

America is Back

Trump’s Inaugural Address

60th Inaugural Address
January 20, 2025

by President Donald J. Trump

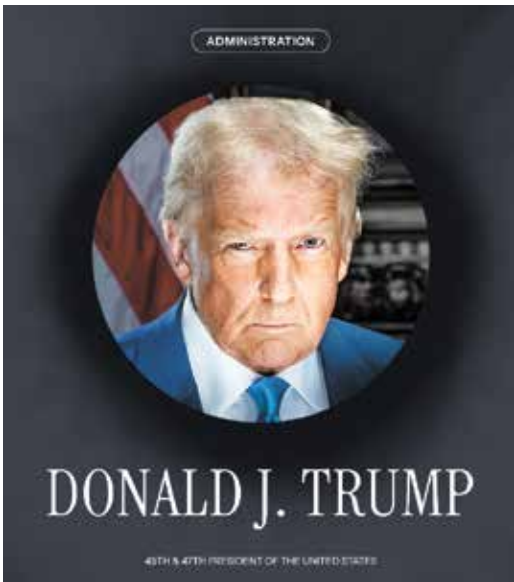
Vice President Vance, Speaker Johnson, Senator Thune, Chief Justice Roberts, justices of the United States Supreme Court, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama, President Biden, Vice President Harris and my fellow citizens, the golden age of America begins right now.

From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer. During every single day of the Trump administration I will very simply put America first.

Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored, the scales of justice will be rebalanced. The vicious, violent and unfair weaponization of the justice department and our government will end. And our top priority will be to create a nation that is proud, prosperous and free.

America will soon be greater, stronger and far more exceptional than ever before.

I return to the presidency, confident and optimistic that we are at the start of a thrilling new era of national success. A tide of change is



sweeping the country. Sunlight is pouring over the entire world, and America has the chance to seize this opportunity like never before, but first, we must be honest about the challenges we face.

While they are plentiful, they will be annihilated by this great momentum that the world is now witnessing. In the United States of America, as we gather today, our government confronts a crisis of trust. For many years, a radical and corrupt establishment has extracted power and

wealth from our citizens, while the pillars of our society lay broken and seemingly in complete disrepair. We now have a government that cannot manage even a simple crisis at home, while at the same time stumbling into a continuing catalogue of catastrophic events abroad.

It fails to protect our magnificent law-abiding American citizens but provides sanctuary and protection for dangerous criminals, many from prisons and mental institutions, that have illegally entered our country from all over the world. We have a government that has given unlimited funding to the defense of foreign borders but refuses to defend American borders, or, more importantly, its own people. Our country can no longer deliver basic services in times of emergency, as recently shown by the wonderful people of North Carolina — been treated so badly — and other states who are still suffering from a hurricane that took place many months ago.

Or more recently, Los Angeles, where we are watching fires still tragically burned from weeks ago without even a token of defense. They’re raging through the houses and communities, even affecting some of the wealthiest and most powerful individuals in our country, some of whom are sitting here right now.

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BOCC: Canda Wants to Be BOCC Chair, Libs Scream Like Shot Rabbits

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The January 15, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting took place at the All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room in downtown Westcliffe. It started around 9 a.m. and all three Commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and newbie Paul Vogelsong. As the prior BOCC Chair was gone, Canda, as senior Commissioner, was sitting in the Chair’s position.

In Commissioner Items, Epp said he attended some state road meeting and noted that there are “safety improvements on the docket for 2028” for Highway 69 North. He also said the Fair Board needs another member. Canda noted that the Upper Arkansas Water Conservation crew wants to come down from Salida and give us Happy Valley peasants a talk on what they are working on, especially possibly raising the level of Lake DeWeese. Canda also said that the Commissioners were looking to rent office space for themselves so they can meet people in private and have a spot for conferences.

In New Business, the appointment of a new BOCC Chair and Vice

Chair was the first order of business. Canda piped up and said he wanted to be Chair with Epp being Vice Chair. Epp seconded the motion. No discussion amongst the Commissioners so Public Discussion was opened up.

What happened next was to be expected as the lefties in the county hate Canda as he represents all that they despise: conservative, Christian, career military, lifelong resident, not afraid to stand up for what he thinks is right, etc., so the first local lib to open fire on Canda regarding his bid to become BOCC Chair was none other than the local democrat party’s “heavy”, James Gilbert. *(Honestly, what unfolded over the next 15 minutes was like a Babylon Bee caricature of a liberal tear fountain. But you have to give Gilbert credit, he attends almost all the BOCC meetings and reliably tenders the lib talking points.)*

Gilbert opens with he wants to discuss the “unfitness of Bill Canda for Chair”. Gilbert says Canda, “Doesn’t have the interest of all citizens of Custer County in his actions.” *(Well, duh. There are*

BOCC see page 5

Forum For Welfare of All Veterans

by Fred Hernandez

A conference was held between the office of the Custer County Veteran Service Officer and executives of Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center. The gathering was held at the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club in Westcliffe on Wednesday, January 15, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There were approximately thirty five at the square table including Ms. Christy Schram, Mt. Carmel Veteran Resource & Community Development Coordinator, who facilitated the meeting, Custer County Veteran Service Officer Dominic Edginton, Am. Legion Auxiliary President Joy Lowe, Am. Legion Commander Richard Posadas, Justin Kurth, representative for Congresswoman Brittany Petersen, and representatives of Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center, Col. Bob McLaughlin (ret.) Executive Director and Sal Katz, Jr. Director of Rural Colorado Services.

Also in attendance was Mr. Geoff Schram who owns and operates the Veterans Ranch.

It was heartwarming to note that all three county commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and recently elected Paul Vogelsong

signaling their keen interest in the welfare of all Custer County veterans. (Canda and Vogelsong are veterans.)

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center is an organization founded by the late Gerald Dominic “Jay” Cimino who was CEO of the Phil Long automobile dealerships. A retired Marine, he was passionate about the urgent need to support U.S. military veterans after their time of service. An opportunity opened up when an old, unused building which at one time was a church called Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, came up for sale. Jay bought the building and refurbished it into a veterans center. That is where the name Mt. Carmel originated.

Today, Mt. Carmel is a thriving entity with several locations in rural Colorado, mainly Trinidad, Alamosa, Custer County and headquarters in the City of Pueblo. Under the direction of its Executive Director Col. (ret) Bob McLaughlin, Mt. Carmel has been busy building relationships with Veteran Services Officers (VSO) in the region.

While the VSO’s focus their time and expertise on navigating the

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And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.
Romans 8:28 KJV

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

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

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Colorado State News



Constitutional Trouble for Colorado's National Popular Vote Scheme

by Rob Natelson,
Complete Colorado Page Two

The Colorado legislature adopted the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) in 2019. Since that time, however, there have been two U.S. Supreme Court decisions that strongly indicate the legislature should withdraw from NPV.

NPV is a proposed interstate compact designed to assure that the presidential candidate receiving a majority of the Electoral College vote also has received a plurality (not necessarily a majority) of the national popular vote. After the 2016 presidential election, in which Donald Trump won the Electoral College while failing to win a popular plurality, NPV became a cause célèbre among Trump-haters.

As I have pointed out in previous columns (here* and here**), electing a president by a bare popular plurality is a prescription for Third-World-style chaos. That is one reason a constitutional amendment providing for direct presidential elections could never be ratified by the requisite three-fourths of the states.

NPV's creators structured it to

implement election by popular plurality while dodging the amendment process. Here's how it would work:

Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution reads in part, "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress." Thus, each state legislature determines how presidential electors are chosen in that state.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, state lawmakers often reserved power to choose presidential electors themselves. In the 1876 presidential election, Colorado designated its presidential electors that way. Today, however, all state legislatures delegate the selection of presidential electors to the people of the state.

Under the NPV interstate compact, every signatory state would commit its electoral votes to the winner of a national popular plurality—irrespective of how people voted within that state.

NPV doesn't come into effect until

adopted by states holding a majority of the Electoral College. But if it had been in effect in the 2024 presidential election, Colorado officials would have assigned our electoral votes to Trump (who won a national plurality) even though most Coloradans cast their ballots for Kamala Harris.

Constitutional problems

If your nose tells you something smells fishy about the constitutionality of NPV, then your nose is telling you right. NPV's problems under the U.S. Constitution are multitudinous. I've outlined them in previous columns (***here, here, and ****here). NPV advocates generally either ignore those problems or rely on unconvincing rebuttals.

There also is a constitutional difficulty specific to Colorado: NPV seems to violate an express provision in the state Constitution.

The difficulty was first publicized in 2020 by Dave Kopel, the leading authority on the Colorado Constitution, an adjunct constitutional law professor at the University of Denver, and the Independence Institute's research director.

Kopel observed that, according to the Colorado Constitution, "The general assembly shall provide that after the year eighteen hundred and seventy-six the electors of the electoral college shall be chosen by direct vote of the people." In other words, when lawmakers establish the "Manner" of choosing the state's presidential electors, they must adopt a method that complies with the popular vote within Colorado. This clearly prohibits the method prescribed by NPV.

The only remaining question is whether the Colorado constitutional provision is valid under the U.S. Constitution. In 2019, when the legislature adopted NPV, there was some doubt about that. Since then, however, two intervening U.S. Supreme Court decisions probably have settled the issue.

The U.S. Constitution assigns certain responsibilities (which the courts call "federal functions") to state legislatures. However, the Constitution uses two different definitions of the word "Legislature." The definitions apply in different contexts.

NPV & THE CONSTITUTION
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Westcliffe's Women's March Sad, "Childless Cat Ladies" Stumble Down Main Street Victimhood Forever!

by George Gramlich, News, Commentary, Humor, Parody, Satire

Can't remember if our local Clefty ladies did this in prior years (I probably am blanking that memory out), but this year's January 18 lib female march, formerly known as the "Women's March" (but now labeled nationally as the "People's March because nobody was showing up) down Westcliffe's grand marquee was something for the record book: Twelve, yes TWELVE, local lib females (chromosome check anybody?) braved the cold and snow to show us working peasants what life is all about: senseless, self-absorbed posturing for failed political, social, moral and economic models. It was a stunning success as the street was lined with Zero supporters. Even the Main Street deer ran for their lives. (It looked like a Georgia chain gang shuffling along singing "Let My People Go". It was that pathetic.)

Before the "march", the *Sentinel's* Intelligence Division (SID) got a hold of the email requesting females to assemble on the Bluff at 10 a.m. Saturday, gravely walk down Main Street to Altitude



Outside the Sentinel, Saturday morning, January 18, 2025.
The Cat Ladies Assemble.

Fitness and then return to the Bluff. (And please bring signs.) The email even warned that there might be some issues with the local rednecks, something like "we may meet resistance". (*This was the mandatory lib projection of their own violent tendencies (e.g., antifa) on us law abiding conservative citizens. Perpetual Victimhood is a mandatory lib demonstration requirement.*)

(However, if they tried to blockade Antler Liquor's, there might have been a problem.) The email

was sent by a well-known local transplant. From you know where.

Questions: How many of these females grew up here? How many are from California? (A lot.)

How many want to turn Happy Valley into Los Angeles? How many of them actually smile and laugh? Do they really eat vegan cat food?

The picture from one of the *Sentinel's* myriad of security cameras shows the twelve victims standing in front of the

Sentinel taking the required morale boosting "team" picture. Note at the far right on the tree, the *Sentinel* had put up our nationally famous, life size, cardboard poster of Donald Trump for the day to celebrate his upcoming inauguration. This was the background for the cat ladies' picture. Orange man lording over his minions. Lion King staring over his cowering diminutive felines. Yup.

You would have to say it was perfect visual vignette: a real, successful, viral man towering over a cackle of miserable cat ladies craving attention. Plus the picture was taken in front of the *Sentinel*, the shining light of freedom, free speech and the Constitution in Custer County. (*Miller time, guys...*)

As the brave females shuffled past the *Sentinel*, our state-of-the-art facial recognition cameras dutifully scanned each scornful face and quickly identified our feline marchers. (*Our local facial recognition database is growing every week. And, no, we are not sharing it with anybody, not even the Oath Keepers or our Three Percent homies.*)

(So where did we get "childless cat ladies" from? In 2021, in an interview with Fox News' Tucker Carlson, Senate Candidate (at that time), JD Vance, commented that the country was being run by democrats, big business oligarchs and "a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives and the choices that they've made so they want to make the rest of the country miserable, too." And we are soooo blessed to have a few of them here to remind us of the nightmare that awaits if liberalism ever takes over Happy Valley.)

We won't even get into the juvenile, 1960s, pathetic signs that they had. The signs alone told you all you need to know about their mindset of forever disillusionment.

Can't wait till next year. A full year of Trump and America winning, winning, winning. Millions of illegals deported. California continues to burn. The remaining conservatives in Colorado all move to Happy Valley for The Last Stand. Fully automatic (including belt fed) weapons are legal again. See you next year, cat ladies. Gonna be a good'un.



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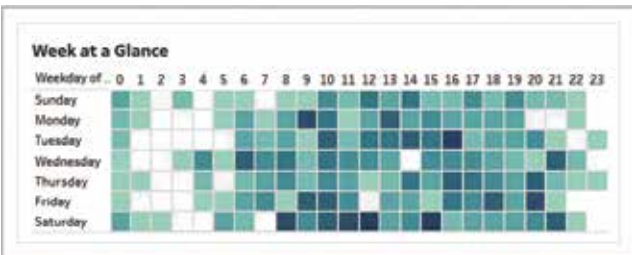
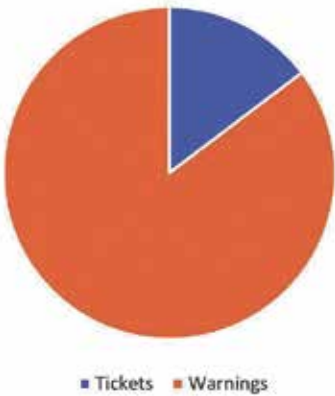
Sheriff's Office 2024 Traffic Report

Custer County Sheriff's Office Press Release
January 13, 2025
via Facebook
Custer County Sheriff's Office

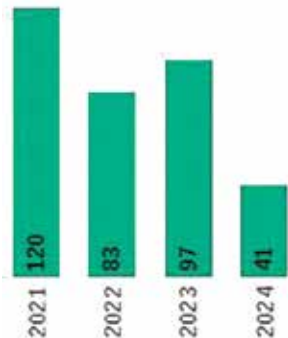
These are our stats from last year for Traffic Safety. We made 966 traffic stops and issued 142 traffic tickets. (Source: Tyler Records management system). The

chief purpose of traffic enforcement is to lower the number of car crashes by addressing driving behavior that tends to cause crashes.
We had a total of 41 traffic crashes for the year. This is a decline of 58% from the previous year (see graph below). This is our best number since 2010!

Tickets 15% Warnings 85%



Two of these traffic crashes had serious injuries and one crash had a fatality. Three crashes had a driver suspected to be under the influence of alcohol. One crash had a driver suspected to be under the influence of drugs.
The most frequent cause of traffic crashes in Custer County is impact with a wild animal which accounted for 21% of traffic crashes last year. The second most frequent cause is vehicle overturning followed by collision with an embankment. The final chart shows which day of week and time of day has the most crashes for the previous five years combined (Source: CDOT preliminary numbers).



Obituary Shantell Cynthia Squire

Shantell Cynthia Squire, age 29, passed away on January 14, 2025. She was born in Cañon City, Colorado on October 7, 1995. She was a student of Custer County High School. She furthered her education by studying forensic anthropology, public health, and history.

Shantell was the first granddaughter and first niece to the Rick and Yvonne Squire family. In her lifetime, Shantell was always willing to lend a helping hand, whether it was cooking a meal or planning a menu, building or helping anyone with a project, keeping history alive being the Curator at the Silver Cliff Museum.

Shantell couldn't get enough reading and watching documentaries on any subject. Halie often referred to her as "The bottomless pit of useless information." She also enjoyed cooking and trying all kinds of food. A self-taught Master Chef. Travel was one of her loves although she didn't get to do it often. Shan also loved taking pictures of beautiful scenery, whether it be driving down the road or right off the front porch. One of her favorite ways to help friends and family was babysitting and watching little ones, but her greatest joy was spending time and playing with her niece, Paisley.

Shantell is survived by her Mother, Ileen, Biological Father Dustin Brown, Dad, Jay Lemons; her younger Sister, Halie and Clayton Riddle; Niece, Paisley Riddle; Grandparents, Rick and Yvonne Squire; Aunt Robin and Uncle Mike Gaide;



Aunt Karalee and Uncle Scott Rowley; Cousins Conner Rowley and Cash Rowley; and numerous family members.

The viewing will be Monday, January 20, 2025 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Harwood Cremation & Funeral Service, 516 N, 10th St. Cañon City, CO 81212.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 1 p.m. at Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 120 Jerry Drive Westcliffe, CO 81252. Reception to follow at Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club 90 CR 241, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Silver Cliff Museum 612 E. Main St., Silver Cliff, CO 81252 or www.silvercliffco.com in her honor.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC from page 1

usually two sides, or more, on a lot of local issues and you gotta make a call one way or the other which will upset the losing side. That's how it works, James.) Gilbert then commented, that Canda "brought a private resolution" which accused the President of treason-like conduct. That is, Canda as a "private citizen" proposed a BOCC resolution to that effect, which he has every right to do. Gilbert then says it was a "conflict of interest" for Canda, as a Commissioner, to vote that same resolution. (I don't think so. He had "two hats" here. Plus the resolution passed.) Gilbert then whined that Canda, "foments the election fraud conspiracy, the big lie" and he held a meeting "to support that". (Anybody, and I mean anybody, who denies that there is election fraud in this country, sometimes on a fairly large scale in some locales, is a MORON.) Dribbling along, Gilbert continued his riff stating that even in "regular" BOCC meetings Canda talks about election fraud, and also Canda is a bad boy because he voted for the Sentinel to have the County's legal notices. (Oh, the horror.) Climaxing, Gilbert, who is some kind of virus/disease "expert", cried that Canda was against the experimental COVID "vaccines", supported the idea that ivermectin might be helpful, and "supported opening county businesses exposing the senior citizens to COVID." (Gilbert has been proven wrong on virtually everything he wanted to do during the COVID debacle. And note folks, nobody was forcing senior citizens to visit a business during that time. Maybe they needed FOOD, gas for their cars, etc.- N95 masked and fittings were made available as well as vaccines and citizens were told to do what is best for their situation. It is called being a CITIZEN rather than a mindless peasant.) And that was it for Gilbert.

Jimmy "The Plumber" McMahon, one of our more vocal local conservative Christian players, then rose to defend Canda stating, "Thank you for standing up" to the local libs... I believe you would be a good Chairman. You have six years into this."

A citizen then asked the Commissioners what the duties and the powers of the Chairman are and our County Attorney gave a brief answer.

Next up on the lib dance card was, of

course, our very own Deb Adams (our county's Tourism Director). In her usual very aggressive tone, Adams demanded to know from Canda, "When did you attend Commissioner training?" (Remember, Canda has been a commissioner for six years and was Chair for a couple. He might know how to do the job.) Canda responded that he confers with the CTSI guy, Dennis Hunt, all the time on various BOCC issues. Adams then very loudly attacks Canda (quite rudely), "When did you attend the training!!! WHEN!!!" (Right on the edge of being histrionic.) Canda responded with various facts and then Adams interrupts with, "You can't give me a year or date?" Canda replied, "2016." Adams then attempted to open a second line of criticism with, "Are you a team player?" Canda, trying to be polite to this nastiness, answered, "Yes." Adams, now at a hissy fit level, retorted, "According to you." And she was done. (A totally uncalled for, divisive, rude attack. It didn't add anything to the discussion except to show the typical lib emotional orientation. How does this move the county as a team forward, Adams? It doesn't. Being polite, especially in public, is how country people roll.)

After that bit of lib hate theatre, Vogelsong stated, "Lucas and I will make sure it is a team effort."

All three Commissioners then voted to make Canda Chair and Epp Vice Chair.

Accounts Payable was the next Agenda Item. The amount was \$132 and it was ok'd.

Your U.S. Congresswoman, Brittany Pettersen's local representative, based in Cañon City, was next with an overview of all the good things Pettersen has done lately (like vote against deporting criminal illegal aliens). Blah, blah, blah. The guy says Petterson is pregnant and at home now and can't vote on U.S. House votes. And she wants to be special so she is sponsoring a bill that would allow pregnant reps and the husbands of pregnant reps to be allowed to vote from home during the pregnancy and for a long time afterward. (The people voted her in to do the job in D.C. Allowing reps to vote from home, for any reason, is a bad, bad move. But of course, libs are special, and normal rules don't apply to them. We will keep you posted on this issue.)

And thankfully, that was it. Stay tuned for the next chapter of Happy Valley.



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Three seats on the Board of Supervisors are up for election on **May 6, 2025**. The nomination period expires **February 28**. For more information or a self-nomination form please email the Conservation District at custercountycd@gmail.com.

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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, January 27

#73 Roast Chicken

Mushroom Sauce
Steamed Brown Rice
Cauliflower Broccoli Mix
Apple Pear Salad w/Almonds
WW Bread w/Butter

Tuesday, January 28

#92 Sweet & Sour Pork

Brown Rice
California Mixed Vegetables
Orange
WW Dinner Roll

Thursday, January 30

#59 Macaroni & Cheese

Vegetable Salad
Asparagus
Banana
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. January 15th to ? . 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



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NPV & The CONSTITUTION from page 2

The first definition of “Legislature” means the entire lawmaking apparatus of the state as prescribed and limited by the state constitution. This kind of “Legislature” acts by passing ordinary laws, which must, in most states (including Colorado), be signed by the governor unless his veto is overridden.

Early in the 20th century, the Supreme Court decided that when state legislatures regulate congressional elections, this definition applies. Legislatures must lay down congressional election rules in ordinary laws, subject to the governor’s veto and all the other rules of the state constitution.

The U.S. Constitution’s second definition of “Legislature” means the state’s representative assembly, acting alone and independently of the governor’s veto and of the state constitution. Under this definition, legislatures may act through laws, but they also may do so through freestanding resolutions.

The courts have held that when Congress and the state legislatures act in the federal constitutional amendment process, they do so as independent assemblies, free from the executive veto and from other state constitutional rules. A state legislature may ratify a constitutional amendment or demand a federal amendments convention simply by passing a resolution, free from state constitutional requirements.

Whether the Colorado Constitution bans NPV depends on which definition of “Legislature” controls. If the first, then the state constitution prohibits NPV. If the second, then the legislature may adopt NPV notwithstanding the state constitution.

Two intervening SCOTUS decisions

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Chiafalo v. Washington*. In that case, the court unanimously ruled that because state legislatures may determine the “Manner” of choosing presidential electors, legislatures also may adopt laws forcing electors who had pledged to vote for particular presidential candidates to actually vote for those candidates. The fact that *Chiafalo* upheld such laws strongly suggests that the first (and larger) definition of “Legislature” is the one that applies in the presidential election process.

In 2023, the Supreme Court followed with *Moore v. Harper*. In that case, a 6-3 liberal majority confirmed that when the Constitution grants to each state “Legislature” the power to regulate its local congressional elections, the word “Legislature” refers to the entire legislative apparatus of the state, subject to control by the state constitution. In other words, the first definition again applies.

Although the Supreme Court did not say so, there also is good evidence from the American Founding that the first definition of “Legislature” applies when state lawmakers regulate federal elections: State legislatures generally governed elections with ordinary

laws both immediately before and immediately after the Constitution was ratified.

Conclusion

What this tells us is that when the Colorado legislature sets the rules for choosing presidential electors, it must respect the limitations set forth in the state Constitution. And that requires implementing the will of Colorado voters, not the will of the voters of any other state.

Bottom line: NPV is almost certainly unconstitutional—if not under the U.S. Constitution, then under the Colorado Constitution. The legislature should repeal it forthwith.

Articles referenced:

*2019 <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2019/05/05/natelson-national-popular-vote-would-impose-third-world-election-system-on-u-s/>
** 2024 <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2024/05/16/natelson-national-popular-vote-crackpot-idea-ask-panama/>
***2019 <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2019/02/04/why-the-national-popular-vote-scheme-is-unconstitutional/>
**** 2019 <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2019/03/08/video-constitutional-trouble-ahead-for-national-popular-vote/>

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2025/01/09/natelson-constitutional-trouble-colorado-national-popular-vote/>

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Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601	High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 103 N. Adams St., Westcliffe 719/783-9045	Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491	Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589	Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053	Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave. , Florence 719/784-1184	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822
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	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	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	Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572
Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511	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	St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500	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
Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study Pastor Steve Holcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi		Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey 719/746-2037	Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596

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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.



“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel...I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” says the LORD. “For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

(Jeremiah 31:31, 33-34)



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Email: HR@custercounty-co.gov

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Events

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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.

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(719) 783-2462 westcliffepost170.org

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TEFAP Distribution: February 10 from 12-2
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(719) 275-2429 FamilyCrisisOnline.org

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1-866-MAT-STAT
www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit

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

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

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

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

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

Wet Mountain Rotary Van Service
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The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.



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As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

—Norman Wisdom

Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS

January 24, 2025

Black Nosed Sheep



Well, the 2024 holidays are now just fond memories. We will be moving on and going back to animals and other unknown topics. I found this animal, a black-nosed sheep aka “The cutest sheep in the world.” I have never heard of them before. So, here we go. Let’s learn about these cuties.

Their formal name is Valais Blacknose sheep. They are a breed of domestic sheep that originates in the Valais region of Switzerland. They are well adapted to grazing on the stony pastures of their area of origin. They are bred both for meat and for wool, making them a dual-purpose animal. The wool is coarse, and the annual yield of wool is approximately ten pounds per head.

Their breed goes back to 1400 and for hundreds of years they were only found in Switzerland. They were imported into the United Kingdom in 2014, and in 2016 the United States began importing the semen. In 2020, embryo imports from New Zealand were finally approved. Once only found in Switzerland’s remote villages, they have now found their way to Germany, the UK, and New Zealand. In 2021 the first purebred Valais Blacknose sheep were born in the U.S.

They are a cuddly, docile animal, with a teddy bear look about them. Their entire face is black and that is why sometimes they are referred to as Valais Blackface Sheep. Their knees, hock and feet also have black markings. The forehead is broad, the mouth is wide, and they have very distinct spiral-shaped horns. They also can twitch their ears independently of each other. Both the rams and the ewes have horns. Their short heads, small faces, big noses, and curly white fleece that’s soft to the touch give the breed a truly stunning and unique appearance.

They are still quite rare and their wool is greatly sought after, making their price pretty steep. They also are prone to certain genetic diseases and are susceptible to conditions like foot rot and infections from parasites.

If you ever go to Switzerland you might want to put on your agenda a guided hike into the mountains to see these cuties.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valais_Blacknose, <https://www.hobbyfarms.com/breed-profile-meet-the-valais-blacknose-sheep/>, <https://www.animalovin.com/valais-blacknose-sheep-breed/>, <https://switzerlanding.com/valais-blacknose-sheep/>
Photo Wikicommons

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

Philippians 4:13-14 ESV



Custer County School District C-1 MENU for the week January 27 thru 30 2025

	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Cereal Yogurt Oatmeal Fruit, Milk	Mac n Cheese Green beans Fruit Milk
Tuesday	Breakfast Bowl Yogurt Fruit, Milk	Chicken Fajita Corn, Mexi Beans Fruit, Milk
Wednesday	Bacon Egg Cheese Sandwich Fruit, Milk	Baked Ziti Broccoli, Roll Fruit, Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Sausage Yogurt Oatmeal Fruit, Milk	Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Chicken Gravy Peas, Roll Fruit, Milk

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

Meet the Custer County Women’s Wrestling Team!



Brylee Shy, Junior, Liz Ergo, Senior, Stephanie Lewis, Junior, Maddie Staley, Senior
These ladies are representing Custer County across the state by placing in women’s wrestling tournaments individually, and as a team. Women’s wrestling has grown in popularity over the last decade and is recognized as a high school, collegiate, and Olympic sport.

Come watch our very own women’s wrestling team compete along with our men’s team, including our two state qualifiers, for duals this Friday evening January 24th, starting at 5 p.m. On Saturday January 25th, our men’s team will be competing in the Custer County Invitational Tournament with matches starting in the East gym at 9 a.m.

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



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

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, January 24:

- 9 am HS Girls Wrestling @ 2025 Ladies Cañon Classic in Cañon City (away)
- 4 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Del Norte (away)
- 5:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Del Norte (away)
- 7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Del Norte (away)
- 5 pm HS Boys Wrestling @ HOME - Bobcat Invite

Saturday, January 25:

- 9 am HS Boys Wrestling @ HOME - Bobcat Invite

Friday, January 31:

- 12 pm HS Boys Wrestling @ Valley Classic in Center (away)
- 4 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ South Park (away)
- 5:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ South Park (away)
- 7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ South Park (away)

Saturday, February 1:

- 1 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Center
- 2 pm HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vs Center
- 3:30 HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Center
- 9 am HS Boys Wrestling @ Valley Classic in Center (away)

Tuesday February 4:

- 4:30 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Pikes Peak Christian
- 6 pm HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vs Pikes Peak Christian
- 7:30 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Pikes Peak Christian

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Local Mountain News & Notices

VETERANS from page 1

challenging process of Veterans Administration and acquiring the financial assistance and medical benefits for veterans, Mt. Carmel focuses on providing transition and employment assistance, behavioral health opportunities, wellness in general and supportive services that help veterans make connections to the necessary community resources. It is an efficient and productive partnership that benefits all veterans. The ultimate goal is to extend this partnership to every county in the state.

conference, which covered the day-to-day operations for the benefit of the veterans, there was also a presentation, after the guests had lunch, made by Mr. Barry Keene representing Custer County Workforce Housing Committee. A well-prepared talk, Mr. Keene had statistics clearly demonstrating the housing needs of those in our community who teach the children, Certified Nursing Assistants, EMT's, medical personnel, those who take care of the elderly and disabled, drivers, police, firefighters, mechanics, bank clerks, utility workers, store workers, restaurant servers and kitchen personnel and others who are needed for a well-functioning community.



Veterans Round Table

Photo by Fred Hernandez

The meeting took up various issues regarding ways and means to assist veterans and make operational improvements towards opportunities for collaboration with community organizations. The Custer County VSO Dominic Edginton presented the monthly metrics for December 2024 and eloquently gave an overview of the status of current cases in the county and of the significant achievements made in Custer County in a short span of time including the substantial increases in the monetary benefits to local veterans.

Goals for the short-term future were also set as well as the means needed to achieve them with active support from the rest of the community and the commissioners. It was evident from the presentations of Ms. Schram and VSO Edginton that much progress has been made since the alliance was formed with Mt. Carmel.

Aside from the main focus of the

His pass out papers showed a comparison between the (AMI), Annual Household Income, and the rent/mortgage affordable for each income bracket. The statistics also revealed that the share of prime working adults had dropped dramatically since 2010 and seniors and those nearing retirement age had increased to 45% of the population. The numbers indicate that there is an urgent demand for almost three dozen dwellings for rental or purchase need-ed to help local employers fill vacant positions in their businesses. These are is-sues that have to be taken seriously and addressed in a timely manner.

Overall it was a most enlightening and productive meeting of all the key players working together to assist veterans have all the benefits; financial, medical and other resources accruing to them. The best way to contact Custer County Veterans Services Office is to call or text 719-618-8266 (text preferred).

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Saturday, January 18:

HS Boys Wrestling @ Fight at the Fork in Hotchkiss: **Jason Hemsath finished 3rd!**
HS Girls Wrestling @ Tiara Challenge in Castle Rock: **Liz Ergo finished 8th (out of 40 teams)!**
All Basketball games @ Vail Christian were cancelled

Tuesday, January 21:

All Basketball games @ Home were cancelled

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

—Alan Dundes

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Bobcats HS Boys



Basketball vs ECA



Sentinel Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography; Layout by Katherine Brenchley



Bill to Unwind Longstanding Labor Compromise Prompts ‘Right to Work’ Initiative

by Sherrie Peif,
Complete Colorado Page Two

DENVER —Colorado workers and their employers have lived in relative peace under a deal struck more than 80 years ago that stopped years of violence over salary and working conditions.

Colorado Democrats want to unravel that deal, but one local policy influencer isn’t going to let it pass without a fight.

Jon Caldara, president of the Independence Institute*, has filed a ballot initiative that won’t only unravel Senate Bill 25-005, should it pass, but it would also make Colorado what’s called a “right-to-work” state, giving employees the right to refuse to join unions, and denying unions the ability to force non-union employees to still pay dues.

Currently 27 states in the U.S. have right to work laws.

SB 25-005, “Worker Protection

Collective Bargaining,” would repeal the Colorado Labor Peace Act, which has been in effect since 1943, when business owners and striking workers found a compromise to often violent, and sometimes fatal, labor protests. The act guaranteed workers the right to unionize, collectively bargain and establish union dues — only after two separate votes to do so.

The first vote unionizes employees with a simple majority. The second vote, however, requires a supermajority vote of 75 percent of employees to allow “security agreements,” or in other words, force all workers — even that 25 percent that said no — to pay dues.

Now Democrats in Colorado’s legislature are wanting to unravel the Act, which thus far has survived recessions, wars, 15 presidents, 13 Colorado governors, as well as years of Democrat rule.

Rather than needing two separate votes (one a super majority) to unionize and collect dues, it would only take one vote of a simple majority.

The bill is sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Robert Rodriguez

brought forth ballot initiatives that forced teacher union negotiations to be held in public, as well as twice lowering Colorado state income tax rate, has consistently said he wasn’t willing to mettle in an 80-year-old law that seemed to be working.

Caldara said. “This law has been working just fine for eight decades. I wasn’t going to be the one to break the peace for the same reason Captain Kirk tries not to fly into the neutral zone and start a war with the Romulans.

Caldara said now that “progressives” have decided to “destroy the peace, then voters can decide.”

“We shouldn’t have to, but we have to give Coloradans the right of choice if they want to support organizations they disagree with,” Caldara said. “In the world of this cancel culture Coloradans don’t want to be forced to give money to organizations they don’t support.”

*Independence Institute is publisher of the Independence Institute.

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2025/01/14/bill-unwinding-labor-compromise-prompts-right-to-work-measure/>

“SB 25-005, “Worker Protection Collective Bargaining,” would repeal the Colorado Labor Peace Act, which has been in effect since 1943.”

(D-Denver) and Sen. Jessie Danielson (D-Littleton) and in the House by Rep. Javier Mabrey (D-Denver) and Rep. Jennifer Bacon (D-Denver).

Caldara said for years his counterparts at other thinktanks around the U.S. have badgered him about not putting a right to work initiative on the ballot. But Caldara, who has successfully

But when Democrats decided to push the button, Caldara decided now was the time, filing the initiative with Legislative Council on Monday. Caldara uses a “Star Trek” analogy, calling the fight one that rises to the level of the Starfleet and an “invasion of the neutral zone.”

“Colorado was the scene of violent strikes and violent reprisals,”



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Colorado State News

Colorado Has a Strong Republican Bench Considering a Run to Replace Polis

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

How likely is Colorado to flip from a Democrat to GOP governor when Jared Polis is mercifully term-limited and can't run for reelection this cycle?

According to political prognosticators of such things over at RRH Elections, Colorado ranks 19 out of 38 races likely to flip in 2026.

The shining beacon of hope this far out is the race is not seen as a "safe" Democrat seat, but it's a "likely" Democrat seat.

Now the needle just needs to

move to "leans" Democrat and then to that big, beautiful category of "tossup!"

Meanwhile, we like their analysis of the early presumed candidates on the Democrat side going down in flames.

From the report:

"One prominent Democrat is already formally in the race [is] AG Phil Weiser (D); however, he is unlikely to get a cleared primary. SoS Jena Griswold (D) is thought to be interested, and is transparently ambitious, but also a somewhat polarizing progressive figure."

No two words in polite English conversation describe Griswold better than "transparently ambitious," yet we would throw in "ruthlessly" just for accuracy.

Despite Colorado's leftward slant into hell, RRH reports that Republicans have a strong bench that could produce a tough opponent to the Democrat dynasty, including state Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer.

Other interested Republican candidates include State Sens. Mark Baisley and Paul Lundeen; former Speaker and current

university regent Frank McNulty; former Arapahoe County District Attorney John Kellner, and; George Brauchler, who was elected in November as the DA in Douglas County.

Democrats already measuring the drapes in the governor's office include U.S. Reps. Joe Neguse, Jason Crow and Brittany Pettersen.

RRH speculates current Lt. Gov. Primavera is a likely candidate, yet she's done nothing in that position going on eight years except earn two salaries.

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston's name is also being thrown around, just not close enough to the garbage can, yet.

(Editor/GG: Weiser, Griswold: Lord help us. The rest of the dems are actually just as bad. Pettersen just voted in Congress against deporting criminal illegal aliens. We NEED to win this one, folks.)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/01/13/colorado-has-this-strong-republican-bench-considering-a-run-to-replace-polis/>

Republicans Push Bill to Repeal Polis' Cage-Free Environment Egg Law

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Republican lawmakers have introduced legislation to dismantle the new law requiring all eggs sold in Colorado to come from cage-free environments.

The bill is sponsored by state Rep. Ryan Gonzalez of Greeley and state Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer of Brighton.

Polis administration officials insist the increased cost is mostly due to bird flu, which is in fact impacting egg prices nationwide.

And yet, Republicans say producing eggs solely in cage-free environments adds another 18% to the cost.

The Republicans reminded their Democrat colleagues:



"Increased prices disproportionately impact low-income families, who are already struggling to keep up with rising costs," Gonzalez and Kirkmeyer's bill states. "At a time when inflation is driving up the cost of housing, fuel, and everyday essentials, many people in this state cannot afford to have policies that

make it more difficult for them to put food on the table."

The Summit Daily News reports the cost of a dozen eggs in Meeker this month soared to \$13.49, while other high-country counties like Summit, Eagle, Grand and Routt paid \$7.19 for a dozen last week.

Stay tuned. If the bill passes this session, voters would have the final say in a November 2026 referendum.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/01/13/republicans-push-bill-to-repeal-poliss-cage-free-environment-egg-law/>

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The man on top of the mountain didn't fall there. —Vince Lombardi



Cañon City Police Officers Arrest Bank Robber Suspect

Press Release from Cañon City Police Department

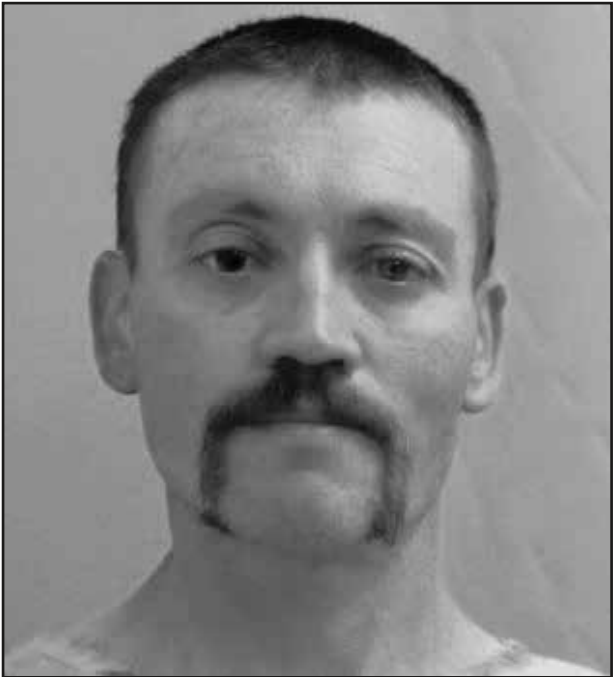
January 16, 2025
via Facebook

ARREST MADE IN BANK ROBBERY

The investigation into the January 10 robbery of the US Bank has come one step closer to being fully closed this afternoon after detectives arrested Zachary Stanley (37), of Cañon City, on the following charges:

- Robbery (F4)
- Theft (F5)
- False Report of Weapons (F6)
- False Report to Authorities (M1)
- Telecommunications Crime (M2)
- Second Degree Criminal Trespass (PO)

On January 10, 2025, at approximately 4:43 p.m. officers were dispatched to the US Bank, located at 801 Macon Ave., on a report of bank robbery. When officers arrived on scene they quickly discovered that the bank was robbed by a male party, who had been last seen wearing a red jacket, white mask, and gray beanie. The suspect had left the scene westbound from



Zachary Stanley

Photo courtesy of Cañon City Police

the bank on foot prior to officers' arrival

Officers quickly went to work collecting statements, conducting neighborhood interviews and trying to find surveillance cameras in the area. By working with the community, detectives were ultimately lead to information that helped to develop a possible suspect.

###

UPDATE: Deputy District Attorney Kyle Ipson asked

for a bond of \$50,000. However, District Court Judge Lauren Swan set bond at \$7,500 cash surety with conditions of monitored sobriety, no weapons, no use of illegal substances, and he must abide by a mandatory protection order and stay at least 25 yards from US Bank. He bonded out of jail last Friday.

Zachary Stanley's next court date was set for Wednesday, January 22nd.

Colorado Releasing More Prisoners On Discretionary Parole

By Elyse Apel,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – Discretionary parole releases across Colorado are on the rise, as the adult prison population growth continues to slow.

This is according to a December presentation to the General Assembly's Joint Budget Committee by the state's Legislative Council Staff.

In fiscal year 2023-2024, data from the Colorado's Department of Corrections saw a drop in adult prison population growth to 2.6%, compared to 4.2% in fiscal year 2022-2023.

Over that same period, new court commitments were steadily declining, down from a statewide high pre-pandemic.

Yet, the presentation predicts that the prison population will rise slowly. Along with that, parole caseloads and technical parole violations are also expected to increase.

So, while the prison and parole populations have stabilized, "risk remains."

"The forecast assumes that the population will return to pre-pandemic patterns of relative stability with slower growth and some periods of decline," the presentation reported. "The possibility of unforeseen disruptors raises risk."

Notably, discretionary parole releases are also increasing. This means that more

parole boards are releasing inmates before their mandatory release date.

This comes as some reports have found that many Colorado prisons are understaffed, leading to prisoners lacking "access to essential services like medical, dental and mental health care."

As for the youth corrections population, data from the Colorado Department of Human Services: Division of Youth Services found that the average daily population has been on the rise since 2021.

The December presentation also predicted similar increases over the coming years. Continued increases in both the youth parole and incarcerated populations will reverse "long-term" downward trends.

(Editor/GG: Let's see: apparently the Dems don't care about the astronomical recidivism rate for ex-cons. When you let them out, they do more crimes. New lax dem laws and lib judges aren't sending the bad people to prison. The sick thing is, libs actually see criminals, especially the violent ones, as the VICTIMS. It is society's fault they kill, rape and rob. So our Colorado crime rate soars and they literally don't care. The lib elites live in their mansions and gated communities while we pay the price for their delusions. This needs to be fixed at the ballot box soon, fellow citizens.)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_347bd814-d1b9-11ef-a5db-3ba378788a33.html?a

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Lundberg Report: Latest Bills – Colorado

by Kevin Lundberg,
KevinLundberg.com

140 bills have been introduced. Here is my list of the best and the worst of the session, so far.

GOOD BILLS

HB25-1040 Adding Nuclear Energy as a Clean Energy Resource Here is a real energy solution that everyone should get behind.

HB25-1051 Repeal Recycled Paper Carryout Bag Fee

HB25-1055 Repeal Firearm Dealer Requirements & State Permit These requirements are totally redundant to existing federal laws and I believe are only there to harass firearm dealers.

HB25-1067 Criminal Asset Forfeiture Act Asset forfeiture is a government policy that needs serious reform, which this bill accomplishes.

HB25-1068 Malpractice Insurers Gender-Affirming Care Minors If a doctor engages in these horrific medical practices, that doctor should be legally responsible for the results and malpractice insurers should not be required to carry insurance for such practices.

HB25-1069 Increase Stakeholder Participation This bill would allow pre-publication of bills before they are introduced.

HB25-1074 Change Confinement Standards Egg-Laying Hens Get rid of this current budget-busting Colorado regulation!

SB25-029 Ranch Property Tax Clarifications This allows for smaller and specialized farming operations to be recognized as legitimate agricultural property.

SB25-039 Agricultural Buildings Exempt from Energy Use Requirements SB-39 takes big farm buildings out of excessive and expensive bureaucratic red tape and state regulations.

SB25-047 Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law Allows local governments and peace officers to help assist federal immigration law.

WOKE BILL

HB25-1084 Remove Gendered Language from Title 35 This bill will not make a big change to current state policies, but I couldn't ignore its obvious, completely ridiculous woke attitude. Here is an example:

“‘Agriculture’ means the science and art of production of plants and animals useful to ~~man~~ HUMANS...” Really? We are changing the law because we cannot use the word “man” to describe all of “mankind?” -Oops I guess I should have said “humankind.” -NOT!

BAD BILLS

HB25-1001 Enforcement of Wage and Hour Laws I am not against a fair wage for work, but I see one more regulation against employers, who are already overburdened with regulations. This bill will have the unintended result of fewer jobs, not fairer jobs.

HB25-1002 Medical Necessity Determination Insurance Coverage for Mental Health Look for even higher medical insurance cost for everyone.

HB25-1027 Governing Disease Control This first got on my bad bill list because I don't trust the state health department when it comes to disease control. The bill also tightens up their immunization laws, which are too tight already...

HB25-1044 Vulnerable Road User Protection This is another road fee scam.

SB25-003 Banning Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices Will ban the sale and manufacture of many (if not

most) semiautomatic weapons.

SB25-005 Worker Protection Collective Bargaining This bill breaks the balance Colorado has had for nearly a century between a union state and a right-to-work state.

SB25-014 “Protecting the Freedom to Marry” Removes from state statute any one man one woman definitions of marriage.

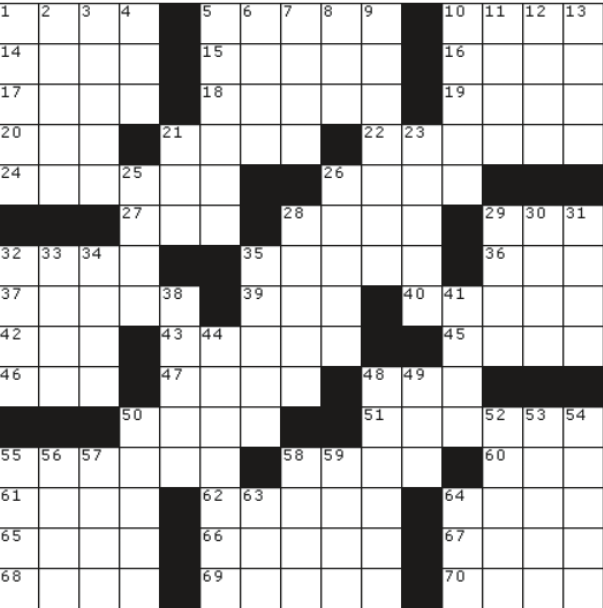
SB25-020 Tenant and Landlord Law Enforcement Every time the legislature runs a bill on this subject they make renting in Colorado more expensive and this bill is no exception.

SB25-034 Voluntary Do-Not-Sell Firearms Waiver Say what? A bill to allow a person to not buy a firearm? I am failing to see any reasonable logic behind this weird concept.

SB25-045 Health-Care Payment System Analysis This is a very dangerous bill that is trying to put the state on the track of a disastrous policy of letting the government dictate all of the funds for medical care. They have been trying to do this for years and so far the people have not bought this big socialist scheme.

Please see <http://kevinlundberg.com/a/email-update/>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1 Beach stuff

5 King ____ Version

10 New Testament book

14 Pottery ingredient

15 Fat

16 Secondhand

17 Lotion ingredient

18 Chairs

19 Districts of ancient Attica

20 Mayan language

21 Place for the wicked
- 22 To every thing there is a ____

24 An apostle

26 Transgressions

27 Fire remains

28 Scat!

29 Sports official

32 Sham

35 Mont ____

36 Also

37 Sacrificial animals

39 Lip

- 40 Makes hotter
- 42 East northeast
- 43 Golf tournaments
- 45 KJV pronoun
- 46 Tribe of Israel
- 47 Pull
- 48 Relation
- 50 Atmosphere
- 51 Where Noah's ark landed
- 55 Spend less money
- 58 Group admirers
- 60 Question word
- 61 Dock
- 62 Mends
- 64 Telegram
- 65 Direction
- 66 1997 Madonna movie
- 67 Stake
- 68 Does (KJV)
- 69 Wooden projection
- 70 Urge

- DOWN
- 1 Imp

2 God of Islam

3 Mother-in-law of Ruth

4 Tint

5 He was a carpenter

6 Adam's son

7 Supper

8 Eastern Standard Time

9 Meeting

10 He betrayed Jesus

- 11 Avails
- 12 Display
- 13 Adam and Eve's garden
- 21 Possessive pronoun
- 23 First son of Cain
- 25 Sacrificial animal
- 26 Fakes
- 28 Used to kill Goliath
- 29 Beehive State
- 30 Speck (of wood,etc.)
- 31 Model
- 32 Luge
- 33 Site of Jesus' first miracle
- 34 Last word of a prayer
- 35 By ____ alone
- 38 City destroyed by fire
- 41 Bunsen burner
- 44 One who speaks for God
- 48 Midwestern state dweller
- 49 Internal Revenue Service
- 50 Joy (KJV)
- 52 Rhinoceros' nickname
- 53 Artery
- 54 Woolen
- 55 Hurried
- 56 See ya!
- 57 Sleep
- 58 Gladly, willingly (KJV)
- 59 Singing voice
- 63 Adam's wife
- 64 Tail wiggle
- Puzzle Key on Page 7**

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

The Shame of NY Democrat Lawfare Persecution of Trump

The persecution of Donald Trump by the corrupt New York Democratic Party machine is unquestionably one of the most horrendous miscarriages of justice in American history. Democrats persecuted Trump by twisting the intent of laws, selectively allowing evidence in court, conjuring up crimes when there were no crimes, and imposed excessive fines. The entire force of the New York legal system was leveled at Trump to prevent him from being elected as President. Judge Juan Merchan “Unconditional Discharge” sentence of Trump is akin to a communist show trial, saying “we put Trump through all this and nothing has come of it, but we want to damage him forever anyway.” New York should be ashamed.

In February 2024, Democrat NY judge Arthur Engoron fined Trump and his companies \$355 million for inflating his wealth in financial statements to banks—even though no criminal laws were broken and the banks suffered no financial losses. Trump’s sons also were fined \$4 million and were barred from being officers of NY companies for two years. Some of Trump’s companies were barred from doing business in NY. This case, and others resulting in multi-million dollar fines, was resulted from lawsuits by NY Democrat Attorney General Letitia James. Trump was earlier ordered by another NY court to pay \$83.3 million to writer E. Jean Carroll for defamation after she accused Trump of sexually assaulting her in the 1990s.

The Unconditional Discharge sentence stems from a \$130,000 hush money payment to former porn star Stormy Daniels. Apart from the moral aspect of Trump being involved with a porn star and paying her money to keep quiet about it, NY Democrats had to once again creatively use the law to get a 34-count conviction for falsifying business records in what many considered a kangaroo court. Trump becomes the first president to take office as a convicted felon. All this out of NY and done by Democrats, elected and appointed. This is in addition to the false charges on hiding classified documents and the twisting of the anti-trust RICO laws to try Trump for election interference and insurrection in Georgia—also done by Democrats. All this flies in the face of the 8thAmendment preventing excessive punishment by the courts.

The last four years of lawfare against Trump is shameful. And pretty much like he said, it was based on falsehoods. This, combined with what Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and several Democrat Congressmen did during the previous Trump campaign and presidency, was all dramatic theatre to keep Trump out of office and ruin his reputation. A true miscarriage of justice. The self-proclaimed defenders of Democracy, the Democratic Party leadership, pulled out all the stops to undermine democracy and the rule of law. As is said in Isaiah 59:14, “Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And integrity cannot enter.” This is what godless communists do. And if they can do it to Trump, they can do it to any of us.

Sources:
<https://system.uslegal.com/u-s-constitution/amendment-viii-excess-bail-or-fines-cruel-and-unusual-punishment-1791/>
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/judge-imposes-364-million-penalty-in-trumps-new-york-civil-fraud-case>
<https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2025-01-10/trump-can-still-vote-after-sentencing-but-cant-own-a-gun-and-will-have-to-turn-over-dna-sample>

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

‘The More Democrats Go To Church, the More They Look Like Republicans’: Study

by Ben Johnson,
The Washington Stand

The more often Americans attend virtually any Christian denomination, as well as Jewish services, the more likely they are to adopt conservative political views, according to a recent statistical analysis. “The more Democrats go to church, the more they look like Republicans,” states the study.

“Being politically liberal and being highly religious are just not compatible,” wrote Ryan Burge, an associate professor of Political Science at Eastern Illinois University and research director for Faith Counts. “Among white people who never attend: 45% are liberal. Among weekly+ attenders: 11% are liberal. That same pattern is there for every single racial group.”

Even attending church only once a year moves Americans further to the right of the political spectrum: More than one-third (36%) of annual church attendees are conservative, while one in four is liberal. More regular attendance makes believers more conservative. Only 4% of weekly churchgoers hold “very liberal” political views, while 23% are “very conservative” and another 29% are conservative.

Regularly attending church services displaces social theories, such as critical race theory, with a belief that individuals bear the moral responsibility of their own actions, the analysis discovered. Both Republicans and Democrats who congregate more than once a week are roughly twice as likely as those who never attend to agree with the statement, “God is more concerned about individual morality than social inequalities.” Registered Independents experienced a greater change of heart yet.

“What is really stunning is the fact that even among Democrats, going to church more makes them more likely to believe that individual morality is more important to God than societal problems,” wrote Burge. “In other words, the more Democrats go to church, the more they look like Republicans.”

The trend held true across most ethnic groups, as well as religious groups ranging from Roman Catholicism and the 20 largest Protestant denominations to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Judaism.

Not only do Baptists and Church of Christ attendees find themselves growing more conservative political-

ly, but so do members of the liberal Presbyterian Church (USA) and the liberalizing United Methodist Church.

Only two of the largest Protestant denominations defy the trend’s general contours: The more frequently people attend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and The Episcopal Church, the more liberal their politics become. Burge noted that both churches put together have less than half the membership of the conservative Southern Baptist Convention.

Burge’s previous research identified Episcopalians as the most politically active religious denomination. But overall, “atheists are the most politically engaged ‘religious’ category,” when compared to all Christians.

In his latest study, Burge learned that among Jews who never attend synagogue, “over half say that they are liberal (54%), it’s half that rate (27%) among Jews who are at synagogue multiple times a week.” He did not specify if that betrays a difference between such liberal branches of Judaism as Reconstruction and Reform and Orthodox Judaism.

“I think it’s fair to say that there’s no real relationship between liberalism and frequency of attendance among Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus,” stated Burge.

The most recent analysis built on previous research from Burge himself, as well as other religious scholars. “While the study finds the most liberal politics among adherents of particular ‘liberal’ religious groups rather than among the unaffiliated, it largely fails to find forms of religion where exposure is associated with liberal politics. In fact, exposure to even ‘liberal’ religion is generally associated with more conservative politics,” concluded sociologist Landon Schnabel of Cornell University in a study published in November 2023 in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. “[E]ven liberal religion appears to conservatize the public.”

Burge previously found that secularists vote for Democrats, while churchgoers vote Republican. “Democrats are making gains in areas where religion is fading,” wrote Burge, “and Republicans are increasing their vote share in places where houses of worship are gaining new members.” Polling data bear this out. Two-thirds of Democratic voters said they “never” attend religious services, according to CNN’s exit polls in the 2022 midterm elections. Exactly the same percentage of

Republicans said they attend church “weekly or more” often.

“While such a finding might have been surprising a few years ago, it is unsurprising in the cultural and political climate of 2025,” David Closson, the director of Family Research Council’s Center for Biblical Worldview, told *The Washington Stand*. “Today, many of the key political debates revolve around issues tied to creation order. Consider, for instance, the ongoing gender debate. Twenty years ago, the idea that society would question something as fundamental as the distinction between male and female would have seemed unimaginable. Equally shocking would have been the notion of debating the moral permissibility of medically altering children in the name of gender ideology.”

“In essence, these debates now center on ontology — the very nature of being,” Closson continued. “Christianity offers clear and unambiguous teachings on these issues, including the nature of reality and gender. This clarity provides a framework for understanding and addressing such foundational matters.”

“As a result, it is logical to observe a direct relationship between church attendance and conservative political positions. Regular exposure to clear biblical teaching about creation order naturally influences how individuals approach related political and moral questions,” Closson told *TWS*. “Consequently, those who are actively engaged in church life are more likely to adopt conservative perspectives in the public square.”

The impact of these studies will impact future generations. The growth of “nones,” or the religiously unaffiliated, appears to have stopped, and America’s slipping church attendance stabilized. A total of “24.8% of folks reported weekly attendance in 2019. It was 24.5% of respondents in 2023,” reported Burge. “That difference is not statistically (or substantively) significant.”

Burge, too, seems to agree that (nearly) all religious faiths compel believers in revealed truth to align themselves with the American Right.

“Maybe the idea that religion can push people toward left-leaning ideas is over for good,” concluded Burge. “[T]here’s plenty of evidence that American religion is now inextricably linked to one political viewpoint.”

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/the-more-democrats-go-to-church-the-more-they-look-like-republicans-study>



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

An In-Depth Look at our Incompetent President's Antigun Actions

by Lee Williams, ammoland.com

If you actually knew Joe Biden before he took the nation's highest office, you would know he was the most antigun American ever to serve as President of the United States.

I first met Biden while I was working as an investigative reporter for a Delaware newspaper, several years before he became our Commander-in-Chief. I wasn't impressed. Even during our brief meetings, I recognized he had some serious issues. Biden had problems simply making conversation.

Back then, my newspaper didn't cover Biden much, other than by running press releases from his office, which were written by his loyal staffers. Any in-depth coverage was non-existent. None of my investigations focused on Biden or his family.

Thankfully, things changed years later. I started writing for the Second Amendment Foundation about three months after Biden became president. Our founder and executive vice president, Alan M. Gottlieb, welcomed any story that explained Biden's antigun antics, as long as it was accurate and fair.

One of the first stories was titled *"It's time to talk about the President's mental health."*

The story outed Biden's crippling mental health issues. It was published in June 2021, years before the mainstream media—which is only now starting to discuss the president's mental health challenges and multiple foibles—had a clue.

"The President had trouble simply reading from the teleprompter. He slurred his words, which is extremely alarming. Every single time he tried to speak extemporaneously without the prompter, he couldn't complete a single sentence—not a one," we wrote in 2021.

The column contained issues that needed to be made public.

"My concern is for the country, not any particular president. If I am wrong about all of this, if Joe undergoes cognitive testing as he has promised and aces the tests, no one will be happier than me. However, if I am right, the country is headed into uncharted waters with a shell of a man at the helm."

Around the same time, we introduced readers to Biden's unique way of dealing with the country's then-60,000 Federal Firearm Licensees, or FFLs—better known as gun dealers. He ordered ATF to put them out of business—as many as possible for the most minor reasons.

"If you're scratching your head in confusion wondering why the Biden/Harris administration would target FFLs—arguably one of the most heavily regulated federal license holders—you're certainly not alone. Everyone in the firearms industry knows full well there are—maybe—a dozen or so 'rogue gun dealers' out of approximately 60,000 FFLs in the entire country," we wrote.

Months later, we showed the damage this produced, when we pointed out how Biden ignored the real cause of violent crime.

"What Biden left out of his speech is also telling. He never once mentioned gangs or gangsters—the root cause of violent crime in every major city whose mayor Biden now wants to prop up. In Chicago alone there are more than 100,000 gang members. I'm sure each owns more than a few stolen firearms, so guns aren't the problem. Gangsters are—as evidenced by the fact there were 54 people shot in the city last weekend."

In July 2021, we told readers about the Gun Violence Archive, a loose association of anti-gunners whose fake mass-shooting data was frequently cited by Biden and other White House staff. For example, the Gun Violence Archive claimed there were 382 mass shootings in 2016, but the FBI said there 20.

One story, "Special Report: The Gun Violence Archive and its scaring of America," showed how the Biden-Harris Administration cited this made-up data, which they continued to do for years.

In August 2021, we introduced Susan Rice to readers, as Biden's secret puppet-master in his war on guns.

"The President of the United States has become a puppet, who has to be led—sometimes by the hand—to waiting news cameras, where he stumbles through speeches that someone else has obviously written. So, who is pulling Biden's strings?" we asked in the story. *"In my humble opinion, in the Biden-Harris Administration's war against our guns, former Obama national security advisor and UN Ambassador, Susan Rice, who now serves as Biden's domestic policy advisor, is clearly calling the shots. Rice has a staunch anti-gun pedigree, coupled with direct access to Biden—and Obama—and the means, ability and desire to orchestrate the war against our God-given, constitutional rights."*

Rice's anti-gun history is well documented. She once signed a letter calling "gun violence" a national security threat. The letter called on officials to "ban assault weapons, mandate background

checks and waiting periods, and raise the minimum age to purchase guns."

In September 2021, we fact-checked *USA Today's* fact-checker, Daniel Funks, for going soft on Biden, who actually checked his wristwatch as casualties were deplaned at the Dover, Delaware Air Force Base.

"Biden did appear to check his watch during his visit to Dover Air Force Base. But he did so after the dignified transfer ceremony was over. Footage leading up to the moment shows Biden with his hand over his heart for about 30 seconds as vans carry the service members' remains off the tarmac. After the vans had left, Biden closes his eyes briefly before dropping his arms and glancing down at his watch," Funke wrote.

"The families of the 13 slain service members, conservative writers and thousands of folks who watched the video with their own eyes exploded in anger over Funke's bogus, politically motivated claims," we wrote.

In March 2022, we showed how Biden had quickly and quietly "unleashed hell on American gun dealers."

"As the NRA first noted, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has started revoking licenses of gun dealers for the most minor of paperwork errors—errors that never led to license revocations until Biden took office," we wrote. *"The move was intended to bolster Biden's politically motivated stratagem, which he first announced June 23, 2021, that 'rogue' gun dealers are responsible for skyrocketing crime rates in large cities that historically have been controlled by Democrats. The 'epidemic of gun violence' wasn't caused by weak prosecutors who refuse to hold criminals accountable, or gangs or underfunded police departments or by any combination thereof, Biden claimed. It was all the fault of 'rogue gun dealers.'"*

Just two months later, ATF's revocations of FFLs had increased by 500 percent.

In April 2022, we documented how Biden created the largest and most heavily armed terrorist army the world has ever seen.

"Among the \$80 billion worth of high-tech weaponry Joe Biden gifted to the Taliban after his inept and deadly Afghanistan withdraw were 176 artillery pieces, 64,363 belt-fed machine guns, 126,295 handguns and of course 358,530 select-fire assault weapons — real assault weapons. Most of the assault rifles were equipped with high-

end optics. Many had IR lasers, which aren't much good without night-vision gear. However, Biden left behind 16,035 sets of NVGs. The small arms were accompanied by 23,132 armored vehicles, both tracked and wheeled, 8,000 cargo trucks, 42,000 pickups and SUVs, 109 helos and 65 fixed-wing aircraft, including four C-130s," we wrote.

In October 2022, we documented part of the ATF's war against a gun dealer, Ira Levin who has owned and operated Legend Firearms in Monroe, New Jersey, since 2009. His crimes? A few customers wrote "USA" on the 4473 because they mistakenly thought the form asked for their country rather than their county. Levin's staff did not catch the errors.

"Levin believed ATF would issue a warning or impose a small fine for the paperwork errors, until he received a letter stating that the ATF intended to revoke his license. The revocation letter was signed by John Curtis, an industry operations director at ATF's New York City Field Office," we wrote.

Unlike hundreds of other gun dealers, Levin would win the case months later.

In April 2023, we began covering Biden's loss of proper brain functioning, such as his use of cheat sheets complete with photos.

"At a joint press conference with the President of South Korea, A New York Post photographer with a long lens captured a photo of a cheat sheet in Biden's hands. It wasn't a typical Biden cheat sheet, which normally tell him what to say when he walks into a room, whom to mention, where to sit and which reporters to call on. This cheat sheet had the name and picture of Los Angeles Times reporter Courtney Subramanian. It also had the question she planned to ask, which raises even more questions about Biden's fitness for office. He called on Subramanian first but didn't even try to pronounce her last name," we wrote.

One month later, in May 2023, we caught Biden using fake mass-shooting date from the Gun Violence Archive, in a column he had allegedly written himself.

"Most of Joe's opus we've heard many times before. AR-15s are bad, so is anyone who owns one. Red flag laws and universal background checks will save the world. Congress needs to do more by banning 'assault weapons' and standard-capacity magazines, and of course his ubiquitous: 'For God's sake, do something.' But then there's this: 'We need to do more. In the year after the Buffalo tragedy, our

country has experienced more than 650 mass shootings and well over 40,000 deaths due to gun violence, according to one analysis.'"

The hyperlink, of course, took readers to the Gun Violence Archive's main page.

In June 2023, we counted the number of lies Biden had made about guns or the Second Amendment since he was elected: "Analysis: Joe Biden has lied about guns 304 times."

"Biden has lied about guns 304 times at more than 65 public events since taking office, according to an analysis of official White House transcripts by the Second Amendment Foundation's Investigative Journalism Project. In fact, Biden lies nearly every single time he mentions firearms, gun rights or the Second Amendment."

In July 2023, we showed how for Biden's ATF, homebased gun dealers became low-hanging fruit.

"Before Joe Biden declared war on gun dealers, ATF inspectors used a five-percent rule. If less than five percent of a gun dealer's paperwork contained errors, the ATF would take minor corrective action, usually a warning letter or a warning conference. If more than five percent of the transactions contained errors, sanctions could be more severe. But after Biden weaponized the agency, anything goes. Even a minor clerical error is now viewed as a 'willful' violation of ATF rules, and the dealer's Federal Firearm License is in jeopardy," we wrote.

In February 2024, we published one of our most important stories: "How Joe Biden's Office of Gun Violence Prevention is directing the war on guns."

"When the office was unveiled in September 2023, President Joe Biden said it would, 'centralize, accelerate, and intensify our work to save more lives more quickly. That's what it was designed to do. It will drive and coordinate a government and nationwide effort to reduce gun violence.' The office wields tremendous power but operates in secrecy, without oversight. It has no website. Its budget has never been made public. Its staffing levels are not known. Only three actual members have ever been identified — the director and two deputy directors. All three are radical anti-gun zealots. One has a long association with former President Barack Obama."

Marlin Model 60 vs. Ruger 10/22: Battle for the Best 22 Rifle

by Terril Hebert,
ammoland.com

I am often asked what caliber or firearm is best for a given task. This is surprising, considering I don't look like a guy you would ask for directions to the airport, let alone anything of consequence like guns and ammo. Which is better? 9 or 45? Revolver or auto-loader? SD9VE versus anything by Taurus?

I don't keep a dog in those fights, but I have long wondered which 22 rifle was best: the Marlin Model 60 or the Ruger 10/22.

Taken together, these have been the best-selling rimfire rifles on the American market for decades, and each rifle has its cult following. I have not swallowed the flavor-aid and slashed my palms to initiate myself into the cult of the Microgroove or the Bill Ruger, but I have a sampling of both rifles, and I decided to put them side by side at the range for a little comparison.

The Marlin Model 60 Rifle

The Marlin Firearms Company, a legend in the rifle world, is still producing several variations of their bread-and-butter rifle—the Model 60. The Model 60 came out in...1960. It was not the first auto-loading 22 rifle, but it is one that has stood the test of time and company mergers. Sporting a twenty-one-inch Microgroove-rifled bull barrel and an eighteen-shot tubular magazine, the Model 60 has developed a reputation as an unusually accurate rimfire rifle. In the 1980s, Marlin ditched their long gun in response to magazine capacity legislation. The modern configuration you will see now sports a shorter nineteen-inch barrel and a fifteen-shot magazine, allowing it to be sold in more places where three rounds mean the difference between a friendly hunting rifle and an instrument of mass destruction.

In 2007, Remington bought Marlin. There are complaints about the quality control on many of their models in the years since, but in my experience, the Model 60 has suffered little. My 2017-produced "Remlin" Model 60 has been an excellent shooter, but compared to the Ruger 10/22, the Model 60 is old-school.

The Ruger 10/22 Rifle

Bill Ruger started his company on 22 caliber pistols and revolvers like the Mk I pistol and the Single-Six. Naturally, a 22 rifle was in order. As it was introduced in 1964, the Ruger 10/22 has changed very little. But aftermarket improvements on the platform have become an industry unto itself, from higher capacity magazines, to target triggers, to stock options. In my case, I have the base-model Takedown model first introduced a few years ago. Other than that, it has a stock ten-shot detachable rotary magazine and a tapered 18.5-inch barrel. The rifle's modularity and the advent of relatively reliable higher-capacity magazines like the BX-25 put it in an arena of firepower that its competitors struggle to keep up. But the battle continues.



The Ruger 10/22 (top) and the Marlin Model 60 (bottom) represent two of the best selling 22 caliber rifles on the market today.

Accuracy

Proponents of the Marlin Model 60 adhere to the model's inherent out-of-the-box accuracy. Marlin's Microgroove rifling—essentially smaller and more numerous grooves in the barrel—leads to less deformation of the bullet on its journey out of bore on its way to the target, making for better accuracy.

I am no engineer. I am a lazy liberal arts guy. I will say that my Model 60 is generally a little more accurate for me, but that statement is complicated.

The black-on-black sheet metal u-notch rear sight is adjustable for windage and elevation, while the front blade is fixed on the barrel. The iron sights don't leave much room for taking a very fine sight-picture, especially in low light. However, the Model 60 is a heavier rifle with a heavier bull barrel, which allows for a steadier hold, provided you are adult sized. The Ruger 10/22 is a lighter rifle and more prone to moving around if you aren't steady and the lighter, tapered barrel would lead to the assumption of less accuracy. However, the Ruger's white-diamond rear sight and gold-beaded post front are quite clean compared to the Marlin.

It is a combination of gun, ammo, and shooter that makes for accurate shooting. I put both guns on paper from a rest at fifty yards' distance using Federal High-Velocity Match 40 grain loads, a load that provides consistent results in the 22 LR firearms I have. The Marlin was slightly more accurate when I took my fliers out of the picture. But when I switched ammunition to Federal Target 40 grain standard velocity loads, loads I now shot sub-MOA groups out of my Ruger, the Ruger spanked the Marlin. The Marlin might be steadier, but it is not automatically more accurate than the Ruger.

Reliability

Both the Marlin and the Ruger exhibit excellent reliability for what they are, but all rimfire rifles are subject to misfires from bulk or bad ammunition and hung-up cases once the guns become very dirty. I don't shoot both rifles excessively, but I have over two thousand rounds through both rifles and a few interesting observations. I won't dwell on this for too long as reliability is dependent on maintenance and the diet of ammunition you feed

the rifle, but there are unique problems that affect both rifles.

The Ruger 10/22s I have shot through the years tend to feed round-nosed ammunition better than flat-faced rounds. I had no such problem in the Marlin's I have run.

Magazine Woes

One aspect of reliability lies in the magazines when it comes to autoloaders, especially 22s. There is also the issue of spring compression, an issue some ascribe as a myth. In the case of rimfire rifles, it most certainly is not. As it pertains to our samples, I generally leave the Marlin's tube magazine downloaded with thirteen rounds loaded for two or three months on end. The rifle runs those rounds perfectly fine. The same is true for a fully loaded ten-round magazine in the Ruger. The few BX-25 magazines I kept loaded with twenty-three rounds for that same period of time choke constantly with the spring and follower getting stuck in place unable to move rounds further up into the magazine. I have to take the magazine out, strike it once, and reinsert to keep firing.

The Marlin has just one magazine to worry about but even that is not perfect. Too much gun oil on the brass magazine tube combined with a chilly day meant a stuck magazine tube that left me red and raw trying to get it out, which I eventually did.

The Marlin also uses a *feed throat* to feed rounds from the magazine to the chamber. Some shooters with tens of thousands of rounds in their guns state that the feed throat wears out over time and needs to be swapped out. In the case of the Ruger, discarding old magazines and replacing them seems like a more straightforward bet.

Points of Disassembly

The Marlin and the Ruger disassemble in a similar fashion. The components that come out of the receiver are a heavy steel bolt, a stout spring, the charging handle, and a guide rod. In the case of the Marlin, the charging handle is pulled out as the bolt is lifted out of the receiver. The guide rod, spring, and charging handle are all one integral unit with the Ruger. I have to fight to get this unit back in while sandwiching the bolt back on top of it for reassembling. The Marlin does not have such a problem. It is

worth pointing out that the Marlin has two opposing extractors on the bolt, whereas the Ruger only has one. This might explain why I get fewer stuck cases when firing the Marlin to the point of being fouled out.

Features

The Marlin Model 60 and the Ruger 10/22 are both excellent rifles with their own downsides, but it is the features that are the true deciding factor. Perhaps the biggest difference is loading and unloading.

The Ruger 10/22 uses a polymer-based rotary magazine with steel feed lips. In the box, you will get one ten-shot magazine. The Marlin uses an under-barrel tubular magazine. The magazine tube needs to be pulled out and individual cartridges dropped in the tube all the while you are working around the muzzle of the gun. The magazine holds fifteen shots, but it is not as fast as switching out Ruger magazines, never mind the potential safety concerns. The Marlin does have a last-shot hold open that the Ruger does not. Both rifles can be locked open by jacking the charging handle back and pushing inward so you are working with a safe gun. On the other hand, inserting a new magazine beats fumbling with loose ammunition in cold weather if you are having to reload in the field. My friends in the Colorado Rockies can attest to that.

Perhaps more importantly, feeding also translates into malfunction clearance. In the worst double feed, in which one round feeds behind a stuck case or an otherwise unspent round, I have to pull the Marlin's magazine tube out and dump the ammunition to clear the jam. With the Ruger, just take out the magazine, run the charging handle, insert the magazine and go back to the task.

The Ruger 10/22 has a clearly better scope mounting option. The receiver is tapped and drilled for a Weaver scope base, allowing you to install anything from red-dots to high-power rifle scopes. Whereas the Model 60 has a traditional 3/8 inch dovetail milled into the receiver. This allows you to fit a conventional low-powered rimfire scope. You would have to buy a 3/8 inch to

Weaver adapter to make the jump to more sophisticated optics.

The Model 60 is an adult-sized gun with a full-length buttstock. The comb of the stock is more pronounced than on the Ruger. When looking down the sights, I have to press my head further down on the stock to line up a shot. The Ruger's stock is a little shorter and the drop of the comb is more pronounced allowing for a more comfortable sight picture. I got my first 10/22 when I was a foot and a half shorter and the rifle fits me like a glove then and now.

The Price You Pay

I avoid naming prices because they fluctuate with time, location, and variation away from the base model of firearm. Some, including myself, feel that the Marlin is a lot of gun for only \$150-\$180. The Ruger is easily \$50 more. Throw in a few extra magazines and the price tag is more than negligible if you have or want to invest as little as possible.

The Bottom Line

It has been some time since I reviewed both the Marlin Model 60 and the Ruger 10/22 separately but throwing them together with more trigger time gave me more to like and dislike. The Marlin is generally more accurate with cheap ammo, has an easier-to-understand disassembly procedure, and a higher out-of-the-box capacity in an all-inclusive package that needs only a scope to complete. For a little more money and with good ammo, you can get a Ruger that can best the Marlin in accuracy with a modularity that the latter can't touch, though both rifles have their fair share of aftermarket support. Both have their weak points. The Marlin is slower to load and the feeding mechanism can wear over time, whereas the Ruger's issues can be fixed by changing magazines. The Ruger is easier to shoulder, but the Marlin holds steadier. In my subjective view, the Ruger 10/22 is the more versatile rifle, but the Marlin Model 60 is the most complete package at a somewhat better price tag.

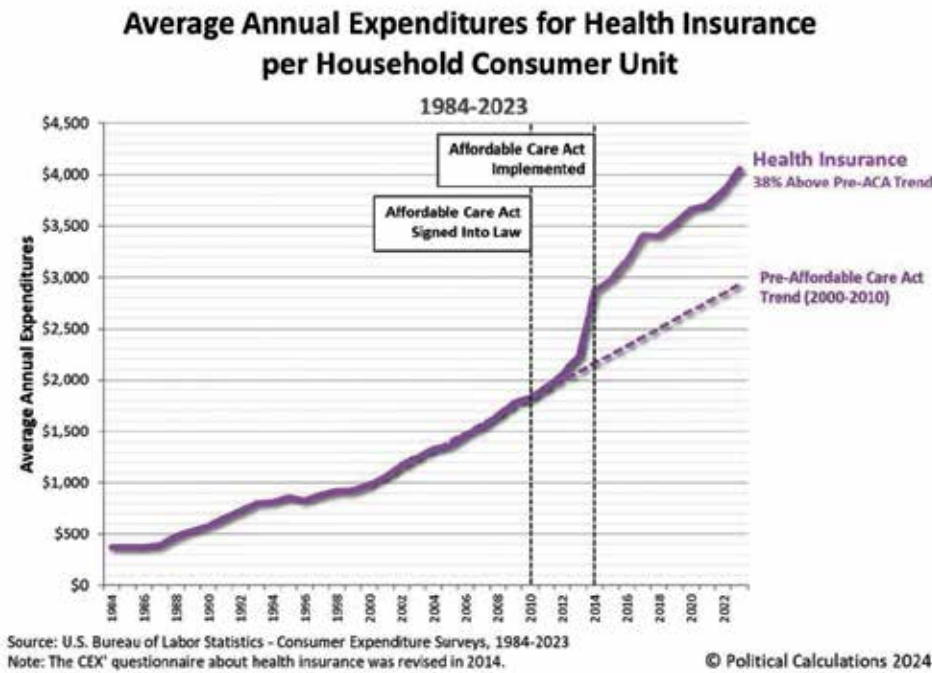
Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/01/marlin-model-60-vs-ruger-10-22-battle-for-the-best-22-rifle-video/>



Affordable Care Act & The Inflation of Healthcare

by Lance Roberts,
RealInvestmentAdvice.com

When the Obama Administration first suggested the Affordable Care Act following the Financial Crisis, we argued that the outcome would be substantially higher, not lower, healthcare costs. It is interesting today that economists and the media complain about surging healthcare costs with each inflation report but fail to identify the root cause of that escalation. The chart below tells you almost everything you need to know, but in this blog, we will revisit why the Affordable Care Act failed to make healthcare affordable and some solutions to fix the problem.



When it was conceived, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was hoped to improve healthcare access. At the time, roughly 20 million Americans were uninsured. The bill hoped to lower the rising cost of healthcare in the economy by providing a government mandate.

However, as is always the case when “Big Government” steps in, the outcomes are generally worse, not better. Such should not be surprising. At a press conference on August 12th, 1986, US President Ronald Reagan said, *“The nine most terrifying words in the English language are ‘I’m from the government and I’m here to help.’”*

A decade after the launch of the Affordable Care Act, we cannot look back at the results. In 2023, roughly 25 million Americans still lack healthcare coverage. The government continues expanding programs, like Medicaid, to insure more individuals at a hefty cost to taxpayers. While the uninsured population has fallen by 3 million since 2014, the question is whether the costs justify the results.

Unsurprisingly, as we discussed initially, the Affordable Care Act led to a hefty increase in healthcare costs. Although its goals were noble, several key provisions—including pre-existing conditions, reduced consumer choice, and government subsidies—strained the system financially. These problems, compounded with other structural challenges, are further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving insurers, taxpayers, and patients grappling with rising premiums and expenses.

We will examine these issues.

The Many Problems Of The Affordable Care Act

Pre-Existing Conditions and Insurance Pools: Spreading the Risk Unevenly

One of the ACA’s most controversial provisions required insurance companies to cover individuals with pre-existing conditions without charging higher premiums. This ensured vulnerable individuals could access necessary care and altered the insurance risk pool. Before the ACA, insurers could price premiums based on the health profile of the insured population. Using data from the healthy pool, costs could be effectively calculated, keeping prices

The federal government currently subsidizes ACA plans with over \$50 billion annually. Additionally, expanded subsidies after the pandemic increased the federal budget burden, locking higher costs even as inflation strained public resources.

While subsidies provide short-term relief for individuals, they distort the healthcare market. Providers are less pressured to lower premiums when the patients are shielded from the underlying costs. This dynamic creates a feedback loop that drives prices higher over time, especially as insurers set premiums in anticipation of ongoing subsidy support.

unprecedented pressure on the healthcare system, compounding the ACA’s existing challenges. Hospitals and providers experienced soaring operational costs due to increased demand, labor shortages, and supply chain disruptions. Insurers responded by raising premiums to account for higher claims and uncertainty. These price hikes hit already stretched consumers, with many households facing insurance costs that outpaced wage growth.

The government’s response to the pandemic—extending ACA subsidies and relaxing enrollment deadlines—further strained the system. While these measures helped many individuals access coverage during the crisis, they also deepened the financial burden on taxpayers.

A Cost We Can’t Afford

The design of the Affordable Care Act was deeply flawed at the outset, and as we noted in 2013, such would lead to an obvious outcome. To wit:

“It is when the full impact of the Affordable Care Act lands on those working class individuals that sentiment will turn deeply negative towards the government as higher costs, and taxes, not only impact their individual standards of living but continues to erode the economic growth in the U.S.”

Unsurprisingly, the very negative sentiment and division in the country today over the quality and costs of healthcare have come home to roost. Of course, this additional “welfare program” that is part of the mandatory spending side of the budget equation has also come to fruition.

“The current pace of increase in the participation of social welfare programs, from food stamps and disability claims to social security and Medicare, is creating an ever-increasing consumption of current revenues. **Implementing another social welfare program will only create an additional drag on the revenue/expense equation.**” – 2013

According to the Center On Budget & Policy Priorities, **in 2023, roughly 90% of every tax dollar went to non-productive spending.**

“In fiscal year 2023, the federal government spent \$6.1 trillion, amounting to 22.7 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP). **About nine-tenths of the total went toward federal programs; the remainder went toward interest payments on the federal debt. Of that \$6.1 trillion, only \$4.4 trillion was financed by federal revenues.** The remaining amount was financed

by borrowing.”

Notice that 24% of spending goes to Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Marketplace Subsidies. That will only get worse over time. However, here is the issue. **In 2023, 90% of all expenditures went to social welfare, non-productive spending, and interest on the debt. Those payments required \$6.1 trillion, roughly 138% more than the tax dollars collected.**

Those concerned about debt and deficit should question the continued support for the Affordable Care Act.

There are options.

Options For Lowering Healthcare Costs

Given the ongoing surge in healthcare costs, policymakers must reassess whether the ACA can achieve sustainable, affordable care in its current form. One option is to unwind or significantly revise key ACA provisions. For example, creating separate risk pools for individuals with pre-existing conditions could allow insurers to offer lower premiums to healthier individuals while ensuring coverage for those needing it most.

Another approach would involve deregulating the healthcare market to foster more competition. Allowing insurers to sell plans across state lines could increase consumer options and reduce premiums. Additionally, reforming subsidies by linking them to healthcare outcomes rather than premium levels could help contain costs at the source.

Revisiting antitrust enforcement in healthcare markets is also crucial. Mergers between hospital systems and insurers have reduced competition, driving prices higher. Strengthening competition policies would encourage providers to lower costs, benefiting consumers in the long run.

The ACA brought essential reforms but failed to control costs, burdening many households and taxpayers with unsustainable healthcare expenses. Revisiting the structure of insurance pools, increasing market competition, and reforming subsidies offer a way to address the root causes of rising costs. While unwinding parts of the ACA may be politically challenging, it could be a necessary step to build a healthcare system that delivers both access and affordability.

Please see: <https://realinvestmentadvice.com/resources/blog/affordable-care-act-the-inflation-of-healthcare/>

Failed State Exchanges and Their Impact

The early rollout of the ACA included state-run insurance exchanges intended to offer consumers access to competitive plans. However, several states—such as Oregon and Hawaii—saw their exchanges collapse due to technical issues, poor enrollment, and mismanagement. When these exchanges failed, the federal government absorbed the costs, passing the financial burden on to taxpayers. Billions were wasted on these failed systems, while insurers withdrew from the exchanges due to instability, further reducing competition.

These failed exchanges added to federal costs and undermined the ACA’s objective of creating sustainable marketplaces. Fewer participating insurers meant even higher consumer premiums, as the limited competition eroded the benefits of market-based pricing.

How the COVID-19 Pandemic Amplified ACA-Related Problems

The COVID-19 pandemic placed

WAR ON GUNS from page 20

Neither Biden nor Vice President Kamala Harris, who actually oversees the office—at least officially—has ever clearly said what the office is supposed to do, other than “reduce gun violence” and “build on historic actions taken by President Biden to end gun violence.”

Biden’s historic actions included calls for red flag laws; universal

background checks, which would open the door to firearm registration; banning popular semi-automatic firearms and standard capacity magazines; revoking licenses of gun dealers for minor clerical errors; and pushing Congress to pass laws that would force gun owners to comply with firearm storage regulations, which would likely be followed by mandatory home inspections to insure compliance.

Our coverage has included multiple stories about the

criminal charges Hunter Biden once faced, which Joe recently whisked away through a massive pardon.

This issue should serve as the heart of any Biden story. No matter what they do, no matter how serious the offense, no Biden will ever see the inside of a jail. That, unfortunately, is Joe Biden’s real legacy.

Please see: <https://www.ammo-land.com/2025/01/an-in-depth-look-at-our-incompetent-presidents-antigun-actions/>

Smith & Wesson Model 1854 Now Available in .357 Magnum

by Duncan Johnson,
ammoland.com

Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc. (NASDAQ Global Select: SWBI), a leader in firearm manufacturing and design, announced today the addition of the .357 Magnum caliber to the Model 1854 series.

When the Model 1854 was first introduced, it featured the popular .44 Rem Mag, followed by the .45 Colt in the months that followed. Now, enthusiasts can enjoy the same smooth lever action rifle in an additional caliber that harkens back to a classic American design. Available in two configurations, users have the choice of a black polymer and stainless-steel finish or a walnut stock paired with an Armornite® finish. Each model boasts a 10+1 capacity, a 19 ¼-inch threaded barrel, and a crisp, smooth action. Additional features include a 4



Smith & Wesson Model 1854 Now Available in .357 Magnum



¾-inch Picatinny base for optics mounting, an adjustable XS Sights® ghost ring rear sight, a gold bead front sight, a flat-face trigger design, and a removable magazine tube for safe unloading. The Model 1854 is engineered to blend the timeless aesthetics of a traditional lever-action rifle with the benefits of modern design enhancements. Recently, the Model 1854 earned recognition as Ballistics' Best Lever-Action Rifle

– 2024, a testament to its exceptional design and performance. It is the perfect balance of tradition and innovation and is now available in .357 Magnum. For more information on the Model 1854 series, visit www.smith-wesson.com/products/1854. Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/01/smith-wesson-model-1854-series-now-available-in-357-magnum/>



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Fun facts about bacon!



People who eat bacon
have a lower chance of
marrying a 9 year old!



INAUGURAL ADDRESS
from page 1

They don’t have a home any longer. That’s interesting. We can’t let this happen. Everyone is unable to do anything about it. That’s going to change.

We have a public-health system that does not deliver in times of disaster, yet more money is spent on it than any country anywhere in the world, and we have an education system that teaches our children to be ashamed of themselves, in many cases, to hate our country, despite the love that we try so desperately to provide to them. All of this will change starting today, and it will change very quickly.

My recent election is a mandate to completely and totally reverse a horrible betrayal and all of these many betrayals that have taken place, and to give the people back their faith, their wealth, their democracy and indeed, their freedom. From this moment on, America’s decline is over.

How our liberties and our nation’s glorious destiny will no longer be denied, and we will immediately restore the integrity, competency and loyalty of America’s government. Over the past eight years, I have been tested and challenged more than any president in our 250-year history, and I’ve learned a lot along the way.

The journey to reclaim our republic has not been an easy one, that I can tell you. Those who wish to stop our cause have tried to take my freedom and indeed, to take my life.

Just a few months ago, in a beautiful Pennsylvania field, an assassin’s bullet ripped through my ear, but I felt, then and believe even more so now that my life was saved for a reason: I was saved by God to make America great again.

That is why, each day, under our administration of American patriots, we will be working to meet every crisis with dignity and power and strength. We will move with purpose and speed to bring back hope, prosperity, safety and peace for citizens of every race, religion, color and creed. For American citizens, Jan. 20, 2025, is Liberation Day.

It is my hope that our recent presidential election will be remembered as the greatest and most consequential election in the history of our country. As our victory showed, the entire nation is rapidly unifying behind our agenda, with dramatic increases in support from virtually every element of our society: young and old, men and women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, urban, suburban, rural and very importantly, we had a powerful win in all seven swing states and the popular vote, we won by millions of people.

To the black and Hispanic communities, I want to thank you for the tremendous outpouring of love and trust that you have shown me with your vote. We set records, and I will not forget it. I’ve heard your voices in the campaign, and I look forward to working with you in the years to come. Today is Martin Luther King Day, and his honor, this will be a great honor, but in his honor, we will strive together to make his dream a reality. We will make his dream come true.

National unity is now returning to America, and confidence and pride is soaring like never before. In everything we do, my administration will be inspired by a strong pursuit of excellence and unrelenting success. We will not forget our country, we will not forget our Constitution, and we will not forget our God.

Today, I will sign a series of historic executive orders. With these actions, we will begin the complete restoration of America and the revolution of common sense. It’s all about common sense.

First, I will declare a national emergency at our southern border. All illegal entry will immediately be halted, and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places

from which they came. We will reinstate my “Remain in Mexico” policy.

I will end the practice of catch and release. And I will send troops to the southern border to repel the disastrous invasion of our country.

Under the orders I signed today, we will also be designating the cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. And by invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, I will direct our government to use the full and immense power of federal and state law enforcement to eliminate the presence of all foreign gangs and criminal networks bringing devastating crime to U.S. soil, including our cities and inner cities.

“As Commander in Chief, I have no higher responsibility than to defend our country from threats and invasions, and that is exactly what I am going to do. We will do it at a level that nobody has ever seen before.”

As Commander in Chief, I have no higher responsibility than to defend our country from threats and invasions, and that is exactly what I am going to do. We will do it at a level that nobody has ever seen before.

Next, I will direct all members of my cabinet to marshal the vast powers at their disposal to defeat what was record inflation and rapidly bring down costs and prices.

The inflation crisis was caused by massive overspending and escalating energy prices, and that is why today, I will also declare A National Energy Emergency. We will drill baby, drill.

America will be a manufacturing nation once again, and we have something that no other manufacturing nation will ever have: the largest amount of oil and gas of any country on Earth. And we are going to use it. Let me use it. We will bring prices down, fill our strategic reserves up again, right to the top, and export American energy all over the world. We will be a rich nation again, and it is that liquid gold under our feet that will help to do it.

With my actions today, we will end the Green New Deal, and we will revoke the Electric Vehicle Mandate, saving our auto industry and keeping my sacred pledge to our great American autoworkers. In other words, you’ll be able to buy the car of your choice.

We will build automobiles in America again at a rate that nobody could have dreamt possible just a few years ago. And thank you to the autoworkers of our nation for your inspiring vote of confidence. We did tremendously with their vote.

I will immediately begin the overhaul of our trade system to protect American workers and families. Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich other countries, we will tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens. For this purpose, we are establishing the External Revenue Service to collect all tariffs, duties and revenues. It will be massive amounts of money pouring into our treasury, coming from foreign sources.

The American Dream will soon be back and thriving like never before. To restore competence and effectiveness to our federal government. My administration will establish the brand new Department of Government Efficiency.

After years and years of illegal and unconstitutional federal efforts to restrict free expression, I will also sign an executive order to immediately stop all government censorship and bring back free speech to America. Never again will the immense power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents, something I know something about. We will not allow that to happen. It will not happen again. Under my leadership, we will restore fair, equal and impartial justice under the constitutional rule of law.

And we are going to bring law and order back to our cities.

This week, I will also end the government policy of trying to socially engineer race

and gender into every aspect of public and private life. We will forge a society that is colorblind, and merit based. As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders, male and female.

This week, I will reinstate any service members who were unjustly expelled from our military for objecting to the COVID vaccine mandate — with full back pay. And I will sign an order to stop our warriors from being subjected to radical political theories and social experiments while on duty. It’s going to end immediately. Our armed forces will be free to focus on their sole mission, defeating America’s enemies.

Like in 2017 we will again build the strongest military the world has ever seen. We will measure our success not only by the battles we win, but also by the wars that we end, and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into. My proudest legacy will be that of a peacemaker and unifier. That’s what I want to be, a peacemaker and the unifier. I’m pleased to say that as of yesterday, one day before I assumed office, the hostages in the Middle East are coming back home to their families.

America will reclaim its rightful place as the greatest, most powerful, most respected nation on earth, inspiring the awe and admiration of the entire world. A short time from now, we are going to be changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, and we will restore the name of a great president, William McKinley, to Mount McKinley, where it should be and where it belongs.

President McKinley made our country very rich through tariffs and through talent. He was a natural businessman and gave Teddy Roosevelt the money for many of the great things he did, including the Panama Canal, which has foolishly been given to the country of Panama.

The United States, I mean, think of this, spent more money than ever spent on a project before, and lost 38,000 lives in the building of the Panama Canal. We have been treated very badly from this foolish gift that should have never been made, and Panama’s promise to us has been broken.

The purpose of our deal and the spirit of our treaty has been totally violated. American ships are being severely overcharged and not treated fairly in any way, shape or form, and that includes the United States Navy. And above all, China is operating the Panama Canal. And we didn’t give it to China, we gave it to Panama, and we’re taking it back.

Above all, my message to Americans today is that it is time for us to once again act with courage, vigor and the vitality of history’s greatest civilization. So as we liberate our nation, we will lead it to new heights of victory and success. We will not be deterred.

Together, we will end the chronic disease epidemic and keep our children safe, healthy and disease-free. The United States will once again consider itself a growing nation, one that increases our wealth, expands our territory, builds our cities, raises our expectations and carries our flag into new and beautiful horizons.

And we will pursue our Manifest Destiny into the stars, launching American astronauts to plant the Stars and Stripes on the planet Mars.

Ambition is the lifeblood of a great nation, and right now, our nation is more ambitious than any other. There’s no nation like our nation. Americans are explorers, builders, innovators, entrepreneurs and pioneers. The spirit of the frontier is written into our hearts. The call of the next great adventure resounds from within our souls.

Our American ancestors turned a small group of colonies or the edge of a vast continent into a mighty republic of the most extraordinary citizens on Earth. No one comes close. Americans pushed thousands of miles to a rugged land, of untamed wilderness.

They crossed deserts, scaled mountains, braved untold dangers, won the Wild West, ended slavery, rescued millions from tyranny, lifted billions from poverty, harnessed electricity, split the atom, launched mankind into the heavens and put the universe of human knowledge into the palm of the human hand.

If we work together, there is nothing we cannot do and no dream we cannot achieve.

Many people thought it was impossible for me to stage such a historic political comeback. But as you see today, here I am, the American people have spoken.

I stand before you now as proof that you should never believe that something is impossible to do. In America, the impossible is what we do best.

From New York to Los Angeles, from Philadelphia to Phoenix, from Chicago to Miami, from Houston to right here in Washington, D.C., our country was forged and built by the generations of patriots who gave everything they had for our rights and for our freedom.

They were farmers and soldiers, cowboys and factory workers, steel workers and coal miners, police officers and pioneers who pushed onward, marched forward and let no obstacle defeat their spirit or their pride.

Together, they laid down the railroads, raised up the skyscrapers, built great highways, won two world wars, defeated fascism and communism and triumphed over every single challenge that they face.

After all, we have been through together, we stand on the verge of the four greatest years in American history. With your help, we will restore America’s promise, and we will rebuild the nation that we love — and we love it so much. We are one people, one family and one glorious nation under God.

So to every parent who dreams for their child and every child who dreams for their future, I am with you. I will fight for you, and I will win for you. We’re going to win like never before.

In recent years, our nation has suffered greatly, but we are going to bring it back and make it great again, greater than ever before. We will be a nation like no other, full of compassion, courage and exceptionalism.

Our power will stop all wars and bring a new spirit of unity to a world that has been angry, violent and totally unpredictable.

America will be respected again and admired again, including by people of religion, faith and good will.

We will be prosperous. We will be proud. We will be strong, and we will win like never before. We will not be conquered, we will not be intimidated, we will not be broken, and we will not fail.

From this day on, the United States of America will be a free, sovereign and independent nation. We will stand bravely, we will live proudly, we will dream boldly, and nothing will stand in our way, because we are Americans, the future is ours, and our Golden Age has just begun. Thank you. God Bless America. Thank you all. Thank you very much.

