

2025 CO Assault Weapons Ban Bill Introduced: Everything You Need To Know

by Leslie Hollywood,
RallyForOurRights.com

The first day of the 2025 Colorado Legislative Session, Senate Democrats introduced SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid-Fire Devices, their latest and greatest “Assault Weapons” semi-automatic firearm ban bill.

This bill is far worse than the two Colorado AWB bills that have died in prior years, although bill sponsors are claiming SB25-003 is not a gun ban, and instead that it’s an “extension of the magazine ban”. The fight against this bill is also far different this year – and that’s important.

Understanding the bill – A list of prohibitions:

- Banning all sales and transfers (except to an heir) of “specified semi-auto firearms
- Banning of specified semi-automatic firearms per the language of the bill will include ALL semiauto rifles and shotguns with a detachable magazine.
- It will also include ALL gas-operated semiauto pistols with a detachable magazine. This includes ALL AR, AK, or similar pistols that use impingement, piston, or any diverted gas to cycle the action. There are a number of handguns like the S&W 5.7 pistol or HK P7

which look like a normal handgun, but they would be banned by this because gas is utilized instead of simple blowback. In contrast, a blowback 9mm AR pistol would not be banned even though it looks identical to an AR chambered in a larger caliber.

- They do include an exemption for .22 and smaller rimfire calibers, “specified semiautomatic firearms” but if the firearm has an upper and lower receiver it would still be banned in .22LR, like an AR-22.

- Overall, all manual operated actions like bolt, pump, or lever action are exempt. Basic blowback handguns are not included as long

as no gas is diverted for cycling and extracting the case. Roller-delayed blowback will be banned because of the diverted gas.

- Beyond going after semiautomatic firearms, they removed the existing definition of “machine gun conversion devices” and replaced it with broad language that makes any part, kit, etc., designed to “increase the rate of fire” illegal. Bumpstocks, FRTs, Binary, rubber bands, belt loops, and Jerry Miculek’s finger would all be illegal to possess under the language of this bill.

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Custer County: Now Under New Management Commissioners Vogelsong and Epp Sworn In 01/14/25

by Fred Hernandez

In a simple ceremony at Lange Hall on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 10 o’clock in the morning, County Judge Mike Halpin presided over the official swearing-in of the commissioners elected in the November 2024 Election.

First up was Lucas Epp who had already been serving as commissioner, having won the seat following the recall of a former commissioner. After swearing in, Commissioner Epp made a few short remarks to remind his supporters that he is a working man

who dresses simply and works “in the trenches” to solve problems. He received a warm applause from the audience of approximately fifty county residents.

Paul Vogelsong was next and after swearing in he also spoke briefly to assure his supporters that having sworn to uphold the U.S. Constitution many times in his career, he has every intention of doing so as Commissioner Vogelsong. He also received a warm round of applause.

SWEARING IN
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BOCC: Epp Makes a HUGE Finance Director Position Move, Chaos Ensues

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

Custer County Board of County Commissioners’s (BOCC) first meeting of the new year took place at the All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room in downtown Westcliffe. The January 9, 2025 meeting started at 9 a.m. and all three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day.

In Commissioner Items, Epp said he attended a Workforce Housing Committee meeting and “things are progressing” but slowly.

Day then spoke up and noted that this was his last BOCC meeting (he was beaten in the election by Republican Paul Vogelsong).

Day thanked everybody and commented that “It’s been a good and bad four years”. (*We will leave it at that.*)

Canda then thanked Langston Concrete for their outstanding work on clearing the rockslide on Highway 69. (They did an incredible job.)

The Custer County Sheriff’s Office’s (SO) proposed stand alone, speed ticketing radar machine was then discussed a bit. Canda said the BOCC passed the ordinance allowing it but never voted on the Sheriff’s contract with the company that the SO chose. Epp said he would like other bids on the machine. He said there were various costs involved in implementing the machine (e.g,

how the tickets are paid, etc.) and those have to be worked out. So that is on hold.

In Public Comments, citizen James Gilbert stated that the County’s Attorney contract with the BOCC expired on 12/31/24 and asked the commissioners how the Attorney, Dan Slater, could possibly be still working for the BOCC in 2025. Slater popped up on Zoom and corrected Gilbert saying that his contract with the BOCC is ongoing and not on a calendar basis.

In New Business, Road & Bridge’s Supervisor, Vince Koch, had a proposal to buy a used “belly dump trailer” for \$22k. He said it needed about \$3k in repairs to get going and a new one costs \$50k to \$80k. Vince said it would

really help make his crew more efficient in various road projects. Epp proposed taking the money out of Cash Reserves and moving it to Capital Improvement and spending it from there. After some discussion, it was ok’d.

Approving the annual Emergency Management Performance Grant Application was next. This is a state grant that basically pays for half of our OEM Director’s cost. It is for \$55.6k. It was approved.

The next item was the “big one” of the day. And as usual in Happy Valley the story took a few twists and turns. The Agenda Item was for approving more money to advertise for the vacant Finance

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*And He who was seated
on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making
all things new.”
Revelation 21: 5a ESV*

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Colorado!



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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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Religious Activities at Presidential Inaugurations

by David Barton,, Wallbuilders.com

Americans have long believed that civic ceremonies such as presidential inaugurations should include religious activities. Recently, some individuals and groups have raised objections to these activities, often arguing that they violate the Founders' supposed commitment to secularizing the public square by separating church and state. These arguments have no historical foundation, as can be seen by briefly considering America's first presidential inauguration.

Constitutional experts abounded at George Washington's inauguration. The inauguree himself was a signer of the Constitution, and one-fourth of the members of the Congress that organized and directed his inauguration had also been delegates to the Constitutional Convention. This body certainly knew what was, and was not constitutional.

George Washington's First Inauguration

The first inauguration occurred on April 30, 1789, at Federal Hall in New York City (the city served as the nation's capital in 1789-1790). Extensive preparations for that event were made by Congress, with the cooperative help of a body of fourteen clergy, including ministers from different denominations and a rabbi.

Local papers reported the first of these activities:

[O]n the morning of the day on which our illustrious President will be invested with his office, the bells will ring at nine o'clock, when the people may go up to the house of God and in a solemn manner commit the new government, with its important train of consequences, to the holy protection and blessing of the Most High. An early hour is prudently fixed for this peculiar act of devotion and it is designed wholly for prayer.

As the day proceeded, things appeared to be moving smoothly. But as the parade carrying Washington by horse-drawn carriage was nearing Federal Hall, it was realized that no Bible had been obtained for administering the oath. Today this would not be a problem for some civic officials, but in that era it would have been highly unusual to take an oath without a Bible.

Oaths in American History

In the Christian West, oath taking had long been held to be an innately religious activity. Many early colonial and state laws required oaths to be taken on the Bible. Some states



George Washington's inauguration as the first President of the United States, 04,30,1789. Oil Painting circa 1889

even specified that they were to be taken "on the holy evangelists of Almighty God" —that is, on the Bible, but with special emphasis on the Gospels. Requirements also routinely stipulated that "So help me God" be part of the official oath,⁶ and multiple states specifically required that the person taking the oath, "after repeating the words, 'So help me God,' shall kiss the Holy Gospels." These general provisions—in place at the time of the federal Constitution—were retained for generations.

With this as the standard practice for oath-taking, a Bible was certainly needed. So Parade Marshal Jacob Morton hurried off and soon returned with a large 1767 King James Bible.

Bible & the Presidential Oath at the 1st Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony was conducted on the balcony at Federal Hall. With a huge crowd gathered below to watch the proceedings, the Bible was laid upon a

crimson velvet cushion held by Samuel Otis, Secretary of the U.S. Senate. New York Chancellor Robert Livingston administered the oath of office. (He was on the five-man committee charged with drafting the Declaration of Independence, but before he could affix his signature to the document he was called back to New York to guide his state through the Revolution. Because Livingston was the highest ranking judicial official in New York, he was chosen to administer the oath to President Washington.) Standing beside them were many distinguished officials, including Vice President John Adams, future Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay, and Generals Henry Knox and Philip Schuyler.

When it came time to take the oath, Washington placed his left hand upon the Bible, which had been opened at random to Genesis 49,² raised his right, and swore to

INAUGURATION
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SWEARING IN
from page 1

Among the dignitaries who were present were County Commissioner Bill Canda, Sheriff Rich Smith, Coroner Brad Baltzly, County IT and interim Finance Director

Vernon Roth and county business owners and residents. The quick ceremony was over in twenty minutes and the attendees were treated to refreshments of fruit, cake and coffee. The County welcomes the new team of commissioners and sincerely wishes them all the best in their work for the community. Congratulations!



Top: Paul Vogelsong being sworn in by County Judge Mike Halpin.
Bottom: Lucas Epp being sworn in by County Judge Mike Halpin.
Photos by George Gramlich
Photo page 1: New Commissioners with the honorable Judge Halpin.
Photo by Fred Hernandez



Bank Robbery in Cañon City

Bank Robbery in Cañon City
by The Cañon City Police Department

January 10, 2025 via Facebook

On January 10, 2025 at approximately 4:43 p.m., the Cañon City Police Department received a report of a bank robbery that was in progress at the US Bank, located at 801 Macon Ave.

When officers arrived on scene, they quickly discovered that the bank was robbed by a male party, who was last seen wearing a red jacket, white mask, and gray beanie. The suspect had left the scene prior to officers' arrival. The suspect was last seen on foot leaving the area westbound.

Attached to this release is a still photo of the suspect. If anyone has information on this incident, they are urged to notify law enforcement as soon as possible.



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Sentinel Article Posted at David Codrea’s “The War on Guns” Website

David Codrea, noted author, blogger, and radio personality posted the Sentinel’s January 10, 2025 article on Colorado new gun laws on his waronguns.com website. The waronguns.com website is one of the premier 2nd Amendment media outlets on the internet. David has posted several of the Sentinel’s Colorado 2nd Amendment articles over the past few years. Thank you, sir.

gg

CO Democrats Selective in Which Rights They Shred



New Concealed Carry Law Takes Effect July 1 – Plus a Lib Bonus: Vehicle Weapons Now Must Be Locked Up [\[More\]](#)

I don’t suppose being forced to take an eight-hour course and pass a written exam to vote is in the cards...

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Author: admin

David Codrea is a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament.

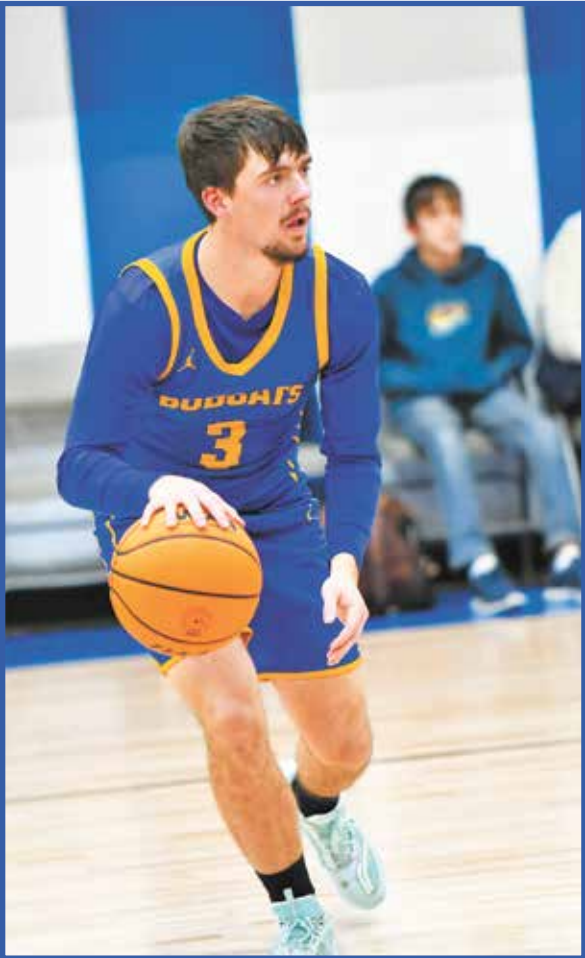
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For the week of December 16th Robert Bachman La Veta Tournament MVP Photo Right

For the week of January 6th Chris Mullett in the game against Sanford and ECA, Photo Below

Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography



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Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC from page 1

Director’s position. Human Resources Director Bob Smith gave a presentation on how he has been advertising in various government and non-government websites that cover gov’t and accounting jobs. He said it was costing about \$5k a month and that he has spent about \$20k so far. (Remember this position has been vacant for a long time and our IT Director, Vernon Roth, has been doing the job on an “interim” basis). Smith said the last ads were placed in November. He noted that there have been twelve applicants so far and none have met the minimum qualifications for the job. He noted that there are at least nine other counties/cities in Colorado looking for Finance Directors and that it is a very, very competitive arena.

(Here’s the skinny on this ongoing drama: The commissioners set a salary range for the job at \$90k to \$120k. Based on prior comments made at the BOCC meetings and conversations with people in the accounting industry, the MINIMUM we would have to pay in Happy Valley to get somebody even remotely qualified would be \$200k and it should probably be \$250k. The commissioners knew this when they set the ridiculously low \$120k figure but they were hoping a miracle would occur and we would get somebody for that amount of money. Didn’t happen. Their hands were somewhat tied as hiring somebody at even \$200k in the Custer County gov workforce would be a big problem due to the current salary levels we pay our people. It would probably cause some morale problems and other issues. So, the county has been sitting here for almost a year with Vernon Roth working TWO jobs (IT and as Interim Finance Director) to try to get us by.)

Canda wanted to continue advertising, and the boys talked about the cost and where to do it.

Epp then made his big move, saying, “We have somebody we can stick in that spot. Maybe we should go in a different direction.” (Wow!!! Epp be rock’ da boat!!) He continued, “We are competing with other counties.

We need reality here.” Epp added that we have Redlands Accounting here helping us and he wanted to continue to have “third party eyes” reviewing our accounting work. *(Agreed.)*

Canda said he would like to advertise a bit more before changing the plan. Day noted that, “We can’t continue going on like this, it is not sustainable. The current employee is being burned out.” (True.)

Canda then stated what Epp was proposing, “Are you proposing that Vernon be the new Finance Director?” Epp responded, “Yes”. Canda then said he would like to “table the Vernon thing” and keep advertising for a while.

[More skinny: This is what has been going on behind the scenes. Many citizens who have been following this ordeal have come to the realistic conclusion that we will not get a Finance Director for \$120k AND that Vernon has been doing an outstanding job getting us through all kinds of issues (audit stuff, the budget, all kinds of state and fed reporting, etc.). From all appearances, Vernon has been doing an outstanding job (and he has been doing his regular IT work, too). Vernon is very, very bright and is a an extremely hard worker. A BIG plus is that Vernon is a computer wizard and since a huge chunk of a Finance Director’s work is computer dominated, having a Finance Director with excellent, real, computer skills is a huge plus. Vernon has also accomplished all the Finance Director’s work this year. Vernon lacks the accounting degree that is in the job description but that can be acquired. And Vernon is not going anywhere. He loves Happy Valley. The Finance Director’s salary would be a nice boost for him. The IT Director’s job would be a cake walk to fill as there are a TON of computer geeks out there looking for a job.

So, many citizens have been suggesting that we hire Vernon as the Finance Director as it really is our only option. With Redlands Accounting overseeing things, and mentoring Vernon, it looks like to us that this would be the way to go. Epp realizes that too, thus his move to try to hire Vernon for the job.]

This, of course, caused a stir. Canda again wanted to continue advertising and hold off the Vernon option. He said that this proposal would “be another agenda item”.

Epp doubled down and said, “We need to have the other discussion sooner rather than later. Let’s plan on that for the 23rd.” County Attorney Slater noted that it should be in an Executive Session as they would be talking about a county employee.

In Public Comments, James Gilbert commented that the commissioners were “looking for a unicorn” and the job description needs more money. “You have a person doing it now. It will never be filled. Go with the solution that is staring you in the face.” Debbie Adams (the County’s Tourism Director), in a very aggressive manner attacked the commissioners stating, “What have you got against Vernon Roth? He saved your butt last year. There seems to be a road block...Don’t understand the delay since it has been over a year. You have a person who is dedicated to the position. Vernon is ready to take on the responsibility and has shown he could do the job.” **(Editor/Ilv: Then hell suddenly froze over as the Sentinel editors agreed with these two liberals in the peanut gallery.)**

Epp then lamented that, “I can’t go another year like this. It was a rough year last year.” (Epp is the commissioner in charge of Finance.) He said, “I want to rescind the motion (to advertise more) until after the Executive Session.

After the barrage, Canda agrees to rescind his motion to continue advertising.

The Executive Session to consider Vernon Roth taking the Finance Director’s job is January 23rd. This would be during the regular BOCC session that week.

The public might want to give their opinions on hiring Vernon for the job to the commissioners before that. And to the new incoming commissioner, Vogelsong.

(Yup, it was a good’n. Never a dull moment in Happy Valley. The never-ending drama will be continued....)

AWB BILL from page 1

This fight is going to look different this year:

Colorado has seen the rise and fall of similar attempts to ban semi-auto firearms the past two years and both failed. In 2023 and 2024, the AWB bill originated in the State House, which is always a bit of a circus. In 2023 it died in it’s first House committee hearing but in 2024 it eventually passed the full House chamber; where it stalled was the State Senate. Not only was it iffy then if they had the votes needed in the Senate, but Sen. Tom Sullivan (D) was against the bill saying although he supported a federal assault weapons ban, he didn’t support one at the state level. He told the *Washington Post* then that he believed “It would inflame gun-rights supporters, was unlikely to be enforced and would not curb the vast majority of shootings.” Now this year Sen. Tom Sullivan is sponsoring this bill, although he is pushing the narrative that this not an assault weapons ban, but an expanded magazine ban. During an interview with the *Denver Post*, he reiterated his opposition to a state-level assault weapons ban and in addition, there are 18 Senate sponsors between prime and co-sponsors on it as written – and they only need 18 votes in the Senate to pass this. If it passes the Senate it will sail through the House.

We know this bill was written by Bloomberg and Everytown, and handed to Sullivan. Sullivan STILL claims to be against a state level AWB, reiterating this to both the *Denver Post* and the *Colorado Sun*. Were Sullivan and his 17 co-sponsors sold a

line of straight up lies by Bloomberg’s lawyers and lobbyists that this wasn’t going to ban guns? Did they really believe this was an expanded magazine ban? It’s likely Sullivan didn’t even read the bill before it was introduced, nor did his fellow co-sponsors. They’re just acting as lap-dogs to lobbyists.

Here’s what you can do right now:

We need you to contact all Democrat Colorado State Senators and tell them why you oppose this bill. Use plain language. Remember the people you are messaging to most likely don’t know anything about guns, so speak to them in that way. Teach them.

(Editor/GG: You can go to the article online. At the end, use the CLICK HERE to email all Democrat State Senators at once.)

Read the bill text: https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025A/bills/2025a_003_01.pdf

Read the *Colorado Sun* article: <https://coloradosun.com/2025/01/08/colorado-semiautomatic-detachable-magazine-gun-ban>

Read the *Denver Post* article: <https://www.denverpost.com/2025/01/03/colorado-legislature-gun-control-tom-sullivan-assault-weapons-ban-strategy>

(Editor/GG: Totally unconstitutional. In direct contradiction to the SCOTUS Heller and Bruen decisions. You better start calling and emailing these bolshies up in Denver...)

Please see: <https://rallyforourrights.com/2025-co-assault-weapons-ban-bill-introduced-everything-you-need-to-know/>

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email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, January 20

CLOSED

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
DAY

Tuesday, January 21

#109 Turkey Pot Pie

Peas & Carrots

Salad w/Lite Ranch

WW Roll w/Butter

Orange

Oatmeal Cookie

Thursday, January 23

#16 Beef Stroganoff

Orange Spiced Carrots

Pickled Beet & Onion Salad

Orange

WW Bread w/Butter

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

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

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

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

Recurring Events

Mondays

10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 -7:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Meeting (The Bible and X) w/
Scott Munger. at First Baptist Church.
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St.
Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Monday of the Month

5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting
(year-round) at Cliffe Lanes

2nd and 4th Monday

6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

Tuesdays

12 noon – 1 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLDS)
“As Bill Sees It” St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita in W/C.
Call Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Tuesday of the Month

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort Quilters @Valley Bible
6:00 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting
at Cliff Lanes meeting room.

4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM

2nd Tuesday of the Month

9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Meeting @Valley Bible

3rd Tuesday of the Month

Liberty Rocks TUESDAY Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m.
Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.

Wednesdays

8 -9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers
welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm.,
209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist
Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at
(432) 553-7483.
9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study “Names
of God” at Sangre de Cristo Fellowship, 120 Jerry Dr.
Westcliffe. Starts again January 15th . Questions?
Holly 703-338-4100 or Rene at 719-371-7076

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



by West Custer
County Library

The new year is off and running at West Custer County Library! Join the forward motion with a midday **Wellness Walk every Wednesday**. This new weekly winter program is a chance to get out for a brisk break to chat and move. Meet in the Library lobby at noon for a walk about town. Follow up after the walk on **February 5** at 1 p.m. with an informative presentation in the Community Room from nutritionist Darcy Rhodes about factors contributing to obesity, as well as medications affecting appetite. No need to register for either event.

To honor February as Black History Month, come watch the feature film “*The Green Book*” on Friday, **February 7** at 2 p.m. in the Library Community Room. This award-winning 2018 comedy-drama follows an African-American pianist on tour in the 1960s Jim Crow South with his Italian-American chauffeur

and bodyguard. Critics called it “a story worth hearing” with a great soundtrack as a bonus.

Events for the Adult Winter Reading Program continue through February! Reflect on your life and legacy through the unique lens of writing your own obituary. Author Monica Young will provide prompts and guidance on Tuesday, **February 11** at 10 a.m . “Sign up with a friend,” she recommends, “and write each others’ obituary.”

If your friend is of the furry variety, you may be interested in the Pet Photography class instead. Learn basic techniques for capturing your creature companion’s true personality on Saturday, **February 25** at 5:30 pm with Sandra Dalton. Registration is required for this one (but do leave your pets at home).

Also on **February 25**, but earlier (at 10 a.m.), come and learn to play the ukulele with Heidi Clare and Michael Hayes. Have fun while learning to play and sing familiar tunes.

Instruments are provided and registration is required. All ages welcome!

(Sneak peek - instrument lending is coming to the Library!)

Looking for help with the complications of technology and taxes? The Library has you covered! Walk-in tech help is now available both the **second and fourth Thursday** of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your questions and your portable device on **February 13 or 27** for free assistance. And now that tax season is here, tax services from the State of Colorado’s Tax2Go service will join our regular monthly DMV2Go service on Friday, **February 21** in the Community Room. Find out more details, including their fees, on tax. colorado.gov. And coming soon, tax help from the AARP Foundation’s Tax-Aide program, hosted at the Library as in years past. Call 719-480-7230 #5 and leave a message for more information or to make an appointment.

Finally, celebrate the month of Lincoln’s birth by joining a lively directed discussion about his most famous speech, the Gettysburg Address. At just over 250 words, this document is brief but spectacular – a bit like our small but mighty library.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SANGRE SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at Lange Hall, 312 S. Third Street, Westcliffe, commencing at 10 A.M.

Come and Worship

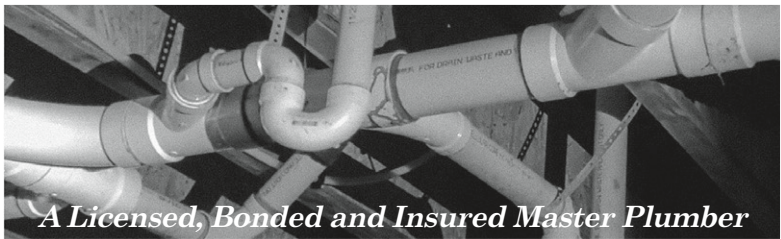
Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589 Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study 0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526 Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511 Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS 410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe Pastor Josh Olsteen 719/783-2498 High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045 Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053 Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study 3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561 Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m. 830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863	Our Lady of the Assumption 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 sangredecristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook 60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372 Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903 Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822 Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572 Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230 Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596
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Send Church updates to sdc.sentinel@gmail.com (719) 783-3360

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and [fn]this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2: 8-10 LSB



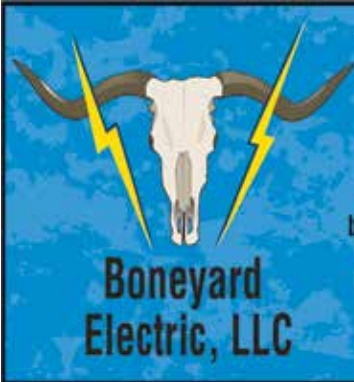
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www.custercounty-co.gov/
employment](https://www.custercounty-co.gov/employment).
Custer County is an equal-
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Employment application
and resume may be
submitted to:
Custer County Human
Resources
P.O. Box 150

Westcliffe, CO 81252
Email:
HR@custercounty-co.gov

**Custer County is
accepting employment
applications for the
Custer County Extension
Office Administrative
Assistant/4-H
Coordinator position.**
Employment application
and job description are
available on the Custer
County website [https://
www.custercounty-co.gov/
employment](https://www.custercounty-co.gov/employment).
Custer County is an equal-
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Employment application
and resume may be
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Custer County Human
Resources
P.O. Box 150
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Email:
HR@custercounty-co.gov

**Custer County is
accepting employment
applications for
positions Road & Bridge
Equipment Operator.**
Employment application
and job description are
available on Custer County
website <https://www>.

[custercounty-co.gov/
employment](http://custercounty-co.gov/employment).
Custer County is an equal
opportunity employer.
Employment application
and resume may be
submitted to:
Custer County Human
Resources
P.O. Box 150
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Email:
HR@custercounty-co.gov

**Custer County School
District is now hiring.**
Apply online at [https://
www.applitrack.com/
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**Happy 86th B'Day!
JOAN VASS**

Events

**December--Sangres Art Guild's 3rd Street
Art Gallery will be closed except for classes
until May. For a list of classes, see [https://www.
sangresartguild.org/](https://www.sangresartguild.org/)**

**January 20, 2025 --
U.S. PRESIDENTIAL Inauguration**

**January 30, 2025, noon to 2 p.m.
Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address-** led by Karl
Walling, Naval War College Prof. retired. Registration
is required go to westcusterlibrary.org events page to
register. Bring a lunch if you wish.

Community Services

**Altitude Community Fitness
(719) 783-0750**

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

**Custer County
Community Sharing Food Pantry**
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. **(719) 783-2994**
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Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS

January 17, 2025

The Great Emu War

This may sound like a joke because when I first saw the headline, that’s what I thought it was but believe me, it’s no joke. So, let’s see who won this war.

The year was 1932, in Australia. Australia like all other countries were in the depths of the Great Depression. In the Campion district of Western Australia farmers faced an unusual and unexpected threat, The Emus.



A little background history on this. The Australian government, after World War I, gave land to ex-soldiers from Australia and Great Britain. This land was given to them to farm in Western Australia, however, it wasn’t the best land. In 1929, when the Great Depression hit, the government told the farmers to grow more wheat and the government promised the farmers money, which they never received. Wheat was losing its value. It got worse for the farmers when 20,000 migrating emus arrived on the scene. The farmers had cleared more land and improved water supplies for their crops and livestock. The emus settled into the farmers’ land because it was such a good place for the emus. However, as most wild animals do, they totally ate and destroyed the crops. At the same time, they also made large holes in the fences where rabbits entered and caused even more problems.

Most of these farmers were ex-soldiers in WWI and understood machine guns. They asked the government for machine guns and the government agreed. However, they wanted their soldiers to use these guns and not the settler farmers. The government agreed to pay to transport the soldiers and the farmers were to provide food and lodging for them. Numerous attempts were made against the emus, on November 2nd and 4th. On November 4th 1,000 were spotted as the birds arrived close in proximity, the gun jammed and only 12 birds were killed and the rest scattered.

The Australian House of Representatives met on November 8th and discussed the operation. Noting the negative reports of events in the local media, the military personnel and guns were withdrawn. The farmers continued to ask for help in 1934, 1943, and 1948, only to be turned down.

On October 22, 2023, an action-comedy film, titled “The Emu War”, premiered at Monster Fest. Another action-comedy movie retelling of the events was aiming to begin production in 2023 or 2024. There are not only still emus roaming Australia, the birds are even featured on the Australian Coat of Arms.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emu_War, <https://www.historytools.org/stories/the-great-emu-war-a-bizarre-chapter-in-australias-ecological-history>.
Photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Emu_1_-_Tidbinbilla.jpg.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

“In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.”

From “In Christ Alone” by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend.

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Thursday, January 9:

HS Girls Basketball @ Sanford: 7-63, lose
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Sanford: 49-60, lose

Friday, January 10:

HS Girls Basketball @ ECA: 21-52, lose
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ ECA: 44-62, lose

Saturday, January 11:

HS Wrestling @ Gunnison Invite in Gunnison:
Jason Hemsath took first at 144 pounds; 🐾
Chris Carter took seventh at 190 pounds
🐾 Liz Ergo took second at 115 pounds; Stephanie 🐾
Lewis took fourth at 125 pounds; Brylee Shy took second
🐾 at 155 pounds & Maddie Staley took fifth at 170 pounds

Tuesday, January 14:

HS Girls Basketball @ Cripple Creek: 55-13 Win! 🐾
🐾 HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Cripple Creek: 68-23 Win!

Art Guild Kids Classes

Press Release

There are openings in Sangres Art Guild’s art classes for kids in grades 1 - 3 and 6 - 8, with a waiting list for the 4th -5th grade class. 3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N Hwy 69, Westcliffe, hosts this Home School program on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 2 to 3:15 pm. Please contact Liz VanSomeran at lvansomeran@sagboard.org for more information or to enroll your children.



Photo via Sangre Art Guild



Custer County School District C-1 MENU for the WEEK of January 20 thru Jan.23 2025

	Breakfast	Lunch
<u>Monday</u>	Cereal Oatmeal Mixed Fruit Yogurt, Milk	Hamburger Deluxe Oven Fries Lettuce ,Tomato, Pickle Fruit, Choice of Milk
<u>Tuesday</u>	Sausage Egg Cheese Biscuit Yogurt Fruit Choice of Milk	Cheese Enchiladas Rice Refried Beans Fruit, Choice of Milk
<u>Wednesday</u>	Breakfast Pizza Yogurt Fruit Choice of Milk	Spaghetti Green Beans Garlic Roll Fruit, Choice of Milk
<u>Thursday</u>	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Choice of Milk	BBQ Pork Sandwich Chips Carrots and Celery Fruit, Choice of Milk

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

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Booster Club Bobcat Corner



**Come out and support your
Custer County Bobcats!**

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, January 17:

TBD HS Boys Wrestling Dual/Match Night @ Hotchkiss (away)
TBD HS Girls Wrestling Tiara Challenge @ Castle Rock (away)

Saturday, January 18:

7 am (weigh in) 9 am (start) HS Boys Wrestling @ Fight at the Fork in Hotchkiss
TBD HS Girls Wrestling Tiara Challenge @ Castle Rock (away)
12:30 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Vail Christian (away)
2 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Vail Christian (away)
3:30 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Vail Christian (away)

Tuesday, January 21:

TBD HS Girls & Boys Wrestling @ Woodland Park (Duals)
4 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Crested Butte
5:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Crested Butte (away)
7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Crested Butte

Friday, January 24:

4 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Del Norte
5:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vs Del Norte
7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Del Norte
5 pm (weigh in) 6 pm (start) HS Girls & Boys Wrestling @ HOME

Saturday, January 25:

7 am (weigh in) 9 am (start) HS Boys Wrestling @ HOME

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Local Mountain News & Notices

More Custer County Land Protected from Development



Colorado Open Lands (COL) Press Release, January 14, 2025 via Facebook Shared with Public

Lower Pasture of the HG Vickerman Ranch - Permanently Protected!

This property south of Westcliffe in Custer County encompasses 1,232 acres. It features a mosaic of montane grasslands, piñon-juniper woodlands, stands of conifer and aspen forests, a small canyon with rocky outcroppings, and wetlands

along Lapin Creek which traverses the property for one mile. The property has three springs for livestock and wildlife watering, and big views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains across the Wet Mountain Valley. This parcel is already surrounded by development on three sides and would face substantial pressure to be subdivided without this conservation easement.

This easement adds to the previously protected parcels that make up HG Vickerman

Ranch. The family agricultural operation began in 1918, with parcels added over time until they totaled over 3,600 acres. This project is the third and final portion of the historic family ranch to be protected. Previous parts of the ranch were protected by San Isabel Land Protection Trust and are now under the stewardship of COL.

Please see: <https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoOpenLands>



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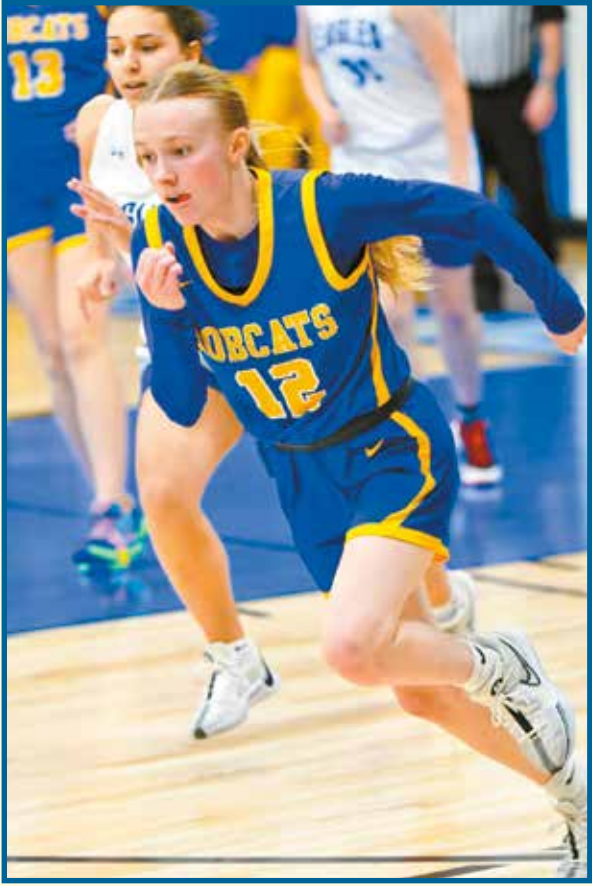
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Bobcats HS Girls



Basketball vs ECA





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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.

Colorado Democrats Vote in Lockstep Against Laken Riley Act (Including Brittany Pettersen)

By *ColoradoPeakPolitics.com*

Colorado Democrats voted in lockstep against the Laken Riley Act to detain illegal aliens who commit theft-related crimes and allow states to sue the feds on behalf of their citizens for not enforcing border laws.

The bill passed the House on a 264-159 vote, with 48 Democrats crossing party lines to support the measure. It now goes to the GOP-controlled Senate for a vote.

Voting for the bill were Colorado Republican U.S. Reps. Jeff Crank, Gabe Evans, Jeff Hurd, and Lauren Boebert.

Voting against the legislation were Diana DeGette, Jason Crow, Brittany Pettersen and Joe Neguse.

Congressman Gabe Evans @repgabeevans

As the grandson of an immigrant and a former police officer, I support efforts to prioritize deporting gangsters, not grandmas.

Until Colorado follows the Laken Riley Act, our state will be stuck in a tailspin.

11:50 AM · Jan 7, 2025

As the grandson of an immigrant and a former police officer, I support efforts to prioritize deporting gangsters, not grandmas. Nationally, the first step in addressing our broken immigration system is helping local law enforcement crush the gangs and career criminals terrorizing our communities.

However, the sad reality is Colorado law prohibits law enforcement from honoring an ICE detainer. Until our state stops prioritizing dangerous illegal immigrants over public safety, Colorado will be stuck in a tailspin.

– Congressman Gabe Evans

CONGRESSMAN
GABE EVANS
Colorado's 8th District

The bill was named for the Georgia nursing student who was raped and murdered by Jose Ibarra, who was previously arrested for shoplifting but never detained by immigration officials.

The bill applies only to non-citizens and requires immigration officials to take into custody those accused of committing burglary, theft, larceny and shoplifting.

PeakNation™ will recall that in Aurora, the illegal alien from Venezuela who was arrested in November for raping a 14-year-old girl had also been arrested and released on charges of forgery, counterfeiting, and larceny but turned loose.

It's unclear why Colorado Democrats voted against this measure, or which crimes and how many an illegal immigrant must commit before Democrats think immigration officials should take action.

However, Crow, who represents Aurora, said immigration officials should not be able to take illegal aliens into custody unless they have already been convicted of the crime for which they were arrested.

Of course, that system doesn't work when prosecutors refuse to prosecute, and police are stuck in a cycle of catch and release.

Please see: <https://colorado-peakpolitics.com/2025/01/08/colorado-democrats-vote-in-lockstep-against-laken-riley-act/>

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Colorado State News



GOP Opens Caucus Meetings, Dems Close Theirs

by Sherrie Peif,
Complete Colorado Page Two

DENVER—As the 2025 legislative session gets underway it appears majority Democrats will continue practicing closed door governance, while Republicans have pledged to be more transparent, saying Colorado voters have right to know what is going on under the gold dome of the state capitol.

Both Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie (D-Dillon) and Senate President Steve Fenberg (D-Boulder) have made it clear that Democrat caucus meetings will no longer be open to the public or the media.

The two started closing meetings last August after a new bill they both supported went into law that exempted the legislature

from portions of Colorado’s open meeting laws. Senate Bill 24-157 was passed after another bill sponsored by Democrats allowing legislators to block people from their social media pages was passed earlier in the session.

Colorado’s open meetings law says that public meetings are “the formation of public policy” and that public policy is “public business and may not be conducted in secret.”

However, Democrats supporting the bill say that the formation of public policy isn’t subject to open meetings until a bill is put forth. In other words, the behind the scenes wheeling and dealing and debate over the language of the bill does not concern the public or the media. Only lawmakers can propose changes, once the

bill has been introduced, and with Democrats holding the majority, those amendments fail more often than they pass.

McCluskie told the Colorado Sun that the closed Caucus meeting was not “looking at bills” or “taking votes,” and therefore it was not public business, and thus could be held in private. She added that “the new law isn’t set in stone forever,” and that the bill requires a review on an annual basis.

“I think we have seen what happens when members don’t talk to each other and try to understand different perspectives,” McCluskie said. “We worked very, very hard to ensure that transparency and that openness, while still remaining committed to being able just to talk with one

another and understand each other and learn from each other.”

Republicans, who voted unanimously against the open meetings exceptions, have said their caucus meetings will remain open to the public in both the House and the Senate.

Republican Senate Minority Caucus Chairman Byron Pelton, R-Sterling, said his caucus will continue to have an open-door policy. The public is welcome to attend any caucus meeting. They cannot participate; however, anyone is free to observe and listen.

“Senate Republicans will continue to believe in transparency; we work for the public,” Pelton said. “Our caucus meetings will remain open as they have in the past.”

There may be a reprieve in the near future. A coalition of media outlets and other organizations led by the **Independence Institute*** and including the Colorado Press Association, the Colorado Broadcasters Association, the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition and the League of Women Voters, among others, are meeting to develop a ballot measure to put before voters that would not only repeal the legislature’s open meetings bill but also enshrine government transparency in the Colorado Constitution.

**Independence Institute is the publisher of Complete Colorado.*

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2025/01/09/gop-opens-caucus-meetings-democrats-close-doors/>

The Fremont County Community Concert Association “After Midnight” to Perform

Press Release

The Fremont County Community Concert Association presents an afternoon of jazz performed by **After Midnight Jazz Band** on Sunday, January 26, at 3 p.m. in the Cañon City H.S. auditorium, 1313 College Avenue, Cañon City.

Based in the heart of Denver, **After Midnight** is a collective of seasoned musicians dedicated to delivering captivating performances that celebrate the essence of jazz and Latin jazz. Their versatile ensemble brings a touch of sophistication and joy to any event. Led by Roger Campbell on Clarinet, their musicians have graced prestigious stages and enchanted audiences worldwide. They have established themselves as trailblazers in the jazz world, garnering acclaim from fans and critics alike. After Midnight sets the perfect ambiance with smooth vocals, mesmerizing solos and irresistible grooves.

The band’s sound and style are modeled after the remarkable Benny Goodman sextet, but with a sophisticated and vintage vibe. Their hard driving swing is refreshing

and infectious, inspiring dancers and bringing toe-tapping joy to listeners of all ages. Their music is incredibly difficult to play, but they enjoy making it look and sound effortless.

Their repertoire incorporates music from Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Lionel Hampton to Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett. You’ll hear great swing music recently made popular by the likes of Dianna Krall, Michael Bublé and Harry Connick Jr. They also play some originals and some songs that were specifically written for them! Their instrumentation is unlike any other band in the region — it features Clarinet, Vibraphone, Piano, Bass, Guitar and Drums. What’s a Vibraphone? It’s a lot like bells or marimba but has vibrato when you hit the metal bars.

From time to time the band has also been fortunate to work with some of the best “chick” singers around including Lannie Garrett, Rehka Ohal, Jodi Renee, Wende Harston, Lisa Bell, Deeja Marie and Joni Janak. They’ve even worked with actress Lea



Thompson and her daughter Madelyn Deutch!

After Midnight’s Musicians have over 200 years of combined professional experience. The band has played over 1000 gigs, recorded two live and seven studio CDs, sold over 5000 CD’s, has over 1000 fans on their email list and more than 650 likes on Facebook. They’ve played at

hundreds of concerts, weddings, events, festivals, dances and clubs over the years. Some of the more memorable ones include the San Diego Jazz Festival, Sun Valley Jazz and Music Festival, Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, Capital City Jazz Festival, Evergreen Jazz Festival, Taste of Colorado, Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Jazz in the Sangres Festival and *Rocky Mountain PBS TV*.

Tickets at the door are \$20. Season tickets are still available. Complimentary admission for students under age 18 when accompanied by a member. For additional information and videos about this and future concerts, visit www.fremontcountconcerts.com and aftermidnightjazzband.com, their Facebook page “After Midnight Jazz Band” or call Marty at 719-275-5950.

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INAUGURATION
from page 2

“faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” He then bent over, reverentially kissed the Bible, and then likely added the words “So help me God.”

Oaths in the Various States

Significantly, twelve of the thirteen colonies at the time required the use of that phrase when taking an oath,¹⁰ and the thirteenth colony required a declared belief in God just to hold office.¹¹ While no contemporary records verify this addition to his oath, it would have been highly unusual if he had neglected to do so; and we can be confident that the *absence* of these words would certainly have been noted in contemporary accounts.

Many of Washington’s actions related to oath-taking have clear antecedents in the Bible. For example, God declared: “I RAISED MY HAND IN AN OATH . . .” (Ezekiel 20:15, 23; 36:7; Psalm 106:26) and the Scripture further affirms that “The Lord has sworn by His RIGHT hand” (Isaiah 62:8). And when God’s people were instructed how to take an oath, they were told: “You shall . . . take oaths IN HIS NAME” (Deuteronomy 10:20), which is reflected with our use of the phrase “So help me God.”

Founders on Oaths

America’s Founders repeatedly affirmed that oath taking is an inherently religious activity. For example (emphasis added in each quote):

[An] oath—the strongest of religious ties. **JAMES MADISON**, SIGNER OF THE CONSTITUTION

[In o]ur laws . . . by the oath which they prescribe, we appeal to the Supreme Being so to deal with us hereafter as we observe the obligation of our oaths. The Pagan world were and are without the mighty influence of this principle which is proclaimed in the Christian system. **RUFUS KING**, SIGNER OF THE CONSTITUTION

Oaths in this country are as yet universally considered as sacred obligations.¹⁴ **JOHN ADAMS**, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION, FRAMER OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

An oath is an appeal to God, the Searcher of Hearts, for the truth of what we say and always expresses or supposes an imprecation [calling down] of His judgment upon us if we prevaricate [lie]. An oath, therefore, implies a belief in God and His Providence and indeed is an act of worship. . . . In vows, there is no party but God and the person himself who makes the vow.¹⁵ **JOHN WITHERSPOON**, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION

The Constitution enjoins an oath upon all the officers of the United States. This is a direct appeal to that God Who is the avenger of perjury. Such an appeal to Him is a full acknowledgment of His being and providence. **OLIVER WOLCOTT**, SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION

According to the modern definition [1788] of an oath, it is considered a “solemn appeal to the Supreme Being for the truth of what is said by a person who believes in the existence of a Supreme Being and in a future state of rewards and punishments . . .”¹² **JAMES IREDELL**, RATIFIER OF THE CONSTITUTION, EARLY U. S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The Constitution had provided that all the public functionaries of the Union, not only of the general [federal] but of all the state governments, should be under oath or affirmation for its support. The homage of religious faith was thus superadded to all the obligations of temporal law to give it strength.¹⁸ **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**, PRESIDENT

George Washington, in his famous Farewell Address at the end of his presidency, pointedly warned Americans never to let the oath-taking process become secular:

[W]here is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths . . . ?

Clearly, in the Founding Era, the act of taking an oath was considered an intrinsically religious activity.

Eyewitness Account of the 1st Inauguration

After George Washington finished taking his oath, Chancellor Livingston proclaimed “It is done!” Turning to the crowd assembled below, he shouted, “Long live George Washington—the first President of the United States!” That shout was echoed and re-echoed by the crowd. As reported by one eyewitness:

It would seem extraordinary that the administration of an oath, a ceremony so very common and familiar, should in so great a degree excite the public curiosity. But the circumstances of his election—the impression of his past services—the concourse of spectators – the devout fervency with which he repeated the oath—and the reverential manner in which he bowed down and kissed the Sacred Volume—all these conspired to render it one of the most august and interesting spectacle ever exhibited on this globe. It seemed, from the number of witnesses, to be a solemn appeal to Heaven and earth at once. Upon the subject of this great and good man, I may perhaps be an enthusiast, but I confess that I was under an awful and religious persuasion that the gracious Ruler of the Universe was looking down at that moment with peculiar complacency [satisfaction] on an act, which to a part of His creatures was so very important. Under this impression, when the Chancellor pronounced in a very feeling

manner, “Long live George Washington,” my sensibility was wound up to such a pitch that I could do not more than wave my hat with the rest, without the power of joining in the repeated acclamations which rent the air.²⁰

Washington’s Inauguration Address

Washington and the other officials then left the balcony and went inside Federal Hall to the Senate Chamber, where he delivered the first Inaugural Address to a joint session of Congress. He began by emphasizing that it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being Who rules over the universe, Who presides in the councils of nations, and Whose providential aids can supply every human defect – that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes.

Washington then called his listeners to remember and acknowledge God:

In tendering this homage [act of worship] to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Providential Agency. . . . [and] we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious [favorable] smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.

Washington concluded the address by offering a heartfelt closing prayer:

I shall take my present leave—but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Human Race in humble supplication [prayer] that . . . His Divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this government must depend.

Church After Inauguration

After the address, Congress had stipulated:

That after the oath shall have been administered to the President, he—attended by the Vice-President and members of the Senate and House of Representatives—proceed to St. Paul’s Chapel to hear Divine service.

So, agreeable to the congressional resolution:

The President, the Vice-President, the Senate, and House of Representatives, &c., then proceeded to St. Paul’s Chapel, where Divine Service was performed by the chaplain of Congress.

The president and Congress went en masse to church, where the service was conducted

*by The Right Reverend Samuel Provoost—the Episcopal Bishop of New York who had been chosen chaplain of the Senate the preceding week.*²⁶ *He performed the service according to The Book of Common Prayer, including prayers taken from Psalms 144–150, administering the sacrament of Holy Communion, and Scripture readings from the book of Acts, I Kings, and the Third Epistle of John.*

After the church service Congress returned to Federal Hall where it adjourned, thus concluding the official inaugural activities.

Conclusion

The first presidential inauguration included at least eight distinctly religious activities: (1) a time of public prayer preceding the inauguration (today, this often occurs through an official prayer breakfast preceding the inauguration); (2) the use of the Bible to administer the oath; (3) solemnifying the oath with multiple religious expressions (placing a hand on the Bible, saying “So help me God,” and kissing the Bible); (4) prayers offered by the president himself; (5) religious content in the inaugural address; (6) the president calling the people to pray or acknowledge God; (7) official church worship services; and (8) clergy-led prayers. These have been repeated, in whole or part, in *every* subsequent inauguration.

From the earliest colonial settlements to the first presidential inauguration, Americans believed that religious practices should play an important role in civic ceremonies. There is no reason to think America’s Founders desired to change these practices, and every reason to believe they firmly embraced them.

David Barton is the Founder of Wall Builders, a national pro-family organization that presents America’s forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on our moral, religious and constitutional heritage. We met David back in 2008 when he had the big bus out, traveling the USA and speaking on our Founder’s history and the Constitution at rallies and events.

A national news organization has described him as “America’s historian,” and Time Magazine called him “a hero to millions – including some powerful politicians.” In fact, Newsmax named him as one of America’s top 100 most influential evangelicals, and Time Magazine named him as one of America’s Top 25.

David is the author of numerous best-selling books, largely based on his research from his massive library of original, historical writings. He is a sought-after speaker, bringing the truth of America’s history to churches, civic and military groups, schools and universities, and community events. David is also a frequent guest on a number of national media programs, and is a host of a daily radio show, The WallBuilders Show.

Please see <https://wallbuilders.com/resource/religious-activities-at-presidential-inaugurations/>

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Colorado State News

Reports Push for Billions More to Fund Colorado K-12, Some Say Unnecessarily

by By Elyse Apel,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – Two studies released last week are calling for Colorado to spend billions more on K-12 education programs.

This comes as absenteeism grows and enrollment and graduation rates decline. A large percentage of students also continue to underperform testing expectations.

Both studies were prepared for a task force within the Colorado Department of Education, allowing it to then make funding and budget recommendations to the General Assembly.

In total, the recommendations include encouraging the state to spend at least \$3.5 billion on K-12 education for it to reach an “adequate funding level.”

The “Input-Based Financial Adequacy Study Report” gave recommendations for how the school finance formula should be updated, using factors like cost of living and district size adjustments. This formula helps decide

how much money the state should be spending per student.

Currently, Colorado allocates \$8,726 per student. Under the new formula proposed, the state would be allocating \$12,346 per student, with additional money for at-risk students.

Tracie Rainey, executive director of the Colorado School Finance Project, assisted on the report. Rainey told *The Center Square* that she believes more funding is greatly needed.

“We know it’s not adequate,” Rainey said. “I think this report highlights opportunities to think about how the legislature creates a plan or a blueprint in order to get to adequate funding.”

Experts at the Common Sense Institute believe more funding isn’t necessarily the solution to fixing many of the problems facing Colorado’s students.

Kelly Caufield, executive director of the institute, said that it is time for a “new conversation.”

“The data is showing us time after time that more money is not resulting in better academic outcomes for

Colorado’s K-12 students,” she told *The Center Square*. “It’s much easier to just have the funding conversation, versus the harder conversation about priorities within the classroom and how we are addressing the needs of students.”

In Rainey’s opinion, additional funding would help build up the K-12 system in the state, including hiring more specialists and reducing class sizes.

“We are considered to be a wealthy state when it comes to resources, and yet we don’t invest in our systems,” she said. “I think that our leadership in Colorado needs to step up to the plate and be champions for going to the voters for increased funding.”

Elyse Apel is an apprentice reporter with *The Center Square*, covering Georgia and North Carolina. She is a 2024 graduate of Hillsdale College.

Please see https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_94538fe0-cd07-11ef-bf16-c3288a72b5f3.html

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Westcliffe is accepting letters indicating interest in filling a Vacant Trustee position on the Board.

QUALIFICATIONS TO HOLD MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Candidates for the office of Town Trustee for the Town of Westcliffe, Colorado, must:

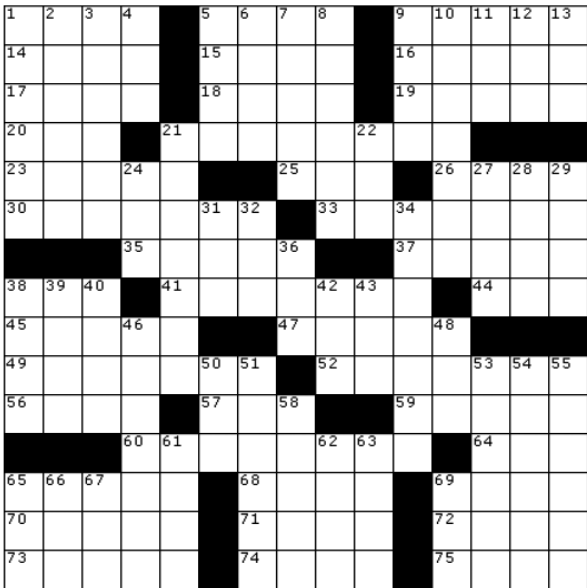
- Be a United States Citizen;
- Be at least eighteen years of age;
- A Registered Town of Westcliffe voter;
- Have resided within the Town of Westcliffe limits for at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election or date of being appointed.
- No person may be a candidate for two municipal offices at the same election nor hold two elective municipal offices simultaneously.

The Letter of Interest and a resume must be addressed to the Board of Trustees of the Town of Westcliffe at 1000 Main Street, P.O. Box 406, Westcliffe, CO. 81252, and received by January 31, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. This position will be held until the next regular election in April 2026.

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Board of Trustees
Erin Christie
Town Clerk/Administrator

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Last Publication: January 31 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Otherwise
5 speech irregularity common among the Benjamites
9 Sprung
14 North Atlantic Treaty Organization
15 Doing nothing
16 Constellation
17 Matching
18 Spiral
19 Parker
20 Disconnected
21 Greet
23 Many
25 And so forth
26 Give off
30 ____ are the meek
33 Build up a slope
35 Frills
37 Spring flower
38 Poisonous snake
41 Place in rank

44 Youngest son of Noah

- 45 Attack
47 Dry stream bed
49 Combustible perfume
52 King after David
56 Association (abbr.)
57 ____ A Small World...
59 Thrill
60 Bonsai (2 wds.)
64 Her
65 Urchin
68 Groan
69 Thrown off
70 Squashed circles
71 Upon
72 Knitting stitch
73 Lore
74 Loch ____ monster
75 Recess

DOWN

- 1 Lay to rest
2 Just
3 Muffle

- 4 Long time
5 Plague of Egypt
6 Baal
7 Cut cheese
8 Court game
9 Agape
10 Pencil removers
11 be sick
12 “Raven” author
13 Trinitrotoluene
21 Astrologers
22 Metric weight unit
24 Cooking measurement
27 School subject
28 Thought
29 Time in office
31 Epoch
32 Danish krone (abbr.)
34 Province of Palestine
36 South southwest
38 East
39 Transgressions
40 Upper body muscles
42 Owns
43 Hubbub
46 Not a Jew
48 Sun’s name
50 Transgression
51 Earlier form of a word
53 Grind (2 wds.)
54 Do unto ____
55 Sewing need
58 Rock
61 Institution (abbr.)
62 Rodents
63 Son of Seth
65 Received
66 Avenue
67 Human
69 Resort hotel

Puzzle key on page 7

The Trinidad Hotel



by The Trinidad History Museum via Facebook

Take a vintage look at the Trinidad Hotel on North Commercial Street in Trinidad, taken in 1907 by Aultman Studios. This three story brick building has a cut stone front, ornate iron work on the porches, and glass brick. The store fronts on the first floor are occupied by: “Niccoli Bros. Bar,” and “Banca Meridionale Italiana,” and “Ottavio’s Place.”



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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.

OBidenista’s Sum of the Parts

There is a saying that the sum of the parts is greater than the whole. This may describe the recent actions in the waning hours of the Biden Administration. It is undeniable that this Administration is set on a path of undermining America. From presidential pardons to presidential awards to last minute policy decisions to symbolic signals, the Biden “presidency” is sending the message that Democratic Party “democracy” is the ongoing revolution of Barack Obama’s remaking of America into a statist regime. After eight years of lawfare against the “revolution’s” chief rival, Donald Trump, the forces at hand are showing there is no end to the brazen attempt to turn America away from its founding principles.

Let’s start with pardons. Biden pardoned his crime family son Hunter after repeatedly saying that he wouldn’t. Then he went on to a record number of pardons and commuting sentences—mostly of drug dealers and death row murderers. Then there are the awards. Hillary Clinton and George Soros getting awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Clinton is no doubt the poster child for government corruption—remember the Russian influence hoax and her pay to play scheme with world leaders when she was Secretary of State. Soros is a staunch socialist who has used his billions to undermine American ideals and support Marxist politicians and judges. What kind of message does this send to Americans?

Biden will award the Presidential Citizens Medal to former Representative Liz Cheney (R-WY), who was the Republican lap dog of the Democratic Party’s Marxist show trial against Trump for insurrection, among other things. Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS) will join Cheney as he was the chairman of the Jan. 6 Committee that gaslighted Americans that Jan. 6 protesters were trying to overthrow the U.S. government. This led to the impeachment of Trump. Then there is the admission by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken that Biden’s pressure on Israel aided Hamas in refusing to give up Israeli hostages. Biden and Obama both supported known terrorist groups and sponsors with billions in U.S. tax dollars. These people not only want genocide of Jews, but also to topple America and kill us all.

Of course, no good Marxist revolution would be complete without continued economic disruption on its target. Biden plans to use an obscure provision of a 1953 law called the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently ban offshore oil and gas drilling. Using obscure laws for unintended purposes is the hallmark of Marxism. Now many people may not understand the collective significance of all these developments. Christ said of false prophets in Matthew 7:16, “You will know them by their fruits.” Same is true for Marxists. These are just the high points of all the recent Marxist acts by Biden and his minions. Oh, and one more thing—Biden has ordered that the American flag will fly at half-mast on Trump’s inauguration day.

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Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

The LAFD is Run by Three Lesbians Named ‘Kirsten’

The LA Fire Department Went Woke

Now LA is on Fire

By Daniel Greenfield,
FrontPageMag.com

The most important thing to know about Los Angeles Fire Chief Kristin Crowley is that she is the first LGBTQ fire chief in the history of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

It’s also the only thing worth knowing about the woman in charge while Los Angeles burned.

Crowley’s status as the first LGBTQ fire chief appears at the top of her bio on the LAFD site. It’s what got her on the Kelly Clarkson show under the headline, “Meet LAFD’s First Female & LGBTQ+ Fire Chief” and made her one of the marshals of the Los Angeles Pride Parade (some of whose attendees no longer have homes after the wave of fires.)

But DEI wasn’t done with the LAFD just yet. Not until two other lesbian ‘Kirstens’ were also running the LAFD.

Kristina Kepner, the first lesbian Assistant Chief and a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School for Managing Diverse Organizations, was accused of a domestic violence incident involving her girlfriend. Kristine Larson, who has a degree in Sociology, headed ‘Equity on Fire’, an organization complaining that the LAFD was sexist and racist, was then rewarded with the title of the LAFD’s first lesbian Equity Bureau Chief with a \$399,000 salary.

Diversity mandates had led to three lesbians named some version of ‘Kirsten’ running the LAFD.

Meanwhile, Jamie Brown became the LAFD’s first lesbian Training Commander. Her accomplishment was being the only one of the four lesbians running the LAFD who wasn’t named ‘Kirsten’.

Many glass ceilings were being broken, but there was no one who actually knew how to fight fires. Unless it was by asking the fire about its preferred pronouns.

Crowley, Kepner, and Brown were all paramedics, not firefighters. Diversity mandates led to paramedics being referred to as ‘firefighters’ and being promoted to fire captains and battalion chiefs and then to the top echelons of the LAFD.

Paramedics who did not understand how to fight fires were running one of the biggest fire departments in the country.

Around this same time, Janisse Quinones was appointed to head the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, with a \$750,000 salary that far exceeded her predecessor. The press release made sure to mention that she was the “first female Latina to lead LADWP as CEO.”

Between all the trailblazing lesbian fire chiefs and the first female Latina CEO, the LAFD couldn’t find the manpower to actually fight the fires on the first day of the firestorm or the water in the hydrants to put them out. Breaking glass ceilings is easy, but putting out fires is hard.

And Kristin Crowley was picked to break glass ceilings, not to actually fight fires.

Even before the worst firestorms in over a decade hit, there were warnings that the DEI LAFD brass had wrecked one of the country’s greatest firefighting services. The I-10 fire in 2023 spun out of control and the LAFD struggled to cope with what should have been an easy problem. In a Keystone Kops moment, Engine 17 got stuck under the overpass and was destroyed.

No one dared to point the finger at Crowley, a Harvard Business School graduate who earns \$439,772 and was prone to reciting Kamalaisms like “I am different, but there’s a lot of difference everywhere in the world” and “we all our different, but that’s a strength of ours.”

Being different had become a major asset at the LAFD ever since it went DEI.

Crowley succeeded Chief Ralph Terrazas, hailed as the first Latino chief who replaced Chief Douglas Barry, the first black chief, and in the ordinary way of things, Crowley will be replaced by the first transgender fire chief who will then have to be replaced by someone even more diverse. Assuming that there is still a Los Angeles to pay them/it/xem a six-figure salary.

None of this has much to do with fighting fires, but very little in LA government has to do with anything except “breaking barriers” and triumphing over obstacles like basic competence.

After complaints that the first Latino fire chief tolerated sexism, he had to be replaced by a woman. And Kirstin Crowley came to work, committed to being the best at rooting out sexism.

After her appointment, Fire Chief Crowley vowed to prioritize a “work environment that is free of harassment, discrimination and hazing” and promised to build a new era of the LAFD through “the creation of systemic equity and inclusion across the LAFD.”

Systemic equity and inclusion doesn’t put out fires. Not unless you drop DEI consultants on them. But the LAFD leadership was too busy with DEI to deal with minor matters like fires.

In 2022, the LAFD under Crowley announced its first Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Bureau. It bragged that 70% of the applicants to the department were minorities and 8% were women. Rather than hiring the best, the LAFD was laboriously working to fill diversity quotas.

Mayor Eric Garcetti had promised to bring the number of women up to 5% from 3.5% and now the LAFD is approaching 8%. No one was allowed to ask if this was going to make the LAFD any better at fighting fires now that it was hiring in order to hit a diversity target.

Beyond DEI, every stupid woke idea found a home under Crowley’s regime. After taking over, Crowley debuted the first “electric fire engine” to fight “pollution”, instead it was sidelined by a water leak. The vaccine mandate ousted some firefighters and suspended others. Last year, with a shortage of firefighters, the LAFD began trying to bring some of them back.

Los Angeles and the LAFD fought the Firefighters4Freedom Foundation group which represented 500 members of the LAFD. Now the LAFD has been reduced to begging for volunteers with firefighting experience. The DEI LAFD seems to be a whole lot more diverse, but also a lot less competent at deploying manpower than the old organization used to be.

While the LAFD might have lost a whole lot white men who knew how to fight fires, it gained a lot of DEI hires who knew how to pursue diversity, inclusion and all the pronoun stuff.

And while LA might have lost a lot of buildings, it gained a lot of lesbian fire chiefs.

Please see: <https://www.frontpage-mag.com/the-lafd-is-run-by-three-lesbians-named-kirsten/>

Biden/Harris Admin Opened Floodgates for Tax Funded Sex Changes on Kids

by Megan Brock, The Daily Caller News Foundation

THE DAILY CALLER
NEWS FOUNDATION

The Biden-Harris administration opened the door for a massive increase of taxpayer-funded transgender interventions, including child sex-change surgeries, and the *Daily Caller News Foundation* has obtained enough data to give a partial estimate of the cost.

From January 2018 to September 2023, 16 states spent more than \$165 million funding “gender transition services” — including puberty blockers, hormones, and sex-change surgeries — with more than \$45 million spent on interventions for children 17 and younger, according to data obtained by the *DCNF* through a series of public record requests.

The *DCNF* asked states to provide reimbursement data for gender transition services covered through state insurance and medical assistance programs, such as Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which is funded through Medicaid. The states were able to identify gender transition services through medical billing codes such as International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes. Published by the World Health Organization, ICD codes provide comprehensive diagnostic information for diseases and injuries and create a valuable dataset used in medical research.

The *DCNF* requested the total amount of reimbursements paid for all gender transition services — which could include speech therapy and mental health services as well as life-altering surgeries — that were covered through state insurance and medical assistance programs.

The states that provided data to the *DCNF* include: Michigan, Idaho, Illinois, Virginia, Nevada, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire,

Wyoming, Kentucky, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

The three states with the highest amount of reimbursements for gender transition services for adults and kids were Illinois, Oregon, and Washington state. Illinois spent \$40,843,721, which included \$14,296,558 in services for children 17 and under. Oregon spent \$30,045,262 and Washington State spent \$27,145,383. Other statewide totals for gender transition services includes Maryland, which spent \$11,849,062, Nevada, which spent \$10,096,655, Michigan, which spent \$6,821,169, and New Hampshire, which spent \$2,360,534, according to data sent to the *DCNF*.

Virginia provided the *DCNF* with data from 2020 to 2022, spending a total of \$13,933,635 on gender transition services in three years, with \$3,480,492 spent on sex-change interventions for children 17 and under.

The state of Oregon specified that their data included reimbursement costs for a range of sex-change procedures including surgeries, anesthesia costs, hair removal, speech therapy, hormone therapy, and puberty suppression.

The data showed a 60% increase in sex-change interventions for adults and kids under the Biden-Harris administration across the 15 states that provided yearly data totals for 2020 to 2022, jumping from \$27,753,478 spent on gender transition services in 2020 to \$44,553,052 in 2022. Utah did not break down its data into yearly totals and was excluded from this calculation. While data for 2023 was incomplete, 12 states provided some totals showing \$22,017,362 had been spent on sex-change interventions over the first nine months of last year.

The *DCNF* attempted to obtain similar data from 48 states. However, many states outright denied the requests or sought exorbitant fees to obtain public data. For example, Rhode Island wanted a prepayment of more

than \$3,000 to fulfill the request that other states considered exempt from public information processing fees.

Explosion In Sex Changes For Minors

Democrat-led policies that required insurers to pay for sex changes for minors led to an increase in the procedures nationwide, according to a leading transgender activist and physician.

Vice President Kamala Harris@VP

Every person in our nation must have the freedom to be their true self and to live free from hate.

On Transgender Day of Visibility, I say to all trans and non-binary people: We see you. We love you. We will never stop fighting for you.

4:37 PM · Mar 31, 2024

In a June 2022 email exclusively obtained by the *DCNF*, Jason Rafferty, the lead author of the American Academy of Pediatrics sex-change policy, attributed the growth of pediatric sex-change surgery to services being more “accessible” due to increased Medicaid funding.

“I would say that there has likely been an increase in ‘top surgery’ among 16 and 17 year olds simply due to the fact that this surgery has become more accessible. 10 years ago when I started in this field, if a patient wanted surgery there was really only one surgeon in the region doing it for patients under 18 and aside from that they would need to travel across the country and pay out of pocket,” wrote Rafferty.

“Clearly if you were on Medicaid or did not have the resources, it was off the table. Today, we have three surgeons in [Rhode Island] doing these surgeries and probably half a dozen in [Massachusetts] plus a pediatric plastic surgeon at Boston Childrens specializing in gender surgeries. Most if not all now take Medicaid – very few patients are paying the fully cost

of surgery out of pocket. So, the point is that my experience is not that surgery is ‘more popular’ but just more (or simply just) accessible,” he wrote.

Rafferty did not respond to multiple requests for comment from the *DCNF*.

The rapid growth of tax dollars funding the sex-change industry can be attributed to policies from Democrat presidential administrations.

In 2014, the Obama-Biden administration overturned a rule preventing Medicare from funding sex-change surgeries, opening the doors for taxpayers to pay for sex-change operations. They further expanded coverage for sex-change interventions in 2016 through their interpretation of Section 1557, a non-discrimination provision of the Affordable Care Act.

In May 2016, the Obama-Biden administration issued a rule that quietly redefined the discrimination policy to include sexual orientation and “gender identity,” a move which strong-armed the entire medical community into embracing gender ideology and sex-change interventions, especially for children. “Gender identity” is a term used by transgender activists to describe how a person feels about or perceives their sex. Activists believe these feelings override a person’s biology and should have equal weight in law and society.

The Obama-Biden administration’s regulatory change prevented insurance companies from categorically denying coverage for sex-change interventions, considering such bans a form of discrimination, which forced insurance plans to offer coverage for sex-change services.

“What the rule was about under Obama, and now under Biden-Harris, was to force medical providers to do the surgeries, even against their medical judgments, and for insurance companies to pay for it, which means we all pay for it,” Roger Severino, vice

president of domestic policy at the Heritage Foundation and former director of the Office for Civil Rights at Health and Human Services, told the *DCNF*.

“That includes the whole gamut from hysterectomies to breast augmentations to tracheal shapes, voice training — just an extraordinary number of very expensive procedures to treat a psychological condition using physical interventions, surgeries, etc. and no real religious exemption,” Severino said.

A 2023 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* showed the impact of Obama’s 2016 Rule, finding the number of sex change surgical procedures performed in the U.S. nearly tripled between 2016 to 2019. Roughly 8% of patients were between the ages of 12 to 18, the study found, and showed a sharp rise in breast and chest surgery from 2016 to 2019 within the pediatric population.

Biden-Harris Restores Gender Surgery Funding After Trump Admin

In June 2020, the Trump administration overturned Obama’s Rule on Section 1557, reinstating the government’s previous interpretation of discrimination must be based on biological sex rather than “gender identity.” At that time, Severino was the director of the Office for Civil Rights at Health and Human Services.

On May 10, 2021, however, the Biden-Harris administration reversed the Trump rule and redefined discrimination under Section 1557 to include “gender identity,” again forcing the medical community, including insurance companies, to provide sex-change services to children or face accusations of discrimination.

“I issued the Trump regulations, undoing the Obama Section 1557 changes that added gender

SEX CHANGE KIDS
TAX FUNDED
see page 23

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



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

Boebert Introduces Bill to Abolish the ATF

by John Crump,
ammoland.com

Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) has introduced a bill to abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

The Abolish the ATF Act (H.R. 129) would shutter the government agency that is responsible for regulating alcohol, tobacco, and firearms. The ATF was founded in 1866 as the "Revenue Laboratory" under the Treasury Department's Bureau of Internal Revenue. It was made an independent agency of the Treasury Department in 1927. In 1930, the ATF was transferred to the Department of Justice before being transferred back to the Treasury Department in 1933, and it became the Alcohol Tax Unit (ATU).

In the 1950s, the Bureau of Internal Revenue became the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The ATU was renamed to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division (ATTD). In 1968, after Congress passed the Gun Control Act (GCA), the

agency's name was changed to the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division of the IRS and was first referred to as the "ATF." In 1972, the ATF was once again established as an independent bureau within the Treasury Department. The name was changed to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush signed into law the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The law shifted the ATF back to the Justice Department. In 2003, the ATF changed its name to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, although it would still be referred to as the ATF. The taxation portion of the agency moved to the newly formed Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), leaving the majority of the ATF's mission to regulate firearms.

Firearms are protected under the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment doesn't grant us the right to bear arms. The

founders were very clear that those rights come from the Creator and are natural rights. The Second Amendment can be viewed as a negative liberty for the government. It strips the government the right to infringe on the rights of the people to carry arms. Rep Boebert's bill would double down on this by disbanding the agency whose primary purpose is to regulate constitutionally protected freedom.

During her speech about the bill, Rep. Boebert highlighted her belief that instead of making us safer, the ATF has made the streets more dangerous by allowing firearms to flow to Mexican drug cartels through programs like "Fast & Furious." During that operation, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agent Brian Terry was shot and killed by a firearm that the ATF let "walk" to the Mexican drug cartels. Many others on the Mexican side of the border were also killed with those guns allowed to flow into the hands of cartel members.

The ATF also has a history of using the rule-making process as an end-around to Congress. The ATF attempted to ban bump stocks by modifying the definition of a machine gun, only to have SCOTUS reject their efforts. This case is not the only instance of the ATF overstepping its power in the eyes of the courts.

After Congress refused to institute universal background checks (UBC), the ATF made an "engaged in the business" rule, which made almost everyone selling a firearm a "gun dealer." Most people saw this new rule as "backdoor universal background checks." A Texas Federal District Court judge has issued an injunction against this rule, blocking the ATF from enforcing it. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has also blocked the ATF's attempts to reclassify pistols with stabilizing devices to be short, barreled rifles (SBR), gun parts as firearms, and forced reset triggers (FRT) to be machine guns.

To many, the ATF has become more of a tool of the executive branch than an independent law enforcement and regulatory agency. That is why Rep. Boebert and others want to disband the troubled Bureau, although she is facing an uphill battle. Republicans hold the majority in both chambers of Congress but do not have the supermajority needed in the Senate to pass the bill unless some Democrats cross over to back the bill, which is very unlikely. The bill isn't even expected to have all Republicans back it.

This bill is more of a shot across the bow on the ATF. It is a warning that the eyes of Congress are watching. It may be symbolic, but it is a good start for those who want to abolish the ATF.

(Editor/GG: Go Lauren!!!)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/01/boebert-introduces-bill-to-abolish-the-atf/>

Grizzly Bear Charge Stopped with a .410 Shotgun in Montana

by Dean Weingarten,
ammoland.com

During a crisp early Wednesday morning on October 15, 2003, near Fortine, Montana, James Beeman used a .410 shotgun to shoot and drop a charging grizzly bear at three feet.

James Beeman had been having problems with raccoons in the large chicken coop he had built, about 50 yards from his 3,600 square foot home. At about 3:30 a.m., he heard an unusual noise, sort of a mew-mew, but he did not sense anything amiss. At 4:30 a.m., chaos erupted in the chicken coop.

The coop was 36x22 feet, with a floor four feet above ground level to allow the chicken droppings to fall to the ground for easy cleaning. It housed 250 chickens. A ramp ran up into the coop to allow access.

James was dressed in longjohn underwear. He got up and started to grab a 12-gauge shotgun. Thinking the disturbance was

caused by raccoons, and not wanting to damage his chickens or coop more than necessary, he grabbed a .410 bolt action shotgun instead. The shotgun held three rounds of #7.5 bird shot. James put on footgear and an earflap hat. He had a headlamp on as he walked to the door of the chicken coop.

He was only a few feet away when he saw a bear cub had its head inside the coop. The cub looked at him and took off away from the coop toward a fenced dead end. A second cub appeared and took off in the same direction. The big bear stuck its head out of the coop. It was only three feet from where James was standing. It had a chicken in its mouth. The bear dropped the chicken and "woofed." James was starting to back up. It had rained a little during the night. The ground showed James backed up seven steps as the bear jumped down and off the ramp, breaking off a corner of a one inch plywood sheet. She came at James from 15 feet. He fired from the hip when the bear was three feet from the muzzle

of the .410. The bear dropped at his feet.

James called the authorities. The game warden showed up two hours later. It was still dark. The bear's eyes glowed red, and James thought it might still be alive. The warden said: "no, the eyes would be glowing green if the bear was alive."

The entrance wound was two centimeters or 3/4 of an inch left of the right nostril, centered on the nose.

The warden used a foot-long stick to follow the wound track. It penetrated back to where the brain was expected to be. In the necropsy, two #7.5 pellets were found in the brain, killing the bear. The rest of the shot charge had cleared the way for those two pellets to penetrate the brain.

The necropsy measured the bear at 580 lbs. The big sow had 22 tattoos from being captured previously. Each time she had been captured, she got another tattoo. The sow had come down from

Canada and was believed to be 18-20 years old.

James revealed bears are a common problem in the area. No food can be left outside. People who need to protect stock, chickens, or other things bears like to eat, such as honey in beehives, are forced to use electric fences. This correspondent considers electric fences to be a nuisance to deal with. However, they protect against bears better and more cheaply than non-electric barriers. The fences are turned off in the winter, when bears hibernate.

The bear cubs were captured. As cubs of the year, it did not seem likely they would survive the winter. They were placed in an old den.

When people had stock on the frontier, they protected the stock by hunting down stock killing bears and killing the bears. Bears soon learned to stay away from humans in order to survive.

Not long ago, James had another problem with a bear visit. It was

captured, and a DNA sample was taken. The DNA showed it was descended from the female cub of the bear James had killed in 2003.

Sows with bad habits pass on the bad habits to their cubs.

As the Myth of Old Groaner in Alaska grew, the writer who embellished the original tale claimed a .410 was useless against grizzly bears. The case of James Beeman in 2003 shows a .410 is much better than a sharp stick. Even a 2 1/2 inch .410 with a half-ounce of shot at 1300 fps, is about the same energy as a .44 Magnum. To penetrate much, the shot has to be delivered in a compact mass. It has spread out too much by five yards. At one yard, it was sufficient.

Several bears have been killed with birdshot at ranges of less than 15 feet. A bigger shot probably works better.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/12/grizzly-bear-charge-stopped-with-a-410-shotgun-in-montana/>



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Beyond .45 ACP: Exploring 9mm and Other Calibers for the 1911

by Mike Hardesty,
ammoland.com

John Moses Browning’s brainchild 1911 design literally changed the world of pistol shooting. From its inception to its adoption by the military – a very interesting story in itself – throughout its storied career, ol’ slab sides, as it has affectionately been referred to, is arguably the most recognizable pistol in the world by non-shooters.

There’s a reason for that: originally chambered in .45 ACP, the gun had (has) a reputation for one-shot stops. Its 230-grain FMJ bullet was greatly feared by those on the other side of the front sight. I had a cousin (second cousin, actually), Billy, who was in the Air Force and was stationed in Japan after the war. He was tasked with helping to keep the peace. He said they’d roll up to a scene where looting or other nastiness was occurring and pull out their M1 carbines. Typically, that had no effect on stopping the activity, but when they pulled out their .45s, all nefarious actions would cease. It seems the bad guys wanted no part of the .45 ACP.

I could go on and on about the .45 in the 1911, but this article is about other calibers available in that platform. Let’s take a quick look at some of these non-.45 calibers. We’ll list a few of the mainline calibers (there are some esoteric ones out there that are beyond the scope of this article) and look at some of the reasons they are popular.

Most of these calibers work very well in the Browning short-recoil-action 1911. Being a locked-breech action helps contain pressures that might make lesser pistols tremble. So, literally anything from the lowly .22LR up to the deer-busting 10mm can be effectively fired in the 1911. Let’s look at the most popular non-.45 calibers that 1911s are sold in today.

.22 LR

First, there’s the **.22 LR**. 1911s have been chambered in this caliber for decades, and have mostly been used as training guns for the “real deal”. I’ve owned a couple of them myself, and my son still has one. They are very useful. New shooters can learn the 1911 Manual of Arms and get lots of low-recoil-low-noise shooting in before graduating to a centerfire model. Many rimfire 1911s are accurate enough for small-game hunting.

- Abundant ammo
- Low shooting cost
- Low recoil and noise
- Great training aid “starter gun” before moving to a centerfire caliber



Auto Ordnance 1911GI 45ACP IMG Jim Grant

- Good woods-walking gun

.38 Super

Next, there’s the **.38 Super**. This caliber was one of the original non-.45 calibers to be chambered in 1911s. It was very popular in some South American countries, as laws there precluded owning pistols in military calibers. That effectively ruled out .45 ACP and 9mm. I believe that the .38 Super, which behaves like a 9mm on steroids, was popular for that reason. It is a powerful round. Typically it is loaded about 200 fps faster than the 9mm. It came out in 1929 as a possible solution to penetration issues suffered by the .38 Special and .45 ACP. Today, many competitive shooters use it in matches as it makes major power factor without .45ACP-style recoil in USPSA or similar contests. One of its only downsides is that it is not as available and it costs more than 9mm.

- More powerful than 9mm – sort of a “9mm Magnum”
- Makes major power factor with reduced recoil
- Popular hunting round for small to medium game
- Magazines can hold more rounds than .45 ACP

9mm

Let’s not overlook the **9mm**. That caliber had been popular in Europe (it was released in 1902) for years before Colt introduced its aluminum-framed Commander model in 1949. It was chambered in either .45ACP or 9mm. Originally intended as an officer’s gun, once it was available in quantity, sales took off among civilian shooters. Of course, they had no idea that in the mid-1980s we would transition to a 9mm sidearm and slowly phase out the .45 (which has never totally happened – they are still in use by many special units). Why is the 1911 9mm so popular when compared with the .45ACP? It seems that whenever I read about a new 1911 being introduced, it’s in 9mm nowadays and seldom in .45. In this world of 9mm “plastic fantasies” – polymer-framed striker-fired pistols – the old-fashioned single-action 1911 is still a very popular option in that opinion.

- Magazine capacity is greater
- Recoil and noise are less
- Cost of ammo is less than .45ACP
- Ammo availability is very good
- Availability of pistols is excellent in 9mm

10mm

I’ve always wanted a 1911 in **10mm**. Although a bit much for everyday carry, it shines as a hunting piece. Here in the Hoosier state, it is deer-legal. The full-bore Big 10 is a bit much in some pistols, but not the locked breech 1911. I once borrowed a friend’s Colt Delta Elite in 10mm ... it was a handful but pleasant to shoot. The 10mm is a natural caliber to be chambered in 1911s as it is so versatile. If you have to punch through metal, glass, or a deer, the 10mm is what you want.

- Ammo is available and reasonably priced
- Many companies make 10mm 1911s
- Downloaded ammo is available and makes for good practice sessions
- The 10mm is one of few 1911 chamberings good for medium game

.40 S&W

Lastly, there’s the **.40 S&W**. Some shooters think of it as a down-loaded 10mm, and they are correct – that’s how it came about. When some F.B.I. agents had trouble controlling their new 10mm pistols, a request was made to download the energetic cartridge. Long story short, the .40 S&W was born. Derisively referred by some shooters as the “.40 Short-and-Weak”, it nonetheless has earned a reputation as a decent stopper. Many law enforcement agencies adopted it. But, in recent years, many of those agencies have gone back to the 9mm with its lower recoil and greater magazine capacity. For those .40 fans out there, 1911 pistols are still being made. Here’s my two cents’ worth: the .40 shines in a 1911. The larger, single-action pistol is a great platform for this round. Smaller pistols can be harder to control, but the 1911 evens things out.

- Powerful, great for concealed carry
- Ammo is available
- Different ammo power levels are available
- Ammo cost is reasonable

There you have it. These are the major, non-.45ACP calibers that 1911s can be purchased in today. Like I said, there are a few other calibers that I do not consider mainstream, like the 7.65 Parabellum or the .400 Corbon, but for those who like unique calibers, they’re out there.



This is one fine 1911...in 9mm.

Why Would You Want A Non-.45 1911?

We have four wonderful sons, all of whom are shooters. But one of them is really into it – he just bought a Springfield Armory Prodigy 9mm 1911. Why? He’s looking at getting into competition and wanted a great-quality, versatile pistol. He chose 9mm because of the reasons I stated above – great magazine capacity, less felt recoil and noise, easy access to dozens of different 9mm loads, etc. His experience sort of underlines this article’s theme – the popularity of non-.45 1911s.

Different shooters have different reasons for wanting guns. I mentioned competition – that’s one use. Others may be looking to go afield and take down medium-size game, so they invest in a 10mm. There are as many reasons to own one of the non-.45 1911s as there are shooters.

One reason that folks buy a pistol whose design is well over a century old when newer, “modern-action” pistols abound is the 1911 trigger. Being a single-action pistol, the 1911 trigger is among the finest of any pistol type. That Prodigy I mentioned above has a trigger you want to write home about, if you didn’t already live there. It broke right at 3 pounds with zero take-up and creep. Nice! Technically, it is a 2011 since it has magazine capacity up to 26 rounds and a Pic rail on the dust-cover, but Springfield advertises it as a 1911.

That’s the cool thing about the old warhorse... it is easily

updated. Don’t like that trigger? Replace it. Want a different grip safety or to maybe install an ambidextrous safety? Just do it. Parts availability is great... folks have been making third-party items for 1911s for about as long as it’s been around.

Maybe you don’t need the .45’s huge punkin ball, but are happy with something from a smaller squash family like the 9mm provides. Or, maybe you just acquired/inherited a huge pile of .38 Super or .40 S&W or 10mm

ammo and have always wanted a quality 1911 – now’s your chance! There are a ton of reasons to want one of these.

Summing Up

When I first started out shooting earnestly around 1978, the .45 ACP was king of semi-auto pistol calibers. NRA Bullseye competition was still popular and usually revolved around the .38 Special or the .45ACP. The three caliber designations that the NRA recognized were .22 rimfire, .32 or greater centerfire, and .45ACP. That tells you something.

But today is different. With the adoption of the 9mm by NATO and our military (not to mention law enforcement), that guarantees a pretty steady supply of ammo and guns. I see the .45ACP as all but being eclipsed by the 9mm, even though I’m still a huge fan.

Therefore, it only makes sense to look to alternative calibers in the 1911 platform. Whether you go with a 9 or 10mm, a .38 Super, a .22, or a .40 S&W, you’re in good company. I look on it as combining something old and something new, sort of like my clothes. Using the 9mm as an example, you get the availability of cheaper ammo and lower recoil plus a greater magazine capacity, all tied up in a nice single-action 1911 package with a great trigger and sights. What’s not to like?

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2024/12/beyond-45-acp-exploring-9mm-and-other-calibers-for-the-1911/>

A Good Governor Signs Bill That ‘Puts Parents Back in Charge of Children’s Education

by Ben Johnson, *The Washington Stand*

Liberal activist teachers in a pivotal state will no longer be able to socially transition children, present explicit sexual materials or controversial transgender concepts to minors, or deny students the right to attend church services or receive religious instruction.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (R) signed the “Parents’ Bill of Rights” (H.B. 8) into law rather than face another veto override from his conservative Republican state legislature over protecting children from the influence of radical gender ideology. The State House of Representatives passed the bill 57-31 — introduced by Rep. D. J. Swearingen (R-89) and former State Rep. Sara P. Carruthers (R-47) — and the state Senate backed the legislation by a 24-7 vote in late December.

A child’s parents are their “first teachers. They’re the best teachers — and that’s very, very important,” said DeWine. Parents who have information about their children’s struggles to embrace their God-given gender identity are also “the most likely people to help that child.”

Pro-family leaders praised the legislation, which aims to empower parents to continue to exercise their prerogatives — and stop “progressive” educators from encroaching on their values. “This critical legislation safeguards children from secret social transition by ensuring school officials do not hide crucial information from parents about their child’s mental health and well-being,” said Matt Sharp, director of the Alliance Defending Freedom’s Center for Public Policy, in a statement emailed to *The Washington Stand*. “It increases parental involvement in their child’s education by letting parents opt their child out of objectionable sexual content. And it empowers parents to give their children permission to attend religious instruction during the school day through released-time programs.”

“Parents know and love their children best, which is why they are best suited to make decisions about their children’s upbringing, education, and care. Thankfully, HB 8 rightfully recognizes this truth as a fundamental right,” Sharp told *TWS*. “Now and always, it’s parents who ought to be in the driver’s seat of directing the upbringing, education and care of their kids.”

“Thank you, Governor, for protecting parental rights!” said Aaron Baer, president of the Ohio-based Center for Christian Virtue, in an email sent to *The Washington Stand*. “Parents, not government bureaucrats, should be making health care and education decisions for their kids. Governor DeWine has done an incredible service for Ohio families by signing House Bill 8.”

The soon-to-be-enacted statute “protects children by safeguarding parents’ rights to make important decisions for their children. Whether it’s a decision about health care, a decision about when a child has a discussion about sexuality, or a decision over whether a child can access a religious released time program like LifeWise Academy, HB8 puts parents back in control.”

The Parents’ Bill of Rights requires all of the state’s public school districts to adopt three specific policies by this July, in time for the next school year.

The law, H.B. 8, prevents schools from withholding information about their children’s decision to identify as a member of the opposite sex. The text of the bill specifies “the school district shall not inhibit parental access to the student’s education and health records maintained by the school” and that no one who works for a school

district may “directly or indirectly encourag[e] a student to withhold from a parent information concerning the student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.” That includes “[a]ny request by a student to identify as a gender that does not align with the student’s biological sex.”

Schools should not “keep secret information about someone else’s child. Children are not a ward of the state or a school district and are to be raised and guided by their parents,” said state Senator Andrew Brenner (R-19).

Second, the bill prevents the school from preventing any sexuality content from kindergarten through third grade, including “any oral or written instruction, presentation, image, or description of sexual concepts or gender ideology provided in a classroom setting.” Any sex education information from fourth grade forward must be “age-appropriate,” a provision to the text of the “Parental Rights in Education” Act signed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R).

Finally, schools must respect students’ right to release time for religious instruction, such as the popular LifeWise Academy instruction course. The issue came to the fore this fall and winter, when two suburban Columbus school districts denied that right. The Westerville City School District opted, in a near-unanimous vote, to rescind its release time policy. Both policies stand in seeming defiance of the 1952 Supreme Court ruling, *Zorach v. Clauson*, which affirmed the right of “public school children to leave campus during school hours to attend religious instruction and services.” Worthington City Schools board members erased its release time for religious instruction policy in December.

The Ohio-based Mission America called the bill’s passage “great news ... And even better news is that it was amended to require schools to have a policy allowing religious instruction release time, like the very popular LifeWise program.”

“The Parents’ Bill of Rights will help protect the primary role of parents in the education and nurture of their children,” said Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost (R), who spoke about the moral foundation of law at the 2024 Pray Vote Stand Summit, in a social media post.

But the bill’s foes branded it “dangerous.” Dwayen Steward, executive director of the LGBTQ pressure group Equality Ohio, claimed the bill “punishes teachers and staff for supporting LGBTQ+ students who are already targets of bullying and harassment.”

DeWine, a former lieutenant governor and U.S. senator, has had a challenged relationship with the pro-family movement. He signed a heartbeat bill in 2022 before winning reelection handily. The following December, he vetoed a wildly popular child and women’s privacy protection bill, H.B. 68, which combined the Saving Adolescents From Experimentation (SAFE) Act and the Save Women’s Sports Act. The Ohio state legislature overrode his veto last January, making Ohio the 23rd state to enact protections for gender-confused children. DeWine briefly introduced executive actions and regulations to enhance the safety of adults who identify as transgender, only to roll them back last February. “We said from the get go these EO’s were hollow and now there’s no doubt,” said Baer.

The law goes into effect 90 days after its January 8, 2025, signing date.

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/ohio-governor-signs-bill-that-puts-parents-back-in-charge-of-childrens-education>

‘Reality’s Last Stand’: In a Case on the Protection of Children, Will the Supreme Court Uphold the Truth?

by Todd Chasteen, *Harbingers Daily*

One of the most critical decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court in 2025 involves a case argued before the justices in early December—*U.S. v. Skrmetti*. The high court will decide whether the state of Tennessee may protect minors from experimental, life-altering transgender medical protocols such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormone injections and surgical manipulation. For many, transgender medicine is the largest medical scandal in our nation’s history, resulting in heart-wrenching stories of wrecked lives.

To be completely upfront, the reason for this article is a call to get on our knees and pray for a clear and decisive victory to protect children and youth in Tennessee and across the country from reckless, unsubstantiated, harmful and often irreversible medical experiments.

This case has massive implications for at least two reasons. First, if you have ever listened to the testimony of a sterile, regretful, broken 20-year-old detransitioning woman, and tears don’t pour from your eyes, you don’t have a heart. Young lives are permanently damaged, and no one warned them. Affirming parents, teachers, counselors and medical professionals drank the ideological potion, seemingly oblivious to the irreversible, life-altering consequences such as sterility. This in itself is enough reason to petition our Lord for mercy, goodness and righteousness to prevail in the Supreme Court’s decision, which is expected by July. The questions posed during the hearing by the conservative majority point to the likelihood of a favorable ruling, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, but there are no guarantees.

Will the court understand the plight of detransitioners whose lives are forever changed, abandoned by the “progressive” medical establishment that failed to warn them? Will the justices consider that children struggling with gender dysphoria will conform to their actual body 85% of the time by the end of puberty and over 90% of the time by adulthood? These factors alone show that Tennessee acted reasonably, honorably and wisely to protect minors from dubious hormone and surgical interventions with no good science showing helpful long-term outcomes.

Undeniably, this is a case of historical consequence for our nation. Tennessee desires to protect children and youth from medicalized transitions that have lifelong effects and hold reckless medical practitioners accountable. State lawmakers’ duty to love, care for and protect minors should never be trumped by elevating gender identity to a special, untouchable constitutional status. States should be free to legislate by the medical reality that biological sex matters and that medicalized transition does real, lasting harm.

Romans 13 says the purpose of government is to stand against evil for the good of the people. Over 20 states have had the fortitude and vigilance to protect minors from transgender medical practices. Never forget that it took nearly 50 years of advocacy, three Supreme Court appointments and a bold strategy to set states free to protect vulnerable preborn children by erasing the millstone of *Roe v.*

Wade. This is reason to pray for the state of Tennessee in their fight for all states courageously standing against the medical atrocity of “gender-affirming care.”

Defying nature and nature’s God never ends well. Evidence-based findings in countries such as Norway, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, France and Finland have caused medical officials to put the brakes on medicalized transitions for children and youth. Leaks from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) show that behind closed doors, even some “gender-affirming care” activists express concerns and doubts about the practice. One documented concern was that youth are not mature enough to make a decision about long-term fertility and the ability to have a family one day.

A report resulting from WPATH’s public leak concluded that although the organization is often treated as authoritative on standards of care for treatment of gender dysphoria, it actually is “a fringe group of activist clinicians and researchers masquerading as a medical group, advocating for a reckless hormonal and surgical experiment to be performed on some of the most vulnerable members of society.”

Recently the Cass Review, a nearly 400-page report commissioned by England’s National Health Service, concluded that there is “remarkably weak evidence” supporting trans-gender medical interventions, with “no good evidence” on favorable long-term outcomes.

As biologist Colin Wright concisely captures it, the fight against the gender ideology agenda is “reality’s last stand.” A Supreme Court decision allowing medical professionals in Tennessee to continue dispensing puberty-killing toxins, cross-sex hormones and genital surgery on distressed youth may propel gender identity to a constitutional legal status where women’s shelters, dorms, locker rooms, prisons and sports become accessible to men pretending to be women.

The world is recognizing that this offense against nature and rejection of God’s merciful, creative, male and female design is harmful. In the United States, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons recently expressed “considerable uncertainty” about the effectiveness of plastic surgery procedures on transgender minors. But the U.S. government and most other medical associations continue to endorse medical sex change procedures for minors, and as a result, lives are being ruined.

Many states, including Tennessee, are courageously standing in the gap. Pray for favor, blessing and mercy with the Supreme Court justices and that this will not be “reality’s last stand” in an earthly sense. And keep hope: Ultimate victory comes in Revelation 21, where Jesus says, “**Behold, I am making all things new**” (Revelation 21:5).

In the meantime, let us commit ourselves to living out the words of Romans 12:12, “**Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.**”

Please see: <https://harbingersdaily.com/realitys-last-stand-in-a-case-on-the-protection-of-children-will-the-supreme-court-uphold-the-truth/>

LA County Fires: Bass's Ashes

by Lloyd Billingsley,
FrontPageMag.com

“Dick Van Dyke, Cher and Barbra Streisand are among thousands of Malibu residents who have been forced to abandon their homes as a fast-moving brushfire rages through Southern California,” reported the *New York Post* on December 10, 2024. The fires, fueled by strong winds, served as a warning of blazes to come. On January 7, 2025, with meteorologists warning that fire was on track to strike Los Angeles, mayor Karen Bass flew to Ghana to attend a presidential inauguration.

On Wednesday, fast-breaking fires were turning vast swaths of the city into an inferno, with residents fleeing for their lives and embattled firefighters running out of water. When Bass returned, she refused to answer questions about the water shortage and whether she owed the people an apology for leaving the scene of a disaster. In her brief statement, Bass did not acknowledge cutting the fire department’s budget by nearly \$20 million. Her incompetence was obvious to all but the willfully blind, but there’s more

that people should know. The California Democrat, once on Joe Biden’s short list for a black female running mate, is a member of her party’s Castro wing.

The LA native, born in 1953, graduated from Cal State Dominguez Hills and earned a master’s degree from USC in social work. In 1973, at age 19, Bass traveled to Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade, organized by Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), keystone of the New Left, and the Castro dictatorship. Bass says that she built houses, toured the country and listened to speeches by Fidel Castro, whom she heard many times on her eight trips to Cuba during the 1970s. By that time, Fidel had made it clear what he was all about.

One generation out of Spain, the white Stalinist dictator drove a formerly prosperous nation into abject poverty and his Communist regime was more repressive than his Soviet sponsors. As Cuban cinematographer Nestor Almendros (*Days of Heaven*) showed in *Improper Conduct*, Castro tossed homosexuals into forced labor

camp, the fate of many other dissidents on the island. By the late 1960s, as Paul Hollander showed in *Political Pilgrims*, even former Castro supporters were denouncing the totalitarian regime. It wasn’t so for Karen Bass, who in 2004 gained election to the California Assembly.

In that role, Bass visited Cuba, still under Castro, who held many black political prisoners, including Eusebio Peñalver, held captive and tortured for 28 years. In her junkets to Cuba as a member of Congress, Bass never took up the case of a single Cuban political prisoner, black or otherwise, never called out the regime for human rights violations, and never called for free elections. Fidel Castro stepped down in 2008 and handed power to his brother Raul. When Fidel finally passed away in 2016, Bass said in a statement:

As Cuba begins nine days of mourning, I wish to express my condolences to the Cuban people and the family of Fidel Castro. The passing of the Comandante en Jefe is a great loss to the people of Cuba. I hope together, our two nations will continue on

the new path of support and collaboration with one another, and continue in the new direction of diplomacy.

Comandante en Jefe, “commander in chief,” was the way Cubans were supposed to address Castro, a dictator for more than 50 years. Once again, Bass failed to issue any criticism of the Máximo Líder, and failed to flag any human rights violations or call for the release of political prisoners. A more servile apologist of the Communist regime would be hard to find, and that became an issue in 2020. Bass claimed she regretted the “Comandante en Jefe” statement, now wiped from the House server. Biden opted for Kamala Harris, but Bass’s experience in Cuba would still come into play.

Communist states chose people for key positions based on fidelity to the Communist Party, not on merit, experience and proven competence. Under Mayor Bass, the Los Angeles fire department was headed by three lesbians, known more for woke ideology and DEI concerns than proven competence fighting fires. When

the fires flared up in early January, the “historic” mayor flew off to Ghana, which should come as no surprise.

As Bass showed in Cuba, the maintenance of power overrides concern for the welfare of the people. And on the far reaches of the left, fire plays an important role. For example, in 2018, Gustavo Arellano of the Los Angeles Times recycled Mike Davis’ case for “letting Malibu burn.”

In this vision, wealthy cities were created as “thickets of privacy” against “LA’s working classes and people of color.” Such “white flight” was enabled by allowing development where it shouldn’t be and by “subsidizing those affected by the inevitable wildfire in the form of cheap fire insurance and squadrons of first responders deployed around the clock at the hint of an ember.”

So it’s “Burn, baby, burn!” all over again. As Peter Collier liked to say, the song of the sixties is over, but the melody lingers on.

Please see: <https://www.front-pagemag.com/basss-ashes/>

SEX CHANGE KIDS TAX FUNDED from page 19

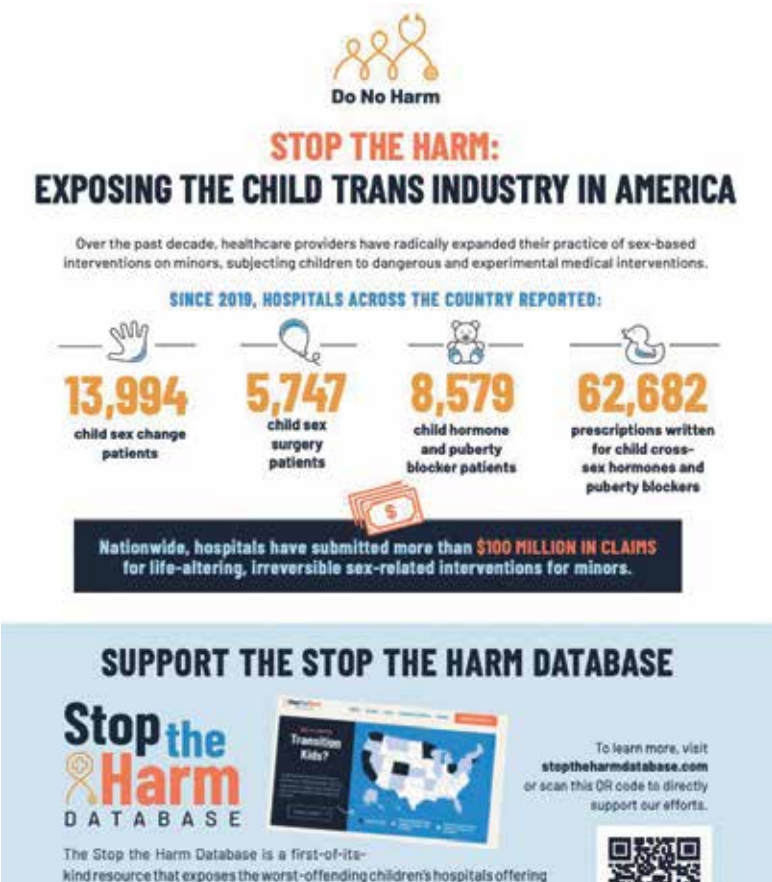
identity as a protected class and requiring cross sex, surgeries, hormones, puberty blockers, included on children in federally funded programs and in insurance,” Severino said.

“They were as comprehensive as they could to try to push unscientific gender ideology into the medical system, and they succeeded, over the last three plus years, in trying to coerce hospitals, doctors, and insurance companies to push experimental treatments and surgeries, including and especially on children,” Severino added.

Do No Harm

Look at those #s

<https://stoptheharmdatabase.com>



3:13 PM · Oct 13, 2024

Do No Harm, a medical watchdog group, recently published a database that found from 2019 to 2023, 13,994 children in the United States have received sex change-related treatments and 5,747 sex change surgeries had been performed on children.

“Medical professionals must provide evidence-based care, not pursue a political agenda,” Dr. Stanley Goldfarb, chairman of Do No Harm, told the *DCNF*. “We are committed to ending this predatory practice, which is harmful to the thousands of minors whose lives and bodies will never be the same.”

Please see: <https://dailycallernewsfoundation.org/2024/12/02/exclusive-biden-harris-admin-opened-floodgates-for-taxpayer-funded-sex-changes-on-kids/>

Liberty Rocks - 2025

Tuesday, January 21st
Tony's Steak & Tavern
Tony's Mountain Pizza's Full Menu will be offered
— All are welcome —
Meet & Greet and Dinner begins at 5:30 pm
Presentation begins at 6pm
Come eat, discuss, engage, and learn

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This month's theme: "What Happens When...?"
Guests will include representatives from the Eagles Summit Ranch, Custer County Coroner & Sheriff's Office, and more to answer questions like:
what happens when you drop off expired medicines for disposal?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Proudly sponsored by: Custer Citizens for the Constitution
Contact: Ann Barthrop (303) 547-4723, abarthrop@msn.com
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California Dreaming: LA: A Liberal, DEI, Woke, Success Story



**James Woods** @RealJamesWoods · Jan 8
Priorities stated in her bio below.

Refilling the water reservoirs would have been a welcome priority, too, but I guess she had too much on her plate promoting diversity.

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF



lafd.org

Creating, supporting, and promoting a culture that values diversity, inclusion, and equity while striving to meet and exceed the expectations of the communities are Chief Crowley's priorities, and she is grateful for the opportunity to serve the City of Los Angeles.

Fire Chief Kristin M. Crowley

4.5K

20K

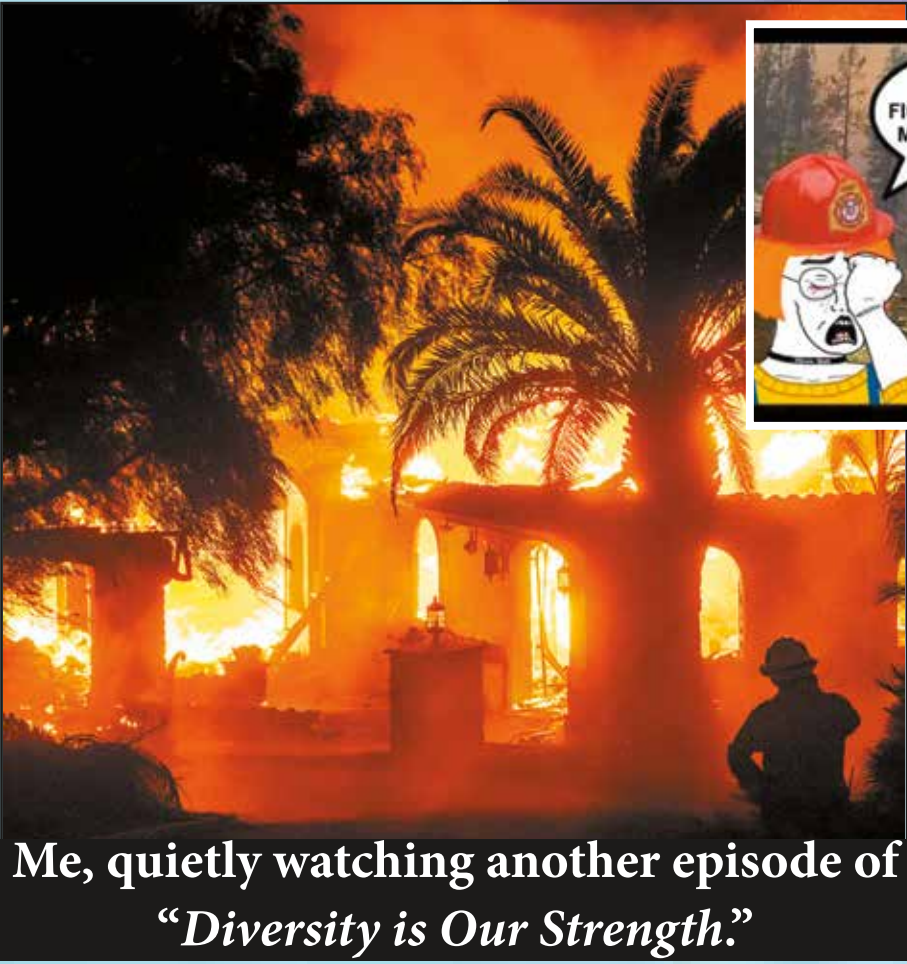
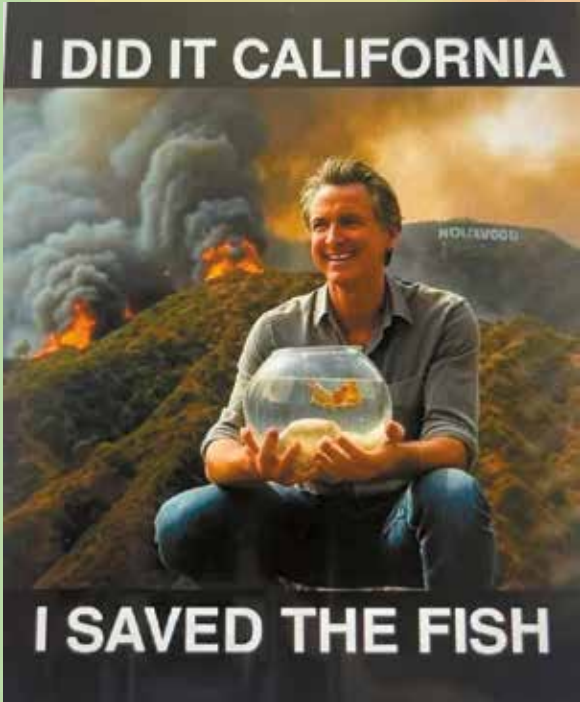
70K

2.2M



Newsom Assures Wildfire Victims He Is Diverting Millions Of Dollars To Emergency DEI Initiatives

Side note.... the background is LA County's LGBTQIA2-S pride flag! How PROUD they must be!



Me, quietly watching another episode of "Diversity is Our Strength."

