

With a Lawsuit on Pause for Now, Colorado Sheriff Says He’s Clear to Work on Immigration

by Allison Sherry,
2025 Colorado Public Radio
—February 10, 2025

An agreement for Teller County Sheriff’s deputies to serve as designated immigration officers was upheld by a state judge and the Sheriff says he is training several other agencies to participate.

Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell has been in a long war with the ACLU of Colorado since the early days of the first Trump administration over his decision to help U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement do its work.

Back in the 2010s, Mikesell was holding inmates for longer than

their sentences, or after they had posted a cash bond, at ICE’s request. He was contracting with the federal government to hold ICE inmates at his jail. And some of his deputies were sworn federal officers and could conduct duties for both jobs — though not at the same time.

The ACLU sued him and the case went all the way to the state Court of Appeals, which narrowly ruled that local law enforcement cannot hold people for longer than their sentences at ICE’s request. But the court also stipulated that Mikesell and the county can continue work at the federal government’s request in the so-called “287g” program.

That means Mikesell can have deputies who also work as federal “designated immigration officers.”

“They thought that I was a small sheriff’s office and they could pick on us,” Mikesell said. “Sheriff’s offices and police departments need not fear these people and yes, does it cost money to defend? But really you’re defending clear cut laws in Colorado to do things. After seven years, I’m still standing.”

Given the long fight between the ACLU and Teller is at a pause for now, some bigger sheriff’s offices have announced plans to adopt the 287g program — though officials say it’s unclear whether there

will be any ramifications for the state’s criminal justice system.

The El Paso County Sheriff recently announced they, too, will notify ICE when an individual is scheduled for release, which should give federal immigration officials time to get to the jail and take an inmate into custody if they want to. In a press conference, El Paso County Sheriff Joe Roybal said they will hold people “for no longer than six hours” after their scheduled release, which they say complies with state laws.

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Illegal Mexican Alien Arrested in Buena Vista Had Four Warrants for Raping Juveniles

Press Release from the Chaffee County Sheriff’s Office

February 10, 2025 via Facebook

Chaffee County Sheriff’s Office



On Friday, February 07, 2025, the Chaffee County Sheriff’s Office received a call from the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) concerning a Mexico resident that was potentially in our community who was wanted for multiple felony warrants out of Oklahoma. The warrants were for four counts of raping juveniles. The male party, Juan Jose Avila Hernandez, age 23 of Mexico, was believed to be working somewhere in the Chaffee County area.

Following tips provided by ICE, Chaffee County Sheriff’s Office Deputies were able to successfully locate Hernandez, the same day, in Buena Vista, CO, and he was arrested without incident. Hernandez was transported to the Chaffee County Detention Facility, booked into

jail on the warrant and then released the same day to ICE.

“Our deputies did a great job locating Hernandez so quickly and assuring he could not harm anyone in our community. Hernandez was listed as a sexually violent predator. As stated before, we will assist ICE when they are searching for undocumented immigrants that are wanted for violations of law other than just their legal status of being in the United States.”

-Sheriff Andy Rohrich

Mexican-Style Bullfights Did Happen in Colorado, But That Was 130 Years Ago



Photo from the Denver Public Library

by Elaine Tassy,
Colorado Public Radio

Colorado is known for many things — scenic mountains, evergreens, the outdoors.

Being the home of one of the country’s only Mexican-style bullfights isn’t one of them.

But, it once was. Rumors that one of CPR’s listeners heard are true: a bullfight in Teller County actually happened. It drew a crowd of thousands five years before the turn of the 20th century and resulted in at least one slain bull — a little-known nugget of mile-high lore.

Lisa McKenzie, a professor of environmental epidemiology at

Colorado School of Public Health who lives in the Central Park neighborhood of Denver, brought this topic to CPR’s attention. She said in an email: “I am curious to know more about the ghost town of Gillett, Colorado. When I was a child and my family drove by Gillett, Colorado, my mother would say that the only bullfight in the U.S. took place in Gillett. I am wondering how much of the story is true vs myth.”

In a later conversation, she elaborated, explaining that her parents would plan family trips for her and

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Jesus:
“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
John 15:12 ESV”

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of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

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

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How Colorado Got An In God We Trust License Plate

by John Priecko,
Complete Colorado Page Two

This effort started in July 2019 with a visit to Colorado's Division of Motor Vehicle Department in Lone Tree. I was looking for an In God We Trust license plate like we had in Virginia. To my dismay, no such plate existed out of the 200+ license plates Colorado offers. I remember thinking, someone should do something about that.

Two years later, I attended a leadership workshop in Denver. There, I connected with a member of then Representative Mark Baisley's staff who passed on my vision to now Senator Baisley (R) who quickly decided this was an initiative well worth the time and work to pursue. So, the lengthy and at times challenging attempts to gain legislative approval for a Colorado "In God We Trust" license plate began.

Senator Baisley tried in 2022 with House Bill 1048. That bill was approved by the House Finance Committee, but died in the House Appropriations Committee, where the Chairperson adamantly and publicly opposed the bill. She outwardly did not approve of the notion of God, or anyone, or any organization having anything to do with God.



Colorado's new In God We Trust license plate.

In January 2023, Senator Baisley tried again, introducing Senate Bill 025, creating an "In God We Trust" Special License Plate. The bill quickly passed the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee and Finance Committee; and once again stopped in an Appropriations Committee, this time in the Senate. It languished there for 2 months.

However, thanks to individually addressed "personal for" correspondence on behalf of the bill to every one of the 35 state senators and the sustained efforts of Senator Baisley the bill was finally approved by the Appropriations Committee. It then passed the Senate floor vote and moved to the House of Representatives with just over a month to go in the 120-day 2023 legislative session. The crunch was on.

The bill was quickly approved by the House Finance Committee and moved to the Appropriations Committee. There, thanks to Representative Shannon Bird (D), the bill's sponsor in the House, it passed in four days. It then moved to a House floor vote and passed on May 2, just two days before the 2023 Legislative Session ended. A great deal had to happen quickly for SB-025 to get through the House. Thankfully it did.

In the end, there was a total of 143 votes tallied for SB-025. Seventy-three percent of those were in favor of it. Overall, 61 Democrats voted for the Bill and 32 against. Forty-four Republicans voted for the Bill and 1 Against. There were 6 excused Legislators, 4 Democrats and 2 Republicans. The bottom line is the result was

bipartisan. The reality is it would not have passed without the much-appreciated significant support from Democrats.

As a show of Colorado resident support, we created an online petition for the bill. We sought 3,500 signatures. We thought that would be a simple task. It wasn't. Surprisingly churches, Christian groups and other religious organizations were consistently unwilling to support SB-025 or even spread the word about it.

We sent 18 "personal for" letters individually addressed to Senior Pastors at churches in Greeley, in and around Denver, in Castle Rock, and Colorado Springs. Sadly, not one responded. So, from day one, this has been a very grassroots adventure.

This license plate, now one of 25 in the country, is the only one with the In God We Trust trademarked branding centered on it. The plate honors our National Motto as approved by a bipartisan vote of the United States Congress in 1956. The four words are echoed on our paper money, coinage, and in, and on buildings across America.

CO LICENCE PLATE
see page 5

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Obituary

Joan Marie Kelly Barnett

If it's true that everyone leaves behind a legacy, then Joan Marie Kelly Barnett's legacy is Love.

Born May 16, 1938, in Miller's Crossing, Newfoundland, Canada, Joan passed away peacefully on February 6, 2025, in Cotopaxi, Colorado. In her final days, she was surrounded by loving family members and caregivers, all of whom adored her.

Joan's deep faith was unshakeable, and her love of Jesus was always front and center. Her caring and caregiving nature meant she cherished people, especially those with special needs, whom she worked with for many years. Music brought Joan great joy, and Leonard Cohen's voice often filled her home. She saw the beauty in every-thing, particularly the natural world, and she relished camping, hiking, and being outdoors. She could

out-hike younger people well into her 70s and always enjoyed pointing out various plants and flowers like the lupines she loved.

Joan never met a stranger—only friends she hadn't gotten to know yet. "Love," "My Love," and "Me Love" rolled off her tongue often and never failed to make the recipient feel like they were just a little bit extra special—even though everyone was special to her. She loved sharing stories about growing up in Newfoundland and her lifetime of travels around the globe, and she never failed to make people smile and laugh with her funny anecdotes and her charming "Newfie" accent. She was a wonderful cook and her fried bread was legendary.

Joan is survived by her devoted husband, David Barnett; her four sons: Rick, Ken, Glenn, and



Paul Kreibich; her two sisters: Pauline (Kelly) Hines and Mary (Kelly) Rootes; two brothers, Emile and Kevin Kelly; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, as well as spouses and friends.

Joan was truly one of a kind—a bright light and a sweet and funny soul—and her absence is deeply felt. Rest in peace, Me Love.

A service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church in Westcliffe, Colorado.

Kirkpatrick Bank Names Mike Steppenbacker To Lead Colorado

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado
—January 28, 2025

Kirkpatrick Bank names Mike Steppenbacker as Colorado Market President and Head of Colorado Lending. He brings over twenty four years of experience to the role.

"We are extremely excited to have Mike join our team," said Trent Stafford, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer for Kirkpatrick Bank.

Most recently, Mike served as Director/VP of Corporate Banking at Ent Credit Union, specializing in commercial lending and

business banking operations. Before joining Ent Credit Union, Mike held the position of Vice President of Business Banking at ANB Bank from 2005 to 2010. His foundational experience includes serving as a Bank Examiner for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Cleveland, Ohio, where he developed a deep understanding of regulatory compliance and banking oversight.

Mike holds an MBA from Colorado State University and a Bachelor of Science in Financial Management from Grove City College.

Mike has been married to his wife, Linda, for nearly



two decades. Together, they are proud parents to three children, ages fifteen, thirteen, and eleven. Mike remains actively engaged in the community, serving as a youth basketball coach for seventh-grade club teams and strongly involved in his local church congregation.

Liberty Rocks - 2025

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Local Mountain News & Notices

New Day Dawns for Custer's GOP A New Leader, A New Board

by Fred Hernandez

At 4:10 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2025 Jack Canterbury, Chairman of the Custer County Republican Committee called the gathering to order at the Ranchers Roost at the end of Main Street in Westcliffe, Colorado. Acting Secretary Joanie Wilcox officially registered the attendance of all members and guests present at the meeting. Among the party stalwarts attending were County Sheriff Rich Smith, Ann Barthrop, Dawn Ramsdell, Coroner Brad Baltzly and Assistant Coroner Nikita Phillips, BOCC Chair Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Paul Vogel song. Promptly on to the important business at hand, the By-Laws were read and reviewed for the benefit of all. With that, the voting process began. There are 14 voting members.

Harald Frank nominated the current Chair Jack Canterbury to be Chair again. The nomination was seconded by Jim McMahon, Nadine Petersen, Steve Rorick and Joy Anderson. The nominee, Jack Canterbury declined the nomination. Commissioner Canda then nominated Col. Andrew Zeller (Ret), The nomination was accepted.

Sheriff Smith then nominated Joy Anderson for Chair. It was seconded by Jim McMahon, Jack and Jean Canterbury, Kim Heath, Elizabeth Robinson, Linda Pollack. Ms. Anderson accepted the nomination.

RESULTS: Eleven votes (11) for Col. Andrew Zeller. Three (3) for Joy Anderson

Sheriff Smith nominated Ann Barthrop for Vice Chair. Seconded by Lisa Kidwell, Linda Pollack, Chuck Steigerwalt. Ms. Barthrop accepts nomination. Smith also nominated Joy Anderson for Vice Chair seconded by Kim Heath, Nadine Petersen, Mark Graner, Jack Canterbury. Ms. Anderson accepts nomination. Voting takes place.

RESULTS: Twelve votes (12) for Ann Barthrop. Two (2) for Joy Anderson

The voting then turned to Secretary and Treasurer positions for which Joanie Wilcox and Nancy Drummond respectively were nominated with no opposition. Both were voted in by thirteen (13) Ayes and (1) Nay

Presenting; the new Board of Custer County Republican Central Committee:

Col.(ret) Andrew Zeller, Chairman; Ms. Ann Barthrop, Vice Chair, Secretary Joanie Wilcox and Treasurer Nancy Drummond. A hearty Congratulations to the new Board of The Custer County GOP. We look forward to a board that will uphold the values inherent in the core principles of the party founded on Judeo-Christian principles, the rule of law and the Constitution of the United States of America. It is a new day in Custer County. God bless the County!

Obituary Cosme Daniel "Danny" Hernandez

Cosme Daniel "Danny" Hernandez left us February 8, 2025. Danny was born in Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba, in 1927, and from a very young age learned to be resourceful and quite the entrepreneur. His careers in Cuba included serving as a police officer, the Cuban Navy/Coast Guardsman which they call a Marine and he worked at an American electric company. It was the day he was handed a communist newspaper and told this is what he now was to read that he tore it into two pieces and knew it was time to go to the United States. Unfortunately, his family stayed behind in Cuba. He landed in New Jersey and once again his entrepreneurial spirit prevailed working multiple

jobs, one of which was selling quality women's dresses and jewelry. This would be his most important job as he met the love of his life when he sold several dresses to Hildalisa Chavez. Quite smitten, she said to him she could not pay him in full but that he must come back weekly for payments. They were married August 30, 1963. Shortly after they married, they moved to Miami where they created their beautiful life together. Throughout their 62 years together, they traveled the world, visiting France, Italy, Spain, Argentina and Austria, to name a few. He was a successful business owner, always considering



his family, supporting where he could. He was generous to a fault. Never denied any financial requests. A true living angel. He even went back to Cuba decades later to visit his sisters and was able to build them a home with indoor plumbing. One of his proudest moments in life. Danny and Lisa were sweethearts to the end, always loving with each other, always holding hands, a true love story.

He will be missed dearly by all. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Hildelisa C. Hernandez, sister-in-law, Esther (Rodolfo, deceased) Barrio, niece Barbara (Ron) Beckner, and many many nieces and nephews and even more dear friends.

Memorial services to be held at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, 109 South Fifth Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252, February 20, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Rosary at 9:20 a.m.



No Charges to be Filed in the City of Florence Case

The 11th District Attorney's Office gave out a time line for the investigation into the City of Florence, Colorado, by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) :

The Office of the District Attorney (DA) for the 11th Judicial District has finished reviewing the case report submitted by CBI. Before announcing the results of the review, it is important to understand some basic background information. The dates are approximate unless otherwise specified.

March 30, 2022; Then DA Linda Stanley requests CBI conduct an investigation into possible criminal allegations that occurred in Florence, Colorado, involving the City Government. Note, the investigation did not pertain to allegations made against City Manager Mike Patterson 2021CR528 (handled by special prosecutor from the 4th Judicial District). Further, any allegations involving Mr. Patterson uncovered during this investigation were referred to the 4th Judicial District.

August 5, 2022; Investigation completed,

and case submitted by CBI to the 11th Judicial District (Linda Stanley DA).

November 1, 2024; Upon disbarment of DA Linda Stanelly, Jeff Lindsey was appointed to take over duties as the District Attorney for the 11th Judicial District

December 2024; DA Lindsey and ADA Turner met with CBI Agents in Pueblo to discuss [the] Florence Investigation. CBI Agents had previously provided the case file to Stanley. DA Lindsey requested a new copy of the case file to review.

January 2025; DA Lindsey (officially sworn in on January 14, 2025), in consultation with ADA Stacey Turner and Chief Investigator Paul Martinez reviewed the case file. Based on the investigation and this office's review the DA's Office and CBI submitted no charges would be filed.

February 3, 2025; The long-awaited review of the case is complete, and the case is considered closed from the perspective of the District Attorney's Office. No charges will be filed.



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Colorado High Court Has Chance to Send Boulder's Climate Lawfare Packing

by Amy Oliver Cooke,
Complete Colorado Page Two

In 2018, the City and County of Boulder, along with San Miguel County, sued two energy companies seeking to recover costs associated with global warming. Seven years later, this laughably frivolous suit has made little forward progression. However, similar cases around the country have been dismissed in recent months, as judges reject plaintiffs' attempts to force their hand and turn state courts into climate policymakers.

Eyes are now on Colorado. Last summer, the state's high court agreed to review a trial court decision denying the defendants' motions to dismiss the case. On February 11th, the Colorado Supreme Court will hear arguments on whether Boulder's climate lawsuit can proceed under state law, a pivotal moment that should bring an end to this misguided example of ideological lawfare being waged in our state.

Wolf in sheep's clothing

This litigation has rightly been called out as a wolf in sheep's clothing. Behind the plaintiffs' claims of "accountability" are

ideological attempts to demonize an essential industry and drive policy through the courts. In the words of the Maryland judge who dismissed Baltimore's lawsuit, "The explanation by Baltimore that it only seeks to address and hold Defendants accountable for a deceptive misinformation campaign is simply a way to get in the back door what they cannot get in the front door."

In plain terms, Boulder's lawsuit and others like it aren't about remediating climate change. By Boulder's own admission, it's about using the judiciary to drive up energy prices and force behavioral change. Boulder's outside counsel admitted as much in 2020, stating the lawsuit aims to pass legal costs onto companies and, by extension, consumers. The Boulder City Council also called the lawsuit a way to drive "fundamental systems change" towards a preferred climate policy.

Follow the money

What should concern Coloradans is that out-of-state interests and wealthy benefactors have driven this lawfare from the start. Boulder's outside legal team and communications experts, led by DC-based EarthRights

International, receive millions of dollars of funding from a who's who of well-heeled donors, including the likes of far left billionaire George Soros and the Rockefellers. The case also has been supported by the plaintiff-recruiting organization Center for Climate Integrity, which is funded both by the Rockefellers and the anti-energy British billionaire Chris Hohn.

The Niskanen Center, another think tank tied to the Rockefellers, no longer provides legal support for the case. Instead, Niskanen's former chief counsel, David Bookbinder, represents Boulder County through his own law firm.

The level of outside support for Boulder's case extends well beyond donors and activist groups picking up the tab for lawyers.

Boulder paid a research firm tied to the Rockefellers to produce a study to justify the lawsuit's filing. The firm, Resilient Analytics, crafted a supposedly independent study on the financial impacts of climate change that was heavily cited throughout Boulder's complaint. Today, Resilient Analytics frequently partners with the Center for Climate

Integrity to recreate the Boulder model: develop and publish "climate costs" reports that are then later used as pitch materials for potential climate plaintiffs.

Pushing energy costs higher

At a time when energy affordability is already a pressing concern for Colorado residents, the Colorado Supreme Court should shut down this meritless litigation. Thanks to Governor Polis and the state legislature's renewable energy mandates, electricity bills have climbed sharply in recent years and will likely increase well into the future.

A recent report from the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) revealed that the state's plan to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2040 is far from cost-effective. Wind, solar, and battery storage alone are projected to cost \$61 billion – and that doesn't include the transmission infrastructure up-grades that utilities like Xcel Energy are planning. Xcel alone is set to spend \$45 billion in new generation transmission and other projects over the next five years, with 63% of the total funding allocated to transmission and distribution upgrades.

Colorado Public Utilities Commission Chairman Eric Blank called these costs "mind-boggling," and rightly so. While Gov. Polis initially pitched his plan as market-driven and cost-effective, it has evolved into a heavy-handed, top-down approach riddled with government intervention, subsidies and mandates.

The reality is clear: Coloradans are bearing the brunt of skyrocketing electricity rates and Boulder's frivolous lawsuit only adds insult to injury. Colorado voters have demonstrated they're looking for pragmatic solutions to energy challenges, not ideological experiments that raise costs and jeopardize reliability. The Colorado Supreme Court should do as other courts in New York, Maryland, and Delaware have done and send Boulder's suit packing.

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

Please see: <https://complete-colorado.com/2025/02/09/colorado-high-court-climate-lawfare-case/>

CO LICENSE PLATE from page 2

We see this as much more than a 6" x 12" piece of metal with an inscription on it. There is no doubt, it's an outreach and ministry tool that can and will make a difference. Simply put, it matters. Since we started this, I find myself checking out license plates. Where are they from? What do they say? Does the cause mean anything to me?

Perhaps, if you aren't already doing the same thing, you will now.

Senator Baisley asked for a bill signing ceremony with Governor Polis. That did not happen; but SB-025 was signed into Law by Polis on June 2nd. For some, it's a small meaningless win; but, for others a very significant victory.

So now, separate steps are ongoing involving the Colorado Department of Revenue, Department of Corrections, and the TAG

Colorado Correctional Industries Plant in Cañon City within the Colorado Territorial Correction Facility. It's another process that will result in this plate being available beginning in January 2024. Colorado residents will then have a new and unique license plate to own and display.

Lessons Learned

On a personal note, for me and others, this has been a frustrating, interesting and rewarding undertaking. Here are

three takeaways.

- Actions based on faith and prayer are a winning combination.
- One person with a passion energizes others to do likewise.
- Never giving up in the pursuit of a worthy cause pays dividends.

Notes: To purchase this plate, along with resident's regular taxes and plate registration fee,

there will be an additional one-time issuance fee of \$25. Residents may request and pay a required additional fee to personalize the plate.

John Priecko, a retired United States Air Force Colonel, is the In God We Trust Special License Plate Program Director.

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2023/07/03/priecko-how-colorado-got-an-in-god-we-trust-license-plate/>



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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, February 17

CLOSED

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Tuesday, February 18

#81 Sloppy Joe on a Bun

Scalloped Potatoes
Broccoli & Carrots
Apple

Thursday, February 20

#31 White Bean Chicken Chili

Spinach Salad w/Lite Italian
Apple
Cornbread w/Butter
Orange Juice

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.facebook.com/custergop>

3rd Thursday of the Month
2 p.m. Round Mt Water District Meeting.

Fridays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com

1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center

6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion. St.
Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853

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

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

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

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



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



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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



Devil’s Advocate with Jon Caldara: Millions Are Eligible for Immediate Deportation

by Complete Colorado Staff, CompleteColorado.com

—February 10,2025

During a recent interview on Independence Institute’s* public affairs tv show “Devil’s Advocate with Jon Caldara,” former Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) field office director John Fabbriatore says 1.7 million illegal immigrants have been through their due legal proceedings and can be deported upon apprehension. Beyond that, he continued, there are another 400,000 who are convicted felons, thus eligible for immediate deportation. Here is an edited transcript of the exchange:

Fabbriatore: You don’t say we’re going after this person who’s done nothing. We don’t really have the jail space to do that. There’s very limited detention space right now. There’s about 37,000 beds nationwide. There’s really not enough beds to be able to put all the criminal aliens that we actually have.

Caldara: So, there’s less than 40,000 beds, and we want to deport like 11 million immigrants that have flooded in over the last four years. I see a little bit of a math issue.

Fabbriatore: Under Trump there was 52,000 beds. Those got cut down under the Biden administration, and President Trump wants to bump those numbers up, maybe to 70,000. So if you had 70,000 beds, and you had a pretty good process, especially when you’re dealing with the “final

order” illegal aliens, because they’ve already seen an immigration judge, their deportation process would be faster because they don’t have to go through the court system, which is going to take a long time and keep them in that bed.

So, if you go after criminal aliens, especially those who committed felonies, they don’t get to see an immigration judge. And if you’re going after those who have already seen an immigration judge and have been adjudicated to be removed, that’s a faster process.

Caldara: How many of them are there? Would you just guess?

Fabbriatore: There’s 1.7 million that have been adjudicated by an immigration judge that are on the non-detained docket right now. There are also about 600,000 cases on the non-detained docket that we know of that are convicted of crimes or been charged with crimes that are removable.

Caldara: Let me see if I got this right, 1.7 million who need to go, who have had all the due process that any illegal immigrant advocate could ask for, and it’s time for them to leave. 1.7 million?

Fabbriatore: Yes. 1.7 million.

Caldara:Now, the 600,000 that have been convicted or charged with serious crimes, there’s a real difference there for me, what how many are convicted versus how many charged?

Fabbriatore: About 400,000 have

convictions, 200,000 still have charges on them. But remember, there’s always an underlying charge with immigration. You entered the country illegally, you can be removed for that. The other crimes that are on top of that could also make you removable for a longer period of time. So, if you’ve never been convicted of a crime, and you come into the US illegally, it’s about a five-year bar when you start to add criminal convictions on to the top of that. That bar goes out a lot further – 20 years to never, you can never come back.

So, you know, when we look at that, we want to target those criminal aliens first, because that’s protecting the community the best. But if we come across people who are here illegally, that entered the country illegally while we’re making that arrest of a criminal alien, we may arrest them as well.

Caldara: Wow. It just blows my mind that 2.1 million are ready to be deported now, without any more paperwork, without anything. And they’re still here.

You can view the entire interview below, or watch it here:

<https://youtu.be/hQ0odxrHR-nU?si=3tkgYdrTZ8qcn4Gt>

*Independence Institute is publisher of Complete Colorado.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/02/10/former-ice-agent-millions-eligible-immediate-deportation/>

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589 Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study 0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526 Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511 Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS 410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe Pastor Josh Olsteen 719/783-2498 High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045 Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053 Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study 3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561 Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m. 830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass 109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507 Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491 Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave. , Florence 719/784-1184 St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays 3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477 St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500 Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey 719/746-2037	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church Pastor: Mike Shields 10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecrisocowboychurch.com also on Facebook 60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372 Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903 Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822 Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572 Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230 Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596
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Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Happy Valentines Day!





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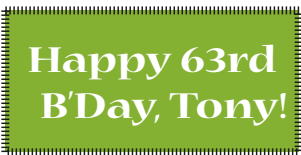
Desired qualifications include demonstrated problem-solving ability, positive experience in dealing with the public, management and supervisory experience, preferably in a similar position, knowledge of the 2006 ICC International Building Code, and International Residential Code. Grant writing experience helpful. Experience in public works and construction project management. Experience in computer skills with Microsoft Office - Word, Excel and Outlook among others helpful. The full job description can be located on the Town of Westcliffe's website at: <https://townofwestcliffe.colorado.gov/>

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www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit

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

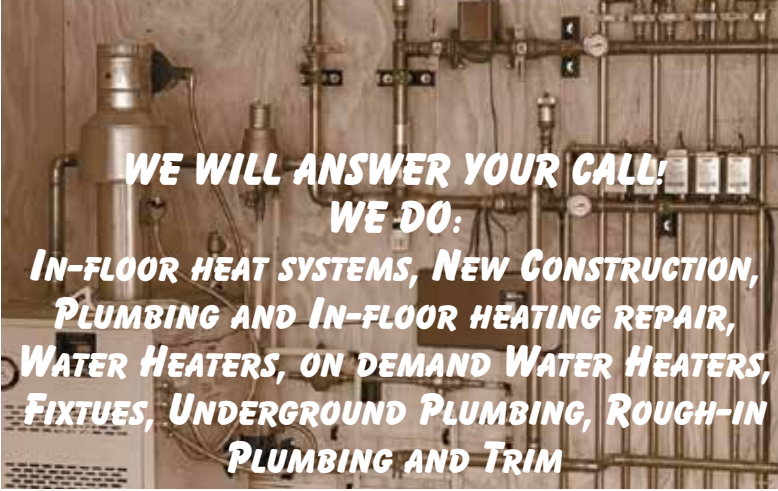
National Suicide HOTLINE
1-800-273-8255 Veterans Press 1

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

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

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

Wet Mountain Rotary Van Service
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Custer County School District C-1 WEEK of February 17 thru February 20 2025		
BOBCATS	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Cereal, Oatmeal Mixed Fruit Yogurt, Milk	Beef Stroganoff Green Beans Fruit, Choice of Milk
Tuesday	Pancakes, Sausage Yogurt Fruit, Choice of Milk	Taco Salad Refried Beans, Rice Fruit, Choice of Milk
Wednesday	Quiche Cups Yogurt Fruit, Choice of Milk	Pizza Muffins Salad Choice of Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Choice of Milk	Baked Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Carrots w/Ranch Dip Fruit, Choice of Milk

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Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, 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*)
HS Boys & Girls Wrestling @ STATE Tournament in Denver

Saturday, February 15:
HS Boys & Girls Wrestling @ STATE Tournament in Denver

Wednesday, February 19: SENIOR NIGHT!
4 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Cotopaxi
5:30 pm HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vs Cotopaxi
7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Cotopaxi
Come out and show your support for your Bobcat Seniors!

Want to become a sponsor of the Custer County Bobcats?
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Go Bobcats!

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Library Adds Two Support Groups

Press Release

West Custer County Library

The West Custer County Library has added two new monthly support groups. Community members can attend

a Grief Support Group led by Robin Olsen on the 4th Friday of the month at 10 a.m. A Dementia/Alzheimer Caretaker Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. All meetings will be held in the library's Community Room.

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Thursday, February 6:
HS Girls Basketball @ Primero: **43-35, Win!**
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Primero: **41-50, loss**

Friday, February 7:
HS Boys JV Basketball @ HOME vs Trinidad: **45-35 Win!**
HS Girls Basketball @ HOME vis Trinidad: **32-34, loss**
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ HOME vs Trinidad: **52-41 Win!**

Saturday, February 8:
HS Boys Wrestling Regionals:
Jason Hemsath 2nd place and going to state!
HS Girls Wrestling Regionals:
Liz Ergo: 3rd place and going to state!
Brylee Shy - 4th place and going to state!
Maddie Staley - 4th place and going to state!
HS Boys JV Basketball @ Crested Butte: **54-35, Win!**
HS Girls Basketball @ Crested Butte: **40-39, Win!**
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Crested Butte: **55-46, Win!**

Tuesday, February 11:
HS Boys JV Basketball @ Florence: **43-42, Win!**
HS Girls Basketball @ Florence: **22-51, loss**
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Florence: **40-33, Win!**

KIDS

February 14, 2025

Blizzards

I know today is Valentine's Day and I wish everyone a wonderful day.

As I was cleaning out my dresser, I came across something else that reminded me of this time of the year. I am going back in time to a winter that will always stand out in my mind, the Blizzard of 77.

On Thursday, January 27, 1977, I was watching the evening weather report. The weather man was predicting a major snowstorm. In Buffalo, New York, snowstorms were nothing new. He was saying wherever you are tomorrow at 11 a.m. you will be there for the next four days. Well, knowing I had to work at the hospital for the next three days. I made arrangements for my mother to pick up my children from day care and packed a small bag with essentials and a clean uniform.

The next day I informed my supervisor that a storm was headed our way and I would be willing to work a double shift if they would put me up for the night so I wouldn't have to drive home and back in the morning in a storm, little did I know what I was getting myself into.

At 11 a.m. the storm hit. We could see nothing outside the windows but white. A blizzard of epic proportions struck southern portions of the province of Ontario and parts of western and northern New York State. The temps plunged to near zero Fahrenheit and hurricane force winds roared across the frozen surface of Lake Erie. Temperature and wind combined to create a wind chill of 60 below zero. Wind gusts over 50 miles per hour were recorded each day with official peaks ranging between 69 and 73 miles per hour.

Lake Erie, the shallowest of the Great Lakes, has a surface area of ten thousand square miles. That year it was frozen by December 14th, an early freezing record. The hurricane force winds swept across that desert of ice with no natural barriers to break the wind's force. Deep snow had built up on the lake and had not melted due to the cold January. So, 10,000 miles of snow blew inland, burying people in their cars and homes and stranding people in office buildings, schools, police stations, fire halls, bars, factories and cars. By Monday the mayor of Buffalo closed all streets except for emergency vehicles only. I was at work working double shifts till Tuesday afternoon.

This is my story of the blizzard many others did not survive. Moral of the story: Pay attention to weather warnings and always be prepared.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: whitedeath.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado



Corner

Local Mountain News & Notices

Tony's MVP's

Women's Varsity Basketball MVP
Custer vs Florence game
Marin "Money" Foster

Women's Varsity Basketball MVP
Hayden Hampton -
(4 games last week)

Photo by Jennifer Russ Photography



Men's JV
Basketball MVP
Carter Osteen
(Top photo)

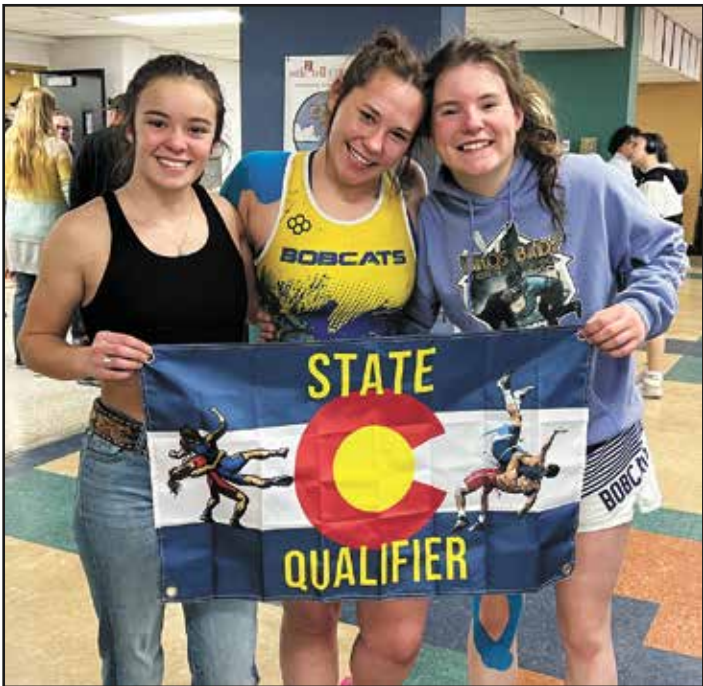
Men's Varsity
Basketball MPV
Grant Rusk
(Right photo)

Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography



Men's Wrestling MPV
Jason Hemsath- Regionals, 2nd place # 144 STATE QUALIFIER

All Wrestling Girls Qualify For State!!



100% of the Custer County Bobcats that went to regionals, QUALIFIED For state!!
Liz Ergo - 3rd place and going to state! (Left)
Brylee Shy - 4th place and going to state! (Right)
Maddie Staley - 4th place and going to state! (Middle)

Wrestling photos by Photos by Terri Crispe

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Aubrynne and Splashy 1st place Novice PR out of 29! She competed against adults!

KK and Day Reserve Champion Junior

Lincoln- Champion Heavy Wool Male, 1st place Short Stack (two llamas in a string)

Chinook- Champion Advanced, Reserve Champion Light Wool Male

Bo- Reserve Champion Advanced

Sentinel photos by John and Brianna Evert; Layout by Katherine Brenchley



Colorado State News

Two Weeks of Dramatic Moves Have Trump's Supporters in Colorado, and Opponents Distraught

by Bente Birkeland, Colorado Public Radio

“Relief.” “Scared.” “Pathetic.” “It’s looking good” “Chaotic.” “Pleasantly surprised.”

That’s how some Coloradans describe the first days of President Donald Trump’s new administration.

CPR News checked back in with nine voters from across the state who we talked with ahead of the November election.

Those with more conservative views describe the past two weeks as a hopeful start to put the country back on the right track. For voters on the other side of the political spectrum, it’s a time of hopelessness and fear.

‘It is looking good’

Republican John McCord lives in Akron on the Eastern Plains. He’s nearly 70 and a diehard Trump supporter. He likes everything Trump is focused on, including his territorial ambitions for the Panama Canal and Greenland. McCord hopes under the new administration the U.S. can become stronger and better.

“People need to give Trump a chance,” he said. “It is looking good.”

McCord is especially glad about the pardons and commutations of the Jan. 6th rioters. Although he concedes there was violence during the storming of the Capitol, he believes many of the people charged and convicted did nothing wrong.

“They had no right to tear down things and break windows and assault people,” said McCord. “You have no right to do none of that. But I think it’s just a mob mentality gets out of hand, and it’s mob rule.”

But he points to the pardons President Joe Biden issued during his final months in office as justification for Trump’s. And

while he said maybe Trump could have looked at some of the more violent rioters a little harder before setting them free, he doesn’t think he should have because they were “treated wrong from the get go.”

‘Actually following through’

Republican voter Jared Reid from Colorado Springs didn’t expect Trump to pardon or commute the sentences of people who assaulted police officers during the riot. He wishes those cases had instead gotten individual reviews. But, overall, he’s happy with the pardons and the rest of Trump’s first actions in office.

“It’s great that we’ve had this first week of things kind of fall into place that we were all hoping for,” he said.

Reid said he’s glad border security is a top priority for Trump and supports his cabinet picks, like Robert Kennedy Jr. for Health and Human Services and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who Reid hopes will remove “ultra woke people” out of key positions in the military, which he says has hurt the armed forces’ lethality.

“I listen to podcasts and I listen to these people who are being confirmed,” said Reid. “What their takes are, on not only the very complicated foreign affairs issues, but also how they felt about the football game last Sunday or whatever. And they seem like they are real people.”

Reid said it’s a relief to feel like he knows who’s in charge at the White House right now.

“If I were to ask you, unequivocally, who was running the executive office of our country the last year, could you with a straight face say Joe Biden was?” he asked.

‘Surprising in a good way’

Trump’s swift moves to upend federal spending, and focus on the border please Nicholas Krick of

New Castle in western Colorado.

The unaffiliated voter describes himself as apolitical. He didn’t vote in the last election, but said there are a lot of things he likes when Republicans are in power, and with this Trump administration in particular.

“I am just surprised that somebody’s actually following through with some of the things that they’ve promised,” he said, pointing to the budget office’s short-lived effort to freeze federal spending. He hopes having less federal money to spend will rein in the Democrats who control the state government.

Krick also hopes Trump continues his hold on nearly all funding for foreign aid projects. “Putting other countries and other countries’ wars ahead of the needs of our country is bothersome to me.”

‘So much damage in a week’

On the more liberal side of the spectrum, voters told CPR News they are distraught, and tired.

Democratic voter Ramana Konantz works at a library in Grand Junction. She said those in her social circle, which includes many immigrants and LGBTQ people, are afraid and just “focusing on how to survive.”

Konantz worries that without a strong opposition to Trump’s actions, “it’s giving the impression to the conservative elements that they’ve won and that they have sort of defeated everyone.”

Konantz, who uses female pronouns but doesn’t identify with either gender, is especially upset about Trump’s executive order mandating the federal government only recognize two sexes, calling it very damaging and unscientific.

“It’s sort of striking to me that he can do so much damage in a week.”

She’d like national Democrats to do more to try to delay and disrupt Republicans in Congress and the Trump agenda.

“There’s not a lot of charismatic leaders on the Left right now that are publicly visible. We don’t have sort of a rallying point,” said Konantz. “Strategically, that’s something that liberals and those on the Left need to be thinking about as they’re organizing.”

‘Extremely overwhelming and difficult’

Lois Voeltz, a Democratic voter from Woodland Park in southern Colorado, said she’s limiting her political news intake because it’s too distressing. She’s deeply worried for her grandchildren.

“We lived 14 years in Asia and we saw upfront and personal as to how corrupt governments slowly began,” she said. “How they take over and what they do.”

Voeltz is somewhat embarrassed that she’s not following daily developments closely, but said she also has to think about her mental health. It’s different from eight years ago, when she felt more hope that opposing Trump could change things.

Like Voeltz, Tracy Squillace of Lakewood is also feeling worn down.

She’s worried about funding for programs that help people like her 15-year-old son who has developmental disabilities and said the policies of the new administration are worse than she thought they’d be, in particular, “the swiftness that he and his administration have made decisions and rolled back what I would say are policies and funding for just basic human rights and needs.”

In those decisions she sees Project 2025, the conservative guidebook to reshaping the country, being implemented. “It’s coming to life,” she said. “I guess

I didn’t think that could happen, and that’s my naivete.”

She said right now Democrats are a party unified in grief. She said part of her just feels like binge watching ‘**The Real Housewives**’ on Netflix just to “totally disassociate with what’s happening because you feel powerless.”

‘I don’t see an end to this chaos’

For Fran Arieta-Walden of Denver, whose family is from Puerto Rico, Trump’s deportation plans, and his comments about people of color, have been some of the hardest things about the past two weeks.

“This isn’t about safety, it’s not about crime, it’s not about any of that,” she said. “This is racist, this is what he does.”

The Democrat said she’d like the president’s opponents to be louder, but she doesn’t think there’s really much they can do to stop Trump.

“I just don’t see an end to this chaos,” she said. “This is how he governs, if you can call it governing. This is what it is. It happened in the first administration and now it’s just doubling down because he got himself a second term and his people feel emboldened.”

‘Seems very political’

Casey Rippey of Castle Rock is a former Democrat turned split ticket unaffiliated voter. He backed former Vice-President Kamala Harris because he said she seemed more down to earth but he thinks Democrats focus on the wrong things about the Trump administration. It’s irritating, he said, to see liberal friends in his social media feed highlight Elon Musk’s use of a gesture reminiscent of the Nazi salute during the inauguration.

TRUMP TWO WEEK
see page 15

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Colorado State News



Thousands Protest Colorado Property Taxes Spiked by Bidenomics and Greedy Dems

by ColoraroPeakPolitics.com

Coloradan’s wallets are feeling the pinch of Bidenomics inflating their property tax bills combined with a greedy state legislature and governor whose only solution is for us to pay even higher income taxes as well.

Across the state, tens of thousands of homeowners are protesting the inflated valuations of their property, but few will see any relief.

Colorado Politics reports Arapahoe County saw a 600% increase in protests from homeowners over their tax bills.

Homeowners are ticked off because Colorado doesn’t operate like most

states and cap property valuations when determining tax liability, which would protect us against inflationary prices in a market with low inventory.

Instead, the Democrats in charge are offering our heads on a platter and forcing us to choose between paying jacked up housing prices and keeping our Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) paycheck tax refunds.

Or, Prop HH will give homeowners a smaller property tax increase while increasing our income taxes by taking away our TABOR refunds.

Homeowners are protesting their property taxes because they don’t believe their home is worth that much, and they are right, it’s probably not.

But when tax evaluations were conducted, the Bidenomics market dictated the price, and now homeowners are stuck with it.

Elections matter folks.

While Republicans treat every day like the 4th of July and protect our country’s independence and the Constitution upon which that is based, Democrats greet each day like its April 15th and claim more and more of our hard-earned money in taxes.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2023/07/06/thousands-protest-colorado-property-taxes-spiked-by-bidenomics-and-greedy-dems/>

Polis and Democrats Balk at ‘Saving People Money’ by This Paycheck

by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

Gov. Polis’s bid for the presidency in 2026 will most assuredly include the historically inaccurate narrative that he has a record of saving people money, especially when it comes to their health care costs.

After all, he created an entire government agency with the Orwellian name, Office of Saving People Money, which allegedly was supposed to help us save money on healthcare.

We’re not suggesting that any working Coloradan who claims to have saved money on health insurance and associated costs since Polis took office is a liar. But we are willing to bet they

didn’t test well in math.

Polis also “saved people money” by padding Lt. Gov. Primavera’s salary an extra \$600,000 of our tax dollars over her terms in office to also act as the head of this office saving us money.

And when faced with a \$1 billion budget shortfall, the Democrat-controlled legislature balked at cutting just one year of padding her salary.

Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer @SenKirkmeyer Unbelievable

The Lt Gov gets paid an additional Salary of \$75, 000 on top of her other salary of \$93, 000.

The JBC won’t cut \$\$ to the bogus

Office of Saving People Money.

Just more Govt waste!

And the Dems just keep protecting Dems.

#coleg #copolitics

4:12 PM · Feb 10, 2025

Not how you save people money in Colorado.

(Editor/GG: The dem grift never ends.)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/02/11/polis-and-democrats-balk-at-saving-people-money-by-padding-this-paycheck/>

TRUMP TWO WEEKS from page 14

“I feel like that’s kind of been the go-to for the left for eight years now, that (Trump) courts Nazis and white supremacists. When I think if you actually look at the evidence, that’s not very true, and I think most people like myself don’t find that to be true,” said Rippy.

But that doesn’t mean Rippy is happy with how Trump’s second administration has started.

He’s concerned about the Jan. 6th pardons. And he doesn’t think Trump is focused on the things a lot of people care about, like his pledge during the campaign to get rid of taxes on overtime pay and tips. Rippy said if that was really a top priority it would have been in the initial batch of executive orders.

“So that seems very political to me.

It’s like this is kind of like Santa Claus: here’s my gift to you if you vote for me, and then as soon as I get in the office, that really doesn’t concern me that much,” said Rippy.

‘Hope for the best’

Brian Holman of Lakewood, another unaffiliated voter, said the policies of the first two weeks have been haphazard and not well thought through.

“It kind of seems like he’s handed a lot of the responsibility of government finances to Elon Musk, which I don’t know if that’s a great idea either,” said Holman.

He voted for Harris over Trump, even though he didn’t think either candidate was the best choice.

Holman said he tries not to worry too much about federal policies because of how little control he has over them, but he does see how Trump’s actions

are causing stress and uncertainty for a lot of Americans, from stepped-up ICE deportations to temporarily shutting down Medicaid. He’s also unhappy with the pardons of the Jan. 6th rioters.

“That’s crazy to me. A literal insurrection gets pardoned. It’s just like, ‘oh my God, is that the precedent we’re setting here?’”

But still, he said, he’s trying not to let any of it bother him.

“I just hope it’s not a chaotic or violent four years,” said Holman. “Just hope for some stability, hope for the best.”

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2025/01/31/trump-new-administration-colorado-voter-reaction/>

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Money is not everything but it ranks right up there with oxygen. —Zig Ziglar



Colorado Taxpayers Get the \$5.4 Million Phone Bill for Inmates to Make Free Calls

by Colorado
PeakPolitics.com

As Democrat lawmakers look for cuts to meet the \$1 billion budget shortfall for Colorado, not on the chopping block are \$5.4 million in unlimited free phone calls for jail inmates.

The cost of the state-issued tablets and calls are already \$579,000 over budget this fiscal year and running five times over the original projections, *Axios Denver* reports.

Instead of eliminating the fledgling program or just pausing it long enough to get a better service plan as was lamented, Democrats have agreed to keep shoveling money into the program.

Until 2023, inmates paid for their own phone calls to friends, family and other acquaintances. Then Democrats got the

bright idea that taxpayers should start footing the bill.

As *Axios* pointed out:

“The overruns represent a microcosm of the problem the Democratic-led Legislature faces this session: The policies and programs created in good times now cost too much in a year with tight spending limits.”

It will be interesting to see what government services for taxpayers Democrats think is not as important as free phone calls for convicted criminals.

(Editor/GG: Thank your local democrat for using YOUR taxes to pay for criminals to make phone calls.)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/02/07/colorado-taxpayers-get-the-5-4-million-phone-bill-for-inmates-to-make-free-calls/>

SCOTUS Rightly Recognizes the Right Not to Speak

by Ari Armstrong,
Complete Colorado Page Two

The right to speak freely entails the right not to speak. If someone forces you to express some message of which you disapprove, that person has violated your right to freedom of speech and to freedom of conscience more broadly. The Supreme Court was right, therefore, to protect the ability of business owners to decline to create products expressing views with which they disagree. That is the issue at the heart of the 303 Creative decision.

What the critics say

Critics of the decision in effect argue that people may be forced to speak, as a condition of running a business, if someone from a marginalized group protected by anti-discrimination laws orders a product expressing some message contrary to the business owner’s beliefs.

Usually at issue are cakes or web sites or the like for gay marriages, which some religious conservatives continue to oppose. Gallup found that only 41% of weekly churchgoers “say gay marriages should be legally recognized,” while 71% of the general population do. In such cases, critics say, a business owner should not be able to decline to express the message—unless they go out of business.

The ACLU, for example, which traditionally has been a major champion of free speech, in this case argues that some speech may be legally mandated for the sake of limiting discrimination. The ACLU says in a release, “The Supreme Court held . . . that a business offering customized expressive services has the right to violate state laws prohibiting such businesses from discrimination in sales. The Court’s decision opens the door to any business that claims to provide customized services to discriminate against historically-marginalized groups. The decision is fundamentally misguided.”

Our Attorney General, Democrat Phil Weiser, said the decision “will permit businesses to turn away LGBTQ customers just by claiming that they sell expressive or artistic services. . . . The opinion represents a radical departure from decades of Court precedent and fails to uphold the principle of ‘Equal Justice for All.’ . . . This case is not about websites or speech—but the ability of all to enter the public marketplace as equals. . . . We will work hard to ensure that, within the confines of the Court’s opinion, we take action to hold accountable those who engage in unlawful discrimination. . . . And we will continue to fight other attempts to rollback our anti-discrimination laws.”

Representative Brianna Titone, active in the legislature’s LGBTQ caucus, said, “The decision by the Supreme Court undermines Colorado’s anti-discrimination protections, directly attacks the rights of LGBTQ Americans and allows businesses to deny services based on ‘First Amendment’ grounds to anyone due to their gender, race, religion, or who they love. The U.S. Supreme Court has legalized discrimination and bigotry against LGBTQ people and has endangered equal protections under the law.”

Such criticisms hold either that people do not actually have a right to decline to speak in these conditions or else that their right not to speak is trumped by others’ right to engage in the marketplace on equal footing.

Misinterpreting the decision

Adding to the complexity of the discussion, both Weiser and Titone (among many others) dramatically misinterpret what the ruling says and implies. The ruling does not, as Titone says, generally allow businesses to deny service based on “gender, race, religion, or who they love.” Nor does the ruling allow a business generally to refuse to serve interracial couples, women-owned businesses, or Mormons, as Weiser claims in his release. Rather, the decision pertains only to products created to order that express some message. That’s a small fraction of business services.

Consider the difference. Let’s say some bigoted jerk disapproved of interracial marriage. Believe it or not, there still are a few people like that (as I’ve discussed). Under the ruling, if an interracial couple went into a bakery to buy an off-the-shelf cake, the business owner could not legally decline to sell them the cake. But if the couple ordered a cake specifically to explicitly celebrate an interracial marriage, the cake baker could refuse the order on First Amendment grounds.

In his detailed review of the decision, Eugene Volokh notes the decision is “a narrow case, authorizing First Amendment defenses to only a limited set of applications of antidiscrimination law, when speech creators want to choose the particular content of speech that they seek to create.”

Even a-holes have rights

But a baker refusing to bake a cake for an interracial marriage is terrible, you’re probably thinking. I agree it is terrible. I certainly would not want to be friends or otherwise interact with such a bigot, and the public justly would excoriate the person.

But here’s the thing. If we wish to live in a free society, as opposed to a totalitarian hell-hole, the law can neither mandate everything that is moral nor forbid everything that is immoral. The purpose of government is not to make everyone be good. Rather, the purpose of government is to protect people’s rights and thereby keep the peace and allow for consensual interactions. Hence, just government plays a highly delimited role in coercing people to do what they ought—say, abide by a contract—and to refrain from what they ought not—such as assault others.

Think about it this way. Do you think cake bakers should be free to turn down an order for a cake that says “God Hates F_s,” “Satan Rules,” or “Interracial Marriage Violates God’s Will”? Hopefully you agree bakers should have that freedom. So then, how can government draw a line saying business owners have a right to decline to promote certain messages and not others?

Just as the First Amendment protects the rights of bigots to publish books and the like, so it protects their rights not to express inclusive messages. In short, even a-****s have the right to freedom of speech.

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

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2023/07/04/armstrong-scotus-correctly-recognizes-the-right-not-to-speak/>

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NOTICE

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PO Box 60
Westcliffe, CO 81252

In the Matter of the Estate of

Barbara Maxine Nordyke, Deceased

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Barbara Maxine Nordyke, 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

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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

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

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Elizabeth L Scully
P.O. Box 771
Salida, CO 81201

Published February 7, February 14, February 21, 2025
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Westcliffe, Colorado

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13					14						15		
16					17						18		
			19	20			21			22			
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49	50							51			52		
53					54	55	56		57		58		
59					60			61			62	63	64
66					67						68		
69					70						71		

ACROSS

1 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

5 Young horses

10 Father

13 Volcanic rock

14 On fire

15 Partial

16 Garden of ____

17 Beer mug

18 Allege

19 Alternative (abbr.)

21 Making current

23 Wing

26 Electric spark

28 Wrong

29 Firecracker

32 Not women's

33 Sequel to Luke

34 Empower

36 Take a break

37 Chirp

38 Call

42 "____ makes waste"

43 Leaf bud

44 Daniel was thrown into the ____s' den

46 Days of rest

49 Monkey

51 Cow's remark

52 Advertisements

53 Vies

57 Most basic

59 Apex

60 Adroit

62 Word meaning father

66 Christmas carol

67 Cubic decimetre

68 Persia

69 Unhappy

70 Anesthetic

71 Not one

DOWN

1 Bullfight cheer

2 Tablet

3 First woman

4 Site of Jesus' first miracle

5 Cuban leader

6 Often poetically

7 In ____ of

8 Stumble

9 Deliver by post

10 Fiends

11 Last words,often

12 Funeral hymn

15 The evil one

20 Jurisprudence

22 Some (2 wds.)

23 Far away

24 Plague of Egypt

25 Branch of learning

27 Groups of workers

30 Eastern Time

31 Makes a sweater

32 Wipe

35 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi

37 Beige

38 Deoxyribonucleic acid(abbr.)

39 Small particle

40 Attention-Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (abbr.)

41 Not as much

42 Faith, ____ and charity

44 Took off

45 Propel

47 Rower

48 Curtsy

49 Looks over

50 Powdered chocolate

54 Story

55 Revise

56 Abel's brother

58 First son of Adam and Eve

61 Before (prefix)

63 Bikini part

64 Forbid

65 Whichever

Puzzle key on page 7

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The Daily Jot

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

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

Consider what's in a name

Have you ever considered what's in a name? What does your name mean? Parents have many different ways in naming their children. Some are generational—naming after family members. Others look at it from a Biblical perspective—naming after people in the Bible they would hope their children will be like. Some name their kids after trends. But names have meaning. And we often turn out like our names. We named our youngest son Christian because we dedicated him to the Lord the night he was born and we wanted to make sure he never forgot who's he was. My name, William, named after my grandfather, means strong willed and protector. And that I am. But what of the name that gives eternal life?

God has many names that describe His glorious attributes and how they were experienced. The Name El Shaddai is equated with God's provision and sustenance in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Name YHVH (Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey [ADONAI, LORD]) (from Exodus 6:2-3) appears to be a play on the Hebrew verb hayah (“to be”), indicating that God is hayah hoveh ve'yiyeh, the One who is, the One who was, and the One who will be, the King of the Universe and source of all being. In Exodus 6:2-9:35, the Name YHVH accompanies the revelation of the four verbs of redemption: “I will free... deliver...redeem...take you” and indicates the direct experience of YHVH's power, glory, and compassion

The forefathers of Israel had received a covenant from the LORD that they would become a nation and inherit land. Neither of these promises happened in their lifetimes, the families of the patriarchs at the close of Genesis were only about 70 people, and they were still in Egypt. But Israel grew into a nation, and God commissioned Moses to bring His people back to the land. YHVH in this instance means, He is the God who acts mightily in history to fulfill His promises! We see “the greater might” of YHVH—the signs and wonders, first Aaron's staff turned into a snake and swallowed the Egyptian magician's staffs. God then sends seven plagues upon the Egyptians. None of these plagues affected Goshen, where the Israelites lived. God redeemed His people with a mighty outstretched arm and led them out of bondage.

God's name embodies all that he did and does. When we call on the name of the LORD and believe, there is redemptive power in that name. Eternal life. In Revelation 2:17, Christ says that to him who overcomes, He will give “a new name.” Isaiah 62:2 says, “you shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.” Throughout scripture, God has renamed people. Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, Saul to Paul, to name a few. God will rename us according to who we are and what He meant us to be. This reflects the transformation in our relationship with God who has the authority to redefine our identity and purpose to align us with his divine plan. It is also reflective of believers being new creations in Christ, whose name Yeshua in Hebrew means salvation. Now you know what's in a name.

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Study Finds Vaccinated Children Have 170% Higher Risk of Autism

by Michael Nevrakakis, Ph.D.,
The Burning Platform

(Editor/GG: This is another article reviewing the autism study. If this isn't a wake-up call, I don't know what is.)

The peer-reviewed study also found that vaccinated children had a 212% greater likelihood of developing other neurodevelopmental disorders, including ADHD, epilepsy/seizures, brain inflammation and tic and learning disorders.

Vaccinated children have a 170% higher chance of being diagnosed with autism compared to unvaccinated children, according to a new peer-reviewed study.

The study also found that vaccinated children had a 212% greater likelihood of developing a range of other neurodevelopmental disorders, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), epilepsy/seizures, brain inflammation and tic and learning disorders.

According to the study, the childhood vaccination schedule is likely a significant contributor to the higher rate of autism and neurodevelopmental conditions in vaccinated children.

The study of 47,155 9-year-old children enrolled in the Florida Medicaid program since birth was published on January 23, 2025 in *Science, Public Health Policy and the Law*.

Karl Jablonowski, Ph.D., senior research scientist for Children's Health Defense, said the paper “is unignorable simply by the soundness of its methods.”

“The sheer hazards associated with severe childhood diseases is jaw-dropping,” Jablonowski said.

The paper's authors — Anthony R. Mawson and Binu Jacob of the Mississippi-based Chalfont Research Institute — hypothesized that:

- Childhood vaccination is associated with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.
- Increasing numbers of vaccinations lead to a higher risk of autism.
- Vaccinated preterm babies are at greater risk of neurodevelopmental disorders than unvaccinated babies.

The study's findings confirmed the authors' hypotheses. Experts said the results of the study cast doubt on government claims that vaccines are not linked to autism.

“The vaccine propaganda campaigns operated by our regulatory agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and legacy media continue to claim that the link between vaccines and autism has been ‘debunked,’” said epidemiologist Nicolas Hulscher. He said the findings of this study “completely dismantle” this narrative.

Jablonowski noted that the study was based solely on government data. He said:

“The government has had this data for decades, professing safety while simultaneously refusing to study safety. The facade of U.S. government public health is crumbling, revealing a culprit in chronic disease in this country: willful ignorance.”

The authors of the study noted that government-sponsored studies have not compared health outcomes in vaccinated versus completely unvaccinated children. Mawson and Jacob told *The Defender* they hope the government will initiate such studies.

Childhood vaccination schedule likely factor in increased autism diagnoses

The study found that, across all metrics, vaccinated children had a higher rate of neurodevelopmental disorders compared to those who remained unvaccinated. According to the findings:

- The relative risk of developing a neurodevelopmental disorder grew as the number of doctor's visits that included vaccinations increased. Children with just one vaccination visit were 1.7 times more likely to have been diagnosed with autism compared to those who were unvaccinated.
- Children with 11 or more vaccination visits were 340% more likely to be diagnosed with autism compared to unvaccinated children and 89% more likely to be diagnosed with autism compared to children with one vaccination visit.
- Vaccinated children who were born preterm were 258% more likely to be diagnosed with at least one neurodevelopmental disorder, compared to children born preterm who remained unvaccinated. Nearly 40% of vaccinated preterm children were diagnosed with such a disorder, compared to 15.7% of those who were unvaccinated.
- Vaccinated children were 419% more likely to be diagnosed with encephalopathy (brain inflammation), 525% more likely to develop tic disorders and 581% times more likely to have a learning disability, compared to unvaccinated children.
- Among children born preterm who were subsequently vaccinated, the risk of brain inflammation and learning disabilities grew by 612% and 884%, respectively.

“While the connection between receipt of vaccines and autism has been of grave concern to many parents, this study makes it clear that even in the absence of an autism diagnosis, children's brains are being damaged,” said biologist Christina Parks, Ph.D.

Autism prevalence has grown from 1 in 1,000 children in the 1990s to

1 in 36, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The study's authors noted this increase is commonly attributed to greater awareness of autism-related symptoms and higher exposure to toxic chemicals.

However, the authors said their results suggest the childhood vaccination schedule may also be a key factor behind the sharp increase in autism diagnoses.

“The geographically widespread increases in ASD [autism spectrum disorder] and ADHD suggests a role for an environmental factor to which virtually all children are exposed. One such factor is routine childhood vaccinations,” the study noted.

The authors cited figures showing that the number of vaccines included in the CDC's latest U.S. childhood schedule increased nearly threefold compared to the 1983 vaccination schedule.

“Although vaccination is said to be safe and effective for the great majority of children, a legitimate question is whether the expanded schedule could be contributing in some way to rising rates of NDDs [neurodevelopmental disorders],” the study stated.

“Any planned additions to the childhood vaccination schedule should be delayed until research to determine the safety of its impact on children's overall health is completed,” Mawson and Jacob said.

Results indicate childhood vaccination schedule ‘needs a complete overhaul’

According to the study, the impact of vaccination on children born preterm has not been sufficiently examined.

“The possibility of adverse effects of vaccination on preterm infants may have been obscured by the primary importance placed on vaccinations for preventing neonatal infections,” the study said.

A peer-reviewed study published earlier this month found that preterm infants who received their routine 2-month vaccinations had a 170% higher incidence of apnea compared to unvaccinated babies.

The study also noted that while studies have often attempted to connect rising autism rates to specific vaccines, there has been less research exploring a possible link between the cumulative childhood vaccination schedule and autism.

“A link between vaccination and ASD could be due to the cumulative impact of all preceding vaccinations rather than to a specific vaccine alone,” the study said. “ASD and other NDDs could be triggered by the last vaccination administered or by one or more of a series of vaccinations.”

VAXX andAUTISM
see page 19

“It’s Like a Switch Was Flipped”: Border Encounters Plummet 94% Under Trump

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

Since President Donald Trump’s inauguration on January 20th, illegal alien encounters at the southern US border have plummeted an average of 94% during his first 9 days, compared to President Biden’s last 19 days in office.

During Trump’s first nine days in

office, after new border measures were implemented, there were an average of 126 daily encounters at the border vs. 2,087 per day during the last 2.5 weeks of the Biden administration.

As Rasmussen’s Mark Mitchell put it last week, “It’s like a switch was flipped.”

Mark Mitchell, Rasmussen Reports

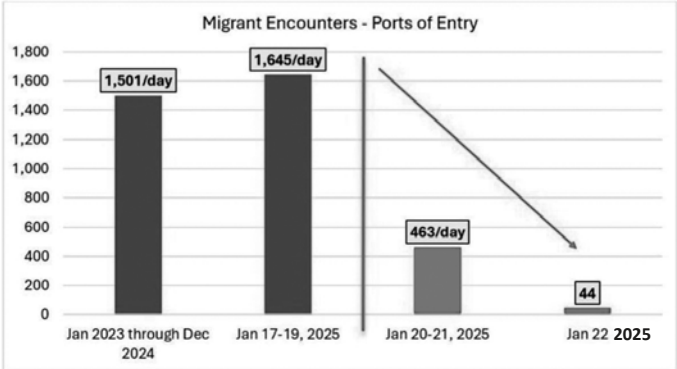
The 'Trump Effect': Migrant encounters at border ports of entry have dramatically declined since Trump took office on Monday. Imagine that—the Biden-Harris regime had the ability all along to slow or stop the migrant invasion but chose not to, suggesting the crisis may have been intentional. The American people must hold the Democratic Party accountable at the ballot box in future elections for years of chaos.

3,500 illegal immigrants who were arrested during Trump’s first week in office, including over 1,100 in a single day.

As *American Greatness* notes further, on Wednesday, shortly before signing the Laken Riley Act into law, the 45th and 47th President announced his intention to send 30,000 of the most dangerous criminal illegals to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Laken Riley Act, named after the 22-year-old Georgia nursing student who was murdered by a Venezuelan illegal, is the first bill signed into law during President Trump’s second term. It gives federal immigration authorities broader power to arrest illegals who commit dangerous crimes, including drunk driving and assaulting police officers.

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/its-switch-was-flipped-border-encounters-plummet-94-under-trump>



It’s like a switch was flipped.

Source: @zerohedge

7:08 AM · Jan 24, 2025

During his 2024 campaign, Trump vowed to crack down on illegal immigration by continuing construction on the

border wall, conducting the largest mass deportation in U.S. history, slapping tariffs on Canada and Mexico until they control the situation from their end, and increasing penalties for illegal aliens.

To that end, there were more than

Test Scores Suggest that 98% of Us Are Becoming Expendable

by Glenn K. Beaton, *The Aspen Beat*
Commentary, Sarcasm

Democrats in the Federal government the past few years sent a couple hundred billion dollars to the teachers’ unions ~~the schools~~ to help them fund teacher vacations ~~recover from the needless and destructive COVID lockdowns~~.

I shouldn’t be so cynical about the COVID lockdowns. After all, they did apparently prevent the pandemic from spreading to children, along with preventing asteroid strikes and on-campus bear maulings, all three of which were notably absent in 2020-2021.

Oops, I’m being cynical again.

OK, I’ll admit that, as an educational tool, the lockdowns were not entirely wasted.

For example, one education that many of us received through the lockdowns was that we should be wary of our establishment’s susceptibility to mass hysteria and their desire to control society.

Another education we received was that the teachers’ unions, a/k/a, the child indoctrination division of the DNC, will go to any depths for more money and less work, all at the expense of taxpayers and the education of the nation’s children. “It’s for the children” is the most destructive, self-serving lie since “to each according to his needs.”

But here’s the billion-dollar question: *We* may have learned a few things during the lockdowns, but did *the kids* learn anything?

98% of Us see page 22

VAXX and AUTISM from page 18

“There is an urgent need for research to identify biological mechanisms and potential causal relationships between individual vaccines, combinations of vaccines, and other potential factors associated with neurodevelopmental disorders,” Mawson and Jacob said.

Hulscher said the study suggests that the current “CDC hyper-vaccination schedule needs a complete overhaul.” He added, “Not only is it likely contributing to the autism and chronic disease epidemics, but almost all of the vaccines were licensed without proper long-term, placebo-controlled trials.”

Parks said the study’s results reinforce the importance of parental choice.

“However, there were some findings that parents may find comforting,” Parks said. “While preterm infants are extremely vulnerable to encephalopathy and seizures, if parents chose not to vaccinate them, they were statistically no more likely to develop

neurodevelopmental disorders than normal-term infants.”

According to a September 2024 CDC report, vaccination rates among children born in 2020 and 2021 were lower than those for children born in 2018 and 2019. Hulscher said that an increasing number of Americans are becoming aware of the risks of childhood vaccination.

“The American public is becoming increasingly aware of the real risks of vaccines,” Hulscher said. He attributed the growing mistrust to “the COVID-19 mRNA injection debacle that killed, injured, or permanently disabled millions of people.”

Hulscher said the study’s results “warrant further study by the new U.S. administration.”

Please see: <https://www.theburningplatform.com/2025/02/04/jaw-dropping-study-finds-vaccinated-children-have-170-higher-risk-of-autism/>

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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand



2025

Gun Rights GROUPS React to Fifth Circuit Decision

by Tom Knighton,
BearingArms.com

On Thursday, a panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the prohibition against handgun sales to adults under the age of 21 was unconstitutional.

To call this a big win is putting it mildly. This prohibition, coupled with the growing push to ban this same age group from buying long guns, is a blatant infringement on the right of legal adults' right to keep and bear arms.

After all, if you can't buy guns, it doesn't really matter if you have a technical right to own them. For all intents and purposes, your right to keep and bear arms is non-existent unless you can wish firearms into existence, and since no one has a spare genie lying around, we all see the problem.

And this big win elicited some reaction from the gun rights groups involved.

First, from the Firearms Policy Coalition:

"Today, Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC) announced that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the federal government's handgun ban for adults aged 18 to 20 years old is unconstitutional. The opinion in Reese v. ATF can be viewed at firearmspolicy.org/reese.

[...]

"Today's ruling is yet another critical FPC win against an immoral and unconstitutional age-based gun ban. We look forward to restoring the Second Amendment rights of all peaceable adults throughout the United States," said FPC President Brandon Combs."

The FPC joined up with the Second Amendment Foundation on this challenge, so of course, they had comments as well.

In a press release, the SAF offered this:

The Second Amendment Foundation has scored an important victory in its challenge of a federal prohibition on handgun sales to young adults with a unanimous ruling by a three-judge panel of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse a lower court decision and remand the case back for further action.

SAF is joined in the case by the Firearms Policy Coalition, Louisiana Shooting Association and two private citizens, Emily Naquin and Caleb Reese, for whom the case is named. The case is known as Reese v. ATF.

Writing for the court, Circuit Judge Edith Hollan Jones, a Ronald Reagan appointee, stated, "Ultimately, the text of the Second Amendment includes eighteen-to-twenty-year-old individuals among 'the people' whose right to keep and bear

arms is protected. The federal government has presented scant evidence that eighteen-to-twenty-year-olds' firearm rights during the founding-era were restricted in a similar manner to the contemporary federal handgun purchase ban, and its 19th century evidence 'cannot provide much insight into the meaning of the Second Amendment when it contradicts earlier evidence.' In sum, 18 U.S.C. §§ 992(b)(1), (c)(1) and their attendant regulations are unconstitutional in light of our Nation's historic tradition of firearm regulation. We REVERSE the district court's judgment and REMAND for further proceedings consistent with this opinion."

Joining Judge Jones are Chief Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod, a George W. Bush appointee, and Circuit Judge Rhesa Hawkins Barksdale, a George H.W. Bush appointee. Their decision relies on guidelines set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2022 Bruen ruling.

"We're delighted the Fifth Circuit took this action," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "We have always maintained that young adults, who can vote, join the military, get married, enter into contracts and even run for office can also enjoy the full rights of citizenship which includes rights guaranteed by

the Second Amendment. If we can trust young adults to defend our country, we can certainly trust them to own any and all legal firearms."

"Today the Fifth Circuit reaffirmed what prior courts and common sense tell us: 'that the right to keep and bear arms surely implies the ability to purchase them,'" said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "Adults 18-20 years old are indisputably part of the People, whose rights under the Constitution are no less than their father's or their grandfather's."

Now, does this settle the matter?

Not necessarily. It's likely the government will appeal this decision and ask for an en banc review. If granted, that means the case is made before all the judges on the Fifth Circuit. Regardless of what happens then, the loser can then appeal to the Supreme Court.

Ideally, the Court would hear the case and reach a similar conclusion that the Fifth Circuit panel reached.

However, I haven't seen a lot from the Court of late which makes me willing to guarantee that result.

Still, it seems pretty straightforward. While the Rahimi case hinged on whether or not people accused of a despicable, violent crime such as domestic violence could be trusted with guns, this

one deals with people who are just below a certain age.

Further, the law doesn't preclude these individuals from owning guns, just buying them, which means you can't really make the case that the issue is that people in this age group are particularly dangerous. If that were the case, why can they still own firearms, just not buy them from an FFL?

In fact, the government's position in this case was that this wasn't an infringement on their gun rights because they could still own firearms.

The Fifth Circuit found that if you can't buy them, then your right is most definitely infringed upon, which is true. Rights aren't dependent on the actions of others, and an age restriction on gun purchases through FFLs makes it so someone else has to act for you to have your Second Amendment rights.

Especially when you consider universal background states.

But that's a topic for another time.

For right now, this was a massive win, and both FPC and SAF should be proud of what they accomplished. However, let's also be real here. The fight is far from over.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/tomknighton/2025/01/31/gun-rights-groups-react-to-fifth-circuit-decision-n1227532>

Colorado Governor Says He's Open to Massive Semi-auto Ban

by Cam Edwards,
BearingArms.com

It never fails to amuse me when I see various press outlets describe Colorado Gov. Jared Polis as a "libertarian leaning" Democrat. That might be true when it comes to things like decriminalizing marijuana or scrapping Colorado's income tax, but when it comes to our right to keep and bear arms Polis has demonstrated he's willing to go along with the gun control lobby and their allies in Denver. The governor only issued six vetoes last year, and none of them involved guns. Instead, he and the Colorado legislature enshrined several new restrictions into law, including a repeal of campus carry and adding new mandates for those seeking a concealed carry permit.

Still, the governor says he's keeping his options open when it comes to a sweeping semi-auto ban introduced at the state capital this year.

Polis said that while a ban on the manufacture and sale of semiautomatic firearms with a removable ammunition magazine isn't his preferred method of tackling gun violence, he's not fundamentally opposed to the idea.

Still, the Democrat was non-committal on whether he would sign Senate Bill 3 should it pass this year and make it to his desk. The measure would affect the manufacture and sale of most semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with removable magazines, along with some semiautomatic pistols.

As introduced, the legislation has enough cosponsors to pass the Senate and it almost surely has enough support to clear the House, too.

"I want to make sure it doesn't interfere with legal, law-abiding gun owners in our state for hunting, for home defense or sport," he said. "We'll certainly bring those values to the table as the discussions continue."

Polis said he thinks the state's focus "should be on guns used in

crime," which is why his priority firearm bill at the Capitol this year targets stolen weapons.

"I'm not entirely sure why the legislature wants to play around with different gun models," he said. "Certainly always a red line for me has been don't affect things that people already have. This proposal obviously clears that."

Yes, SB 3 currently contains a grandfather clause allowing those Coloradans who currently own a gas-operated semiautomatic firearm that can accept a detachable magazine to keep them once the ban takes effect, but there's nothing to stop lawmakers from removing that provision in the future, as California Democrats did with the state's ban on "large capacity" magazines a few years ago.

As for the governor's assertion that lawmakers should be focused on guns used in crime, I'd say what they really need to pay attention to are the individuals who are committing these crimes. The thieves who are stealing

guns from cars and the violent offenders who are using guns to commit home invasions, car jackings, and armed robberies are the real issue here, not the most commonly produced rifles and shotguns in the country.

Still, Polis' stated priority would at least be aimed generally at those who steal guns and possess stolen firearms, as opposed to the gun ban bill that looks to be on track for passage. So why does Polis say that he's not fundamentally opposed to the idea of a wide-ranging prohibition on semiautomatic firearms, especially when it most definitely would interfere with legal, law-abiding gun owners?

Polis may very well decide to run for the Democratic presidential nomination four years from now, and I don't think he's looking to make an enemy of the gun control lobby so early by vocally opposing their top legislative priority. But I don't believe Polis wants to run as a cookie-cutter Democrat either, and if there's enough of an outcry about SB 3

and its restrictions, he could very well decide to veto the measure. Would I prefer he do it out of personal conviction instead of political expedience? Sure, but I'd rather have him veto the bill for whatever reason instead of allowing it to become law.

Colorado gun owners definitely have their work cut out for them, and there's no time like the present to start contacting the governor's office and urging him to reject the semi-auto ban known as SB 3. The bill could move swiftly through the legislature, and the gun control lobby will be pulling out all the stops to pressure Polis into doing their bidding once again.

(Editor/GG: You better start calling and emailing Polis to veto this folks. It could take a long time in the fed court system to kill it.)

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2025/01/20/colorado-governor-says-hes-open-to-massive-semi-auto-ban-n1227416>

TSA Found 6,678 Unauthorized Firearms Among 904 Million Passengers in 2024

by Dean Weingarten,
ammoland.com

During the year 2024, the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) discovered 6,678 firearms in the baggage of 904 million people who were screened at TSA checkpoints in the calendar year. This was slightly lower than the 6,737 firearms discovered in 2023 when 858 million people were screened.

The rate of people who were found to possess firearms at airport security checkpoints was down from .0000785% to .0000739%, a minor reduction in the tiny percentage of firearms discovered at airport security checkpoints. The reduction amounts to 59 fewer firearms discovered, a bit less than 1% of the total.

Given the hundreds of millions of passengers screened and the tens of millions of passengers who may legally carry concealed weapons, the few thousand found show overwhelming obedience to the law and care in people checking their baggage.

All people make mistakes. In the USA, about 21 million people legally carry concealed weapons with concealed carry permits. 47 million people live in states where no permit is required to carry a concealed weapon. Those states are:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida (permitless), Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

A survey conducted in 2023 found that 15.6% of voters in general elections carried concealed handguns.

About 155 million people voted in the 2024 election. If the survey was correct, there would be about 24 million voters in the United States who carry concealed handguns on a regular basis. That is about 7.3% of the total population. If we assume the percentage of legal concealed carriers is the same among the population of passengers screened at airport checkpoints, the number of screenings of legal concealed handgun carriers would be 7.3% of 904 million. 7.3% of 904 million amounts to 66 million passengers who legally carry concealed handguns who were screened in 2024.

To clarify, there were 904 million screenings at TSA checkpoints. The 904 million number is the number of passengers who were

screened. One person could be screened multiple times as they were a passenger on different flights throughout the year. It appears 66 million of those screenings were of passengers who routinely, legally, carry concealed handguns.



Most people who are discovered to have a firearm in their carry-on luggage violated the law without intending to do so. If 100% of the incidents occurred without the intent to do so, then 6,678 out of 66 million passengers who normally concealed carry, made serious and terribly inconveniencing mistakes when getting ready to fly. It amounts to .01% or about one of every ten

thousand such people. Everyone makes mistakes. Mistakes are not intentional. They are often the result of a combination of events that result in an unexpected situation.

His wife now enters the office, and sees the pistol on the desk, next to the open briefcase. Knowing where the pistol is normally kept, she replaces it in the small pocket which is reserved for it in the bag.

Because of the excitement at the pool, and the need to take a child to urgent care, the normal routine is disrupted. On returning, the man finishes packing the bag for carry-on. He is running late. He knows he removed the pistol, but time is short. In the rush to get to the airport on time, he does not check the bag again, as is his normal custom.

At the checkpoint, the X-ray machine shows the pistol.

When people do things often enough, the rare and unusual events will happen. People have expressed this as Murphy’s law: If anything can go wrong, it will.

When 99.99% of people follow a law, it is an incredible success. This is what is seen on the rules for carrying firearms on commercial passenger aircraft. This fact reinforces the research showing people who legally carry firearms are incredibly law abiding and responsible.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/02/tsa-found-6678-unauthorized-firearms-among-904-million-passengers-in-2024/>

The Birthright Citizenship Clause Too Many Forget, But Trump is Right to Question

by Amy Swearer, Hans von Spakovsky, The Daily Signal, The Daily Signal Media Group

Few of President Donald Trump’s new executive orders have caused as much alarm as the one on birthright citizenship.

That order prohibits federal agencies from issuing or accepting citizenship documents for children born in the U.S. when neither parent is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of the child’s birth.

Critics paint it as flagrantly unconstitutional, including a misinformed federal judge in Seattle who issued a temporary injunction against it last week. But the new policy fits squarely within the text and original meaning of the 14th Amendment.

For the first century following the 14th Amendment’s ratification, few legal scholars would have batted an eye at a directive like Trump’s. If anything, they’d have been more confused as to why the federal government started issuing passports to the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens, tourists, and “temporary sojourners” in the first place.

Contrary to popular belief, the

law doesn’t say that all people born in the U.S. are citizens. It says that “all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof” are citizens. That second, critical, conditional phrase is conveniently ignored or misinterpreted by advocates of “universal” birthright citizenship.

This was intended to constitutionalize the protections of the 1866 Civil Rights Act, which provided that “all persons born in the United States, and not subject to any foreign power” would be considered citizens.

The change in language didn’t reflect a desire on Congress’ part to abrogate the statutory definition or adopt universal birthright citizenship. In fact, the Civil Rights Act remained valid law for another 70 years, with courts and legal scholars alike assuming that it was perfectly consistent with the citizenship clause.

That’s because the sponsors of the 14th Amendment made it clear that “subject to the jurisdiction” of the U.S. means owing your political allegiance to the U.S., and not to another country. Children born to aliens are citizens of their parents’ native land, and thus owe their allegiance to, and are

subject to the jurisdiction of, that native land.

Legislative history shows that Congress intended the 14th Amendment to eliminate permanent race-based barriers to citizenship—not to bestow citizenship on everyone born within the geographical confines of the United States. Congress didn’t intend birthright citizenship to apply to the U.S.-born children of those who owed only a limited allegiance to the United States.

Even modern proponents of “universal birthright citizenship” admit that the children born on U.S. soil to diplomats or tribally affiliated Native Americans don’t obtain birthright citizenship. In fact, they and their children were only made citizens through the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924—legislation that wouldn’t have been necessary if the 14th Amendment adopted common law rules of universal birthright citizenship.

While critics of Trump’s order claim that universal birthright citizenship is “the settled law of the land,” the Supreme Court has never definitively addressed this issue.

The first time the nation’s highest court opined on the meaning of

the citizenship clause—in the famous *Slaughter-House* cases of 1872—it stated that the phrase “subject to the jurisdiction thereof” excluded “children of ministers, consuls, and citizens or subjects of foreign States born within the United States.”

The court confirmed this understanding in 1884 in *Elk v. Wilkins*, denying birthright citizenship to an American Indian because he “owed immediate allegiance to” his tribe and not the United States.

Most legal arguments for universal birthright citizenship ignore these early cases and point to the 1898 decision *U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark*. However, that decision simply held that U.S.-born children of lawful permanent residents are U.S. citizens.

Further, that decision concerned the constitutionality of acts that created a class of lawful permanent residents who, just like black people under Dred Scott, were perpetually excluded from citizenship based solely on their race—exactly the situation the 14th Amendment was designed to prevent.

Our nation’s current immigration and nationality laws no longer create this type of permanent race-based barrier to citizenship.

Today, the federal statute defining citizenship (8 U.S.C. § 1401) simply repeats the language of the 14th Amendment, including the phrase “subject to the jurisdiction thereof.”

That language retains the same meaning today as it had when it was drafted and ratified. It doesn’t evolve to mean something else just because previous administrations erroneously interpreted it more expansively.

As a result, the president has the authority to direct federal agencies to act in accordance with the original meaning of the 14th Amendment, and to issue government documents and benefits only to those individuals who are truly subject to United States jurisdiction.

Far from being an attempt to rewrite the Constitution or “end birthright citizenship,” Trump’s order is a much-needed and long-overdue course correction, reversing a decades-long policy that was never constitutionally mandated in the first place.

Originally published by Fox News

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2025/01/28/birthright-citizenship-clause-too-many-forget-but-trump-is-right-question/>

Leftists: A Self-Inflicted, Sad Lot

by Jeff Davidson,
FrontPageMag.com



To those on the Left, here is a fact that will be surprising. During Barack Obama’s first four years in office, mental health among young Democrats liberals declined. Many theories have been floated as to why this is true.

Deeper Meaning vs. No Meaning

One school of thought holds that young Conservatives and Conservatives in general tend to be happier than those on the Left because Conservative ideology offers an array of mental benefits. These simply aren’t available to those on the Left. For example, Conservatives tend to be more religious, more patriot, and more likely to have deeper meaning in their lives. Individually and collectively, these characteristics add up to Conservatives being a happier lot.

Research from Stony Brook University suggests that being on the Left is not simply correlated with unhappiness but could actually prompt it. Even well-educated, financially secure white Liberals tend to hold views that lead to despondency. White Liberals, for example, contend that America is a fundamentally racist society, and they constantly seek scenarios and incidences that ‘confirm’ their erroneous belief.

Some theorists suggest that white Liberals actually hold an ever-present variety of catastrophic viewpoints which render them unable to feel optimistic or even resilient about the future. And if you’re among them but you don’t agree with their dour view of the world, they seek to shun you. Disagreement and dissension within the ranks among Liberals is an unvoiced, unarticulated faux pas. This stifling conformity, if subtle or even fleeting, adds to their malaise.

The Sky is Falling

Since the November election, it is becoming apparent that the brunt of those on the Left regard the re-ascension of Donald Trump as the

beginning of the end of the world, if not merely the end of America. No kidding.

By contract, after the 2020 election results, Conservatives were certainly in despair but, at that time, did not equate Biden’s installment as #46 as the forth-coming end of American society. In his four years of anti-Americanism, however, coupled with his administration’s total mismanagement, Biden was impactful: he managed to convince multi-millions of Conservatives that winning the 2024 election would be crucial to our long-term survival.

As Trump emerged as the clear victor, as Republican took the Senate, and as the House remained in Republican control, Conservatives everywhere expressed a long dormant exuberance.

In his run up to the 2025 inauguration, photos of Donald Trump holding gala events at Mar-a-Lago and entertaining foreign dignitaries, members of Congress, cabinet nominees and the world’s most influential individuals, Conservatives everywhere became ecstatic. Concurrently such activities helped to crush any remain

ing positive feelings of those on the Left.

Doing What They Do Best

Lefties are now engaging in the only activity at which they actually display some talent, which is to offer resistance. They are ready to besmirch the character and credentials of any Trump appointee. They’re eager to block any legislation, executive order, program, or policy – independent of its validity – issued or supported by the Trump Administration.

In turn, bureaucrats, who lean heavily Left, are battenning down the hatches for the storm they know is coming. The Department of Government Efficiency, led by Elon Musk, pledges to strip the Federal government of vast amounts of waste. DOGE is committed to finding \$2 trillion of wasted or unnecessary expenditures out of an annual budget approaching \$7 trillion.

The entrenched Federal bureaucracy is vast including more than 2.5 million government workers, most leaning Left. They will not surrender their power easily. They’ve been able to accelerate programs they

approve, slow walk and even kill those that they disapprove, and otherwise serve as an unelected branch of government.

Vast but Not Meant to Last

American citizens, for too long, have had no power against this bureaucracy. Now things will change. Given the efforts of DOGE and Trump’s enhanced effectiveness in his second, non-consecutive term, Conservatives – always the happier lot – are preparing for a positive era. This will be an era where most of what they wanted to have accomplished, will get done.

Meanwhile, the Left will holler, scream, shout, go into deep depression, threaten to leave the country, claim that Trump is not their president, and do everything else except act like mature, adult American citizens.

(Editor/GG: The article is right on. Look at the basket case, emotional lefty rage wrecks at our BOCC meetings. Perfect example.)

Please see: <https://www.front-pagemag.com/leftists-a-self-inflicted-sad-lot/>

98% of Us from page 19

This is a multiple-choice question, so you have a chance of getting it right just by guessing. I figure your odds are about 25% (give or take – I’m a product of public schools). Here are your choices:

- (A) No, nobody learnt nothin’
- (B) Yeah, everybody learnt everythin’
- (C) Some learnt stuff, others didn’t no-how-no-way
- (D) All of ‘em

The answer is (C). According to recent data, average test scores are way down from pre-lockdown scores, and don’t show signs of recovering. It turns out that most children accomplish about as much with schooling-from-

home as their parents accomplish with work-from-home. That’s no surprise.

The interesting thing, however, is that while average test scores are way down, the high scores are not. Good students found a way to be good students during and after the lockdowns. Although most kids didn’t learn stuff, those good students did – and just as much as before.

Those good students who prevailed over the lockdowns while other students succumbed to them, tend to be from wealthier families. The reason could be that wealthier families hired tutors (doubtful) or that wealthier families have parents who got involved in their kids’ education when the lockdowns hit (likely), or that kids from wealthier families are imbued with their wealthy parents’ motivation (probably),

or that wealthier families tend to be whiter and white kids do better on standardized tests which are racially discriminatory and became more so during and after the lockdowns (c’mon!).

This data present an interesting philosophical and social question: If our brightest minds continue to burn brightly, does it matter that the rest of the population is fading fast?

The humanistic answer to that question is, yes, it matters a lot. That’s my intuitive answer, as well, as a semi-humanistic full-human.

But does it *really* matter? It’s a fact that the top 2% of the population are responsible for practically all of human achievement in – you name it – science, math, chess, athletics, art, adventure, innovation, and business. The top 2% would

include Edison, Aristotle, Einstein, Musk, Magellan, da Vinci, Fischer, Newton and all the rest who matter.

“The rest” of the 2% is a big number. It’s estimated that about 100 billion people have lived altogether. So 2% of them amount to some two billion humans and hominids. Even among the living humans, 2% would amount to nearly 200 million people. There would not exactly be a danger of extinction.

The other 98% of us have always lived off these geniuses. Without the top 2%, we’d still be in caves trying to figure out how to make that hot, burny stuff that natural lightning makes with no trouble at all. We’d be unable to even imagine a wheel, much less manufacture or use one.

(That top 2% pay the lion’s share of Federal income tax, too, but

that’s a different column.)

So long as we have that top 2%, the rest of us are fine. In fact, if the top 2% gives us just a little bit more innovation in the form of artificial intelligence machines (such as HAL) we won’t need even them.

Right now, the 98% are stupid but not happy – because we’re always jealous of that smart 2%. If we replace the smart 2% with smart machines, we could be both stupid and happy.

On the other hand, consider the possibility that the 2% — being clever creatures — are already fixing to replace the 98% with machines. They wouldn’t even have to be smart machines; stupid ones would do. Hmm.

Please see: <https://glennkbeaton.substack.com/p/test-scores-suggest-that-98-of-us>



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You can observe a lot by just watching. —Yogi Berra

SO TELLER from page 1

Denver and other counties also notify ICE before inmates they inquire about are released, but they don’t hold them any longer than necessary..

Advocates are already challenging El Paso’s six-hour hold.

“The ACLU will continue to fight to ensure that Coloradans are protected from unlawful immigration enforcement actions,” said Tim MacDonald, the ACLU legal director.

Last week, the acting ICE director flew to Colorado to be a part of an immigration enforcement action in Denver and Aurora. In a video posted to X, he cited Colorado’s laws prohibiting jails from holding people at ICE’s request for

making it harder for ICE.

Still, both Mikesell and El Paso officials have said they aren’t targeting people who don’t have criminal histories or any pending actions in the state’s criminal justice system.

“It’s the people that have committed crimes. That’s who the 287g goes after. So after all these things are said and done from the ACLU, the only thing that they have slowed down is the arrest and detention of known criminals in Colorado,” Mikesell said. “Because none of the 287g deputies deal with just illegal immigrants.”

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2025/02/10/teller-county-sheriff-deputies-cleared-to-serve-as-immigration-officers/>

.357 Magnum Revolver Used to Survive Double Bear Charge

by Dean Weingarten,
ammoland.com

In the summer of 1991, Alan Yates was working in the forested mountains near Bozeman, Montana. Two black bears charged him at the same time. He successfully defended himself against the bears with two shots fired from his .357 Magnum Smith & Wesson 65 revolver. He was 21 years old.

Here are Alan's words, lightly edited for space and clarity:

"In the summer of 1991 I worked on a logging operation in the mountains of Montana.

There was a large bear that lived in the hills and mountains around our community. He was very aggressive. His favorite mode of attack was to charge riders on their horses. Invariably, the rider would get thrown from the spooked horse, the horse would run off, and the bear would stand around for a minute or two thumping up and down on his front paws as if gloating. Then he'd run off.

There was no love for this bear. There was, quietly, a bounty on him. Because of his sheer size, and seeming youthful bad attitude, it was widely hypothesized that he was a Black Bear/Grizzly mix.

Seeing bears was a regular occurrence and didn't bother me.

One morning in the early fall, I was trimming branches off the tops of cut down trees with a large knife that I had made. It was quiet work, and I was further up the mountain side than the other workers. Suddenly I heard an all-to-familiar sound ... "woof, woof, woof ..." quickly getting louder and closer. I knew what it meant. I dropped the knife, grabbed my .357 Magnum, while spinning towards the sound.

Up the mountain ridge came a rolling ball of massive muscle and fur. He was medium brown in color, with a dark chocolate face and neck. I immediately recognized him from the descriptions I'd heard. He was the problem bear everyone hated.

I cocked my revolver and timed his head roll. When he was "close

enough" (8 or 10 yards) and his head rolled up, I dropped the hammer. My custom hand loaded bullet hit him square in the chest and I saw the fur fly from the impact. He staggered slightly, turning about 30 degrees to his left and continued his charge up and over the next (nearby) ridge and out of sight.

I watched him go out of the corner of my eye, because when he turned off his direct path towards me, a new problem showed herself. Not 20 yards behind him was a 2nd bear. She was a beautiful black phase with a large white "V" on her chest. She was much smaller – probably a 4-5 year old bear. She continued her charge full steam at me.

I recocked my revolver and at the instant her head rose – on her next to last jump – I dropped the hammer again. I watched the bullet strike her one (1) inch to the right of the bottom of the white V on her chest.

The bullet impact, combined with her upward lunge, flipped her completely over backwards and she landed on her back – her head downhill. She rolled over, jumped up and hobbled back down the ridge.

I spun around looking to see if the other bear was still a threat, but he was nowhere to be found. Then I ran down the mountain after her. I assumed that she wouldn't go far. I was wrong.

She went straight down the ridge a few hundred yards where she slid off the steep bank and onto the logging road – where the rest of our crew were working. She passed right thru the middle of them, over the bank and continued downhill. When I jumped down from the bank, I yelled "Did you see a bear?". They pointed and said "she's right there". We could see her intermittently. She turned down into the draw and headed up the next ridge in the open, crossing it at right angles. She was moving slowly.

I ran to camp, grabbed my rifle (my old 303 British), and gave chase. I tracked her along the side of the mountain, up, down, over and

under, for the next 1.5 miles. I lost her trail when she entered a large "blow-down". I circled the entire blowdown searching for her track. I couldn't find it. (Lodge-pole pine blow-downs can kill you when the logs shift suddenly, so I knew better than to go in there).

Returning to camp, I updated everyone and we "loaded up" to go track down the big boar. We were not able to hold his trail for very long. After cresting the next ridge, he had slowed to a walk in dense timber and his track was soon lost.

I spent the next few weeks worried about the possibility of having 2 wounded bears near our camp. But no trouble came.

Soon enough, the snow flew, logging was shut down for the season, and I was free to go hunting. I quickly found myself hunting Elk on the same mountain. I had come in from a different direction. As I crested a ridge, I heard Magpies (a bird) calling from down in the draw below me. Magpies, in the mountains, generally mean something is dead. As I worked my way down the slope and began up the next, I discovered that I was back at the same blowdown where I'd lost bear's trail.

The Magpies were dancing and calling near the lower edge of the blowdown. I eased very carefully in the short distance, and there she was. She was quite decomposed, but she was all bear; and I could still see the large white V on her chest. I was thankful to find her dead.

The large aggressive boar was never seen again – so I assume him dead also.

I have no idea why those two (2) bears charged me. The most likely theory is that the boar heard me and liked to charge. She was just tagging along."

Alan switched from a .357 Magnum to a .44 Magnum. He has hunted the high mountain country of Montana for 35 years.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/01/357-magnum-revolver-used-to-survive-double-bear-charge/>

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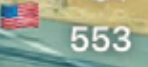


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BULLFIGHT from page 1

her two younger sisters that often involved camping and swimming in Breckenridge. On the way there, they’d pass through Gillett.

“My mom would say, ‘Look kids, over there is where the only bullfight in the United States took place...’ I think we were kind of BULLZZ interested in it. We’d talk about it a little bit and then kind of move on to other things, but it always stuck in my mind.” She said Gillet, about 10 miles from Cripple Creek “at that time was just a little corral on the side of the road.”

Every Monday CPR presents a story called “Colorado Wonders,” where a question about a Colorado curiosity that a community member brings to the station’s attention gets answered by a member of the reporting team, and here’s what some digging into McKenzie’s question turned up.

According to the 2015 online article “A (Mercifully) Brief History of Colorado Bullfighting” in the Denver Public Library Special Collections and Archives, it’s no myth – a pricey multi-day bullfight happened 130 years ago in what is now the “present-day ghost town” of Gillett, during which one or two of the five participating bulls were killed.

“Gillett, Colorado was a small mining town in Teller County, CO. In 1895, it was the site of the only bullfight in the continental United States, drawing 50,000 spectators ... In the early 1900s, Gillett disintegrated and became one of Colorado’s present-day ghost towns,” the report states.

Other publications say the crowd was closer to 5,000, not 50,000, which seems more likely from the photos in the Denver Public Library archive, which described it as the second Mexican-style bullfight in the U.S., without indicating the location of the first. Mexican-style bullfighting tends to involve the use of swords and spears by matadors against the bulls, with the end goal being killing the bull.

So how’d this event find its way onto a track and into Colorado history? Several sources – newspaper articles, library archives, and a local historian – helped fill in the blanks. Although some account details differ, all would agree that the event was a failure.

It didn’t start out that way, though. The bullfight idea was sparked when a casino owner named Joe Wolfe wanted to put Gillett, a speck of a town, on the map. He thought hosting a bullfight there would do it.

Gillett, whose population peaked at 1,500, was about 10 miles from Cripple Creek, a city known for gold mining, located about 115 miles south, and slightly west, of Denver

“Wolfe hoped that staging a large event would elevate Gillett’s fortunes and secure it a spot as the county seat of Teller County,” according to the archived article. “He was so confident that he sunk a great deal of cash into importing four bullfighters from Mexico and constructing an elaborate bullfighting arena capable of seating thousands of spectators.”

In addition to imported bullfighters, the five bulls involved in the event were also imported from Mexico, according to David Martinek, a retired Realtor who moved from Kansas to Teller County nearly 20 years ago and has since immersed himself in county history. He now holds the title of chairman of the Teller County Historic Preservation Advisory Board.

He said a possible reason for holding the bullfight there was that Gillett was founded earlier the same year, and the fight was “some sources say to commemorate the founding of Gillett,” he said in an interview from his home in Divide, a town in Teller County.

The event was set to last three days, starting August 24, 1895 – but it never made it to August 26, 1895, as planned.

Right away there were problems, one of which was the welfare of bulls. Accounts vary as to where they came from. The archived article explains the bulls were farm-dwellers unfamiliar with fighting.

“Unfortunately for everyone involved, especially the animals, the bulls chosen for the fights were not the sorts of bulls you’d normally find in a bullfighting ring south of the border,” the library report states. “These sad animals were common farm animals and were in no way prepared to participate in bloodsports of any kind.”

But Martinek has a different version: the bulls, he said, came from Mexico, and were unprepared for different reasons. The U.S. Department of Agriculture had recently approved importing cattle from Mexico, he explained. “So they figured that well, if we can import cattle from Mexico to eat, then we can import bulls from Mexico to have a Wild West show. And they proposed this in July of 1895. And so they ordered five bulls from Chihuahua, Mexico, and a famous bullfighter and his wife. They came up in late August by rail.” It’s unclear who, if any, the other bullfighters were.

Once they experienced Colorado’s elevation, the bulls, who may also have been deprived of hay, couldn’t handle it.



The August 1895 Mexican-style bullfight drew crowds in Gillett, now a ghost town, near Cripple Creek. David Martinek

“Bulls were not used to the altitude and they hadn’t been fed, and so they may have been weak, and so it was all kind of a disaster in many ways,” Martinek said.

Before the fight began, some people found the idea of bulls fighting for sport unacceptable, since they would be speared during the event.

“These folks took their concerns to the state Capitol in Denver where they found a sympathetic ear in Governor Albert W. McIntire. McIntire immediately dispatched the State Humane Officer to confirm that a bullfight was really going to take place,” according to the library’s report.

Those organizing the fight had prepared for opposition, and paid fines for cruelty to animals ahead of time to allow the fight to go on, the library article states.

Tickets to the bullfight weren’t cheap. They cost \$5, according to an audio story as part of an “Archives on the Air” series published by Wyoming Public Media. That would equal about \$190 today.



Admission to the August 1895 bullfight was \$5, which would equal almost \$200 today. David Martinek

Accounts vary as to how many people showed up. Linked to the Wyoming Public Media story is an article from an unidentified newspaper with the headline: “Big Bullfight Bought Fame to Gillett,” which is now part of the Benjamin F. Davis Papers, archived at the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming.

The article states of the bullfight: “A grandstand and bullring had been built at the race track and 5,000 people came to see the gaudy show. The *Denver News* reported that every horse and every rig in the Cripple Creek district was headed toward Gillett on that day.”

Martinek estimates the attendance as even less than that – “I’ve read books that said maybe 3,000 people attend on a Saturday,” he said – but he added there’s no official head count.

an animal’s death in the ring,” according to the library’s story. “Suffice to say, the one bull that was actually killed that day (and the bull killed the next day) suffered tremendously.”

That’s what caused what was set to be a three-day event to get truncated to two: “Though several thousand spectators showed up the second day, the bulls’ lack of enthusiasm endeared them to the crowd, and the fights were stopped after a single death. The third day of bullfights was canceled entirely,” the library article reports.

There’s no disagreement about the event being a flop. The newspaper clipping said it “turned into a fizzle ... and bullfighting in



Admission to the August 1895 bullfight was \$5, which would equal almost \$200 today. David Martinek

Colorado came to an abrupt end.” Or, as Martinek put it: “It was pretty much an event that didn’t go well.”

And it was not without consequences.

“Both of [the organizers] and all the people that came up from Chihuahua were arrested ... for animal cruelty,” Martinek said. He added that some were also fined \$60 – about \$2,200 in today’s money – “which they paid and got on the next train and went back to Chihuahua.”

It’s unclear what became of the bulls who survived. Meanwhile, Wolfe, the guy who came up with the idea, high-tailed it out of Colorado to Oklahoma and was never seen again, Martinek said.

The story of the bullfight from more than a century ago, featuring non-fighting bulls and inexperienced and/or imported bullfighters in a community whose population is now recorded as “none” did not match with the findings imagined by Lisa McKenzie, the Denver professor who first asked about it.

She was reached over Google Meet and presented with the detailed answer to the question of whether the bullfight-in-Gillett story was fact or myth, she said she had envisioned a much more innocent event when her mother mentioned it.

“I’m thinking, ‘Those poor bulls,’ she said. ‘I was a kid, so I just thought of a bullfight ... in the cartoons with the matador and the bull running around the area ... the ‘Bugs Bunny’ cartoon with Bugs Bunny being the matador, is kind of what I thought when I was a kid. I was a child in the ‘60s, so it was entirely different times.’”

Today, there is bullfighting in Colorado – but not the kind that involves causing harm to the bulls, according to Ryder Rich,

a professional bullfighter from a Northern Colorado bull-fighting family who co-owns American Bullfighting. A self-described “aficionado in the bullfights,” he owns 80 head of Mexican fighting bulls and performs about 100 times a year.

Reached for a Google Meet from outside the ring he runs in Eaton, he was surprised to learn of the Mexican-style bullfight of 130 years ago. “As much as I qualify myself as an expert, that’s a new one for me,” said Rich.

He took a look at some of the library research about the bullfight and said it’s nothing like the sport he’s a part of: today’s bullfighting matches are about 60 seconds long, and would not involve non-athletic, climate-unready bulls, and certainly no cruelty to them. “We can’t do that here. Even if we wanted to go do a same-type bullfight where they use swords and everything like that, that’s outlawed now.”

He was clearly uncomfortable to hear the animals he reveres had suffered. “Back then, if they brought these guys in from Mexico and everything, I would have to assume that they were doing some kind of event where they were using their swords and stuff like that, which was tradition for them ... if they were dying, I would have to assume that they were getting stabbed.”

He said in American bullfighting as he knows it, his bulls only compete about six days a year, and the fights don’t involve any weapons. Instead, “We get dressed up as rodeo clowns ... we go out there and we got our face painted. We got the goofy-looking baggy shorts on.”

Then it’s man vs. bull, not man with sword vs. bull, he said. “We only go out there jiving around them. If there’s any bloodshed, it’s on our end.”

The bulls are treated with reverence. “I mean, we have a full lineage book of where these animals come from, how they’re bred, what this one needs,” he said.

The risk of harm is to the bullfighter in the baggy shorts, not the bull, he said. “This is a game you’re playing with fire – you’re going to get hit at some point. You just hope that you can get up and get through it and make it to the next day.”

McKenzie, the Denver professor who brought up the topic, would agree with Rich that the bulls got a raw deal. “Well, now I know what really happened ... Knowing the full story, it’s really poignant how gruesome it can be,” she said of Mexican-style bullfighting that occurred in Gillett.

“As an adult, I know more of what bullfighting is and that it’s not done as much because of the cruelty to the animal involved.” And, of the mythical bullfight she heard about from her mother when she and the rest of the family headed to Breckenridge for outdoor adventures, she concluded: “I guess I’m happy to hear that it didn’t continue.”

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2025/02/03/mexican-style-bullfighting-in-colorado/>