

They're Coming! Wolves Near Cañon City, Maybe a Custer Incursion

(Editor/GG: Based on this map, looks like a big, bad wolf might have breached the Custer County border. Perhaps our Trump inspired Wolf Fence stopped him. But they are coming. The Rainbow Trail could look like a north/south Wolf Highway this summer. Could be interesting hiking and ranching in a few months..)

Press Release
Colorado DPW

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) posted the updated Collared Gray Wolf Activity Map on its website to show where wolves are distributed around the state this month. You can view our Collared Wolf Activity Maps on the fourth Wednesday of every month that reflect collar data for the prior month. Please note, the watersheds in the southeast region that are lit up in this map represent the movement of one animal.

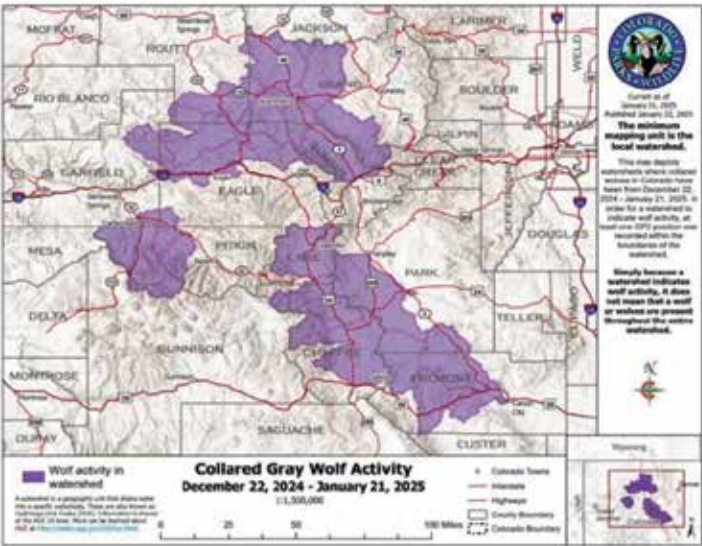
As a reminder, in order for any watershed to indicate wolf activity, at least one GPS point from at least one of the wolf collars was recorded within the boundaries of the watershed within the last 30

days. Simply because a watershed indicates wolf activity, it does not mean that a wolf or wolves are present throughout the entire watershed nor that they are currently in the watershed.

On January 19, CPW completed capture and release work for the second gray wolf reintroduction season in support of the Colorado Gray Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. The activity information related to the reintroduced wolves from British Columbia as well as the wolves from the original Copper Creek pack is included in this month's map. *(See article on page 23)*

As wolves begin to move to new areas of the state, CPW has prepared with expanded and improved capabilities for producers through the Conflict Minimization program that will allow for faster response to conflicts and higher likelihood of effective non-lethal deployment. This work results in improved strategies for altering depredation behavior early and reducing the potential for repeated depredations.

In early January, CPW also pub-



lished a Wolf-Livestock Conflict Minimization Program Guide that provides information on a variety of tools and methods available for livestock producers to employ in efforts to reduce the likelihood of wolf-livestock conflicts and establishes a framework for CPW's response, along with available support from other state, federal and nongovernmental organizations.

The public can register for a Non-lethal Wolf Conflict Reduction Training on February 12th

in Buena Vista. The main focus of this training is to help educate the public and producers on effectively handling encounters with wolves. Join Colorado Department of Agriculture, CPW, APHIS Wildlife Services and Colorado State University Extension at this upcoming interagency training session.

More information about *Living with Wolves* is available on our website <https://cpw.state.co.us/>

Semi-Automatic Gun Ban Punishes Law Abiding Citizens

by Ari Armstrong,
CompleteColorado.com

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the state's premier law enforcement agency, currently is letting rapists roam free because it is some 500 days behind in processing DNA evidence, due partly to an analyst there botching hundreds of tests, according to Colorado Public Radio (CPR).

Although “the country’s murder rate is falling at a brisk pace,” trends in Colorado are “mostly flat,” another CPR story reports.

Yes, auto thefts are down, CBS reports, but this is after Colorado had the worst auto theft rate in the nation in 2022.

“A Colorado apartment complex where armed members of a Venezuelan gang were caught on video entering a unit last summer is expected to close in about a month under an emergency court order,” the AP reports.

Recently a man with 15 prior arrests, deemed by the courts to pose “substantial risk of serious harm to others,” allegedly stabbed four people on the 16th Street Mall in Denver, two fatally, the *Gazette* reports.

Given these ongoing problems with crimes against people and their property, our state legislature is laser-focused on...diverting limited law enforcement resources to hassling the millions of gun owners in Colorado who have never harmed anyone.

Flagrantly unconstitutional

The latest is Senate Bill 25-003, which pertains to “a semiautomatic rifle or semiautomatic shotgun with a detachable magazine or a gas-operated semiautomatic handgun with a detachable magazine.” The bill makes it a crime to “knowingly manufacture, distribute, transfer, sell, or purchase” such a gun, with a few exceptions, including transfers to heirs.

Of course the bill excepts law enforcement and military agencies, because these Democrats believe that some Coloradans are more equal than others and that government agents must be better-armed than other citizens. This despite Democratic candidate for president Kamala Harris calling the new head of the federal government a “fascist.” The bill defines a first offense as a Class 2 Misdemeanor

SEMI-AUTO GUN BAN
see page 24

BOCC: Coroner: A Lot of Suicides in 2024, Auditor Change Delay, P&Z Activity Down

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The January 23, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular meeting took place at the All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room. It started around 9 a.m. and all three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda, and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogelsong.

Before Commissioner Items, Canda asked the Board whether the Commissioners should verbally summarize what was in the written reports submitted by various officials and department heads. (Instead of just reading them silently in front of the audience). Epp concurred. *(This is a good thing as the public didn't know what was going on. And, as shown below, it worked quite well. Thank you, Canda and Epp.)*

In Commissioner Items, Vogelsong noted that he and Epp went to CCI for Commissioner training.

Staff Reports were next. First up was our Veterans Service Officer,

Dominic Edginton. Dominic said he had 39 scheduled appointments in December and eleven walk-ins. He filed nine new claims and had a total of 366 claims filed last year. He said at the end of 2024, our veterans were getting an increase of \$160k monthly. Also, since he started about 18 months ago, he had gotten \$1.2 million in retro payments for the veterans. And, at the end of 2024, he had managed to get a total of \$2.4 million in payments.

The first Elected Officials Report was from the Sheriff's Office (SO). Epp gave the highlights: the Posse members donated 5,663 hours last year with 404 hours being prisoner transport. The SO also finished the year under budget. There were 966 traffic stops in 2024 with 142 tickets being issued. Forty-one traffic accidents occurred last year which was a 41% reduction from 2023. There was one traffic fatality.

Treasurer Virginia Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. The usual stuff. All good.

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But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18

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

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

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

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Capturing the Past

Filter Press Aims to Publish Credible Colorado History

by Linda DuVal,
The Rocky Mountain Reader

—January 23, 2025

Next time you read a book about Zeb Pike, Rattlesnake Kate or Chief Ouray, take a peek at who published it. It likely says Filter Press of Westcliffe, Colorado.

When it comes to well researched, fact-based Colorado history, Filter Press is probably the premier publisher in the state.

Founded in 1956 by Gilbert Campbell—who once worked on the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos and later for the Denver Public Library before becoming librarian at the U.S. Air Force Academy—it is one of the oldest independent publishers in Colorado.

With degrees in engineering and later library science, Campbell brought his personal interests to bear when he wrote his first book, *Thirty Pound Rails*, about the extraction process required to form the rails that built the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. One of the machines used in the process was called a Filter Press, and Campbell liked the play on words, so that's what he named his own publishing company, says Doris Baker, who (along with husband Tom) purchased the publishing house in 1996.

Campbell's operation was small—

he ran the entire thing out of his house, including having a printing press in his basement, Doris Baker recalls.

"His books were really more like pamphlets and they were stapled together," Baker says. "But he'd run off up to 20,000 at a time."

Like Campbell, the Bakers focused on Western history, primarily that of Colorado. Unlike Campbell, they farmed out the actual printing to a professional printer. The couple retired from the business in 2022 when they sold it to one of their authors, Julie Bell VanLaanen.

A new era

VanLaanen is a Colorado native who grew up in Monument, spent a lot of time climbing 14,000-foot peaks, exploring old ghost towns and hiking in the deserts and mountains of Utah and Colorado.

"My dad liked to climb mountains, and I went with him a lot," she says.

VanLaanen earned a master's degree in biomechanical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. She worked as an engineer at Digital Equipment Corp. in Co. Springs for about eight years (part of it in Germany). But she'd always loved writing. In 2016, she had a historical mystery published and that's when she got hooked. *The Lucky Hat Mine* (not published by Filter Press) inspired her to venture

into nonfiction, which she found more satisfying.

Filter published her first nonfiction work, a biography titled *Elizabeth Byers: Denver Pioneer*, under the pen name of JVL Bell—a name she still uses.

"That's how I got to know it," she says. "And then I bought the company. This is supposed to be my retirement, though I've never worked so hard in my life."

Van Laanen is always busy but never bored. She has continued to write and her latest book *Women of the Colorado Gold Rush Era*, published by Filter Press and co-written with Jan Gunia, recently won a Colorado Book Award in nonfiction history.

But her focus these days is mostly on publishing. She describes the company this way:

"Filter Press is a traditional publishing company that publishes Southwest and Colorado history for educators and the casual historian—aka history buffs."

The company has published more than 300 books in its history and has about 100 titles available currently.

Authors typically query VanLaanen online, via her website (see below), "and if it's a topic I'm interested in, I will ask for a synopsis and

the first couple of chapters. If it's something we want, or I fall in love with, we work with the author on rewrites and graphics."

Filter does not pay advances to authors; neither do authors pay to have their work published. Remuneration comes in the form of royalties.

VanLaanen loves reading about Colorado history and gets excited when she receives a manuscript that brings that history to life.

The Filter Press mission

VanLaanen is always looking for books about Colorado, its history and people, "stories not already written to death."

Recently, she's been working with an author who writes about the Amache internment camp. She'd love to see a book about how Colorado finally won statehood.

A lot of time is spent on editing and fact-checking manuscripts, and the company has a graphics designer who does the artwork and layout.

And although they don't do much marketing, Filter does set up signings for authors and goes to education conferences to promote its young adult series for schools. A lot of Filter's books are sold to

FILTER PRESS
see page 19

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Sangre Shooting Sports Club Elects Board and Officers



L to R: John Noard, Cole Collins, Peggi Collins, Bill Garrett, Tom Sullivan, Steve Konegni, Linda Pollack

Press Release

The Sangre Shooting Sports Club (SSSC) held its annual members' meeting on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at Lange Hall in the Hope Lutheran Church, Westcliffe. Approximately 60 people were in attendance. Morning refreshments were served. 2024 accomplishments

were reviewed and planned activities for 2025 were revealed including community efforts such as CPR classes and highway cleanup adventures as well as shooting events. Sheriff Rich Smith also gave a presentation on new and proposed Colorado gun laws that will have an impact on individual citizens.

Tom Sullivan was reelected as President. Cole Collins, Peggi Collins, Bill Garrett, Steve Konegni, John Noard and Linda Pollack were elected as Board Members. Specific Officer positions were selected by the Board members. They are John Noard, VP, Peggi Collins, Secretary and Bill Garrett, Treasurer.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR Salty Pine Floral & Boutique

by Fred Hernandez

Ah, Valentine's Day. The time for red roses, boxes of chocolates, romantic candlelight dinners for two and cute Cupid shooting his arrows at unsuspecting lovers. Despite all the hoopla on this signal day few actually know the origins of this celebration which is shrouded in deep mystery and is embedded with both Christian and ancient Roman traditions.

The Romans celebrated a fertility festival known then as Lupercalia. Dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, it involved animal sacrifice with the blood soaked in pieces of animal skin, slapped on the women who truly believed it would improve their fertility. With the rise in Christian beliefs this annual festival was deemed "unChristian" and finally, it was outlawed at the end of the Fifth Century when Pope Gelasius declared February 14th St. Valentine's Day.

Before that Catholic history has it that there were three Valentines all of whom were beheaded by the Roman Emperor for various reasons. The more popular legend is that the Emperor was convinced that single men made better fighters for his army and so, decreed that young men should not be married. St. Valentine, believing that the edict was too severe and unjust, secretly married young men until his actions were discovered and he was made a martyr. St. Valentine then became the "patron Saint" of lovers. Today we have a whole industry dedicated to this one feast day. From greeting cards, to flowers,



gifts of all kinds, dinners and celebrations and much more.

In Custer County we have a very special place where the joyful celebration of Valentine's Day can begin for everyone. Salty

Roses, hip clothing, dazzling jewelry and many other gifts. This is their 13th Valentine Day offering since the shop first opened on December 12, 2012. The owner, Pepper Stafford, highly recommends plac-



Pine at 411 Main Street in Westcliffe is a most unique boutique that offers beautiful flower arrangements including fresh and beautiful, imported Ecuadorian

ing your orders ahead of time to ensure availability of products especially the imported Ecuadorian Roses will be available at last year's prices. That is really good news since the price of roses everywhere is skyrocketing. Also available are delicious gourmet chocolate covered strawberries, delightful assorted candy bouquets, live blooming and non-blooming plants, and what is called a dish garden composed of assorted plants. Gift certificates are also available and one can place orders for delivery out of state. Salty Pine is open to serve everyone daily except Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You may want to check the entire product line at westcliffeflowershop.com or call (719) 783-9393.

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"Everything that Can Burn, Will Burn" A Documentary to Learn From

by Katherine Brenchley

As the wildfires continue to rage in California, it seems the topic is on the minds of many Americans. Glenn Beck recently mentioned a documentary that came out in 2023 that does an amazing job of addressing the \$12 BILLION per year (in California alone) "Wildfire Industrial Complex". It's called *Hotshot* and was produced by Gabriel Kirkpatrick Mann.

In the film, Mann follows his wife (a rarity in the firefighter community) and her Texas Canyon Hotshots, along with several other Hotshot teams, for six fire seasons. He captured some remarkable moments during some of the biggest fires in California leading up to 2023 and offers a good education on the lessons he learned and an important warning for states like Colorado.

Delving into the history of fire mitigation and suppression, Mann explains the idea of Fire Debt, which is "the primary driver of fire intensity. And the reason is simple. More fuel,

bigger bomb. More carbon grows out of the ground every year. So every year that you're not burning some of it off, your fire debt increases." And when that debt comes due, the result is costly.

Mann says, "Global wildfire activity is actually decreasing. It's only getting worse in the areas that practice aggressive fire suppression, like the American West, but few are eager to tell you the truth. Instead, they tell you the sky is falling like never before and it's all the faults of our modern... climate." In fact, Beck pointed out that when Mann presented his documentary to Netflix, they refused to buy it unless he made changes to include a segment about the problem of "climate change". Mann declined.

The problem isn't the climate, which is always changing, it is the that we aren't taking care of our open spaces, something even the Forest Service acknowledges. We've likely all seen the smoke and read the notifications about prescribed burns, but I wonder, are we doing enough?

Ever walk the Rainbow Trail and notice the standing dead and downed trees and the dead brush too thick to walk through? Consider the Sangres haven't burned in almost 120 years. It has created watershed issues and a significant decline in the water table. And other areas are much worse than our Sangres, like the beetle kill forests around Steamboat Springs or Wolf Creek Pass.

According to Mann, "Medicinal fire reduces wildfire destruction by 87%. Florida proactively burns more in one year than California has burned in the last fifty years. And guess which state has a wildfire problem?" So called 'environmentalists' and politicians have put an essential stop to mitigation and prescribed burns, which directly cause the catastrophic fires like we're seeing in California.

Check out the documentary and learn about this very real threat: hotshotmovie.com. Then start asking questions – your local Fire Marshall (the Sheriff) might be a good place to start.

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"We the People" Speak

Letters to the Editor



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Troubled Waters

Summary: Chairman Canterbury tries to improve fiduciary accounting, faction within forms coup to remove Canterbury, State RNC Representatives side with Canterbury, Commissioner Canda threatens to ruin Chairman Canterbury, independent auditor Len Arrigo presents troubling findings and absent-Treasurer's lawyers send bully letter to auditor.

Dear Editor,

The County's problem with money invades the Custer County Republican Central Committee.

The CCRCC exists to fund raise for the Republican Party, to inform voters of issues and candidates, to support candidates, to get out the vote on election day, and to fill republican seats if vacated. The CCRCC is comprised of the county's eight elected officials, four officers, and six precinct committee persons (PCPs). They are the only individuals that can vote on Committee concerns. The CCRCC was almost non-existent in Custer County until it was brought back to life by Jack

Canterbury when he noticed the downward spiral in our country and decided to get involved. Through Canterbury's efforts, and in spite of a one-year hiatus from leadership, the CCRCC raised over \$18,000 in 2024 and supported the successful run of several candidates.

Now that the organization is bringing in significant money the question of how to handle it is very important. In October 2024, after two fund-raising events, the Chairman became aware of behavior that he thought needed to be improved upon for the organization's and his own financial integrity. He voiced his concerns and the backlash was immense. It led to both sides of the issue taking their concerns to the RNC and to a faction requesting a special meeting to remove Jack Canterbury as Chairman. *What is it about asking for accepted accounting practices that gets people so upset?*

Fortunately, Laurel (former congressional candidate) and Weston Imer (a project manager for the Colorado Republican Party and a member of the RNC's Youth

Advisory Council) were present. They came appraised of both sides' opinions, and [they] stated that if this issue were brought to the State for determination Jack Canterbury would be in the right. (Treasurer was absent) This should have ended the debate, Right? Nope.

The CCRCC has to account for all funds they receive by entering them into Tracer, the State Campaign Finance Disclosure website, and the year-end deadline passed with things within Tracer not right. Jack asked retired auditor of 40 years Len Arrigo to help him figure out what is going on with the money after which, Jack received, from Central Committee members, emails threatening to ruin his reputation!

Len Arrigo presented his report on January 9th and was promptly attacked by a PCP (The Treasurer was absent again) who claimed everything was right within Tracer. A few days later he received a 'bully' letter from the Treasurer's attorney.

What is going on folks? Whether

County or the CCRCC, there seems to be great opposition to keeping accurate financial records. I don't believe either entity actually has a set of financial records that we can inspect. Should we be concerned that individuals can hold positions as an elected official and also as a voting member of the CCRCC? Should we be concerned that the "county" faction holds more voting membership than the citizens of this county? Or that that faction can turn on a citizen member? I think so.

Members within both entities are elected officials and should abide by the State ethics standards. Imer offered to have someone come down and explain the ethical responsibility of elected officials especially as it pertains to finances but the CCRCC has not taken him up on that offer. *Red County Blue Nation* (January 8, 2025) <https://youtu.be/Sp71llfT6Q4?si=3UWzSw8sL8tTugGA> presented an excellent expose about *Civic Ethics and Duty*.

I do not hear the word "transparency" much from our commissioners anymore. Instead

Canda, Epp, and Day (former) have all been quoted as saying the Open Records Act keeps them from getting anything done. It is very concerning when Commissioners say and seem to believe that keeping the people informed gets in their way of getting things done. (I wonder how Commissioner Vogelsong weighs in on this?) Maybe that is how both the county and the CCRCC got into the financial jams they have. Will they do this with the Justice Center too? All I know is that if a county official gets the treasurer position. I think I will forego any donations.

The CCRCC should reflect the people in this county. February 8th is the day on which the Chairman, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary will be decided. Anyone can run for a position and all are invited to attend.

**Everything in this letter is the opinion only of Joy Anderson. If anyone can prove I am wrong about any of these points I will be glad to offer a retraction.*

Citizen Joy Anderson



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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, February 3
#57 Lemon Baked Fish
Scalloped Potatoes
Spinach Salad w/Mandarin
Oranges
Malt Vinegar, Banana
WW Bread w/Butter

Tuesday, February 4
#97 Teriyaki Beef
Brown Rice
Chinese Vegetables
Asian Cabbage Salad
Orange, Fortune Cookie
WW Bread w/Butter

Thursday, February 6
#37 Combination Burrito
Sala, Lettuce, Tomato
Cilantro Lime Rice
Refried Beans
Citrus Cup

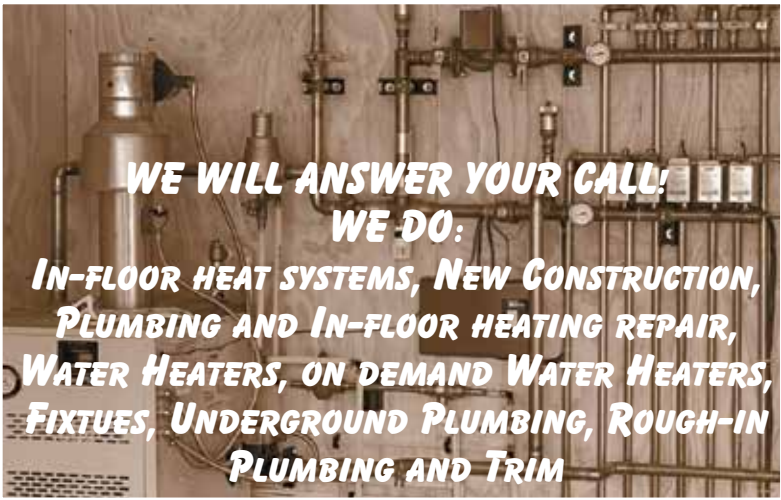
Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)
The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.

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.

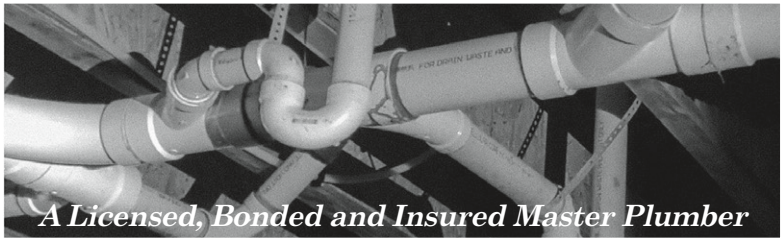
1 p.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room,
Post Commander Burt Daniels 719-783-3050

- The investigation is considered closed at this time.

Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him,
and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth
shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. Revelation 1:7 KJV



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Events

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.

Tuesday, February 11, 9:30-11 a.m.
Olde School House Quilters Trunk Show Featuring 1930’s Quilts presented by Rocky Mt. Quilt Museum @ Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Ln. Open to the Public. See ad on page 14

Wednesday, February 12, 5-8 p.m.
Valentine’s Dinner with CCSD’s Bobcat Cafe Chefs
RSVP: 719-778-2881 See ad on page 15

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P.O. Box 150
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Custer County School District is now hiring.
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Happy 81st Birthday
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Ladies Bobcat Wrestling



Ladies Wrestling--Brylee Shy--2nd Place (Third from the Left)
Photo by Terri Crispe, Asst Coach

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday, January 24:
HS Girls Wrestling @ 2025 Ladies Cañon Classic
in Cañon City: *Brylee Shy finished 2nd* 🐾
HS Boys JV Basketball @ Del Norte: *23-19 Win!* 🐾
HS Girls Basketball @ Del Norte: *13-54, lose*
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Del Norte: *35-38, lose*

Saturday, January 25:
HS Boys Wrestling @ HOME - Bobcat Invite:
🐾 *Junior Jason Hemsath finished 1st at 144 lbs.* 🐾
Sophomore Corbyn Martin finished 1st at 175 lbs.

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



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

Friday, January 31:
12 pm HS Boys & Girls 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)
tbd HS Girls Wrestling in Del Norte

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

Thursday, February 6:
4 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Primero (away)
5 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Primero (away)
6:30 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Primero (away)

Friday, February 7:
3 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Trinidad
4:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vis Trinidad
6 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Trinidad
tbd HS Boys Wrestling Regionals in Walsenburg (away)

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

KIDS

January 31, 2025

The Vangunu Giant Rat

I am sure we have all seen rats sometime in our lives. This week I will introduce you to the Vangunu Giant rat. I will tell you right now they don't live anywhere near us or even on our continent and for that I am grateful.

This rare rat can be found on the Island of Vangunu in the Solomon Islands. This is an island country that consists of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Melanesia, part of Oceania, to the northeast of Australia.

This rare rat is so big it puts American rats to shame. For the first time it has been caught on camera. It is at least twice the size of a normal rat. They are known to be able to grow to be about at least a foot and a half long, about the size of a newborn baby. They are also known to have very long tails and very short ears.

The local indigenous people have always known about the big rats that dwell in the trees and can crack a coconut with their teeth. Researchers, however, have never been able to observe or capture one. Until 2015, when some loggers who were cutting down a tree captured an injured giant rat. It died soon afterward. The body was preserved as best as they could and sent to the Queensland Museum in South Brisbane. There, researchers were able to confirm the existence of these elusive creatures.

Working with Zaira community cameras and traps were set up and the team captured 95 images of four individual Vangunu giant rats—three females and one male. The Zaira community wants the government to declare their part of the island a protected natural area where mining and logging are prohibited.

Documenting the presence of this endangered rat was a vital step in conservation efforts for the Vangunu Island. This is very important to the 200 human residents and the giant rats that call this island home. It also provides habitat for leatherback turtles and New Georgia monkey-faced bats, which are both vulnerable species.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon_Islands, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rare-giant-rat-caught-on-camera-for-first-time-vangunu/>, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/see-the-first-ever-photographs-of-an-elusive-giant-rat-that-lives-only-on-one-pacific-island-180983336/>.
Photo: Wikicommons Night vision camera still.



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CORNER

Custer County School District C-1 MENU for the WEEK of February 3 thru February 6		
	Breakfast	Lunch
 Monday	Cereal, Oatmeal Mixed Fruit, Yogurt Milk	Sloppy Joes Oven Fries, Coleslaw Fruit, Choice of Milk
Tuesday	Bagels and Cream Cheese Yogurt Fruit, Choice of Milk	Tacos Rice, Beans Fruit, Choice of Milk
Wednesday	Cinnamon Rolls Yogurt Fruit, Choice of Milk	Tortellini Alfredo Broccoli Apple Crisp, Choice of Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit, Choice of Milk	Sweet n Sour Pork Loman Noodle, Oriental Vegetables Fruit, Choice of Milk

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Tony's Pizza MVP
Varsity Women's Basketball -- Mary Weber
(L to R) Johnny Winton,Tony's Pizza owner, Mary Weber, Joy Parrish, Asst Coach and Laura Bauchman, Asst Coach.



Photo by Lea Grundy



Tony's Pizza MPF
Men's Basketball -- Kal El Tunnel

Photo by Jennifer Russ Photography



JV MVP --
Carter Osteen

photo by Jen Russ

Most Valuable Players



Tony's Pizza MVP's
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Photo by Shannon Palmer

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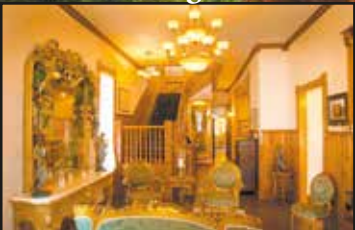




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Grand Opening: Cañon City Pregnancy Center's New Medical Clinic Announced

Press Release,
January 22, 2025

The Cañon City Pregnancy Center announces we are now a Medical Clinic, with our nurse, Janetta Miller RN, supervising the medical clinic and performing Ultrasounds.

Currently, Ultrasounds will be administered one day a week; Mondays, by appointment. As the need grows, we will respond by expanding the hours of operation. The center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Overview of the Cañon City Pregnancy Center

Founded in 1984, Abundant Life Crisis Pregnancy Center was committed to assisting pregnant women to



Cañon City Pregnancy Center, Abundant Life Pregnancy and Family Resource Center
614 Yale Drive, Cañon City, Colorado 719-275-7074

carry their babies to term by providing emotional support and practical assistance. This was in response to the growing number of unplanned pregnancies and the increasing ease of having an abortion. In the 90s, the name was changed to Cañon City Pregnancy Center (CCPC) to simplify the phone book search.

In the 40+ years we've been serving Fremont County and the surrounding communities, our services have grown and changed with the needs of those we serve. We are blessed to serve families of all types and ages. We actively support each individual with their emotional physical, material and spiritual needs.

We are committed to creating awareness within our local community regarding pregnancy and parenting choices, sexual risk and family dynamics. We empower those we serve, through education and opportunity, to make choices that move them towards being high functioning, contributing members of our community.

The Cañon City Pregnancy Center is a Christian, Pro-Life nonprofit that exists to provide pregnancy and family services for Fremont County and the surrounding areas by supporting each individual with their spiritual, physical, material and emotional needs.

PREGNANCY CENTER
see page 19

Veterans Rescue Ranch Announces New Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Press Release

— January 14, 2025 —

Veterans Rescue Ranch is pleased to announce the appointment of Patricia Ford (Patti) as Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to its Board of Directors. Patti, a proud U.S. Army veteran, business owner, and dedicated community advocate, brings a wealth of experience and passion to the organization.

Patti is the founder of Keep-On-Booking, a highly respected bookkeeping and tax preparation firm specializing in small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Over the past year, Patti has provided exemplary financial services to Veterans Rescue Ranch, helping ensure our financial records are accurate, complete, and compliant. Her commitment to our mission has been unwavering, and we are thrilled to welcome her to this expanded role.

A Veteran Supporting Veterans: Born and raised in small-town Nebraska, Patti cultivated a strong sense of community and service from an early age. After completing her education

in Lincoln, NE, she worked for several CPA firms before launching her own business in 2020. In 2023, Patti and her family relocated to Cotopaxi, CO, where she has embraced the serenity of the mountains and continued her mission to support the veteran community.

As a U.S. Army veteran, Patti is deeply connected to the challenges and opportunities faced by our veteran population. Her professional expertise, coupled with her passion for giving back, aligns perfectly with the mission of Veterans Rescue Ranch: helping veterans heal through innovative programs that emphasize connection, trust, and personal growth.

Leadership and Vision: As Board Treasurer, Patti will oversee the organization's financial affairs, ensure the maintenance of accurate financial records, and support the development of our annual budget. While her CFO duties will evolve as the organization grows, Patti's leadership will be instrumental in strengthening our financial foundation and expanding our capacity to serve veterans.

"Patti's appointment marks an

exciting new chapter for Veterans Rescue Ranch," said Geoff Schram, Co-Founder and Board Vice-President. "Her dedication, expertise, and passion for our mission will enhance our ability to provide top-tier programs to the veterans we serve."

Looking Ahead: Patti's appointment reflects the growth and progress of Veterans Rescue Ranch as we continue to expand our impact in the veteran community. We remain committed to fostering healing, connection, and empowerment for veterans and their families.

For more information, please visit our website at www.veteransrescueranch.org or contact Geoff Schram at GSchram@VeteransRescueRanch.org.

About Veterans Rescue Ranch: Located in Westcliffe, CO, Veterans Rescue Ranch is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping veterans heal from invisible wounds. Through equine-assisted learning, horsemanship, and community programs, the Ranch provides a safe and supportive environment where veterans can find peace, connection, and purpose.

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Colorado State News



Colorado's Over-Spending Problem Explained

by Nash Herman, Complete Colorado Page Two

Colorado legislators are discovering first-hand the impossibility of having their cake and eating it too.

The Joint Budget Committee continues to meet with dozens of departments to reconcile an approximately \$750 million budget shortfall in 2025, with some absurdly claiming that deficit is purely a result of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) at work.

Granted, it does sounds bizarre that the state must make budget cuts in a year that it is still expected to collect a surplus of revenue beyond what is allowed by TABOR. But by looking at the facts, anyone can come to see how the so-called budget "crisis" is actually a self-inflicted wound from the legislature's relentless over-spending.

Having their cake

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Colorado received a windfall of federal funds to prop up the state economy and boost recovery. To fund that massive stimulus, the federal government printed money, causing an increased supply of dollars chasing the same number of goods. This in turn lead to the dollar being worth less, also known as inflation.

The Covid-driven federal spending spree and subsequent inflation actually resulted in a two-fold boon to the Colorado state budget:

First, federal funds are TABOR exempt, meaning the state government could keep and spend all the stimulus money without being required to return any to Colorado taxpayers.

Second, the TABOR limit grows annually according to a formula of population plus inflation.

The increase in inflation meant state government spending was allowed to grow larger, according to TABOR.

Eating their cake

Colorado state government used the federal largesse to pay for some of their biggest priorities like eliminating the K-12 education shortfall, expanding mental health and early childhood programs, and increasing higher education funding.

The problem with using federal bailout dollars to pay for ongoing state projects is that eventually the one-time money runs out, while the special interest spending obligations remain.

Colorado received over \$2.8 billion from the federal Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) after the pandemic, then distributed

to several smaller funds: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER), Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) and Higher Education Emergency Relief fund (HEER).

While funds from ESF were mostly used to address immediate needs during the pandemic, much of the almost \$1.7 billion allocated to ESSER, for example, was used to fund projects with ongoing funding needs.

Additionally, while inflation permits increased spending for the state government, it also increases the costs for just about everything.

Now that inflation is finally cooling, the state government has less room for growth as allowed by TABOR.

Meanwhile, the less elastic costs of education, tax breaks, Medicaid, and other government programs and services remain high.

Moreover the idea of ever returning any money to taxpayers is appalling to the progressives currently dominating the legislature. So instead they created and expanded an unprecedented amount of special interest tax breaks to spend down TABOR surpluses, thereby reducing state revenue and avoiding larger refunds.

The current budget shortfall is the logical conclusion when running out of federal funds, cooling inflation, and the loss of revenue due to tax loopholes smacks up against over-spending.

Insatiable state government

Colorado's ruling Democrats engage in a great Sisyphean delusion—if only they could retain just a little more of your money, they would deliver heaven on Earth, and they're banking on Coloradans being stupid enough to believe TABOR is the obstacle stopping them from ever reaching the top of the mountain and into paradise.

But to those who know better, TABOR is the last and best defense Coloradans have against government overreach.

Ultimately, the 2025 budget deficit was caused by over-promising, and over-spending by Colorado legislators, and now they must deal with that shortfall as it is, not as they falsely claim it to be.

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

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2025/01/19/herman-colorados-over-spending-problem-explained/>

Valentine's Community Dinner

@ The Bobcat Cafe

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
5:00-8:00 in the MPR

RSVP by February 12th
719.783.2291

Enjoy a dinner prepared by CCSD's own Student Bobcat Chefs

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Colorado State News

The ‘Mind-Boggling’ Price of Polis’s Renewable Energy Scheme

by Amy Oliver Cooke, Complete Colorado Page Two

When Colorado Governor Jared Polis first proposed his ambitious plan to transition the state to 100 percent renewables by 2040, he painted a picture of a market-driven, cost-effective shift to clean energy. In 2017, then candidate Polis confidently dismissed concerns over the financial burden, emphasizing that his plan would rely on a “bottom-up approach, using market mechanisms” rather than government mandates. However, seven years later, the reality of his plan starkly contrasts with his original assurances. Independence Institute warned of his vision’s immense financial costs and impracticality, and as it turns out, we were right.

Price tag grows ‘mind-boggling’

From the outset, Polis refused to provide a detailed cost analysis of his plan while simultaneously rejecting Independence Institute’s 2017 projection that the transition could cost \$45 billion. Polis

insisted our estimates were inflated, and modeled a plan that wasn’t even his. Yet, Polis never offered an alternative figure, saying he just knows it will be less.

Fast forward to 2024, and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) now acknowledges that wind, solar, and battery storage alone—the primary components of Polis’ renewables strategy—represent the most expensive path to decarbonization, with projected costs ballooning to \$61 billion. That figure doesn’t even include transmission costs. Worse yet, even at this exorbitant price driven by a massive build-out of wind, solar, and batteries, the plan “barely meets reliability targets.”

A recent Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) meeting revealed just how astronomical the financial demands have become. Xcel Energy, Colorado’s largest utility provider, is planning to spend \$7.5 billion on new projects by 2029, \$43 billion on distribution over the next 20 years, and an additional \$38

billion on transmission upgrades. Keep in mind these figures are just for Xcel. Other utilities serving Colorado also will make large investments at a significant cost to ratepayers to comply with Polis’ plan.

PUC Chairman Eric Blank openly admitted that these numbers are “mind-boggling.” Affordability, a supposed pillar of Polis’ approach, is a fantasy as Coloradans face skyrocketing electricity rates to fund these mandates.

The heavy hand of government

Another glaring departure from Polis’s initial vision is his recent embrace of an “all-of-government” approach to decarbonization. In October 2024, his administration released a directive emphasizing a top-down strategy, contradicting his earlier claims that the transition would be primarily a bottom-up, market approach. This shift demonstrates that the economic realities of his plan have forced him to rely on government intervention, subsidies, and mandates rather

than the free-market solutions he originally championed.

Independence Institute was right

Throughout this process, Polis and his allies have tried to discredit or dismiss Independence Institute for pointing out the fundamental flaws in a 100 percent renewables plan, but time has vindicated our analysis. Our concerns about cost, reliability, and the impracticality of achieving a fully renewable grid without massive government intervention and huge costs to ratepayers have all been proven correct. Even the Colorado Energy Office’s own findings now align with our early warnings.

Our most recent analysis shows that Coloradans could be forced to pay over \$600 billion in total, and still, residents are likely to suffer from hours of blackouts during the coldest parts of the winter. This is a gargantuan regressive tax over which Colorado voters have had no say, and the media has had no interest in discussing.

The governor’s initial rhetoric about a cost-effective, bottom-up, market-based transition was either naive or deliberately misleading. Coloradans are now staring down the reality of soaring costs, government overreach, and an electricity grid that won’t meet reliability standards.

If Polis had been transparent from the beginning and acknowledged the actual costs and challenges of his plan, the state could have pursued a more balanced and pragmatic approach to energy policy. Instead, we are left with an expensive, unreliable experiment in ideological policymaking, with taxpayers and ratepayers footing the bill.

Amy Oliver Cooke is director of the Energy and Environmental Policy Center at the Independence Institute, a free market think tank in Denver.

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2025/01/20/cooke-mind-boggling-price-gov-polis-renewable-energy/>

BOCC from page 1

The Coroner’s Office report was delivered by Coroner Brad Baltzly. Brad opened with the 2024 death totals: 13 natural, one accidental, seven suicides, no homicides and no undetermined. Brad noted that the suicide number was more than double from 2023 (3). He said there was “no specific demographic” and “They were all over the board.” So, there was a total of 21 deaths in 2024 compared to 18 in 2023. (Hospice deaths are not counted.) Brad reported that the Coroner’s Office was under budget for 2024 by \$47k and that his autopsy costs have risen to \$1,750 per autopsy. He also remarked that two of the suicides were out of town people. Only one suicide was a veteran. Brad said the latest suicide was a transgender person and there were some

difficulties with that person’s real name. He noted that “transgenders have a lot higher rate for suicide” than non-trans people and that, “Those folks are more prone to that for some reason.”

Human Resources Director Bob Smith then gave his report. He stated the county employees Annual Open Enrollment period is over (for benefits). Bob said there are currently four open workers compensation claims. HR’s new Technician person, Monique Reed, has started and she is a big help. Bob then talked about his work on department policies and procedures. He wants a work session with the Board on his draft of the new county employee handbook. He is also working on a uniform “wage structure” for the county.

Epp then reviewed the Information Technology Department’s submitted

report. There is a new IT employee, John Mapes, who is doing good and getting a lot done. IT did a lot of work on the Sheriff’s Office “Tyler” communication system which has had some issues. It looks like this might finally be working well.

In Finance, Epp reviewed the written report. Most of it was noting the items worked on by our accounting consultant, Lisa Hammon, from Redland’s Consulting. At the end of the report, citizen Jimmy “The Plumber” McMahon asked how long has our current county auditor (DiNardo) been auditing the county’s books. Epp answered “10 years”. Epp then said the “state” says five years is the max and they will be looking for one August 1. Epp said they tried to get a new one for this year, but they started too late and everybody they talked to was booked. Jimmy asked about how much our auditor has been charging us and Epp said last year it was around \$80k and normal should be about \$20k. Epp also stated that he wanted to keep Redland’s Accounting around as “watch dog” over our Finance Department and our auditors. (*Good idea.*)

The Human Services report was the usual stuff. Epp reviewed that.

The Planning & Zoning report showed a slowing down of activity over 2023. The report noted that there were 172 “compliance issues” in 2024 and 15 have been sent to the county attorney. Of the 172, 76 have complied. 2024 permit revenue was down last year, and the Use Tax was also down by \$155k. Last year there were 107 septic permits, 91 dwelling permits and 71 non-dwelling permits. Total 2024 permits issued were down a lot from 2023. County Attorney Slater then reviewed the status of the 15 he received for action. He said he sent “letters” to all of them and eight have reached some sort of “resolution”. Slater said he just filed two

suits in county court and will be filing the other five next week.

Canda then reviewed the Airport report. He said the Jet A fuel tank is there and it still needs some work to get operational. He noted that the land survey of the airport is underway. The new “game fence” surrounding the airport to keep out large animals is about done. It was totally paid for by the Aught Six Ranch. The cost was \$650K. Some of the gates though still need work.

The Landfill report was brief. Their 2024 budget was \$399k and they brought in \$313k in fees. The state inspector was there recently and there were no violations.

Not too much in the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) (grants, grants, grants) and the CSU Cooperative Extension (lots of programs, 78 kids in 4H).

In New Business, the first item was the **Managing Commissioner Departments/Boards assignments**. Here’s who got what:

Vogelsong: P&Z, Human Services, CSU Extension, Weed Board, Useful Public Service, Human Resources and Landfill.

Epp: Finance, CC Kids Council, Workforce Housing Board, Upper Ark Water, Recycling, Public Health, Grounds and Tourism Board.

Canda: Road & Bridge, IT, Fair Board, Airport Board, EOM and BOCC Admin.

The Board then went into Executive Session over some personnel matter.

They reconvened after the ES. The meeting took over four hours.

Another chapter down in the Happy Valley saga. At least no rudeness from the lefties in this one. See you next week.

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Tune in

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on KLZR 91.7 FM

Local Mountain News & Notices

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.

Ordered published by:
Board of Trustees
Erin Christie
Town Clerk/Administrator

First Publication: January 17, 2025
Last Publication: January 31 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Custer County Combined Courts, Colorado
205 S. 6th St.
PO Box 60
Westcliffe, CO 81252

In the Matter of the Estate of

Barbara Maxine Nordyke, Deceased

Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
Arthur L Nordyke
57798 Hwy 69 S. Westcliffe CO 81252
Phone number: 719-429-6148
E-mail: nordykeus@yahoo.com
Case Number: 25PR1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Barbara Maxine Nordyke, Decease
Case Number 25PR1

All persons having claims against the above estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Custer County, Colorado On or before April 10, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

Arthur L Nordyke
57798 Hwy 69 S.
Westcliffe CO 81252

Published January 31, February 7, February 14, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
(NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF)

§1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District of Custer and Fremont Counties, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6th day of May, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, 2 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms

Eligible electors of the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO):

Teri Munson	(Designated Election Official)
215 N 4th St.	(DEO Address)
Westcliffe, CO 81252	(DEO Address)
719-783-9245	(DEO Telephone)
wmfpdclerk@gmail.com	(DEO email)

The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: Monday 10am-4pm and Tuesday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business (4pm) on **February 28, 2025** (not less than 67 days before the election).

Affidavit of Intent To Be A Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on **Monday, March 3, 2025** (the sixty-fourth day before the election).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on **Tuesday** preceding the election, **April 29, 2025**.

/s/ Teri Munson
Designated Election Official Signature

Published January 31, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

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A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
(NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF)

§1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District of Custer County, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6th day of May 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, 2 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms.

Eligible electors of the Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO):

Carlan Cardenas
Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District
59000 Highway 69 N.
P.O. Box 86
Westcliffe, CO 81252
719-783-2604
office@rmwsd.com

The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business [4:00 p.m.] on **Friday, February 28, 2025** (not less than 67 days before the election). If the DEO determines that a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form is not sufficient, the eligible elector who submitted the form may amend the form once, at any time, prior to 3:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline.

Affidavit of Intent to Be a Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on **Monday, March 3, 2025** (the sixty-fourth day before the election).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on **Tuesday** preceding the election, **April 29, 2025**.

/s/ Carlan Cardenas
Designated Election Official Signature

First Publication: January 31, 2025
Last Publication: February 7, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
(NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF)

§1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the West Custer County Hospital District (WCCHD) of Custer and Fremont Counties, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6th day of May, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, four (4) directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms and zero directors will be elected to serve 2-year terms. Eligible electors of the West Custer County Hospital District interested in serving on the Board of Directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the Designated Election Official (DEO) as follows: DEO WCCHD address; contact DEO to request a form sent via email; or print a form online at: <https://westcustercountyhospitaldistrict.com/board-and-documents/>.

Marjorie “Ann” Barthrop	(Designated Election Official)
704 Edwards Ave	(DEO WCCHD Address)
Westcliffe, Colorado 81252	(DEO WCCHD Address)
303-547-4723	(DEO Telephone)
research@WestCusterCountyHospitalDistrict.com	(DEO email)

The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business **4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025** (not less than 67 days before the election).

Affidavit of Intent To Be A Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on **Monday, March 3, 2025** (the sixty-fourth day before the election).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on **Tuesday** preceding the election, **April 29, 2025**.

/s/ Marjorie Ann Barthrop
Designated Election Official Signature

Published January 31, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado



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

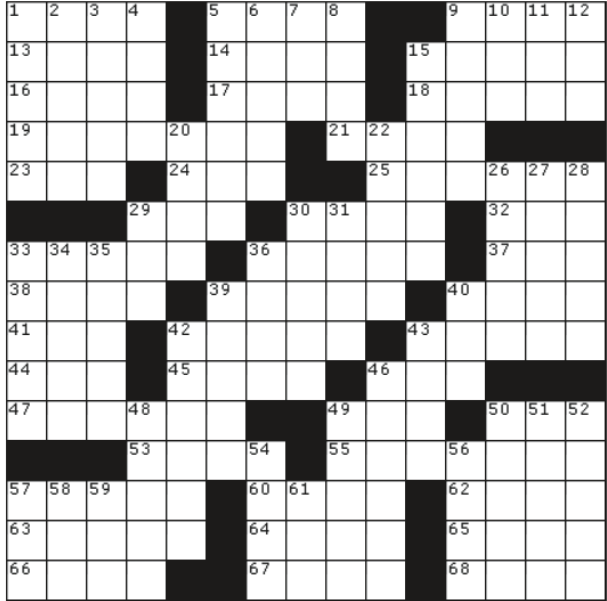
The American Legion Auxiliary Monthly Meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Cliff Lanes meeting room.

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.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- 1 Vote in a law
5 Excuse me!
9 Ali ____ (Arabian Nights)
13 What needs to be mowed
14 Jesus turned water into wine here
15 Encoded
16 Opera solo
17 Horse fly
18 Animals from Daniel
19 Spiritual gift
21 Graven image

- 23 Less than two
24 Accountant
25 Thrown out
29 Alternative (abbr.)
30 Posttraumatic stress disorder
32 Possessive pronoun
33 Musical production
36 Plague of Egypt
37 Unrefined metal
38 A land flowing with ____ and honey

- 39 Spirits
40 Continent
41 Terminate
42 Struck (KJV)
43 Football player
Davis-Gaither
44 “To the right!”
45 Metric weight unit
46 BB association
47 Deft
49 Take to court
50 Tribe of Israel
53 Last word, often
55 Australian marsupial
57 Clutch
60 Against
62 Voiced
63 Sponsorship
64 Baby powder
65 Vote against
66 Honey makers
67 Stare at
68 Adam and Eve’s garden

DOWN

- 1 Philosopher
2 Brother of Moses
3 Ritually unclean animals
4 Hitch
5 Submit to
6 Shampoo brand
7 East northeast
8 They visited Jesus
9 Plague of Egypt

- 10 Hoopla
11 TV lawyer Matlock
12 Advertisements
15 Rain bringers
20 CA University
22 Medication amounts
26 Not these
27 Spooky
28 How God sometimes communicates
29 Noah’s ____
30 Mickey’s dog
31 Floor covering
33 Last letter of Greek alphabet
34 Longed
35 Oldest
36 Chump
39 Strike (KJV)
40 Also known as (abbr.)
42 Stints
43 Cain’s brother
46 Subtlety
48 Fertile desert area
49 Feed
50 Braved
51 Lessen
52 Synthetic fiber
54 Treaty organization
56 Affection
57 Taxi
58 Downwind
59 Grow older
61 Joke
Puzzle key on page 7

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Stupidocrisy: Senate Confirmation Hearings

In watching some of the Senate confirmation hearings of President Trump’s cabinet nominees, it is a crying shame that these elected representatives are so very ignorant, rude, and, quite frankly, stupid. Let’s remember the definition of stupid: given to unintelligent decisions or acts; acting in an unintelligent or careless manner. Many, especially on the Democrat side of the aisle, used their time to promote their own personal legislation, to grandstand on political issues, or to attack the policies of Trump in his last administration—policies that actually worked. One of the hearings that demonstrated this collective dullness of intelligence was the hearing for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Over the last four years, Democrats in both the Administration and Congress supported policies that stoked inflation and opened the borders to millions of illegal aliens. This has caused a housing crisis. Joe Biden’s energy policies doubled the price of fuel, which caused record inflation by driving up all goods, both in production and transportation. This had a significant impact on housing prices. In addition, the record influx of people coming into this country and the subsequent government programs making taxpayers pay for free or subsidized housing of these illegals, made housing in short supply—also driving up prices. So the question is how are young people expected to realize the American dream of home ownership?

Well, the Democrats had no problem in how they think it should be done—print more government money, provide more tax-funded subsidies, build more low-income housing, force builders to lower costs, and the socialist list was passed on from one Democrat Senator to another in their questions for HUD nominee Scott Turner. They would ask Turner a question and when he very politely and respectfully would begin answering it, they interrupted him and grandstanded about their own opinions. They tried to get him to commit to their liberal ideas of heavy-handed government in every aspect of the lives of those who wish to own a home. Turner, with great words of wisdom, gently but firmly shared his philosophies toward improving housing by lowering interest rates, boosting the economy and offering opportunity.

Throughout the hearing, Democrats themselves blamed inflation and influx of immigrants for creating the housing situation. But they never admitted that it was Biden’s and their policies that created the conditions for housing to be so unavailable or unaffordable. Now, some may say that I’m picking on Democrats, but I’m not. There was a clear difference of intelligence level and competency between the two represented parties. The Democrats have no clue about the free market and the impact of their socialist ideas, or if they do, they are inherently evil for purposely causing the horror in housing. Proverbs 18:2 says, “A fool has no delight in understanding, but that his heart may express itself.” And that’s exactly what those Democrat Senators did, same issues, same solutions, same talking points, same, say it with me... Stupidocrisy.

Bill Wilson

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For whoever finds Me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD,

Proverbs 8:35 ESV

All the Executive Orders Trump Signed on Day One

Part 1 of 2

by Ben Johnson,
The Washington Stand

(Editor/GG: We split this article into two parts. It really lays out the dramatic transformation that will be taking place in our country: Make America Great Again!)

In his second inaugural speech Monday afternoon, President Donald Trump promised that a series of forthcoming executive orders would implement the 2024 election’s “revolution of common sense.” He immediately proceeded to sign an avalanche of executive orders repealing the Biden-Harris administration’s promotion of transgender ideology, ending the weaponization of government against pro-life advocates, safeguarding freedom of speech, securing the southern border, emphasizing American energy independence, and ending imperious government decrees by the federal bureaucracy.

President Trump wasted no time signing executive orders on all these subjects, and many more, after being sworn in as the 47th President of the United States. Trump began signing the first several executive orders in front of cheering MAGA supporters inside the Capital One Arena, throwing the pens he used to sign the orders — a cherished and sought-after collectible — into the audience.

Trump noted on Sunday that he would not wait, as he did in his first administration, to begin implementing the policies the American people voted for — and erasing the legacy of outgoing President Joe Biden. “Somebody said, ‘Sir, don’t sign so many in one day. Let’s do it over a matter of weeks.’ I said, ‘Like h***, we’re gonna do it over weeks,’” said then-President-elect Trump on Sunday.

Executive Orders President Trump Signed on Day One

Flags fly full-staff on inauguration day: The first order the President signed impacted his own inauguration: President Biden had signed an executive order that all flags be flown at half-mast for 30 days following the death of former President Jimmy Carter. That would make it appear that the nation greeted the changing of the presidency in a state of mourning. President Trump issued a proclamation that, “on this and all future Inauguration Days, the flag of the United States shall be flown at full-staff” on all public buildings and grounds.

Undoing the Biden legacy: The first executive order President Trump signed publicly repealed 78 Biden executive orders. Among other things, this order:

- Eliminated the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the White House Gender Policy Council, the Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families, the Presidential Commis-

sion on the Supreme Court of the United States, the Climate Change Support Office, and the United States Council on Transnational Organized Crime;

- Ended policies forbidding oil drilling on the continental shelf;
- Ended the electric vehicle mandate; and
- Placed Cuba back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Repealing Gender Ideology, Wokeness, Censorship, and Weaponization of Government

President Trump’s executive order **“Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government”** repeals Biden-Harris administration policies to place men in women’s intimate spaces, on the sports field, and even in women’s prisons. It begins by skewering the intellectual basis of gender ideology by officially defining a man and a woman in strictly biological terms:

“‘Female’ means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell.

“‘Male’ means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the small reproductive cell.”

It defines “gender ideology” as a worldview that “replaces the biological category of sex with an ever-shifting concept of self-assessed gender identity, permitting the false claim that males can identify as and thus become women and vice versa, and requiring all institutions of society to regard this false claim as true. Gender ideology includes the idea that there is a vast spectrum of genders that are disconnected from one’s sex. Gender ideology is internally inconsistent, in that it diminishes sex as an identifiable or useful category but nevertheless maintains that it is possible for a person to be born in the wrong sexed body.”

From a legal standpoint, it reverses the Biden administration’s citation of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch’s opinion in *Bostock v. Clayton County* (2020) that the 1964 Civil Rights Act applies to “gender identity,” eradicating sex-specific spaces in private accommodations, public facilities, and sports competitions.

It also specifies that all intimate spaces shall be designated “by sex and not identity” and that “no Federal funds are expended for any medical procedure, treatment, or drug for the purpose of conforming an inmate’s appearance to that of the opposite sex.” Title IX rules and federal publications promoting transgenderism will be repealed. The EO says the federal government “shall ensure that males are not detained in women’s prisons or housed in women’s detention centers,” where women have frequently been beaten, abused, raped, or impregnated by male prisoners who identify as women.

Nicole Neily, president of Parents Defending Education, told *The Washington Stand* she was “delighted that he kept his promise to the American people to put an end to this madness and look forward to the Department of Education putting in place policies and procedures that provide clarity to schools and families alike.”

Trump’s executive order **“Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing”** demands “the termination of all discriminatory programs, including illegal DEI and ‘diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility’ (DEIA) mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the Federal Government, under whatever name they appear.”

President Trump’s executive order **“Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service”** seeks to repeal affirmative action programs that give preferential hiring treatment to less-qualified members of racial, sexual, or “gender identity” minorities. “Federal hiring should not be based on impermissible factors, such as one’s commitment to illegal racial discrimination under the guise of ‘equity,’ or one’s commitment to the invented concept of ‘gender identity’ over sex,” says the order. The federal government will instead prioritize merit and the “recruitment of individuals committed to improving the efficiency of the Federal government, passionate about the ideals of our American republic, and committed to upholding the rule of law and the United States Constitution.”

Trump’s executive order on **“Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship”** notes, “Over the last four years, the previous administration trampled free speech rights by censoring Americans’ speech on online platforms, often by exerting substantial coercive pressure on third parties, such as social media companies, to moderate, deplatform, or otherwise suppress speech that the Federal Government did not approve,” under “the guise of combatting ‘misinformation,’ ‘disinformation,’ and ‘malinformation.’” The order states that the government will attempt to “identify and take appropriate action to correct past misconduct.”

“Under the Biden administration, federal officials established a censorship regime that aimed to shut down so-called ‘misinformation’ and any other speech that is unacceptable to the government. It also weaponized the law against American citizens, including colluding with Big Banks to surveil Americans’ private financial data and target them as ‘threats’ based solely on their speech. President Trump’s call to dismantle these tools of repression is something every American — and every other freedom-loving person — should

DAY ONE EXEC. ORDERS
see page 22

Trump Order Ends America's Forced Transition to Electric Vehicles

by Casey Harper,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – President Donald Trump signed an executive order to end the Biden administration’s forced transition to electric vehicles via a tailpipe regulation as one of his first actions as the 47th U.S. President.

The tailpipe emissions rule enacted under the Biden administration seems like a technical regulation but actually created major implications for Americans.

The rule in question would have effectively required a massive shift for Americans to electric vehicles, whether they wanted them or not.

As *The Center Square* previously reported, the Environmental Protection Agency itself had projected that the new rule would mean fully electric vehicles would comprise two thirds of all new “light duty” and 46% of new medium-duty vehicle sales by 2032. Effectively, that would have affected most consumer vehicles driven by Americans, including SUVs and many pickup trucks.

Currently, electric vehicle sales are well below 10% of the market in the U.S.

“President Trump confirmed what Power The Future has been saying for the four years of the disastrous

Biden Administration: without government force and their unconstitutional EV mandates coupled with ridiculous subsidies, there would be no green agenda,” Daniel Turner, executive director of the pro-energy workers group, Power the Future, told *The Center Square*.

The shift in the market was backed in large part due to billions of dollars in federal subsidies. The march toward electrification of the car market may continue but without the same federal pressure and the accelerated timeline.

Trump’s new order calls for “terminating, where appropriate, state emissions waivers that

function to limit sales of gasoline-powered automobiles; and by considering the elimination of unfair subsidies and other ill-conceived government-imposed market distortions that favor EVs over other technologies and effectively mandate their purchase by individuals, private businesses, and government entities alike by rendering other types of vehicles unaffordable...”

Trump also froze spending from a \$5 billion fund meant to build charging ports in the U.S. Experts project building enough charging stations in the U.S. will cost hundreds of billions of dollars.

Critics had also pointed out the

U.S. does not have anywhere close to the charging infrastructure to support this massive increase in electric vehicles, especially in rural areas.

“Now that Presidents are not picking winners and losers in the car industry, EVs will be forced to compete in the free market, ultimately creating a better product, but more importantly, returning government to its proper role,” Turner said. “The green agenda is gasping its last breath as Americans regain their freedom.”

Please see: https://www.the-centersquare.com/national/article_b9d222f8-d811-11ef-a3cc-9fd3cc6566.html

FILTER PRESS from page 2

educators and history buffs. They’re also carried at museums, historical societies and sites, such as Bent’s Fort and the Molly Brown House. They also can be found in school and public libraries.

Equally popular are their children’s books. *The Great Lives* series consists of 33 bilingual books in Spanish and English—sold individually and in sets—focusing on famous Coloradans, such as the aforementioned Zeb Pike, Rattlesnake Kate and Chief Ouray. The series came about as a mutual project between Colorado Humanities, Denver Public Schools and Filter Press. All the books were written by schoolteachers for grades 3 and 4. The *Now You Know* series is aimed at grades 4 to 7, books that are not bilingual but much more in-depth, VanLaanen says. Featured are Molly Brown and Gen. William Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs.

Some books take more research than others. The Elizabeth Byers book, for example, required a lot of research on “what was

it like for a woman to live in Colorado during the gold rush era.” VanLaanen was lucky enough to find Byers’ hand-typed manuscript (her husband, William, was co-founder of the *Rocky Mountain News* and an early philanthropist).

Probably the most unusual book Filter has published under VanLaanen’s leadership is titled *The Bonedigger’s Daughter* —“a really different mix of both Colorado history and natural history. It’s a delightful story about a young woman from Canon City who helped dig up dinosaur bones with her father.” (See *Rocky Mountain Reader’s* review here.)

But perhaps the most challenging book VanLaanen worked on is *The Beckwith Dynasty*, about the vast, historic Beckwith Ranch in the Wet Mountains, which took a lot of fact-checking that was difficult to track down.

Future publications will include a book on the Leadville Ice Palace and a children’s book on the Great Sand Dunes.

What is VanLaanen looking for?

“After the topic, books need to be factual, well researched and well

written. I will take fiction if it’s an author or story I’m excited about” she says.

But even fiction must be based in fact and well researched, she adds.

Does history sell?

“We’re a small publishing house, but I think they sell pretty well for our size. If a book sells 500 copies in the first year, I’ll feel really good about it,” she says.

She does print multiple copies of some books; others are print on demand. Filter Press books are sold on Amazon and on the company’s website: <https://www.filterpressbooks.com/>

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Please see: <https://rockymountainreader.org/filter-press/>

PREGNANCY CENTER from page 14

The Cañon City Pregnancy Center supplies everything at no cost to the mother.

Abundant Life Cañon City Pregnancy Center (CCPC) is a long-standing nonprofit in Fremont County, Colorado. We serve clients in Fremont County and the surrounding mountain communities. We offer a wide variety of broadening services based on client needs and collaborate with other area agencies to provide holistic care. Outside of material services, we currently offer pregnancy tests; educational classes, and book studies; as well as soft referrals to community agencies on an as needed basis. We have added a medical clinic for specific family services such as Ultrasound imaging, limited OB/Gyn and sexually transmitted infection care within the area. We are actively collaborating with our local health department to fill the gaps in healthcare, specifically surrounding sexual and relationship health. We can provide STI testing and treatment. Additional services will be added as needed through ongoing evaluation. Last year we began addressing the need for increased support for fathers. This has been successful and we now have a male staff member who serves in a specialized role to meet dads where they are and remind

them how important they are in a child’s life. All of our services are provided at no cost to our clients.

The Grand Opening included three of the original founders, which included Lona Davis, who spoke on being spiritually lead to open the center, forty years ago.

Our staff includes two full-time and three part-time servants. Stori Thompson is our full-time Executive Director, Heather is our Family Advocate, Lori is our Client Services Director, Janetta is our Nurse and Brandon Booth serves as our Dadvocate.

Our services are all free; Pregnancy Tests, Ultrasounds, STD testing and vaccinations (Sexually Transmitted Disease), baby formula and baby food, baby wipes, baby pull ups, clothing, baby furniture, car seats and hundreds of educational training to help both the mother and father to be equipped to raise a child and other events in their lives.

Our staff offers love, respect, compassion and support to all clients. Our center is Jesus lead and our clients are made aware of this. Our clients are afforded fellowship with other mothers which is not mandatory but helps them socialize with other people in which to share their lives.

The Centers website is: www.abundantliferesources.org or ccp-center.com. Their email is: director@ccpcenter.com.



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Please send us information on clubs and organizations, news stories and pictures, and upcoming events.

Please limit Letters to the Editor to 500 words or less. Please include your name, address and phone number.

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



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

Survival Radios: Radio Types, Licenses & Gear: Prepper Conversations

by Tred Law, ammoland.com

In the world of survival, communication is as crucial as your firearm and your wits. When the grid goes down, or you're out in the wild, your fancy smartphone might as well be a brick. That's where Survival Radios come in – your lifeline in the wilderness and chaos. This guide isn't just about picking a radio; it's about choosing a survival tool that keeps you connected when everything else fails.



Midland 36 Channel FRS Two-Way Radio

Survival Radios | Understanding Radio Services and Licenses

FRS (Family Radio Service)

For the survivalist who values simplicity and ease of use, then **Family Radio Service** or FRS is your go-to. These radios are like the rugged, no-nonsense cousin of those playtime walkie-talkies. With FRS, you get up to 2 watts of power, perfect for short-range comms in your bug-out location or while navigating through dense woods. No need to fuss with licenses or exams – grab it, and you're ready to go. For

an FRS radio that won't let you down, check out the [Midland 36 Channel FRS Two-Way Radio](#). It's got the reliability you need with a simplicity that lets you focus on what really matters – survival.

- **Basics:** Ideal for short-range, no-nonsense communication. Think of it as a better version of those walkie-talkies you played with as a kid.
- **License:** Forget about paperwork; no license is required here.

A solid choice for the prepper is the [Radioddity MU-5 MURS Handheld Radio](#). It's durable, has great battery life, and provides the range you need for effective team communication. Look it up on Amazon to beef up your comms arsenal.

- **Basics:** A step up from FRS in terms of range and clarity. Great for coordinating with a team over larger properties or in dense areas.
- **License:** Still no license needed. More power, more freedom.
- **Recommended:** [Radioddity MU-5 MURS Handheld Radio](#) stands out for its ruggedness and battery life.

in the world of survival communication. You can find it on Amazon for a setup that keeps you connected where cell phones fear to tread.

- **Basics:** The old-school choice for truckers and rebels. Not just for chatting on the long road but a real asset when you're out of cell range.
- **License:** License-free, hassle-free.
- **Top Choice:** The Cobra 29LTD Professional CB Radio – a classic with modern reliability.

GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service)



Cobra 29 LTD Professional CB Radio = Survival Radios

CB Radio (Citizens Band Radio)

CB Radio is the old guard of survival radio comms – reliable, effective, and without the red tape of licensing. With its 4 watts of AM power (and up to 12 watts in SSB mode), it's a stalwart companion on the road and in remote areas. CBs have been the backbone of trucker and off-grid communication for decades. A top choice for survivalists is the [Cobra 29LTD Professional CB Radio](#). It's a blend of classic CB functionality with modern reliability – a true workhorse

General Mobile Radio Service, or GMRS for short, is for the survivalists ready to take their Survival Radio communication up a notch. With up to 50 watts of power and the ability to use repeaters, it vastly extends your communication range. A simple, one-time license covers your whole family, making it a versatile choice for group operations. GMRS operates in the UHF band, ideal for urban environments and open terrain alike. The [BTECH GMRS-PRO IP67 Waterproof Two-Way Radio](#), available on Amazon, is a popular choice among survivalists. It's a power-

house of a radio, offering the range and clarity you need when the situation demands robust communication.

- **Basics:** When you need more range and power. Think of it as the big brother of FRS.
- **License:** A simple license is needed, but no test. Covering your whole family, it's worth the paperwork.
- **Best Option:** [BTECH GMRS-PRO IP67 Waterproof Two-Way Radio](#). It is a favorite among survivalists for its versatility and power.

Here's a list of useful URLs for obtaining a GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) license:

- **FCC GMRS Licensing Information:** FCC GMRS License Information
 - The Federal Communications Commission provides official information on GMRS licensing, including application procedures and requirements.
- **FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS):** FCC ULS
 - This is the direct link to the FCC's Universal Licensing System, where you can apply for a GMRS license online.
- **FCC Registration Number (FRN) Registration:** FCC CORES
 - Before applying for a GMRS license, individuals need to obtain an FCC Registration Number (FRN) through the Commission Registration System (CORES).
- **GMRS Licensing FAQ:** GMRS Licensing FAQ
 - This page offers frequently asked questions and answers about GMRS licensing, which can be helpful for new applicants.

These resources provide comprehensive information about obtaining a GMRS license, ensuring that you have all the necessary information to legally operate GMRS radios.

Amateur Radio (Ham Radio)

Ham Radio isn't just about talking; it's about mastering the airwaves. It requires a bit of study to get licensed, but the payoff is immense. With the ability to operate across multiple bands and power up to 1500 watts, the world of amateur radio opens up global communication possibilities. It's not just a tool; it's a lifeline in emergencies and a gateway to a worldwide community. The [Yaesu](#)



Radioddity MU-5 MURS Handheld Radio



BTECH GMRS-PRO IP67 Waterproof Two-Way Radio

CZ Shadow 2 Target: Bullseye Shooters Rejoice

by Duncan Johnson, Editor, ammoland.com

The CZ Shadow 2 is an unrivaled choice for practical pistol shooting sports. Its perfectly balanced design provides speed, accuracy, and shooting comfort, delivering the performance top shooters need to win IPSC World Championship titles and international medals. Target shooting enthusiasts can now enjoy the same competition-ready features as their IPSC counterparts in the CZ Shadow 2 Target – a unique model customized for bullseye shooters.

CZ took the best characteristics of the award-winning Shadow 2 and customized them for the win in the new Shadow 2 Target. Adjustable sights, an ability to attach frame weights, an adjustable trigger shoe, and a longer barrel are just a few of the many upgrades that deliver 10X performance in the two new Target models.

The barrel is a critical component of any gun and a standout feature on these new models. Shooters can choose from 5- or 6-inch barrels—ideally suited for target shooting. CZ cold hammer forges and hand-fits each barrel to the slide, ensuring supreme precision

and durability. A lifetime warranty backs CZ barrels!

CZ maximized comfort in the Target, improving shot-to-shot consistency. Building on the legacy of the CZ 75, a pistol with cult-like status thanks to its comfortable natural grip, engineers fine-tuned the Shadow 2 Target for perfection. Sophisticated grip texturing matches the roughened areas on the front and rear of the grip. CZ also redesigned the shape of the controls for ease of use.

An enlarged undercut on the trigger guard allows for a higher grip, positioning the shooter's hand closer to the bore axis and providing noticeable recoil dampening.

Longer and deeper cocking serrations provide a more secure grip for flawless handling.

A smooth, crisp, and balanced trigger mechanism is deeply ingrained in the DNA of all CZ pistols. The Shadow 2 Target's trigger inherits these qualities and is further tuned for target competition. Its adjustable trigger and trigger shoe offer a custom feel and fit.

The accessory rail has been



CZ Shadow 2 Target

replaced by an interface for attaching a frame weight to help reduce muzzle rise. This is important in disciplines where both speed and accuracy are crucial.

Target shooters need adjustable sights for precision. The Shadow 2 Target includes an adjustable (horizontal and vertical) LPA rear sight. The target front sight comes in two different widths, so that shooters can fine-tune the sights to their liking.

CZ Shadow Target Features:

- Target-quality barrels available in 5- or 6-inch lengths
- Redesigned muzzle with protective crown and aesthetic shape
- Cold hammer-forged and hand-fitted barrel
- Lifetime barrel warranty
- Undercut on the trigger guard allows for a higher grip
- Longer and deeper cocking serrations provide a secure grip
- Adjustable trigger shoe –

- 5 positions to fit any hand size
- Adjustable trigger
- Interface for attaching frame weights
- Adjustable sights by LPA

CZ Shadow 2 Target Specifications:

- Caliber: 9 x 19
- Magazine Capacity: 17
- Frame: Steel
- Grips: G10
- Sights: Adjustable Rear, Target Front (2 widths included)
- Barrel: Cold Hammer Forged
- Barrel Length: 4.8 in or 6 in
- Weight 45.3 oz
- Trigger Pull (lbs): 1.3 – 3.8 (adjustable)
- Trigger Travel: 0.14 in
- Trigger Reset: 3–4 mm
- Safety: Manual Safety, Safety notch on the hammer
- MSRP: \$1,299.

(Editor/GG: You won't find a better double action/single action pistol. Outstanding guns. Well worth the money.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/01/cz-shadow-2-target-bullseye-shooters-rejoice/>

RADIOS from page 20

FT-60R Dual Band Handheld is a top pick for hams – reliable, versatile, and ready for whatever you throw at it. It's available on Amazon and is a worthy addition to any serious survivalist's gear.

- **Basics:** The king of range and versatility. It's not just a radio; it's a hobby, a community, and an emergency tool all in one.
- **License:** You'll need to pass a test, but it's a rite of passage. The world of ham opens up global communication.
- **Top Radio:** The Yaesu FT-60R Dual Band Handheld. A beast in emergencies and a joy for daily use.
- Here are some useful URLs for those interested in obtaining an Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) license:
- **ARRL Licensing Information:** ARRL License Information

- The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is a key resource for amateur radio enthusiasts. This page provides comprehensive information on how to get licensed.
- **FCC Amateur Radio Licenses:** FCC Amateur Radio Service
- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the governing body for amateur radio licenses in the U.S. This page offers official information on different license classes, requirements, and the application process.
- **Ham Radio Licensing Exam Preparation:** HamStudy.org
- HamStudy.org is a widely recommended site for preparing for the ham radio licensing exam. It offers study guides and practice tests.
- **Find an Amateur Radio**

License Exam Session: ARRL Find an Exam Session

- This ARRL tool helps you locate nearby exam sessions based on your zip code, making it easier to plan for taking your licensing exam.

Why Radio Communication is Essential for Survivalists

When SHTF (Stuff Hits The Fan), your ability to receive and transmit information can mean the difference between life and death. Radios can warn you of impending dangers, keep you connected with your group, and help you reach out for help in emergencies. It's not just about talking; it's about staying informed and ready.

Choosing the Right Radio for Your Needs

When you're gearing up for survival, choosing the right radio isn't as simple as grabbing the biggest gun on the shelf. It's about strategy, understanding your battleground – the environment – and aligning it with your communication needs. Sure, power is important, but it's not the only factor.

Take the handheld FRS radios, for instance. These compact warriors are your best bet in the thick of dense forests or when you're maneuvering through challenging terrain. They're simple, efficient, and get the job done when you're operating within a few miles radius. No fuss, no frills, just straight-up communication when you're navigating through thickets or coordinating a hunt.

But what about when you're out in the open, where distances

stretch, and the landscape plays by different rules? This is where GMRS or ham radios come into play. These aren't just radios; they're your scouts, your lookouts. GMRS packs a punch with its higher power and ability to tap into repeater networks, giving you a broader reach. And for the survivalist who treats preparedness like an art form, ham radio is the ultimate tool. With the ability to span across various frequencies and reach out miles beyond, it's a radio that doesn't just connect – it empowers.

But remember, with great power comes the responsibility of licensing. It's a small price to pay for a tool that could be your lifeline in emergencies.

So, when you're planning your survival radio gear, think beyond the immediate. What's your theater of operations? Are you prepping for urban chaos, remote wilderness survival, or a bit of both? How far do you need your voice to carry? And crucially, how much time and effort are you willing to invest in mastering these tools? In the world of survival radios, it's not just about having the best equipment but the right equipment that meshes with your environment, skills, and needs. Choose wisely, for in the silence of a blackout or the chaos of a disaster, your radio isn't just a tool – it's your voice when all others are silenced.

The Importance of Legal Compliance in Radio Usage, at Least During Peaceful Times

Staying on the right side of the law is critical. Illegal radio use

supposedly leads to hefty fines and legal troubles!?! The FCC isn't just a huge federal bureaucracy; it's what keeps the airwaves clear for everyone, including emergency services. As Radio Karen's believe, respect the rules, and they'll respect your right to communicate.

Besides being another faceless government entity, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the one tasked with keeping radio peace. Think of the FCC as the hall monitor of the airwaves. They ensure that the frequencies are not a Wild West but a structured network where everyone from your fellow survivalists to emergency responders can communicate effectively.

By staying within the bounds of FCC regulations, you're staying below the radar while contributing to a system that's there for all of us when things go south. In an emergency, clogged or misused frequencies can mean the difference between getting help and being left in the dark. So, when you're setting up your radio gear, understand the rules. They ensure your right to communicate doesn't interfere with someone else's right to call for help or coordinate a response. In peaceful times, it's about mutual respect and preparedness.

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DAY ONE EXEC ORDERS

from page 18

celebrate,” Alliance Defending Freedom CEO, President, and General Counsel Kristen Waggoner told *The Washington Stand*.

Trump’s executive order “**Ending the Weaponization of the Federal Government**” states, “The prior administration and allies throughout the country engaged in an unprecedented, third-world weaponization of prosecutorial power to upend the democratic process,” including “investigations, prosecutions, civil enforcement actions, and other related actions.” Late last December, the House Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government produced a **17,019-page report** stating that the Biden-Harris administration singled out “pro-life, pro-family” advocates for legal harassment, among other outrages. The attorney general will review the actions of federal agencies

— specifically including the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission — over the last four years and take “appropriate remedial actions.” The director of national intelligence will review the actions of the intelligence community and prepare a report.

The executive order “**Holding Former Government Officials Accountable for Election Interference and Improper Disclosure of Sensitive Governmental Information**” removes the security clearance of dozens of former intelligence officials who issued an erroneous document branding the Hunter Biden laptop story Russian disinformation. Also stripped of security clearance, by name, is John Bolton, a former Bush-41 administration official who briefly served as national security adviser to Trump; Bolton, a neoconservative keen on intervening in foreign wars, soon clashed with Trump’s America First foreign policy and refused to endorse Trump in 2024.

Ending Crime and Securing the Southern Border

President Trump’s “**Securing Our Borders**” executive order reinstates the Migrant Protection Protocols, conventionally known as the Remain in Mexico policy, requiring alleged asylum seekers to wait in Mexico until their trial. The majority of asylum cases never reach a hearing (and the majority that reach a judge are denied). Meanwhile, the Biden administration released illegal immigrants into the American heartland.

His order “**Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship**” would end birth-right citizenship, the notion that if illegal immigrants give birth to an anchor baby on U.S. soil, that child is an American citizen. Legal scholars wrangle over the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment clause “subject to the jurisdiction” of the U.S. government — a term some of the amendment’s authors explicitly limited to U.S. citizens. A legal challenge to this EO is inevitable.

Trump’s executive order “**Declaring a National Emergency at the Southern Border of the United States**” takes steps to secure the border, noting the harm caused to Americans by “cartels, criminal gangs, known terrorists, human traffickers, smugglers, unvetted military-age males from foreign adversaries, and illicit narcotics.” The emergency declaration allows the President to deploy the National Guard and other military units to the border, build the border wall, and patrol the border with aerial drones.

A related executive order “**Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists**” notes that drug cartels “functionally control, through a campaign of assassination, terror, rape, and brute force nearly all illegal traffic across the southern border of the United States” and threaten “the stability of the international order in the Western Hemisphere.” The government may designate transnational criminal organizations such as Tren de Aragua (TdA)

and La Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) as foreign terrorist organizations within 14 days. When a reporter asked if President Trump might consider sending Special Forces troops into Mexico to target these duly designated terrorist organizations, he answered in a coy fashion, “I might.”

Trump’s executive order “**Clarifying the Military’s Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States**” notes, “Unchecked unlawful mass migration and the unimpeded flow of opiates across our borders continue to endanger the safety and security of the American people and encourage further lawlessness.” The Secretary of Defense has 10 days to draw up a plan for the Unified Command Plan that assigns United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) “to seal the borders and maintain the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of the United States.”

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/all-the-executive-orders-trump-signed-on-day-one>

Poor Things: Trans City Controller Takes Months Off to Recover from Being Misgendered

by Tyler Durden, ZeroHedge.com

A trans Massachusetts city councilor is taking a one-month leave of absence, citing feelings of being unsafe after allegedly being “misgendered” by the mayor and another councilor, and being referred to as “it” by a third city official.

The soap opera starring that councilor, Thu Nguyen, erupted at Tuesday night’s meeting of the **Worcester, Massachusetts** city council, where members held a public hearing over whether it was appropriate for council members like Nguyen to attend meetings remotely. Once again appearing remotely, Nguyen blamed the mayor and peers for the routine failure to show up in person, saying, “Under your leadership, **I have felt unsafe around this council body. I have faced transphobia with being misgendered** and recently learned that I have been dehumanized to a point where I’m being referred to as ‘it’ by my colleagues on this council.”

Photo: Worcester city councilor Thu Nguyen during a rare in-person appearance for city business

Heralded as the “**first openly non-binary lawmaker**” in Massachusetts history -- a title we’re sure Paul Revere and Samuel Adams would be totally impressed with -- Nguyen has held office on the Worcester city council since 2022. Nguyen’s preferred pronouns are “they/them.”

The day after the hearing, Nguyen posted a statement saying “I am... sad to announce **I will be taking a month to prioritize my mental**

and emotional safety,” so he could recover from having allegedly been **misgendered** by Mayor Joseph M. Petty and Councilor-at-Large Kathleen Toomey, and called “it” by Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson. Nguyen filed a complaint with Worcester’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, urging the prompt launch of an investigation, adding that is was unfortunate to do so at the very same time that “**we transition under a Trump administration and exponential increase of fear experienced by the LGBTQ+ community.**”

On Thursday, the city clerk confirmed that **Nguyen will continue receiving a \$2,641 monthly city stipend** while providing nothing for Worcester other than melodrama.

On the defensive and careful to say the right things for liberal Massachusetts society, Petty said, “We are in a time of uncertainty, where members of the LGBTQIA+ community face real fears and challenges in simply being their authentic selves...**I would never knowingly say anything harmful.**” He says Nguyen’s accusation of misgendering goes all the way back to 2022 -- Nguyen’s first year -- when the mayor forgot to use “they/them” before correcting himself and apologizing. Toomey said she’s made a similar “honest mistake” during Nguyen’s rookie year, saying “there’s never, ever been any attempt on my side to misgender them.”

Alleged “it” girl Mero-Carlson issued a more assertive statement. “While I do not recall making the statements in question, I acknowledge that it was a challenging and emotional week where difficult conversations took place...It is deeply troubling that Councilor Nguyen has chosen to distort the narrative and weaponize these accusations for political

purposes,” noting that Nguyen has “**the lowest attendance record of any City Councilor.**”

As you might expect, Nguyen’s **council profile is loaded with woke leftist blather** like this gem: “Invested in the notion of social justice, they [sic] commit their time and efforts in...navigating the intersectionality of identity, systems and openings for collective care and healing.” Nguyen concludes by touting a trio of identity-politics point-makers: “They [sic] are proud queer, Vietnamese, nonbinary refugee.”

Since announcing the month off from work, Nguyen has been active on Facebook, **basking in support pouring in from “allies,”** such as LGBT group MassEquality, which condemned the “bullying” Nguyen has experienced. Nguyen is also wallowing in victimhood, posting the text of “hate emails” like this:

“Don’t confuse my speaking the truth to you here with hate or some kind of phobia...Your petty, emotional, shrill, fake outrage about being misgendered is not helping you or trans people. It’s what keeps you down....Taking a month off. LOL! Who wants to have to put up with childish, petulant temper tantrums like that? No one. No one wants to work with you now and even though you will scream ‘transphobia’ it won’t be that. It will be idiot-phobia.”

(Editor/GG: We had a few of them scamming their way here a while back. They are gone. Sometimes you have to work for a living. The Sentinel’s pronouns are pretty simple: Do not come here.)

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/trans-city-councilor-takes-month-recover-being-misgendered>

CPW concludes second year of gray wolf capture and release efforts

Wolves from British Columbia and Copper Creek Pack released on Western Slope in support of wolf restoration in Colorado on the 30th anniversary of wolves first being introduced from Canada to Yellowstone National Park

(The Sentinel Staff does not agree with the wolf reintroduction and find some of the CPW staff and politicians shamefully gleeful and under-cautious.

The release started less than a week after the Parks and Wildlife Commission denied a petition from 26 organizations representing the ranching community asking for a temporary pause on the wolf releases. It also comes on the heels of predation claims submitted reaching \$600,000, and wolves bringing in diseases.

Non-native gray wolves released into Colorado have recently tested positive for “Echinococcus Granulosus, a dangerous tapeworm that causes Hydatid Disease. This pathogen was previously unknown in Colorado.” According to a report in The Fence Post magazine.

Nevertheless, we are printing the latest press releases on the wolf project to keep our readers, many of whom now have to contend with these predators, informed.)

Press Release
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

—January 19, 2025

DENVER — On Saturday, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) completed capture and release work for the second gray wolf reintroduction season in support of the Colorado Gray Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. Fifteen wolves were translocated from the central interior of British Columbia to Colorado. Separately, the agency also successfully completed the release of five members from the original Copper Creek Pack. All wolves were released in Eagle and Pitkin Counties, continuing the agency’s efforts to create a permanent, self-sustaining gray wolf population in Colorado. No further releases are planned for the 2024-2025 capture season. This is the second of three to five release seasons of wolves.

CPW has a responsibility to balance the safety of staff and the animals with the level and timing of information provided during this complex wildlife operation. Unfortunately, staff safety was threatened as CPW offices were watched and threatening social media posts and phone calls were received. Two of the ten wolves reintroduced in 2023 have been illegally shot. The gray wolf in Colorado is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and state law. Penalties for illegal take can vary and include fines up to \$100,000, jail time and loss of hunting privileges. Because of the safety risk and security needs of our staff and the animals, CPW did not share wolf release details while the operation was underway.

British Columbia Operation

Over the course of six days wolves were captured in British Columbia and released in Colorado. Seven males and eight females were translocated.

Wolves were captured from areas in British Columbia where predator reduction is occurring to support caribou recovery. Colorado Parks and Wildlife was responsible for all costs associated with the capture and transport of these gray wolves and there was no compensation or payment for the wolves themselves. The British Columbia government undertook engagement and consultations with First Nations in the areas where wolves were identified for capture. Three First Nations were represented in the planning and operational phases of this project.

The capture, transport and holding of the wolves was authorized under British Columbia’s Wildlife Act. The export of wolves from British Columbia to Colorado is permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),

administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Animal welfare and safety was prioritized throughout all stages of the project and followed an approved Animal Care Plan. The translocated wolves received a high level of veterinary care; were vaccinated and collared. Unfortunately, one wolf passed away following its capture. An examination was conducted by onsite veterinary staff and noted that the animal’s age and underlying condition may have contributed to the death.

CPW biologists were careful to select wolves that met the criteria identified at the outset of the program. Wolf selection followed the guidance of the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. Animals with major injuries — such as several nonfunctional canines, missing eyes, fractured or missing limbs — or mange or lice infection were not chosen for reintroduction. Gray wolves from this area of B.C. do not overlap with areas where livestock are present, so there are no concerns that the wolves selected have been involved in repeated livestock depredations.

In British Columbia, CPW worked closely with a team from the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to capture the gray wolves. CPW biologists, veterinarians and wildlife officers flew to Prince George, B.C., in



Gray Wolf travels into the distance at the release site on Jan. 14, 2025. Photo: CPW

January and met with B.C. biologists, veterinarians, wildlife officials, and helicopter capture crews. The full team assembled after the January 8, 2025 Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting and began capture operations in the Canadian province 48 hours later.

Temporary pens were built to hold the animals while waiting to be flown to Colorado. Each pen contained hay (for bedding) and ice blocks (for a water source) for the animals while the team worked to capture wolves for each flight back to the United States.

After ensuring that the captured wolves were good candidates for translocation, biological samples of the animals were collected as part of standard protocol. In addition, the wolves were given treatments for internal and external parasites. Wolves were vaccinated against rabies, canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus, canine parainfluenza virus, and canine parvovirus.

Before transport, the 15 wolves were placed in individual crates with hay and an iceblock for the flight from B.C. to Colorado and then transported to the release sites. CPW staff were on board to monitor the wolves’ health throughout the flight. The transport of the wolves to Colorado was made possible by LightHawk, a



Wolves from British Columbia Copper Creek Pack released on Western Slope Photo CPW

conservation-focused organization that utilizes aircraft. LightHawk’s volunteer pilot donated over 30 hours of turbine aircraft time to facilitate the movement of the 15 wolves to Colorado.

Appropriate permits and inspections were conducted at the airport prior to transport to the Pitkin and Eagle County release sites. There are no USDA/USFWS quarantine requirements for reintroduction of wolves. All animals were issued a Health Certificate from a British Columbia veterinarian.

CPW released five wolves in Colorado on each of three dates: Jan. 12, 14 and 16 in Eagle and Pitkin Counties. CPW worked to release the animals as

province and their status is not currently considered to be a conservation concern.

Copper Creek Operation

On January 18, CPW successfully relocated the Copper Creek female and four pups. CPW wildlife veterinarians evaluated the health status of the female and the four pups while at the secure facility where they had been since late August and early September 2024 and determined that they were in good condition. The pups were released with the female to ensure that they learn to hunt. This gives the animals the best chance at survival, furthering the goal of successfully restoring wolves in Colorado. Each animal was fitted with a collar for tracking after release. The wolves were then placed in crates and transported to a release site.

All five animals are collared and will be closely monitored. This agency decision to re-release the Copper Creek animals considered multiple factors, including the health of the animals, the timing of the B.C. releases this year and the potential proximity to new wolves on the landscape. This strategy gives the animals the best chance for survival, advancing Colorado’s gray wolf restoration efforts.

“As I said at the time, options in the case of the Copper Creek Pack were very limited, and this action is by no means a precedent for how CPW will resolve wolf-livestock conflict moving forward. The male adult wolf was involved in multiple depredations. Removing the male at that time, while he was the sole source of food and the female was denning, would likely have been fatal to the pups and counter to the restoration mandate,” said Davis.

The capture of the pack was a management action that was taken to change the behavior of the animals to reduce depredations and could further impact the adult female’s behavior moving forward.

The expanded and improved capabilities the agency has available for producers this year through the Conflict Minimization program will allow for faster response to conflicts and higher likelihood of effective non-lethal deployment. This work results in improved strategies for altering depredation behavior early and reducing the potential for repeated depredations.

“I want to express my sincere thanks to the CPW teams involved in these efforts in both British Columbia and Colorado, and the team from the British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, LightHawk, and many others for their partnership and expertise in this historic conservation effort,” said Davis.

“As restoration efforts continue, CPW is committed to working with livestock owners, communities, state agencies and all partners to reduce the likelihood of wolf-livestock conflict. Our goal is to keep ranchers ranching, while at the same time restoring a healthy, sustainable population of gray wolves to Colorado as mandated,” said Davis.

British Columbia has an abundant gray wolf population, estimated to be in the range of 5,300 to 11,600 animals. They are widely distributed throughout the

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SEMI-AUTO GUN BAN
from page 1

and a “second or subsequent offense” as a Class 6 felony.

According to the *Denver Post*, these Democrats wanted to ban the “sale, manufacture or purchase of semiautomatic weapons that use detachable magazines.” The bill as introduced exempts “a single or double action semiautomatic handgun that uses recoil to cycle the action of the handgun.” I guess the sponsors thought it would be in bad form to ban the sort of gun that Harris bragged about owning. The bill also exempts .22 caliber guns. Still, the bill constitutes a breathtaking effort to ban the sale of many types of popular guns used for recreation and (more importantly) self-defense.

Senate Bill 3 flagrantly violates both the U.S. and Colorado Constitutions, the latter of which affirms “the right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property . . . shall be called in question. . .” That the bill would not survive judicial scrutiny seems not to matter at all to the bill’s sponsors, who apparently enjoy throwing taxpayer dollars into losing efforts to legally defend the indefensible.

The Democratic position is inherently untenable. The reason that they want to ban these guns for most citizens, but not for police officers, is that they are effective. What makes them effective for law enforcement and for crime also makes them effective for self-defense. According to American ideals of justice, we don’t hold the

millions of peaceable gun owners responsible for the violent crimes of the few.

Punishing the innocent

No one who lives in Colorado can ignore the problem of mass shootings. Tom Sullivan, a sponsor of the bill, lost his son to the 2012 Aurora theater murders, something no parent should have to endure. But stripping the rights of the many in an attempt to stop the few who commit crimes is not the answer. Instead, the answer is to focus on those who commit or threaten to commit crimes.

In the Aurora case, the perpetrator “told a classmate he wanted to kill people four months before the shooting,” NBC reports. Just throwing this out there, but . . . maybe law enforcement agencies should take seriously people who threaten to commit murder, before it’s too late, whether that means mental health help or increased law-enforcement observation or contact.

Is there any level of restrictions on gun owners that will be enough for these Democrats? It seems like whatever restrictions already are in place, Democrats always will demand more.

In 2013, the legislature banned gun magazines over fifteen rounds. In 2019, the legislature passed a “red flag” law enabling law enforcement to take guns from dangerous people. I support this measure at least in principle, even if I might quibble with details. In 2023, the legislature passed a waiting period for gun purchases. The list goes on.

In discussing the new proposal, Sullivan has complained that the magazine ban has not been well-

enforced and that it’s pointless, anyway, given “the easy ability to drop one magazine and put another magazine in there and just continue to fire.”

So, apparently the idea is that, because the legislature previously passed pointless, poorly-enforced gun restrictions, it now should pass additional restrictions. On the other hand, if you did think that restricting magazines was effective, presumably you would call for the robust enforcement of that law prior to imposing new controls.

I do want to draw people’s attention to something. The perpetrators of the 1999 Columbine murders were ages 18 and 17; of the 2012 Aurora theater murders, 24; of the 2021 Boulder murders, 21; of the 2022 Club Q murders, 22. Are you seeing a trend here?

The *New York Times* reports that “roughly 15 to 25” is “a critical age range that law enforcement officials, researchers and policy experts consider a hazardous crossroads for young men, a period when they are in the throes of developmental changes and societal pressures that can turn them toward violence in general, and, in the rarest cases, mass shootings.”

There’s also a problem of “people in their 40s who commit workplace type shootings,” a criminal justice professor told the *Times*. But there does seem to be some evidence that the brain does not fully develop until about age 25.

We’ve already decided to phase-in the legal age of adulthood, as people cannot buy nicotine, alcohol, or (since 2023) guns until they are 21. At least so long as the federal government requires

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people age 18 to register for the draft, I don’t think this is fair. But, if Congress repealed draft registration (or at least raised the age to 25), Democrats could make a plausible argument for raising the age to purchase a semiautomatic gun with a detachable magazine to 25. That would be a harder proposal for critics to fight. This would not, of course, prevent all younger people intent on committing a crime from getting such a gun.

I don’t have a problem with Senate Bill 3’s ban of bumpstocks and the like, which increase the effective firing rate of a gun.

We should ask people in law enforcement to focus their energies on people who have committed rights-violating crimes or who have threatened to do so. We should not ask people in law enforcement to spend their time and resources hounding people who have harmed no one. With its blanket gun sales bans, Senate Bill 3 is a step in the wrong direction.

Ari Armstrong writes regularly for *Complete Colorado* and is the author of books about Ayn Rand, Harry Potter, and classical liberalism. He can be reached at ari@ariarmstrong.com.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/01/21/semi-automatic-ban-punish-law-abiding-coloradans/>