

Gun Advocates Call Proposed Legislation a ‘Massive Infringement’

by Elyse Apel,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – As the Colorado General Assembly moves forward with multiple bills further restricting firearm access in the state, gun advocates are pushing back.

The **Colorado State Shooting Association**, the official state association of the National Rifle Association, spoke with *The Center Square* in an exclusive interview, highlighting some of its key concerns with the trends in Colorado.

“A lot of this legislation just comes after the very lowest crime segments of the population and the

people who handle firearms and ammunition the most responsibly,” said Huey Laugesen, executive director of the Colorado State Shooting Association. “I think that a lot of responsible and law-abiding gun owners in Colorado are really starting to feel like this legislature just wants to come after them.”

Though more have been filed, two 2025 bills have received particular attention.

The first is **House Bill 25-1133**, also known as “Requirements for Sale of Firearms Ammunition.” This bill would prohibit the retail sale of ammunition to a person who is younger than 21, with a few exceptions.

Laugesen argued this, and other recent legislation, is in violation of the Second Amendment.

“The legislature, in recent years, passed a law that changes it so adults in that age group cannot purchase rifles or shotguns anymore. They have to wait until they are 21 years old,” he said. “These are adults who have a right to vote. They could be drafted into the military and sent overseas to carry arms on behalf of the United States government. They ought to have the right to keep their arms here in the homeland as well.”

House Bill 25-1133 would also require that ammunition sold in retail stores be “not accessible” without the assistance of an

employee, practically requiring its storage in an enclosed display case or behind a counter.

“We don’t think the way ammunition sales are done now is a problem,” Laugesen said. “It seems like just another example of anti-gun politicians in the name of trying to reduce gun violence, going after the rights of law-abiding gun owners.”

He added that business owners, especially small mom-and-pop shops, could be harmed by the additional strain these requirements would put on them, particularly

GUN Legislation
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Drive-by Shooting in Cañon City

Cañon City Police Press release

Officers and detectives are working on an active crime scene at the Lamp Lighter Mobile Home Park, located in the 600 block of Raintree Boulevard, after an apparent drive by shooting occurred [Friday] morning around 7:50 a.m.

Proactive patrol led an officer to the area just before any reported calls came in regarding the incident. An officer drove through the park and was flagged down by witnesses as the first calls were coming into dispatch. After seeing a vehicle matching the description given by witnesses, officers were quickly able to intercept the vehicle and detain the occupants. One victim was located at the scene and treated and released with minor injuries.

The occupants of the vehicle, Tiffany Gann, 45, (Cañon City) and Eric Chevalier, 45, (Colorado Springs) were eventually arrested and booked [into the Fremont County Jail] on the below charges::

- Tiffany Gann-
- Attempted 1st Degree Murder-Complicity
 - Unlawful use of a weapon
 - Unlawful discharge of a firearm
 - Reckless endangerment
 - Eluding
- Eric Chevalier-
- Attempted 1st Degree Murder
 - Possession of a weapon by a previous offender
 - Reckless endangerment
 - Unlawful use of weapon
 - Stalking
 - Unlawful discharge of a firearm

This incident is an active ongoing investigation. No further information is available at this time. This



is an isolated incident and there is no apparent danger to the public. Updates to this incident will be posted as they develop.

It should be noted that all the available information led authorities to the conclusion that the two shooting incidents reported this morning are separate, unrelated incidents

Anyone with information on this incident is encouraged to contact the Cañon City Police Department, or their local law enforcement agency. People with information can submit tips via Fremont County CrimeStoppers by calling 719-276-STOP, or by submitting an online tip using the link “Use App” at the top of the Fremont County CrimeStoppers Facebook page or by using the following link. <https://www.ptips.com/Drill.aspx>

BOCC: New Tourism AG Effort, Money for Nothing, Epp and Politics

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The February 27, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting was held at the meeting room at All Aboard Westcliffe and started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogel song.

In Commissioner Items, Vogel song said he had attended a Weed Board meeting. Canda noted that Road & Bridge is building a secondary parking lot next to the courthouse for employees freeing up space for visitors in the regular parking lot. Canda also said that the Public Comments segments are not for debate but for comments and he will be enforcing that.

Interim County Attorney Dan Slater reported that the county had been served in a land partition lawsuit regarding the Trinity Ranch and based on the complaint, he did not see why. He said he will file an answer.

In New Business, Accounts Payable was the first item. AP is now done in half month sections and the early February one was for \$168k. This passed. Epp stated that going forward each credit card charge booked will also have the actual line item(s) it was expensed to.

Several Finance Resolutions were next. This was led by our Finance Director, Vernon Roth. Resolution 25-07, General Fund Wage Adjustment, was for \$41k and that was compensation various county employees who have been underpaid with regards to fellow, equivalent jobs in the county. Resolution 25-08, Wage Adjustment for Road & Bridge was for a similar thing. That amount was \$23k. The last Resolution, 25-09 was to pay for the magical new \$100k wood chipper that has been predicted will save Happy Valley from the Big One. It was for \$50k as the state (ie, us state wide tax payers) was footing the other \$50k.

The legendary Courthouse Sidewalk Improvement project was the next subject. Epp talked about the CDOT/State grant scenario and said we had spent around \$100k so far for the engineering and the construction costs will be about another \$150k. Epp said CDOT advised him to apply for another \$50k just in case the projected costs will rise. This he will do.

The Custer County Tourism crew were up next, and they came to the show talking about getting an agricultural collective grant which would help them build a marketing system for our local ranchers and farmers. They talked about setting

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**PATRIOT
ALERT!**

How to Use
Cover
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to Me in love, I will
deliver him;
I will protect him,
because he knows
My name.
Psalm 91:14 ESV

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

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

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

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Key Personnel

George Gramlich - President & Managing Editor
George.Gramlich.sdc@gmail.com

Fred Hernandez - Vice President
FredHer8@proton.me

L. Vass - Secretary and Asst Editor / Graphics Layout
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Katherine Brencley - Advertising Coordinator
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support

Accounting Services
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com
Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery

Galen Studebaker

Sentinel Founders

Mike Hess
George Gramlich
Mary Seifert
Rob Canterbury

Sentinel Honor Roll

Dan Bubis
Jackie Bubis
Carol Clemenson
Scott Clemenson
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors

Audrey Slater
Min. Photo in Logo
by Peggi Collins

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719-783-3360
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“We the People” Speak



Commentary

Pennies to us ... Cents to you; The Denver Mint

It cost 3.69 cents to produce and distribute a penny last year, according to the U.S. Mint’s annual report.

by Dale Klingbeil,
Commentary

February 25, 2025

Maybe even common sense. This should be part of the DOGE movement for common sense savings and the future of “cents”.

I have some experience with manufacturing and metal forming operations. I am not a tool maker. I am however an engineer. I have purchased tooling for metal stamping/forming machines around the world. I have seen many high-volume operations. I have stood on the platforms of some of the largest presses in the United States. Huge improvements and advancements have been made in tooling and processing in recent years.

As I have watched the Denver Mint operations video online, it is obvious that the machines and systems that produce “cents” are very dated. (From investigation, it has been stated that a major modification was made in 1982.) In one part of the video the notation is that the striking process runs at 750 per minute. I am familiar with this rhythm, and faster.

The video shows a 9,000 lb. coil being loaded onto a decoiler, manually. The video shows a person feeding the lead edge of the

material into the press to begin the process. Again, hand labor. These processes have been automated in recent years.

During the early 1940s the penny was produced for a short period of time with steel being its major material. After WWII the penny returned to a copper material as we have come to know it.

The material was changed from a high composition of copper to a high composition of zinc. Elon Musk likes stainless steel. It is very likely that a stainless steel-based material could be used in this application. Stainless steel is far less expensive than copper and zinc.

The current processing system uses an annealing process to stress relieve the coin/blank. Again, this process may be eliminated with the use of more current materials and/or processing. Annealing is another process of high energy utilization. If removed, it could result in another cost savings measure.

The coins are conveyORIZED and counted on their way to the bagging stations. The finished coin is stored in containers fully

PENNIES TO US
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Trump Boasts ‘America’s Momentum Is Back’ in Address to Congress

by Ariana Figueroa and Jennifer Shutt, Colorado Newsline

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump touted his administration’s accomplishments after just 43 days in office and the need for billions in federal funds to enact his campaign promise of mass deportations during his first address to a joint session of Congress since returning to the White House.

“They are now strongly embedded in our country, but we are getting them out and getting them out fast,” Trump said of immigrants without legal status, especially those who were given authorization to enter the United States under the Biden administration.

The nearly two-hour speech, however, was interrupted multiple times by Democrats who protested and booed, heckling the President about potential cuts to Medicaid that could come as part of the budget reconciliation process.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, ordered the Sergeant at Arms to remove 11-term Texas U.S. Rep. Al Green after Green refused to stop shouting at Trump.

“You have no mandate to cut Medicaid,” Green, 77, yelled, waving his cane in the air, after Trump claimed he had been elected with a mandate. Green told reporters afterward: “It’s worth it to let people know that there are

some people who are going to stand up” to Trump.

DEI, transgender athletes

Much like in his campaign speeches, the President railed against diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and criticized transgender athletes in women’s sports. He vowed to continue getting rid of “fraud and waste” in the federal government.

The President also defended his 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico and additional 10% tariffs on China, levied beginning Tuesday.

“Tariffs are not just about protecting American jobs, they’re about protecting the soul of our country,” Trump said. “Tariffs are about making America rich again and making America great again. And it’s happening, and it will happen rather quickly. There will be a little disturbance, but we’re okay with that.”

Both the immigration crackdown and a litany of Trump’s actions so far to cut costs, freeze hiring and reduce regulations occupied much of the speech.

Some Democrats who did attend invited federal workers who were fired as part of the U.S. DOGE Service’s efforts to curtail the federal workforce by eliminating probationary workers — meaning they were either recently hired or recently promoted, making them probationary.

Immigration theme

Trump made immigration a central theme of his speech and in the guests he invited to the address.

One of the guests, Alexis Nungaray, lost her 12-year-old daughter, Jocelyn, who was killed by two immigrants in the country without proper legal authorization. Trump held up an executive order he had signed to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas after Jocelyn Nungaray.

“One thing I have learned about Jocelyn is that she loved animals so much, she loved nature,” Trump said. “Across Galveston Bay from where Jocelyn lived in Houston, you will find a magnificent National Wildlife Refuge; a pristine, peaceful, 34,000-acre sanctuary for all of God’s creatures on the edge of the Gulf of America. Alexis, moments ago, I formally renamed that refuge in loving memory of your beautiful daughter, Jocelyn.”

The President also invited as guests the family of a Georgia nursing student whose murder prompted the passage of the first bill signed into law during his second term — a mandatory immigrant detention bill known as the Laken Riley Act.

Trump addressed Laken Riley’s mother, Allyson Phillips, and her sister, Lauren Phillips.

“Last year I told Laken’s grieving parents that we would ensure their daughter would not have died in

vain,” Trump said. “That’s why the very first bill I signed into law as your 47th President mandates the detention of all dangerous criminal aliens who threaten public safety.”

He again vowed his administration would continue to ramp up deportations.

Trump also praised how the number of encounters at the southern border has dropped — a steady trend since October, when former President Joe Biden was still in office, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data.

Despite relatively low encounters at the southern border, Trump has sent several rounds of active-duty military to aid immigration officials at the U.S.-Mexico border, as recently as last weekend.

There are roughly 9,200 troops stationed at the U.S.-Mexico border, which stems from one of the flurry of executive orders Trump signed on his first day in office that declared a national emergency at the southern border.

Action on budget

Trump encouraged Republicans in Congress to quickly pass legislation that would extend the 2017 tax cuts and bolster spending on border security.

“And the next phase of our plan to deliver the greatest economy in history is for this Congress

to pass tax cuts for everybody,” Trump said.

The House and Senate must vote to adopt a budget resolution in order to move through the reconciliation process, but so far the two chambers are at odds over whether to move all of their policy goals in one package or split it up into two bills.

Turbulence in the chamber

Before and during the President’s address, Democrats protested through signs, interruptions and abruptly leaving in the middle of the joint session.

In the chamber, Democrats held signs that read: “Protect Veterans,” “Save Medicaid” and “Musk Steals.”

As the President walked into the chamber, New Mexico’s Dem. Rep. Melanie Stansbury held a sign that read, “This is not normal.” The sign was quickly snatched and tossed in the air by GOP Rep. Lance Gooden of Texas.

Michigan’s Rashida Tlaib had a white board that she wrote on throughout the night. “No King. Cut Elon, not Social Security,” she wrote.

Halfway through Trump’s address, a handful of Democrats left, removing their jackets to reveal black t-shirts with the word

TRUMP see page 16

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KNIGHTS CHARITY TEAMWORK For The Benefit of Our Community

by Fred Hernandez

Nineteen Knights of Council #16577 of the Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of The Assumption parish in Westcliffe gathered on Saturday, March 1, on a warm winter morning, to work on their special firewood project for those in need. Amidst the whirr and hum of three splitters, the cracking of timber, the roar of two chainsaws and the scent of wood dust in the air they worked tirelessly for more than three hours straight sawing, splitting, stacking firewood which was moved from the splitters to the stacking area with the use of thirteen wheelbarrows. It was almost a military style operation in terms of teamwork, speed and efficiency that resulted in approximately seven cords neatly stacked and ready for delivery to those in need in the remaining cold winter days.

Then, just after the noon hour the fun of brotherly fellowship began over a simple but delicious lunch lovingly provided by the Knights ladies in the parish hall.

The firewood that the Knights split is distributed at Our Lady of the Assumption through Ave Maris Caritas. Their simple mission statement



Knights of Columbus splitting firewood (top) and enjoying a meal together (below).
Photo by Fred Hernandez

reads: Ave Maria Caritas provides financial support for basic needs in emergency situations and referrals for other support for all who knock on

our door. Those who need may call the parish office at 719-783-3507.

The Knights of Columbus was founded on March 29, 1882 by Catholic priest Blessed Michael J. McGivney. Today, the membership is composed of 2.1 million practicing Catholic men in more than 17,000 local councils throughout the world. The Knights serve their communities and local parishes contributing many millions of dollars in charity and volunteer hours of work in the community. All for the greater glory of God. Vivat Jesus!





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SilverWest Airport State Annual Aviation Impact Study

Press release
Custer County’s SilverWest Airport
**Colorado Division of Aeronautics
2025 Aviation economic impact
study**

Each year the Colorado Division of Aeronautics publishes the results of their annual study on the impact aviation has on the State’s economy. Copied below is the 2025 brochure produced by the Division of Aeronautics on the economic impact of Custer County’s SilverWest Airport.

What is Economic Impact?

Two types of economic impacts are generated as a result of airport activity: Direct Impacts and Multiplier Effects (supplier sales and income re-spending). Direct impacts come from the activities of the airport administration, on-airport tenants, capital improvement spending, and spending by visitors arriving on commercial and general aviation aircraft. Multiplier effects are generated when portions of direct revenues are used to purchase goods and services from Colorado businesses (supplier sales), and when income earned by workers in airport-supported jobs is spent at Colorado businesses (income re-spending). Total Impacts represent the summation of the direct impacts, supplier sales, and income re-spending effects for the state.

**Individual Airport Economic
Impact Report -- Silver West (C08)**

Located in south-central Colorado, Silver West Airport (C08) is a general aviation airport adjacent to Colorado’s Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range. With its proximity to recreational attractions such as the Rainbow Trail, Beckwith Ranch, and the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Silver West Airport draws visitors within the state and outside Colorado that are destined for these nearby attractions.

C08 is owned and operated by Custer County. C08 has a 6,954-foot-long asphalt runway (13/31), an automated weather observing system, and state-of-the-art self-service fueling system. C08 also offers hangar rentals for its based aircraft and tie down parking for itinerant aircraft.

Business tenants at C08 provide air frame and powerplant maintenance, aircraft rental services, and flight training.

Each summer the airport hosts the Silver West AirFest, drawing crowds as large as up to 800 people with 40 to 50 aircraft that fly in for the annual event.

Silver West Airport also supports flight training operations and accommodates both military and emergency medical operations conducted by helicopters. Silver West Airport serves an important role in promoting tourism in Colorado by providing access to local attractions as well as promoting aviation in

the community and serving as an important link in Colorado’s system of airports.

**Economic Impacts of -- Silver
West (C08)**

Silver West is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State’s aviation economic impact. To understand how C08 and other airports support economic activity, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Division of Aeronautics undertook the 2025 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study (CEIS). The study determined that C08 generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the \$1.5 million of total business revenues generated by C08, \$1.4 million were generated by on-airport.

**Statewide Aviation Economic
Impacts**

Colorado’s 66 public use airports range from small GA airports to a major international airline hub, all of which contribute to the state’s economy. The impacts of on-airport activities and visitor spending associated with each airport, combined with the statewide impacts of off-airport air cargo operations, helped Colorado’s aviation system generate \$68.9 billion in total economic activity (business revenues) in 2023.

For information on the Study see <https://www.coloradoaviationsystem.com/>

Letter to the Editor



Chaffee GOP Women Thank Supporters of Scholarship Fund

Dear Editor,

The Chaffee County Republican Women hosted a second annual Valentine’s Day Lasagna Dinner to help raise money for our annual high school girls’ scholarship. We are happy to announce the dinner was successful. Needless to say, a lot of hard work went into staging and offering this fundraiser to the public. Our members, husbands of members, and friends of members participated in all facets of the event. We were fortunate to have all of those hard working volunteers.

We would also, and especially, like to publicly thank the following individuals and businesses for their gracious assistance:

Frank Grimo
Ben Scanga and Scanga Meat Company
George Gramlich, Managing Editor from
The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Tangie Granzella
Donald Jones and The Hunger Junction
Buena Vista LaGree’s
Poncha Lumber

And, of course, we are deeply appreciative of the diners who came to our Valentine’s Day Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser on February 14 and donated to our wonderful scholarship cause.

For information about the Chaffee County Republican Women, please email to pronghorn57@proton.me or call 719-221-4029. New members are always welcome!

Sincerely,

Ruth Heckmann, President, Chaffee County Republican Women, Buena Vista

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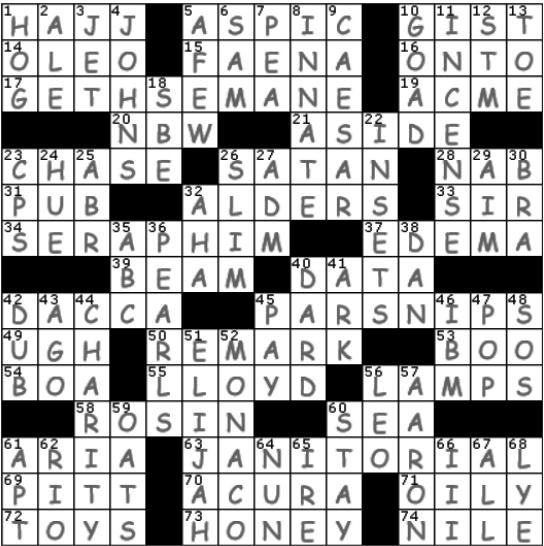
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Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, March 10

#109 Turkey Pot Pie

Peas & Carrots

Salad w/Lite Ranch

WW Roll w/Butter

Orange

Oatmeal Cookie

Tuesday, March 11

#74 Roast Pork

Oven Browned Potatoes w/Gravy

Spinach Mandarin Orange Salad

Parslied Carrots

Apple

WW Roll w/Butter

Thursday, March 13

#26 Chicken Fajita

Savory Black Beans w/Cilantro

Tortilla Whole Wheat

Cheddar Cheese

Mexicali Corn

Orange

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



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A Fresh Valley Proud Initiative
Marketing a Wet Mountain Valley Agricultural Collective

Press Release
Custer County Tourism

The Custer County Tourism Board, under the direction of Bianca Trenker and Debbie Adams, is very excited to be building momentum with a fresh Valley Proud initiative to market the Wet Mountain Valley Agricultural Collective. We are thrilled so many of the valley’s ranchers, farmers, and producers will be participating in an ambitious enterprise to give them the opportunity to showcase the amazing products raised and grown here.

We want to thank Twila Geroux who has helped us learn a great deal and to brainstorm ideas to grow this endeavor. We also appreciate Montana Canterbury, manager of Westcliffe Meats, and Freeman Miller of Valley Feed Ranch Supply for their assistance in collecting contacts and sharing their experience. We appreciate their enthusiasm for this project.

A ranch questionnaire was sent out via email to gather details needed to create an agricultural directory with an individual listing and web post for each operation on a website to be developed. These are questions

to explain what you do, what sets you and your products apart, and the best way for consumers to contact you. Every operation is unique, so please tell us your story. If you have not received this questionnaire and would like to, please send an email to info@visitwetmountainvalley.com to request it.

Custer County Tourism can assist with developing content and taking photos, if needed. Montana Canterbury at Westcliffe Meats has offered to help anyone wanting assistance in filling out this questionnaire. We would like all ranch questionnaires to be returned by March 20th, the first day of Spring, always a good time to begin something anew!

Once we have the webpages created, the WMV Agricultural Collective Directory will showcase the impressive bounty of high quality products raised and grown here in the valley. Tourism will be promoting the agricultural collective through social media, email newsletters, printed literature and ads, radio and other marketing means. Local residents, out-of-state visitors, and the Front Range will be target sectors for promotions.

We intend for this undertaking to be successful in many areas: connecting consumers with the producers of our area, to help those wanting to expand by increasing exposure, to promote the local market with advertising campaigns, to grow the bottom line of our producers by making connections which cut out the middlemen, to pull together an informational database showing the variety of goods available in the area which can provide cleaner, healthier, high quality foods and products to everyone.

We are also looking into the opportunity of assisting in the formation of an in-town location for a market of agricultural products to be available for locals and visitors to purchase—more on this possibility as it unfolds.

As we approach the 150th anniversary of Custer County in 2027, we believe it is important to honor the land, the sky and the ranching legacy of the Wet Mountain Valley. Even though the sesquicentennial is two years away, there’s no time like the present to start thinking about it! This Valley Proud initiative is the first step. Thank you for sharing your story.

Come and Worship

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

Send Church updates to sdc.sentinel@gmail.com
(719) 783-3360

How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

Isaiah 52: 7 NKJV



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Events

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West Custer Library Community Room. FREE

March 12, 4- 5:20 p.m.
Free Legal Clinic by Appointment only
Call (719)783-9138 @ West Custer Library

March 14, PI Day Fundrasier
(Pie donations accepted 3/13-14)
Pie(s) available for purchase on 3/14 in the
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March 15, 1 p.m. Post Office Ranch Bull Sale
Chaffee County Fairgrounds, Poncha Springs

March 22, 12-2 p.m. \$25 to enter \$15 to Taste
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(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
Limited Dispatch 719-783-2343

Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS

Friday, March 7, 2025

The Bumblebee Bat

The bumblebee bat also known as Kitti’s hog-nosed bat because of their pig-like face. Apparently, this little thing is the smallest species of bat and one of the world’s smallest mammals and is a near-threatened species of bat. I have never heard of this one myself so I thought I would share.

This bat is found in western Thailand and southeast Myanmar, where it occupies limestone caves along rivers. They roost in caves in limestone hills, far from the entrance high on walls or roof domes, far apart from each other, living in small colonies of around 10 – 100 individuals and they are known to take seasonal migration trips between caves. They were first discovered by the Thai biologist, Kittu Thonglongya, in 1973.

These bats are small at about 1.1 to 1.3 in. in length and 0.071 oz in mass. They have a distinctive swollen, pig-like snout with thin, vertical nostrils and their ears are relatively large, while its eyes are small and mostly concealed by fur. Their bodies are reddish brown or grey, while the underside is generally paler. The wings are relatively large and darker in color, with long tips that allow the bat to hover.

Their diet consists mainly of insects. They are most active at dusk when they fly around teak trees and clumps of bamboo capturing insects which they capture in the air using their mouth. Like all other bats, the bumblebee bat uses echolocation to view the world around them and find food. Echolocation allows animals to map their surroundings using sound.

You may think that visiting bat caves to see the world’s smallest mammal is tempting, but it is potentially dangerous. Holding these tiny creatures can interfere with the bats’ natural behaviors, and if bitten, humans can contract infections. The safest way to see these bats is to visit the outside of one of the caves in the National Park in Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand at dusk or dawn to watch them fly around feeding. Don’t even think of having them as pets.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bumblebee_bat, <https://animalia.bio/kittis-hog-nosed-bat>, <https://www.thefactsite.com/bumblebee-bat-worlds-smallest-bat/>, <https://www.batcon.org/bat/craseonycteris-thonglongyai-2/>, <https://www.sciencing.com/bumble-bee-bat-6005965/>

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Jesus said:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14:12 ESV

St. Patrick’s Day Youth Essay Contest

All youth below age 18 who reside in Custer County, Colorado are eligible to participate.

Two first prizes of \$100
Two second prizes of \$50

In the early 400 a.d., a Christian youth named Patrick, who lived in Britain, was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery as a shepherd in Ireland, where he was starved and mistreated. Still, in his loneliness, Patrick’s faith was kindled, and he heard God speak to him.

Patrick miraculously escaped and encountered many adventures. After returning home, he travelled to Europe for seminary and was eventually consecrated a bishop. He then returned to Ireland to fulfill the scriptures in Matthew 28:18-20, which Christians today call The Great Commission.

How to Participate in this essay contest

1. Read up on the story of St. Patrick’s life, and study Matthew 28:18-20 in the Bible
2. Write an essay on the topic Patrick of Ireland and the Great Commission. Apply that to today. Use your best imagination!
3. Write around 600 words but as many as you need
4. Use your best spelling, punctuation and composition
5. Email your entry to joannecanda@gmail.com by March 17
6. Participants must be residents of Custer County, Colorado at the time of the contest
7. One first prize and second prize each for age groups 12- and up and 11 and under

Questions? Call Joanne Canda at 719-371-3277
St. Patrick’s Anglican Church Westcliffe

Artistic Edge Dance Troops prepare for Two More Competitions

Press Release
by Rachael Simmons
Owner/instructor/
choreographer

The dance competition team at Artistic Edge Dance Studio here in Westcliffe has been hard at work preparing for their upcoming dance competitions in Pueblo this year. We have 15 dancers on the team this year ranging from ages 9 to 16.

These dancers have been working for months on their routines and will be competing in three competitions this year, Talent On Parade February 28th-March 2nd which we just completed, Revolution

on March 7th-8th, and Believe on April 4th-6th in the styles of tap, jazz, musical theatre, contemporary, hip hop, and lyrical. We have 15 dances going to compete, five of those being solos. They finished off this first competition with trophies all around, some overall awards, a scholarship for a dance convention, a sportsmanship award and two top stars awards! We look forward to seeing them get better and better with each competition.

We would like to thank our amazing community that has supported our dancers every year with fundraising and sponsoring as well

as coming to watch and support them at recitals and competitions, this amazing experience would not be possible without you all and we are so grateful!!

If you would like to watch our talented dancers perform there is a live feed for each competition that will be posted on our Facebook page the day each competition starts so you can watch from home or come on down to Pueblo to watch in person, it is free to get in, both of these competitions will take place at the Pueblo Convention Center. If you see these girls out and about, please congratulate them and wish them well!!

Tony’s Players of the Week

Boys Varsity:
Chris Mullet
Creed Ingram

photos by Jennifer Russ
Photography



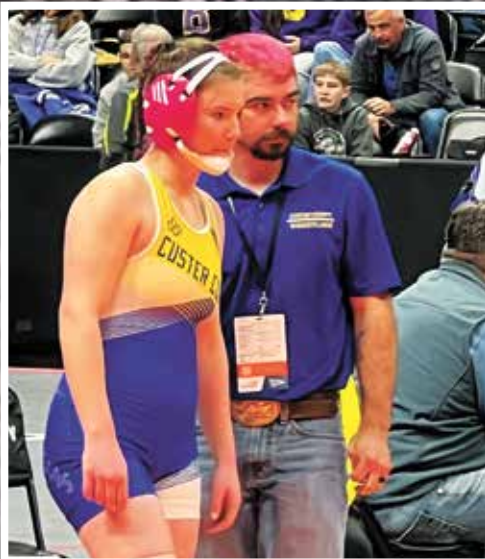
MOST
VALUABLE
PLAYERS

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Thursday, February 27:

HS Boys Varsity Basketball vs Del Norte: 38-41, loss
HS Girls Basketball vs Crested Butte: 25-37, loss

Custer County Schools at State Wrestling Tournament 2025



Photos courtesy of Custer County Schools and parents of winners.

From CHSSA:

DENVER - Five teams and 84 individuals were crowned state champions Saturday, February 15th, the final day of the 2025 Colorado High School Activities Association's Wrestling State Championships, at Ball Arena. Over the course of the three days, over 1,300 wrestlers competed with one champion being named in each weight class across all six classifications.

Jason Hemsath finished 2nd at 144lbs. Our highest state placement in many years.

144-2A

Guaranteed Places

- 1st Place - Scotty Engle of Sedgwick County/Fleming
- 2nd Place - Jason Hemsath of Custer County**
- 3rd Place - Derrick Sievertsen of No. Fork High School
- 4th Place - Forrest Craddock of Co. Springs Christian
- 5th Place - Ethan Toothaker of Cedaredge
- 6th Place - Andree Meraz of Center

1st Place Match

Scotty Engle (Sedgwick County/Fleming) 44-5, Sr. over Jason Hemsath (Custer County) 48-5, Jr. (Fall 6:00)

Brylee Shy finished 6th at 155 lbs. She is the **FIRST EVER** State Placer for CCSD Girls wrestling.

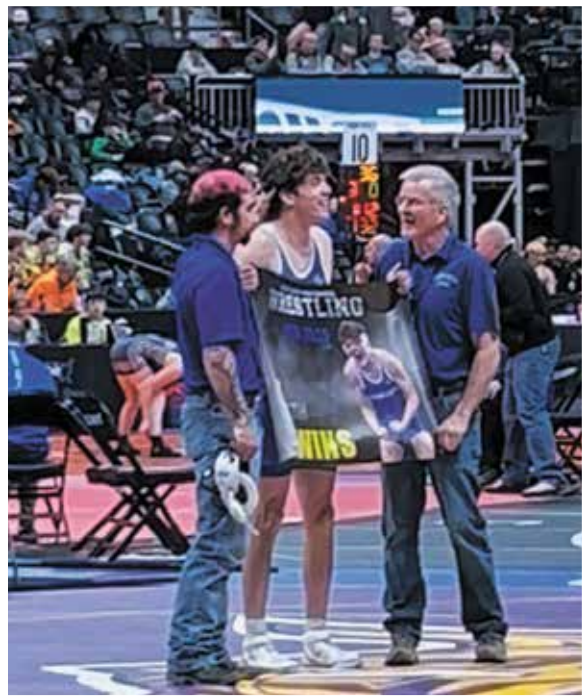
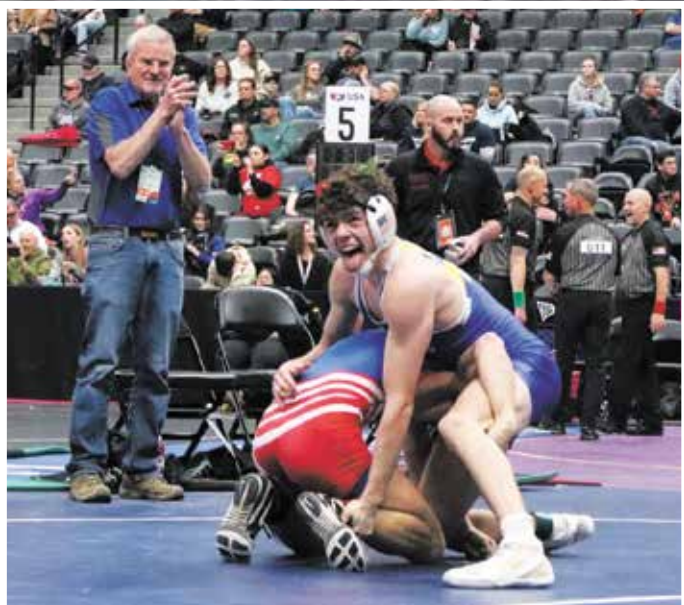
155-4A

Guaranteed Place

- 1st Place - Madilyn Gitke of Strasburg Girls
- 2nd Place - Reese Davis of Rifle Girls
- 3rd Place - Abi Speer of Berthoud Girls
- 4th Place - Maliyah Sandoval of Pueblo Cntl Girls
- 5th Place - Dixie Bitner of County Line Girls
- 6th Place - Brylee Shy of Custer County Girls**

5th Place Match

Dixie Bitner (County Line Girls) 28-9, Jr. over Brylee Shy (Custer County Girls) 26-15, Jr. (Fall 0:32)



Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, March 7:

7 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball Regional

Tournament Info:

We are the 18th seed in regionals. We play at Crowley County in Ordway, against Holyoke. We would love to have as many people from Custer County come support the boys.

Saturday, March 8:

10 am HS Track @ CSU Early Bird at Pueblo CSU

Wednesday, March 12:

1 pm HS Baseball @ HOME vs Buena Vista

Thursday, March 13:

4 pm HS Baseball @ HOME vs Kiowa

Saturday, March 15:

9 am HS Track @ Banana Belt Classic at Pueblo - Dutch Clark

Thursday, March 20:

4 pm HS Baseball @ Kiowa (away)

March 24 - 30: Spring Break!

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

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Colorado State News





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or email: armychic21t@gmail.com

Transgender Identifying Man Arrested for Allegedly Planning to Bomb a Colorado Tesla Dealership

by Seamus Othot,
The Maine Wire

A transgender-identifying man, Justin Thomas Nelson, 40, who goes by the name Lucy Grace Nelson, was arrested on Monday after allegedly vandalizing and planting incendiary devices at a Tesla dealership in Loveland, Colorado.

The Loveland Police Department arrested Nelson following an investigation that began on January 29th in response to multiple incidents of vandalism at the dealership and the discovery of incendiary devices.

Police told Fox News that the vandalism included “very offensive messages, derogatory in nature,” though the incendiary devices were not detonated.

On Monday night, Nelson returned to the Tesla dealership carrying materials associated with prior vandalism, along with additional incendiary devices.

Authorities arrested him before he could do any additional damage to the dealership.

Nelson faces multiple felony charges, including Explosives or Incendiary Devices Use During a Felony, a Class Two Felony, Criminal Mischief \$2,000 < \$5,000 Business, a Class Six Felony, and Criminal Attempt to Commit a Class Three Felony, which is a Class four Felony.

He was issued a \$100,000 cash surety bond, and authorities say they are working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and that additional federal charges are likely.

Police did not provide any information on Nelson’s motive, although the incident



appears to fit with a growing trend of Teslas being targeted by vandals opposed to Elon Musk’s involvement with President Donald Trump and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Numerous mainstream media outlets, including NBC, CNN, and even Fox, prominently described Nelson as a woman in their headlines. A brief review of his social media accounts reveals that Nelson is, in fact, male and began going by the name “Lucy” starting in 2021.

“I’ve told some of you already, but I’m coming out 100% now. I am a trans woman. Name is Lucy, pronouns are she/her. I’m happier than I’ve ever been and I’m ready to take on the world,” said Nelson.

Please see: <https://www.themainewire.com/2025/02/transgender-identifying-man-arrested-for-allegedly-planning-to-bomb-a-colorado-tesla-dealership/>



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Colorado State News



Trump Justice Department Conducting Review of Colorado's Tina Peters Prosecution

by: Chase Woodruff, Colorado Newsline

President Donald Trump's Department of Justice said in a court filing Monday that it will conduct a "review" of Colorado's prosecution of Tina Peters, the former Mesa County clerk who was convicted of participating in a breach of secure voting equipment in an attempt to prove Trump's lies alleging widespread fraud in the 2020 election.

In a "statement of interest" submitted as part of a pending lawsuit filed by Peters in the U.S. District Court of Colorado, attorneys with the DOJ and the office of the U.S. District Attorney for Colorado wrote that the court should give "prompt and careful consideration" to Peters' request for her immediate release from a Colorado jail, where she is serving part of a combined nine years behind bars in a sentence handed down by a Mesa County judge last year.

"Reasonable concerns have been raised about various aspects of Ms. Peters' case," said the two-page filing. "These concerns relate to, among other things, the exceptionally lengthy sentence imposed relative to the conduct at issue."

The filing was signed by Yaakov Roth, acting assistant attorney general in the DOJ's Civil Division; J. Bishop Grewell, the acting U.S. attorney for Colorado; and assistant U.S. Attorney Peter McNeilly.

Peters was convicted by a Mesa County jury in August 2024 on a variety of criminal charges, including felony counts of attempting to influence a public servant and conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation. The charges stemmed from her role in a scheme to allow an unauthorized person to enter the Mesa County's elections department she oversaw, in order to make copies of election system software and capture images of passwords.

Judge Matthew Barrett sentenced Peters to eight and a half years of prison time in addition to a six-month stint in jail, citing the "immeasurable damage" that Peters had done to local elections and trust in



Former Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters enters the courtroom during her trial in Grand Junction on August 12, 2024, when her defense team and prosecutors delivered closing arguments.

(Sharon Sullivan for Colorado Newsline)

the electoral process, her lack of remorse and other factors. She was transferred to the Larimer County Detention Center in December after expressing "concerns for her safety" in a Mesa County jail, and she is due to be transferred to Colorado Department of Corrections custody to serve her prison sentence.

Last month, Peters filed a federal lawsuit against Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and Larimer County Sheriff John Feyen, asking the court to issue a writ of habeas corpus and order her "immediate release."

The Trump DOJ's "review" of the Peters case comes amid an unprecedented effort by the new administration to contravene criminal justice proceedings related to the president's election conspiracy theories and the Janury 6, 2021, assault by a pro-Trump mob on the U.S. Capitol. That effort has included blanket pardons of roughly 1,500 people convicted in the Capitol attack and purges of prosecutors who handled many of those cases.

A spokesperson for Weiser said his office could not comment on an active case. The office of the U.S. attorney for Colorado also declined to comment.

Please see <https://coloradonewsline.com/briefs/trump-review-colorado-tina-peters>

GUN Legislation from page 1

in light of "all of the regulation that they have to contend with."

Following heated testimony from both supporters and opponents during its committee hearing, the bill successfully passed the state House on [a week ago] Tuesday on a vote of 38-27, with a few Democrats joining Republicans in opposition to the bill. It is now waiting to be taken up by the Senate.

"I do think it has a high likelihood of passing through both chambers and being signed into law by Gov. (Jared) Polis," he said. "It could still be defeated in the courts if it is signed into law, and that's certainly something that our organization will explore."

Senate Bill 25-003 is the second piece of legislation concerning many pro-firearm advocacy groups. It originally banned the sale or purchase of any semi-automatic rifles, shotguns or gas-operated handguns that take detachable magazines, exempting firearms with "permanently fixed" magazines.

Following the amendment process, it would still ban the purchase or sale of the applicable semi-automatic weapons, but now creates exemptions for individuals who complete a firearm safety course and are vetted by law enforcement.

"We are definitely opposed to Senate Bill 3, which we are calling the semi-automatic firearm ban and gun owner registry," Laugesen said. "The whole thing is a massive infringement on the Second Amendment."

He highlighted concerns about how it could also discourage certain at-risk populations from buying firearms.

"It really disproportionately affects poor and minority communities in Colorado. The process that the legislation outlines for permission to purchase these arms is very lengthy," he said. "So it sort of bans all of these common firearms for a segment of the population that has a special need for the proper tools to defend themselves from criminals."

Senate Bill 25-003 successfully passed the Senate earlier this month and is now awaiting a committee hearing in the House. Laugesen said the association plans to take the bill to court if it is signed into law.

This legislation is just another part of an anti-firearm trend in Colorado over the past few years, which Laugesen said law-abiding gun owners in the state are "getting really fed up with."

Considered one of the top states in the nation for "gun law strength," in the last five years, Colorado has enacted over 30 different gun laws.

Yet, according to Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun violence prevention group, gun violence in the state remains higher than the national average. Nationally, there are 13.7 gun deaths per 100,000 residents. In Colorado that number is 16.6.

Laugesen said ultimately this increase in laws will drive businesses out of Colorado to states with fewer restrictions.

"A lot of them feel like they have no other option but to leave the state," he said. "It becomes increasingly difficult to do business successfully when there's just more and more regulations they have to contend with."

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_f62050da-f513-11ef-8367-a38636f95fb8.html



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Washington DC Phone: (202) 225-4761

Brittany Pettersen (D)
House District 7
<https://pettersen.house.gov/contact/>
Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, Jefferson,
Lake, Teller, and partial counties
Washington, DC Office
Washington, DC Phone: (202) 225-2645

Nick Hinrichsen (D)
Senate District 3 Pueblo County
E-mail: nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov
200 E Colfax RM 346, Denver, CO 80203
Capitol Phone 303-866-4878

Senator Mark Baisley (R)
Senate District 4
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Jefferson, Lake, Park, Teller
E-mail: mark.baisley.senate@coleg.gov
200 E Colfax RM #, Denver, CO 80203
Capitol Phone 303-866-4877

Representative Julie McCluskie (D)
House District 13, Speaker of the House
Chaffee, Grand, Jackson, Lake,
Park, Summit
E-mail: julie.mccluskie.house@coleg.gov
200 E Colfax RM 307, Denver, CO 80203
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Representative Stephanie Luck (R)
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Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Pueblo, Teller
E-mail: stephanie.luck.house@coleg.gov
200 E Colfax RM 307, Denver, CO 80203
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Representative Tisha Mauro (D)
House District 46 (Partial Pueblo)
E-mail: tisha.mauro.house@coleg.gov
200 E Colfax RM 307, Denver, CO 80203
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Representative Ty Winter (R)
House District 47
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E-mail: ty.winter.house@coleg.gov
200 E Colfax RM 307, Denver, CO 80203
Capitol Phone 303-866-2747

TRUMP from page 3

“Resist” on the backs as they exited the chamber.

It was a stark difference from Trump’s 2020 last address to Congress of his first term, when the most explosive move from Democrats came from then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who ripped up Trump’s speech after he finished his remarks.

Tariff talk

Trump touted his recently placed tariffs, and noted other countries that have tariffs on the U.S. such as India and South Korea. The President said that starting April 2nd, he would place reciprocal tariffs on any countries that place tariffs on the U.S. in response to his trade war.

“Whatever they tariff us, other countries, we will tariff them,” Trump said.

Since Monday’s announcement that the tariffs would go ahead, stocks have tumbled.

Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a Monday statement that his country would respond with 25% tariffs “against \$155 billion of American goods – starting with tariffs on \$30 billion worth of goods immediately, and tariffs on the remaining \$125 billion on American products in 21 days’ time.”

“Our tariffs will remain in place until the U.S. trade action is withdrawn, and should U.S. tariffs not cease, we are in active and ongoing discussions with provinces and territories to pursue several non-tariff measures,” Trudeau said.

Trump defended tariffs as “a new trade policy will also be great for the American farmer,” though he added that farmers may need to “bear with” him.

“The tariffs will go on agricultural products coming into America and our farmers, starting on April 2nd, it may be a little bit of an adjustment period,” Trump said. “We had that before, when I made the deal with China.”

Please see: <https://coloradonewslne.com/2025/03/04/repub/trump-america-address-to-congress/>



Colorado State News



Senate Bill 3:
Gun Ban Contortions Belie Polis’
‘Free State of Colorado’ Claims

by Mark Hillman,
CompleteColorado.com

Colorado’s ruling progressive Democrats believe in equality under the law only in the sense, as in George Orwell’s “Animal Farm”, that some of us are “more equal than others.”

Nothing illustrates this better than their current contortions related to gun policy and crime.

On the one hand, progressives resist passing a law to increase penalties for stealing a firearm because, they say, it might result in too many “black or brown” men going to jail. Likewise, they don’t want to make it easier for law enforcement to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deport illegal aliens who have committed violent crimes.

Level heads might consider it a higher priority to protect law-abiding black and brown people who aspire to live in a safe community to raise a family and earn an honest living. They shouldn’t have to contend with criminals roaming the streets because progressive lawmakers want to screen perpetrators based on skin color.

On the other hand, progressives charge full-speed ahead to criminalize gun transactions which have been entirely legal during all 148 years of Colorado statehood.

Senate Bill 3 would enact the first gun ban in Colorado history, making most semiautomatic guns and rifles, except for select hunting rifles, inaccessible to ordinary Coloradans to manufacture, sell or transfer as of September 1st.

The not-so-free Colorado

At the eleventh hour in the Senate, progressive Democrats magnanimously carved out an exemption to appease Gov. Jared Polis and promote his “Free State of Colorado”

propaganda. Most people who have lived here 10-plus years would surely argue that Colorado is now far less free – except for the freedom to use drugs, pitch a tent, and defecate in public.

The Polis amendment would allow Coloradans to continue to purchase common handguns and rifles only if these residents navigate a bureaucratic labyrinth which sponsors claim will encourage safety.

Of course, it does nothing to encourage gun safety among those who don’t care about breaking the law.

For starters, a Free State of Colorado citizen who wants to buy a specified firearm must seek the local sheriff’s permission and pay a fee just to be considered worthy. The sheriff can either grant that citizen a “Firearms Safety Eligibility Card” or choose not to do so.

Once this citizen of our free state has the sheriff’s blessing, he or she may then enroll in a government-approved “extended firearms safety course,” including a minimum of 12 hours of instruction over at least two different days. To take this course, a citizen must pay another fee which will be used to maintain a government database of those who have permission to buy a firearm.

Now get this: in an era in which we do everything online, “no part of the class may be conducted via the internet.”

A teenager can pass a driver’s ed class through an online course, but lawmakers demand that you attend class for 12 hours in person to obtain permission to exercise your God-given right to self-defense.

Having attended this class, the suppliant must then pass an exit exam with a score of at least 90%. In a state where roughly 60% of students can-

not read at grade level, that leaves many Coloradans – disproportionately poor, minority students who attended failing public schools – ill-equipped to obtain a gun legally.

Harassing the law-abiding

Yet the very people who devised this Rube Goldberg procedure that makes buying two or more guns in violation of this law a Class 6 Felony, those people will claim they don’t want to put more black and brown people in jail. Apparently, they will take that risk if it means inconveniencing, harassing and possibly jailing otherwise law-abiding gun owners who naively expected that when lawmakers took an oath to uphold the U.S. and Colorado constitutions, they actually meant what they said.

If you support prosecuting citizens based on the color of their skin rather than their conduct, you can pass laws with impunity, expecting that certain people can ignore them.

Those Colorado citizens who successfully navigate this obstacle course are permitted to purchase a firearm for five years (unless the local sheriff revokes permission). After five years, they must again seek permission, pay multiple fees, take a class, and pass a test to continue to exercise their constitutional right.

Free State of Colorado? Not hardly.

Mark Hillman previously served as Colorado’s Senate Majority Leader and State Treasurer.

(Editor/GG: Remember to thank our local dems for this outrageous violation of our Constitutional rights. It is only the beginning for these fascists.)

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/02/27/sb3-jared-polis-free-state-of-colorado-propaganda/>

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Local Mountain News & Notices

PENNIES TO US from page 2

loaded at some 2,000 lbs. Again, it does appear from this video that these containers are hand loaded onto the warehouse floor in stacks of four-high.

This may seem overboard for an explanation, of a penny/cent coin production. The idea of eliminating the penny from our monetary system may seem like a simple reduction. But the mathematical fact is that the number 1 is an integral part of our monetary system. The rounding of dollar amounts will cause all monetary systems to be adjusted for rounding. This rounding factor will result in questions regarding accounting and responsibility.

Denver Mint produces all of the penny/cent coins and distributes them west of the Mississippi. Philadelphia produces penny/cent coins, east of the Mississippi. In addition, Philadelphia has ample time to produce coins for foreign countries. As the videos show both Philadelphia and San Fransico both produce commemorative coins. The additional funds produced from the commemorative coins has driven San Francisco to be exclusive in this production.

Peak production volume is stated to have been 15.4 billion coins in the Denver Mint in year 2000. The information on the video does not state how many coins of each; cents, nickels, dimes, quarters or others were produced. That is a decline of nearly five times. Denver can do pennies alone!

“Last year, the Mint issued over three billion pennies, according to its annual report, at a loss of about \$85.3 million.” Since the volume has dropped drastically, the logic would be to streamline the manufacturing of this coin. One facility and improved processing and materials will bring this cost within range of acceptable cost for the historic and basic necessity of the U.S. currency system.

Representatives Mark Amodei (NV-02), Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05), and Rich McCormick (GA-07) released statements after reintroducing the **Coin Metal Modification Authorization and Cost Savings Act of 2025.**

"This bill proposes a modernized approach to manufacturing our currency by allowing the Mint to modify the metal composition of coins with more affordable materials." --Rep. Amodei

Coin Metal Modification Authorization and Cost Savings Act of 2023

To amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

The “Schuler” presses that are currently used could be faster and more efficient. An idea of using rotary presses could be investigated. The streamlining of the processing is certainly an avenue for cost savings. The improved materials and automation of the production line is a great opportunity to reduce waste and cost. I have personally watched different metals being stamped/pressed into one part. With the use of “AI” the inspection and transfer to packaging has huge cost savings available. By the way, why would we update two factories in the USA to support a reduced penny/cent usage as electronics become more in play. The reduced penny/cent usage is the result of electronics becoming more popular.

This bill needs support and promotion.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Custer County District Court, Colorado
205 S. 6th St.
Westcliffe, CO 81252

In the Matter of the Estate of

Verna Grace Diller, Deceased
11-20-2020

Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
David Schlabach
P.O. Box 893
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Phone number: 719-371-4421
E-mail: Joannsch01@icloud.com
Case Number: 23PR10 Division 1

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Verna Grace Diller, Deceased
Case Number 23PR10

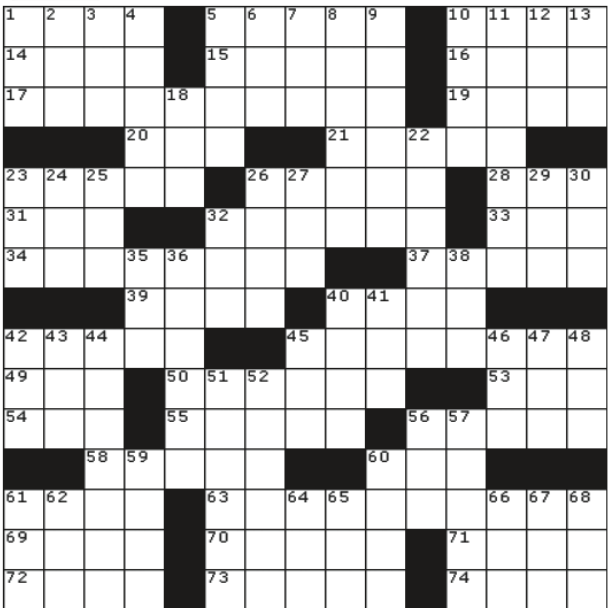
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to

District Court of Custer County, Colorado
On or before March 17, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

David Schlabach
P.O. Box 893
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Published February 21, February 28, March 7, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 5 Jell-o salad
- 10 Essence
- 14 Margarine
- 15 Matador's passes at bull
- 16 Upon
- 17 Where Jesus was betrayed
- 19 Peak
- 20 North by west
- 21 Side note

DOWN

- 23 Pursue
- 26 Adversary
- 28 Snatch
- 31 Bar
- 32 Trees
- 33 Mr.
- 34 Certain heavenly beings
- 37 Swelling
- 39 Smile
- 40 Information
- 42 Capital of Bangladesh
- 45 Edible white roots

- 49 Expression of disgust
- 50 Mention
- 53 Hiss
- 54 Scarf
- 55 Architect Frank ___ Wright
- 56 Lights
- 58 Brittle resin
- 60 Body of water
- 61 Opera solo
- 63 Custodian
- 69 Brad ___, actor
- 70 Sporty car brand
- 71 Fatty
- 72 Children's love
- 73 Food of John the Baptist
- 74 Large African river

- 1 Greedy person
- 2 Brew
- 3 Fast plane
- 4 Toilets
- 5 Some (2 wds.)
- 6 Uncle ___
- 7 Pod vegetable
- 8 Native
- 9 ___ Augustus
- 10 Instrument to guide oxen
- 11 Combustible perfume
- 12 Short-term memory
- 13 Digit
- 18 Compass point
- 22 Sets in
- 23 Cycles per second
- 24 Shade

- 25 Abridged (abbr.)
- 26 Thin
- 27 High naval rank (abbr.)
- 29 Aspire
- 30 Women's undergarment
- 32 Expression of surprise
- 35 Most basic
- 36 Do not throw your ___ before swine
- 38 Tribe of Israel
- 40 Shina
- 41 Noah's ___
- 42 Give a nickname to
- 43 Past
- 44 KJV word for love
- 45 Remit
- 46 Computer makers
- 47 Cola
- 48 Distress call
- 51 O.T. prophet
- 52 European nation
- 56 Constellation
- 57 Brother of Moses
- 59 What horses eat
- 60 Remain
- 61 Able
- 62 River (Spanish)
- 64 Catholic sister
- 65 Anger
- 66 Three
- 67 Every
- 68 Caustic substance

Puzzle key on page 7

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Ryan Stover
719-371-6074
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The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the bowling alley.

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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

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The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

On Idioms and practicality in Transforming Your Life

Over the years, there have been many interpretations of Biblical sayings such as “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” or “turn the other cheek.” We get confused with these types of maxims as to what they really mean. Sometimes, people get into heated arguments over them. An idiom is a literary feature understood by the people of that time, and is an exaggeration to make a point. In present day society, we often have a difficult time interpreting that kind of thinking. For example, how do you fit a camel through the eye of the needle? That would literally mean that no wealthy person could get into heaven, but that’s not what it really means. Don’t misinterpret scripture for lack of understanding the idiom.

Our understanding can begin in Exodus 21:1-24:18. Moses receives the remainder of the instructions on civil laws for the Israelite people from the LORD on the mountain. According to the Jewish sages, this portion contains 53 of the 613 commandments set forth by God to teach his set apart people how to live righteously. The laws arbitrate between man and his fellow man—cases of personal injury and fair restitution for loss of time from work, loss of possessions, pain, etc. The idiom, ‘life for life’ is rightly interpreted that the person causing the financial burden, was responsible, not that he forfeits his life. However, murder is one place where the literal life for life applies.

Another idiom, lex talionis [eye for an eye], is not about revenge as so often misinterpreted, but is about like for like compensation. Yet Jesus took it to a different level in Matthew 5:38-39, “You have heard our fathers were told, ‘Eye for an eye and a tooth for tooth’. But I tell you not to stand up against someone who does you wrong. On the contrary if someone hits you on the right cheek, let him hit you on the left too!” Jesus teaches the ethic of love that clarified the true law of Torah with an idiomatic exaggeration that would fully be understood by the people of that time. Jesus was addressing the need for transformation of the heart rather than rule keeping. It’s not enough to obey the letter of the law, we must also conform to the Spirit of the law.

Turning the other cheek then doesn’t imply pacifism, it was simply a command to forgo retaliation for a personal offense. Jesus was the perfect example of turning the other cheek when He was silent before His accusers, instead He prayed that His father would forgive them. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount contained several idioms. He was making the point that the spirit of the law was more important than the letter of the law. It is the spirit of the law that causes a life transformation. In other words, we can keep the letter of the law because we must or we can live our lives in the spirit of the law, which is keeping the law because it is the right thing to do and we want to do it. It is the difference between being compelled to do something and actually freely choosing to do it. Herein, the idioms are providing practicality of transforming life in Christ.

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Muslim Terrorists Behead 70 Christians in Church in the Congo

by Mark Tapson, FrontPageMag.com

Open Doors International, a world-wide organization which supports Christians who suffer persecution and discrimination for their faith, reports that the bodies of 70 Christians were found in a church in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They had been beheaded by jihadists in the latest horror of the ongoing Islamic genocide of Christians in that country and elsewhere throughout Africa.

According to local sources, at around 4 a.m. February 13th, militants from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) – a group with direct ties to the ISIS (Islamic State) terror group – seized 20 Christian men and women from their homes in Mayba in northeast DRC. Later, the militants surrounded the village and captured 50 more believers. All 70 were held hostage for a short period and then taken to a Protestant church in nearby Kasanga and slaughtered, reportedly with machetes.

You wouldn’t know any of this by checking in with the mainstream media, partly because they don’t care about the massacre of Christians anywhere in the world, partly because they can’t figure out how to blame Israel and the Jews for the beheadings of African Christians, and partly because they’re too busy ginning up outrage over Trump firing IRS employees and dismantling the DEI grift.

But some accounts on social media tried to raise awareness. The X account “Libs of TikTok” tweeted, “Seventy Christians were found beheaded in a church in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They were reportedly hostages of the Islamist group ADF—an ISIS affiliate. Why isn’t the MSM covering this story??”

Pro-life activist Lila Rose posted about the massacre as well: “Horrific. 70 Christians were brutally beheaded by an Islamist group inside a church in the Democratic Republic of Congo Where’s the media outrage? Pray for persecuted Christians.”

According to the 2025 CIA Factbook, the population of the DRK is 93 percent Christian and only 1.3 percent Muslim. And yet the population of 115 million is terrorized by that tiny percentage of Islamic supremacists. The Counter Terrorism Guide of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence states that ISIS-DRC, or the ADF,

“is one of the deadliest militant groups in eastern Congo. The group began as an antigovernment insurgency in Uganda and was publicly recognized by ISIS leaders in Syria as an ISIS branch in 2019. ISIS-DRC follows ISIS’s strict interpretation of Islamic law and aims to extend ISIS’s self-proclaimed caliphate into central Africa.

[...]

ISIS-DRC has a history of indiscriminate killings, ambushes, and kidnappings against Congolese citizens, regional military forces, and UN personnel in the DRC and Uganda. Its attacks killed approximately 4,000 civilians from 2014 to 2020. In 2021, the branch began using IEDs to conduct attacks in Uganda.”

Open Doors reports that ADF militants in the country’s northeast are a significant reason why DRC rose six places to number 35 in the latest World Watch List of countries where Christians face persecution. Last year, 355 were killed there for their faith, compared to 261 the previous year, while an estimated 10,000 were internally displaced – ten times more than in 2023. Houses have been looted and burnt, schools relocated, churches and health facilities shuttered, and some Christian villages abandoned altogether.

“Prior to the outbreak of violence, one church denomination had 25 churches in the Beni area; today, they have eight,” reads a report from Persecution.org. “Another denomination had 54 churches and now have 11. Other denominations report similar patterns.”

Open Doors goes on to note that this last year has seen an escalation in attacks against Christians from the ADF:

“Coordinated attacks have killed dozens, displaced thousands and left believers living in fear. Christians in the DRC have faced high levels of violence for several years, but this year the attacks against followers of Jesus have been even more brazen and shocking.”

The March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group, reportedly supported by Rwandan government, also targets Christian civilians in the Congo, making the situation even worse for Christians:

“Converts from Islam and indigenous religions face pressure from their

families to return to their old faiths. Catholic church leaders who speak out for fair elections risk harassment. This mix of militant threats, family pressures and political interference creates a dangerous and fearful environment for Christians in Eastern Congo.”

In mid-June of 2024, the ADF claimed responsibility for attacks in the DRC that resulted in the deaths of nearly 150 people since the beginning of the month, including on June 7th when at least 41 were killed, some of whom were found bound and decapitated.

In the first two weeks of August 2023, the ADF claimed 55 deaths, 19 in a single attack. They murdered 72 believers during two weeks in March and 80 more over ten days in April.

“We don’t know what to do or how to pray; we’ve had enough of massacres,” said an elder of the CECA20 church, an evangelical community in Central Africa.

Riadh Jaballah, Voice of the Martyrs Canada’s VP of International Ministry and Operations, told Mission Network News back in 2023 that Islamic doctrine inspired the terrorists’ savagery:

“I [recently] discussed [this persecution] with an imam, and he said, “We have steps before we kill Christian.” If [a Christian] repents, changes his faith, and becomes a Muslim, it’s fine. If not, they (Muslims) have all this authority from their god to kill that Christian.”

Todd Nettleton of Voice of the Martyrs echoed that: “There is an element to this that is very much Christian persecution and Christians being targeted as they try to create an Islamic caliphate and a place where Sharia law is followed.”

Elites in the media and academia endlessly demonize “Eurocentric” (meaning “white”) nations for their purported “colonialism” and “imperialism,” but you will never hear one word from them about the long, genocidal history of colonialism and imperialism which marks Islamic supremacism from its very origins through the present day.

Please see: <https://www.frontpage-mag.com/muslim-terrorists-behead-70-christians-in-church-in-the-congo/>

“It does not take a majority to prevail ... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men.”

— Samuel Adams

Lost Agrarian World

by Victor Davis Hanson,
The Daily Signal

Hello, this is Victor Davis Hanson for *The Daily Signal*. I'd like to do something a little bit different. I want to talk about a lost agrarian world and what it was like before the rapid industrialization and suburbanization of America and **the values**.

I want to do that because we have all of these misconceptions and all of this indoctrination and all of this ideological bias about the past. I'd just like to get a personal take very quickly.

We talk about this white, mono-lithic, racist society that has to be overturned **under DEI**, but let me go back to 1960. I was born here, where I'm speaking, on 125-130 acres of a family farm that had been in my family since 1870.

But my point is this, over where I'm pointing now, there was a farm run by Harry Gusegian. I shouldn't even mention his name. It was a wonderful family. And they were from, they had escaped, his family, the Armenian genocide in Turkey. And he was very ethnic. He was very strong, proponent of Armenian culture.

Over to my south was, I won't mention the other names, but he was a Japanese American. He had his farm confiscated during the Earl Warren and McClatchy newspaper campaign and FDR. Remember it was a liberal enterprise to take Japanese off their property and put them in, basically, holding camps in the Sierra Nevada high country. But the local farmers got together and farmed it and then kept the money that was the income, so he could have the money when he returned.

Over to the west, there was a Punjabi immigrant. Over to the north, there were two Armenian brothers.

What I'm getting at, it was racially and ethnically diverse. There was no—it was a natural diversity. And when everybody said, "Privilege, privilege"—we grew up in a, I'm not trying to be singular or anything or a victim, but we grew up in a very small 1,100-square-foot home.

And my grandparents here, they were—my grandfather was the third generation here. But what I'm pointing out, they were just like all of you listening. They didn't have it easy.

My mother lost a child, my sister, who died because my mother was pregnant with German measles. My aunt, her sister, who lived in the house that I am, was crippled with polio. And they didn't really know how to treat it in 1920. And she had a series of operations that made her bedridden for the rest of her life. She lived in the living room in which I live now.

My grandfather, I remember him at 86, still going out and making very little money but working all from 4 in the morning until 6 at night, shoveling, irrigating on his small farm. And my grandmother was—she had a ruptured appendix and she stayed in bed for two years.

That was just the typical story of these pioneer families. It was so wonderful growing up with them. You got to hear the 19th-century dialect: "Be careful when you go out yonder." "I'm going to give you the dickens." You got a glimpse of what life had been like before the modern era.

It was a shame culture: "Victor, now remember, you're a Hanson, your Swedish relatives, and you're a Davis. When you go into town, I don't want to see a cigarette hanging out of your mouth. I don't want you to have alcohol because if you get in trouble, you represent all of us. And you

will shame us. And we work hard to have a reputation where we pay our bills on time."

When my grandfather died, my task was to go to all the places and see if he'd paid the bill twice. He was so worried about it. And all of that has been erased out of DEI. We've just had this victim/victimizer binary. And the idea that people, largely farmers, in the 19th century came out with nothing. And they worked until they died, in obscurity. And they created and conveyed a set of values of hard work, of follow the law.

We had a constable. There were no sheriffs. It was a Swedish American, the constable. And every time he would come out, all I remember, as a little boy when I was in the 1950s, he had a snub-nosed .38, but he never used it.

And what did he investigate? Somebody's horse was loose or somebody had thrown a bottle of whiskey on somebody's property. And he handled it.

Nobody had a key to their home. We had one phone line.

But what I'm getting at is, everybody got together, they were **ethnically and racially diverse**, there was no prejudice. Or if there was, it was incidental, not essential to farming.

And all that world has been not only gone with the industrial age and corporate farming and the agrarianism that inculcated those values, but we have slurred those dead people, that dead lost generation. We've said that they were sexist, **racist**, homophobes, and they had it easy, they had privilege, they were supremacists. They weren't. They weren't.

They had nothing. And they worked day to night. And they gave us a set of values: hard work, follow the law, listen more than you speak, don't shame **your family**, and don't treat people by their superficial appearance, or the color of their skin, or their accent, but the content of their character. They really did. And how well they farmed.

My grandfather, before he died, said, "It's been an honor to be a neighbor of our Japanese because he taught me so much about farming. Just looking at his vineyard, it was so beautiful." And that was what the barometer of character assessment was. What we did.

And so, I think all of us should just take a deep breath. And do not listen to the media, the academics of this generation, because what have they given us but discord and mediocrity? They inherited the infrastructure, the values, what makes this country the beacon and the destination for millions of people. And yet to slur them by a mediocre, inferior generation—our generation—it's really shameful. And it's a rewriting, a Trotskyization of history.

I think it's past time to just say, "These were wonderful people. The agrarian world of the United States gave us much of the singular American character. And we're not gonna sit here anymore and listen to it being slandered and smeared by people who would not last one day behind a team of horses or on a John Deere tractor at 108 degrees F discing all day."

And that generation did. And it fed us. And we owe everything to them.

(Editor/GG: This still exists. We saw it in the farming communities in upstate NY. There is still a good chunk of it here. Let's protect it and nurture it here in Happy Valley. It is a blessing that many of our newcomers don't want to change it.)

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2025/02/21/the-lost-agrarian-world/>

The Child Murderers of Gaza

by Daniel Greenfield,
FrontPageMag.com

“O G-d, do not be silent; hold not Thy peace, and be not still,” the Chief Rabbi of Israel prayed the words of Psalm 83 over the bodies of two murdered children, their mother and an old man.

Hamas and PLO terrorists had mockingly paraded their coffins to the cheers and jeers of Muslim men, women and children occupying Gaza while upbeat music played, they had mixed up the bodies, locked the boxes and then attached keys that did not work. After inspecting the coffins for explosives, Israel had covered them with its blue and white flag and prayed over them.

Islam is an honor-shame culture and to humiliate the bodies of the children of your enemies is to show the strength of Allah and jeering the bodies of murdered children shows the glory of Islam.

The celebration and mocking of the bodies of murdered children was not the work of some fringe group. Hamas took care to have every Islamic terrorist organization taking part in claiming victory, including the PLO's Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades representing the 'Palestinian Authority' and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (Omar al-Qassim Brigades)

popular on college campuses, as well as the Al-Ansar Brigades which has links to Al Qaeda.

There is no 'Palestinian' group that was not there to take its share of credit for the dead children.

The message being sent by the representatives of seven different Islamic terrorist groups in Israel carrying the coffins of their victims is of a united front committed to the destruction of Israel, and the killing of all non-Muslims to be followed by the creation of an Islamic theocracy.

Nor was the ghoulish scene some local 'Palestinian' phenomenon as people like to think.

Hamas is an arm of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Brotherhood formerly ran Egypt and Tunisia, runs politics in Morocco, has legislators in Algeria and Libya, celebrated the takeover of Syria by its Al Qaeda allies, and dominates Muslim expat politics in America, Europe and around the West through groups such as CAIR, which celebrated the October 7 attacks, and the campus MSA.

CHILD MURDERERS
see page 22

FYI...

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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand



2025

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

How to Use Cover, Tactics for Self-Defense

by Travis Pike, ammoland.com

Cover is a gift from the heavens if someone tries to kill you with a long-range, portable hole puncher. Cover projects a literal blanket of security that sits between you and certain death. I guarantee anyone reading this owns a gun for self-protection and likely carries the gun for self-defense purposes. If you carry a weapon and intend to defend your life and the life of your family, then you need to know how to use that bulletproof heavenly gift.

Using Cover

Getting tucked in and safe behind some form of cover seems simple. Just stand behind it, right? Well, not exactly. If you're new to carrying a gun, you likely picture something from a movie. The hero has their back to a wall, their gun held with both hands at chest level. They spin out from around the wall, and plot armor takes over.

That's not what we are doing today. We are taking a rational look at how to use cover and how to make the most out of that bullet-proof, or more accurately bullet resistant, heavenly gift. The first thing you need to be able to do is figure out what resists bullets and what doesn't.



Photo: This is concealment



Photo: This is cover.

Know the Difference Between Cover and Concealment

Cover stops bullets, and concealment hides you from shooters. According to movies, you can just flip a dinner table over and be protected from gunfire. In real life, most things don't stop bullets. If you champion situational awareness, you should look at things that can prevent bullets from finding their way inside you.

You want to find solid pillars, hard concrete displays, steel, and similar materials. Most of a car isn't cover, you have to hide behind the engine to stop most rounds. Anything is better than nothing, but the harder, more solid the material the better. Fiberboard, most

wood, and thin metal aren't going to stop bullets.

Actual cover can be challenging to find, so you always have to look for it. Less-than-perfect cover can divert bullets, help them lose energy, or disguise your movements and make you more challenging to hit.

Give Cover Some Space

You don't want to be all up on your cover. Give it some space to breathe, man. Back off a bit. Optimistically, you want to be two arms' length away from cover. Sometimes, this might not be possible because of the rarity of cover, but the more distance you have, the better.



Photo: See how close I am? This makes it even hard to peek around cover and limits my situational awareness.

Having room allows you to easily peer out from the cover while hiding the majority of your body behind it. If you position your

TAKING COVER
see page 21

SABRE 300 BLACKOUT PISTOL FROM PALMETTO STATE ARMORY

by F. Riehl, Editor in Chief,
ammoland.com

Palmetto State Armory (PSA) is answering customer demand yet again with the latest addition to the Sabre lineup—the **Sabre 300 Blackout Pistol**. Built for performance and designed for versatility, this compact powerhouse delivers everything you need in a reliable and highly adaptable AR-platform pistol. If you've been waiting for a Sabre chambered in **300 Blackout**, the wait is over.

Palmetto State Armory Sabre 300 Blackout Pistol

The PSA Sabre series of firearms has been a hit among shooters looking for high-quality components straight from the factory. After the success of the Sabre .308 and Sabre 5.56, PSA is now expanding the lineup with a **300 Blackout** option, ensuring that enthusiasts of this caliber get the same premium treatment.

Built with **top-tier materials**, the **Sabre 300 Blackout Pistol** comes packed with upgraded features that make it a standout option for home defense, suppressed shooting, and general range use.



Key Features and Upgrades

- **Premium Barrel:** 10.5" 4150V Chrome Moly Steel with a **Nitride** finish for enhanced durability and accuracy.
- **Gas System:** Carbine-length with a **rifle speed adjustable gas block** for tuning to different loads, including subsonic and suppressed setups.
- **Superior Control & Ergonomics:**
 - **SBA3 Adjustable Pistol Brace** for added stability
 - **B5 Trigger Guard and Grip** for a comfortable, secure hold

- **Radian Raptor LT Charging Handle** for ambidextrous ease of use
- **Enhanced Bolt Carrier Group:** PSA's **Father's of Freedom BCG** by **MicroBest**, with a **Sprinco Extractor Spring** and **Carpenter 158 MP Bolt**.
- **Refined Trigger:** **Hiperfire RBT Trigger** with **JP Reduced Power Springs**, providing a crisp and predictable break.
- **Upgraded Safety & Buffer System:**
 - **Radian Talon 45/90 Safety Selector** for faster engagement
 - **H2 Buffer & Sprinco**

- **White Buffer Spring** for smoother cycling.
- **QD Rail System:** 10" Sabre QD Rail with a **scalloped cut** design for better cable management.

Suppressor-Ready & Built for Versatility

PSA designed the **Sabre 300 Blackout Pistol** with suppressor users in mind. The **adjustable gas block** makes tuning for **subsonic** and **supersonic** loads effortless, ensuring smooth function with or without a suppressor. PSA demonstrated the system's performance using an **AAC Ranger 7 suppressor** and **AAC subsonic ammo**, proving its reliability in real-world scenarios.

Why Choose the Sabre 300 Blackout Pistol?

This AR pistol is built to handle anything from **personal defense** to **hunting** to **tactical training**. With a **forged 7075-T6 upper and lower**, a **mil-spec anodized finish**, and **battle-tested PSA components**, it's a firearm that can withstand hard use and still deliver top-tier performance.

Release Date & Availability

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HOW to USE COVER
from page 20

body against the cover and aim around it, it's a lot harder to tuck behind it quickly. When you have distance, you can pop in and out without being impeded.

That extra room gives you a little space to manipulate your firearm. If you aren't up all over the cover, you can easily manipulate your firearm. You can reload, fix malfunctions, or whatever else you need to do with your firearm.

Backing off a bit gives you better situational awareness via peripheral vision. This might help you track a threat or non-threats that might come out of nowhere. More situational awareness is better than less.

Material splatters when hit by return fire. Concrete breaks and cracks, and you don't want speed mini rocks hitting you. At best, it's uncomfortable and distracting, and at worst, it gets in your eyes and blinds you.



Photo: Two arms lengths or so keeps you off the wall.



Photo: Movies and TV shows teach this is how to use cover.



Photo: Present as little of yourself as possible.



Photo: Notice my sights clear the cover but my barrel doesn't. I can see the target but would get a surprise if I fired. It's easy to see with me this close to the cover, but as we put distance between us and cover it becomes a bigger problem.



Photo: Will this shot hit the target or skip across the hood?

Be Greedy With Cover

Here's the thing: cover only works if you tuck your body behind it. The more of your body behind it, the better off you will be. You want to use as much cover as possible. Stick your butt behind and keep it back there. You have to fight, so you have to expose yourself a little bit so that you can shoot back.

To do that, you need to pie yourself around cover, which is another benefit of giving cover space—it's easier to pie around. You want to take a slow bite of cover, leading with your gun and leaving as much of your body behind cover as possible. Ideally, you will expose your gun, very little of your head, and some of your arm, but not much more.

You want to slowly come around cover until your sights find the target, and you can take a shot. Expose only as much as necessary to take a shot at the target.

Watch Your Barrel and Sights

This is a bigger issue with rifles than handguns due to offset. Your sights sit above the barrel, and just because your sights are on the target doesn't mean your barrel is pointing at the target. Your sights

might be on target, but the barrel is pointing at your cover.

With a rifle, your mid-sight line might be inches above the barrel, which makes it easy to shoot your cover or something in front of your cover even with a perfect shot on target. If you are shooting beside cover, make sure you aren't canting the gun and leaving part of the barrel beyond cover while your sights are on target.

I have a nice blue barrel I use as a cover simulation for training, and it's got a nice hole in it from the latter.

Change The Angle

Let's say you are suing right, shooting, and you have to fully duck back behind cover. Maybe you need to reload or reset it for any reason at all. You reload, fix the gun, or whatever, and are ready to reengage. You want to break cover as little as possible, but you want to change it up.

If you shoot high on the right side before you tuck behind the cover, you don't want to poke out from the high right side of the cover again. The bad guy might be waiting for you to do that. Mix it up, break from the left, from low on the right, or do something less predictable.



Photo: Change your position when you remerge to be less predictable.

No Ducking

If you have good taste in movies, you've watched the film "Naked Gun 2 1/2" and laughed at the rooftop shootout scene. The two characters are mere feet away and constantly shoot and duck behind cover. It's hilarious but not a valid tactic. I know; it's a big surprise that LeslPie Nielsen movies don't teach great tactics.

If you're shooting, then shoot. Don't shoot a shot and duck. Shoot and hold the position. Fire superiority rules. If you lose it, you might lose your life. If your enemy is pinned down, you're winning the fight. Keep your position and wait for the enemy to make a mistake.

Staying Alive

Cover saves lives. It stops bullets and allows you to fight from a defensible position. Using it properly can be a force multiplier. It's not enough to know how to use it; you have to go out and practice. Luckily, it's easy to do so with dry fire and a wall. Practice learning the distance, practice breaking cover only enough to take a shot, and use multiple angles of cover.

Please see: <https://www.ammo-land.com/2025/02/how-to-use-cover-tactics-for-self-defense/>

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MURDERED CHILDREN
from page 19

The choreography and graphics for the hostage handovers allegedly came from *Al Jazeera*, Qatar's state propaganda outlet, whose personnel have doubled as terrorists in Gaza. Qatar is a state sponsor of the Muslim Brotherhood and funded its Hamas arm. Qatar's 'negotiations' that led to the parade of coffins were meant to allow Hamas to claim victory.

Other state sponsors of Hamas include Turkey, Iran and Pakistan and non-Muslim allies like China and Russia which hosted unity meetings between Hamas and other Islamic terror groups.

What happened in Gaza was not the doing of a small 'extremist' group but the Islamic ideology of hundreds of millions of people in the Middle East and around the world. Including in the U.S.

The Bibas children, 9-month-old Kfir and 4-year-old Ariel, the ages at the time of their kidnapping while their ages at the time of death remain unknown, along with their mother, join a litany of other Israeli children and family members murdered by Hamas and Islamic terrorists.

On October 7, the Siman Tov family was murdered, including their twin 5 year old daughters and 2-year-old son Omer, their bodies burned. The Kapshetar family, including 8-year-old Aline and 5-year-old Ethan were massacred while returning from a family trip. 9-month-old Mila Cohen was shot in the arms of her father. Her 73-year-old grandmother was also murdered. A pregnant woman was shot on the way to the hospital. Dozens of other children were kidnapped or killed.

But October 7 was nothing new.

In 2001, a PLO terrorist sniper shot Shalhevet Pass, a 9-month-old girl, while she was sitting in her stroller in Hevron. Her father had been previously attacked with an axe and her aunt stabbed in the back as a teenager. The terrorist could have shot the parents. He picked a baby.

In 2002, a Muslim terrorist got as close as he could to the children at a Bar Mitzvah on a Sabbath in Jerusalem before he blew up. The dead included the Nehmad family, both parents and two of their daughters, 3-year-old Liran and 7-year-old Shiraz along with their 18-month-old cousin, Oriah and her 12-year-old brother who had been sent by his father to get the car keys.

In 2004, Muslim terrorists massacred

the Hatuel family, 2-year-old Meirav, shot in the head while in her car seat, 7-year-old Roni, 9-year-old Hadar, and 11-year-old Hila, along with their mother who was eight months pregnant with a never to be born baby boy.

In 2011, Muslim terrorists with the PFLP, a terrorist group active on American campuses, broke into the Fogel home on Shabbat, partially decapitated 3-month-old Hadas in her crib, stabbed 4-year-old Elad in the heart and killed 11-year-old Yoav. Two other children survived by hiding.

Hamas demanded and secured the release of these child-murdering terrorists as part of the Biden-Witkoff hostage deal.

Hezbollah had demanded the release of Samir Kuntar who had smashed in the head of Einat Hanar, a 4-year-old girl, against a rock with his rifle butt. On his release, Iran's government and Hezbollah honored him, the PLO praised him as an "authentic role model" and *Al Jazeera*'s Beirut office chief threw him a party and called him a pan-Arab hero.

Muslim terrorists did not murder these children as collateral damage. Killing children is the point.

In 2001, a Hamas terrorist attack on a Jerusalem pizza place saw "people – babies – thrown through the window and covered with blood" and survivors described "wading through bodies, including the bodies of children".

"The worst thing I saw, which I think will haunt me all my life, is a baby that was sitting in a stroller outside a shop and was dead," another eyewitness related. "After the explosion, the baby's mother came out of the store and started screaming hysterically."

One of the Hamas terrorists involved in the attack said, "We have to send them a message that their children are not safe."

Another of the Hamas terrorists involved in the attack described her reaction while riding on a Muslim bus. "While I was on the bus and everybody was congratulating one another, they said on the radio that there had been a martyrdom attack at the Sbarro restaurant, and that three people were killed. I admit that I was a bit disappointed, because I had hoped for a larger toll. Yet when they said 'three dead,' I said: 'Allah be praised.'"

"Two minutes later, they said on the radio that the number had increased to five. I wanted to hide my smile, but I just couldn't. Allah be praised, it was great. As the number of dead

kept increasing, the passengers were applauding."

The killing of Jewish children by Muslim terrorists predated the rebirth of Israel.

Almost 100 years ago, during the 1929 Hebron Massacre before there was even an Israel, Muslim mobs wiped out the Jewish community. The dead included children like Menachem Segal, 3, whose mother held him in her arms and begged the Muslim mob not to kill him. Menachem was stabbed in the head and his mother's fingers were cut off.

Why kill children?

"It is allowed for us to kill their women and children, even if that were to cause us to miss taking them as wealth (slaves), due to its breaking the hearts of the enemy." Saudi Sheikh Ibn Uthaymin explained in a fatwa.

This was the Islamic fatwa Hamas was following in its celebration of its murder of children.

But the killing of children is the ultimate expression of the Islamic genocidal goal in Gaza. Peace was always a lie. The invading Islamic population was there to wipe out the Jews. Completely.

And not just the Jews.

Not long before the handover of the bodies of the Bibas children, a 2-year-old girl and her mother became the latest victims of the Muslim terrorist attack in Munich, Germany.

Last month the Muslim terrorist who stabbed eight little girls at a dance class in the UK, three of them fatally, pleaded guilty. One six-year-old girl was stabbed 122 times and another 85 times. The warrior of Allah stabbed the little girls while they ran for their lives.

"It's a good thing those children are dead, I'm so glad, I'm so happy," he told authorities.

In Russia, Israel and Nigeria, Muslim terrorists have attacked schools and taken children hostage. They do this because Islam is in a war of extermination with the world.

Like all monsters, it preys on the weak, killing our children to wipe us out and replace us.

At the remains of the bodies of the Bibas children, the Chief Rabbi prayed, "O G-d, do not be silent." We cannot know what G-d will do, but we are the ones who must not remain silent.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/the-child-murderers-of-gaza/>



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U.S. Army Tank Crew Wins International Competition for the First Time

*by Matthew Olay, U.S.
Department of Defense News
(DOD News)*

A four-man Army tank crew from the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade, 1st Armored Division, defeated teams from four other countries over the past week to achieve the first American victory in the U.S. Army Europe and Africa International Tank Challenge.

Taking place in Grafenwoehr, Germany, the competition — which first ran from 2016 to 2018 before being paused due to other competitions and the COVID-19 pandemic — comprises 10 graded events designed to measure a tank crew's physical fitness, marksmanship and mental acuity.

"It still hasn't fully set in for me. yet, that we managed to win this competition in the manner that it happened," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Greene, the winning crew's tank commander.

“The other crews that were behind and chasing ... are really talented crews, and the fact that we’re the first American team to [win] on this stage is incredible,” he added.

Sponsored by the 7th Army Training Command, this year's tank challenge hosted two teams from the U.S., as well as teams from Italy, Denmark, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Upon learning of the competition, the “Death Dealers” of 1-67 AR — who have been mobilized to Poland from Fort Bliss, Texas,



Cutline U.S., Swiss and Italian tankers participate in the opening ceremony of the U.S. Army Europe and Africa International Tank Challenge at the 7th Army Training Command's Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, February 11, 2025. The challenge was designed to build tactical skills and enhance esprit de corps.

Photo by Army Spc. Adrian Greenwood

since last fall — took a somewhat unconventional path to build their team.

Rather than assembling a “dream team” from the battalion’s various tank crews and then making it their sole job to train for the competition, leaders looked across the battalion, searching for the most well-rounded crew, according to Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Jean, the battalion’s most senior enlisted leader.

“We looked across the entire battalion and ... had a couple [of crews] in contention to go and compete, but ultimately Greene and his crew were the [most] well-rounded in terms of technical and tactical competency,” he said.

Jean said those competencies were proven by the fact that Greene and his crew went from

fifth to first place in the final hours of the competition.

Battalion commander Army Lt. Col. Robert Humphrey attributes the victory to resiliency and the crew's never-quit attitude.

“They never quit,” Humphrey said. “At 56 hours out, they were middle of the pack, and they could have just glided it out, but that wasn’t their mentality — that’s not the ‘Death Dealer’ mentality. They [were] going to finish it, and they [were] going to finish it strong.”

Greene acknowledged that his team initially got off to a slow start because it had not had much time to prepare physically after having just returned from three weeks of field exercises.

“We started off kind of slow in

the first few tasks we had to accomplish, but when it came to actually getting onto the tank and doing what [the] job is — and that's being lethal — that's where my guys were thriving," Greene said. Lethality is one of five

"If we [have] to send troops forward again and these tanks have to go into battle, the crews are in the right mindset to be as lethal as possible, using that 'one shot, one kill' mindset," he said.



Cutline: U.S. soldiers receive the Order of Saint George Medallion after placing first in the U.S. Army Europe and Africa International Tank Challenge sponsored by the 7th Army Training Command in Grafenwoehr, Germany, February 17, 2025.

Photo by Army Sgt. Collin Mackall

focus points that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth underscored in his January 25, 2025, **message to the force** (the others being meritocracy, accountability, standards and readiness).

“Being a combat arms guy, especially on tanks my whole career, that’s always one of our foundations: being as lethal as we can, and I think this competition attested to that ability,” Greene said. He added that the competition demonstrated the overall readiness of tank crews like his.

As a result of their victory at the competition, Greene and his team — which also included gunner Army Sgt. Graham Parker, loader Army Spc. Donovan Lavery and driver Army Pfc. Nicolae Lawson — received Army Commendation Medals and initiation into the U.S. Cavalry and Armor Association's Honorable Order of St. George for armored excellence.

Please see: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4069888/us-army-tank-crew-wins-international-competition-for-first-time/>



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BOCC from page 1

up a very comprehensive website to market our local products and maybe even having a building to market and sell the products. They stated that they had received big time support from our local ag producers to proceed with this. This went on and on. They wanted the ok from the Commissioners to apply for a \$4,100 grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The mighty big wigs ok's this.

Next was a request to create a yearly County Scholarship as there were some problems at the school in continuing some other scholarship. The Commissioners voted to donate \$1,500 to this. After this, the Commissioners donated \$500 to the school After Prom event.

The Work Force Housing long running drama was next. Epp said the County was coughing up \$6k to it for this year.

Colorado's Incident Qualification System (IQS) was the next subject. This is a state-run notification system for fires. It needs work here and that was approved.

A couple of folks from our local U.S. Forestry Service then gave the Commissioners their annual update. No big items there.

Public Comments was the final Agenda Item.

James Gilbert, our local democrat activist, then took the stage. Gilbert delivered a five-minute rage against the Trump budget cutting effort (DOGE) that is the last hope in saving America from bankruptcy. Since we really don't have many minorities in Happy Valley, and the Unicorn Tranny crew have fled the jurisdiction, Gilbert didn't have many victim cards left so he played the dems dependable last resort card, "the children".

Gilbert lamented that the feds are cutting funds to various federal programs and those cuts will "negatively affect the county". And, "Medicaid is going to get cut. This county depends on Medicaid for its funding." Gilbert then reasoned that if Medicaid gets cut the "recipients might have to leave the county" for greener welfare pastures. And if that happens, "the clinic will go belly up". (Really?) He then railed about cuts here and

cuts there. Finally, he asked the Commissioners to contact our Federal Congressional reps and complain about this. Gilbert finished with, "Tell the administration that you are hurting us and eventually killing us." (No Gilbert, the corrupt liberal/democrat welfare state is killing us. It has bankrupted the country and has enslaved tens of millions of Americans into the economic death spiral of dependency. It has to go.)

(Editor/GG: One other thing. Of a political nature. At some point during this love fest, Gilbert talked about the Commissioners doing a Resolution about something. He noted that the BOCC had made political resolutions before (re the 2nd Amendment and not being a sanctuary county for illegal immigrants) and that he wanted them to do one that he wanted. Epp responded with a somewhat philosophical comment about how he was tending to think that he (Epp) might only do resolutions that pertained to local county business, and stay away from political ones. Canda and Vogel song were silent. I'd like to comment on Epp's proposed position:

Lucas, you are a local ELECTED POLITICAL official. OUR elected official. You are NOT a civil servant. Your job not only includes managing the county but also to push the agenda that got you elected. And what is the views that got you elected? Conservative. Republican. Christian. Transparency.

The people who got you elected expect you to forcefully pronounce these views at every opportunity including county political statements that tell the rest of the state what we believe in here in Custer County. You don't see any democrat county commissioners keeping their yaps shut about guns, illegals, taxes or solar panels. You represent Custer County and especially the people who got you elected. We want warriors for conservatism, not head in-the-sand minions who won't address the big picture. We need our leaders to SPEAK UP for what is right and not avoid the issues. Don't worry about "offending" the libs in our county if you endorse a conservative, Christian viewpoint WE put you in that seat. The libs voted against you. Stand up for what you believe

and take the pathetic heat from our local libs. You will enjoy it.

Conservatives, Republicans, Christians, and right leaning Independents got you elected. We expect you to speak for us to people outside the county and reflect our values, politics, morals and goals. We are in this mess because of elected officials doing exactly what you are saying you want to do: Not publicly addressing the political, social and moral issues facing our country. WE THE PEOPLE have been silent for too long. God has given us one last chance this last November and we ALL need to do every last thing we can do to save our country. And that includes our Custer County Commissioners taking stands on political issues that affect our citizens. PUBLIC STANDS.

Believe me, if the libs were running this county there would be public pronouncements every day lauding their god, socialism.

We need Warriors, not people who are afraid to offend somebody. Don't be afraid to take a stand, Lucas. We elected you to do just that. Stand Tall and do the right thing.)