

Happy New Year!

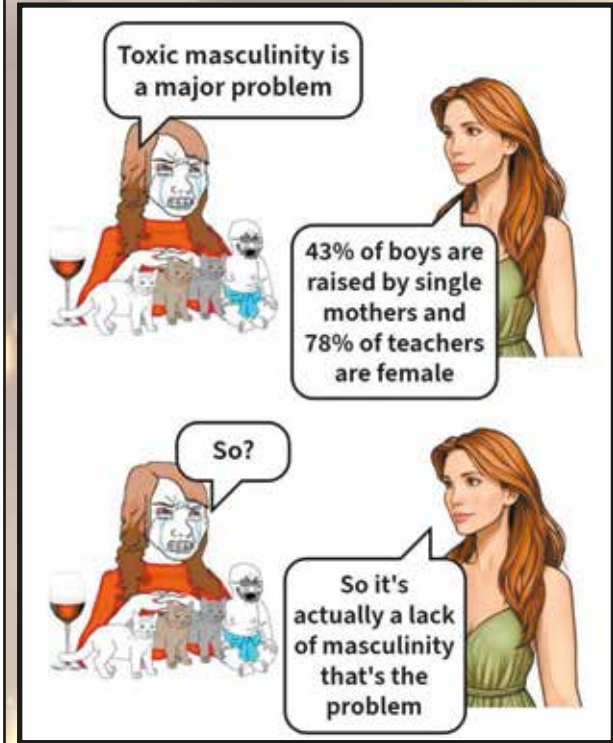
"...and having done all ...stand firm." Eph. 6:13

Toxic masculinity is a major problem

43% of boys are raised by single mothers and 78% of teachers are female

So?

So it's actually a lack of masculinity that's the problem



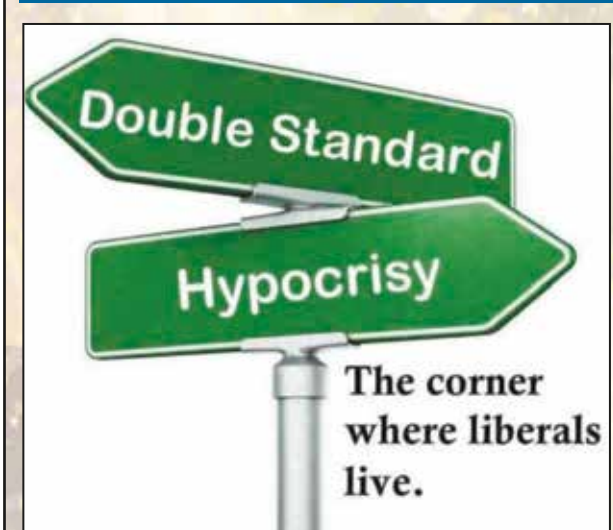
Ok, we fixed it so it won't scare anyone.



And don't 'assume' its identity. It's **NOT** an AR-15. It identifies as a wireless, handheld peacekeeping device.

The best thing about Trump's Tariff proposal?

It forces people on the left to admit taxes on Businesses are passed on to consumers.



The corner where liberals live.

MY NEW FAVORITE INSULT



YOU SOUND VACCINATED

YOU CANNOT TAX PEOPLE INTO POVERTY TO CHANGE THE WEATHER



Occasionally an assassination will change the course of human history

Things I trust more than the government #10342: Dollar Tree Lobster



Which holiday is more real?

Kwanzaa	6.8%
Juneteenth	4.8%
Toyotathon	88.4%

6,295 votes · Final results

Coca Cola and their 500 brands produce 200,000 single use plastic bottles per MINUTE.....



But THIS is the problem???



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PATRIOT ALERT!

You Need This: XM42 LITE
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Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem
Matthew 2:1 ESV

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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.

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Best and Worst of Colorado Politics

by Pam Long,
The Kim Monson Show

According to an Axios poll in January 2024, the most important issues to Colorado voters this year were the following: homelessness, housing costs, immigration, cost of living, taxes, crime, and the economy. This article will address the best and worst of Colorado policies on these issues. In prior years, I have focused this annual review on elected people responsible for the implementation of these policies, but this year I will focus on the actual policies which fail and succeed. My reasoning is threefold. First, Marxist ideology is running rampant in the Colorado capitol and Denver. The Democrat Super Majority in the Colorado General Assembly allows bills to pass with party line votes which are grounded in ideology and lacking any evidence demonstrating efficacy, cost-effectiveness, or long-term benefit to the public. Second, Colorado is spending \$40 billion a year without accountability. Colorado's legislators are spending billions of dollars annually within a quasi-democratic government that does not obtain consent of taxpayers, and that no longer subjects itself to open meeting laws as of 2024. Under the Polis Administration, new taxes have been added annually and are disingenuously called "fees" to circumvent TABOR. Third, a statewide redistribution of wealth agenda is now out in the open in the

Colorado legislative and executive branches. 99% of the 700 bills introduced annually in Colorado are not constituent-driven, but instead are special-interest-driven and focused on funding grants and giving tax breaks to very small groups and "green" agendas while making Colorado unaffordable for most people.

The Worst Immigration Response Plan

Denver officials demonstrated the outcomes of a "sanctuary city" which welcomes immigrants with a "humanitarian" promise of food, shelter, and transportation which could not be sustained by taxpayers. In 2023, 36,000 migrants were "welcomed" to Denver at a cost of \$36 million, or \$1M for every 1000 immigrants. Denver's 36,000 immigrants represented 5% of the Denver population of 700,000 residents, and the distinction of more immigrants per capita than any other major U.S. city. What were the outcomes of this program? Gas stations and other businesses were surrounded by camps, saw a 50% reduction in business and experienced problems with trash and loitering. In January 2024, Denver Mayor Mike Johnston announced his plan to tear down the problematic camps, lease hotels as shelters, and construct tiny homes or "micro-communities" for migrants, at a cost of \$45 million for 1000 migrants, or \$45,000 per migrant (while the state spends

\$9,500 per student in education). In 2024, Johnston decided to cut Denver services to fund \$15 million per month to house migrants and projected spending \$180 million in 2024 for migrants. Johnston announced that Denver residents should embrace a "shared sacrifice" for migrants, even though migrants do not pay taxes and cannot get work authorizations. Johnston cut \$5 million in Parks and Rec programs for youth and cut DMV services for taxpaying citizens. Denver's "newcomer budget" for migrants also cut the fire department by \$2.5 million, cut the police department by \$8.5 million, and cut the sheriff's office by \$3.8 million.

Denver area businesses, schools, and non-profits also paid the price for what some have described as "liberal lunacy." Denver Health reported \$135 million in uncompensated care for migrants in 2023, which is paid by Denver and Colorado taxpayers. UC Health reported \$580 million in uncompensated care to migrants and the uninsured in 2023, mostly from the hospital in Aurora, near Denver. Aurora non-profits served 325 migrant families a day at food pantries funded by non-profits for unknown food costs. Denver Public Schools reported an influx of 200-250 migrant students a month, and a shortfall of \$14 million in the beginning of 2024. By March of 2024, a Denver Friends Church closed its makeshift shelter because

the volunteers and resources were stretched too thin to provide a safe place for 200 immigrants. Denver police had responded to 955 calls to violence at migrant shelters. By April of 2024, the Denver Mayor's office directed migrants to leave Denver for New York or Chicago, finally with an admission of "suffering" of migrants in the sanctuary city program which was initially justified as "humanitarian." This entire sanctuary city program was unsustainable from the start, costing \$120 million for shelters, and contributed to the exodus of residents and businesses out of Denver. The "micro communities" and shelters were shut down out of necessity because of cost and crime.

The Best Immigration Response Plan

The surge of migrants crossing the U.S. southern border in 2022 did not initially travel to Denver. They were enticed by the "pull factor" of the Denver mayor and Denver city council which promised free shelter and onward transportation in a sanctuary city.

The elected representatives of Douglas County made a very public resolution to mitigate a "pull factor" for migrants in the area. They passed an ordinance which prohibited commercial buses from dropping

BEST & WORST
see page 17

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Custer County Bobcat Football Awards



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Defensive Player of the Year



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Trench Award/Lineman of the Year



Mason Simmons
Most Improved Player of the Year



Eli Flynn
All Conference Honorable Mention



Austin Scholl
2024 Bobcat of the Year,
*Award to the player with dedication to himself,
his team, his school, and his community*



Wyatt Grundy
Special Teams Player of the Year,
All Conference Honorable Mention, 2024 MVP

Pictured with each player *left*: Head Coach Clayton Stallones & *right*: Assistant Coach Mark Grundy; not pictured: Agi Thomas: 1st Team All Conference, Wide Receiver and Manager Alexis Grundy

Sentinel photos by Lea Grundy



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Colorado Democrats Targeted County Commissions in November, They Ended Up Losing Ground

by Sherrie Peif,
Complete Colorado Page Two

DENVER — The more high profile outcomes of the November election includes Republicans flipping enough seats in the Colorado House of Representatives to cancel ruling Democrats' supermajority. There was also Congressional District 8, where GOP candidates flipped both the U.S. House and state board of education seats to the red column. Perhaps equally significant, though lesser known, is the Democrats' targeted effort to flip county commissioner seats around the state, where after all the votes were counted, they actually ended up losing ground.

When the state party's "Colorado County Comeback" effort was launched early in the 2024 campaign season, Democrats said the project would "prioritize targeted investments into counties and candidates, comprehensive campaign planning, rigorous training, and robust staff support for dynamic campaigns led by both

incumbents and challengers."

"It's time to end the supermajority of far-right Republican commissioners in Colorado," the state party's website reads, noting that only 34 percent of county commissioners in Colorado are Democrats. "The next frontier of Colorado Politics is local. By focusing on local races, we'll cultivate grassroots success that can translate into significant victories at the congressional and statewide levels."

In July the party divvied up a total of \$30,000 to local Democrats in Alamosa, Chaffee, Douglas, El Paso, Garfield, Grand, Huerfano, Mesa, Ouray, Park, Pueblo, and Routt Counties.

It is unclear how many more grants and for how much were awarded, but what was clear is it didn't work.

DEMS TARGET COMMISSIONERS
see page 8

Obituary Lanny Walker

Lanny David (LD) Walker died peacefully in the hospital in Colorado Springs, CO, on December 13, 2024. He was a long-time resident of Westcliffe, CO.

LD was born in Houston, TX, to Lanham and Lorretta (Valentine) Walker on November 15, 1939. He was the second of three children and the only boy. He loved playing by the bayou as a boy and had wonderful stories about living there.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 54 years, Anne Walker and is survived by his children, Elizabeth (Robert) Scully of Salida, CO, Charles Greenhow of Azle, Texas, and Wayne (Jacque) Walker of Austin, TX; his sister, Jane (Jim) Kincaid; and his cousin, Georgia. He leaves behind several grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he loved with all his heart and was very proud of.

Besides his family, he loved motorcycles and flying airplanes. He was a Veteran, having served in the Army. He worked for the railroad all his life. He was a volunteer firefighter for over 12 years. He also served



as a Deputy Sheriff for Parker County in Texas for 20 years. He was a man of many talents.

The place he loved the best was Colorado. He loved looking at the mountains, especially when there was snow on them. Sunsets were his favorite time. He always shared pictures of them with his family.

FIRST EVER Bobcat Lady Wrestling



Congratulations to the Bobcat girls, who along with Weld Central girls won last weekend's tournament at the Kieth Kilker Invite!!! (Weld Central is also a first year program. Since they wrestled duals, there weren't individual placers).

Photo by Shannon Palmer



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Letters to the Editor

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Stay Vigilant

Editor,

Now that we have a new administration and group of legislators moving into Washington, it's time for conservatives and libertarians to hope for change. With the current national debt at +\$36 trillion and the noise about the new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), the question arises: "Are they really serious about making hard choices?"

If one is worried about the size of the federal government today, consider this: The Departments of Education, Commerce, and Energy collectively employ about 140,000 employees or contractors with a combined budget of about \$150 billion. Yet, they don't educate our youth, conduct commerce, or produce energy. Rather, these departments (and all the others) employ bureaucrats compensated to make rules to instruct us "little people" on how to do better (or become more compliant). We keep all these rules in the Federal Register which now has over 185,000 pages impacting every facet of our lives (and businesses.)

Perhaps we have finally reached a tipping point and the DOGE group (Elon Must, Vivek Ramaswamy, etc.) can accomplish something positive.

And, with so much free grant money available from government agencies taxing us, it seems gratifying on the local scene to pay only half of a \$100K woodchipper, or hire a "free" part-time employee, etc. For me, it seems a better idea would be to spend it on road maintenance and to quit scamming your hard-working and overly taxed constituents on finding more "free" money. Are we taxed so much that one branch of our government can give away our tax money to another branch of government? Obviously, the answer is YES.

In my old age, I have learned that it's incredibly easy to spend other people's money. In part, I've learned this from my amazing (and thrifty) grown children who appreciate me when I pick up the check, donate money to their causes, buy great stuff at Christmas, etc. But this is my choice just as it was my parent's

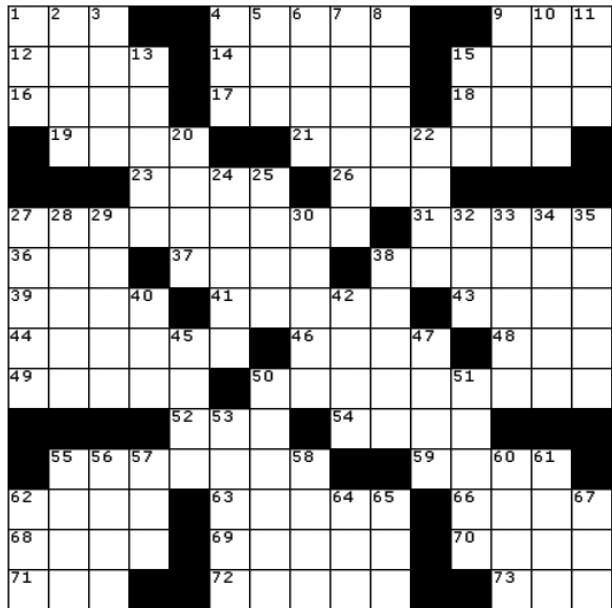
choice to help me. On the other hand, our elected officials and their bureaucrats produce a budget every year and never question where "their" budget money comes from. They do not produce the wealth they spend, nor do they even acknowledge where it comes from. Personally, I'm tired of political-speak about "investing" in infrastructure, green energy, EV mandates, woodchippers, etc. It's not an investment- it is an expense paid from our hard work and income being taxed. And, an expense rarely produces a positive ROI.

As new politicians get inaugurated locally or nationally, please join me in questioning everything our political caste is doing across all levels of government in 2025. And, be vigilant in reminding them that we are not your "subjects"; rather, we are watching you closely, and we want change.

Finally, may God continue to bless America and the Wet Mountain Valley!

Rick Meckstroth
Rural Custer County

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
- 1 American Cancer Society
 - 4 Rebound
 - 9 Kitten's cry
 - 12 Res. Officers Training Corps.
 - 14 Greek word for love
 - 15 Hook part
 - 16 Native ruler
 - 17 Christ's disciple
 - 18 Against
 - 19 Opera solo
 - 21 Fickle
 - 23 Replace a striker
 - 26 Sailor's yes
 - 27 Bethlehem visitors
 - 31 Sleeps
 - 36 Jinx
 - 37 Canal
 - 38 Brand of cold remedy
 - 39 Waterless
 - 41 Suggest
 - 43 Presentation

- 44 Courteous
 - 46 Sandwich fish
 - 48 Inclined
 - 49 Swelling
 - 50 Seasonal wish (with 8D)
 - 52 Manta
 - 54 Resound
 - 55 Squash
 - 59 Young Women's Christian Assoc.
 - 62 Drink quickly
 - 63 Urgent requests
 - 66 Women's magazine
 - 68 Survived the Great Flood
 - 69 Howdy
 - 70 Strong cord
 - 71 Turf
 - 72 Improvise a speech
 - 73 Man's best friend
- DOWN**
- 1 Exist
 - 2 Unconsciousness

- 3 Mix
 - 4 Head cover
 - 5 Stage of life
 - 6 Assess
 - 7 Musical productions
 - 8 See 50A
 - 9 Bethlehem visitors
 - 10 Little Mermaid's love
 - 11 West by north
 - 13 Brisk
 - 15 "Blind as a _"
 - 20 Throb
 - 22 Air (prefix)
 - 24 Eagle's nest
 - 25 Lip
 - 27 Carve
 - 28 Bethlehem bad guy
 - 29 Expatriate
 - 30 Deepness
 - 32 Discontinue
 - 33 Cook vegetables
 - 34 Florida City
 - 35 Scottish people
 - 38 Doubter
 - 40 Darken
 - 42 Draw
 - 45 Biblical weed
 - 47 Pallid
 - 50 Biked
 - 51 _ of Babel
 - 53 I am the _ and the Omega
 - 55 Scat!
 - 56 Courtyard
 - 57 Good grief!
 - 58 Place for the wicked
 - 60 Lump
 - 61 Dog food brand
 - 62 Central nervous system
 - 64 Boxer Muhammad
 - 65 Weep
 - 67 Electroencephalograph
- Puzzle Key on page 7**



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Tues – Sat 11 am-8 pm, Sun 12 pm-7 pm, closed Mon
630 Main Street, Silver Cliff

Tony's Steak & Tavern

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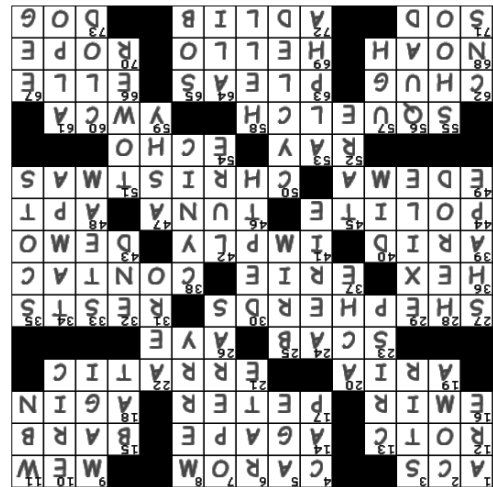
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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, December 30

#38 Corned Beef Sandwich
on Rye w /Swiss Cheese
Creamy Coleslaw
Banana
Roasted Unsalted Peanuts

Tuesday, December 31

#6 Baked Potato
Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce
Tossed Salad w/Lite French
Peaches, Fruit Cocktail
Drop Biscuit w/Butter

Thursday, January 2

#47 Scalloped Potatoes w/ Ham
Spinach Salad w/Mandarin Oranges
Hard Boiled Egg
Sliced Peaches
WW Roll 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



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.



DEMS TARGET COMMISSIONERS from page 4

Democrats did manage to increase an existing majority in one county (Chaffee), while Republicans solidified control of Huerfano County by knocking off a Democrat incumbent, and actually flipped Pueblo County—formerly a Democrat stronghold—to a GOP majority.

Here is the breakdown of what the Democrats gained/lost in 2024 at the county level where they openly targeted seats:

Alamosa County —

- Incumbent Republican Vern Heersink ran unopposed and incumbent Lorie Laske won her race by over 20 percent.

- Pre-election: 3-0 Republican majority
- Post-election: 3-0 Republican majority

Chaffee County —

- Democrat candidates Dave Armstrong and Gina Lucrezi, won the two open commission seats, one of which (District 2) was previously held by Greg Felt, who is unaffiliated, moving the balance of power to a 3-0 Democrat majority.

- Pre-election: 2 Democrats, 1 unaffiliated.
- Post-election: 3-0 Democrat majority

Douglas County —

- Incumbent George Teal handily won reelection in District 2, while former state Rep. Kevin Van Winkle easily won the open District 1 seat by nearly 58 percent.

- Pre-election: 3-0 Republican
- Post-election: 3-0 Republican

El Paso —

- Incumbent Carrie Geitner won

reelection, while Republicans Bill Wysong and Cory Applegate won two open seats.

- Pre-election: 5-0 Republican
- Post-election: 5-0 Republican

Garfield County —

- Republican incumbent Mike Samson won reelection, while former State Senator Perry Will won the open District 2 seat by seven percent.

- Pre-election: 3-0 Republican
- Post-election: 3-0 Republican

Grand County —

- Incumbent Republican Merritt Linke won reelection, while Republican Ed Raegner won the open District 1 seat by nearly 15 percent.

- Pre-election: 3-0 Republican
- Post-election: 3-0 Republican

Huerfano County —

- Incumbent Republican Mitchell Wardell won reelection, while Democrat incumbent Arica Andreatta narrowly lost her District 2 seat to Republican challenger Jim Chamberlain.

- Pre-election: 2-1 Republican
- Post-election: 3-0 Republican

Mesa County —

- Incumbent Republican Cody Davis cruised to reelection by over 20 points, while Republican JJ Fletcher ran unopposed for the open District 3 seat.

- Pre-election 3-0 Republican
- Post-election 3-0 Republican.

Ouray County —

- Incumbent Democrats Lynn Padgett and Jake Niece both won reelection (with Niece running unopposed). Sitting Commissioner Michelle Nauer is unaffiliated, leaving the makeup of the commission unchanged.

- Pre-election: 2 Democrats, 1 unaffiliated.
- Post-election: 2 Democrats, 1 unaffiliated

Park County —

- Incumbent Republican Amy Mitchell easily won reelection, while Republican Jason Gemmer won the open District 2 seat by nearly 16 percent.

- Pre-election: 3-0 Republican majority
- Post-election: 3-0 Republican majority

Pueblo —

- Incumbent Democrat Daneya Esgar lost her reelection bid to Republican Paul McPheeters, while Democrat Miles Lucero edged out his Republican opponent 42-40 in the District 1 race (with sitting commissioner Epimenio “Eppie” Griego grabbing just under 18 percent of the vote, running as an unaffiliated. Griego won his seat first in 2021 as Democrat before unaffiliating), flipping the commission to a 2-1 GOP majority.

- Pre-election: 2-1 Democrat
- Post-election: 2-1 Republican

Routt County —

- Incumbent Democrat Tim Redmond was reelected and Democrat Angelica Salinas easily won an open District 1 seat.

- Pre-election 3-0 Democrat
- Post-election 3-0 Democrat

A request for comment from *Complete Colorado* to Democrat Party Chairman Shad Murib was not answered.

(Editor/GG: Apparently no money sent to our couple of shaky candidates for commissioner here in Happy Valley. I wonder why.....)

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2024/12/12/colorado-democrats-county-commissions-lost-ground/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.

I Thessalonians 5: 23 - 24 KJV



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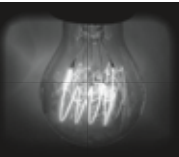
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Classifieds

Announcements

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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.tedkl2.com/hire/index.aspx> or South Central BOCES - Westcliffe openings for more information and to apply.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
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(719) 783-2462 westcliffepost170.org

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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.

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Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophecies,
but test everything; hold fast what is good.
I Thessalonians 5: 19-21 ESV



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Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday, December 20:

HS Boys Basketball @ La Veta Tournament:
vs Sangre de Cristo: 59-37 Win!

HS Girls Basketball @ La Veta Tournament:
vs Sangre de Cristo: 49-28 Win!

HS Boys Wrestling @ 10th Annual Kieth Kilker Invite:
Jason Hemsath & Corbyn Martin finished 7-1!

HS Girls Wrestling @ 10th Annual Kieth Kilker Invite:
in conjunction with Weld Central won the tournament!

Saturday, December 21:

HS Boys Basketball @ La Veta Tournament
vs La Veta: 64-24 Win!

HS Girls Basketball @ La Veta Tournament:
vs La Veta: 23-58 lose

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Saturday, January 4:

7 am (weigh in) / 9 am (start) HS Boys Wrestling @ Bennett Invite

TBD HS Girls Wrestling @ Bennett Invite

Thursday, January 9:

5 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Sanford (away)

6 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Sanford (away)

7:30 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Sanford (away)

Huge SHOUT OUT to all the Winter Bobcat Coaches!

Men's Wrestling:
Head Coach Caleb Van Deusen
Assistant Coach Shannon Palmer

Women's Wrestling:
Head Coach Terri Crispe
Assistant Coach Caleb Van Deusen

Men's Basketball:
Head Coach Eddie Crispe
Assistant Coach Kobe Lewsader

Women's Basketball:
Head Coach Dave Downing
Assistant Coach Joy Parrish

Thank you for all you do!

Wet Mountain Hermits 4-H Club



The Spirit of Christmas is a time to give, share, and be generous. It's about putting others first, and finding joy in helping those in need.

With that in mind, a few of our club members shopped today for local Meals On Wheels recipients then wrapped the gifts and made cards.

This is the not only the Spirit of Christmas but also the Spirit of 4-H! Making the best better and serving our community.

From Wet Mountain Hermits 4-H facebook page

KIDS

December 27, 2024

Are You Ready?

We recently celebrated Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior. We exchanged gifts and did our usual traditional Christmas celebrations. We watched the Christmas parades, wrapped and exchanged gifts. We sang the traditional Christmas Carols and some of us packed our bags and gifts and traveled to see our families who may live in other areas. We baked cookies and breads and cooked hams and turkeys. We cleaned and prepared our homes for the Christmas visitors we were expecting. We put up the Christmas tree and nativity scene but have we prepared ourselves for the most important visitor of all? The One whom we are celebrating. Are we ready to accept Him into our homes and our world? All year long we are busy working, raising children, maybe helping with grandchildren, making our house a home. Have we made room and time for Him in our lives.

Did you ever wonder about Mary and Joseph? How must they have felt knowing that they were expecting a very special visitor. They had to take a long hard trip to Bethlehem, Mary very much with child riding on a donkey. Arriving there and finding no lodging available for her to give birth. The inn keeper directed them to an empty stable. There in the cold night with the animals and the hay is where our Savior made his entrance into our world. Mary wrapped the babe in swaddling clothes as we wrap our gifts in fancy paper and ribbons. The Jews were waiting for their Messiah but because He came as a babe born to a virgin and not as the mighty warrior they expected, they weren't ready for Him.

Today, we wait for the Second coming of Jesus. Why, because in His Word God promised He would come again. In Matthew 24:36 He said, "But of that day and hour no one knows," So we watch for the signs we were given in His word. Are you ready to meet your maker if He comes tonight or tomorrow? In the picture of Jesus knocking on the door, notice there is no doorknob on His side. He is a gentleman and will not force His way in. He is waiting for us to invite Him in. Are you ready?

by Audrey Slater

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Custer County Bobcat Volleyball Awards



SENIOR SHOUT OUT: Not only was Senior, Reagan Hatfield nominated for CHSAA All-State Honorable Mention and played in All-State Game on November 24th, but she was voted as the West Central League MVP for HS Volleyball! Congratulations Reagan!



Seniors:

- Lily Bomgardner:** League 1st Team All-Conference, 1,269 career digs
- Quincy Downing:** League Honorable Mention

-**Reagan Hatfield:** League MVP, CHSAA All-State Honorable Mention and ranked 8th with 72 serving aces in Class 2A, CCGS All-State Participant (Volleyball), CCGS - Colorado Coaches for Girls Sports

Juniors:

- Brylee Shy:** League 1st Team All-Conference
- Cadence Weeks:** League 1st Team, All-Conference



Top: Reagan Hatfield by JH Exposures, Team Photo. Left to Right: Cadence Weeks, Brylee Shy, Lily Bomgardner, Quincy Downing. Photos courtesy of Jen Russ Photography.



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Memes for the New Year

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yahoo! answers

🔍

Is the daisy powerline 880 good for squirrels?

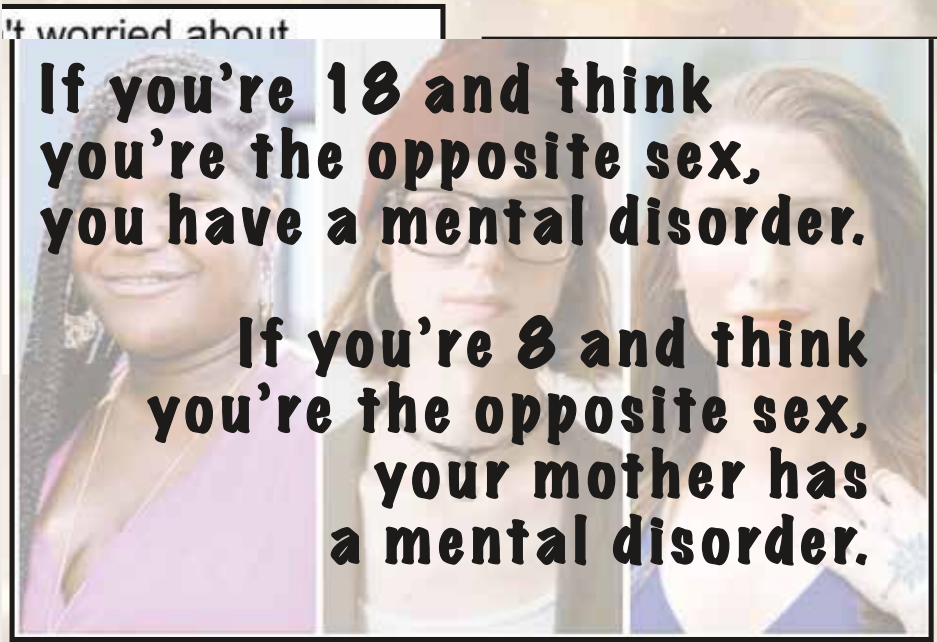
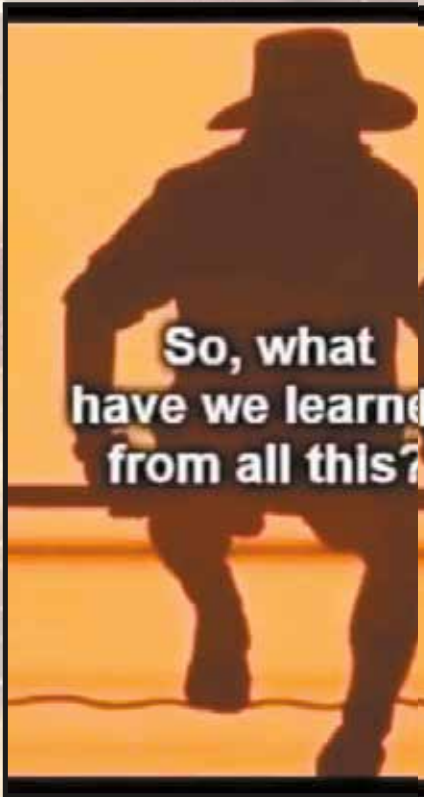


2 answers • Hunting

No, it is too long to hide in their nest and the trigger is too far forward for their paws to be able to hold and fire at the same time.

Most of the squirrels in my hood just carry a small handgun, like a Glock 26 or 27.

Hope this helps.



New Year. Happy 2025!

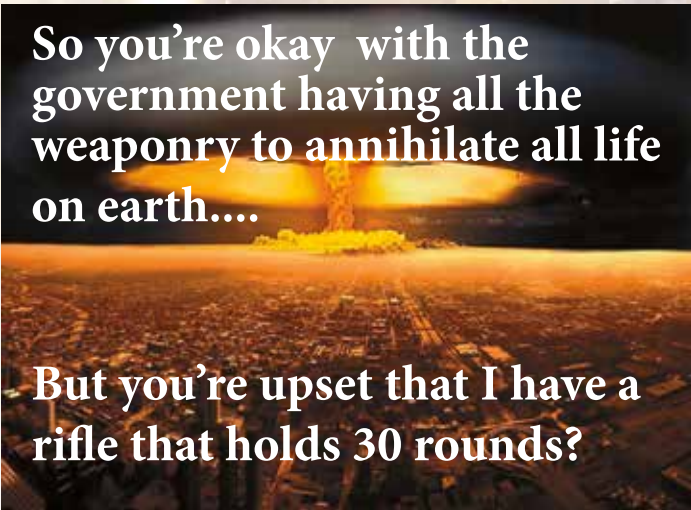
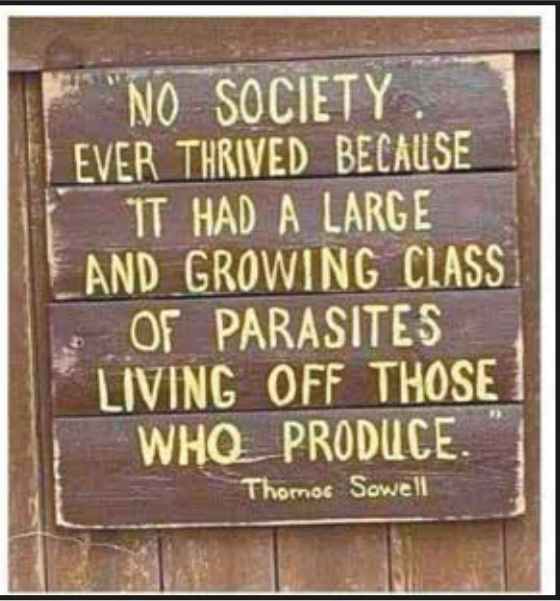


Kids these days are soft.

I'm pretty sure I died once when I was 7 and my mother made me walk it off.

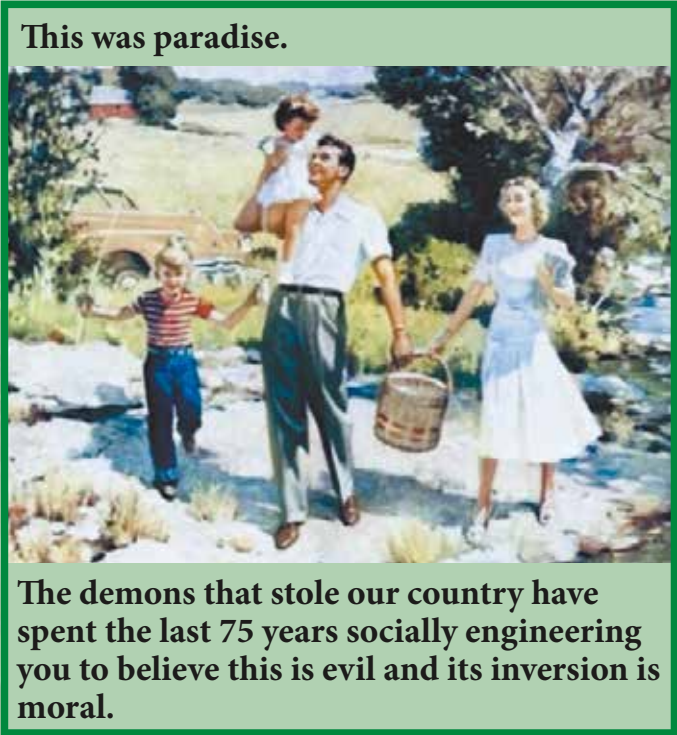
They weren't worried about specific types of guns.

They were worried about specific types of government.



A man reaches a certain age where he doesn't want any drama. He doesn't want to fight with anyone, and if forced to, he will not fight fair. He will not quit and there are no weapons he will not use.

It is best to leave him alone with his coffee, bourbon and cigars. Don't poke the old men. They will hurt you.



BOCC: Special District Tax Levies Approved, IT Meets with “the Feds”, BOCC Meetings at All Aboard Westcliffe in 2025

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The Custer County Board of County Commissioners’ (BOCC) December 19, 2024 regular meeting was held at their regal throne room (the “Annex”) across from the court house. The meeting started at around 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day. No real important Commissioner Items.

In Elected Official Reports, most were written and silently read by the commissioners while the public waited. Once and a while a commissioner would make a comment on them. Epp said they are now being stored on the county’s website so us peasants can see what is going on. *(It would be nice, for the peasants attending the meeting, and those viewing, that when the Commish are silently reading, that at least the highlights be mentioned so the audience wouldn’t be in total darkness on their content.)*

The Sheriff’s Office (SO) report was written. It was noted that the SO is under budget for the year and also under budget for the Fremont County Jail housing costs.

The Coroner’s Office had a brief presentation noting that the county’s death toll is around what is was last year and that the Office is under budget.

Department Reports

Human Resources Director, Bob Smith, gave the report. Smith said there are currently 12 county job vacancies (including the Finance Director). He said he is working on county policies and procedures and has completed a rough draft that the commissioners have. Smith wants a meeting next year to review those. Smith also noted that he is working on a county pay classification scale.

Dominic Edginton, our Veterans Service Office (VSO) Director delivered that Office’s report. Last month he had 45 scheduled visits and 23 walk-ins. He said that the county’s veterans are getting around \$145k compensation per month and since he has taken over, about \$1.6 million has come into the county from the VA.

The Information and Technology Director, Vernon Roth, gave that department’s report. Vernon said he hired a new sidekick, John Mapes, (ex Navy) and he is doing good. Vernon stated that he had a meeting with “the feds” about cyber security and “it was very interesting”. He said that there might be some training stuff coming down the pike with them.

The county’s accounting consultant, Lisa Hammon, from Redland’s Accounting gave the Finance report. She has been working on reviewing the 2025

budget with Vernon, bank reconciliation, and with the Treasurer’s office. She also has been continuing to work on the credit card problems from 2022 to 2024. *(That credit card roll out was a total disaster. No planning and no reporting guidelines on expenses. Thank goodness, the person who orchestrated that is bye bye.)* She said she only has access to the 2022 to 2024 credit card data. Going further back will be a lot more time-consuming.

Epp spoke up saying Hemann putting together a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a new county auditor as the county will be changing auditors in 2025. (YEARS too late....) Epp then brought up the search for a new Finance Director and labeled the current situation as “looking for a unicorn”. This brought on the usual suite of lamenations from the commissioners, Hemann and Smith about how hard it is trying to find a decent Finance Director for the paltry salary they are offering. Canda brought forth an idea about splitting a Finance Director with another local county (maybe the combined money from two counties would be enough).

Department of Human Services, Road & Bridge, Airport, Planning & Zoning (“business is down”, down \$184k from last year. “Will affect our budget for sure”),

Recycling, and EOM were submitted, written reports.

Awarding the county’s trash contract for 2025 was next. P Bar O and Oak Disposal submitted bids. P Bar O got the contract.

Epp then brought up the lease agreement with All Aboard Westcliffe re the commissioners using their meeting room next year for their BOCC meetings. It will cost the county around \$5k per year to rent the place. The meetings will be held on Thursdays next year.

Next was the inter-governmental agreement (IGA) proposed for the West Custer County Hospital District with regards to them using our Human Resource Director, Bob Smith, for a few hours each month. The basic deal was that Smith would do five hours for free and then bill them for anything over that. This started a HUGE discussion on the scope of the deal, total hours, who would be involved, whether this is hurting the county. On and on...After a ton of blathering, the commissioners agreed to the deal.

Resolution 24-27, a Vehicles and Associated Equipment Supplemental Budget Appropriation for the Sheriff’s Office was the next item. This would move \$14.9k from the defunct “Inmate Fund” to the SO’s capital improvement fund. This would be for purchas-

ing the local used Jeep that was discussed last week. That passed.

Resolution 24-28 for \$51,185 for the Sheriff’s Office to buy school security equipment and some training for the School Resource Officer was approved.

A Resolution (24-29) was then approved for the Landfill for \$19,765 to build a fence around the new trenches to catch the flying garbage.

The next Agenda Item was a big one: Approving all the special tax districts in the county (except for the county’s property tax mill levy that was passed recently). There are about 11 of these districts including the West Custer Hospital District, Wet Mountain Fire, Round Mountain Water, the two towns, etc. Most of the levies were adjusted down to compensate for the enormous property valuations from last year. The total tax take squeezed out of us serfs for these districts will be \$2,716,044. (The Hospital District is getting \$1,179,513 and the school is getting \$4,716,795.) Vernon Roth, who prepared the report, said the total tax grab by the county and all the other tax districts is \$10,112,473. (This is the 2024 taxes to be collected for the 2025 budget.) Vernon noted that the county’s total property valuation is around \$25 million.

And that was that.
To be continued.....



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Colorado State News



Suspected Venezuelan Gang Members Arrested in Aurora

by Derek Draplin,
The Center Square

—December 18, 2024

Aurora police arrested several suspected gang members on Tuesday after an alleged home invasion and kidnapping at an apartment complex that's become notorious for gang crime.

A male and female resident of The Edge at Lowry Apartments were attacked by 13 to 15 individuals, taken to another apartment against their will, and beaten, Aurora Police Chief Todd Chamberlain said at a news conference Tuesday. The victims were let go and later contacted police.

Chamberlain said he could "guarantee" the attack was gang related "without question," but stopped short of confirming the gang was Tren de Aragua, the Venezuelan gang that's established itself in several cities across the U.S.

"There is a high assumption that they may be affiliated or affiliated with the TdA gang," Chamberlain said. "But again, I am not going to say 100% positively till that is validated and verified."

As of Tuesday evening [December 17], 19 suspects have been arrested in connection to the incident. The department has not yet confirmed gang affiliations as of early Wednesday afternoon, a spokesman told The Center Square.

Chamberlain said his department is working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Investigations and ICE to help identify the individuals taken into custody.

Chamberlain praised the victims, who are also Venezuelan immigrants, for their courage to come forward and report the attack.

"All the individuals involved in this are



Aurora PD YouTube page

most likely Venezuelan," Chamberlain said. "Most of them are without question, or most likely, we believe at this point, undocumented or immigrants to the city of Aurora."

"These individuals, like many gangs, and many individuals involved in this type of activity, they victimize their own race and their own ethnicity, and the reason they do that is because they are easy victims because they know because of their [immigration] status they will not come forward to the police," he said. "They know that they can mistreat them."

Tom Homan, who's tapped to be the Trump administration's border czar, on Tuesday told Fox News that Aurora police should hand over the suspects to ICE.

"Let's hope [Chamberlain] walks the walk and hands these people to ICE when he's done with them, because we can remove them not only from the community but from the country," Homan told Fox News. "And if law enforcement officers don't help us do that, we're certainly going to do that starting January 21st."

The Edge at Lowry Apartments drew national headlines over the summer after video showed armed individuals entering an apartment in the complex.

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_19305476-bd83-11ef-8178-27257c9b9b20.html

Brutal Home Invasion by 16 Venezuelans in Aurora. Now can we blame open borders?

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

—December 18, 2024

For those keeping score, 16 migrant gang members this week invaded one of those Aurora apartments and tortured and robbed a couple, but 9News will soon let us know that does not mean the complex or city has been "taken over" by Tren de Aragua.

9News could barely even mention the nationality of the brutal intruders or the fact their victims were also Venezuelan, most of them undocumented, admits leading liberal newspaper Denver Post.

It's a horrendous crime and the victims were held captive for five hours, then acted bravely in reporting it to police so the culprits could be rounded up for questioning.

The male and female victims were beaten, pistol whipped, and one stabbed by the home invaders at the troubled Edge at Lowry apartment complex.

From the Denver Post:

The late-night home invasion was "100% gang activity," Chamberlain said. "There is a high assumption" the suspects are affiliated with the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, which has been known to operate at Edge of Lowry, but that hasn't been confirmed, he said.

"This complex is an incredibly problematic complex," Chamberlain said. "It is an incredibly crime-riddled complex."

Stand by for a stern lecture from Kyle Clark that "crime-riddled complex" does not mean it's been "taken over" by Tren de Aragua.

Cbz Management
(@CbzManagement)

No matter how anyone tries to spin it, the truth is the truth and the truth will come out.

These gangs have been allowed to take over our apartment buildings and terrorize innocent people.

We hope the message is learned so it doesn't spread any more! pic.twitter.com/OdvqKSpHaz

— December 17, 2024

Clark and Gov. Polis are especially sensitive to the Democrats' open border brand being tarnished by violent crimes committed by violent migrants and gang members going unchecked through (checks notes) Democrats' open borders.

Stay finely tuned for developing news, like whether the suspects have been arrested and confirmed gang affiliation.

Because as soon as its day-old news, the usual media suspects will begin downplaying the connection to migrants, and thus the open border policy, to the viciousness of crimes like these occurring in other Colorado cities and nationwide.

The guilty culprits behind this attack should be at the top of Trump's list for deportation, and we urge the Aurora Police to assist them out the doors.

Nick Sortor (@nicksortor)

- JUST IN: The Aurora, Colorado Police Chief is BLASTING the Biden administration for allowing illegal gangs to pour across the border

Chief Chamberlain says he spoke with someone at the White House, who told him "once these immigrants get across the border, that's all we care... pic.twitter.com/qlm2E4rfNS

— December 17, 2024

Please see; <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2024/12/18/brutal-home-invasion-by-14-venezuelans-in-aurora-now-can-we-blame-open-borders/>

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Colorado State News

Course Correction Needed for Colorado's Economic Outlook

by Nash Herman, Complete Colorado Page Two

The University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business recently released their 60th annual Business Outlook for 2025, and, despite a moderate outlook in 2025, the report includes some disturbing trends in the Colorado economy. Let's take a look at some of what's going wrong.

Troubling trends

As pointed out by Denver Post business writer Aldo Svaldi, Colorado was the fifth fastest growing economy in the country in the last 15 years, but was 41st this year.

In terms of personal income growth, Colorado moved from third to 39th.

Although Colorado only moved down from sixth to 15th for employment growth, it comes with the caveat that the job gains this year were skewed toward government, education and healthcare, and leisure and hospitality.

Conversely, the growth of the high-paying professional and business services industry has continued a downward trend since 2022.

Fueled by slowing migration to Colorado and an aging population, Colorado's labor force

growth ranking also moved from sixth to 29th.

Taxes, spending and regulation

Obviously, some of the problems with Colorado's economy are externally caused, like the lingering effects of the pandemic and subsequent inflation from federal spending.

However, I think there is still more to be said as to why Colorado's economy seems to be stuttering now.

Colorado's shift toward bigger government and away from the free market is why these problems are beginning to manifest. Over-regulation, over-spending, and over-taxation are the key culprits. To Coloradans who have witnessed the economy's decline, the most noticeable difference between today and twenty years ago is that the state now more closely resembles California more than the entrepreneurial Colorado of old.

As of 2023, Colorado was the 12th most heavily regulated state in the country with 165,994 regulatory restrictions according to the Mercatus Center.

Even more recently, the Colorado Chamber of Commerce ranked Colorado as the sixth most regulated state in the nation, with nearly half of its roughly 200,000

regulations being "excessive or duplicative".

Unfortunately, most who turn to government to regulate businesses often do so hoping to restrict big corporations from exploiting workers and the environment.

What really happens is that increased regulations raise the barrier to entry for small businesses and consolidate more of the market share for big corporations.

In other words, heavy government regulation actually entrenches monopolies and hurts small business, which make up 99.5 percent of Colorado businesses and 47.3 percent of employees.

Aside from increasing regulations, the state government is dealing with a self-inflicted budget crisis that drags down the economy.

Those who favor bigger government over the market consistently blame the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) for harming government's ability to offer services and grow the economy.

Actually, TABOR allows the government to reasonably grow along with inflation and population growth.

The real cause of the budget crisis is overspending.

Colorado received a windfall from the federal government during the COVID pandemic.

By creating new programs and tax loopholes with COVID funds, the state legislature now "needs" more money to continue propping up the new spending obligations.

Turning the ship

Despite the worrying trends of Colorado's economy, the solutions are as simple as state government basically doing the opposite of what it is doing currently.

Deregulation frees individuals and small businesses to keep more of their money and take risks, and lowers the cost of living and doing business.

Simplifying the tax code, ideally by removing tax breaks and lowering or removing the income tax would again help individuals and small businesses in terms of both affordability and freedom, crucial ingredients for a growing economy.

In Jared Polis' six years as governor, the Colorado legislature passed or significantly altered over 200 tax breaks for special interests.

Instead, the government could remove tax breaks and use that

additional revenue to "buy down" the income tax rate for everyone – all without affecting the state budget.

In fact, lowering or removing the income tax would disproportionately help lower-income earners, as they need less money back in their pockets than higher earners to considerably improve affordability.

The combination of less regulation, responsible spending, and lower taxes could immediately produce more entrepreneurship and thrift, as well as a stronger economic forecast in future Leeds business outlooks.

Nash Herman is a fiscal policy analyst at the *Independence Institute*, a free market think tank in Denver.

(Editor/GG: The democrats have virtually destroyed our state. Monumental state government expansion over the last 20 years. Monster tax/fee increases. Insane regulations. DEI hiring the least qualified people. On and on. When are the working people going to wake up?)

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2024/12/20/herman-course-correction-needed-for-colorados-economic-outlook/>



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BEST & WORST
from page 2

off passengers at unscheduled locations, with a \$1000 fine per violation. With limited resources, the county commissioners expressed an obligation to serve their citizens first and noted the inhumane lure of bringing migrants to a cold climate without proper resources. The county commissioners voted in support of legal immigration channels, despite two Colorado laws passed under Governor Polis (**HB19-1124, HB23-1100**) which prohibit local governments from collaborating with federal agents to enforce legal immigration and detention of illegal entries. Castle Rock, one of the main cities in Douglas County, has the sixth lowest crime rate in Colorado and did not experience the financial strain on resources like Denver which treated its taxpayers like second class citizens to prioritize migrants..

The Worst Homelessness Policy

Prior to the surge of 40,000 migrants in 2024, Denver reported 9,000 homeless people in 2023. Denver created a “Denver Basic Income Project” to give cash to homeless people. The program has no requirements or restrictions on how people spend the money. This program gave out \$6.5 million to 800 people, with payments ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 per month. The mid-project report of a 12-month study indicates only a 30% increase in people living in homes. How many of these people returned to homelessness after the program? This program does not mitigate mental health or addictions which interfere with employment.

A *Denver Gazette* report compared the Denver homeless strategy to all other large U.S cities. The Denver homeless crisis cost taxpayers \$274 million from 2021-2024. Other large U.S. cities have had better success with a focus on permanent housing, rather than emergency shelters and temporary transition services which perpetuate home-lessness. In the past five years, the number of people entering homeless services increased 179% in Denver, while most other large U.S. cities have had declines. Only two out of 10 people exiting homeless programs in Denver find permanent housing. Denver has one of the lowest successful exit rates out of homeless services compared to the other largest U.S. cities as reported in a data-based report the *Denver Gazette*, “There are two or three large non-profits who are receiving the lion’s share of tax dollars to operate programs which are, in essence, not solving the problem.”

The Best Homelessness Policies

In ancient times, debtors worked for seven years under a master’s provision for food and shelter until they could pay off a debt. In colonial times, indentured servants learned a trade while living in a dormitory setting until they could support their own independence. These options were regarded as compassionate and responsible. Modern psychology agrees that fostering “resilience” requires purposeful work in society.

The *Denver Gazette* reported, “The whole argument has been that our cities are spending so much money on the front end, providing emergency rooms, jail, and detox services to people, that if you would just house them and provide them with mental health and substance abuse services and stabilize them, you would spend a lot less money than you would by using some of the most expensive units of service that cities have available to them,” Van Leeuwen said.

A faith-based program at Denver Rescue Mission Harvest Farm allows men to live in a peer house if they work on the farm and remain sober. Programs like these, which provide long-term housing, foster

resilience by giving people skills which lead to employment and by recovering people to sobriety which leads to stability.

Aurora passed a “tough love” program in June of 2024 for addressing challenges of homeless people called HEART: Housing, Employment, Addiction, Recovery, Teamwork. This program puts low level offenders (panhandling and stealing) on probation until they complete the court-ordered program and then charges are dropped. During the program, homeless people are connected to resources for shelter and other needs. Time will tell if the Aurora program of accountability is better than Denver’s program of handouts.

The Worst Crime Policy

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Colorado became the third most dangerous state in the nation as of 2024.

Ignoring crime is the worst deterrent to crime. As the *New York Post* reported “Colorado Gov. Jared Polis dismissed anger over Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua taking over apartment buildings in the Denver suburb of Aurora, calling it ‘imagination’ — despite video footage, police reports, and the city’s mayor confirming it’s happening.” Aurora Mayor Coffman said, “the buildings were used as taxpayer-funded migrant housing, which is what gave the gangs a foothold.” In response to Aurora City Council members reporting shootouts and brutal beatings, Polis’ spokesperson responded to the *New York Post*, “the governor really hopes that the city council members in charge stop trashing their own city when they are supposed to keep it safe.” This is what some call “governor gaslighting.”

The Best Crime Policy

Car theft is down in 2024 in Colorado, likely because SB23-097 made all car theft a felony. In 2022, a total of 41,656 vehicles were stolen, the highest year for auto theft per capita in Colorado. In June of 2023 with SB-97, a total of 32,976 cars were stolen, a 20% decrease from 2022. Colorado’s 2024 data projects a 45% decrease in car theft from 2022.

Kia and Hyundai are among the top ten most stolen cars in Colorado due to lack of anti-theft features. Many older Kia and Hyundai models were not equipped with electronic immobilizers, which prevent the engine from starting without the correct key.

Violent crimes are also decreasing in Colorado. Research indicates that prosecution of crimes in lower offenses reduce crimes in higher offenses.

The Worst Tax Policy

Colorado has seven legislators who are members of the Democratic Socialists of America. Their ideology opposes penalties for criminals (the oppressed), and their ideology enacts penances for the alleged oppressors (business owners, property owners, and producers of goods and services.) Redistribution of wealth is evident with the assault on property owners to fund social welfare programs while circumventing the consent of taxpayers.

In 2024, the property tax wars in Colorado resulted in a second taxpayer-funded special session, to address Coloradan’s average increase of 25% in property taxes. The 2024 legislative session failed again to bring significant relief to property taxes which are making Colorado homes unaffordable. As reported by CPR,

“House Bill 1001 permanently reduces property tax rates for homeowners by about two percent. That’s a savings of about \$50 for a \$500,000 home in an area with average tax burden. It will have a greater impact on some non-residential owners, reducing their tax burden by about seven percent in the near term, and more in

later years. That’s about \$800 for a typical \$1 million property.”

Homeowners in Colorado are not relieved over a \$50 savings when they are paying \$3,050 in property taxes for a \$600,000 home.

The Best Tax Policy

Local governments which decided to make tax cuts during this time protected homeowners from being taxed out of their homes. Douglas County Commissioners approved tax relief checks averaging \$190. The owners of businesses and homes will migrate to counties which protect them from excessive taxation.

Worst Affordable Housing Plan

The average price of a Denver area home is \$595,000. As reported by CPR, the Progressives’ solution to more affordable housing involves building high density housing near public transport, authorizing “accessory dwelling units” (tiny houses), eliminating parking space requirements (to coerce public transport use), removing occupancy limits, and enacting anti-eviction laws among other dystopian ideas along with government land grabs.

Best Affordable Housing Plan

As reported by The Common Sense Institute Colorado, in *“Unlocking Housing Affordability in Denver: ”*

“Reevaluate Expanding Housing Affordability: In light of the significant decline in housing permits following the implementation of Denver’s EHA ordinance, a comprehensive review of the ordinance is warranted. While the intent of the EHA is to facilitate the development of affordable housing, the evidence suggests it may inadvertently be hindering Denver’s capacity to meet housing demands, counterproductively restricting supply. Denver leaders should consider eliminating or adjusting EHA to facilitate rather than hinder housing development, potentially by modifying fee structures or offering more flexible compliance options.

Significantly Increase Zoned Capacity: Denver currently lacks the zoned capacity necessary to foster a regulatory environment that supports the most affordable housing types and supply. To address this, it is essential that Denver increases the percentage of land zoned for multifamily developments. Additionally, there must be a significant reduction in barriers to the construction of duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes, often referred to as the “missing middle” or “light touch density” especially in areas currently zoned exclusively for single-family homes.

Radically Accelerate Permit Processes: The efficiency of Denver’s permitting process is paramount to keeping pace with the urgent needs of Denver’s housing market. Inspired by the successful fast-track permitting initiatives in San Diego and Los Angeles, Denver should adopt similar measures to streamline and expedite its permitting processes to include market rate housing. This approach will reduce developmental costs and timelines, allowing for greater financial feasibility of projects during this high cost of capital market environment. This will thereby encourage more developers, across all housing types, be they affordable, middle and market rate to invest in Denver, creating greater supply on an annual basis.”

Worst Cost-of-Living Policy

Coloradoans are also paying taxes disingenuously called enterprise “fees” at every transaction: bags at the grocery store, Amazon purchases, food delivery services, and ride shares. In the 2024 legislative session, Democrats introduced an outrageous bill for a pet ownership fee, to include fish and insects. Other bills aimed to impose fees on phones, alcohol,

tires, rental cars, and moving trucks. Every area of life is taxable under the current Colorado government, with the use of “fees” to avoid taxpayer approval required by TABOR.

As a result, a Colorado Polling Institute reported in a survey on cost of living (March 2024) that 61% of voters said they have considered moving or recently moved due to financial considerations, and 53% of voters said they were worse off than four years ago.

Best Cost-of-Living Policy

By Constitutional amendment, fees should be defined as a tax, and need voter approval per TABOR.

Worst Economic Policy

The current legislative body and governor have a disdain for the three main industries of Colorado: agriculture, oil and gas, and tourism. Colorado has recently released wolves onto public lands to kill cattle, and then after backlash, legislators offered a bill to ranchers for non-lethal mitigation measures. The legislature also introduced a bill to ban oil and gas drilling, while the Governor has goals to force electric-only policies on the public by 2030. The legislature also introduced a bill to decimate the mountain tourism industry with a 400% increased tax rate on rental properties. These bills did not pass this session, but the goals are clear.

The leadership of Colorado is killing the economy. The Colorado Chamber of Commerce issued a report that that found that Colorado is the 6th most regulated state in the country, and the excessive regulations on industries are crushing the state’s economy. Fewer people want to move to Colorado. As reported by KDVR, in 2013, 1 in 12 people who were moving to a new state were moving to Colorado. In 2023, that changed to 1 in every 120 people. Business incentives are not working as reported in *The Colorado Sun*, “Colorado offered \$1.45 billion in incentives to attract new business. About 5% was claimed.”

Best Economic Policy

The best economic policy is to pressure Colorado leadership to support the industries which have demonstrated success in Colorado. In 2024, the National Western Stock Show brought 671,467 visitors to Denver and sold \$1,374,000 worth of livestock. In 2023, the Stock Show generated a \$171 million impact on the state’s economy. This is indicative of the thriving agriculture and cattle industry which are not valued under the current administration. Colorado’s parks bring in \$7 billion each year, and yet the Denver Airport does not feature any park information for tourists. The oil and gas industry has over 300,000 jobs in Colorado and provides significant funding for schools through taxes, in addition to heating 7 out of 10 homes with natural gas, and yet it took 200 people to testify against a bill that would ban oil and gas drilling in Colorado in 2030 to defeat it.

Conclusion

My hope is that liberal, independent, and conservative voters will engage like never before at the Colorado capitol in the new session in January 2025. Furthermore, I will make the dire prediction that if there is not unprecedented citizen backlash at the Colorado capitol, then greater Denver area businesses and communities are on track to become a wasteland, much like the once thriving Motor City of Detroit.

Pam Long is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, US Army Veteran, and a former Medical Intelligence Officer.

Please see https://kimmonson.com/featured_articles/best-and-worst-of-colorado-politics-2024/

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

FBI Insurrection

A recent report by the U.S. Inspector General indicates that there were 26 Confidential Human Sources (CHS) blending in with protestors at the Capitol on January 6, 2020. The report says 17 of them illegally entered the Capitol and/or restricted areas. None of them were authorized to break the law. None of them have been prosecuted. Christopher Wray, the disgraced FBI Director who resigned prior to the report, told Congress there were no FBI undercover agents or CHS at the Capitol on Jan. 6 in previous testimony. The report exposes FBI involvement in January 6 and is just another piece of a puzzle where the FBI may have been instrumental in fomenting perhaps the greatest insurrection in American history.

While the FBI, the Biden White House, Congressional Democrats, and the mainstream media still maintain no FBI undercover agents were involved on January 6, it is a very thin line of deception. The report says, “We found no evidence in the materials we reviewed or the testimony we received showing or suggesting that the FBI had undercover employees in the various protest crowds, or at the Capitol, on January 6.” That’s what you will hear in the mainstream media. Truth is, as the report confirms, there were 26 independent FBI consultants called CHS that were undercover and directly supervised by FBI “handling agents.” There were undercover FBI assets at Jan. 6 blending with the crowd and participating. They are not technically undercover agents because they are technically CHS, an undercover asset.

On the day of Wray’s resignation, President-elect Trump wrote in an email to The Daily Jot: “The resignation of Christopher Wray is a great day for America as it will end the Weaponization of what has become known as the United States Department of Injustice. I just don’t know what happened to him. Under the leadership of Christopher Wray, the FBI illegally raided my home, without cause, worked diligently on illegally impeaching and indicting me, and has done everything else to interfere with the success and future of America.” Putting this in perspective, the FBI also was responsible for the fake Russian dossier against Trump in the 2016 campaign that led to Obama, Clinton and the Democratic National Committee spying on the Trump campaign and the subsequent Mueller investigation on Russian collusion that found nothing.

The FBI has instigated years of false flag events and false evidence against Trump in an all-out effort with the Democratic Party to ensure Trump could not regain the White House. Given that the 2020 election was also hijacked—Biden getting the most votes in history, about 15 million more than any other candidate—it is no great leap to consider an FBI role in election interference above and beyond the Russian collusion hoax and other incidents of note. This begs the question: Is it possible the FBI was instrumental in fomenting the greatest insurrection in American history? As Christ said in Luke 8:17, “For nothing is hidden which will not become manifest, nor secret which shall not be known and come to light.” May it be true for those who would call evil good and good evil and perpetrate such deception upon those they are to serve.

Bill Wilson

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Still Stupid in America

Why America’s Government Run School System Is Failing

by Larry Sand,
FrontPageMag.com

In a memorable April 1995 video, Apple founder Steve Jobs declared, “The unions are the worst thing that ever happened to education because it’s not a meritocracy. It turns into a bureaucracy, which is exactly what has happened. The teachers can’t teach, and administrators run the place, and nobody can be fired. It’s terrible....”

Then in January 2006, John Stossel’s eye-opening documentary, “*Stupid in America*”, was aired. The investigative ABC show was billed as “a nasty title for a program about public education, but some nasty things are going on in America’s public schools, and it’s about time we face up to it...The longer kids stay in American schools, the worse they do in international competition. They do worse than kids from poorer countries that spend much less money on education, ranking behind not only Belgium but also Poland, the Czech Republic, and South Korea...This should come as no surprise if you remember that public education in the United States is a government monopoly. Don’t like your public school? Tough. The school is terrible? Tough. Your taxes fund that school regardless of whether it’s good or bad. That’s why government monopolies routinely fail their customers. Union-dominated monopolies are even worse.”

Sadly, since Jobs’ comments and Stossel’s documentary, public school performance has not improved. The latest example of our descent is shown by the scores on the most recent Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), an assessment administered to 650,000 4th and 8th graders in 64 countries.

The 2023 test, the results of which were released on December 4th, revealed that average U.S. math scores declined sharply between 2019 and 2023, falling 18 points for 4th graders and 27 points for 8th graders. Internationally, this puts the U.S., a purported world leader, at 22nd of 63 education systems for 4th-grade math and 20th of 45 education systems for 8th-grade math.

Additionally, average U.S. math scores for both 4th and 8th graders reverted to performance levels of 1995, the first year the TIMSS assessment was administered, meaning any progress made since Steve Jobs’ damning comments has been erased.

Peggy Carr, National Center for Education Statistics Commissioner, summed up the dreary results, asserting that the phenomenon is particularly troubling because the U.S. is an outlier compared to other

countries. She added that among 29 education systems that participated in both the 2011 and 2019 iterations of TIMSS, the U.S. was the only one that saw widening score gaps between top and bottom-scoring students in both subjects and both grade levels.

The TIMMS results are hardly unique. The 2022 NAEP, or “Nation’s Report Card,” showed that nationwide, 29% of the nation’s 8th graders are proficient in reading, while just 26% are proficient in math.

facilities, as well as some of the costs of durable items like buildings and computers. The unfunded liabilities of post-employment non-pension benefits (like health insurance) are also not included.

Just Facts also finds that “the average inflation-adjusted cost of private K–12 schools in the 2019–20 school year was \$9,709 per student. In contrast, the cost for public schools was \$17,013 per student—or 75% more than private schools.”

“U.S. math scores declined sharply between 2019 and 2023, falling 18 points for 4th graders and 27 points for 8th graders.”

The NAEP in 2022 also disclosed that just 13% of 8th graders met proficiency standards for U.S. history, meaning they could explain major themes, periods, events, people, ideas, and turning points in the country’s history. Additionally, about 20% of students scored at or above the proficient level in civics. Both scores represent all-time lows on these two tests.

Sadly, many parents are fooled by their kids’ lack of knowledge as teachers frequently resort to grade inflation. In fact, a recent study from the Equitable Grading Project of about 33,000 middle school and high school grades found that almost 60% of students’ grades did not match their course knowledge according to standardized tests. The mismatches were highest among Black and Hispanic students and those from families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

Those with a vested interest in government-run schools invariably blame underfunding for abysmal education results. But reality tells a different story.

According to *Just Facts*, which is dedicated to researching verifiable data about public policy issues, the U.S. spent \$1.2 trillion on education in 2022. The bulk of the outlay, \$834 billion, went to elementary and secondary education, while \$226 billion was disbursed to higher education, and \$121 billion went to libraries and other forms of education.

This total breaks down to \$8,993 for every household in the U.S., 4.6% of the U.S. gross domestic product, and 14% of the government’s current expenditures. It’s important to note that these figures don’t include land purchases for schools and other

What can we do about this deplorable state of affairs?

“Dismantling the Department of Education won’t make any measurable difference in educational outcomes,” writes Michael Petrilli, president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute. “If you want real transformation, fight the elected school boards, defang the unions, and create alternatives to the public schools.”

Petrill is correct, but more than anything, parents need to take charge. If your state has a private choice program, see if there is a school that is a better fit for your child. Or maybe there is a high-performing local charter school that does a better job than your zip code-mandated public school.

Another option for parents is to provide education for their kids in the same way they provide food, clothing, and shelter, and indeed, homeschooling rates continue to rise. Brian Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute, declares that there are currently about 3.2 million students educated at home in grades K-12 in the U.S. (roughly 6% of school-age children), compared to 2.5 million in spring 2019.

Ronald Reagan once famously quipped, “The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: ‘I’m from the Government, and I’m here to help.’”

Too many children are educationally shortchanged these days, and to turn things around, we must stop looking to the government—especially where its employees are unionized—for solutions.

Please see: <https://www.frontpage-mag.com/still-stupid-in-america/>



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By Rail and River

Part 3

—July 26, 2024

by Sam Bock and Jim England,
History Colorado

(Part 3 of 3)

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

Trials and Small Fines

Detention at Fort Leavenworth continued for more than a month, until some sort of mass jury trial could be convened. On June 18, a federal jury delivered a verdict, somehow against a collection of 290 of Sanders’s men, finding them collectively guilty of obstructing US mail. This verdict did not apply to Sanders, who had been released on bond and was being charged in a separate case. Nor did it apply to his engineer, similarly released on bond. At the time of this mass trial, however, this engineer was being referred to as “William Lewelling,” even though all of the prior Colorado accounts had instead referred to Cosgrove. In any event, “Lewelling” did not make his required appearance on the day of that trial and was apparently never heard of again.

The following day, 121 of those convicted were sentenced en masse, each fined from between twenty-five and fifty dollars, and committed to jail for inability to pay those fines. They were distributed among five Kansas jails, ultimately “to be released in small numbers so as to effectually break up and disband the army.”

Sanders himself remained free, even marrying a woman in Leavenworth, but in mid-September ended up in the federal court in Wichita, where he pled guilty, possibly to mail obstruction as well, and was fined fifty dollars. A short stint in jail there ended when his “populist friends” paid his fine. Before the end of the month, he had returned to Colorado, saying he would campaign around the state for the

Populist cause before that fall’s election. He said he had been traveling around the country “addressing audiences...as far East as Ohio,” but apparently had never made it to Washington, DC.

Any notion that his legal worries were behind him were ended just days after that fall election, when he was arrested in Pueblo on the warrant that had been issued way back when the train was first hijacked. Sanders’s plea that he had already been punished in Kansas for the transaction was unsuccessful, because this arrest was for seizure of Rio Grande property, not for mail obstruction. Sanders was released on bond, and returned in two weeks for the scheduled trial, only to learn that Rio Grande officials were not willing to see the prosecution proceed.

Although newspapers throughout the country had provided extensive coverage to the Pueblo train theft and its aftermath, the dismissal of charges represented the end of any significant publicity for Sanders, and little record of his later life remains. He did make it to Washington—but it was Washington state, where he lived before moving to California, dying at age sixty-nine or seventy in San Francisco on January 16, 1936. Nothing at all can be discovered of the fate of Cosgrove (or the mysterious Lewelling). The rest of Sanders’s army apparently scattered, with some of them no doubt returning to Cripple Creek. Upon returning, they would have discovered that they had missed out on the dramatic escalation of the miners’ strike they had left, culminating in late May with blown-up mines, and fatal encounters between strikers and more than a thousand “private deputies” hired by the mine owners.

Engine 817’s Engineer Buerger received one later newspaper mention, albeit posthumously. In 1900 he slipped underneath his own locomotive (Engine No. 621 this time) and was “ground to pieces.”

While the dramatic course of Sanders’s wild train ride was noteworthy because of how much distance was reached, it was not the only instance of Coxeys’s followers “stealing” a train. In early 1894, trains were commandeered in Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, though generally no great distances were achieved.

housing and food after several weeks, and instead offered free one-way rail tickets out of town.

In the spring of 1894, many homeless men returned to River Front Park, where they were joined by Coxeysites, many from California. “Before long, River Front Park



Sanders’ Colorado contingent were not the only Coxeysites to steal a train. A group from Idaho made it all the way to Green River, Wyoming, with their stolen engine. This photo shows them being escorted onto a train back to Idaho by federal troops.

Courtesy Sweetwater County Historical Museum

Coxey’s Navy on the Platte

The origins of Denver’s contingent of Coxeysites are somewhat different. As 1893’s depression progressed, Denver saw an influx of unemployed and homeless men. In the summer of 1893, they were gathered by the hundreds, housed in tents and fed in “Camp Relief” in the River Front Park west of downtown Denver along the Platte River. City officials ended the

had 1,500–1,800 residents, the largest encampment of Coxeysites in the country.” But the railroads were now not interested in providing free fare out of town. The Coxeysites’ elected leader, “General” William Grayson, publicly announced an effort to capture an empty freight train.

RAIL & RIVER
see page 23

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2024



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

Henry 22 Mag Lever Action Rifle

Great for the Family

by Van Hart, ammoland.com

Actor Matthew McConaughey starred as the lead male role in the 2016 movie *"The Free State of Jones."* He played the real-life Confederate soldier Newt Knight, who, after deserting the failing Confederate Army, returned to his home in Jones County, Mississippi. War widows and orphans were trying to survive without husbands and fathers, and now the local Confederate state militias were seizing (stealing) the food, supplies, and anything else not nailed down to allegedly support the dying cause of the South.

In one scene, Newt Knight is checking on a neighboring farm wife/widow only to discover that the local food-stealing militia is on its way to rob the woman and her children. McConaughey's character, Newt Knight, organizes the desperate farm family into an impromptu resistance fighting force. When the looters in uniform showed up, everyone on the farm was standing in the front yard waiting for them with a firearm in their hands. Including the youngest daughter, who could barely raise a single shot pistol, but she held her ground until the uniformed bandit trash left in fear of their lives. Of course, they threatened to return better-manned and better-armed to force the potentially starving family to comply.

Never underestimate the power of a family-size group of people, all armed with rifles pointing in the same direction, supporting the cause of defense and resistance to evil.



Anthony Imperato, owner of Henry, and Pete Hegseth formally of Fox News who is now the nomination for the Secretary of Defense and four of his children at the Henry Rifle factory in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

There are a lot of Americans who are not gun people. They have no interest in hunting, and they do not want to own and shoot firearms just for the sake of shooting. And there are some who truly do not believe in the private ownership of firearms. Those are the ones who get to their cell phones the fastest to call for armed help to demand instant response in times of crisis and need.

I suggest there needs to be another group of armed Americans. The American family unit that may never hunt or own firearms to just shoot, but the American family that organizes all family members to have a rifle in waiting to defend their home in case destructive evil shows up at their front door.

If every adult and child over the age of ten has a rifle assigned to them and practices loading and shooting that rifle, you have

created a family-friendly home defense force. Teach the more responsible younger children how to reload.

The major suggestion is to standardize the make, type of rifle, and caliber of the cartridge.

(This column is not for the current gun owners of America. Those of you who have lots of "Black Rifles" hi-capacity handguns and pump action fighting shotguns are not really going to get much out of this concept. This column is for the non-gun owners who want to remain on the "surface of society" as non-gun owners but want to be somewhat ready for the day evil arrives suddenly and 911 is not working that day.)

The Henry .22mag rifle is my recommendation for arming in mass the currently unarmed American family. These rifles are

lighter than their counterpart lever actions chambered in centerfire cartridges. Most hold 10 or more rounds of ammo and a .22mag round coming out of a rifle barrel will ruin a four-legged deer or a two-legged "walker's" day.

Small-framed adults and older children can easily raise and fire the Henry .22mag. Even the little farm daughter in *"The Free State of Jones"* could have laid a Henry .22mag lever gun across a windowsill and presented a menacing presence while delivering suppression fire to support the family in their home defense needs.

You can buy and shoot for training a lot more .22mag ammo over any centerfire cartridge. A box of 50 rounds of .22mag weighs much less than 50 rounds of 30-30 or .357 mag. If you have to shoot and move and keep moving to survive than .22mag ammo is easier to carry on the run.

The Henry .22mag Mare's Leg is a great back up piece. Not really a handgun but much smaller than a rifle. The enclosed 12.5 inch barrel greatly enhances the velocity of the .22mag over the same round fired out of a revolver.

If every member of your family has a Henry lever action .22mag rifle assigned to them and they know how and when to use the rifle, your family's chances of survival in time of crisis just went up by a multiple factor.

Envision the concept of multiple Henry Golden Boy lever action rifles chambered in .22mag in the hands of Jewish-American

Families in time of crisis. Gives enhanced meaning to the term "Never-Again."

There are other guns and other cartridges that can and should be used to Protect and Provide for your family if the world becomes an ugly place. Most people do not really think that will happen on "their watch". I hope they are correct. These people do not tend to prepare for the unexpected or want anyone to know they may even be concerned about a "crisis".

This is where picking one firearm and one cartridge that a non-gun person can handle with limited training and then plus-up their family's ability to contribute to the defense of the home front with their own Henry rifle in .22mag. This means you are serious about getting ready and staying ready. Doing this and not being intimidated by your "tool" of preparedness—your family's collective group of the one rifle and one cartridge concept to defend the day.

Windage and Elevation, Mrs. Langdon....windage and elevation, said John Wayne in the 1969 movie "The Undefeated," during a scene where women and children fought alongside their men folk against outnumbering odds of evil.

Protect and Provide with a little family coordination.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/12/henry-22-mag-lever-action-rifle-great-for-the-family/>

XM42 Lite Flamethrower, Handheld & Civilian Legal

by by Jens "Rex Nanorum" Hammer, Ammoland.com

(Editor/GG: You know you need one. Small, lite, good range, no NICS check. Will come in handy some day....)

We've all been in a situation where a flamethrower could have been handy, right?

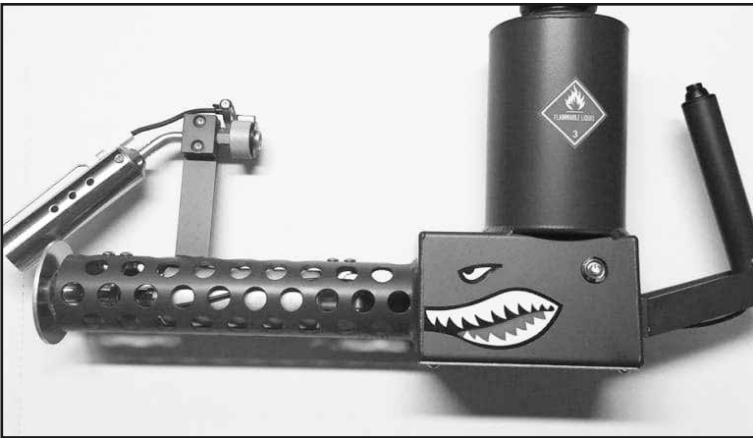
Maybe someone needs a huge brush pile roasted, but it's pouring rain. Perhaps your guitar-riffing friend is putting on a concert, but the lack of pyrotechnics really shows how little he's been practicing. Or maybe you just want to celebrate freedom and the American way by slinging flammable dino juice out to "first down" territory. Let's not get bogged down in the *why* of a flamethrower, rather we should dive into the *how* of a

flamethrower. Introducing the XM42 Lite Flamethrower.

Flamethrowers are in essence, pretty simple machines. They're similar to the fuel system in a car, really. A fuel tank, fuel pump, pilot light, power source and go button make up the 5.5 lb. package (*sans* fuel). The XM42 Lite is really just a (massively flammable) squirt gun for (safety-conscious) adults.

Let's break down the construction just a little more. The pilot light is fueled by a < 230-gram butane canister, commonly used for camping cookstoves. The pilot is sparked by a piezo-electric igniter, which similarly shares a common lineage with camp gear and propane barbecue grills.

The XM42 Lite has a .3-gallon fuel tank, good for around 25



seconds of burn time unless a smaller diameter nozzle is used. The larger XM42-M (modular) has a bigger tank, expandable from .4 gallons to a 3-gallon backpack. Acceptable fuel types (or mixes thereof) are unleaded gas, diesel and ethanol. The XM42 Lite with it's top-mounted, gravity-fed tank can also utilize jellied fuels for increased throw distance and

better burn on target. For wet agricultural piles, indeed. The whole package is run by a 2200 mAh rechargeable battery, of lithium polymer construct.

XM42 Lite

Setup is easy. Once you've opened the box and unloaded the contents, you're looking at the flamethrower and the battery

charger... that's it. My friendly local salesman tossed in a butane canister as well, one of those small extras that turn a gun shop into a favorite gun shop. Use an allen key to remove the four allen head bolts on the bottom of the housing and pull out the battery. Plug it into the charger and a couple of hours later it'll be all juiced up. Return it back to the housing from whence it came, plug it in and tighten those 4 bolts back up. Screw the butane canister into the pilot light assembly, fill the fuel tank and you're ready to go.

Open the gas valve for the pilot light and spark the piezoelectric igniter. You now have an expensive blowtorch. Press the power button (left side of the receiver)

FLAME THROWER
see page 21

The Sauer 505 Bolt Action Rifle in .223 Rem., .243 Rem., .308 Win., & 6.5 Creedmoor

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

San Antonio, Texas – The long-awaited Sauer 505 Bolt Action Rifle is now shipping in the United States after its impressive debut in Europe last year.

This bolt-action rifle from J.P. Sauer and Sohn is an engineering masterpiece, delivering timeless elegance, absolute accuracy, and exceptional versatility.

It is available in four stock options – walnut (wood grade 5), traditional synthetic, synthetic thumbhole, or carbon fiber – and features a robust, lightweight skeltonized steel chassis. Bolt cycling is silky smooth, and the

interchangeable, cold hammer-forged precision barrels allow for quick and easy caliber changes. Hunters can select between four pre-set trigger weights from 0.77 lbs. to up to 2.75 lbs.

The ergonomically perfected manual cocking system is safe, lightweight, quiet, and easy on the thumb. Once ready to shoot, simply apply slight pressure with your thumb to cock the rifle. Uncocking and unloading in the uncocked position is just as easy.

Sauer has adopted the proven Blaser saddle mount technology for easy and accurate optics mounting. This quick detach mount is designed to ensure the



Sig Sauer 505 Bolt Action

optic can be taken off the Sauer 505 and put back on while maintaining the precise point of aim without having to re-zero the scope. This is a significant

advantage for those who travel frequently.

The flush-mounted detachable magazine features an integrated MagLock safety that prevents

unwanted triggering of the magazine button. Rifle weights range from around 6 lbs. with the ultralight carbon fiber stock to heavier-weight field options with magnum barrels.

Available in the U.S. in the following calibers: .222 Rem., .223 Rem., .243 Rem., .308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor, .30-06 Spring., .270 Win., 7mm Rem Mag, .300 Win. Mag, 6.5 PRC, .270 WSM, .375 H&H.

MSRP: Starting at \$3,200.

(Editor/GG: Wow!)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/12/sauer-505-bolt-action-rifle/>

FLAME THROWER from page 20

and once the light is on, you're cleared hot!

XM42 lite Flamethrower

I prepared myself for the XM42-Lite. By that I mean I told myself to lower expectations, based in part on this being the least expensive commercially available flamethrower, and partly on a couple of videos, I watched where this was tested in bright desert daylight. There wasn't anything wrong with that video review per se, but the visual effect is lost in translation when filmed in such an environment as that. I was expecting a squirt of flaming gas, fun yet not massively so. I was not ready.

The *whoosh* of the first fireball caught me off guard. It wasn't supposed to be that big! Likewise, the flames shot out a good bit farther than I'd anticipated. I didn't measure with a tape, but pacing off the distance showed closer to 30 feet than the estimated 25 feet. I felt the blast of radiant heat, which I had figured on. It was more potent than estimated, but it was only when everyone standing



behind me started backing further up that I realized really how potent it was.

The XM42-Lite has an estimated "cyclic" burn time of around 24 seconds for a full tank. 24 seconds behind a flamethrower is a lot like 24 seconds behind a machine gun. You experience time dilation during the blissful joyride, then the abrupt stop back into reality when it's over. It does *not* feel like less than a minute's worth of fun.

XM42 Lite



Anything worth having is worth tinkering with, right? Given that the XM42 Lite takes three different fuels, it can be expected to perform differently with various mixtures. Above, I'm showing straight 87 octane unleaded gasoline, but as the dry season ends and the fall rains commence, I'll be testing diesel and ethanol mixtures and possibly jelling mix for those stubborn, wet burn piles.

While few may find themselves with a practical problem to which only a flamethrower is a solution, that shouldn't stop the rest of us from checking these fantastic devices out! The XM42 Lite is far more fun than I expected. I don't remember the last time I got this much enjoyment out of a sub-\$500 gun, nor one that runs only \$2/minute on its maximum rate of expenditure. The XM42 Lite is an absolute blast. Now I'm wondering how the XM42-modular runs...

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/12/xm42-lite-flamethrower-handheld-civilian-legal-review/>

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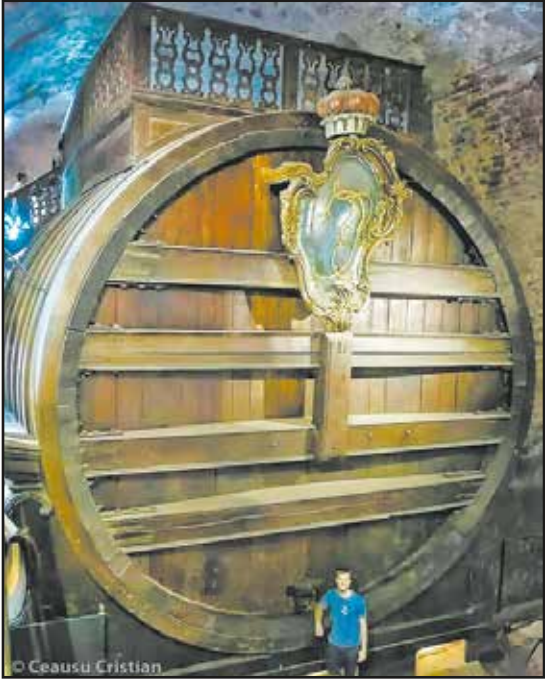
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Please see: <https://www.facebook.com/ancient.civilizations>

U.S. Cattle Herd Crisis Sparks Breakout to Record High Price

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

Institutional investors are increasing **bullish bets on live cattle futures, pushing them to their highest levels in five years**, as America's herd size dwindles to its lowest point in more than six decades.

The latest CFTC data via Bloomberg shows money managers boosted bullish live cattle bets by **3,908 net-long positions to 126,308 last week, the most bullish in over five years.**

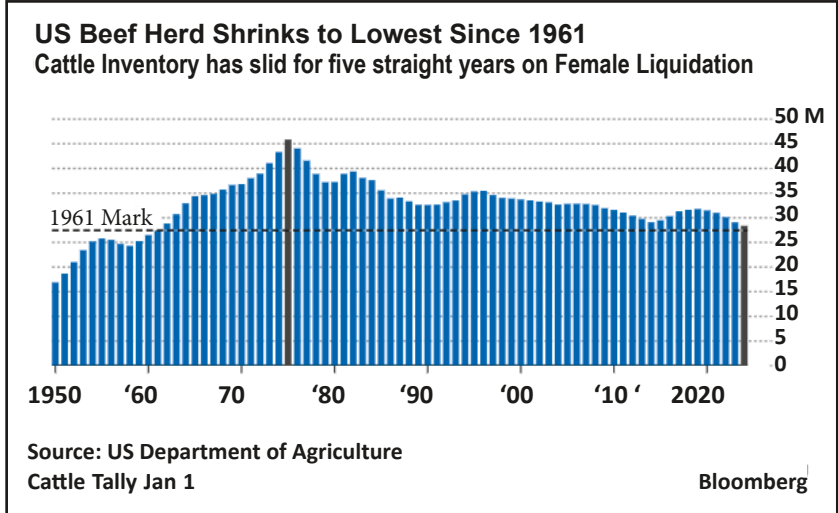
Additional CFTC data (courtesy of Bloomberg):

- Long-only positions rose 5,781 lots to 140,036 in the week ending December 10
- The long-only total was the highest in more than five years
- Short-only positions rose 1,873 lots to 13,728
- The short-only total was the highest in three weeks

Chicago Mercantile Exchange live cattle futures are reaching new highs, driven by technical trading, anticipation of strong consumer demand heading into holidays, and the alarming decline in overall herd size.

The shrinking beef supply has **pushed the nation's herd size to its smallest level since 1961**. With severe droughts, high interest rates, costly feed prices, sliding farm income, surging farm debt, and a shifting consumer preference toward cheaper chicken, struggling ranchers have been culling heifers, preventing any meaningful recovery in the number of calves necessary to expand the nation's herds.

On top of all this, the nation's **cattle crisis is set to worsen** with new pressures: first, President-elect Trump's



anticipated tariff war 2.0, which is expected to tighten domestic beef supplies, and second, immigration reform.

“All of the things he is talking about have potentially negative consequences more so than anything positive,” Derrell Peel, a professor of agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University, told Bloomberg, adding, “Our fate's pretty well determined in the cattle industry in the U.S. for the next two to four years – and it's not looking good.”

In February, the United States Department of Agriculture projected that the cattle herd could begin rebuilding by 2025. However, that **timeline has since shifted to 2027**. The reason is primarily because of high interest rates and poor pasture conditions in the Midwest.

“Even as the beef industry has experienced periods of growth over the past decades, the **animal count has dropped almost 40% since a peak in 1975**. During the current down-cycle, which started in 2020, the **herd has been shrinking at the fastest pace since the big farm crisis of the 1980s**,” Bloomberg noted.

If Trump introduces new tariffs, it could disrupt the flow of imported beef, further tightening domestic supplies, which will mean supermarket prices of ground beef are set to rise even higher in 2025.

All things point to higher beef prices in 2025.

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/commodities/net-bullish-live-cattle-bets-hit-5-year-high-prices-enter-bluesky-breakout-amid-us-herd>

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Ruger & Magpul Announce Ruger RXM 9mm Pistol Collaboration

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

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR), and Magpul Industries are proud to introduce the Ruger RXM 9mm pistol.

In the competitive 9mm polymer-frame striker-fired pistol market, the RXM sets itself apart. The RXM offers maximum flexibility and customization via a removable stainless steel Fire Control Insert (FCI) set inside an interchangeable Magpul Enhanced Handgun Grip (EHG).

As part of their ongoing collaboration, Ruger and Magpul

will be offering a variety of grip frames so that consumers can customize their pistols to meet shifting tastes and needs.

Ruger RXM 9mm Pistol

The RXM’s slide features a black FNC nitride finish and allows for direct optic mounting of RMR, Delta Point Pro (DPP), and RMsC pattern optics. Co-witness height steel sights feature a tritium front night sight, providing an excellent sight picture, with or without an optic installed. Front cocking serrations and a precision-rifled barrel complete the premium slide assembly. The pistol is equipped with a flat-faced trigger and

easily actuated magazine release, slide release, and takedown lever, but the best features are the ones you add.

Most major components are designed for Glock Gen 3 compatibility with off-the-shelf parts, holsters, and accessories for nearly unlimited customization, and the RXM is designed to use 9mm magazines compatible with compact or larger double-stack Glock pistols, including Magpul GL9 magazines.

The Magpul EHG frames offer consumers premium features, including Magpul’s 3/4-scale TSP texture, which provides a comfortable, secure grip. Other EHG features include: textured indexing pads for consistent finger / thumb placement; a low-profile, flared magazine well for quick and easy magazine insertion; a trigger guard undercut and beaver tail that promote a high grip for better control; a magazine release scallop for easy access; and a universal-pattern accessory rail for use with a variety of lights and lasers.

“The Ruger RXM is the result of a tremendous collaboration between two of the most respected brands in the industry,” said Ruger President and CEO Chris Killoy.

“Loaded with upgraded features,



Ruger RXM 9mm Pistol Handgun Right

superior ergonomics, and at a price that leaves room for further customization, this American-made handgun is destined to become the best in its class.”

Magpul’s Executive Vice President, Duane Liptak, added “Magpul and Ruger are two of the most renowned brands in the firearms space, with each bringing a unique perspective to this project: Ruger, with its skill at making high-quality guns at very accessible prices, and Magpul, with its performance-improve-

ment-focused accessories. This collaboration has allowed both companies to flex their creative muscles, resulting in a firearm that provides superior features, function, and value.”

The RXM is available in two models; each ships with two Magpul GL9 magazines, with either 15- or 10-round capacity.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/12/ruger-rxm-pistol-handgun/>



Ruger RXM 9mm Pistol Handgun with Optics

RAIL & RIVER from page 19

After one such attempt was thwarted, Grayson ended up marching about one hundred of his men to Nebraska.

No doubt inspired by an account of another Coxey group in Montana trying to reach the East by boat down the Missouri River, someone in late May proposed having the Denver contingent head east down the Platte. That idea had actually been floated six weeks earlier, when an unnamed sailor from Scotland proposed travel to Missouri by raft, saying, “We will make the jags give us grub and grog and I will pilot yees safely over the blooming sand bars.” That proposal might have been somewhat sensible back in mid-April, when sand bars were still visible in the lazy Platte, but by early June conditions had changed dramatically. Colorado was deluged with heavy rainfall, resulting in significant flooding in Boulder and Pueblo. The Platte itself became an “alarming rampage” between Denver and Brighton, with a flow unmatched during the prior sixteen years.

Denverites had become anxious about the hundreds of hungry Coxeyites remaining in their midst. So, in spite of the raging floodwaters, the Denver Chamber of Commerce encouraged the homeless Coxeyites’ nautical departure by agreeing to provide lumber for constructing boats. On June 2, 22,600 board feet of lumber was delivered and hundreds of men began constructing 100 four-by-sixteen-foot flat-bottomed boats.

See Photo (Right)

Although a trial run on June 6th resulted in two boats capsizing almost immediately, plans for the next day’s full-scale river excursion were not modified. On June 7, the entire Coxey’s Navy left Denver, planning to make Brighton the first stop on

the way to Kansas City. Many of the first-time sailors didn’t make it that far.

Five boats never even made it farther than the equivalent of about ten city blocks, striking piers or capsizing even before reaching the bridge at 31st Street. For the remainder of the initial leg of the voyage, the next day’s *Rocky Mountain News* headlines tell the story:

““Only God will ever know how many of the Coxeyites were drowned in the Platte last night,” said [Coxey Navy] Commander Twombly yesterday.” Only six bodies were ever recovered, with dozens more missing and suspected to have also drowned.

Accounts are somewhat confused about what happened to the survivors. Many apparently managed to travel, perhaps on foot, to LaSalle, south of Greeley. There are reports that they somehow managed to take a hijacked train from there to Julesburg, before unsuccessfully attempting to hijack yet another train there. About eighty men were arrested, returned to Denver and tried, with only five convicted and sentenced to short jail terms. And as a result, River Front Park was sealed off for good.

A Forgotten Fight

Summarizing the Coxey movement and its moment in American history, labor historian Carlos Schwantes provided an overall appraisal: “In common with the Populist revolt, Coxeyism was a democratic movement that called into question the underlying values of the new industrial society....The story of the Coxey movement is ultimately a case study of how ordinary citizens influence—or fail to influence—political and economic issues in modern America.”

In hindsight, the Coxey movement bore no direct fruits, either nationally or locally. The petitioned-for legislative reforms were



Coxey’s Navy in Denver, posing along the banks of the South Platte River with their flat-bottom boats. The boats have been painted with political slogans, such as “Down with Plutocracy” and “Crime.”

Denver Public Library, X-21554

not realized, although some would argue they were ahead of their time and were later more successful. Labor historians and progressives can also find parallels between 1894 and the present-day in their respective responses to the unemployed and unhoused. Lessons, too, can be learned from how a frequently unsympathetic local press responded to the Coxey protesters.

In Colorado, 1894 saw the peak influence of the local Populist movement. Both its incumbent Governor and Congressman lost their re-election bids that fall, and the People’s Party never again achieved statewide elective office. Still, Coxey’s Army proved somewhat of a model for later protest and petition movements, particularly the “Bonus Army” march on Washington for veterans’ benefits in 1932, and the Occupy Wall Street movement in 2011. But the overwhelmingly non-violent Coxeyites (Jacob Coxey’s own single conviction was for walking on the grass outside the U.S. Capitol) should not be

seen as the role models for the January 6 insurrectionists of 2021.

Though deadly serious for the unfortunate rafters from Denver who decided to navigate the Platte, the rest of Colorado’s Coxey contingent might seem like an amusing footnote in history. But to the diehard members of the movements, this was not just serious, it was a fight for their lives and livelihoods. To them, success meant the difference between a livable wage and destitution. The circumstances driving them to these grand, dramatic efforts—a desperate economic downturn and the collapse of much of Colorado’s mining industry—show them to be one of the earliest expressions of the era’s growing labor movements that presaged much of the unrest and violence erupting in Colorado during the early decades of the next century.

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



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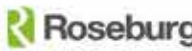
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