 16

Fentanyl Pill Seizures
page 17

Police Be Gone
page 17

AR-15 Triggers
page 20

PATRIOT ALERT!
Evolution of The Battle Rifle page 20



“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
---Isaiah 7:14 ESV

SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

Copyright©2024

The Voice
of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

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

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel (USPS 11280) is an independent newspaper, published weekly by The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 179, Westcliffe, CO 81252. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 179, Westcliffe, CO 81252. Periodicals postage paid at Westcliffe, CO and additional mailing offices.

Key Personnel

George Gramlich - President
& Managing Editor
George.Gramlich.sdc@gmail.com

Fred Hernandez - Vice President
FredHer8@proton.me

L. Vass - Secretary and
Asst Editor / Graphics Layout
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Katherine Brenchley -
Advertising Coordinator
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support

Accounting Services
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com

Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery

Galen Studebaker

Sentinel Founders

Mike Hess
George Gramlich
Mary Seifert
Rob Canterbury

Sentinel Honor Roll

Dan Bubis
Jackie Bubis
Carol Clemenson
Scott Clemenson
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors

Audrey Slater
Mtn. Photo in Mtn.
by Peggi Collins

Business Hours:

Tues: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wedn: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Closed Thursdays & Weekends

Subscription Rates:

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

How to contact us:

719-783-3360
P.O. Box 179
601 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO
81252
www.SDCSentinel.com

Please send your
letters to sdc.sentinel@
gmail.com

www.facebook.com/
SangreDeCristoSentinel

By Rail and River

by Sam Bock and Jim England,
History Colorado

(Part 1 of 3)

(Editor/GG: This article was
first printed in The Colorado
Magazine.)

Amidst one of the worst economic downturns in Colorado history, two ill-fated contingents of "Coxeyites" tried unconventional means of joining a nation-wide protest movement.

A train robbery was in the headlines of southern Colorado newspapers in the spring of 1894. Not the Hollywood version of a stickup on rails. This was the theft of an entire train.

The several hundred labor protesters who liberated the train from a Pueblo rail yard managed to take it more than two hundred miles, even rebuilding tracks by hand as they went to avoid capture. Though stopped just across the Kansas border, the protesters brought wide-spread attention to their cause and most avoided any consequences for their heist. At the same time, in Denver, another group constructed homemade rafts and attempted to navigate the Platte River. The rafters were less successful than their rail-bound brethren: Attempting to navigate the river at flood stage, their homemade rafts sank after just a few miles.

The train thieves and rafters were Coxeyites, and they were just two contingents of a nationwide move-



The Gold King Mine near Cripple Creek, 1892.

Photo by William Henry Jackson. History Colorado 86.200.519

ment calling itself Coxey's Army. Taking the name of Jacob S. Coxey, an Ohio man who encouraged protestors from all over the country to converge on the nation's capital, the so-called army's cause was to draw attention to hard economic times and high unemployment that came with the economic crash of 1893. The hijackers had begun as a group of unemployed miners in Cripple Creek who decided that stealing a train was their only way of reaching Washington, D.C. and joining their fellow protestors. The Denver river-rafters similarly were made up of unemployed men that local authorities forced to go elsewhere—literally anywhere else as long as they were out of Denver—in search of economic redress.

While the protest movement was successful in drawing attention to the cause, labor tensions persisted long after the heist was over, leading to some of the most violent and shocking moments in Colorado

history including the Ludlow Massacre. In many ways, the Coxey movement was a ground-up expression of discontent, and a precursor to various twentieth- and twenty-first-century protests of the unemployed and powerless, including the Occupy Wall Street movement of the early 2000s. Though the motivation may be familiar, their means were unusual, and were perhaps one of the most unique protest methods the state has ever seen.

Coxey's Army

Colorado was facing particularly hard economic times following the Panic of 1893, a nationwide economic depression that was among the worst in US history. The silver market collapsed that year as a result of a national decision to demonetize silver and return to a currency based on gold, sending the state's economy and its large silver mining industry into a nosedive.

One result was the rise of a statewide pro-labor, Populist movement. As distinguished from later political ideologies loosely dubbed as "populist," the Populists of the late nineteenth century were a more-defined third political party movement. Its core constituency consisted of farmers, miners, and other laborers, who shared a distrust of corporations, banks, and the existing political structure. This Populist movement sought elective office by means of parties with a shifting set of names, but it was the People's Party that enjoyed the most success in

BY RAIL and RIVER
see page 23

Community Appreciation & Christmas Potluck!



YOU made it possible,
Now lets celebrate,
Our Savior and our country!



The Saddle Club
December 16th, 2024
6-9PM

Bring a dish and BYOB, Details forthcoming!

Call Joy Anderson 719-464-7747

*Hosted by Custer County Republican Central Committee, Jack Canterbury
registered agent



- Sewer Line Cleaning
- Video Camera Inspection
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Replacement of Main Water and Sewer Lines
- Repair & Replacement of Water Heaters, Furnaces & Boilers
- Geo Thermal Heating & Cooling
- Air Duct Cleaning

**Certified Backflow
Installation and Testing**
Service and New Construction
Licensed and Insured
Locally Owned & Operated



REGULAR FEATURES

Business Directory	page	6-7
Classifieds	page	9
Churches	page	8
Crossword Puzzle	page	17
Events	page	8-9
Legals	page	17

Business Directory QR
(Scan to download)
website <https://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

Liberty Rocks - 2024

Tuesday, December 17th, 6:00 pm
at Tony's Mountain Pizza
An evening of friendship, music
and frivolity

—White Elephant Gift Exchange—
Bring a wrapped gift and JOIN THE FUN!
(if you purchase the gift, please limit it to \$25)

Music by the Silver Cliff Lights
The fun begins at 6pm
Come eat, drink, discuss, engage, and learn.

Proudly sponsored by: Custer Citizens for the Constitution
Contact: Ann Barthrop (303) 547-4723, abarthrop@msn.com
Facebook: Liberty Rocks In Custer County

Merry Christmas!

We encourage everyone to SHOP LOCALLY and share your Christmas Joy with your friends and neighbors this year!

Yoder's Home Furnishings:
Your local Go-To Shop for quality home furnishings for everyone on your list!





Open Mon - Sat | 9am-4pm
57965 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
719-783-0988 | shopyoders.com



WÜSTHOF
Block Sets
on Sale now!



BENCHMADE



ZIPPO
ZIPPO
AMERICA



SALIDA
CUTLERY
SMOKE SHOP

132 W. Hwy 50 - Salida, CO - 719.539.2884



STAGE STOP
EST. 2019



Lattes & Smoothies
Breakfast Burritos
meat or veggie
Biscuits & Gravy
made from scratch daily
Breakfast Sandwiches
made to order

Corner of 3rd & Main
in Westcliffe
719-735-0323

Open Every Day
7am - 1:30pm
Stage Stop will be
CLOSED on
Thanksgiving Day



Lollipop & Co.

Popcorn! Treats! Gifts!



307 Main Street, Westcliffe • Open: Wed - Sat 11-4







Open Monday through Saturday 7-5
202 Main Street, Westcliffe

Fantastic Food & Gifts!
Gift Certificates Available!

Salty Pine
Floral & Boutique

Start your Christmas shopping with us!

Tops • Jeans • Jewelry
Sheets • Gift Baskets!



Open Mon.-Sat. 10-5

411 Main St.,
Westcliffe
719-783-9393

Food Drive



Last Call for Keller Johnson’s Annual Food Drive to benefit Custer County’s Senior Citizens! Let’s help this young man top last year’s record of over 1,000 pounds of food donated. Drop off your contribution at Silver Cliff Mountain Inn & Restaurant before the close of business on Monday (December 16).



Artistic Edge Dance Studio
Winter Dance Recital
Saturday, December 14th
Custer County School West Gym
5:30 p.m.

Tickets sold only at the door:
Adults \$12, Kids \$6 (3 & under Free)
Cash, Check or Credit

Tis the Season....



More awesome photos of this year’s Christmas Parade to follow in next week’s issue.....



Beach REDI-MIX

**CONCRETE SUPPLIER
& CONCRETE PUMP TRUCK**

“THE FOUNDATION OF CUSTER COUNTY”

**PRE-CAST SEPTIC TANKS AVAILABLE
1000 GALLON, 1250 GALLON, AND 1500 GALLON**

**PRE-CAST BARRIER BLOCKS
DECORATIVE & PLAIN**

198 Range View Loop, Westcliffe, CO 81252
719.783.3558
beachredimix-co.com





Join Us!!!

All Veterans and Immediate Families Are Invited

To A Free Christmas Party/Dinner

@ Lange Hall, 312 3rd Street

**Saturday, 14 December,
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Menu: Variety of homemade casseroles, homemade breads/rolls, salad, dessert, soft drinks. We’ll have great food, games, music, and FUN! FUN! FUN!

Come and join your Veteran Friends
All are Welcome

Hosted by The American Legion 170 Family

www.VeteransRescueRanch.org

Show Your Spirt by **Helping Veterans**

Discover Peace Through Alternative Healing

★ Community Involvement ★

- VETS (Veterans Emergency Timber Support) Program
 - **FREE** Firewood for Veterans
- Equine-Assisted Healing & Learning
- Annual Pig Roast (**FREE** to Veterans & Families)
- Drum Circle Tipi Healing

All Programs Are **FREE** to Veterans



Scan Below to Donate



Veterans Rescue Ranch Westcliffe, CO

Honoring Our Heros: Showing Community Support

Press Release
West Custer County Hospital District
WESTCLIFFE, Colo.

Custer County is the comfortable home to thousands of wonderful, fascinating, and caring citizens. However, our safety and health depend on our outstanding and devoted first responders.

On October 19th, 2024, *our community suffered a devastating loss when Andrew Fernandez, one of our outstanding paramedics, tragically passed away in a fatal car crash while driving to work. That day CCEMS and our Valley lost a true hero. As members of the West Custer County Hospital District (WCCHD) Board, we want to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of the Custer County Emergency Medical Services team.*

Andrew was loved and respected for his diligent patient care and willingness to serve for over a decade as a first responder. Many people in this Valley owe their lives and their safety to Andrew and the entire EMS staff.

It is time to show our support and appreciation to our first responders. In

his honor, the WCCHD Board is proud to announce the creation of the EMS Memorial Fund. This fund is dedicated to recognizing Andrew's legacy and supporting his wife, Justine, and two-year-old daughter, Journey, whom he left behind.

Please join the members of the Board in contributing to this Tax-Deductible Fund to honor our local heroes by honoring Andrew Fernandez.

Your checks can be made out to: West Custer County Hospital District, Memo: Andrew Fernandez Memorial Fund.

And mailed to:
P.O. Box 120,
Westcliffe CO 81252

You will receive a confirmation of your tax-deductible gift.

Additionally, an account has been established at Kirkpatrick Bank in Westcliffe, Colorado, in Andrew's memory for those who wish to contribute directly.

Let us come together as a community to honor Andrew Fernandez and extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our first responders

RTD BOONDOGGLE from page 1

\$16.85 in 2020. Currently, a three-hour pass to ride the transit costs just \$2.75.

Over the past few years, expenses have only increased. Salaries and wages make up much of that increase, with those increasing from \$185 million in 2021 to \$250 million in 2023. This is according to the RTD's 2023 Annual Report.

In 2025, operating expenses are only expected to continue to rise, while revenue will decrease.

"The revenue in 2025 is budgeted to decrease compared to the 2024 Budget. The 2024 customer fares were estimated with the implementation of the new fare

structure, however, actual results during 2024 have been lower than anticipated," the RTD said.

The transit is already predicting that 2025 fares will be "lower by \$6.8 million," partly due to the continuation of fare discount programs like Zero Fare for Youth.

As for operating expenses, which are expected to increase again in 2025, salaries and benefits will have a \$52.5 million increase due to "continuation of front-line position hiring" and an increase in wages.

(Editor/GG: And these lib morons want to build a front range transit rail system. Can you say the word, "bankruptcy"?)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_93239f1a-b674-11ef-a130-738a6a8d22e3.html

Support Your Library in the 2024 Spirit Campaign!

This year's proceeds will support:

- Libby - the premier e-book app
- Imagination Library - free books for kids 0-5
- Royal Gorge Bridge & Park Pass for checkout
- Wonderbooks - books that read to kids

Donate at wmvcf.org!



West Custer County Library

 209 Main St., Westcliffe • 719-783-9138

The strength of the group is the strength of the leaders.

—Vince Lombardi



Norup Gas Inc.
28 Rangeview Loop
(Rangeview Industrial Park)

Located
one mile north of Westcliffe
on Highway 69.

Office hours:
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

719-783-9338



Senior Discounts up to 20%

Email:
Sleuth1@sleuth1.com
Main St. in Westcliffe next to the
laundromat & Anne's Grooming

**Laptops Refurbished,
Monitors & other devices!**

*Why drive 125 miles to get
ripped off at the geeks and
other expensive sales and
repair stores?!*

ELECTRON WIZARD
Only Minutes Away!!
719-431-9442
Computer Repairs / Sales / Cell Phones!

WILDFIRE MITIGATION
HOME & PROPERTY PROTECTION
SKID STEER WORK / HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIRS



SWOTA ENTERPRISES
SERVING CUSTER COUNTY & SURROUNDING AREAS

719-783-4477
RAY SWOTA RSWOTA@GMAIL.COM

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Business Directory

Automotive Services

The Cliffes Auto Service

Automotive Repair and Service
215 E Main St, Silver Cliff • 719-783-3281
CliffesAutoSvc@gmail.com

Banks & Financial Services

Collector & Investor Coins -
Buying Selling & Trading

719- 269-7507 • 123 S 5th St, Canon City, CO
www.canoncitycoins.com

Kirkpatrick Bank

8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe, CO
719.783.2030
www.kirkpatrickbank.com

Peaks Integrity Wealth Management, LLC
Raymond James

Investments, Financial and Insurance Services
719-581-PEAK (7325) / www.peaks-integrity.com

Building SUPPLY

Central Building Supply
Hardware, Lumber & OSB
705 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff
719-783-2385

Builders/ Construction

Construction Solutions of Colorado, LLC

Steel Buildings -- Licensed & Insured
Casey N. 719-371-7454 - Corey N.- 719-371-6143
Nordyke Family • constsolutions@icloud.com

CUSTOM Home Builders
Westcliffe Construction, LLC

From the Ground Up!
719-371-5231

Eagle Edge Construction, LLC

Ronnie Miller
719-239-0300
Honesty is Everything

Eagle Peak View

All phases of Construction & Plumbing
Mike Mitzner
719-494-4026 | mike@eaglepeakview.com

Hershberger Construction

719-216-9545
Matt@HershbergerConstruction.net

Kauffman's Construction

Porches & Decks - Roofing & Siding
Custom Pole Barns & Garages • Free Estimates
Owen 719-371-7863

No Job Too Small

Remodels, Decks, Additions, Log Repair, Staining/ Painting
Tony 719-783-2883 INSURED
For your small Construction Needs

Old Country Construction

719-458-4184
New Homes, Additions, Polebarns, Garages
Certified Passive House Tradesperson

Not Listed? Call us for great rates!

SDC Sentinel - 719-783-3360

Cleaning Services

Valley Cleaning Services LLC

719-285-5503
Offering services for Commercial, Residential,
Construction & Short Term Rentals

Computer/Cell Phone Repair

Electron Wizard

sleuth1@sleuth1.com 719-431-9442
615 Main St, Westcliffe
Computer Repairs, Sales, Cell Phones, and More!

Construction Services

Beach Redi-Mix & Concrete Pumping

Precast septic tanks &
decorative blocks
719-783-3558 | info@SBCompanies.com

Colorado Forestry & Earthworks, LLC

Gravel: Landscape Rock, Topsoil & More
Excavation: Septic Installs, Driveways, Foundations
719-429-1676 | coforearth.com

Dave's Roofing Systems

719-792-9414 / 800-364-2979
David Mullett
Warranty Certified & Factory Trained

Frontier Kitchens & Interiors

Full Service Interior Design Store
318 Main Street
(719)-783-9225

Harald Frank Skid Steer Services
and H & L Trucking

HaraldFrank7@gmail.com 719-371-1570
Driveways Build/Repair - Gravel & Road Base Hauling

KLM Seamless Gutters

Marlin Miller
Quality and Experience
719-371-7021

Miller's Roof Coatings LLC

Commercial Roof Restoration, Spray Foam Insulation
(Average is No Option)
lmiller.millersroofcoatings@gmail.com • 719-239-4739

Sapiah Woodworks, LLC.

Lisa Kidwell, Owner/Contractor
Custom & Fine Carpentry, Restoration, Consulting
720.309.4262 sapiahwoodworks@gmail.com

Seifert Enterprises

Excavation, Septic Systems, Culverts,
Driveways, Rock Sales & Delivery
719-783-2757 info@SBCompanies.com

Solar Solutions Ltd

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

Valley View Windows & Doors

Call Marty Byler at 719-220-4151
or Email Will@valleyviewwindows.net
Free Estimates, Replacements, New construction

Daryl CUSTOM Home Builders

WKM Construction, LLC
New Homes, Renovations
719-371-5231

Westcliffe Concrete

Flatwork & Stamped Concrete, ICFs
Lee Hostetler: 719-371-6193
Matt Troyer: 719-221-8940

Countertops

SOL Granite & Natural Stone

4804 Dillon Dr. Pueblo - 719-544-3085
solgranite.com
Inventory, Custom Design, Fabrication & Installation

Dentist

Jared Smith, DMD

618 Main St, Cañon City
719-275-0661
www.jaredsmithdmd.com

Firewood

Westcliffe Firewood

Ryan Stover
719-371-6074
westcliffefirewood@gmail.com

Florist

Salty Pine Floral & Boutique

411 Main St, Westcliffe
719-783-9393
www.westcliffeflowershop.com

Funeral Homes

Holt Family Funeral Home

806 Macon Ave, Cañon City
719-275-4113
www.holtfamilyfuneralhomes.com

Furniture & Home Goods

Yoder's Home Outfitting

57965 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear
Mon-Sat gam-5pm

Grocery & Health Foods

Lowe's Market

50 Main St, Westcliffe
719-783-0550
www.lowesmarket.com

DUTCH PANTRY & DELI

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

Guns , Ammo, Knives

Custer County Supply Co

206 Main St. Westcliffe | 719-659-8743
Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm
Guns, dog supplies, clothing, & much more!

Salida Cutlery & Smoke Shop

132 W Hwy 50 Salida
719-539-2884 Monday-Friday 9-6
Where you'll find sharp gifts & smokin' deals!

Gun Clubs

Royal Gorge Gun Club & Lincoln Park Pawn

1345 Elm Ave, Cañon City 719-276-3030
Lincolnparkpawn@hotmail.com
1 foot to over 1 mile, 75 different powders

Sangre Shooting Sports Club

P.O. Box 1554, Westcliffe
http://sangreshooting.com

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ADVERTISERS!

Shopping Local Helps Local Economy & Creates Local Jobs

Heating & Spas

Salida Stove & Spa
11130 W Hwy 50, Poncha Springs
719-539-2125
salidastove.com

Heating & Air Conditioning

Piñon Plumbing, LLC
All Service Heating · Residential & Commercial
Boilers, Furnaces & Propane Heaters
Licensed & Insured · Jeff Ray 719-783-0379

White Bros Custom Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
www.whitebrosplumbing.com
P.O. Box 957, Westcliffe ~ 719-217-7202
Locally Owned & Family Operated

Insurance

State Farm Dennis Podzemny
1004 S 9th St, Cañon City
719-275-1548
https://www.canoncityinsurance.com

Lodging

Darksbies Vacations
Enter WMV-LOCAL for 10% off vacation home rentals.
Visit Darksbies.vacations or call
719-783-0648

Massage/ Therapy

Wet Mountain Manual Therapy
CranioSacral Therapy, Visceral Manipulation, MLD
114 N 2nd Street, Westcliffe
wetmountainmanualtherapy.com 719.639.8447

Mitigation/ Pest Control

Premier Pest Control LLC
719-371-7404 ~ ppc16@privategarden.org
inspections, estimates, professional pest management
residential, commercial, licensed and insured

Mitigation/ Tree Removal

Swota Enterprises
Wildfire Mitigation and Excavation
719-783-4477
rswota@gmail.com

Wise Tree Service
719-429-2866 Local, Insured, Experienced
Complete tree service-difficult removals, trimming/
shaping, stump grinding and fire mitigation

Pharmacy

Palace Drug - Silver Cliff
Get your prescriptions filled while you wait!
94 E Main St., Silver Cliff
Palacedrugco.com | 719-371-9402

Plumbing and Heating

Greenstreet Plumbing
Licensed, Bonded and Insured Master Plumber
Infloor Heat Systems - Plumbing
719-783-2800 - greenstreetplumbing@gmail.com

Piñon Plumbing, LLC
All Service Heating · Residential & Commercial
Boilers, Furnaces & Propane Heaters
Licensed & Insured · Jeff Ray 719-783-0379

River Valley Plumbing and Heating
250 Moore Dr, Florence
719-784-3876
www.rivervalleyplumbingandheat.com

White Bros Custom Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
www.whitebrosplumbing.com
P.O. Box 957, Westcliffe ~ 719-217-7202
Locally Owned & Family Operated

Propane

Norup Gas
28 Range View Loop, Westcliffe
719-783-9338

Real Estate Services

Bighorn Realty
Jack & Jean Canterbury
719-429-5411 ranchrealtor@outlook.com

Brenda Bosse HomeSmart Preferred Real Estate
9 Bassick Place, Westcliffe, CO 81252
719-371-3270, brenda@brendabosse.com
Selling locally for 24 years.

Custer County Realty
902 Main St, Westcliffe
719-783-9221
www.custerrealty.com

Lori Kastendieck
Independent Broker
719-269-0653
WestcliffeBroker.com

Restaurants & Dining

ALPINE LODGE
RESTAURANT, LOUNGE, CABINS, CATERING, SPECIAL EVENTS
719-783-2660 • 6848 COUNTY ROAD 140, WESTCLIFFE
facebook.com/TheHistoricAlpineLodge

DUTCH PANTRY & DELI
404 E. Main St., Silver Cliff
719-298-6689 Call for store hours
DELI HOURS: Mon-Friday 11 - 4 , Sat: 11- 2:30

**Stage Stop Gourmet Sundaes
& Espresso**
3rd and Main Street, Westcliffe
Follow Us: Facebook.com/inthesangres

Restaurants & Dining Cont'd

Tony's Mountain Pizza
719-783-9300 • tonysmountainpizza.com
Tues – Sat 11 am-8 pm, Sun 12 pm-7 pm, closed Mon
630 Main Street, Silver Cliff

Tony's Steak & Tavern
719-783-9300 • tonyssteakandtavern.com
Wed 4-8 pm, Thurs-Sat 11am-8 pm, Sunday Brunch:
10 am-2 pm & Full Menu 12-7 pm, closed Mon-Tues

Septic Installation

Seifert Enterprises
Excavation, Septic Systems, Culverts,
Driveways, Rock Sales & Delivery
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

Storage

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

Tractor/Trailer Sales

True Value Hardware and Trailers
635 Shoop Dr, Penrose
719-784-0123
https://www.truevaluetrailers.com

Vacation / Accommodations

Darksbies Vacations
Enter WMV-LOCAL for 10% off vacation home rentals
Visit Darksbies.vacations or call
719-783-0648

Veterinary

High Peaks Animal Hospital
1200 Broadway St, Silver Cliff
719-783-3770
www.highpeaksanimal.com

Well Drilling and Pump Services

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

Custer Senior Center Menu

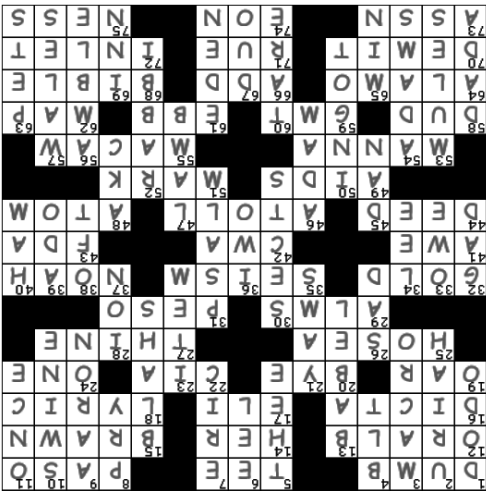
Monday, December 16
#31 White Bean Chicken Chili
Spinach Salad w/Lite Italian
Apple
Cornbread w/Butter
Orange Juice

Tuesday, December 17
#42 Enchilada Pie
Refried Beans
Tortilla Chips w/Salsa
Clementine

Thursday, December 19
#102 Tuna Noodle Casserole
Mixed Vegetables
Sliced Zucchini Squash
Sliced Peaches
WW Bread w/Butter

Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)
The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.

Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations
A \$3 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.



Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff 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
6:00 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

CCSO CO-RESPONDERS’ CORNER
HOLD ON, WE’RE COMING!

by Jaclyn & Tom Manzione

For far too long, the needs of our true heroes have been neglected. Our society has enjoyed the benefits of safety and security while our veterans have endured emotional pain and physical hardship. Many individuals have focused on their own concerns, often disregarding the sacrifices made by these courageous warriors. We encourage you to cultivate gratitude in your hearts to honor these brave men and women as they truly deserve, and to recognize the importance of their contributions to our well-being.

As CCSO co-responders, we are presented with a profound opportunity to connect with our veterans during their most vulnerable moments. Listening to them share their unwavering commitment to our nation and the sacrifices they’ve made is truly inspiring. Statements such as “I love you,” “I would die for you,” and “I would die

for this country” resonate deeply in our interactions. It’s essential to recognize that they crave the same affirmation from us. Sadly, these powerful words are seldom echoed by the broader society, nor do our collective actions reflect a similar commitment to these brave individuals. Let’s change this narrative and show our veterans the appreciation they deserve.

During the holiday season, the stark contrast between selfishness and altruism becomes especially prominent in our hearts and minds. History teaches us that selfishness, a pervasive force, hinders our collective progress as humans. Conversely, altruism calls us to embrace selfless giving and show genuine kindness to others. By choosing altruism, we can foster a spirit of compassion and make a meaningful impact on those around us.

In a world that often glorifies self-promotion, embracing biblical principles

that call us to help and support those who are suffering is preferable. By honoring the sacrifices of our heroes, we can make a meaningful difference in society. It’s time to prioritize our veterans, demonstrating selflessness and compassion in every action we take. Together, let’s foster a culture where altruism reigns over selfishness, creating a community that values service and kindness above all else.

Just like veterans, the needs of our law enforcement officers and other first responders are frequently ignored. Society often turns a blind eye to their sacrifices, including the potential for the ultimate sacrifice. We suggest you recognize and support these brave individuals who risk everything to protect us.

As we engage in self-reflection during this meaningful time of year, let us strive to cultivate a culture of appreciation and gratitude for our defenders,

protectors, and rescuers who tirelessly work toward our betterment and the advancement of society. We urge community leaders, pastors, and all individuals in positions of influence to actively voice their support for veterans, law enforcement officers, and first responders, recognizing their unwavering dedication and the sacrifices they make every day. Together, we can honor their commitment and inspire a greater sense of respect within our communities.

Carl Jung wrote in *The Red Book*: “Sacrifice is not destruction; sacrifice is the foundation stone of what is to come.” As CCSO co-responders, we want to convey this message to all the courageous men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve our community in their time of need: Hold on! We’re coming!

Co-responders are available to assist at CCSO 719-783-2270 Option 1.

Christian Science
9:30 a.m. Worship
8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff
719/783-4601

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe
Pres: 719/214-4589

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.
Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study
0157 County Rd. 27A
Cotopaxi 719/942-3526

Community United Methodist Church
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship
202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-2511

Cotopaxi Community Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study
PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com
20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Worship
4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS
410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
Pastor Josh Olsteen
719/783-2498

High Country Mennonite Church
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe
719/783-9045

Huerfano Community Bible Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study
603 Leon Street, Walsenburg
(719) 251-9053

Hope Lutheran Church
2 p.m. Worship
3:15 p.m. Bible Study
3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe
Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323
Lange Hall 719/783-2561

Living Stone Calvary Chapel
Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m.
830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO
Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863

Our Lady of the Assumption

Send Church updates to sdcsentinel@gmail.com
(719) 783-3360

Roman Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass
5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass
109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-3507

Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church
11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month
210 S. 2nd St., Westcliffe
719/783-2491

Praise Community Church
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m.
215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence
719/784-1184

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays
3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe
719/783-2477

St. Patrick’s Anglican Church
11 a.m. Worship
403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe
925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
Saturday Mass 4 p.m.
Highway 69, Gardner
Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037

Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church
Pastor: Mike Shields
10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study
11 a.m. Worship
Last Sunday of Month:
Potluck at Noon
sangredecriscowboychurch.com
also on Facebook
60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
719/232-5372

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
9 a.m. Meet & Greet
9:30 a.m. Service
120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe
719/783-0903

Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel
10 a.m. Worship
6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe
719/ 371-1822

Valley Bible Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship
116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
719/581-7572

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore
719/371-1230

Wetmore Community Church
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore
719/784-0596

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And behold,[fn] an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

“And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”[fn]

Luke 2: 8-14 NKJV



The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 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.





Construction Solutions
of Colorado, LLC

Custom Homes • Remodeling
• Concrete
• Steel Building Sales and Erection



Construction Solutions
of CO, LLC
Casey Nordyke:
719-371-7454
Corey Nordyke:
719-371-6143
CONSTSOLUTIONS@ICLOUD.COM
Authorized Dealer
Sentinel Steel Buildings



Events

December--Sangres Art Guild ~ HOLIDAY ART SHOW 3rd St. Gallery 59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe

December 14, 11 a.m.
Wreaths Across America Wreath Day
Ceremony and Wreath Laying
Silver Cliff Memorial Park

December, 14th, 2 - 4 p.m.
Veterans Free Christmas Dinner (Veterans & Families) @ Lange Hall, sponsored by Am. Legion Post 170

Saturday, December 14, 5:30 p.m
Artistic Edge Winter Dance Recital @ School West Gym. Ticket sold at the door only.

Saturday, December 14, 5 to 7:30?
Living Nativity at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Accepting canned goods & non perishables for Fishes & Loaves. 801 Sheridan Ave, Cañon City

Monday, December 16th 6-9 p.m.
Community Appreciation & Christmas Dinner
Bring a dish and BYOB Sponsored by CCRCC @ the WMV Saddle Club

Classifieds

Announcements

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

For Rent

Three bedroom house
Full kitchen with appliances.
Mudroom, livingroom.
Full bath, washer and dryer.
Fenced in backyard, propane heat.
Utilities not included.
NO PETS. \$850. Per month.
Call 303-903-7804 / 303-903-2985.

For Sale

Three kittens approximately 5 months old.
Will be excellent barn cats.
Call 719-480-2961

FOR SALE BY OWNER

5 Acre lot, partially fenced.
New, 2 story 50' x 100' d. Big House on Oak
Grade
\$41,000.
Call 719-371-0640
or Email kathy@colomountainproperty.com

Help Wanted

Custer County School District is now hiring for the following positions:
Teaching positions include HS History Teacher.
Support staff positions include two SPED
Paraprofessional positions.
Coaching positions include Head Baseball Coach, HS Assistant 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.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
We Need Local people to Report on LOCAL News
Stop by Tues -Wedn. 9-3, Fri. 9-12
601 Main St., Westcliffe

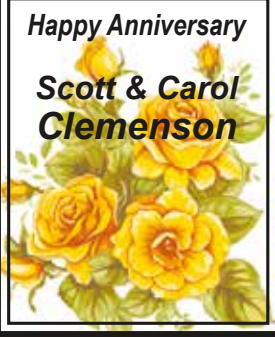
Real Estate

Lori Kastendieck
Independent Broker
Real Estate
WestcliffeBroker.com
719-269-0653
Serving buyers & sellers Since 1982

Services

WILDFIRE MITIGATION
Home and Property Protection
Skid Steer Work/Home Improvement and Repair
Serving Custer County and Surrounding Areas
Swota Enterprises
719-783-4477

No Job Too Small
Remodels, Decks, Interior/Exterior Paint
Log Home Staining and Log repair, Construction.
Local References, Insured.
Tony (719) 783-2883



Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness
(719) 783-0750

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

Custer County Community Sharing Food Pantry
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994
OPEN First 3 Fridays of the month
12 - 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Eagle Peak View
Commercial Construction
Quality and Experience
at Residential Pricing

All Phases of Construction & Plumbing
Mike Mitzner
719-494-4026
eaglepeakview.com



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

FREE SINK
with purchase



Countertop purchase of 45 square feet minimum required. Valid only on Stainless Steel sinks. \$195 value.
Coupon must be presented at time of sale. New proposals only.
Only one coupon per customer.
Not to be combined with any other offers.



SOL GRANITE
STONE & TILE CENTER

Serving Pueblo Since 2007

Pueblo's Only Granite & Quartz Countertop Fabricators!

719-544-3085
4804 Dillon Drive, Pueblo
(Behind Texas Roadhouse)

Shop Local. Shop Direct.
WE ARE OPEN
M-F 8-5, SAT 10-3

“What I don’t like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.” — Phyllis Diller

Veterans Rescue Ranch Launches VETS Program to Provide Firewood for Custer County’s Vulnerable Residents

Press Release

—Westcliffe, CO

Veterans Rescue Ranch, in partnership with Custer County Emergency Management, is proud to announce the **VETS (Veteran Emergency Timber Support) Program launch**. This new initiative aims to provide seasoned firewood to veterans, financially disadvantaged individuals and physically disabled residents of Custer County, ensuring access to vital home heating resources during the colder months.

The **VETS Program** plans to make firewood available starting in **late summer of 2025**, once supplies are seasoned and prepared for distribution. While prioritizing veterans, the program also extends assistance to other residents who face socioeconomic or physical challenges.

Program Support and Contributions

- **Veterans Rescue Ranch** has acquired essential equipment, including a **wood splitter and safety gear**, through grants to support firewood processing and ensure volunteer safety. VR Ranch is leading the coordination of volunteers, managing the storage and distribution of firewood, and actively seeking materials to construct a three-sided storage facility that will hold over 100 cords of wood.
- **Custer County Emergency Management (CCE)** provides **timber sourced**

through its fire mitigation program, ensuring a steady supply of wood for processing. CCEM assists with logistical coordination, outreach, and securing equipment through grant applications, including a woodchipper to enhance processing capabilities.

“We’re working diligently to develop the VETS Program and establish the necessary infrastructure to ensure its success,” said Geoffrey Schram, Chief Operations Officer of Veterans Rescue Ranch. “With the support of CCEM and the community, we are on track to deliver essential heating resources starting next summer.”

How the Community Can Help

The VETS Program depends on community involvement and support. Veterans Rescue Ranch is actively seeking donations of firewood, construction materials, and funding to complete the storage facility. A donation link will soon be available at www.veteransrescueranch.org/VETS-Program, where individuals and organizations can contribute directly to the program.

“Every contribution—whether materials, funds, or volunteer time—helps make this initiative a reality,” Schram emphasized. “Together, we can provide vital heating support to those in need, especially our veterans.”

For more information about the VETS Program or how to support the initiative, please email info@veteransrescueranch.org or visit www.veteransrescueranch.org.

Tickets on Sale High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival – July 10-13, 2025

Press Release

The High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival: Great Music, Great Place, Great Cause! Music will ring out across the Wet Mountain Valley at the 22nd annual High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival in July in the heart of the Rockies. Come enjoy stunning views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the youth music program, the camaraderie of on-site camping and pickin’ in addition to a full roster of exciting bluegrass performers. Festival dates are Thursday through Sunday, July 10 – 13, 2025, at The Bluff Park in Westcliffe, Colorado.

The 2025 line-up features our festival host, the always entertaining Dry Branch Fire Squad led by the valley’s own Ron Thomason. We are pleased to have Rhonda Vincent and the Rage as our featured act this year! Other acts scheduled to appear are Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, Missy Raines and Allegheny, Becky Buller Band, Mike Compton and Joe Newberry, Ismay, Fog Holler, The Baker Family, My Brother’s Keeper, Dayton, Heidi Clare and Ron Thomason and the High Mountain Hayseeds. Many of these performers will also conduct workshops throughout the weekend which will afford festival-goers the opportunity to experience the performers in a more intimate setting. Dancers are welcome Friday and Saturday nights at the Sibbald-Brown stage, formerly the workshop stage, for a dance hosted by the Eagle Peaks Dance Band with square dance caller Hal Barnes on Saturday night. And don’t forget the always popular High Mountain Hay Seeds children’s program - bring the kids and their instruments!

High Mountain Hay Fever is also the best deal in bluegrass. Four-Day Passes are only \$100 before 6/1/25, \$120 after that date and \$130 at the gate. Single day ticket prices are \$25 for Thursday evening, \$60 for Friday, \$60 for Saturday, and \$40 for Sunday.

Students 13-18 with ID are \$10 and children 12 and under are free. Tickets are on sale on our website: www.highmountainhayfever.org and at the gate during the festival.

Dry camping and RV parking are available adjacent to the performance grounds and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. A reminder to local citizens that South Adams Blvd will be closed between Main St and Rosita Ave. during the festival.

The festival is a 501(c)3 nonprofit formed to enhance the Wet Mountain Valley as a quality event destination that benefits the entire community. The festival has raised over \$900,000 for Wet Mountain Valley charitable organizations over the years of its existence, with a strong focus on children’s health. The High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association is run by a great group of volunteers who work year-round to make the event happen. We were honored that the festival was nominated in 2024 for “Event of the Year” by the International Bluegrass Music Association. The festival remains an intimate event, avoiding the sprawl and congestion of large festivals while offering nationally recognized bluegrass talent, remaining true to its motto: “Small Scale, Big Time”.

For more information contact us at www.highmountainhayfever.org.

Cañon City Coins

Collector & Investor Coins - Buying, Selling & Trading



(719) 269-7507

Jason

123 S. 5th St., Cañon City, CO 81212

www.canoncitycoins.com



Eagle Edge Construction LLC
Honesty is Everything

Ronnie Miller

Custom Homes
General Construction
Framing, Siding
Metal Roofing & Decks

719-239-0300
eagleedgeconstruction@yodermail.net

ACHES?

PAIN?

FATIGUE?

Call or Schedule Online Today

719.639.8447 wetmountainmanualtherapy.com



**WET MOUNTAIN
MANUAL THERAPY**
Advanced CranioSacral,
Visceral Manipulation,
Lymphatic Drainage

114 N 2nd Street
Westcliffe, Colorado

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy Hanukkah*





*Happy
New Year
2025!*

*Wishing Everyone a Safe, Prosperous,
and Healthy New Year*

*From all of us at
Custer County Realty, Inc.*

*Do your Christmas Shopping **LOCALLY** this year!*
*Your friends and neighbors have some **AMAZING** offers to help you celebrate and find something for everyone on your gift list!*

LISA KIDWELL
OWNER/CONTRACTOR



SAPIAH WOODWORKS

Westcliffe, CO

CALL TODAY! FOR
COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION
Deck Restoration/ New Deck Construction/Log Home Restoration
Hardwood Floor Refinishing/ Interior & Exterior Painting
Custom & Fine Carpentry/ Consulting

720-309-4262

New Year's Eve
at Tony's

2025

DEC 31, 2024

Call for Reservations

Limited seating for sit down dinner with tickets paid for up front and non-refundable

Gratuity not included

Sit down dinner - \$40

5:30 | COCKTAIL HOUR
6:30 | DINNER
10:00 | CHAMPAGNE TOAST

Choice of 6oz Filet Mignon or Chicken Lombardi

Pizza Party - \$20.25

Pizza Buffet starting at 6PM
Ball drop & toast at 8PM

Family friendly with party hats, decorations and fun!



Don't forget Salida Stove and Spa for all your Christmas gift needs.





HAYDEN
OUTDOORS
REAL ESTATE



Elkhorn Mountain Ranch
Fremont County, CO | \$793,000 | 118.87 Acres



Twila Geroux
Westcliffe Office / Broker Associate
Licensed in Colorado
719.371.4344
Twila@HaydenOutdoors.com

SALIDA
STOVE AND SPA



11130 W Hwy 50
Salida/Poncha Springs
(719) 539-2125 • salidastove.com

We are sure to have something for everyone!

Save 10% on Decor & Candles!

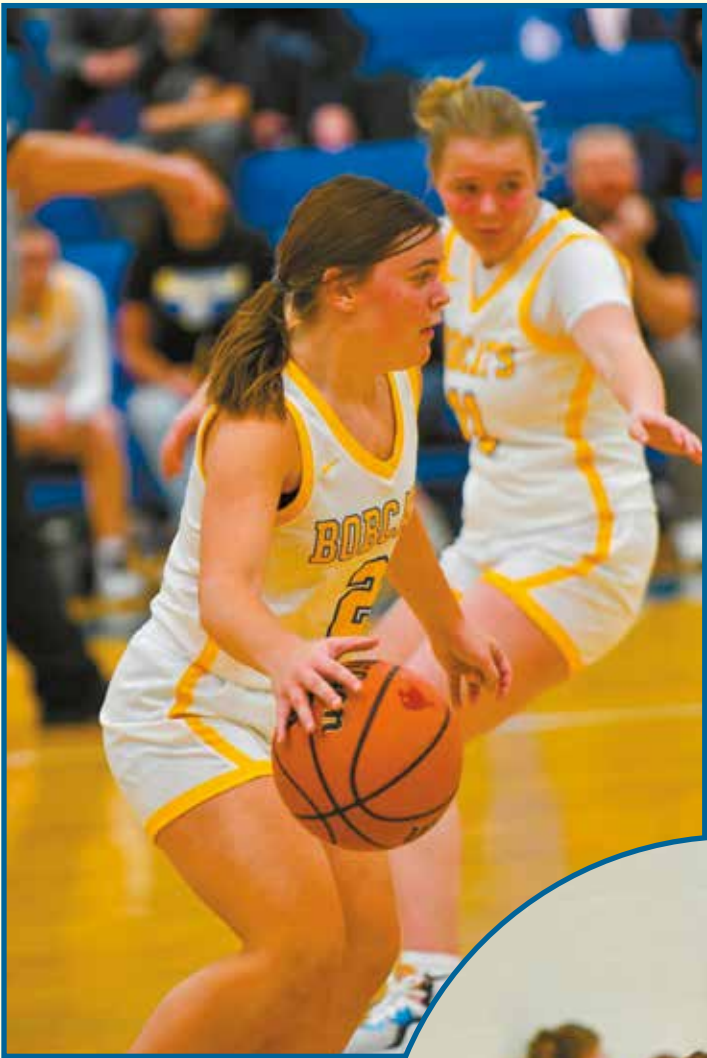
Hotspring Hot Tubs:
Get up to \$1,000 off and **FREE** salt system or ozonator & accessories!

Now through Christmas!

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— Holy is His name.

Luke 1:46-49

Bobcats HS Girls Basketball



Ball vs Swallows Charter



Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcat Sports Updates

from Aundrea McCormick
HS Principal & Athletic
Director, CCSD-1

Here are some scores and updates from Custer County’s Athletic Department.

MS Boys played Trinidad on Friday and lost, but they played Cotopaxi on Saturday and won. This week they play at Gardner on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at South Park on Friday at 10 a.m., and again on Saturday at Cotopaxi.

HS Basketball kicked off last week and both our boy’s and girl’s teams started the season off with a win against Swallows Charter. Both teams played in a tournament at Las Animas and lost on Friday to Arickaree/Woodlin, but both teams bounced back and got the win on Saturday against Dolores Huerta Prep.

From Wrestling Coach
Shannon Palmer:

The girls had their first ever competitions. They competed in the 33 team Pueblo Central Tournament on Friday. Stephanie Lewis scored the first ever win for the Girls team! On Saturday, they competed in a tournament at Strasburg High School. Liz Ergo and Brylee Shy both finished 2nd, Maddie Staley finished 4th and Stephanie Lewis finished 5th.

For the Boys-

They competed in the Fowler Tournament on Saturday. Jason Hemsath finished 1st at his weight, Corbyn Martin finished 3rd and Colt Moulton finished 5th.

All of the wrestlers we had competing on Saturday placed!!

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday, December 6
Girls HS Basketball vs Arickaree: 19-49 loss
Boys HS Basketball vs Arickaree: 40-50 loss

Saturday, December 7:
Boys HS Basketball vs Dolores Huerta Prep: 50-37 Win! 🐾

Custer County School District WEEK of December 16 thru December 19, 2024		
	Breakfast	Lunch
 Monday	Cereal Oatmeal Mixed Fruit, Yogurt Milk	Chicken Tenders Oven Fries Salad Fruit, Milk
Tuesday	Breakfast Burrito Yogurt Fruit Choice of Milk	Nacho Supreme Rice Corn Fruit, Choice of Milk
Wednesday	Spinach and Cheese Quiche Tater Tots Fruit Choice of Milk	Baked Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Carrots Fruit, Choice of Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Choice of Milk	Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Garlic Roll Fruit, Choice of Milk

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

KIDS December 13, 2024 Christmas in the Netherlands

Well, we are continuing our adventure into Christmas Traditions. Today we will be looking into the Christmas traditions in the Netherlands.

For those of you who don’t know, The Netherlands, informally Holland, is a country in Northwestern Europe. It shares borders with Germany to the east, Belgium to the south, and faces the North Sea to the north and west. It is famous for tulips, windmills, wooden shoes, Heineken beer and Gouda cheese.

When it comes to Christmas there are two separate holidays in the Netherlands. As in the United States well-behaved children receive presents from Sinterklaas but on December 5th, Pakjesavond, instead of Christmas Eve. Pakjesavond literally means “presents evening.”

The Dutch begin celebrating Christmas the first Saturday after November 11th when Sinterklaas arrives on a boat from Spain, often docking in a port city. Sinterklaas is the Dutch inspiration for Santa Claus. He is also known as Saint Nicholas (or Sint Nicolaas in Dutch), this Christian saint is revered as the patron saint of children and sailors. However, instead of a sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer Sinteklaas rides a white horse named Ozosnel. Instead of hanging stockings on the fireplace the Dutch children leave their shoes out for Sinteklaas to fill with chocolate coins and mandarin oranges. The foil wrapped chocolates are symbolic of the assistance Saint Nicholas gave a poor father back in the 3rd century. They also may receive a large chocolate letter of their first initial in their wooden shoes.

When they celebrate Christmas, the Dutch know how to do it, twice. The 25th and 26th of December are public holidays. The families get together to celebrate and play games and enjoying the holiday feasts. This is a time for family. On December 26th, the second day of Christmas, is Saint Stephen’s Day. He was the first Christian martyr known for his service to the poor and needy.

The two days of Christmas are filled with lots of food, the main dish usually being fish, seafood, poultry, or pork accompanied by a menagerie of different vegetables and side dishes. Included in the menu also is rich breads like oliebollen, a type of doughnut-like bread with currents, raisins, or apple bits that’s often dusted with powdered sugar and also included is stollen a bread-like cake filled with marzipan and bits of fruit. I enjoy all the foods during this holiday season even if I’m not in Netherlands.



by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/netherlands>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands>, <https://everydaywanderer.com/christmas-in-the-netherlands>

Photo: Free to Print <https://www.schoolplaten.com/foto-sinterklaas-i8941.html>

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



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

Friday, December 13:
11 am (weigh in) / 1 pm (start) HS Boys Wrestling @ Badger Invite in Limon

Saturday, December 14:
7 am (weigh in) / 9 am (start) HS Boys Wrestling @ Badger Invite in Limon
TBD HS Girls Wrestling @ Rob Mickel in Salida

Tuesday, December 17:
4:30 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Crowley County
6 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Crowley County
7:30 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Crowley County

Thursday, December 19:
5 pm (weigh in) HS Boys & Girls Wrestling Tri vs Wheat Ridge & John F. Kennedy

Friday & Saturday, December 20 & 21:
TBD HS Girls & Boys Basketball @ La Veta Tournament
TBD HS Boys & Girls Wrestling @ 10th Annual Kieth Kilker Invite in Keenesburg

Don't forget to grab your

TONY'S MOUNTAIN PIZZA DISCOUNT CARDS

to support your Bobcat athletes!

With over \$50 in discount savings at Tony's!
Only \$20 each! Great stocking stuffers!

Stop by Tony's to get yours!



For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. Isaiah 65: 17 ESV

Tony Pizza Players of the Week



Marin “Money” Foster Women’s MVP:
We have chosen “Money” Marin Foster as our MPV for last week. She either led or was second in scoring in all 3 games. Averaging 9.3 ppg through 3 games. Almost 6 rebounds per game. Shot nearly 60% from the field and 67% from the line.

*Written by Head Coach Dave Downing
Photo by JH Exposures*



Boy’s Basketball MPV: Grant Rusk.
Grant averaged 21 points at the Las Animas tournament.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER



True Value

Store Hours:
Monday - Friday 8 am - 6 pm | Saturday 8 am - 2 pm
635 Shoop Dr., Penrose, CO 81242
719-784-0123
www.truevaluetrailers.com



Off Grid



Grid-Tie

Solar Solutions Ltd.
"Renewable Energy Systems"
QUALITY - SERVICE - DEPENDABILITY
Custom Design and Installation
Photovoltaics, Wind, Hybrid & Grid-Tie systems
Maintenance Program Available

Serving Custer County For 30 Years
www.solarsolutions.com

Pat Bailey - Owner
10 Hermit Lane,
PO Box 554
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

Ph: 719/783-9666
Fax: 719/783-2167

NAECF CERTIFIED
PV Installation Professional

Coffee and Friday Morning's Paper
Plus Back Issues





SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL
The Voice of Conservative Colorado!



E-Edition
\$29 a year. That's it.
SangreDeCristoSentinel.com

SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL

WHERE TO PURCHASE THE PAPER

SILVER CLIFF
Conoco Country Store
Dutch Pantry & Deli

WESTCLIFFE
Antlers' Liquor Store
Lowes Market (Box outside)
Sunflower Natural Foods
SDC Sentinel Office
Inside or Box outside
USPS (Box outside)



The Voice of Conservative Colorado!



Frontier
Kitchens & Interiors

Frontier Kitchens is a *full-service* interior design store specializing in custom new builds and remodels.

- 3D Designs
- In-Store Consultations

Visit our local showroom on Main Street to see a **HUGE** selection of product choices!

719-783-9225
www.Frontierkandi.com
318 Main Street, Westcliffe



Colorado State News

Administrative Growth in Colorado's Public School System

by The Common Sense Institute

Introduction

Outside of a brief decline between 2020 and 2021, Colorado's public schools have seen a steady influx of administrative positions over the past decade outpacing both teacher and student population growth. While administrative roles have rapidly increased, the share of Colorado's educational budget spent on teacher salaries has consistently declined.

Over the past four years this trend has accelerated. Between 2021 and 2024, Colorado's student population declined while the number of administrative staff grew nearly 13%. High school student performance during this period has declined for each grade level in both math and reading & writing.

Key Findings

- Since 2021, the number of public-school administrators has grown 12.5%, while Colorado's student population has declined by 0.2%.
- The gap between student and administrative growth was more pronounced in some of Colorado's largest school districts since 2021.
- Denver County 1 increased its student population by 2% while administrative growth was 24%.
- Cherry Creek 5 lost over 5% of its students yet the number of administrators grew by 16%.
- St. Vrain Valley had the largest administrative growth, 30%, among 8 of the state's largest districts. Their student body grew by just 3%.
- Since 2021, the share of 9th, 10th and 11th grade students who are proficient in math and reading and writing declined for each grade level.
- Teacher salaries as a share of total educational spending in Colorado has consistently declined from 30.2% in 2013 to 25.3% in 2023, as administrative positions continue to grow.

Overview of Administrative Growth in Public Schools

The rate of growth in administrative staffing in Colorado's public school system has remained elevated above both student and teacher growth over the past 10 years. At its peak in 2019, the number of administrators had grown by 48% relative to 2009 while the numbers of students and teachers rose by just 11% and 9%, respectively. Prior to 2014, growth among these groups was more closely aligned as shown in Figure 1.

Administrative positions in Colorado are separated into four levels which cumulatively make up "administration". These positions are defined above:

1. Superintendent
2. Assistant/Deputy/Associate Superintendent, Senior Executive, Executive Director, Director of Special Education
3. Non-Instructional Manager, Director, Supervisor
4. Instructional Manager, Director, Assistant Director of Special Education, Supervisor

The number of administrators declined by over 20% due to Covid between 2020-21 but has since increased nearly 12.5% while Colorado's student population has declined by 0.2%.

In response to the disruption spurred by COVID-19, administrative staff totals

declined by over 20% between 2020 and 2021 despite schooling continuing during this time. However, since 2021, administrative growth has once again vastly outpaced both teacher and student growth. Specifically, between 2021 and 2024, the number of administrators grew by 12.5% while the state's student population fell by 0.2%.

Figure 2 shows the change in student population and administrative staff among Colorado's largest school districts from 2021-24. St. Vrain, Denver, and Greeley 6 all added over 22% more administrators over the last three years. Other districts such as Colorado Springs 11, District 49, and Adams County 14 have kept their growth under 10%.

Figure 1: Administrator, Teacher, and Student Growth in Colorado's School System Since 2009

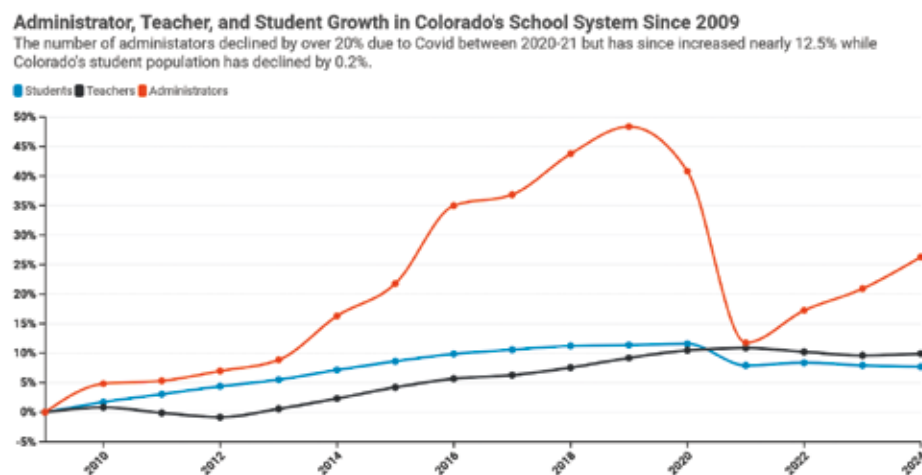


Figure 2: Change in Student Population & Administrative Staffing Amongst Colorado's Largest School Districts, 2021-24

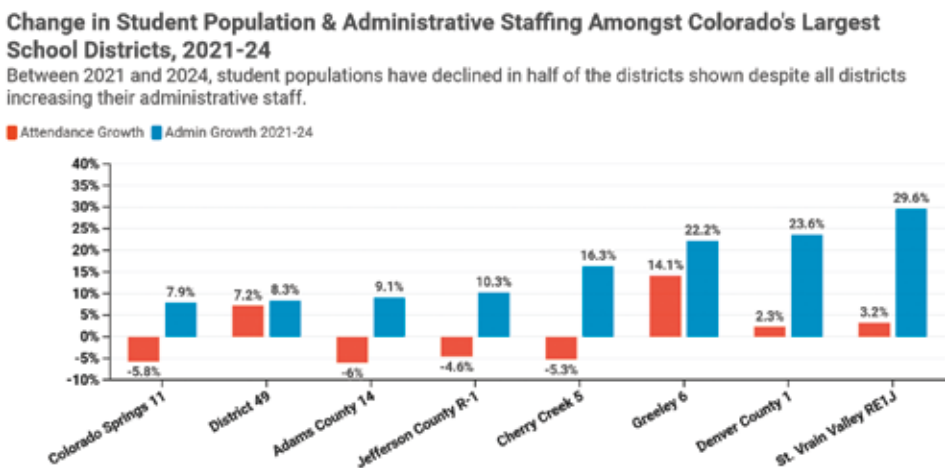


Figure 3: Percent of Students that met Expectations

Figure 3

Reading & Writing Overall - Percent of Students that Met Expectations					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percentage Point Change '21-'24
PSAT Grade 9	53%	51.3%	50.1%	50.3%	-2.7
PSAT Grade 10	54.6%	52.6%	50.4%	51.5%	-3.1
SAT Grade 11	46.5%	45.6%	46.4%	45.1%	-1.4
Mathematics Overall - Percent of Students that Met Expectations					
PSAT Grade 9	31.8%	31%	36.1%	29.2%	-2.6
PSAT Grade 10	31.9%	32.3%	31.9%	23.3%	-8.6
SAT Grade 11	28.5%	28.1%	28%	24.4%	-4.1

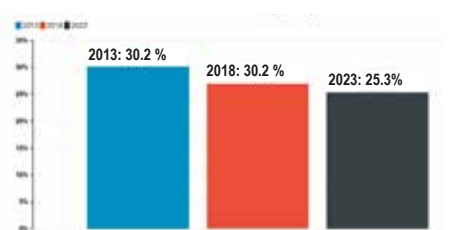
Source: CDE PSAT & SAT Scores

Half of the districts shown saw their student population decline yet all of them increased their administrative staff numbers. Cherry Creek 5's student population fell by over 5%, however the number of administrators increased by over 16%.

The ability for Colorado's public schools to continue operating after cutting over 20% of their administrative positions warrants further investigation. Figure 3 shows that during the latest rapid expansion of Colorado's administrative staff in public schools, student performance in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades declined universally across math and reading and writing categories.

As student performance declined, educators' share of total spending continued to fall. Despite a relatively consistent number of teachers, the number of administrative positions in the state's public school system has continued to grow as though shielded from budgetary concerns. Over each five-year period shown in Figure 4, teacher pay has declined as a proportion of educational spending.

Figure 4: Teacher Salaries as a Share of Total Educational Spending Statewide



Bottom Line

The growth of administrative jobs in the state's school system has not correlated with rising performance in Colorado's schools; in fact, outcomes continue to decline even as more administrative positions are added. In recent years, some districts have added administrative positions despite losing students.

Throughout the last decade, Colorado teachers have continued to receive smaller portions of the state's educational budget despite flagging student performance and a rapid increase in administrative roles within our education system.

Future growth in administrative positions should be carefully examined, and investments should be made to reverse this trend to help ensure that teachers are properly compensated and incentivized to create and foster effective learning environments for our state's children.

Please see: https://www.commonsenseinstituteus.org/colorado/research/education/administrative-growth-in-colorados-public-school-system?mc_cid=aafde56ad1&mc_eid=b9a9d08951



SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

(719) 783-3360 • 601 Main St. Westcliffe

The Voice of Conservative Colorado!

Don't miss out! SUBSCRIBE Today

Annual Cost

\$49 for 81252 zipcode
\$59 outside 81252 zipcode
\$29 for E-Edition

sdcsentinel.com

24 PAGES EVERY WEEK

LOCAL EVENTS AND NEWS • LOCAL YOUTH HAPPENINGS

STATE NEWS • PHOTO FEATURE EVERY WEEK

BONUS GUN AND CONSTITUTIONAL SECTIONS

Real News for Informed Citizens



Colorado State News



Colorado Town Dissolves Police Force Due to Financial Issues

by Zachery Schmidt,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – A small town in Colorado is disbanding its police force due to financial issues.

Morrison, which is 30 minutes outside of Denver, has an estimated \$1.2 million deficit this year, according to town attorney Austin Flanagan, the *Canyon Courier* reported.

“Due to various financial concerns, the adopted budget results in a reduction in the Town’s Police Department,” a press release stated from the city said.

The town has nine members on its police force, according to CBS News.

In 2024, the town’s police funds took up an estimated 41% of its general fund, according to Morrison Board of Trustees documents. Furthermore, the proposed 2025 fiscal budget had the town of around 400 people spending the same percentage of its budget on police funds.

This year, Morrison projects to make \$783,273 in revenue. In 2023, the town made \$1,686,216. The estimated revenue the town would make in 2025 is \$561,067.

Before this decision, Morrison’s police force had experienced some difficulties. In November, the town put its police

chief, Bill Vinelli, on administrative leave, according to Denver7.

Vinelli became police chief in 2022 after former Police Chief Misty Siderfin left after just three months on the job.

Cmdr. Jon Manna replaced Vinelli as the acting chief of police.

Also, in October, authorities arrested Morrison Police Sgt. Richard Norton for allegedly “stalking, murder threats and abuse involving [his] first ex-wife, children and girlfriend,” The *Canyon Courier* reported.

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office Public Information Officer Mark Techmeyer told Fox 31 that the county will start patrolling Morrison after January 1st.

“It’s going to be a new contract, but really it’s an amendment to an existing contract because we’ve been doing overnight law enforcement services for the town of Morrison for the past four years,” he said.

In 2022, Nederland, Colorado, disbanded its police force and now relies on the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office to patrol the town of around 1,500 people.

(Editor/GG: Nine people on the police force for a town of 400? Really?)

Please see: https://www.thecenter-square.com/colorado/article_64a941f0-b32f-11ef-ba57-ff330e62c5f0.html

Colorado Sets New Record for Fentanyl Pill Seizures

by Tom Joyce,
The Center Square

The Drug Enforcement Administration’s Rocky Mountain Field Division (RMFD) recently announced that it has seized about 2.7 million fentanyl pills in Colorado in the first 11 months of 2024.

This tops the record 2.61 million pills set last year.

“It is an unfortunate record to set,” DEA RMFD Special Agent in Charge Jonathan Pullen said in a DEA press release. “We continue to work day in, day out fighting the cartels putting this poison on Colorado streets. While we have seen seizure numbers trending lower in other parts of the country, Colorado seems to be consistently at or near record highs for the number of fake pills seized.”

DEA lab tests have found that about half of the pills it has analyzed contain what is likely a fatal fentanyl

dose for a first-time user, down from 70% in 2023.

“It’s not a time to celebrate the lethality going down across the country,” Pullen said in the release. “There’s still a 50-50 chance you’ll die after taking just one of these pills. It’s a flip of a coin.”

Most of these pills coming to Colorado are made by Mexican drug cartels. The cartels make the pills look like Oxycodone pills, with an “M” stamped on one side and a “30” on the other.

The DEA considers two milligrams of fentanyl a fatal dose; that amount can fit on the tip of a pencil, the release said.

The recent appearance of carfentanil in Colorado has raised concerns for the DEA. Carfentanil is one hundred times stronger than fentanyl, the release said.

In November 2024, a seizure of over 250,000 pills containing carfentanil

happened in Colorado, the release said. Carfentanil is an animal tranquilizer used on elephants and rhinoceroses.

Although it took Colorado eleven months to surpass last year’s record pill seizures, it only took Utah the first six months of this year (774,000) to break its previous record of 668,000. Yet, the other two states in the DEA Rocky Mountain Field Division, Wyoming and Montana, have had fewer pill seizures thus far in 2024.

The four-state division seized about 3.4 million pills in 2023. The Division will likely release its 2024 numbers in late January 2025.

(Editor/GG: Thanks for the Dems open borders policy....)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_9401466c-b354-11ef-ba45-cb9806ddf7ff.html

LAKE FORK
ELECTRIC

Brad Doughty
Licensed Master Electrician
Specializing in Residential Electrical Work
719-214-8588
Kyle.doughty79@yahoo.com

EST. 2018
**WESTCLIFFE
FIREWOOD**
719-371-6074

Ryan Stover
719-371-6074
westcliffefirewood@gmail.com

MILLER'S
Roof Coatings LLC
Average is No Option

Levi Miller
1812 6th Trl. Cotopaxi, CO 81223
719-239-4739
lmiller.millersroofcoatings@gmail.com
COMMERCIAL ROOF RESTORATION

PREMIER
PEST CONTROL LLC
WESTCLIFFE, CO

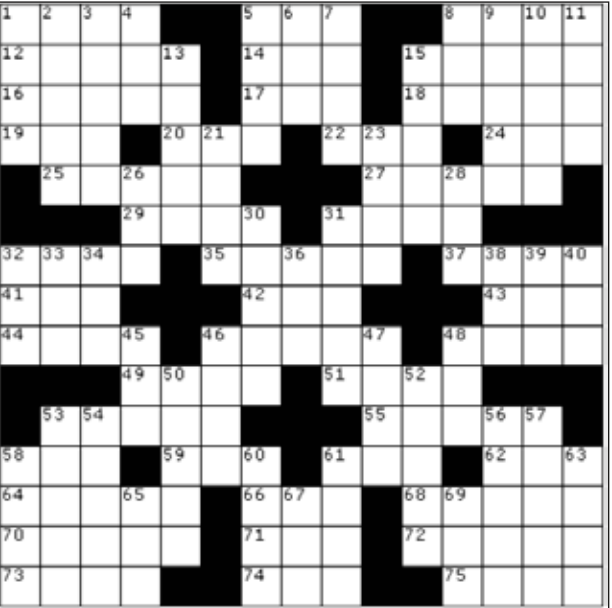
719-371-7404
PPC16@PRIVATEGARDEN.ORG
Call to schedule: inspections, estimates, professional pest management, residential, commercial, licensed and insured

WET MOUNTAIN STORAGE
115 C.R. #241, WESTCLIFFE, CO
FOR ALL YOUR STORAGE NEEDS
Fully Fenced, Automatic Gate & Video Surveillance
5x10 10x10 10x15 10x20
8x20 Conex 10x30 8x40 Conex
RV Storage
Office at 300 Main Street • Westcliffe
custompropertyservices@yahoo.com
719-783-9321

**High Peaks
Animal Hospital**

Dr. Kayla Ingram
Call for an appointment:
719-783-3770
1200 Broadway in Silver Cliff

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Copyright © by Cliff Leitch, The Christian Bible Reference Site
www.ChristianBibleReference.org. Used by permission.

- ACROSS**
1 Dense
5 Ball holder
8 El ____ (Texas city)
12 Toothbrush brand
14 She
15 Muscle
16 Formal statement
17 Samuel's mentor
18 Musical
19 Canoe propeller
20 Farewell
22 Central Intel. Agency
24 Only
25 Book after Daniel
27 KJV possessive pronoun
29 Charity
31 Mexican money
32 Yellow metal
35 Quake
37 He built the ark
41 Veneration
42 Communication

Workers of America (abbr.)
43 Food and drug administration (abbr.)
44 Feat
46 Coral reef
48 Particle
49 Helps
51 A Gospel
53 What Israelites ate in desert
55 Popinjay
58 Failure
59 Greenwich Time
61 Recede
62 Traveler's aid
64 "Remember the ____"
66 Sum
68 Holy book
70 Dismiss
71 Fear
72 Recess
73 Association (abbr.)
74 Billion years
75 Loch ____ monster

DOWN
1 Extinct bird
2 First husband of Bathsheba
3 Large (prefix)
4 Sandwich
5 KJV pronoun
6 Snake like fish
7 Little Mermaid's love
8 Be nosey
9 Brother of Moses
10 Unclean animals
11 One time
13 Tower of ____
15 Boredom
21 Sweet potatoes
23 Object
26 Disappointed
28 Charged particle
30 Religious divisions
31 Hymn of praise
32 Tribe of Israel
33 To be in debt
34 Downwind
36 The other half of Jima
38 Often poetically
39 Hubbub
40 Youngest son of Noah
45 Tribe of Israel
46 Father of Abel
47 The ____ of God (Jesus)
48 American Kennel Club
50 Block of metal
52 Jewish teacher
53 Beasts of burden
54 John ____ (U.S. President)
56 Mosey
57 What Charles is prince of
58 Nineteenth century art philosophy
60 Biblical weed
61 Garden of ____
63 Domestic friends
65 Least amount
67 Pair
69 No room for them in the ____
Puzzle key on page 7

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Choosing our Birthright over Immediacy

Those who know the Genesis 25 story about Esau giving up his birthright for a bowl of stew may question how Esau could have ever made such a flippant bargain. As the story goes in Genesis 25:29-34, Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came rushing in and begged for some of the stew. “Jacob answered, “First sell me your rights as the firstborn.” “Look, I am about to die!” said Esau. “What use to me are my rights as the firstborn?” So Jacob gave Esau the stew, and Esau, “ate, drank and went his way.” Many interpret this incident as Esau’s really stupid decision to trade his birthright for a simple bowl of stew because he was self-centered and boorish. But there is a much deeper realization that impacts your life.

Scripture says, “Thus Esau showed how little he valued his birthright.” The narrative informs us that Esau was not concerned with something that would happen after he died (i.e., the birthright). Esau likely knew that he wouldn’t see the inheritance in his lifetime, because of what God told Abraham in Genesis 15:13-16, that it would be after 400 years of oppression that his descendants would return to the land. Esau was saying that he had no interest in something that he would not see in his lifetime, nor did he appear to care about his descendants’ inheritance. Esau obviously put his immediate needs far above the birthright promise of a great covenantal future as the Chosen People of God. If Jacob had chosen as Esau, who “ate, drank, and went his way,” there would be no nation of Israel—and no redemption for all people.

The birthright of the Jewish people is not fully realized until the Messiah returns—thousands of years after Esau forfeited his birthright and lost his familial blessing through Jacob’s deception. The apostle Paul, reflecting that not all are physical inheritors of the covenantal blessing, writes in Romans 9:10, “And even more to the point is the case for Rebecca; for both her children were conceived in a single act with Isaac, our father; and before they were born, before they had done anything at all, either good or bad (so that God’s plan might remain a matter of his sovereign choice, not dependent on what they did, but on God, who does the calling), it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.” In the grand scheme of things, God, Himself foreordained the blessing, and the choice is His. Jacob and Esau also made also their choices. Herein is the point.

God choses people based on His own purposes and His desire to show grace to all. Ephesians 1:46 says, “In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence. He determined in advance once that through the Messiah Jesus we would be his sons—in keeping with his pleasure and purpose—so that we would bring him praise commensurate with the glory of the grace he gave us through the Beloved One.” God’s election has nothing to do with what we would or would not do. God chooses us, then in response to His work in our lives, we choose Him. His choice is first, without God’s election, no one would ever turn to Him—we would all be like Esau, “eating and drinking and going his way,” concerned only with the here and now. Stew or birthright? It’s an eternal choice.

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

\$150 Billion Spent on Illegal Immigration in a Single Year

by Dan Hart, The Washington Stand

As the U.S. continues to accumulate debt at a record pace, entrepreneurs Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy of the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) are calling attention to tens of billions of taxpayer dollars being spent on illegal immigrants.

Citing a Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) study, DOGE posted on X Monday, “In 2023 alone, illegal immigration cost taxpayers \$150.7 billion. To put this in context with other costs (adjusted for inflation): World War I: \$334 billion[:] Apollo Space Program: \$257 billion[:] Manhattan Project: \$30 billion[:] Panama Canal: \$15.2 billion[:] Hoover Dam: \$1 billion.”

The FAIR study, which was released in March of last year, combined estimated expenditures by the federal government (\$66 billion) with state and local costs (\$115 billion), minus \$31 billion in estimated tax contributions from migrants. The money was spent to cover schooling, health care costs including uncompensated hospital expenses and Medicaid, law enforcement costs including incarceration, removal, and border protection, and welfare costs including food and housing

assistance, among other expenses. The \$150 billion total equaled a \$35 billion increase from a previous estimate of \$116 billion in 2017.

The sharp acceleration in spending has coincided with the **largest surge in illegal immigration ever seen** in the U.S., which has occurred as a result of a series of open-border policies **implemented by the Biden administration** beginning in 2021. The total number of encounters with illegal border crossers as of June was **8.2 million more** than in the entire first Trump administration.

The spending on migrants is part of a four-year federal spending spree **never before seen in American history**. Biden has overseen annual budget deficits of \$2 trillion, and by the time he leaves office next January, it is estimated that he will have overseen a net increase of over \$9 trillion in the national debt, a record-setting amount for a single term.

FAIR Executive Director Julie Kirchner **told** Fox News on Tuesday that the total amount of taxpayer dollars spent on illegal immigrants is likely much higher than their original estimate. “The population we cited in the study was 15.5 million. We now estimate that it’s over 16.8 million, and we’re in the process right now of

doing another estimate on the illegal alien population, and I’m sure it will be higher. So, we know the costs are going to go up.” She also noted that their report did not include state and local costs associated with sheltering migrants.

In New York City, where there are currently over 58,000 illegal immigrants **facing criminal charges**, almost 100,000 migrants seeking asylum have moved there over the last two years, and the city estimates it will spend **over \$12 billion** through fiscal year 2025. Meanwhile, Chicago has spent **over \$400 million** on migrants over the past two years.

“The scale of spending on illegal immigration boggles the mind!” Musk **observed** Monday in response to DOGE’s highlighting of the FAIR report.

Kirchner expressed confidence that DOGE’s efforts could save “billions and billions of dollars each year” in taxpayer money by ending government-subsidized health care plans as well as income and child tax credits for illegal immigrants.

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/doge-zeroes-in-on-150-billion-spent-on-illegal-immigration-in-single-year>

Illegal Immigrants Are Committing Crimes: Here’s the Data

by John Lott,
The Daily Caller News Foundation



In June, Victor Martinez-Hernandez was charged with the murder of Rachel Morin, a mother of five in Maryland. Police in Oklahoma tracked the accused repeat offender down with a sample of his DNA recovered from a Los Angeles home invasion in which a nine-year-old girl and her mother were assaulted. Police say he came to the United States illegally to escape prosecution for at least one other alleged murder in his native El Salvador in December 2022.

“That should never have been allowed to happen,” said Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler, referring to the numerous missed red flags the case presented. His office apprehended Hernandez in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Like the member of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua sentenced to life in prison last week for the murder of Laken Riley in Georgia, Hernandez’s case is shining a light on the federal government’s failure to properly vet and keep track of lawless migrants.

These gaps have led to broad claims that illegal immigrants have less involvement with the criminal justice system than native-born Americans. A review of the available data, however, shows that the criminal records of millions of migrants – the ones President-elect Donald Trump vows to prioritize for deportation – remain unknown due to illegal crossings, lax enforcement and lax data collection by federal and “sanctuary” jurisdictions.

In addition, an analysis of the available statistics by RealClearInvestigations suggests that the crime rate of noncitizens is vastly understated. A separate RCI analysis based on estimates developed by the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice (NIJ) suggests that crime by illegal aliens who entered the United States by July 21, 2024, cost the country some \$166.5 billion. These criminals disproportionately entered the U.S. during the Biden administration.

The problem begins with incomplete initial vetting by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The criminal histories of migrants from far-flung countries with often shoddy record-keeping are somewhat hard to determine. It is also impractical to hold each person until they have

passed a rigorous background check. As a result, ICE routinely releases many illegals into the country on their own recognizance and then discovers afterward that many had criminal records in their home countries.

In response to a request from Republican Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas, ICE reported that it has released 7.5 million such “non-detained” noncitizens into the U.S. during the last four decades or so. ICE reports that these include 662,566 noncitizens with criminal histories – 435,719 individuals with criminal convictions in their home countries and another 226,847 with pending criminal charges. These precise figures, however, do not say whether the crimes of the latter group were committed in the accused’s home country or the U.S.

In the July 21 letter to Rep. Gonzales, ICE reported that 13,099 of these non-detained individuals have convictions for homicide, with 1,845 facing criminal homicide charges. Another 9,461 have convictions for sex offenses (not including assault or commercialized sex), and 2,659 face pending charges. The convictions



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

The Evolution of the Battle Rifle: From the FAL to Today's AR-10

by Scott Witner,
ammoland.com

For firearm enthusiasts, military historians, and professional shooters, the battle rifle is revered as a symbol of the evolution of modern weaponry.

From the iconic FN FAL, famously known as “The Right Arm of the Free World,” to the robust and versatile AR-10, each rifle reflects advancements in power, precision, and adaptability that have shaped military engagements for decades.

Today, the AR-10 remains a highly respected platform, testament to the constant pursuit of excellence in firearm design.

Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding of military firearms, learn why the AR-10 is still a top choice, or simply convince yourself that you need an AR-10 battle rifle, this article offers insights into the evolution of one of history's most formidable battle rifles.

The Rise of the FAL – “The Right Arm of the Free World”

The story of the modern battle rifle begins in the 1950s with the emergence of the FN FAL (Fusil Automatique Léger). This rifle would become one of history's most widely used military firearms.

Originally developed by Belgian arms manufacturer Fabrique Nationale (FN), the FAL quickly gained a reputation for its reliability, durability, and powerful 7.62 NATO cartridge. Its semi-automatic and fully automatic capabilities, combined with its robust construction, made it a favorite among NATO countries, and over 90 nations adopted it.

The FAL's role in the post-World War II era was vital, as it provided Western forces with a rifle that could perform under demanding conditions and deliver accurate firepower at long ranges. Its rugged design, ease of use, and compatibility with the 7.62x51mm NATO



PHOTO : FN's classic FAL battle rifle, in all its glory.

IMG Jim Grant

round helped solidify its place as the “Right Arm of the Free World,” a nickname it earned for its widespread adoption during the Cold War.

Fun Fact: The FAL also became an iconic firearm in popular culture. In the 1995 crime thriller *HEAT*, the character Michael Cheritto (played by Tom

Sizemore) wields a 20” barreled FN FAL Paratrooper version with a side-folding stock.

In military circles, the FAL's influence remains strong even today. British and Australian SAS units have occasionally relied on the FN FAL for specific missions, taking advantage of its powerful caliber and reliability.

However, as military tactics and combat needs evolved, the FAL's design began to reveal limitations. While manageable in conventional warfare, its length and weight became drawbacks in close-quarter combat and jungle environments, where agility and rapid firepower were essential.

As a result, the search for a more adaptable battle rifle continued, leading to innovations that would influence future rifle designs, including the development of the M14 and, eventually, the AR-10.

The M14 – America's Answer to the FAL

As the FAL gained traction worldwide, the United States sought to develop its own battle rifle to replace the aging M1 Garand. Enter the M14.

Adopted in 1959, the M14 combined elements of the M1 Garand's proven design

AR-10 HISTORY
see page 21

Choosing the Right AR-15 Trigger for you Rifle

by Jens “Rex Nanorum”
Hammer, ammoland.com

In a world with a positively teeming aftermarket for AR-15s, there is no longer just the question, “Should I upgrade my AR-15 trigger?” This is inevitably followed up by the question: Which brand? What AR-15 trigger is right for your rifle? The trigger is an essential component to a firearm's accuracy, neck-and-neck with the barrel in terms of importance. So, let's look at the Pros and Cons of your AR-15 trigger upgrade.

AR-15 Trigger Upgrades | Should I?

This is a pretty easy question. If you have a stock mil-spec trigger in your rifle and want to do more with your AR-15 than blast garbage at the local rock pit, then yes, it's to your advantage to upgrade your trigger. (Special exceptions apply to clone rifle builders who demand correct part numbers to replicate specific builds.) For anyone else, yes, you should want to improve an AR-15's trigger pull if possible.

The Pros of Upgrading

Simply put, a trigger is the primary interface between the shooter and the rifle. A good trigger will give you more precise control over when and how the rifle fires, leading to more consistently repeatable (accurate) results.

An upgraded trigger pull can give you these potential accuracy improvements in a few ways.

- You can get less “creep,” which is movement during the trigger pull before the sear lets loose and the hammer drops. The more creep a trigger has, the more variable your pull can be.

- You can get variety. Benchrest shooters love adjustable triggers with pull weights that are so light, faint pressure will kick off the firing cycle. Such a trigger would be a poor fit on a competition AR-15, where a 2-stage match trigger would shine.

- You can get a crisp “break”. A cheap trigger can have an inconsistent release, whereas a nice trigger will be really consistent and predictable in how and when it releases the hammer.

The Cons of Upgrading

There are really only two issues I see with upgrading to a better trigger on your AR-15.

First, cost. It isn't in everyone's budget, or use profile to upgrade the trigger. As I mentioned in the “Should I?”, some people just don't want or need precision to any degree. So, let's forget about them and move on.

Not everyone is going to go trigger shopping and think that \$250 is worth it. I'd contend that there's plenty of options even around the \$75 mark that are a considerable upgrade to the standard mil-spec bang switch. This is a reasonable price for one of the most critical components of your AR-15. Remember, mil-spec designs are

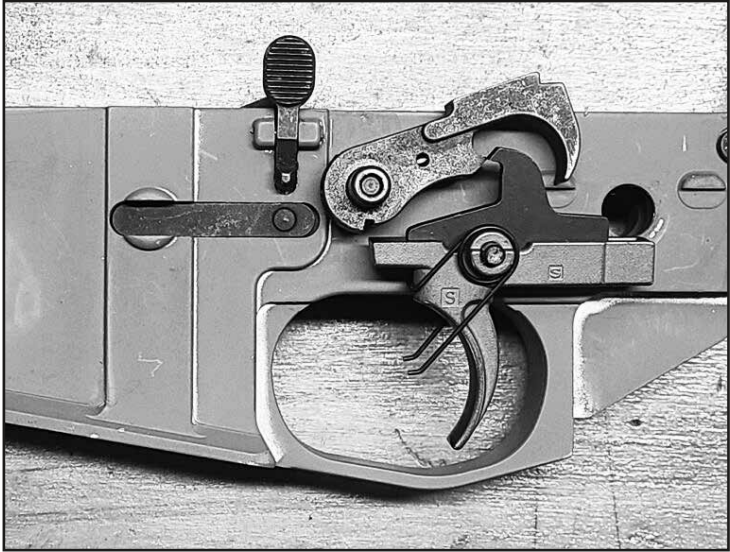


PHOTO: Swapping out an AR-15 trigger is a simple process.

meant to be reliable, and cheap, they're not meant to be the best AR-15 triggers.

The second possible drawback is buying the wrong one!

I gave examples of the extremely light, single-stage trigger for benchrest shooting and the two-stage match trigger for competition shooting. If you swapped the triggers between these two guns, the benchrest shooter would see his accuracy degrade a bit, and the results for the competition shooter could be disastrous.

Triggers with extremely light pull weights can be phenomenally precise, but simply aren't meant for the rigorous use that some competitions (or hunting, or

combat) can put them through. Too many people have accidentally fired their rifles with 2lb triggers, overestimating (or being too stressed to notice) how little pressure 2lbs really is.

If you want to improve AR-15 trigger pull, you need to choose the right trigger for your intended use. So, get it right!

AR-15 Trigger Upgrades | How-To

The actual mechanics of swapping out AR-15 triggers are pretty simple. Knock out the hammer and trigger pins, and the whole fire control group is loose.

While most people also remove the safety selector (and out of necessity, the grip which houses

the detent and detent spring), you can often just push in on the right side of the safety selector and then rotate it past the usual 90 degrees, allowing the fire controls to be removed from the receiver without taking the grip/detent/detent spring/safety out. This is true with mil-spec safeties and not ambi-safeties.

Slide your new trigger in, line up the holes in the trigger and disconnect, and slide the trigger pin in. As you slide the hammer into the receiver, make sure the hammer spring legs are on the trigger pin, line up the hammer hole with the receiver hole, and knock that pin into place as well.

If you removed the grip-safety-detent parts, replace them and you're all set.

AR-15 Trigger Upgrades | Which Trigger?

Favorite All-around Trigger: Geissele SD-C Super Dynamic Combat Trigger

The Geissele SD-C, or Super Dynamic Combat trigger. This is easily one of the best AR-15 triggers on the market. This is a flat bow, two-stage trigger. The first stage is around 2.75lbs, and the second stage is an additional 1.5 lbs. When I'm shooting fast, there's no concern about the trigger

AR TRIGGER UPGRADE
see page 22



Custer County's Own Podcast
Red County Blue Nation

Featuring Steve Rorick &
Jimmy "The Plumber" McMahon
discussing local issues and interviews.

Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

Go to
RedCountyBlueNation.com
to view live or
see the prior episodes.





Hersherberger
CONSTRUCTION

- Metal Roofing
- Siding
- Windows
- Decks
- Buildings

719-216-9545

OVER 20 YEARS OF QUALITY AMISH WORKMANSHIP

AR-10 HISTORY
from page 20

with modern improvements, including a detachable magazine and compatibility with the 7.62 NATO round. This allowed soldiers to benefit from a semi-automatic rifle capable of more sustained fire while maintaining accuracy and power at range.

The M14 offered solid performance in open combat environments, such as those found in Europe, but it was not without its issues. Weighing over 10 pounds with a loaded magazine, the M14 was heavy and challenging to maneuver in close quarters.

Its full-auto capability proved difficult to control due to its powerful 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge. Despite its strengths, these limitations became particularly apparent during the Vietnam War, when the dense jungle environments called for lighter, more maneuverable rifles.

Ultimately, the M14 saw limited combat service, and its drawbacks prompted the U.S. military to search for a new rifle that could meet the demands of both close and long-range engagements. This quest for innovation would lead to the development of the AR-10, a rifle that would redefine the modern battle rifle.

The Birth of the AR-10 – A New Kind of Battle Rifle

In the late 1950s, firearms designer Eugene Stoner began working on a revolutionary rifle that would challenge traditional battle rifle design norms. The result was the AR-10, a lightweight, gas-operated rifle chambered in 7.62 NATO. Manufactured by ArmaLite, the AR-10 represented a leap forward in materials and engineering, using aircraft-grade aluminum and innovative features that significantly reduced its weight compared to the FAL and M14.

One of the AR-10's defining characteristics was its direct impingement gas system, contributing to its reduced weight and

simplified operation. This system diverted gas from the barrel directly into the bolt carrier, eliminating the need for a heavy piston and enhancing the rifle's balance and handling. Combined with its ergonomic design and modular construction, the AR-10 allowed for greater customization and ease of maintenance, which would become hallmarks of the modern battle rifle.

Despite its innovative design, the AR-10 faced stiff competition and did not see widespread adoption in the 1960s. The U.S. military ultimately chose the M16, a smaller-caliber, lighter version of Stoner's design. However, the AR-10's potential as a hard-hitting yet adaptable rifle was far from forgotten. Over the decades, it would reemerge, refined and adapted, to become one of the most versatile battle rifles of the modern era.

The Modern Resurgence of the AR-10 – Improved and Adapted

While the AR-10 initially took a back seat to its smaller sibling, the M16, the rifle would find new life in the 21st century. With advancements in firearms technology and the changing nature of combat, the AR-10 was revisited, modernized, and widely adopted by civilian shooters, law enforcement, and military forces. Modern improvements have kept the AR-10 relevant and effective, especially as a designated marksman or sniper platform.

Today's AR-10 models incorporate enhanced materials, improved precision manufacturing, and modularity, allowing users to configure the rifle to their specific needs. Many updates focus on reducing weight and recoil, making the AR-10 more manageable than its early versions. Rail systems allow for mounting optics, lights, and other accessories, transforming the AR-10 into a versatile platform for long-range precision shooting and close-quarters adaptability.

One of the significant innovations in modern AR-10 platforms is the inclusion of better barrel options and muzzle

devices, which improve accuracy and control. Additionally, the availability of adjustable stocks, better triggers, and upgraded bolt carrier groups makes modern AR-10s exceptionally customizable and comfortable for extended shooting sessions. The rifle's ability to handle powerful calibers like .308 Winchester and 6.5 Creedmoor has also increased its appeal, allowing it to maintain the stopping power expected of a battle rifle while meeting the demands of precise shooting.

Palmetto State Armory Sabre AR-10

A perfect example of the AR-10's modern resurgence can be seen in Palmetto State Armory's Sabre AR-10 in .308, a battle-ready build that combines affordability with serious firepower. Outfitted with a 20-inch barrel, 12.5" quad rail, and an A1 stock, the PSA Sabre is designed for those who want the robustness of a classic AR-10 with a touch of contemporary enhancements. Complete with three magazines, a Magpul bipod, and a carry bag, the Sabre offers a field-ready package for shooters seeking a reliable .308 platform. Its durable, billet construction and customizable quad rail make it an attractive choice for those looking to invest in a versatile and powerful modern-day AR-10 build without breaking the bank.

These advancements have solidified the AR-10's position in the shooting world, proving that it is not just a relic of the past but a rifle that has evolved to stay relevant in the modern era.

- **Force Multiplier:** The AR-10's semi-automatic design allows for quick follow-up shots, allowing users to engage multiple targets. This capability, paired with the heavy-hitting .308 or 6.5 Creedmoor rounds, makes the AR-10 highly effective in scenarios where sustained firepower is crucial. This combination of power and speed provides a substantial advantage for tactical teams, law enforcement, or defense-minded civilians.
- **Superior Firepower and Penetration:** Both the .308 and 6.5 Creedmoor rounds offer substantial ballistic energy and penetration capabilities, allowing the AR-10 to defeat certain levels of body armor at close to medium ranges. This characteristic provides a decisive edge when threat neutralization is essential, as the AR-10 can perform effectively against hardened or shielded targets that smaller calibers might struggle to penetrate.
- **Extended Engagement Range:** Thanks to its powerful cartridges, the AR-10 excels at long-range accuracy, making it a reliable choice for engaging targets up to 800 yards and beyond. The .308 Winchester and 6.5 Creedmoor ballistics provide high-energy retention, flatter trajectories, and consistent accuracy at longer ranges, allowing the AR-10 to bridge the gap between traditional long-range rifles and closer-quarters weapons. This extended engagement range

provides users with the flexibility to operate effectively in a variety of combat or defensive environments.

- **Modularity and Customization:** The AR-10 platform's modularity allows users to tailor the rifle to specific mission needs, whether it's for hunting, target shooting, or tactical scenarios. Adjustable stocks, optics, grips, and handguards make it easy to set up the AR-10 for improved ergonomics and handling, enhancing shooter control and comfort. This flexibility allows the AR-10 to function as a versatile platform that can adapt to numerous roles, from designated marksman to general-purpose rifle.

Through its powerful, armor-penetrating rounds, rapid semi-automatic fire, and adaptability, the AR-10 has proven to be more than just a battle rifle—it's a modern force multiplier. This versatility and efficiency underscore why the AR-10 remains a respected choice among shooters who demand precision and power.

Conclusion

From the FAL to the M14 and ultimately to the AR-10, the evolution of the battle rifle is a testament to innovation and adaptation in firearm design.

Each rifle answered the demands of its era, but the AR-10 stands out as a platform that has continually evolved to meet modern needs. Its power, adaptability, and customization blend has cemented it as a favored choice among enthusiasts, law enforcement, and even specialized military units.

Today's AR-10 embodies the best features of a battle rifle—powerful, accurate, and adaptable—while incorporating modern advancements that ensure its place in the future of firearms.

In the ever-evolving world of firearms, the AR-10 proves that revisiting and refining past designs can sometimes lead to a weapon that stands the test of time.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/11/the-evolution-of-the-battle-rifle-from-the-fal-to-todays-ar-10/>



PHOTO: Eugene Stoner's masterpiece and the father of the AR-15. The ArmaLite AR-10. Brownell's recreated the original with their retro BRN-10A.

photo by Graham Baates



PHOTO: Authors PSA Sabre AR-10 Battle Rifle chambered in .308 Winchester

The Advantages of the AR-10 as a Modern Battle Rifle

The AR-10's advantages as a battle rifle extend beyond its raw power, making it a force multiplier in tactical and defensive scenarios. Designed to chamber hard-hitting rounds like the .308 Winchester and 6.5 Creedmoor, the AR-10 combines these powerful calibers with semi-automatic capability, allowing users to deliver rapid, effective firepower that amplifies its impact in high-stakes situations.



The SIG SAUER MCX-SPEAR is the next evolution of the battle rifle.

ILLEGALS & CRIME from page 18

include other crimes such as assault (62,231), robbery (10,031), sexual assault (15,811), weapons offenses (13,423), and dangerous drugs (56,533).

These figures are only suggestive of the extent of crime because they only list the most serious crime committed by each individual. A murderer, for example, who also committed a sex offense, is only counted as a murderer. It does not include the fact that millions of migrants are violating the law because of their presence in the United States. It also does not account for the lawbreaking involved in working without proper authorization or the widespread use of stolen Social Security numbers to secure employment.

The 662,566 convicted and likely criminals make up about 9% of the 7.5 million released noncitizens.

The statistics miss much of the relationship between crime and illegal aliens. Noncitizens in the “national docket data” either surrendered to border agents or were apprehended at the border. Those who avoid surrender likely have reasons to evade authorities, such as a criminal background. But there are others who avoided being caught and won’t be in these numbers. That group includes “gotaways” – individuals observed crossing the U.S. border illegally but not apprehended or turned back. With up to 38% of border agents shifted from monitoring to processing duties and 30% of surveillance cameras not functioning, millions more likely entered the U.S. undetected, potentially including the most dangerous individuals.

Customs and Border Protection estimates that some two million such “gotaways” have entered the country since fiscal 2021.

The data on migrants who have been processed also understates the problem. Criminals rarely

commit just one crime. For example, from 1990 to 2002, in the 75 most populous U.S. counties, 70% of those convicted of a violent felony had a prior arrest, and 56% had a prior criminal conviction. In 2023 in Washington, D.C., the average homicide suspect had been arrested 11 times before committing a homicide. Data for 30 states shows that 60.1% of criminals released from prison in 2005 had been arrested again within two years, and 73.5% had been arrested within four years. The ICE data set provides a single entry for each individual.

Most violent crimes don’t result in an arrest, so looking at arrests or convictions in these other countries will underestimate whether illegal aliens are criminals. Across all U.S. cities in 2022, only 35.2% of violent crimes resulted in an arrest. While 50.6% of murders resulted in an arrest, just 24.1% of rapes produced an arrest, 22.7% of robberies, and 39.9% of aggravated assaults.

As the Laken Riley and Rachel Morin murder cases make clear, it is difficult to calculate all the victimization costs of crime to families and society.

Using tools developed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), RCI did estimate what is likely the bare minimum economic costs of illegal alien crime. It arrived at its estimated cost to victims in dollar terms by assuming that each of the 662,566 “non-detained” noncitizen offenders on ICE’s list committed just once in the U.S. the crime for which they have been previously accused.

ICE presented Rep. Gonzales with numbers on 42 different types of crime, but the NIJ only calculated the cost to victims for eight types of crime. Prof. Mark Cohen at Vanderbilt University, who co-authored the original NIJ report, updated the list with 15 of the crime categories reported by ICE: murder, sexual assault, sexual offenses, robbery, assault, arson, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, weapon offenses, drugs, fraud, liquor offenses, gambling, and stolen property.

Cohen’s updated numbers provide estimates for the damage from child abuse, drunk driving and vandalism, but ICE did not collect numbers on those crimes.

NIJ’s estimated losses from crime victimization include: medical care/ambulances, mental health care, police/fire service costs, social/victim services, property loss/damage, reduced productivity (at work, home and school), and nonmonetary losses (fear, pain, suffering, and lost quality of life).

Murders account for almost \$153.8 billion of the \$166.5 billion in estimated criminal victimization costs (a breakdown of the costs of crime for each type of crime is available [below]).

	Convicted Criminal	Pending Criminal Charges	Total	Estimated Cost of Crime	Total Cost of Crime
Arson	792	177	969	\$44,132	\$42,764,092
Assault	62,231	42915	105,146	\$52,148	\$5,483,179,895
Burglary	14,301	3266	17,567	\$4,057	\$71,270,197
Drugs	56,533	13846	70,379	\$13,090	\$921,235,070
Fraudulent Activities	15,979	5127	21,106	\$2,648	\$55,896,497
Gambling	155	222	377	\$573	\$215,931
Larceny	18,234	12397	30,631	\$5,578	\$170,858,493
Liquor	1,367	1186	2,553	\$2,347	\$5,990,640
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,663	1189	3,852	\$11,267	\$43,399,945
Murder	13,099	1,845	14,944	\$10,294,610	\$153,842,655,128
Robbery	10,031	2039	12,070	\$39,609	\$478,086,062
Sexual assault	15,811	4250	20,061	\$212,504	\$4,263,048,361
sexual offenses	9,461	2,659	12,120	\$83,023	\$1,006,240,093
Stolen property	2,508	1593	4,101	\$12,154	\$49,845,112
Weapons offense	13,423	3397	16,820	\$4,805	\$80,824,305
Total	236,588	96,108	332,696		\$166,515,509,820

* Cohen, M.A. The costs of crime and justice, New York, NY: Routledge; Second Edition 2020

Another \$6 billion involves sexual assaults/offenses, and an additional \$5.2 billion comes from sexual assaults and sexual offenses.

Half of the crimes these non-

detained individuals commit don’t have cost estimates. These crimes include kidnapping, embezzlement, extortion, smuggling, traffic offenses and weapon offenses.

These criminal illegal aliens entered the United States under multiple administrations, but the size of the problem was likely larger under the Biden administration. That is not just because so many more illegal aliens were entering the country. Under the Trump administration’s Remain In Mexico policy, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) performed back-ground checks on immigrants. That included contacting immigrants’ countries of origin.

ICE agents cannot access the same databases to check on the

immigrants, and they don’t contact the immigrant’s home country. Plus, the massive inflow of immigrants has overwhelmed the system. The deputy director for ICE blames the “enormous workload” agents face, so they haven’t

been able to do even the limited background checks they are doing. There are so many coming in that the government cannot house these immigrants until their backgrounds are properly checked.

ICE has been processing criminals as they enter the country, but without identifying them as criminals. So, under the Biden administration, they have simply been released into the country. Now, they are walking freely in the United States, and no one knows where they are.

As bad as these numbers are, the reality may be even worse. The Biden-Harris administration is accused of presenting the border crisis so that it does not look as bad as it is. In mid-September, retired San Diego Border Patrol Chief Aaron Heitk testified how the Biden administration ordered him not to publicize the arrests of illegal border crossers who they identified as having terrorist ties.

The AIC (American Immigration Council), which strongly opposes President-elect Donald Trump’s deportation policies, estimates that it could cost \$88 billion to deport one million illegal immigrants. But if we accept its estimate and ignore the various government benefits that these individuals might be receiving, ICE’s number of 662,556 illegal criminal immigrants implies a cost of \$58.3 billion to remove them — just over one-third of the conservative estimate given here of the cost of the crimes by these criminals.

The estimate of over \$160 billion in costs from criminal illegal aliens is very likely an underestimate of the true costs. It assumes the average criminal coming into the country commits only one offense similar to what he committed in his home country. We are also not counting the costs of half of criminal illegal aliens.

Please see: <https://dailycaller.com/2024/11/30/opinion-illegal-immigrants-are-committing-crimes-heres-the-data-john-lott/>

AR TRIGGER UPGRADE from page 20

pull being too light, or too heavy. When I’m taking more carefully aimed shots, the two-stage design is excellent and makes me feel like I’m using a trigger designed for target shooting. At \$245 it is one of the more expensive options, but for a guy like me who makes his living shooting guns, it’s worth it.

I use the SD-C in my Noveske Ghetto Blaster, which is my go-to for home defense, competition shooting, homestead nocturnal predator control, and deer hunting. It’s also one of my most commonly used rifles for testing ancillary review items, like various brands of ammo, optics, and more. Clearly, this gun is among my favorites, and this trigger is a big part of that.

Other great options: CMC Triggers Single-Stage Flat Trigger and ALG Defense Advanced Combat Trigger



AR-15 Trigger Upgrade

CMC Triggers has an amazing one-stage match trigger. With options for 2.5lbs, 3.5lbs, and higher. I absolutely loved the

2.5lb trigger I had in a target rifle, and it gave fantastic groups from the bench. At \$189.99, it doesn’t break the bank.

ALG Defense has one of the cheapest upgrades around. The ALG Defense Advanced Combat Trigger (ACT) only runs around \$80-ish and represents a modest yet noticeable improvement over standard mil-spec triggers. Although you’re still looking at a 6-8 lbs trigger pull weight, this is a smoother pull with a crisper break than what GI Joe’s armorer pulled out of a pile.

Bottom Line:

If you’re running a stock mil-spec trigger and want to upgrade your AR-15 trigger pull, you have plenty of choices. Decide what you want out of your gun, and go for one of the many excellent

options on the market. You won’t regret it!

(Editor/GG: A really, really good trigger at a fantastic price is Bravo Company Manufacturing’s (BCM) PNT Trigger Assembly. It is priced at only \$65.95 and is quality made. Go to Braco CompanyUSA.com to get one.

Another outstanding trigger for the money is LaRue Tactical’s MBT-2S Trigger. These are very high quality with an excellent break. If you don’t want to spend big bucks, this comes real close to that performance level at only \$115. Go to LaRue.com to get one.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/12/choosing-the-right-ar-15-trigger-for-your-rifle/>

“I’ve learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.” — Maya Angelou

Colorado, culminating in the election of the state’s avowedly Populist eighth governor, Davis Waite, in 1893.

Growing tensions between miners and mine owners over poor working conditions were reaching a boiling point in many parts of the state, finally spilling over in Cripple Creek in February of 1894. Many unemployed silver miners had come seeking work in its gold mines. Although the local prevailing wage for miners had long been three dollars a day, the length of that work day varied from mine to mine, from eight hours to as many as ten. In early 1894, taking advantage of the confluence of an expanded labor pool and depressed economy, many of the mine owners collectively decided to establish a work day of a uniform nine hours, for no additional wage. Hundreds of miners promptly went on strike.

At around this same time, the continuing national economic depression and persisting high unemployment rate (probably well over ten percent) had sparked a different kind of response. On Easter morning in March of 1894, Ohio Populist Jacob Coxey set out with about 100 unemployed workers on a march to Washington, D.C. The plan was to present Congress with Coxey’s plan to create a federally-funded roads project to put the unemployed to work building and improving infrastructure around the country. Because the marchers were organized along military lines, they were popularly referred to as Coxey’s Army, led by “General” Coxey. The official name of the movement, however, was the Commonwealth of Christ.

Coxey’s march was extensively



Members of Coxey’s army at the camp outside Denver, 1894.
History Colorado 90.156.126

publicized and inspired a number of similar marching armies from all across the nation, particularly in the West, where organized labor and Populist followers provided ready recruits. In Cripple Creek, notices were posted around town stating: “All idle men are requested to meet at the flagpole, Sunday, April 23, 1894...for the purpose of forming a contingent for the Coxey industrial army.”

Three days later at the first meeting, “a recent arrival from the Pacific slope” addressed the crowd. This was John Sherman Sanders, a native of the Missouri Ozarks but more recently from either San Francisco or Spokane, where he was variously reported to have been either a miner, an engineer, or some type of electrician. At this first meeting, he was elected a “brigadier general” and would thereafter be identified with the honorific of General.

General Sanders quickly began drilling his volunteer recruits, and army-like rules were adopted, which included prohibitions of firearms, profane language, intoxicating liquors, fighting, quarreling, begging, and foraging. Although not reported locally at the time, some 500 Cripple Creek supporters joined in adopting Articles of Agreement, setting forth their “object and purpose” of a march to Washington, D.C., to present demands for legislation aimed at addressing their dire economic straits. In addition to the familiar Populist demand for the return of federal support for silver coinage, this group proposed a bill for “irrigating millions of acres of desert land” in Colorado and other western states, “thus giving employment to thousands of now unemployed men and homes for thousands of families.”

On May 3rd, a brigade of 159 men left Cripple Creek for

Washington, first marching seven miles to Victor, where they were joined by anywhere from fifty to 150 additional recruits. A short march to the mining town of Wilbur then brought the men to a brand-new station of the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad. In fact when they arrived, workers had just finished driving the last spike in the rail line. Railroad president William E. Johnson generously offered the free use of six rail cars to haul the men and their four wagons of baggage to Florence, east of Cañon City, making them the first passengers (of a sort) from that station.

Stealing a Train

At Florence, General Sanders formed five companies: three of Cripple Creek miners, one of Victor men, and one of Coal Creek miners from Florence. The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad agreed to furnish ten empty box cars to transport the 354 men to Pueblo. They were met there by Pueblo Mayor L.B. Strait, who arranged for that town to feed three meals to all of Sanders’s men and to provide a Main Street parade, and attempted to negotiate free rail transportation further east. Missouri Pacific Railway officials, however, were adamant that transportation would be provided only at full fare.

Sanders, extremely unwisely in hindsight, told the Rio Grande’s superintendent that his army was going to Washington “if they had to steal a train from every road on the way.” Thus alerted, the Missouri Pacific officials therefore ordered all of their locomotives be sent east of Pueblo to prevent their capture by Sanders.

On May 8th, after Mayor Strait told General Sanders that the city would no longer feed his men, the contingent’s officers met privately. Confirming the railroad’s suspicions, one of the companies then commandeered six Missouri Pacific coal cars in the Pueblo train yards and loaded them up with the camp’s equipment. Engineer P.G. Buerger was forcibly removed from idling Rio Grande switch engine No. 817, and was replaced by Morgan Cosgrove, a Coxeyite said to be a former Rio Grande engineer. With Sanders’s men controlling all of the rail yard’s switches, the fifty-ton engine was hooked up to the coal cars, the army’s men climbed on, and the train headed east out of town on the Missouri Pacific’s tracks.

Missouri Pacific officials, particularly Pueblo’s District Superintendent O.A. Derby, reacted by devising two plans. First, they ordered that another engine and some cars be “ditched” (or overturned) to block the track some fifty miles east of Pueblo, near Olney Springs. Second, they ordered that all water be removed from the tanks along the line east of Pueblo so that Sanders’s steam engine could not be replenished. And they obtained a warrant for the arrest of Sanders, his officers, and Engineer Cosgrove for the theft of a Rio Grande engine valued at eight thousand dollars, and requested an injunction restraining the movement of the “wild train.” It was noted that serving these court papers to the men in that train might prove a challenge.

Reprinted with Permission.
Please see: <https://www.historycolorado.org/story/2024/07/26/rail-and-river>



The Palace
DRUG STORE

Get your prescriptions filled while you wait!

Offering the same great service in Custer County that has won us
“Best Pharmacy in Fremont County”
for the past 18 years!

Your local source for
Prescriptions and
Over-the-counter
Medications & Supplies

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY
9AM-5:30PM
CLOSED SAT. & SUN.

palacedrugco.com 719-371-9402
94 E. Main St., Silver Cliff



PINON PLUMBING
WESTCLIFFE COLORADO

Your Local Plumbing & Heating Service Company
719-783-0379
pinonplumbing@gmail.com

Residential & Commercial Service and Installs, Furnaces, Boilers, Propane Heaters, Tanked & Tankless Water Heaters, Main Water & Sewer Line Replacements, Water & Gas Lines, Remodels & New Construction

Jeff Ray - Owner - Master Plumber
Providing 29 years of Experience, Knowledge, Reliability & Honesty
LICENSED & INSURED





Market
Your Neighborhood Grocery Store

- Full Service Grocery Store
- Ice
- Blue Rhino Propane
- Firewood
- Hunting / Fishing License

Open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
7 Days a Week

Visit us online at LOWESMARKET.COM
or on Facebook at FACEBOOK.com/LowesSupermarkets

50 Main Street
719/783-0550



**FINNEY DRILLING
& EXCAVATING INC.**

“We take the time to do the job right”
Larry & Cathy Finney, Owners • Fourth Generation Driller

Water Wells • Septic Systems • Foundation Excavating
Well & Septic Permit Applications • Free On-Site Planning & Estimates

Friendly Service • Licensed #1358 • Bonded • Insured • Competitive Pricing
 719-275-9525 • larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com • Cañon City

5 ACRES INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS

This lot is a true gem with unparalleled views of the towering peaks and rugged ridges of the Sangre de Cristos creating a stunning backdrop for your dream home. Enjoy nature's beauty, plenty of elbow room, easy access to shopping, dining, entertainment, and abundant outdoor activities. \$125,000

Brenda Bosse
Realtor®

25 years listing and selling in the valley!

HOME SMART.
PREFERRED REALTY
Real Estate Made Easy.

(719) 371-3270
9 Bassick Place, Westcliffe
brenda@brendabosse.com
www.brendabosse.com

“Christmas is a baby shower that went totally overboard.” — Andy Borowitz