

Custer Deputies Bust Four Mexican Illegals Plus, a Sinister Twist

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

About 1:25 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29th, Custer County Sheriff's Deputy Daniel Santiago was patrolling State Highway 96 (aka, Hardscrabble Road, or just the Scrabble. It runs from Wetmore up the mountain to Silver Cliff and Westcliffe.) and got behind a somewhat older (2002) white Ford box van. Around mile marker 18 (near MacKenzie Junction). Noticing that the van had a defective taillight, the Deputy lit up his lights and pulled the van over.

Custer County Deputy Christopher Dunbaugh arrived soon after the stop to assist.

Deputy Santiago approached the van from the driver's side. The van's driver's window was down

and Deputy Santiago noticed the van contained four Hispanic males. The Deputy asked the driver for license, registration and insurance. The driver responded, in English, but with a Hispanic accent that he had none of these. Santiago then asked for ID from him and the other occupants, and they produced various Mexican documents, none of which had any legal status in the U.S. and none showed that they had permission to be in our country.

Deputy Santiago then asked the driver his name which was given. The Deputy then returned to his car and asked FRECOM Dispatch to run the name. Nothing came back. Santiago went back to the van and talked to the driver again, and after a bit, the driver gave him a second name, somewhat similar to the first, but different. The Deputy again asked Dispatch to run the

name but again no hits. During the engagements with the occupants of the van, the Deputy could hear the occupants engaging in spirited conversations, all in Spanish.

Unknown to the Mexicans, Deputy Santiago speaks Spanish and had listened to their conversations. The van's plates were run by dispatch and they came back as a different person than the driver. (So, no license, no registration, no insurance and the van is owned by somebody else...) To attempt to ID the driver, Colorado State Patrol was summoned as they have very sophisticated fingerprint readers in their vehicles.

After a bit a State Patrol Officer pulled up and they got the driver's prints. As the fingerprint reader uses the internet to transmit the prints to the Colorado Bureau

of Investigation (CBI) and there was no internet reception there, the State Patrol Officer had to briefly leave the scene to process the prints. Upon returning, it was revealed that the driver, Felipe Dejesus Cruz-Soltero, was an illegal alien, wanted in Colorado for "crimes of violence" and was a "Revoked Habitual Traffic Offender"(RHTO). (In Colorado, if a person doesn't have a driver's license, and is convicted of a driving offense, he is assigned a Personal Identification Number (PIN) and the offense is logged to that. A person with RHTO status is one with a ton of infractions and can be arrested for that.)

FRECOM Dispatch was then asked to call ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency)

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Chaffee County: Judge Gives Hard Core Fentanyl Dealer Only 90 Days For Four Felony Charges, Guns, 600 Death Pills

—Thursday January 30, 2025

Press Release/ Update/ Sentencing Chaffee County Sheriff's Office

Last year on January 25, the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office issued a press release that read:

On Wednesday, January 25, 2024, members of the Chaffee County Chaffee County Sheriff's Office and the Buena Vista Police Department received information of an individual who was in possession of a large quantity of Fentanyl at his residence north of Buena Vista.



Christopher Foreman
Photo Courtesy of Chaffee County Sheriff's Office

A search warrant was obtained and a search was executed on the residence. During the search officers recovered approximately 600 Fentanyl pills and numerous firearms, one of them being a reported stolen handgun.

Arrested in the residence was:

Christopher Foreman, age 50, Buena Vista.

Foreman was charged with the following:

1. Special Offender-Sale or Distribution of a Controlled Substance, Drug Felony 1

2. Special Offender-While in Commission of sale or distribution of a controlled substance, (deadly weapon), Drug Felony 1
3. Distribution/Manufacturing/Dispensing/Sale of a Controlled Substance, Drug Felony 1
4. Possession of a Schedule I or II Controlled Substance, Drug Felony 4
5. Theft Value at least \$300 less than \$1000 Misdemeanor 2

CHAFFEE
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BOCC: Grant Revenue Decline Rumblings, \$60k Lawsuit Payment, Roth Gets the Finance Director's Position, More County Attorney Drama

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The January 30, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) meeting started at 9:01 a.m. at the All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room in Westcliffe. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogelsong.

In Commissioner Items, Epp said the Commissioners were "mandatory" reporters for the Department of Human Services re child protective services and they must undergo training because of that mandate. Epp also said he had talked to our Public Health Department about their grant funding and what level of services that could provide if their state and federal grant for income declines. (And it will. All of Custer County's departments and offices should prepare contingency plans for a probate grant income decline.) He noted that the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments (UAACOG) (a government grant dispensing non-profit machine in Cañon City) might also have

some serious funding issues going forward. Epp commented, "Grants are up in the air. If certain things go away, what are we going to do and what is it going to look like?) (It's called small, efficient, prioritized government focusing on the essentials.)

Canda chimed in, "Fed funding is the issue. We need to know what grants are federal." (Note a LOT of "state" grants are actually fed money that was given to the state...)

In New Business, Accounts Payable was first up. Epp stated that the monthly AP amount was high as it is in the beginning of the year and also it contained a \$60k bill from the county's insurer (CTSI) for the deductible amount we have to pay for the settlement of the tasing lawsuit brought by a minor who was in custody by the Sheriff's Office. (This was before Sheriff Smith came on board. Rumor has it the settlement was for around \$700k.) The incident occurred in

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I will call on the
LORD, who is worthy
to be praised: so shall
I be saved from mine
enemies.
2 Samuel 22: 4 KJV

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

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

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“No Consistent Patterns”: Scientists Find No Evidence that Closing Schools Materially Reduced Transmission

by Jonathan Turley,
JonathanTurley.Org

For years, scientists and commentators who questioned COVID policies were censored, blacklisted, and canceled across the country. Many of these dissenting views have since been vindicated from the lab origins theory to the lack of efficacy of surgical masks to the opposition to the closure of schools. Now, a new study in the *Journal of Infection* further undermines the once orthodox views of the pandemic, concluding that “reopening schools did not change the existing trajectory of COVID-19 rates.” In other words, we shut down our schools, without any demonstrable benefit to the country. We did, however, succeed in reducing free speech in the name of combating “disinformation.”

The report is based on one of the comprehensive studies to date on the pandemic:

“Data were extracted from government websites. Cases and COVID-19 hospitalization and death incidence rates were calculated during the Delta and early Omicron periods in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland and the United Kingdom, for two weeks preceding and six weeks after schools reopened. We summarized stringency of public health measures (GRI), COVID-19 vaccination rates by age and SARS-CoV-2 testing rates.”

In comparing these different countries, the scientists found no

significant differences in reported cases: “No consistent patterns in cases, hospitalizations or deaths despite school re-openings or changes to public health measures,”

The suppression of the lab theory and the targeting of dissenting scientists show the true cost of censorship and viewpoint intolerance.

The very figures claiming to battle “disinformation” were suppressing opposing views that have now been vindicated as credible. It was not only the lab theory. In my recent book, I discuss how signatories of the Great Barrington Declaration were fired or disciplined by their schools or associations for questioning COVID-19 policies.

Some experts questioned the efficacy of surgical masks, the scientific support for the six-foot rule and the necessity of shutting down schools. The government has now admitted that many of these objections were valid and that it did not have hard science to support some of the policies. While other allies in the West did not shut down their schools, we never had any substantive debate due to the efforts of this alliance of academic, media and government figures.

Not only did millions die from the pandemic, but the United States is still struggling with the educational and mental health consequences of shutting down all our public schools. That is the true cost of censorship when the government works with

the media to stifle scientific debate and public disclosures.

Many still hope that Congress and the incoming Trump administration will conduct a long-needed investigation into the origins to allow for a more credible and open debate. That hope was increased by the nomination of Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, one of the organizers of the Great Barrington Declaration, to be the next head of the National Institutes of Health.

One of the most lasting costs was born by our children who have shown both educational and psychological harm from the shutting down of schools. The study confirms what dissenters said all along: there is no evidence that this was necessary or had any benefit to society:

“Our findings show that there were no consistent patterns to case, hospitalisation or death rates in each country or jurisdiction, irrespective of whether schools were open for onsite learning or changes to PHSM. School closures were adopted by many countries as part of a suite of PHSM but in the future should only be implemented where there is strong evidence of effectiveness. Predesigned and approved study protocols, along with scenario-based planning for schools are needed to prepare for the next pandemic. The negative consequences on child health and development are profound, so understanding the role of schools in SARS-CoV-2 transmission should be a

priority for pandemic preparedness and response.”

In my recent book, I explore the suppression of dissenting voices in higher education as the true cost of censorship. The media joined the government, corporations, and academia in labeling these experts as extremists, conspiracy theorists or, in the case of the lab theory, racists. As a result, we never had a robust debate that might have curtailed the massive costs from the pandemic policies. It now turns out that it may have been these censorship advocates who were spreading disinformation in the name of combating disinformation.

Jonathan Turley is the Shapiro professor of public interest law at George Washington University and the author of “The Indispensable Right: Free Speech in an Age of Rage.”

(Editor/GG: A lot of us told the school board that shutting down the school would be an academic disaster. But they did it any way and our kids are still suffering from that decision. And don't forget our “local” virus experts and lib commentators demanded that the schools be closed. (And everything else.) Guess what? Wrong again on what to do re the covid scare. Let's bring back some common sense to local decision making and not emotion-based conjecture.)

Please see: <https://jonathanturley.org/2025/01/26/covid/>

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Happy Valentines Day!

Local Mountain News & Notices

Motions Hearing for Alleged Triple Murder Accomplice Kochis

by George Gramlich

The alleged accomplice to the triple murder in 2023 off of Oak Creek Grade, Nancy Rae Medina Kochis, had a “motions” hearing last Tuesday, February 4, 2025 in District Court in Custer County. District Court Judge Lauren Swan presided. The Defendant’s attorney was Mr. Cutler while the 11th Judicial District’s District Attorney, Jeff Lindsay, represented the state.

Ms. Kochis, who is out on bail, is charged with five Level 5 felonies in regard to the alleged homicides. The hearing was an attempt by the Defense to get the charges dismissed based on allegations that the Custer County Sheriff’s Office and the District Attorney’s Office were delinquent in delivering evidence to the defense.

Mr. Cutler called Custer County Detective Sergeant Elizabeth Robinson as a witness. Detective Robinson is the lead deputy on the case. Detective Robinson testified that there were over 200 pieces of evidence “discovered” or turned over to the defense including thousands and thousand of pages of documentation. Mr. Cutler, laboriously, attempted to show that a few items were turned over late. This went on and on. Detective Robinson explained over and over again how the process worked and how she responded to requests for information in a timely manner. It appeared that Mr. Cutler did not make much progress.

After Mr. Cutler was done, DA Lindsay reviewed the evidence procedures with Detective Robinson and how the Public Defenders Office reviewed all the evidence at the Sheriff’s Office.

The result was that Judge Swan ordered another motions hearing on March 31, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in District Court in Custer County.

“Bird House Bonanza” Attention artists young & old!

Press Release

It’s that time of year again to prepare for the annual “Bird House Bonanza” to benefit Dundee Memorial Dog Park. Here is how it works- we give you a blank bird house and in return, you give us your birdhouse masterpiece to auction for the benefit of our local dog park. All skill levels and creative ideas are accepted!!!

For the first time ever, we are offering our traditional bird house design, plus a blue-bird house and a bat shack! We have 20 traditional, 12 bluebird and 10 bat shacks available. These are first come, first serve!

Bird houses are due back by 8/2/25 and then we will host an online auction on our Facebook page (Bird House Bonanza Auction to benefit Dundee Memorial Dog Park).

We want to extend a Thank You to Pinecone Corner LLC. for making the bird houses again this year. You are pawsome!!

Bird houses will be judged and prizes awarded. Judging categories (for adults and juniors) will be “Most Creative,” “Best In Show” & “Innovative Use Of Materials.” We will also have prizes for “Honorable Mention.”

Contact us on our Facebook page or text Katie at 719-285-5600 to reserve a birdhouse, or two!

Happy creating everyone! We are excited to see this year’s entries!



Beloved Life-Long Custer County Resident Passes Eva Colgate



Eva Joyce Adams Colgate, was born in Custer County on a dairy farm at high noon on July 9, 1929. She passed away in Cañon City, Colorado on January 31, 2025. No services are planned at this time.

Rest in Peace

Photos Courtesy of family members



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Local Mountain News & Notices

CCHS Student a Boettcher Finalist

Press Release
CCSD-1 Counselor

Scholarship season is here and Sand Custer County has a finalist for the Boettcher Scholarship! Kenna Ingram has moved from the semi-finalist round to the final round of 100 top students from Colorado.

The Boettcher Scholarship is a full-ride scholarship to a Colorado college or university. Prior to the final round, Ingram was joined by fellow senior Isabella Ferron who made the semi-final round of the top 300 students in Colorado.

"It is a tremendous honor for both Kenna and Isabella to have made the semi-final round of the Boettcher Scholarship," noted Custer County Superintendent Thom Peck. "They were in the top 300 of nearly 2,000 of the best students in Colorado. This honor is a great reflection of their work ethic and character. The entire community should be proud of this accomplishment. It is very rare to have two students make this elite group!" Ingram will move on to the final round which includes a



Congratulations to Isabella Ferron (left) and Kenna Ingram (right) for advancing in the Boettcher Scholarship application process. Ferron qualified as a semi-finalist and Ingram has qualified as a finalist.

personal interview and the opportunity to receive 1 of the 50 Boettcher Scholarships offered. "Kenna has been an outstanding student and leader for us," added CCHS counselor Troy Bomgardner. "She is always willing to help and has high

aspirations for her post-secondary goals in veterinary medicine, she definitely is worthy of being a Boettcher finalist." Winners of the Boettcher scholarship will be announced following interviews in March.

High Country Recycling and American Legion/Boy Scouts Selected to Receive Grant Funds

Press Release

WESTCLIFFE, Colorado

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2nd Youth in Philanthropy Initiative grant. High Country Recycling will receive \$3,540, which covers three Big Blue transports, and the Boy Scout Troop 114 Chartered by American Legion Post 170 will receive \$1,460 to improve cemeteries in Custer County through three Eagle Scout Projects. The grant will also fund improvements to veterans' graves, a gazebo for veterans' families to use to pay respect to fallen soldiers, and new American Flag holders.

The Community Strength & Vitality grant provides funding for programs, projects, and events that foster and strengthen the community in the Wet Mountain Valley by developing and/or promoting activities and events that improve community health, capacity, preservation or vitality.

The purpose of the Youth in Philanthropy Initiative was not only to provide grant funds to local nonprofit organizations but also to introduce and teach young adults

in our community about philanthropy and grant processes. A member of the youth team recently commented, "Being a part of the Youth in Philanthropy Initiative grant team as a teenager was an incredibly empowering experience. It gave me the unique opportunity to know my voice was heard and valued. I was able to contribute to decisions that would directly impact my community, and that sense of responsibility made me feel like an active participant in creating positive change. It also taught me the importance of collaboration, social responsibility, and the power that young people have to make a lasting impact. Knowing that the decisions I helped make would help others gave me a sense of pride and reinforced my belief in the power of community-driven philanthropy."

The WMVCF's Youth in Philanthropy Initiative is currently accepting applications for the Women Helping Others (W.H.O.) Grant. Applications can be completed online at <http://wmvcf.org/youth-in-philanthropy/> or obtained by emailing Dr. Jennifer Howerton, WMVCF Managing Director, at director@wmvcf.org. The deadline for the Women Helping Others Grant is March 16, 2025.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC from page 1

2022 and involved alleged excessive force. The total A/P for January was \$365k and it was approved.

The next report was from the Wet Mountain Fire District. It was reported that the District received the most calls for service ever last year, 340 calls. There were 16 fires responded to.

The Tourism Bureau’s report involved a slide presentation. They said they were doing a good job as the Lodging Tax was up for last year. The online Zoom system went out during their report so much was missed.

Our County Clerk and Recorder, Kelley Camper, then was up requesting the ok form the Commissioners to apply for a \$144k grant from the state fund that grabs \$2 from every electronic document recording the Clerk’s Office does. The Commissioners gave their approval.

Brian Anderson gave the Airport report. The \$650k eight-foot fence that a donor put up and paid for was about completed. However, the three access gates to the airport need to be upgraded to keep deer and other pesky critters out. The Airport has a \$50k grant it can use. They received a local bid to fix the gates for around \$21k. This passed.

Next Agenda Item was, “Consideration of the Finance Director’s Position”. Epp handled this. (As you know, we haven’t had a Finance Director for over a year after the big County Manager debacle. The Commissioners were only offering \$125k for the job and the real-world price to get anybody decent is over \$200k. Vernon Roth, our IT Director has been basically doing the job (with help from Redlands Accounting) and all reports say he is doing a great job. So, after a year, something finally happened....) Epp kind of laid out some background on where we are re the position saying we had an employee (Roth) in this position (on an interim basis) now for a year. Epp proposed to “move that employee into this Finance Director’s position” and we “will keep Redlands or another consultant here as backup.” Epp proposed a salary of \$95k. Epp then read a letter from a local citizen who is a very high-speed accountant saying Vernon can do the job. Vogel song commented that if we bring somebody new in it “would be a big learning curve.” A couple of peasants then spoke up supporting Vernon. The vote was then taken and all three Commissioners voted to give Vernon the job. (Good move. Vernon is super smart and a very hard worker.)

CHAFFEE from page 1

A Drug Felony 1 in the state of Colorado holds a sentencing range of eight to thirty-two years in the Department of Corrections. Eventually a plea agreement with the District Attorney’s Office was accepted that Foreman would plead guilty to a drug felony 2 (sentencing range of four to eight years in the Department of Corrections) with sentencing open to the court. A pre-sentencing investigation was ordered by the court.

At Foreman’s sentencing hearing on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, the pre-sentencing investigation results were revealed recommending a sentence to the Department of Corrections and that a sentence to Community Corrections (a sentencing alternative to prison for felony offenders that offers treatment and supervision to change the behavior to reintegrate into the community) was not recommended. The District Attorney’s Office argued for a sentence of six years in the Department of Corrections.

The next subject was pretty controversial, “Review and Consideration of the Contract for County Attorney”. (Remember there was a personnel issue with our County Attorney, Dan Slater, and a county employee. The Commissioners voted to fire Slater for it. They took away Slater’s contract with the department where the issue occurred but kept him on for the BOCC and the Sheriff’s Office until they found a replacement. Until now, they haven’t found anybody.

This Item is Canda’s baby. He said he has an attorney, Rachel Maxam, who just moved here and has a practice in Colorado Springs and she wants the job. She wants \$5k a month and \$100 per hour for extra hours.

Canda went on a bit about Maxam then Slater rose to his defense saying she would cost 43% more than what he was getting. Epp said he thought her flat fee was way too high and was concerned that we would normally not use that many hours. Slater said his average monthly fee for 2024 was \$3,290 per month and her proposed contract doesn’t cover “litigation” which his does and this could cost a ton more. Slater then said he “continues to have questions to why you still want to change.” Epp responded something about, “legalities of conflict of interest”. At some point in the discussion, Slater said the “issue” had been resolved (so no point in trying to get rid of him.) This went on and on. Finally, as it is a personnel issue, the Commissioners decided to have an Executive Session on it (date to be decided). So, Slater is still our County Attorney. (Well, Slater was removed re his “personnel issue” from one of his contracts with the county and apparently the “issue” is resolved now. The problem is, getting an attorney who really knows county/municipal law is difficult. And the gov’t legal arena is complex and complicated. You need a lot of experience to get good at it. Watching Slater now for years, he knows his stuff. The only real blem on his work here was the County Manager vignette where he did not give the Commissioners proper advice on how to follow the law regarding setting up a County Manager position and filling it. Other than that, he has done a good job. He had his hand slapped over the personnel issue. It is going to be real difficult to find someone with his experience who will charge us a reasonable rate....Maybe change your minds mighty Commissioners and give him a second chance?)

And that was it. Pretty good drama quotient. Stay tuned for the next chapter of “Happy Valley”.

After considering all arguments brought by the defense and prosecution, District Judge Dayna Vise sentenced Foreman to 4 years of probation and 90 days jail.

“To say I am disappointed with the sentence handed down, might be an understatement. This was the largest Fentanyl bust in the history of the Chaffee County Sheriff’s Office. Fentanyl, as everyone knows, is one of the largest epidemics facing our country. Fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. I am proud of the work our investigators and partnering agencies put into this very large and time-consuming investigation which included a large amount of overtime working through the nights. I am also very happy with the efforts of the district attorney’s office bringing this case forward. Our office, along with our local law enforcement partners in Chaffee County, will continue our efforts to rid our community of these dangerous substances. I have all the sympathy in the world for an addict who wants to get clean and I will go to the end of the world for them to help. However, I have no tolerance for someone trying to poison our community.” -Sheriff Andy Rohrich

“We the People” Speak Letters to the Editor



Please send your submissions to us at sdc.sentinel@gmail.com, mail them or bring them in to the office at 601 Main St., Westcliffe CO 81252. Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 500 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name and give us the general location of your residence. Also please provide your phone number or email - for confirmation only. The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.

Polis, Say “President”

Dear Editor;

I just want to say my 2 cents worth here. First off, I would like to say I find Governor Polis’ life style disgusting. We should never even have to hear about that really. That being said, I would vote for him if only he could run our great state in the direction I think would be right, but he won’t. Now I’m very disturbed by him getting on TV News shows and telling how Trump, (he won’t even call him “President”) is not doing the correct thing with the tariffs he is imposing and saying “This will hurt the people of CO instead. President Trump has only been in office this time for a week or so and Polis already knows it won’t work? Our country has used tariffs on other countries for a long, long time and only the dems have taken that away and NOT to our advantage either. I may be wrong, but I hear many others saying we should buy American made products and I’m onboard with that. Cheap stuff from China, where 6-year-olds are in factories making the junk stuff we buy and NO care for them being exposed

to dangerous chemicals etc. Obviously, our governor has not been to any third world countries and not seen these kinds of things going on.

In my lifetime I learned long ago that first I need to see which way things actually go B4 deciding it won’t work right, and you will end up proving how stupid you are by making public your view and later, finding out you were so, so wrong. Polis is not only wrong in doing this, but coming out B4 it proves up or down with objectionable opinions is just foolish. I know he has his eye on being our next president, (God forbid,) and must believe he has the jump on competition there by doing that. Strange how the democrats want respect for who is in office, but only if they are democrat. Otherwise, NO respect whatsoever.

As an old veteran, we had to automatically give respect for the Commander-in-Chief, no matter the man’s party affiliation. I wouldn’t vote Polis for dog catcher and can’t wait till he terms out.

Frank Searight, Silver Cliff



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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, February 10

#22 Chicken A la King

Green Peas
Salad w/Lite Ranch
Raisin Nut Cup
Orange

Tuesday, February 11

#5 Smothered Pork Chop

w/Gravy
Smashed Red Potatoes
Cooked Collard Greens
Apple
Bran Muffin

Thursday, February 13

#53 Hungarian Goulash

California Vegetable Medley
Green Peas
Pineapple Tidbits
WW Bread w/Butter

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

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

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

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



Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 -7:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Meeting (The Bible and X) w/
Scott Munger. at First Baptist Church.
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St.
Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.
1st Monday of the Month
5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary mo. mtg (year-round) Cliffe Lanes
2nd and 4th Monday
6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

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

1st Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort
Quilters @Valley Bible
6:00 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting
at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM
2nd Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Mtg @Valley
Bible
3rd Tuesday of the Month
Liberty Rocks TUESDAY Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m.
Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.

Wednesdays
8 -9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers
welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm.,
209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist
Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at
(432) 553-7483.
9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study @Sangre
de Cristo Fellowship, 120 Jerry Dr. Westcliffe. Holly
703-338-4100 or Rene at 719-371-7076
10 a.m. Pickle Ball (SCMP) info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at
St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at
719-371-1853.
6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church
of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

First Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters, FBC (log bldg next to the
church) 417 S. 6th St. Contact Delores at 719-371-1451.
2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee
meeting. Ranchers Roost. The public is welcome See
www.CusterGOP.com or Facebook page at https://m.
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3rd Thursday of the Month
2 p.m. Round Mt Water District Meeting.

Fridays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St.
Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853

2nd Friday of the Month
8 am- Westcliffe Band of Brothers & Sisters Men’s
Prayer Breakfast, at the Senior Center followed by
Monthly Meeting at 9:30 - all are welcome

Saturdays
10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family Group meets at
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Dee (719) 404-1851
or Jean (719) 371-1229.

3rd Saturday of Month
8 a.m. Valley Bible Fellowship Men’s Breakfast Open to
all Men of the Community, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
Questions, **Mike @ 719-650-0362**

1 p.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room,
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CCSO CO-RESPONDERS’ CORNER

Morality Trumps Impartiality!

by Jaclyn & Tom Manzione

When a person’s ethical beliefs are put to the test by the need to stay neutral in various situations, what happens? In personal situations, the idea of impartiality urges a person to refrain from behaving in a way that is self-serving or unjust to others. Additionally, neutrality requires that social systems and organizations operate without bias, making sure that no group is given preferential treatment for reasons that lack moral significance, thereby providing privileges and opportunities that are not available to everyone.

Morality encompasses both subjective and objective aspects. Some philosophers assert that morality is fundamentally impartial, while others maintain that it comprises a blend of subjective and objective factors. The dilemma of adhering to personal moral convictions versus yielding to the amoral demands of society can be quite daunting.

It is commonly believed that being impartial is essential for morality.

However, we suggest that this view is flawed. The true nature of morality does not fit this idea. Morality is closely connected to our emotions, personal connections, and unique individual goals. Forcing someone to accept what they see as non-moral beliefs and actions is fundamentally unethical. This kind of pressure leads to inner conflict, which can create emotional and psychological distress.

Morality does not necessitate that individuals partake in negotiations to coexist peacefully or as a condition for equity. How can one initiate a dialogue with those devoid of moral principles or, more alarmingly, with those who intentionally cause significant harm to others, be they human or animal? The phrases “consensus-building” and “collaboration” are becoming more popular among those looking to appeal to a secular crowd, especially when dealing with people who outright dismiss moral values. Often, these terms act as a facade for giving in to the pressures of outspoken special interest groups. It brings to mind an important question: why isn’t there more of a

response from humanity regarding those whose unethical actions inflict serious damage on others and society as a whole? Remaining silent on these matters might be seen as a kind of complicity.

The relationship between spirituality and morality is deeply intertwined. Our spiritual convictions shape our perspective on life and our place within it, simultaneously guiding our ethical principles. While morality pertains to our actions and the continuous flow of daily existence, spirituality represents a shift away from these conventional practices. Living a moral life is closely associated with spiritual fulfillment, and engaging in ethical behavior allows us to navigate the world with authenticity and honesty, even in an environment that frequently neglects such values. Courage, similar to integrity, is a fundamental trait; you either have it or you don’t. When faced with the choice between morality and impartiality, which will you choose?

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

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints <i>240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe</i> Pres: 719/214-4589	Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study <i>603 Leon Street, Walsenburg</i> (719) 251-9053	Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. <i>215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence</i> 719/784-1184	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship <i>6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe</i> 719/ 371-1822
Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study <i>0157 County Rd. 27A</i> <i>Cotopaxi 719/942-3526</i>	Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study <i>3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe</i> <i>Pastor Dan Klatke 719/783-2323</i> Lange Hall 719/783-2561	St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays <i>3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2477	Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship <i>116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff</i> 719/581-7572
Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship <i>202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2511	Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m. <i>830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO</i> <i>Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863</i>	St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500	Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship <i>Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore</i> 719/371-1230
Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study <i>Pastor Steve Holcomb@gmail.com</i> <i>20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi</i>	Sacred Heart Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> Saturday Mass 4 p.m. <i>Highway 69, Gardner</i> <i>Bldg. Mickey. 719/746-2037</i>	Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship <i>699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore</i> 719/784-0596	

Send Church updates to sdcsentinel@gmail.com
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The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the bowling alley.



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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Monthly Meeting is the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. at the bowling alley.



“Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”

John 12: 27-29 ESV



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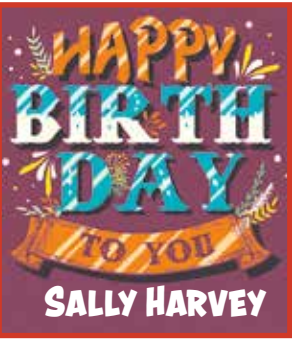
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Events

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.

Wednesday, February 12, 5-8 p.m.
Dine-In and Takeout Valentine's Dinner with CCSD's Bobcat Cafe Chefs RSVP: 719-778-2881 Salad, Lasagna, Bread, & Desert
Donations accepted for future student cooking competitions

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talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com
(719) 783-2462 westcliffepost170.org

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(719) 275-2429 FamilyCrisisOnline.org

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

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
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Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(719) 783-4357

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

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Regional 719-276-5488 Local Office 719-275-2351

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(719) 783-9138
Tue. – Fri.: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m..
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wet Mountain Rotary Van Service
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Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS

February 7, 2024

Igloo

What exactly is an igloo? Well, it sometimes is called a snow house or snow hut. They are iconic symbols of the Arctic culturally associated with the Inuit peoples whose language continues to use *iglu* as the word for house. These are a group of culturally and historically similar Indigenous peoples inhabiting the Arctic and Subarctic regions of North America, including Greenland, Labrador, Quebec, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska, and Chukotsky District of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia. The igloos were generally used only by the people of Canada's Central Arctic and the Qaanaaq area of Greenland. Other Inuit tended to use snow to insulate their houses, which were constructed from whalebone and hides. I would be interested to know how they insulated their home with snow.



Igloos are made from compacted snow blocks. The blocks of snow are cut and stacked in a circular pattern, gradually forming a dome-shaped structure. To ensure proper air flow and prevent suffocation they are built with a small air hole at the top. The round shape of the igloo helps to deflect strong winds. This prevents the structure from being damaged during the arctic storms. This is crucial for survival in the harsh polar climate. An igloo that is built correctly will support the weight of a person standing on the roof.

Igloos are more than just snow houses. They are warm and spacious structures used for shelter, social gatherings and storage for food and supplies. There are three types of igloos. Each type is a different size and used for a different purpose. The smallest of the types are used as temporary shelters, maybe for just one or two nights. The next size up are used for family dwellings, sometimes housing one or two families. The larger ones are usually built in groups of two. One would be a temporary structure built for special occasions and the other would be built nearby for living purposes. The large ones could have up to five rooms and house up to 20 people.

Understanding the construction of the igloos sheds light on the ingenuity of the people who have called the Arctic home for generations. After this last bout with cold temps I have a real respect for these peoples' traditions.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igloo>, <https://facts.net/earth-and-life-science/nature-earth-and-life-science/15-facts-about-igloos/>
Photos: 1) Frank E. Kleinschmidt - Library of Congress 1924 Eskimo (Inuit)
2) Modern Igloo Replica rental in Lapland (Finland), Shutterstock

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Jesus said:

And He said to them,

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 4:19 ESV



Custer County School District C-1
MENU for the week February 10 thru Feb 13, 2025

	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Cereal Yogurt , Oatmeal Fruit, Milk	Sloppy Joes Oven Fries, Corn on Cob Fruit, Milk
Tuesday	Waffles, Sausage Yogurt Fruit, Milk	Smothered Burrito Rice, Beans Fruit, Milk
Wednesday	Breakfast Sandwiches Fruit Milk	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Fruit, Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Sausage Yogurt, Oatmeal Fruit, Milk	Ham and Cheese Wraps Chips, Roll Carrots and Celery w/ranch Fruit, Milk

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

Rotary Scholarship Night Feb 20th

Press Release
CCSD-1 Counselor

The annual Rotary scholarship night will be held Thursday, February 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) of Custer County Schools. The evening, sponsored by the Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club, connects local agencies who offer scholarships with CCHS seniors.

This year's event will feature a lasagna dinner and following dinner, each agency will briefly outline their scholarship requirements and then seniors will have a chance to meet with the agencies to ask questions and receive scholarship applications. "The Rotary Scholarship Night is a great event for our seniors," noted

CCHS counselor Troy Bomgardner. "It's an easy way for agencies to get a chance to meet the applicants and for seniors to get answers to any questions they have. Rotary also provides a few door prizes to make it a fun night for seniors." Questions about the event can be directed to Troy Bomgardner at (719) 783-4927.

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday, January 31:

HS Girls Wrestling @ Cañon City Tournament:

Brylee Shy placed 3rd!; Liz Ergo placed 5th!

HS Boys JV Basketball @ South Park **50-33 Win!**

HS Girls Basketball @ South Park: 23-58, loss

HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ South Park: **54-22, Win!**

Saturday, February 1:

HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Center: 24-31, loss

HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vs Center: 18-46, loss

HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Center: **46-43, Win!**

HS Boys Wrestling @ Valley Classic in Center:

Jason Hemsath placed 2nd; Corbyn Martin placed 2nd

HS Girls Wrestling in Del Norte: **Brylee Shy: Champion!**

Maddie Staley placed 2nd! Liz Ergo placed 3rd!

Tuesday February 4:

HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Pikes Peak Christian: 30-53, loss

HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vs Pikes Peak Christian: **38-28, Win!**

HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Pikes Peak

Christian: **52-50, Win!**

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



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

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

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 Rocky Ford (away)

TBD HS Girls Wrestling Regionals in Cañon City (away)

Saturday, February 8:

11 am HS Boys JV Basketball @ Crested Butte (away)

12:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Crested Butte (away)

2 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Crested Butte (away)

TBD HS Boys Wrestling Regionals in Rocky Ford (away)

TBD HS Girls Wrestling Regionals in Cañon City (away)

Tuesday, February 11:

5:30 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Florence (away)

5:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Florence (away)

7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Florence (away)

Wednesday, February 12:

3 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Vail Christian

4 pm HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vs Vail Christian

**5:30 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME
vs Vail Christian**

Friday, February 14:

4 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Sargent (away)

5:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Sargent (away)

7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Sargent (away)

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Local Mountain News & Notices

Tony's MPV's



JV Men's Basketball MVP
Creed Ingram
Photo by Jennifer Russ Photography

Varsity Men's Basketball MVP
Doc McCoy
Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography



Wrestling Wins



Women's Wrestling
Brylee Shy is Champion Del Norte Tournament 155# and also the Outstanding Wrestler voted on by all the coaches.
Photo: Maddie Staley, left. Brylee Shy, middle, Liz Ergo, right

Photo by Terri Crispe



Men's Wrestling
Corbyn Martin, second place. (top)
Two-day tourney @ Center.
Jason Hemsath, 2nd Place (bottom)

Photos by Shannon Palmer



Women's Basketball MPV
Jasmine Ferris #33 (on the right)
Photo by Jenn Russ Photography





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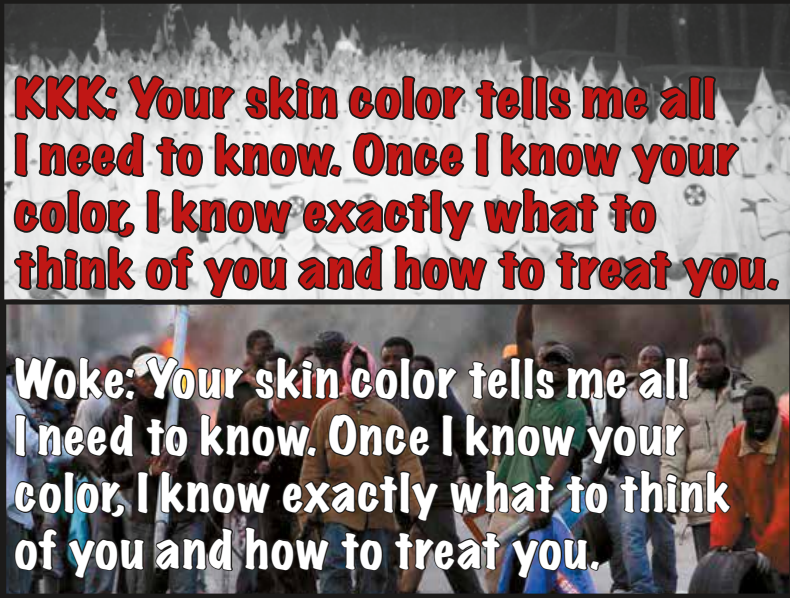


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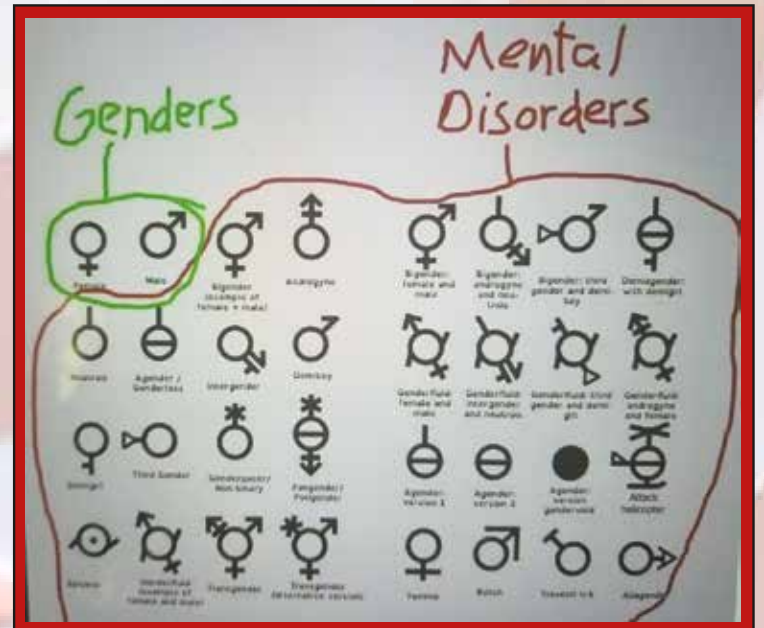
WINNING, WINNING.



Let the newly unemployed DEI folks pick the nation's fruits, nuts and veggies. They have experience.

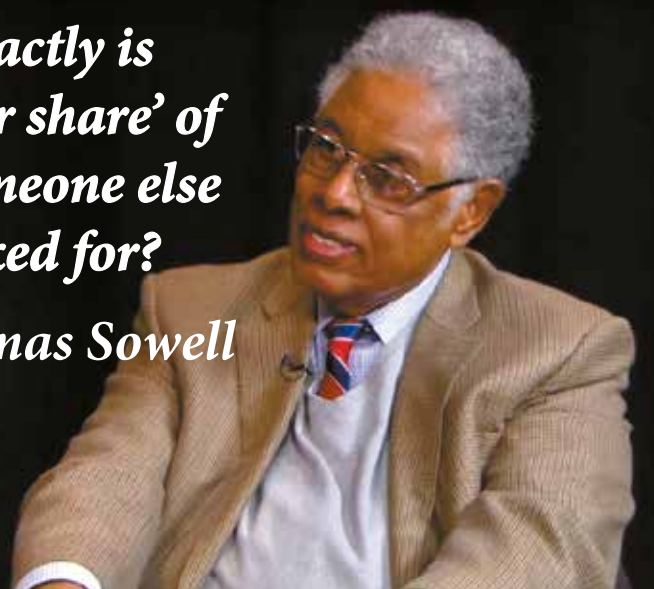


ot
hey...

A photograph of a turtle, likely a pond turtle, looking out of a window. The turtle is positioned in the lower-left corner, with its head and front legs visible as it gazes out. The window frame is white, and the view outside shows a lush green landscape with trees and foliage. The lighting is bright, suggesting daytime.

in color tells me all
v. Once I know your
exactly what to think
w to treat you.

~ Thomas Sowell



I'll never comply with another public health order for the rest of my life.

A photograph of two young children sitting side-by-side. The boy on the right is wearing a grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He has a somber expression and is looking down. The girl on the left has long, wavy blonde hair and is resting her chin on her clasped hands, looking away from the camera. The background consists of vertical wood paneling.

An excuse to slaughter all the “infected” farm animals & shrink the world food supply

We were more civilized when our TVs had encyclopedias on the bottom and a candle on top.

A vintage color photograph of a woman with short, wavy blonde hair, wearing a light blue dress and white shoes. She is standing next to a vintage television set on a metal rolling cart. The cart has a large encyclopedia on the bottom shelf and a small, lit candle in a holder on top of the TV. The background is a brick wall, and a wooden chair is visible to the right. The text is overlaid in the top left corner.



Colorado State News



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The Voice of Conservative Colorado!



Ballot Measure Would Let Voters Kill Colorado's Sanctuary Laws

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

It could be up to voters soon whether Colorado should continue to operate as a Sanctuary State for migrants in the U.S. illegally or repeal laws blocking local police from coordinating with immigration officials.

Advance Colorado led by Michael Fields — author of many successful ballot measures over the years — is now organizing a raid on these dangerous state laws passed during the Polis administration.

What's wrong with those laws? Fields explains:

“The current laws do not allow for cooperation to detain or deport murderers, rapists, armed robbers, or a host of other violent criminals.”

And that's a problem.

The *Denver Gazette* explains what the ballot measure would allow when these detainment orders do:

“Specifically, it would require local authorities to cooperate with requests to notify the U.S. Department of

Homeland Security about releasing inmates and detain the latter if they are charged with a violent crime or had been convicted with a prior felony.”

Polis is already waffling by insisting his laws shielding illegal migrants from immigration law enforcement is not providing sanctuary, even though it's the very definition of providing sanctuary.

Michael Field@MichaelCLFields

That's not true. It's why we filed a ballot measure to mandate that state and federal law enforcement cooperate with federal authorities when it's a violent criminal or repeat offender. #copolitics #coleg

Kyle Clark@KyleClark



Gov Jared Polis (D) says Colorado is not “in any way, shape, or form” a sanctuary state. I asked Polis if that's misleading given Colorado's legal limits on local cooperation with ICE. #copolitics

9:36 PM · Jan 27, 2025

Instead of taking the handcuffs off local police to let them do their job, Polis told Trump on Friday he should just send in more federal officers to do the job of local and state law enforcement.

Just 48 hours later, the immigration and drug raids began.

By Monday, Congress had notified Denver Mayor Johnston his presence was required before the House Oversight and Accountability Committee to explain his Sanctuary City policies.

All in Trump's first week in office.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/01/29/ballot-measure-would-let-voters-kill-colorados-sanctuary-laws/>

Republicans Push Back on State GOP's Play to Rob Grassroots Leaders of Their Authority

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

The embattled chairman of the Colorado Republican Party has called an unprecedented special meeting just weeks before new party leaders are elected to vote on radical new rules to strip grassroots members of their roles and ban his perceived enemies from voting.

It's a most unrepugnant grasp of authoritarian power that would have our founding fathers spinning in their graves and comes from a man who almost cost Trump Republican control of the House of Representatives.

Dave Williams will convene this special meeting of the central committee tomorrow (Thursday) via zoom, to try and pass these and other amendments.

All four of Colorado's House Republicans weighed in with a statement opposing the chairman's last-minute move they say would “centralize power in the hands of a few, sidelining the grassroots members who are the backbone of the Colorado Republican Party.”

Jeff Crank@jeffcrank

Here is the united message from the Colorado Republican Congressional delegation on proposed bylaws

changes. I spent yesterday with President Trump and RNC Chair Whatley in Florida talking about how important it is to have complete unity behind the President's agenda. Vote no.

9:18 AM · Jan 28, 2025

Williams is trying to create his own fiefdom by stripping the decision making authority from the grassroots central committee and allowing only the leadership on the 25-member executive committee to make those crucial decisions, writes Joy Overbeck in *Colorado Politics*.

Another amendment would ban nearly every elected Republican in the state from their votes with the central committee.

Why? Because they criticized Williams for wasting party money to campaign against conservatives — almost all of whom won — and for suing the party when they tried to hold him accountable.

Overbeck writes:

“Stalwart Republicans tangle at the Capitol with Democrats bulldozing our rights often into the wee hours. Tens of thousands of regular Republicans voted for these patriots; only a few hundred party delegates

voted for Dave Williams. These are the true grassroots, not Williams and his crew. Yet Williams wants to strip all but a few of them of their votes.”

The statement opposing the amendments was signed by U.S. Reps. Lauren Boebert, Gabe Evans, Jeff Crank and Jeff Hurd.

The lawmakers said it undermined the mission of Republicans, whose success relies on empowering the grassroots party members, not marginalizing them.

From their statement:

“This top-down approach risks alienating the very activists and voters who drive our success and who work tirelessly to elect strong conservatives to office. As Republicans, we believe in empowering individuals, not consolidating control among a select few.

The central committee should study these provisions very carefully before giving their power away to an elite few.”

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/01/29/republicans-push-back-on-state-gops-play-to-rob-grassroots-leaders-of-their-authority/>



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Colorado State News

Colorado HB 1040: Bipartisan Push Tags Nuclear as Clean Energy

by Sherrie Peif
Complete Colorado Page 2

DENVER — A bill introduced for the third consecutive legislative session, this time with bipartisan support, could change the way Coloradans approach energy use in the future.

House Bill 25-1040, sponsored in the House by Denver Democrat Alex Valdez and Pueblo Republican Ty Winter and in the Senate by Frisco Democrat Dylan Roberts and Colorado Springs Republican Larry Liston would add nuclear power to the state’s definition of “clean energy.”

The bill was introduced on January 8th and assigned to the House Energy and Environment Committee, which Valdez chairs.

The designation is important as under current statute those forms of energy officially classified as clean energy are the only types eligible for what the bill summary refers to as “clean energy project financing” at the county and city level.

It also determines which energy resources may be used by a qualifying retail utility to meet Governor Polis’ lofty, and ever-increasingly expensive goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

If passed it would mark a major legislative shift on energy policy by majority Democrats, who have to this point avoided conversations about nuclear as a clean energy option.

A ‘vibe shift’ for nuclear

Jake Fogleman, co-host of Independence Institute’s* Colorado energy policy podcast said because of the state’s current policies defining what forms of energy utilities can use to meet the 2050 goal, if this bill fails to pass, it is going to tie their hands as the state’s power grid continues to take on more and more energy use.

This is the first time (after previous attempts in 2023 and 2024 failed) that Democrats have been on the bill as prime sponsors. All three

bills have been nearly identical, but Fogleman said he believes there has been a shift in mindset as it becomes clear Colorado’s goal might not get met without nuclear energy use.

“I think there has been a vibe shift – even in Colorado – where Democrats are realizing that the sudden spike in electricity demand from (new electric mandates) is putting pressure on the grid,” Fogleman said. “An epiphany of ‘oh yes maybe we should include the most reliable form of energy in our portfolio.’”

Coloradans are not new to nuclear energy. Fort St. Vrain, which was south of Greeley and operated from 1974 to 1989, was decommissioned in 1991 after several years of multiple problems and concerns with its operation.

However, Fogleman points out that Fort St. Vrain was a first of its kind high-temperature gas reactor, a much different type than today, and not used since.

“The new light water reactors have been used without incident,” Fogleman said about the 92 nuclear reactor sites across the United States. “Fifty percent of the country’s carbon free energy is nuclear, and it makes up about 20 percent of total energy use.”

Fogleman also pointed out that even if the bill passes, it doesn’t mean a nuclear plant is coming to Colorado anytime soon, but it opens the door for when it becomes unavoidable.

“Statute defines clean energy as energy that does not produce greenhouse emissions, nuclear does not,” Fogleman said. “It is not dependent on the weather for production and is more reliable than natural gas and coal. It is the most consistent power source.”

Weld County contingent

At least three members of the House Energy and Transportation Committee are already well-versed in Colorado’s growing energy needs. Rep. Dan Woog, R-Erie; Rep. Carlos Baron,

R-Fort Lupton; and Rep. Ryan Gonzalez, R- Greeley are all likely to support the bill.

The three men all represent different portions of Weld County, a major Colorado energy production region, from the south edge of the county to Greeley, and all have constituents living in the area of the former Fort St. Vrain plant.

Fogleman is cautiously optimistic this could pass.

“The fact it does not have a fiscal note and two Dems as prime sponsors says it has good odds,” Fogleman said. “I think it makes it out of the House committee. We’ll see what happens when it comes to the floor. And that it will depend on what committee it gets assigned to in the Senate.”

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

Please see <https://complete-colorado.com/2025/01/24/bipartisan-bill-nuclear-clean-energy-source-colorado/>



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Big Deportation Raids Begin in Tren De Aragua Infested Aurora

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

The ATF's Denver division announced on X that its agents and Department of Justice partners are assisting Homeland Security and other federal law enforcement agencies in citywide "immigration enforcement efforts" today. The metro area is controlled by far-left globalist lawmakers who pushed sanctuary city policies and, in return, flooded some areas, such as Aurora, with members of the violent and heavily armed Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua.

ATF Denver
@ATF_Denver

ATF, along with our Department of Justice partners, is assisting Department of Homeland Security and other federal law enforcement partners with their immigration enforcement efforts today in the Denver metro area.

The DEA's Rocky Mountain Division posted a video on X, showing agents using flash bangs at an apartment complex where suspected migrant gang members resided.

Local media outlet 9NEWS' Chris Vanderveen wrote on X, "Multiple federal operations taking place in Denver/Aurora this morning."

Another local area journalist reported: "A pretty big police presence in Aurora this morning."

Brian Sherrod
@briansherrodtv

#Breaking: A pretty big police presence in Aurora this morning. This is at the intersection of Oneida and Leetsdale. We are definitely seeing a lot of law-

enforcement, FBI and ICE. I have talked to several people and I am continuing to work to get more info. @CBSNewsColorado

Big day for ICE.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
@ICEgov

100+ members of the violent Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua were targeted for arrest and detention in Aurora, Colo., today by ICE and its partners @FBI @DEAHQ @CBP @ATFHQ & @USMarshalsHQ in an ongoing investigation.



9:06 AM · Feb 5, 2025

More color about the immigration raids via 9NEWS:

"Colorado Rapid Response Network, a nonprofit that assists immigrants, said it had confirmed operations were underway

DEPORTATION RAIDS
see page 23

Join the Sangre de Cristo Electric Association Board!

Press Release
Sangre Electric Coop

Are you enthusiastic about helping shape the future of your electric cooperative? Do you have strong leadership skills and a vision for making a difference in the community? If so, Sangre de Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA) invites qualified applicants to apply for a vacancy appointment to an **At-Large** seat on our board of directors. Due to the resignation of a board member, this is a position that is separate from the election of board directors in June.

Why Join the SDCEA Board?

- Be a part of local governance and influence the direction of a member-owned cooperative.
- Contribute your business skills, leadership insights, and ideas to benefit your community.

About the Role

The appointment will be made to fill a vacant **At-Large** representative director seat following Jeff Fiedler's resignation on January 30. Fiedler has accepted a new position at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. The appointment will be until the end of Fiedler's term in June 2026, at which time the appointee may run for another term on the board if they wish to do so. This is a unique opportunity to step into a leadership role and help direct the cooperative's initiatives, ensuring reliable and efficient service to our community.

Key Qualifications

To be eligible for this role, candidates must:

1. Be a member of Sangre de Cristo

Electric Association.

2. Meet outlined qualifications and certify eligibility, available by contacting SDCEA.

How to Apply

Interested in applying for the vacant seat? Contact Gary Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, or Tracy Linza, Manager of Human Resources and Corporate Governance, by 5 p.m. **February 21** for details, **719-395-2412** or toll-free at **1-844-395-2412**.

Director terms on the SDCEA board are for three years, with elections held annually on a rotating basis for each seat. Board members are elected by SDCEA's membership, comprising all account holders of the cooperative. This democratic process ensures that all members have a voice in the direction of their electric cooperative. While board members are elected to represent members from geographical areas of the cooperative, they are elected to serve all members. Two board seats are designated as at-large.

Current board officers include:

- **Sandra Attebery, representing Custer County, Chair**
- **Charles Abel, Rural Chaffee/Lake County, Vice-Chair**
- **Blake Bennetts, town of Buena Vista, Secretary/interim Treasurer**
- The board also comprises directors Mark Boyle, Rural Chaffee/ Lake County; Sandy Long, At Large and Rob Canterbury, Fremont County.

Join the dedicated team that has been serving members since 1940. Help us power the lives of our members and contribute to a brighter future for our community!



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Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE

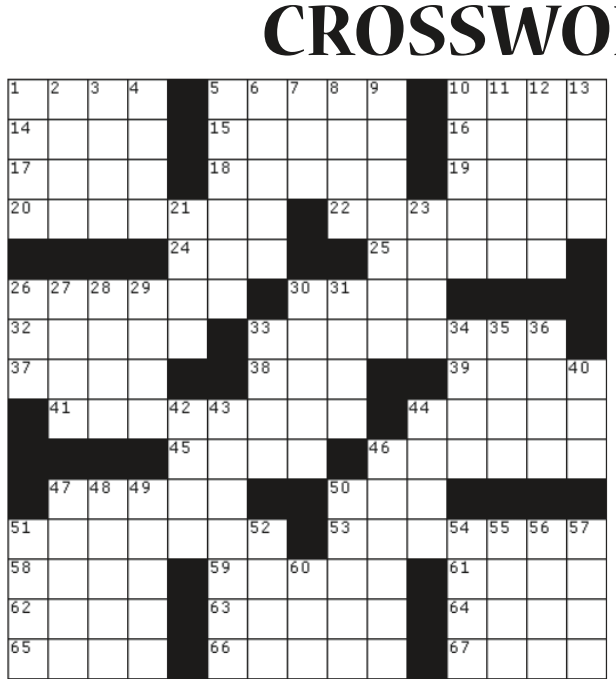
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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



- ACROSS
- 1 Seasoning
5 Musical production
10 Computer picture button
14 Capital of Western Samoa
15 Biblical weeds
16 Mad
17 Fast airplanes
18 Eastern religion
19 Abbreviate (abbr.)
- 20 Wicked woman
22 Canadian province
24 Tax agency
25 Ticket to a performance
26 Turtle homes
30 To incite
32 Risk
33 Angelic
37 Ammunition
38 Headed

Case Number: 25PR1

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

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

All persons having claims against the above named 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

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc.
29780 US Highway 24 N., P.O. Box 2013, Buena Vista, CO 81211

SDCEA proposes to implement changes to net meter rates and charges effective March 8, 2025. The proposed tariff is applicable to all eligible consumers whose electric service is supplied by SDCEA and whose net metering application and compliance form is approved by SDCEA.

RATES AND CHARGES

The rates and charges for retail electric service to the consumer shall be based on SDCEA’s applicable rate tariff for the consumer’s premises. The consumer shall be billed monthly using net metering.

In months when the Consumer uses more electricity than is generated by the consumer, SDCEA will bill the consumer based on the net metered kWh usage for the month and the terms of the appropriate rate schedule. Net Meter/TOU consumers will be billed for on-peak and off-peak kWh usage based on the applicable Time-of-Use rate schedule.

In months when the consumer generates more electricity than is consumed by the consumer, SDCEA will carry forward to the next month a kWh credit balance for the net energy received. The consumer will be billed by the Association for the service availability charge and the other applicable charges of the appropriate rate schedule but with zero kWh usage for the month. For Net Meter/TOU consumers, kWh credit balances will carry forward in the respective time period (on-peak and/or off-peak).

Annually, within sixty (60) days after the end of each annual period (December 31) or within sixty (60) days after the consumer terminates retail service, the Association shall pay the consumer for any remaining unused kWh credit balance accumulated during the previous year. The rate for payment shall be the Association’s current avoided cost of energy as determined by Tri-State Generation and Transmission. Net Meter/TOU consumers with a kWh credit balance at the end of the calendar year will have on-peak and off-peak kWh credit balances paid for each respective time period. The rate for payment shall be the same for both time periods, which shall be the current avoided cost of energy as described above.

CURRENT AVOIDED COST OF ENERGY
\$0.02403 \$0.02602

- 39 Cheese
41 Cure-alls
44 Mother-in-law of Ruth
45 Ribald
46 Rolled
47 What is agreed upon
50 Boat
51 Titans
53 Divided Asian country
58 Chopping tools
59 Midwestern state denizen
61 Zeus' wife
62 Naughty or ____
63 Due
64 Consumer
65 Sequel to Luke
66 Dapper
67 Remain
- 13 Roman emperor
21 Money
23 Ballet skirt
26 Resort hotel
27 Rope fiber
28 Writer Bombeck
29 Animal from Daniel
30 Leading
31 Berths
33 Acquaint
34 Teddy ____
35 Graven image
36 It ____ Upon a Midnight Clear...
40 Center
42 Charity
43 Ceding of rights to another
44 Cook in the microwave
46 Edge
47 Poisonous
48 Make a choice
49 Thorny flowers
50 ____ -garde
51 Site of Jesus' first miracle
52 Hawkeye State
54 So we see
55 Bird's abode
56 Location
57 Wife of Joseph
60 Brains

- DOWN
- 1 Pilgrimage to Mecca
2 Fencing sword
3 Round cracker brand
4 Baseball plate
5 Do unto ____
6 Buckets
7 Sea eagle
8 Make over
9 Torn) into pieces (KJV)
10 Jacob's father
11 Snake
12 Circle
- Puzzle key on page 7

To better serve our members the language in italics has been removed from the Rate:

RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS

If the consumer agrees to assign all renewable attributes associated with the net-metered generation to SDCEA, SDCEA will provide a monthly statement of production to the consumer at no additional cost to the consumer.

REVISIONS

- A. Revisions of this rate schedule are subject to the provisions of Board Policy A-33.
- B. The Board of Directors shall update the avoided cost of energy as referenced above in the Rates and Charges section.
- C. The Board of Directors shall review and if necessary, update this policy at least every five years or more frequently as circumstances warrant.

Due to construction at SDCEA Headquarters, the proposed and present policy changes are available for examination and explanation by calling Sarah Crites at 719-395-2412. Written comments may be filed with SDCEA at P.O. Box 2013, Buena Vista, Colorado 81211 at least ten (10) days before the effective date.

Current rates and policies of SDCEA are available to members at their convenience on our website, <https://www.myelectric.coop/boardinfo/bylaws-rates-policies/>.

Published February 7, 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

Lanny David Walker (AKA LD Walker), Deceased

Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
Elizabeth Laverne Scully
P.O. Box 771
Salida, CO 81201
Phone number: 281-217-2409
E-mail: bethscully57@gmail.com
Case Number: 25PR1

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Lanny D. Walker, Deceased
Case Number 25PR2

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

Elizabeth L Scully
P.O. Box 771

Salida, CO 81201

Published February 7, February 14, February 21, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given pursuant to anyone or more Decrees in Case No. 92CW84, 94CW5, 94CW41, 94CW42, 96CW17, 03CW55 and 06CW32 Division 2, Water Court that during the month of February 2025 the following parties applied for augmentation through the office of Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District (UAWCD).

Name	Address	Custer County
Samuel H. Miller	135 Rangeview Loop, S16, T22S, R72W, 6th PM	Westcliffe, CO 81252
Type	Qty. of Water	
Well	100-af	

The applications are available for review in the office of UAWCD, 339 E. Hwy 50, Salida, Colorado during normal business hours. Any affected person may file comments with the State Engineer within sixty days of the date of publication of such monthly notice. Any affected person not satisfied by the State Engineer’s application of the terms and conditions established for this plan for augmentation to a specific structure, may then apply to the Water Court for a de novo hearing, under the Court’s retained jurisdiction, whether the terms and conditions of the decree approving the plan for augmentation have been met with respect to the request for an authorized diversion included within that application to the State Engineer. Such de novo hearing shall be pursuant to Water Right Determination and Administration Act of 1969. Authorized diversions located within the augmentation plan areas included in the plan for augmentation, by either an uncontested approval by the State Engineer or Order of the Court, shall be part of the decreed plan for augmentation.

Published February 7, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

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.

Setting Expectations for the new Trump Admin

President Trump took decisive actions within minutes to begin “a thrilling new era of national success.” His bold promise to reclaim American sovereignty, restore safety, rebalance the scales of justice and end “the vicious, violent and unfair weaponization of the Justice Department” left many with hope and others cringing with doubt and fear. The mainstream media immediately criticized his words and questioned his ability to make such changes at the whirlwind pace he promises. What the Marxist opponents refuse to accept is that Trump was casting the vision for his presidency. His opponents sarcastically commented that tomorrow eggs and gas would return to pre-Biden prices. But then...

Trump signed dozens of executive orders repealing Biden’s policies that caused record inflation (though the media twisted the facts saying it wasn’t record inflation), establish border security, limit government overreach in weaponization of the courts and regulations. Already, there is a newfound hope that the economy will return to the engine of prosperity seen before Biden took office. Yet, the media called into question every claim Trump made about what has happened to this country since he last held office. The Marxist propaganda machine kicked into high gear. Notwithstanding, it is important to clarify and set expectations for the time ahead.

Trump is not the Savior. As he said, “Just a few months ago, in a beautiful Pennsylvania field, an assassin’s bullet ripped through my ear. But I felt then and believe even more so now that my life was saved for a reason. I was saved by God to make America great again.” Those who believe in God and His miraculous hand, know that Trump is the man God put in leadership with the opportunity to right the good ship America. Those who deny God will fervently try to destroy him—remember Marxism is the absence of God, the belief that government is god. But Trump says his election “is a mandate to completely and totally reverse a horrible betrayal and all of these many betrayals that have taken place and to give the people back their faith, their wealth, their democracy, and, indeed, their freedom.” May it be so.

It is important to understand that Biden nearly destroyed every aspect of this country that was built on moral meritocracy in favor of a tyrannical brand of democracy. For four years Americans have been living under oppression. It will take years to achieve Trump’s vision. He is taking every action possible to restore our rights and our prosperity. But Marxists don’t give up. They will fight him at every juncture to instill fear and doubt in all those who will listen. Similar to Jeremiah 6:14, “They dress the wound of My people with very little care, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace at all.” Don’t believe the mainstream media and the Democrat opposition. Know that this will be a struggle. Pray, act and work to reclaim the Republic and do not be entrapped by the smooth words of those who push a counterfeit democracy called Marxism.

Sources:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/01/the-inaugural-address/>

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Arguably the Most Important Executive Order So Far

by Karl Denninger, Market-Ticker.Org

It’s *not* the 14th Amendment targeted Lone, although that’s important -- and is a closer question in terms of whether it will stand up (the ACLU and others have already challenged it although I’d argue the ACLU’s “putative plaintiff”, which you must have of course, *lacks standing* and thus their suit should be immediately dismissed.)

No, its this E/O: ENDING ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION AND RESTORING MERIT-BASED OPPORTUNITY

The E/O begins:

“Section 1. Purpose. Long-standing Federal civil-rights laws protect individual Americans from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. These civil-rights protections serve as a bedrock supporting equality of opportunity for all Americans. As President, I have a solemn duty to ensure that these laws are enforced for the benefit of all Americans.

This is key. **The Civil Rights Act** is in fact color, race, religion and other “characteristic” neutral. *It not only creates no privilege it explicitly denies privilege based on any particularized category, and the Executive is in fact required to enforce said law.*

It then goes *much further* and:

‘(ii) The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs within the Department of Labor shall immediately cease:

- (A) Promoting “diversity”;
- (B) Holding Federal contractors and subcontractors responsible for taking “affirmative action”; and
- (C) Allowing or encouraging Federal contractors and subcontractors to engage in workforce balancing based on race, color, sex, sexual preference, religion, or national origin.

(iii) In accordance with Executive Order 13279 of December 12, 2002 (Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations), the employment, procurement, and contracting practices of Federal contractors and subcontractors shall not consider race, color, sex, sexual preference, religion, or national origin in ways that violate the Nation’s civil rights laws.”

Contract with the government *either directly or via subcontracts and vendors?* **All** “DEI”, racial/religious/ whatever preference and “set aside” provisions *must immediately cease* or

you are in violation and subject to having those contracts terminated for cause **as compliance is deemed by that order to be material to the government’s payment obligations**. Further, the next section also goes on *to require certification of compliance* which makes a **false certification** a **federal criminal offense** and now the issue is no longer about contract loss -- it then comes with the risk of *prison time* that can be imposed upon the directors, officers and anyone else falsely-certifying (or failing to investigate as to the truth) that they in fact *are* in compliance.

And lest anyone think this will be “slow rolled”, well, Trump took care of that too:

“(b) To further inform and advise me so that my Administration may formulate appropriate and effective civil-rights policy, **the Attorney General, within 120 days of this order**, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies and in coordination with the Director of OMB, **shall** submit a report to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy containing recommendations for enforcing Federal civil-rights laws and taking other appropriate measures to encourage the private sector to end illegal discrimination and preferences, including DEI. The report **shall** contain a proposed strategic enforcement plan identifying:

- (i) Key sectors of concern within each agency’s jurisdiction;
- (ii) **The most egregious and discriminatory DEI practitioners in each sector of concern;**
- (iii) **A plan of specific steps or measures to deter DEI programs or principles (whether specifically denominated “DEI” or otherwise) that constitute illegal discrimination or preferences. As a part of this plan, each agency shall identify up to nine potential civil compliance investigations of publicly traded corporations, large non-profit corporations or associations, foundations with assets of 500 million dollars or more, State and local bar and medical associations, and institutions of higher education with endowments over 1 billion dollars; ”**

The larger you are, and thus the more impact you’ve had on Americans through the practice of these unlawful acts, the more likely you are to be tagged for said enforcement.

This is **precisely** the correct way to target enforcement: **It not only**

sends the strongest message but in addition it helps the largest number of people at once per action taken.

“Sec. 5. Other Actions. Within 120 days of this order, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education shall jointly issue guidance to all State and local educational agencies that receive Federal funds, as well as all institutions of higher education that receive Federal grants or participate in the Federal student loan assistance program under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq., regarding the measures and practices required to comply with Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College, 600 U.S. 181 (2023).”

Oh, Harvard thought they were singled out eh and other institutions thought they’d gotten away with it? Nope. **Comply with that Supreme Court decision within your institution or lose federal funding of all sorts including federally guaranteed student loans and all grant programs.**

All the E/O based “overrides” were in fact unlawful as they stood, in that the **an Executive Order cannot override a Statute**. However, they did give corporations and educational institutions quite a bit of cover when it came to such policies as they made quite clear that the DOJ, OMB and other Executive elements *would not bring investigations and charges, nor terminate contracts* for violations as those policies were what the Administration wanted *despite them being blatantly illegal under long-standing Statute*.

That has now **all** been ripped up and thrown in the trash *where it belongs*.

Oh by the way, for those who think the H-1b issue doesn’t intersect with this *you’re wrong*. It intersects *bigly* because in point of fact that law *does not permit* advantaging people on the basis of said status **yet firms do it all the time** through various deceptive means including false certifications that they have not laid anyone off. *It is obviously prima-facie evidence that in fact those statutory requirements to not discriminate against Americans were violated when you have an American forced to train an H-1b replacement -- and yet we know that has and does occur on a regular basis.*

Those who sit in board rooms, whether corporate or educational, may need a new pair of underwear right about now.

Please see: <https://market-ticker.org/akcs-www?post=252711>

My grandmother is over eighty and still doesn't need glasses.
Drinks right out of the bottle.

Henny Youngman



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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

Concealed Carry Red Dots: Are They Worth the Hype?

By Scott Winter,
ammoland.com

When I first started carrying concealed, I was a firm believer in iron sights. I ran XS Big Dot sights on my Glock 17 and thought they were the best setup for defensive shooting. They were simple, durable, and didn't rely on batteries or delicate glass. In my mind, red dots were just another overhyped trend, something that added unnecessary bulk and potential failure points to a carry gun.

That changed when I attended the Baseline Pistol Course at Achilles Heel Tactical. I quickly realized that my so-called “Amish gun” (a nickname the instructor gave to pistols without red dots) was putting me at a disadvantage. The shooters with red dots were faster, more accurate, and more confident in their target acquisition.

By the end of the class, I knew I had been wrong. That night, I ordered a Holosun 507C for my Glock 17. Since making the switch, I've come to believe that a red dot on a concealed carry pistol isn't just a cool gadget—it's a force multiplier. It allows for faster, more accurate shooting, especially under stress.

But is it worth the trade-offs? Let's break down the pros and cons of carrying a red dot-equipped pistol to see if it's the right choice for you.

The Case for Red Dots on Concealed Carry Pistols

Many skeptics argue that adding a red dot to a concealed carry pistol makes no sense. They claim the added height, weight, and potential for snagging outweigh the benefits. Others worry about the dreaded “where's my dot?” issue—struggling to find the reticle under stress.

But the reality is that modern carry optics have evolved. Today's red dots are smaller, more durable, and designed specifically for defensive handguns. And the biggest reason to consider one? They align with how we naturally see and process threats in high-stress situations.

When adrenaline kicks in, we focus on the threat, not on aligning tiny iron sights. Red dots allow us to stay target-focused, providing a clear aiming point superimposed over the threat. This leads to faster reaction times and more accurate defensive shots.

My Experience: The Turning Point

During the Achilles Heel Tactical Baseline Pistol Course, I quickly saw the difference. The shooters running red dots were:

- Acquiring their targets faster
- Maintaining better accuracy on follow-up shots
- Shooting with both eyes open, increasing situational awareness

Meanwhile, I was struggling with front sight covering too much of the target and changing my focus between the front sight and the target. By the end of the course, I knew I needed to adapt or be left behind. And once I mounted my Holosun 507C on my Glock, it was a game-changer.

From there, I started training and dry firing with the red dot, learning to present the gun so the dot was instantly visible. And the more I used it, the more I realized: red dots aren't just hype—they're a legitimate advantage.

Advantages of Concealed Carry Red Dots

Red dots aren't just a trendy accessory—they offer real performance benefits for defensive shooting. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or just getting into concealed carry, the advantages of a red dot sight can be game-changing.

Faster Target Acquisition

One of the biggest advantages of a red dot is the speed at which you can acquire your target.

- With iron sights, you have to align the front and rear sights while also focusing on your target. This takes time, especially under stress.
- With a red dot, there's only one focal plane—the dot itself. Simply place the dot on the target, and you're good to go.

This reduces mental processing time and makes it easier to react quickly in a defensive scenario.

My Experience: During the Baseline Pistol Course, I immediately noticed how much faster red dot users were getting their first shot on target. It was a night-and-day difference compared to iron sights, and I knew I needed to make the switch.

Improved Accuracy

Red dots naturally help shooters be more precise, especially at longer distances.

- With iron sights, your accuracy depends on aligning three points: rear sight, front sight, and target. Any misalignment affects your shot placement.
- With a red dot, the aiming point is always in line with your target, allowing for cleaner, more accurate shots.



This is particularly beneficial for low-light shooting, where iron sights can be harder to see.

My Experience: After switching to a Holosun 507C, I noticed my groups tightening at 15+ yards. Even when transitioning between targets or under time pressure, I was landing more consistent hits.

Both Eyes Open Shooting & Situational Awareness

A red dot allows you to shoot with both eyes open, giving you a wider field of view and better situational awareness.

- With iron sights, your focus shifts between the front sight and the target. This can create tunnel vision.
- A red dot lets you stay target-focused, meaning you can see everything happening around you, including multiple threats.

This is a huge advantage in defensive encounters, where situational awareness is just as critical as accuracy.

My Experience: Before switching to a red dot, I sometimes struggled with target transitions during drills. With the red dot, I was able to engage multiple targets faster while keeping my eyes focused on the targets (not the dot).

Works Better for Aging Eyes

Let's face it—iron sights become harder to use as we age. Vision changes can make it difficult to focus on a front sight, especially under stress.

- A red dot removes that problem by providing a clear, illuminated aiming point.
- It's easier to see in bright sunlight and low-light conditions, making it an excellent option for shooters with deteriorating eyesight.

My Experience: While my vision isn't bad, I've noticed that using a red dot reduces eye strain, making it easier to acquire and maintain a clear sight picture in any lighting condition.

Downsides of Concealed Carry Red Dots

While red dots offer significant advantages for concealed carry, they aren't without their drawbacks. It's important to consider

the potential downsides before making the switch.

Cost: A Significant Investment

A quality red dot sight isn't cheap.

- Entry-level red dots start around \$300, while premium models can reach \$700 or more.
- If your pistol isn't optics-ready, you may need to have the slide milled, which can add another \$100–\$200 to the total cost.

Additionally, red dots require mounting plates, screws, and sometimes suppressor-height backup sights—all of which add to the final price tag.

My Experience: When I decided to switch, I opted for a Holosun 507C, which cost around \$300. Luckily, my Glock 17 was optic-ready, but if it hadn't been, I would have needed to send the slide off for milling, adding more cost and downtime.

Red dots are a worthwhile investment, but they're not cheap—especially when factoring in mounting solutions, backup sights, and potential modifications.

Battery Life & Electronic Failure Risks

Unlike iron sights, red dots rely on batteries. While modern optics boast long battery life, they still require regular maintenance.

- Most red dots last 6 months to 3 years on a single battery.
- Some models have shake-awake or solar backup features, but you still need to swap batteries regularly.
- A dead battery at the wrong time means your optic is useless unless you have backup iron sights.

My Experience: I make it a habit to replace my red dot battery every year, even if it's still running. I also keep backup iron sights on my pistol—just in case.

This isn't a dealbreaker, but it does require more upkeep than traditional iron sights.

Concealability Challenges

Adding a red dot increases the overall height of your pistol, which can make concealment more difficult—especially in tight-fitting clothing.

- The taller profile can cause printing, making it harder to carry discreetly.
- Some IWB (inside-the-waist-band) holsters don't accommodate red dots, requiring you to purchase a new holster.

My Experience: I didn't really have issues here, as my existing Tenicor Velo holster was already cut for an optic and does a great job concealing it, even in athletic-fit shirts.



Tenicor Velo IWB holster

The Learning Curve: “Where's My Dot?”

Many new red dot users experience the “Where's my dot?” problem. Unlike iron sights, where your eyes naturally find the front sight, red dots require proper presentation and a target focus to “see the dot.”

My Experience: At first, I had trouble immediately picking up the dot after the draw. I had to retrain my eyes to be target-focused and practice dry fire drills to ensure the dot was instantly visible. As your training progresses, you'll be able to shoot accurately even before you pick up the dot.

This learning curve isn't insurmountable, but it requires time and effort to master.

Final Takeaway

If you're considering a red dot for your concealed carry pistol, here's my advice:

- Start with a quality optic – Brands like Holosun, Trijicon, and Aimpoint offer durable, reliable options.
- Train with it – Expect a learning curve and dedicate time to dry fire practice.
- Have backup sights – Batteries fail. Always have a plan B.
- Choose the right holster – I've been using and can stand behind the Tenicor Velo and Tier 1 Concealed Axis holsters.

At the end of the day, whether or not a concealed carry red dot is right for you depends on your training, needs, and commitment to mastering it. But one thing's for sure—I won't be going back to my “Amish gun” anytime soon.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/01/concealed-carry-red-dots-are-they-worth-the-hype/>

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Glock 43X Handgun: Maximum Concealment and It Shoots

by Tom McHale,
ammoland.com

I shot a Glock, and I liked it. At risk of ripping off the lyrics from a Katy Perry song, it's true.

I have to confess that I'm not normally a Glock guy. I don't have any serious problems with them. If you handed me a Glock, most any Glock, and said this is all you get for the rest of your life to protect yourself, I'd be just fine with that. You can't argue against their reliability and utility. It's just that I don't tend to shoot them as well as some other guns. I think it's a grip angle and shape thing.

With all that said, I've been testing two Glocks, the 43X and 48. We'll cover the 48 in detail in a separate article, so for now, just know that these are sibling pistols. They share the same grip length and magazines; the only thing that varies is barrel length. So, not surprisingly, I liked them both and will be hard-pressed to send them back. Don't tell my wife, but I'll be asking the folks at Glock for the invoice amount before too long. Yeah, me, who's not a "Glock guy."

Glock 43X

Let's take a closer look at the 43X and perhaps I can explain in more detail what I liked about this pistol and its slightly bigger brother.

The Basics

Both the 43X and 48 models are part of the Glock slimline series. These pistols are single-stack designs and the grip height of both allows for 10-round magazine capacity, plus an additional one in the chamber. As you might guess, both pistols share the same magazines. Be aware that these new pistols do use a different magazine from the Glock 43 – they're not interchangeable.

The Glock 43X is designed for everyday carry. The barrel measures 3.41 inches long, making the overall pistol length 6.5 inches. The height is the same as that of the Glock 48, at 5.04 inches, including the magazine baseplate. With an empty magazine, the 43X weighs just 18.7 ounces.

The first thing you'll notice about the Glock 43X, besides its compact and slim size, is the two-tone design. The frame is traditional Glock black polymer, and the slide has a matte silver surface with a nPVD finish. I like the look, and the matte nature of it didn't create any shine or glare.

The Glock 43X has the standard cocking serrations on the rear of the slide and also a slightly shorter pattern of the same upfront. You'll notice that the frame has an aggressive beavertail shape that actually scoops down a bit. You can take an aggressive



high grip and not worry about slide bite. While we're talking about the frame, the rest is standard Glock. The magazine release is on the left but is easily reversible. The grip texture is on all four sides and is of the raised dot variety. If you carry inside the waistband, it's not going to tear up your skin too much like some sandpaper finishes on other pistol makes.

of an inch of steady pressure before the break. The reset required about a quarter of an inch of forward travel and was easy to feel and hear.

The Glock 43X shown here is the standard model with the plastic Glock white dot sights. You can also order this pistol with Glock Night Sights or Ameriglo BOLD sights. As I'll probably buy this sample pistol, one



The Glock 43X shown here is the standard model with the plastic Glock white dot sights. You can also order this pistol with Glock Night Sights or Ameriglo BOLD sights.

The trigger on this 43X measured 6 ¼ pounds when pulled from the vertical center of the trigger face. The face has a slightly rounded profile with vertical serrations and of course, the safety leaf in the center. Given my hand size, I found the natural trigger finger placement on this pistol to be in the first joint crease. Normally I shoot more with the pad of my finger, but the joint placement just felt natural on this pistol and I preferred that rather than forcing a "pad centric" trigger press. To use the pad, I had to draw my trigger finger far enough away from the frame that it negatively impacted my firing hand grip, so I went with that felt right – with good results. The press sensation gives you about a quarter of an inch of weighted take-up followed by about 3/16ths

of the first things I'll do is swap out the sights. I'm thinking of testing out the brand new XS Sights DXT2 Big Dots in the bright orange configuration. Seems like the fast nature of those sights would pair well with this compact carry pistol.

Shooting the GLOCK 43X Handgun

While designed for easy concealed carry, the 43X is a pleasant pistol to shoot. Even though it's a single-stack, the grip is wide enough to provide for a good hold with my size large hands. I measure the grip width as 1.02 inches. As a comparison, the Springfield Armory XD-S sitting here measures about .94 inches. The other thing you'll notice about the grip

is that it's well rounded, at least in comparison to other Glock models. I like that.

I did some warm up shooting by chronographing a variety of ammo types. Since I was testing the longer barreled Glock 48 at the same time, I wanted to see how much velocity difference there was between the two. Here's what I measured for average velocity using a Shooting Chrony Beta Master placed 15 feet down range.

Ammunition	Average Velocity (feet per second)
Federal HST 9mm 124 grain	1,084.0
Sig Sauer V-Crown 9mm 124 grain	1,117.0
Sig Sauer FMJ 9mm 115 grain	1,106.7
DoubleTap Lead Free 9mm 77 grain	1,361.0
Inceptor ARX 9mm 74 grain	1,448.3
American Eagle Syntech 9mm 115 grain	1,104.3
Sig Sauer 365 V-Crown 9mm 115 grain	1,080.3
Hornady American Gunner XTP 9mm 115 grain	1,070.7

You'll notice a couple of big numbers in there from the Doubletap and Inceptor entries. The Inceptor ARX is a defensive round with a number of twists. The projectiles are injection molded from a heated goo of polymer and copper – that's a whole new bullet construction technique. It comes out light-for-caliber, and these 9mm bullets weigh just 74 grains, hence the high-velocity numbers from this compact pistol. The other surprise with the ARX was the accuracy out of this gun. I've shot this ammo out of a wide variety of pistols, and hands down; it performed best from the 43X and 48 Glock barrels. The Doubletap load is a concoction designed by the Godfather of Boom at Doubletap, especially for subcompact pistols. The 77-grain all copper bullets get big velocity and expansion but don't over-penetrate thanks to their lightweight.

To check out the ease of shooting accurately, I did some semi-formal sandbag hold testing from 15 yards – an appropriate distance for a compact carry pistol like this.

Ammunition	Group Size, 5 shots (inches at 15 yards)
Federal HST 9mm 124 grain	1.73
Sig Sauer V-Crown 9mm 124 grain	1.62
Sig Sauer FMJ 9mm 115 grain	1.91
DoubleTap Lead-Free 9mm 77 grain	2.6
Inceptor ARX 9mm 74 grain	1.14
American Eagle Syntech 9mm 115 grain	2.15
Sig Sauer 365 V-Crown 9mm 115 grain	2.37
Hornady American Gunner XTP 9mm 115 grain	0.87

I didn't shoot enough groups to warrant choosing one variety of ammo over another from the above list, I just wanted to see how the pistol performed with a variety and to get an idea of point of impact relative to the sights. Every group was on vertically and favored the left just a hair except the ARX. I'm fairly sure that wasn't me thanks to the solid rest, so I'll probably tweak whatever sights I install just a bit.

All in all, I was impressed with the Glock 43X. Its size, shape, and weight make it a perfect inside-the-waistband everyday carry pistol. The shorter barrel length on this one will be especially appreciated by appendix carriers. It's a good combination of big enough to control and shoot comfortably yet small enough to pack easily.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/01/glock-43x-maximum-concealment-and-it-shoots-review/>



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DAY-ONE EXEC ORDERS
from page 19

Trump’s executive order “**Re-evaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid**” pauses foreign aid for 90 days. “The United States foreign aid industry and bureaucracy are not aligned with American interests and in many cases antithetical to American values. They serve to destabilize world peace by promoting ideas in foreign countries that are directly inverse to harmonious and stable relations internal to and among countries,” says the order in an apparent nod to the Biden-Harris administration’s bountiful aid to Ukraine in its military struggle against Russia.

Trump’s executive order “**America First Policy Directive to the Secretary of State**” states curtly, “From this day forward, the foreign policy of the United States shall champion core American interests and always put America and American citizens first.”

The memo “**Putting People over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California**” orders the secretaries of the interior and commerce “to route more water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to other parts of the state for use by the people there who desperately need a reliable water supply. ... The recent deadly and historically destructive wildfires in Southern California underscore why the State of California needs a reliable water supply.”

Reigning in the Regulatory State

Trump’s executive order “**Regulatory Freeze Pending Review**” orders government agencies to suspend issuing any further regulations until approved by the Trump administration and to withdraw any regulations that have been submitted but not yet published in the Federal Register. Trump also required federal workers to return to in-person work.

Trump also signed an executive order “**Establishing and Implementing the President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency,’**” or DOGE.

Trump’s executive order “**Restoring**

Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions within the Federal Workforce” reinstates the designation of “Schedule F” to exempted federal employees, making it easier to fire them. The order — which President Trump implemented in late 2020 but which the Biden-Harris administration reversed upon taking office — could apply to as many as 50,000 federal bureaucrats. A recent poll from the Napolitan Institute found 64% of federal workers who voted for Kamala Harris would “ignore” the lawful orders and policies of President Trump and “do what they thought was best” instead. The executive order aims to assure the federal bureaucracy responds to the policies supported by the American people. A related memo “**Restoring Accountability for Career Senior Executives**” empowers greater oversight and rigorous evaluations of career Senior Executive Service (SES) officials.

The president’s “**Memorandum to Resolve the Backlog of Security Clearances for Executive Office of the President Personnel**” immediately grants a six-month, temporary Top Secret clearance to officials caught in the Biden administration’s clearance backlog.

Lowering Prices and Supercharging U.S. Energy Independence

Trump’s outline on “**Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis**” orders a whole-of-government response to address the cost of living crisis. The Assistant to the President for Economic Policy will report to President Trump every 30 days on what the Cabinet has done to “lower the cost of housing and expand housing supply; eliminate unnecessary administrative expenses and rent-seeking practices that increase healthcare costs; eliminate counter-productive requirements that raise the costs of home appliances; create employment opportunities for American workers, including drawing discouraged workers into the labor force; and eliminate harmful, coercive ‘climate’ policies that increase the costs of food and fuel.”

The executive order “**Declaring a National Energy Emergency**” asks all department heads to “facilitate the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, and generation of domestic energy resources” nationwide. It would expedite the completion of infrastructure, facilitate oil pipelines across the country, and allow the sale of E-15 gasoline year-round.

Trump’s executive order “**Unleashing American Energy**” states the Biden administration’s “burdensome and ideologically motivated regulations” have “limited the generation of reliable and affordable electricity, reduced job creation, and inflicted high energy costs upon our citizens.” The order encourages the exploration of abundant energy sources, including drilling on the U.S. continental shelf; eliminates the Biden administration’s electric vehicle mandate that half of all new U.S. vehicles must be EV by 2030 and urges them to consider rescinding EV subsidies; and safeguard Americans’ ability to purchase such goods as gas stoves,

incandescent lightbulbs, and gasoline vehicles. Within 30 days, federal agencies will begin to “suspend, revise, or rescind all agency actions identified as unduly burdensome” under the EO.

An executive order “**Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential**” encourages energy exploration on Alaskan state and federal lands, allows the building of a pipeline to transport energy, and aims to “prioritize the development of Alaska’s liquified natural gas (LNG) potential, including the sale and transportation of Alaskan LNG to other regions of the United States and allied nations within the Pacific region.”

A related memo on the “**Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects**” bans additional windmills from the continental shelf.

Trump’s “**Application of Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act to TikTok**” paused the ban on TikTok for 75 days. Trump has floated the possibility of a “joint venture,” for an American company to own at least 50% of the company. “There’s no legal basis for any kind of ‘extension’ of its effective date,” noted Senators Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.) in a joint statement.

President Trump’s memo on his vision for an “**America First Trade Policy**” asks the Secretary of the Treasury to consider establishing an External Revenue Service (ERS) “to collect tariffs, duties, and other foreign trade-related revenues.” Federal officials will also seek to identify unfair trade practices, currency manipulation, and the adverse impact foreign trade policies impose on American workers and farmers.

Additional Day One Executive Orders

President Trump’s executive order “**Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness**” would restore the name of Mount McKinley and change the Gulf of Mexico to the “Gulf of America.”

In a nod to President Trump’s background in construction, his EO “**Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture**” seeks to restore beauty in place of brutalist architecture when designing federal buildings.

Trump’s order “**Granting Pardons and Commutation of Sentences for Certain Offenses Relating to the Events at Or Near the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021**” pardoned some 1,500 January 6 protesters and commuted the sentences of 14.

As of this writing, he had not yet pardoned peaceful pro-life advocates prosecuted by a weaponized Justice Department during the Biden-Harris administration. Pro-life advocates expect the pardon to be forthcoming soon.

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

I said to my wife, 'Where do you want to go for our anniversary?' She said, 'I want to go somewhere I've never been before.' I said, 'Try the kitchen.'

Henny Youngman

Libs Want Socialized Medicine? 15,474 Canadians Died Waiting for Healthcare in 2023-24

by SecondStreet.Org,
—January 15, 2025

SecondStreet.org released government data showing an additional 15,474 patients in Canada died in 2023-24 before receiving various surgeries or diagnostic scans. However, that number is incomplete, as several governments provide either partial data, or simply do not track the problem.

SecondStreet.org collected the data by filing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests across Canada. When the data collected is extrapolated across jurisdictions which did not provide data, the number actually nearly doubles, to around 28,077. These figures cover everything from cancer treatment and heart operations to cataract surgery and MRI scans.

“Canadians pay really high taxes and yet our health care system is failing when compared to better-performing universal systems in Europe,” said Harrison Fleming, Legislative and Policy Director at SecondStreet.org. “Thousands of Canadians across the country find themselves on waitlists — in some cases for several years — with too many tragically dying before ever getting treated or even diagnosed.”

This report examines the data SecondStreet.org gathered from provincial governments and their health authorities, between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. Highlights from the research include:

- At least 15,474 patients died in Canada while waiting for surgeries or diagnostic scans. This figure does not include Quebec, Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador and most of Manitoba. Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia only provided data on patients who died while waiting for surgeries – not diagnostic scans.

- If one extrapolates the data provided across provinces and health regions that did not provide data, an estimated 28,077 patients died last year on health care waiting lists.

- While some response data is vague, SecondStreet.org observed cases where patients died after waiting anywhere from less than a week for treatment to more than 14 years.

- New data from Ontario Health suggests 378 patients died while waiting for cardiac surgery or a cardiac procedure.

- Since April 2018, SecondStreet.org has identified a staggering 74,677 cases where Canadians died while waiting for care.

“When a restaurant fails a health inspection, the government shares the news publicly and sometimes notices are posted in the establishment’s windows for everyone to see,” said Colin Craig, SecondStreet.org President. “But, when nearly 75,000 Canadians have died before getting the care they needed, governments don’t proactively disclose anything. Maybe it’s time for governments to hold themselves to the same standard they hold everyone else.”

“This research was inspired by stories like Laura Hillier’s, the 18-year-old Ontario patient that died on a waiting list for cancer treatment,” added Craig. “Governments need to do a better job tracking tragic stories like hers, notifying the public about waiting lists deaths and most importantly, initiating reform to save lives.”

Please see: <https://secondstreet.org/2025/01/15/15474-canadians-died-waiting-for-health-care-in-2023-24/>

DEPORTATION RAIDS from page 16

at those two locations and said ICE was involved.

The operation is the third by federal agents since President Donald Trump’s inauguration. ICE has conducted operations in cities including Chicago and New York, targeting the arrests of immigrants without proper documentation.

Last week, the agency temporarily called off the Aurora operation due to media leaks, according to NBC News. A source told NBC that the leaks posed an operational security risk for officers.

The raids were expected to be carried out by ICE; U.S. Marshals; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; FBI and other federal agencies, NBC reported.

Last week, the City of Aurora released a statement saying the city and the

Aurora Police Department were aware of media reports about federal immigration enforcement plans.”

President Trump’s campaign pledge to arrest violent, illegal alien gang members in Aurora, following multiple incidents of apartment complex takeovers last year, is finally materializing.

The more significant threat was revealed in a leaked US Army North Division memo by investigative reporter James O’Keefe in September, stating there are thousands of heavily armed Venezuelan gang members in the US that came through the Biden-Harris regime’s open southern borders.

(Editor/GG: Somebody said they saw an ICE/DHS plane flying low over the Valley (including Westcliffe/Silvercliff) yesterday. And what are those big, black Suburbans doing zooming down Main Street?)

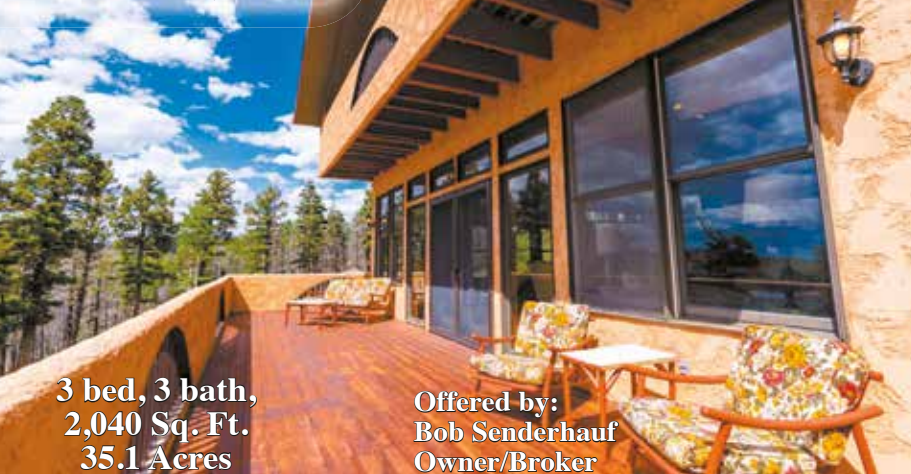
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CUSTER DEPUTIES BUST from page 1

to see if they would come and help identify the four illegals. Our local ICE responded that they would be sending somebody. At this point, there were three Custer County Deputies (Santiago, Dunbaugh and Evan Johnson) on the scene plus two State Patrol Officers in separate vehicles.

FRECOM also called Baltzly Towing to retrieve the Ford box van and move it to Custer County’s Impound lot.

After about 45 minutes, ICE showed up. Not one, not two, not three, but FOUR SUV’s come rolling in and four ICE agents exit. (Quite the entrance by ICE.) At 2:45 p.m. all four illegals were taken into custody by ICE. At the same time, Baltzly Towing showed up and loaded up the van to transport to our impound lot.

We asked Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith if he would give us a few minutes of his time to get some details about this event and he was gracious in doing so. We asked Sheriff Smith about the ICE response, and he gave an interesting answer. Sheriff Smith was a Colorado State Patrol Officer for over 20 years. He said that he, and others, had often called ICE on illegals stops and they never responded or showed up. Sheriff Smith said he was very happy about the response this time and commented that if the stop had occurred a month ago (before Trump became President and unchained ICE), they probably would not have come.

Sheriff Smith said the Sheriff’s Office’s trained

K-9 detected narcotics at the rear of the van but none were found.

The Sinister Twist

Sheriff Smith then said something that was a bit alarming. He noted that the registered owner of the van is a citizen of the country Yemen! And that he was recently deported! (Yemen is a bad, bad place with very bad people. Terrorism, drug running, sex trafficking, etc. One of the worst places in the world.)

Folks, we had four Mexican illegals, at least one a violent offender, driving a box van owned by a deported Yemen national. Not a good combination. Right here in Happy Valley. Thank goodness Trump is President and is letting our national law enforcement agencies do their job.

We want to thank our Custer County Deputies on the scene for their outstanding, professional work during the stop and the investigation. FRECOM also did excellent. The FRECOM lady handling the incident was top notch. (*The Sentinel* folks listened in on our scanner for most of the incident.)

Good work Custer County Deputies. Thanks and God Bless.



Ford box van in impound.

Photos by George Gramlich



TOP: Detained suspect, Felipe Dejesus Cruz-Soltero
CCSO Deputy Bodycam still. Courtesy of CCSO

