

Welcome To Dutch Pantry New Silver Cliff Business on Main St.

by Fred Hernandez

There is much excitement within the Hershberger family with all the developments going on in their new business endeavor. It all started with friends Ruben and Nancy Miller who established a delicatessen offering hand cut sandwiches plus a little store selling a limited selection of grocery items located in the Yoder furniture building on Highway 69. The Hershbergers have five daughters and some of the younger ones worked at the deli. It was because of their interest that the idea was initially formed. When the Millers were ready to move on, Matt Hershberger and his wife, Anna Marie, made the decision to acquire the business.

DUTCH PANTRY
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Frozen and Refridgerated Foods at Dutch Pantry.

Photo by Fred Hernandez

Motions Hearing for Hanme Clark in Triple Homicide Case

by George Gramlich

A Motions Hearing was held by 11th Judicial District Judge Lauren Swan at the Custer County Courthouse Tuesday, March 18. The hearing started at 8:30 a.m. It concerned the alleged triple murder of three Custer County residents by one Hanme K. Clark.

Clark was present at the hearing. He is currently being held at the Pueblo County Jail with a \$2 million cash bond requirement.

The hearing concerned various motions by the defense counsel regarding late or missing evidence (called “discovery” items) and a request by the defense to reduce Clark’s bail.

If you recall, Clark is accused of murdering three of his neighbors and attempted to murder a fourth. The deceased victims were Rob Geer, Beth Wade, James Daulton. The wounded survivor was Patti Daulton. The attack occurred on November 20, 2023, at around the nine-mile marker on Oak Creek Grade (County Road 255).

At the hearing, Clark was represented by Janene K. McCabe, a very expensive private attorney hired by the Colorado Public Defenders office for this case. (See the end of this article for more information on Clark’s publicly paid for defense team.) Our 11th

Judicial District DA, Jeff Lindsey, represented the People.

Lindsey opened the hearing with an explanation of why some of the “discovery” (i.e., evidence) was not disclosed to the defense in a timely manner or not disclosed at all. Lindsey laid blame on the prior, disbarred DA, Linda Stanley for failing to do her job. He said when he took over in November 2024 that he, and his office, have spent an enormous amount of time catching up with the evidence issues. Lindsey noted that he has had multiple meetings with the defense and they “were on good terms”.

The defense then was next. McCabe went on a long review of alleged discovery problems mostly around the evidence rule, “Rule 16”, with regards to timely evidence turnover. McCabe was particularly concerned that at the Preliminary Hearing last month, where Sheriff Smith and Detective Sergeant Elizabeth Robinson testified that the defense did not have the footage from their body cams when they were at the crime scene. This, the defense alleged, was a problem when they were examined by the defense, as defense did not have the body cam footage which could have raised some undiscovered issues.

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BOCC: State Cuts Weed Board Money, Kit Shy on Zebulon Pike and SB25-003 Gun Bill, OEM Money for Nothing

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The March 13, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular meeting was held at the All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room in downtown Westcliffe. The meeting started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogelsong.

In Commissioner Items, Epp stated that the democrats in Denver had cut the state funding for the county Weed Boards almost in half (*As they have run up a ONE BILLION dollar deficit spending like drunken libs. Also note that they just approved TEN MILLION dollars to “refurbish” their offices in the Royal Palace but NO weed money for Happy Valley. Hey local libs, please comment on this.*). This is going to cause a problem here.

Epp and Vogelsong said they had each attended a few meetings since the last BOCC meeting. Canda noted that the Commissioners had all completed some kind of state mandated OEM training.

Interim County Attorney Dan Slater stated that he and Planning & Zoning had six active lawsuits

against local citizens for zoning violations.

Next was New Business. Canda commented to the peasants in the gallery that their public comments were to be comments and not to engage in debates with the speakers or the mighty Commissioners. (*This, of course, was ignored by our rowdy serfs later on.*)

The approval of Accounts Payable (AP) was the first item. This was for \$187k for the first two weeks of March. The biggest item was a \$64k payment on a Road & Bridge grader lease. The AP was approved.

Next up was a brief presentation by a local Boy Scout, Don Everhart, who announced the project he was going to do this summer in order to earn his Eagle Scout badge. This was construction of a gazebo at the fairgrounds for the attendees. He is doing his own fund raising and will do much of the construction himself.

The next Agenda item was a very nice presentation by Kit Shy on the Zebulon Pike commemorative signs posted in Custer County and several surrounding counties

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*Behold, upon the
mountains, the feet
of him who brings
good news,
who publishes peace!
Nahum 1:15 ESV*

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SENTINEL**
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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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Our Opinion...

Journalist Conflate All ‘Immigrants’ in Deportation Reporting



by Cory Gaines,
CompleColorado.com

As an undergrad, I worked many a job, often alongside people who were not born here in the United States. Some were here legally, some not. They comprised a variety of ages, life experiences, dreams, fears, etc.–just as you’d expect with any other group of humans.

They were not a uniform mass of humanity. Why then, do some Colorado journalists seem so eager to make them one?

Immigration has been a big story here in Colorado. All the more so lately as President Trump has ramped up enforcement of federal immigration laws. Many in Colorado’s left-leaning press have risen to the challenge of reporting on it. Breathless, dramatic stories abound, with an extra special focus on those who might garner the most sympathy. Not present, however, in much of this reporting has been the necessary care and precision of language.

Conflating all ‘immigrants’

Journalists lately have used blanket terms like “immigrant,” “new immigrant,” “immigrant friendly,” and “... deport tens of thousands of immigrants” in stories on Trump’s deportation efforts, with nowhere near the care that they should, the simple reason being that not all immigrants are the same.

Will Trump be deporting all immigrants, as the *Colorado Sun*

seems to infer? Can we expect naturalized citizens to be sitting next to those that came here illegally on a bus headed South? Is the newly arrived green card holder to be shackled next to a gang member who snuck in here a year ago as *Colorado Public Radio (CPR)* hints at? Are you still friendly to immigrants if you don’t want criminals or those who choose to not come via the proper channels as the *Denver Post* has it?

Out of curiosity, I sent emails out to the three reporters in question to see if there was some sort of editorial policy about the use of the blanket term “immigrants” in their articles. As of this writing, I have only heard from *The Post’s* Aldo Svaldi who told me via email: “We follow the AP style on modifying actions but not people with the term illegal. Per that rule, illegal immigration is allowed but not the phrase illegal immigrants. Likewise, someone hunting protected animals, out-of-season, or without a license is engaged in illegal hunting or hunting illegally but is not an illegal hunter. I could have gone with the phrase ‘cities with policies seen as friendly to illegal immigration.’ That is wordier and officials in those cities, however, might dispute that they support illegal immigration, but rather support immigrants, regardless of status. It is a complicated subject and we are open to hearing from readers regarding the language we use.”

Putting aside my own (informed) skepticism about reporters open

to hearing things they don’t like, I wouldn’t wonder about other outlets following some sort of style guide. I can’t also help but wonder if no such policy exists, with individual reporters are left on their own (perhaps also with no editorial oversight?), to write it as they see fit.

After all, a later *CPR* article, by a different reporter had much more precise language characterizing Trump’s efforts as “... deporting immigrants in the country illegally.”

Whatever the reasoning, whether intentional or not, the language used to have discussions about immigration policy needs to be more thoughtful than what we’re getting now.

Language matters

When reporters are not precise with their language, they do more than just open themselves up to questions by readers. They stoke fears and concerns among people who by rights should have none. I’m sure (because I know of at least one case personally) that there are many here legally who have nothing to fear, yet nonetheless see news that Trump will be deporting tens of thousands of “immigrants” and become quite upset.

I also know (again, via personal experience) that many here legally bristle at being lumped together into one mass and labeled “immigrant.” They consider the difficulty, time, and expense of getting here the right way, and then look to see others who get here by jumping the line

or not following the rules. They see article after article purporting to tell those stories, but find their own voices absent. Put yourself in their shoes and I bet you’ll have no trouble sympathizing with their alienation and frustration.

This equivalence-making by some in the progressive press may come out of good motives, or it may come about by a desire to influence readers, but the means don’t matter quite as much as the ends. Putting everyone in the group “immigrants” lumps together those that obeyed the law with those that didn’t, something hardly anyone would call reasonable in other circumstances.

As Mr. Svaldi alludes to toward the end of his response to my questions, there is a way in which the press could honor those who followed the rules and make it clear that being here legally is a very different thing than not.

Not doing so is a choice that informs you, the reader, about their perspective, and perhaps intent. You should be listening carefully.

Cory Gaines is a regular contributor to *Complete Colorado*. He lives in Sterling on Colorado’s Eastern Plains and also writes at the *Colorado Accountability Project* substack.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/03/13/progressive-press-conflates-all-immigrants-in-deportation-reporting/>

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• first public tweet, which read “just setting up my twttr.”
• • • • •

Local Mountain News & Notices

Basic Life Support Class

The Sangre Shooting Sports Club (SSSC), in co-operation with the Custer County Health Agency, is sponsoring a Basic Life Support (BLS) class (start of spring) at the Custer County Search and Rescue (SAR) building, Monday, March 31, 2025, from 0800 to 1300 (1 PM MDT). This class will also include basic First Aid and Stop the Bleed (StB) (emergency trauma care) instruction. Successful completion of this class will result in the award of an American Heart Association (AHA) certification for CPR.

Cost is \$22, payable to the instructor. Remember, the internet is replete with accounts of school age children, who have acquired this skill through similar classes, saving the lives not only of teachers but also of classmates as well. Breakfast snacks will be available. Contact Patrick Fiore at patrick@custercounty-co.gov to pre-register.

Remembering David Colwell

Editor/GG: One of the nicest guys you could ever meet. Always came to the Sentinel's Independence Day 2nd Amendment parade section. A true patriot. God Bless, bro.

Good morning RGTP patriots and friends,

John notified me this morning of the loss of another Tea Party member, David Colwell. For those that did not know him, he is the gentleman on the right in the blue shirt. John said this photo was taken at a Westcliffe Parade a few years ago.

Please keep David's friends and family in your thoughts and prayers!



Resident Charged with Arson

Custer County Sheriff's Office Press Release

—March 13, 2025

Early this afternoon, fire fighters from Wet Mountain Fire Protection District responded to a fire in far south Custer

County off Colony Lane. The cause of the fire was determined to be debris burned by the homeowner and discarded ashes from a fire place. A resident was charged with 4th Degree Arson. Please use extreme caution when disposing of fire ashes.

Photo via CCSO



WMVCF Announces Newly Elected Executive Board

Press Release

WESTCLIFFE, Colorado

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) is excited to announce the election of its new executive board members who will play a pivotal role in advancing the Foundation's mission of assisting local nonprofit organizations and providing community donors

with charitable giving options. The new leadership team brings a wealth of experience and dedication to supporting local nonprofits and fostering community development.

The newly elected members of the Executive Board are:

- Patti Dunn, President
- Bonnie Samuelson, Vice President

- Gary Taylor, Secretary
- Cathy Snow, Treasurer

These individuals will lead a committed group of board members who are dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the region. Their collective knowledge, enthusiasm, and strategic vision will be instrumental in guiding the WMVCF in its mission of empowering charitable organizations and creating lasting change in the Wet Mountain Valley.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

DUTCH PANTRY from page 1

From the start, however, they had plans to move its location so when the property on Main Street in Silver Cliff went on the market, they were ready to make the move. Sometime in August of last year they transferred the deli and grocery to the new location on Main Street. At the same time, they started extensive work on the building. First and foremost they installed air conditioning throughout. Storewide renovations included a new entrance with a stylish overhang roof and glass doors. The entire inside was repainted, the storage areas and restrooms upgraded. All electrical systems, fire prevention and emergency equipment were updated. The open air patio south of the building with lovely views of the majestic Sangres has been enclosed completely to make an all-season dining area with seating for about thirty guests.

The north side of the building, which used to be a game room, has been designated for their large refrigeration units stocked with frozen meat, seafood products and other items requiring refrigeration. Rows of shelving occupy the central area featuring a myriad of grocery products many of which come from their supplier, Walnut Creek, a well-known

producer of quality foodstuff and other grocery goods. The work area next to the cold storage room is where the young ladies create their delicious, hand cut, gourmet sandwiches and baked treats.

Except for Sundays, the Dutch Pantry is open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only on Fridays, they offer a delectable and hearty Breakfast Burrito. On Saturdays the bountiful Buffet Breakfast includes freshly made pancakes with real maple syrup, organic scrambled eggs from local free-range chickens, rashers of bacon, sausage links, biscuits and gravy, orange juice and steaming hot coffee. All bread and donuts are freshly baked in-house every day and as needed. Their bakery section will be expanding soon in

order to offer even more baked goods and products. Lunch is available daily.

The main supplier for the Dutch Pantry is Walnut Creek Foods based in the heart of Amish Country in Ohio. With forty years of experience in the production of high quality food and grocery items and known for their honesty and integrity, one can be completely assured that they will get the best quality at the best prices. Also noteworthy is that the products are gluten-free, low sodium, no nitrates and no MSG. All their products are well chosen from reliable suppliers, some of whom are locally based. Nutri Peak supplies the large, organic eggs from free range hens at almost half the price at



other stores. High quality, USDA approved meats, chicken, beef and pork come from Westcliffe Meats. They also have seafood: salmon, cod and cooked shrimp, frozen. Their high-quality coffee is Colombian blend handpicked from the slopes of the La Plata Mountains. And this is only the beginning as they continue to improve their operations with new state-of-the-art equipment.

The Mayor of Silver Cliff, “Buck” Wenzel commented on this great new business in Silver Cliff, “The Dutch Pantry is a welcome

addition and asset to the Town of Silver Cliff! Mr. Hershberger, his family, and staff have been incredible at partnering with our town! “

Plans for the near future include the possibility of gourmet pizza from a stone oven and paving the parking area.- For specialty food and all your delicatessen needs, the Dutch Pantry is looking like the go-to store, a welcome addition to the town at 404 E. Main Street in Silver Cliff. For more information call 719-298-6689.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Round Mountain Lagoon Sludge Disposal Update

By George Gramlich

There was quite a bit of concern expressed by various locals, including several smaller ranchers on the valley floor, about Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District’s plan to use the sludge at the bottom of their sediment lagoons for fertilizer (via Denali Water Solutions) on a valley floor ranch. The concerns centered around unsafe chemicals and items in the sludge (Including “forever chemicals”/PFAS).

So the *Sentinel* contacted RMWSD’s District Manager and asked some questions of him.

We asked Dave:

1. Has he been in contact with the County Commissioners and/or Planning & Zoning about this?

Dave: I was invited and met with all three County Commissioners and Dorothy with Custer County Planning and Zoning last Friday, March 11, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

2. Has the lagoon sludge been tested for “forever chemicals”/PFAS? (It has been repeatedly tested for a ton of things and has passed all those tests according to Dave.)

Dave: Denali did sample for PFAS type substances in April of 2024. There are over 12,000 types of these substances, and traces of a handful of these were found. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment pollutant goal is “No Toxics in Toxic Amounts” as it is impossible to remove all pollutants. The concentrations of these substances were below the thresholds of toxicity. Denali is planning to take a final sludge sampling protocol within the next couple of weeks when the ice is fully melted from all three ponds. I have a copy of that sampling report, but it is on my office computer, and I am up in Loveland all week at a convention. I will send you that report early next week when I get back.

3. Has Denali (the company Round Mountain hired to dispose of the sludge) done this sludge to fertilizer process before? Dave asked Denali to respond to this:

Denali: We use nutrient-rich bio-solids as fertilizer across Colorado. Denali carries out many lagoon cleaning projects each year, and we often work with nearby farmers to permit land for application. We’ve worked in every county in Colorado over three decades.

4. How are you further engaging

the County Commissioners and the public about this?

Dave: We are working with the BOCC to set up a countywide public information/discussion meeting the week of the 24th. We have currently narrowed it down to Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday as days when the Denali reps will be available. We will let you know when that meeting time and place is confirmed.

As this progresses, we will keep the public informed.

(Editor/GG: Our Custer County conservative podcasters, Steve Rorick and Jimmy “The Plumber” McMahon, have scheduled Round Mountain Water’s District Manager, Dave Schneider, to be on their Red County: Blue Nation podcast on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. The topic will be the sludge removal and the new waste treatment process replacement project. You can view in at RedCountyBlueNation.com or on Youtube under the same name. Believe me, this could be interesting.)

Breaking News: The BOCC is having a special meeting regarding the sludge/fertilizer issue at Lange Hall, Thursday, March 27 at 5 p.m. Dave Schneider and Denali Water Systems will give a presentation on the subject.)

Custer County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
Tentative Agenda

Thursday, March 27, 2025 5:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Lange Hall, 312 3rd St Westcliffe, CO 81252

For the public:

By phone: 346-248-7799 Meeting ID: 714 123 3732
Passcode: 758517878

By computer: <https://zoom.us/j/7141233732?pwd=N2lIU EI0TUFIWmFyMHlyOTJkFaQT09>
Meeting ID: 714 123 3732 Passcode: Custer783

All members in attendance will be asked to sign in. Any public comments must be written and submitted to the board. No verbal comments will be made.

Call Meeting to Order – Please Silence All Cell Phones
Pledge of Allegiance & invocation

Roll Call

Amend Agenda

Unfinished Business (Public Comment allowed for each item to be voted on)

New Business (Public Comment allowed for each item to be voted on)

- Presentation by Denali Water Solutions Additional Items of Business

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: Please be advised that the BOCC may decide to move into executive session if the board is authorized to do so under §24-6-402(4) C.R.S. To meet publishing deadlines, all agenda items must be submitted no later than 24 hours prior to the BOCC meeting. Any documentation to be presented must be sent in 24 hours prior to the meeting. True emergency items will be heard. Agendas, minutes, audio, and video (when available) can be found on the county website at custercounty-co.gov.



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720.309.4262 sapiahwoodworks@gmail.com

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Excavation, Septic Systems, Culverts,
Driveways, Rock Sales & Delivery
719-783-2757 info@SBCompanies.com

Solar Solutions Ltd
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10 Hermit Lane. Silver Cliff 719-783-9666
email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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lmiller.millersroofcoatings@gmail.com

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Matt Troyer: 719-221-8940

Cabs & Transport

RANDY CAB
Randy Schiro Owner /Driver
719-210-5908
randolf.schiro@icloud.com

Clothing & Footwear

Custer County Supply Co
206 Main St. Westcliffe | 719-659-8743
Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm
Guns, dog supplies, clothing, & much more!

Salty Pine Floral & Boutique
411 Main St, Westcliffe
719-783-9393
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Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear
Mon-Sat 9:30 am-4 pm

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719-371-1221 - boneyardelectric@gmail.com
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Firewood

Westcliffe Firewood
Ryan Stover
719-371-6074
westcliffefirewood@gmail.com

Florist

Salty Pine Floral & Boutique
411 Main St, Westcliffe
719-783-9393
www.westcliffeflowershop.com

Funeral Homes

Holt Family Funeral Home
806 Macon Ave, Cañon City
719-275-4113
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Where you’ll find sharp gifts & smokin’ deals!

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salidastove.com

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719-783-0648

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wetmountainmanualtherapy.com 719.639.8447

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Premier Pest Control LLC
719-371-7404 ~ ppc16@privategarden.org
inspections, estimates, professional pest management
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rswota@gmail.com

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719-783-9221
www.custerrealty.com

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https://www.haydenoutdoors.com

Lori Kastendieck
Independent Broker
719-269-0653
WestcliffeBroker.com

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Restaurants & Dining Cont'd

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Follow Us: Facebook.com/inthesangres

Tony's Mountain Pizza
719-783-9300 • tonysmountainpizza.com
Thur– Sat 11 am-8 pm,
Tues, Wedn. & Sun 12 pm-7 pm, closed Mon
630 Main Street, Silver Cliff

Tony's Steak & Tavern
719-783-9300 • tonyssteakandtavern.com
Wed 12-7 pm, Thurs-Sat 11am-8 pm,
Sun Brunch 10 am Full Menu 12-7 pm, closed Mon-Tues

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Off Grid and Grid Tie
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email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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719-783-9321
www.westcliffecoloradoselfstorage.com

Tractor/Trailer Sales

True Value Hardware and Trailers
635 Shoop Dr, Penrose
719-784-0123
https://www.truevaluetrailers.com

Vacation / Accommodations

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719-783-0648

Veterinary

High Peaks Animal Hospital
1200 Broadway St, Silver Cliff
719-783-3770
www.highpeaksanimal.com

Well Drilling and Pump Services

Finney Drilling
Cañon City
719-275-9525
larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com



Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, March 24

#102 Tuna Noodle Casserole
Mixed Vegetables
Sliced Zucchini Squash
Sliced Peaches
WW Bread w/Butter

Tuesday, March 25

#73 Roast ChickenMushroom Sauce
Steamed Brown Rice
Cauliflower Broccoli Mix
Apple Pear Salad w/Almonds
WW Bread w/Butter

Thursday, March 27

#95 Taco Salad
Salsa, Tomato, and Lettuce Garnish
Strawberry Applesauce
Flan Custard

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 \$4 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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by West Custer County Library

“There is no time like Spring,” the poet Christina Rossetti wrote, and we agree here at the library. We have things springing up right and left! For starters, the whole month of April is National Poetry Month. In partnership with KLZR, we’re co-sponsoring a poetry contest for all ages. Submit an original poem on any topic, along with a release form (available at the library or on our website), between April 1 and 30. Participants can have their poem read on the radio if they so desire. Prizes will be awarded for one youth poem, one teen poem, and one adult poem.

If you’re looking for inspiration before setting down your lines, we will have poetry books from our shelves displayed, and you can come listen to other poets reading from their work. Tracy Hermes, author of “Wizardly Wit & Wisdom” will read from her quirky and fun collection on Tuesday, April 1 at 10 a.m. This is a family friendly event with activities for the kids.

Then on April 26 at 4 p.m., cowboy poets J.J. Steele and Dennis Russell will be back with their own “brand” of western lyrics.

Perhaps you’re inspired by spring’s colors, but you prefer to paint? Sign up for the Water Color Magic class on Monday April 14 at 2 p.m. Co-sponsored by the library and Sangres Art Guild and held at the 3rd Street Gallery, this class is free, no experience necessary. All supplies will be provided, but registration is required.

Earth Day is almost here! On April 22 at 10 a.m., celebrate our gorgeous planet with friends from High Country Recycling who will be at the library to share the how, why, and where of our highly successful local recycling program.

Speaking of local, come find out about the benefits of a local food economy from a pro in the natural food industry who also lives here, Steve Zimmerman, owner of Sunflower Market.

Tuesday, April 29 at 10 a.m., learn about the advantages of buying locally-produced food, how it can positively impact our health, and benefit the health of our community!

With spring here, we know summer is coming soon, and the Colorado Workforce Center will be in the library Community Room Tuesday, April 8 at 11 a.m. to help both those who need to do summer hiring and those looking for summer employment. They can provide help with anything from adding open jobs to databases and finding interns, to helping prepare resumes and interview skills. They are a service of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

Don’t forget our ongoing offerings – the monthly Writers Group (April 11 at 1 p.m.), Tech Cafe (April 10 and 24, 10 a.m. to noon) and DMV2Go (April 18, is back at the Library, 10 a.m.).

One final note: National Library Week is April 6-12. If you haven’t stopped by in a while, we’d love to see you. Drop in and take a look around at all we have to offer. We’re more than just books!

Fatal House Fire in Custer County

Joint Press Release
Custer County SO, Wet
Mountain Fire Protection
District, Wetmore Fire
Department, Custer County
Coroner’s Office

—March 18, 2025

On March 4th at 8:38 a.m. the Custer/ Fremont Combined Regional Communications Authority (CRCA) received a 911 call for a smoke investigation for a residence at 699 Wyandot Trail in southern Custer County. The Wet Mountain Fire Protection District responded along with Custer Emergency Medical Services, and the Custer County Sheriff’s Office. Chief Coleman from WMFPD served as incident commander and requested mutual aid from

Wetmore Fire Protection District. Additionally, four water tenders (4,000-gallon tanker trucks) from Custer County Road and Bridge department were dispatched.

The firefighters worked 9 ½ hours on March 4th and 10 hours on March 5th fighting the fire and investigating the cause of the fire. The fire department utilized 13 firefighters on 9 apparatus to fight the fire. Over the course of the two days, approximately 60,000 gallons of water were used. The occupant of the home was missing and deputies from the Custer Sheriff’s Office attempted to locate him. WMFPD requested a response from the Colorado Division of Fire Preven-

tion and Control (DFPC) to send a fire investigator and a cadaver dog.

The Custer County Sheriff’s Office obtained a court approved search warrant to investigate the cause of the fire and search for the occupant in the home. At this time the cause of the fire is undetermined. After firefighting efforts concluded on March 4th, members of the Custer County volunteer Sheriff’s Posse guarded the scene overnight.

On March 5th the Custer County Coroner Brad Baltzly worked to locate the occupant of the home in the debris using the cadaver dog and excavation equipment. The occupant of the home was located

deceased in the building debris. The deceased person is Gary Benson, age 86, of Westcliffe. Coroner Baltzly notified his next of kin. During the autopsy the serial number on a replacement hip joint was utilized to confirm positive identification of the deceased person.

During the initial response a water tender operated by Custer Road and Bridge was unable to make it up the steep hill, which was icy and slid backwards eventually overturning. The driver of that vehicle received minor injuries and was transported by ambulance by Custer EMS. A Custer Deputy was attempting to travel down the steep icy hill and slid off the road impacting a tree. The deputy was not injured.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

James 1: 17 NKJV



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Workers Needed

one or two people for tree cutting, yard work, painting, fixing, cleaning

full or part time

\$25 an hour

No Criminal Record, Excellent Physical Shape

In Westcliffe,

Call Douglas 719-783-3230

Events

March 22, 12-2 p.m. \$25 to enter \$15 to Taste Chili Cookoff Fundraiser for American Legion, Lange Hall, 312 S. 3rd Street, Westcliffe. **To Register:** Christy Schram call/text: (513) 317-7647 or email:armychic21t@gmail.com

March 25, Noon - 1 p.m.
Brown Bag Lunch with Co-Responders
West Custer County Library Community Rm.

Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m.
Red County Blue Nation Podcast Guest:
Dave Schneider of Round Mt. Water. See ad on page 11

April 3. ThruApril on Fri-Sat-Sun, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
(closed on Easter Sunday)
Beckwith Ranch ~ Wild West Era Exhibition \$5
Speakers, kids activiities, and the exhibit.
see http://beckwithranch.com

April 3, 7 p.m.
Custer County Schools Talent Show, West Gym

Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness
(719) 783-0750

American Legion Post #170
PO Box 424, Westcliffe, CO 81252
talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com
(719) 783-2462 westcliffepost170.org

Custer County
Community Sharing Food Pantry
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994
OPEN First 3 Fridays of the month
11 – 2 p.m.

MARCH SCHEDULE
Care and Share Distribution Dates:
March 7,14,21 from 11-2
TEFAP Distribution: March 10 from 12-2.
Everyday Eats (senior boxes) : distributed during Fridays
An Equal Opportunity Provider

Family Crisis Services
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center for Fremont and Custer Counties
(719) 275-2429 FamilyCrisisOnline.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wet Mountain Rotary Van Service
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Classifieds

Announcements

FREE BOOKS
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History, biography, war, crime, etc. Good quality.

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Help Wanted

Custer County School District is now hiring.
Apply online at https://www.applitrack.com/ccbobcats/onlineapp.

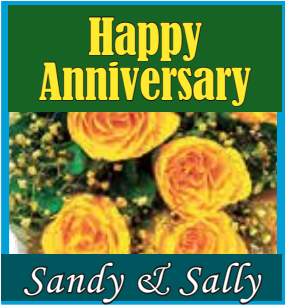
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To Place an ad, please call 719-783-3360 or email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com.
The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week’s edition.

Come and Worship

Christian Science

9:30 a.m. Worship

8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe

Church of Christ

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff

719/783-4601

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe

Pres: 719/214-4589

Cody Park Community Church

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.

Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study

0157 County Rd. 27A

Cotopaxi 719/942-3526

Community United Methodist Church

8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship

202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe

719/783-2511

Cotopaxi Community Church

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship

6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study

PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com

20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Fellowship

10:45 a.m. Worship

4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS

410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe

Pastor Josh Olsteen

719/783-2498

High Country Mennonite Church

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe

719/783-9045

Huerfano Community Bible Church

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study

603 Leon Street, Walsenburg

(719) 251-9053

Hope Lutheran Church

2 p.m. Worship

3:15 p.m. Bible Study

3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe

Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323

Lange Hall 719/783-2561

Living Stone Calvary Chapel

Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m.

830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO

Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863

Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church

Diocese of Pueblo

11 a.m. Sunday Mass

10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass

10 a.m. Wednesday Mass

5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass

109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe

719/783-3507

Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church

11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month

210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe

719/783-2491

Praise Community Church

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m.

215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence

719/784-1184

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays

3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe

719/783-2477

St. Patrick's Anglican Church

11 a.m. Worship

403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe

925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Diocese of Pueblo

Saturday Mass 4 p.m.

Highway 69, Gardner

Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037

Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church

Pastor: Mike Shields

10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study

11 a.m. Worship

Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon

sangredecrisicowboychurch.com

also on Facebook

60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe

719/232-5372

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship

9 a.m. Meet & Greet

9:30 a.m. Service

120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe

719/783-0903

Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel

10 a.m. Worship

6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe

719/ 371-1822

Valley Bible Fellowship

10 a.m. Worship

116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff

719/581-7572

Wetmore Baptist Church

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship

6 p.m. Worship

Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore

719/371-1230

Wetmore Community Church

9 a.m. Sunday School

10 a.m. Worship

699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore

719/784-0596

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

Jesus said:
Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.
John 17:24 ESV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Have a Fabulous Spring Break, Bobcats!

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Athlete of the Week:

We chose **Robert Bachman** as our athlete of the week. He showcased his speed and athleticism during the Banana Belt Classic. He finished 3rd overall in the 400m with a huge PR (personal record), beating his previous 400 time by a whole second. He was in the second to last heat and dominated, beating 4 other athletes that were in the “fastest” heat. He also put on a show at Triple Jump -- even getting his best jump on the wrong leg! We are really proud of Robert and can’t wait to see all that he accomplishes this season!

Thank you!
Joy Parrish, HS Head Track and Field Coach

Join the Clay Buster Shooting Team!

Calling all Custer County students ages 12-18!
Compete in trap and sporting clays against other Colorado teams
Practice on Custer County-owned property
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Chance to compete in State Championship events

- Requirements:
- Provide your own shotgun
 - Complete a Hunter Safety Class
 - Register on the National Clay Target site (\$40 per discipline)

We provide ear and eye protection. Shoot 50 rounds weekly on Thursday afternoon, Friday, or Saturday morning.

Interested? Questions? Contact: doug.burgdorff@ccbobcats.net
719-371-0902 (Mr. B / Coach B)
Or ask Mr. Bills and AD McCormick for more info!

KIDS Friday, March 21, 2025 National Vietnam War Veterans Day

The Viet Nam War lasted from 1955 to 1975. This was a struggle between the country’s communist northern part and the anti-communist southern part. In 1954, the United States provided funding, armaments and training to South Vietnam’s government and military. Tensions continued to escalate until 1961 when U.S. President John F. Kennedy chose to expand the military aid program. A key alteration was the commitment of U.S. soldiers to the region. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, but his successor Lyndon B. Johnson continued what Kennedy had started.



By 1969, more than 500,000 U.S. military personnel were stationed in Vietnam. The costs and casualties of the growing war proved too much for the United States to bear, and U.S. combat units were withdrawn by 1973. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C., inscribed with the names of 57,939 members of U.S. armed forces who had died or were missing as a result of the war. The United States then began a process of coming to terms with defeat in what had been its longest and most controversial war.

On March 29, 1973, the last of the combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. On February 26, 1974, President Nixon proclaimed March 29th to be the first Vietnam Veterans Day. All across the United States, commemorative events like wreath-laying ceremonies, speeches and luncheons are held to mark the occasion.

It was first observed as a one-time occasion on March 29, 2012, when President Barack Obama issued a proclamation calling on “all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.” In 2017, President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. This formally designates March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

In 2025, the War Memorial will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War’s end with a yearlong program series entitled: Conflict and Healing: Exploring the Legacy of the Vietnam War. Throughout the year many special events will be hosted to educate the public.

Let’s not forget to thank the Viet Nam Vets in our neighborhoods. These were our young men and women who upon returning from war seldom got to hear that phrase, “Welcome Home”.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Vietnam-War>, <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day>, <https://www.warmemorial.org/historical/vietnamveteransday>.
Photo bt Wally Gobetz. 2007 via Flickr. “Washington DC: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall - Pencil rubbing”

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado CORNER

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James 1:20-21 ESV

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Wednesday, March 12:
HS Baseball @ HOME vs Buena Vista: 1-17, loss

Thursday, March 13:
HS Baseball @ HOME vs Kiowa: 10-20, loss

Saturday, March 15:
HS Track @ Banana Belt Classic in Pueblo:
There were 41 teams in attendance! We were 1 of 14 “small” schools- 1A/2A
Hayden Hampton: 2nd in the 400m, 6th in the 200m, 18th in the 100m
Robert Bachman: 3rd in the 400m, 20th in the Triple Jump
Grant Rusk: 8th in the Long Jump, 14th in the High Jump, 21st in the Triple
Mason Stover: 11th in the 3200m
Liz Ergo, 13th in the 300m hurdles, 16th in the 100m Hurdles, 22nd in the 100m
Girls team placed 15th overall, Boys Team placed 18th overall
Levi Carichner: 16th in the 200m, 22nd in the 100m
Chris Mullett: 19th in the Discus, 21st in Shot Put
Ivy Carichner: 20th in the Triple Jump
Layna Jones: 23rd in the Triple Jump
Miranda Benoit: 26th in the 1600m
12 PR’s [Hayden, Liz, Robert, Chris(x2), Grant(x2), Ivy(x2), Mason, Layna, 4x200]

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



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

March 24 - 30: Spring Break!

Thursday, April 3:
tbd HS Baseball @ HOME vs ECA/PPC

Friday, April 4:
10 am HS Track: Steel City Fast Track @ Dutch Clark - Pueblo

Saturday, April 5:
tbd HS Track: Warren Mitchell Invitational @ Limon
11 am & 1 pm HS Baseball @ HOME vs South Park (Double Header)

Thursday, April 10:
11 am & 1 pm HS Baseball @ Hoehne (Double Header - away)

Friday, April 11:
tbd HS Track @ LAN/RAM @ D2 Stadium/Liberty in Co Spgs
11 am HS Baseball @ Cotopaxi (away)

Saturday, April 12:
9 am HS Track: Thunder-Storm @ CSU Pueblo

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

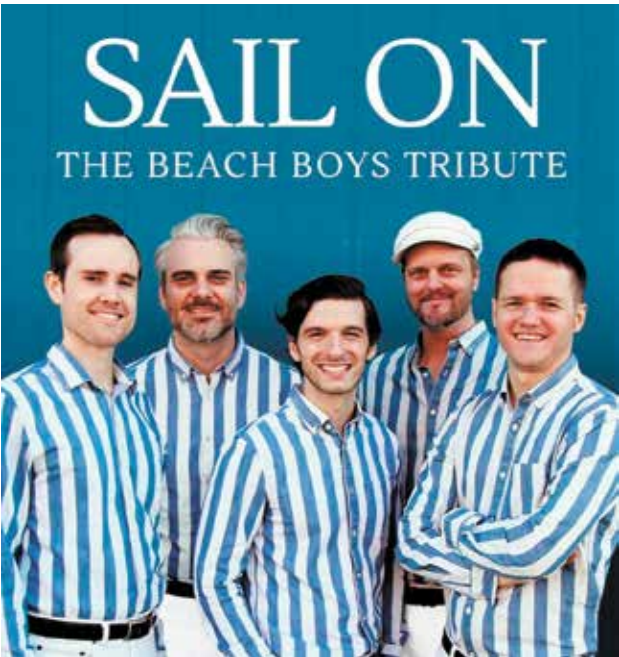
Fremont County Community Concert Association Presents “Sail On”

Press Release

FCCCA Fremont County Community Concert Association will present “Sail On”, a Beach Boys Tribute, Saturday, March 29th. The group will play at the Steeple Event Center at 7 p.m.

Sail On plays the music of “America’s Band”, The Beach Boys. Performing all the group’s classic hits, plus some treasures from The Beach Boys’ brilliant extended catalog, “Sail On” faithfully recreates the timeless songs of surfing, cruising, dancing and dreaming for all ages, and anybody who wants to have Fun, Fun, Fun.

Based in Nashville, “Sail On” performs over 100 shows every year all around the U.S. and the world. They enjoy the



unique challenge and privilege of bringing one of pop music’s greatest legacies to audiences everywhere.

Admission at the door is \$40. Students 18 and under receive complimentary admission with season membership holders.

Be sure to come early to get a good seat!

Stage 1 Fire Ban for Custer County

Reminder to Stay Updated for Everbridge Notifications and Know Evacuation Routes

**Stage 1 Fire Restrictions
Custer County Colorado**

*From Custer County
Sheriff’s Office*

March 13, 2025, after consultation with the WMFPD Fire Chief and a thorough review of current fire danger conditions Sheriff and Fire Warden Rich Smith has implemented Stage I Fire Restrictions for Custer County.

Stage I Fire Restrictions are now in effect, and the following activities are prohibited by statute:

- Open burning, with exceptions for fires and campfires within permanently constructed fire grates in developed campgrounds and picnic grounds; charcoal grills and wood-burning stoves at private residences in areas cleared (three feet distance) of all flammable materials.
- The use of any fireworks without a professional display permit, outdoor pyro-

technics such as explosive targets, or model rockets.

- Outdoor smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter, barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- Welding or operating an acetylene or similar torch with an open flame is prohibited except in an area cleared of vegetation.
- No internal combustion engine operation without a spark arresting device properly installed and in working order.
- Prescribed burns: any previously issued permits for such burns are revoked.

and guidelines, please go to: <https://custersheriff.colorado.gov/>

If a fire evacuation becomes necessary the Sheriff’s Office uses the opt in program Everbridge to alert residents by cel phone, land line, text or email. To opt in to Everbridge or update your methods of contact, please use this link:

<https://member.everbridge.net/355009111785665/new>

Do you know what the fire evacuation routes are for your neighborhood? If not use this link:

click <https://custersheriff.colorado.gov/.../FireEVACRoutes.pdf>

###

These restrictions, which take effect today, March 13, 2025, will remain in effect until they are modified pursuant to Custer County Resolution 18-17.

For updates on restrictions

Editor Note: The evacuation route map is on pages 12 &13 of this week’s issue and can also be found on the main page of our website: SDCSentinel.com

CC Early Childhood Education Center Open House!

Join us on Friday, April 4th from 10-12 noon at the Custer County Early Childhood Education Center. Learn about our Infant, Toddler and Preschool programs. See the rooms, meet the staff and get your questions answered! For more information contact Laurie Yarger @ CCECEDirector@ccbobcats.net, 719-783-4940

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Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

Go to
RedCountyBlueNation.com
to view live or
see the prior episodes.

Wednesday March 26- Special Guest: Dave Schneider,
Round Mt Water. Topic: Pond Sludge to Fertilizer

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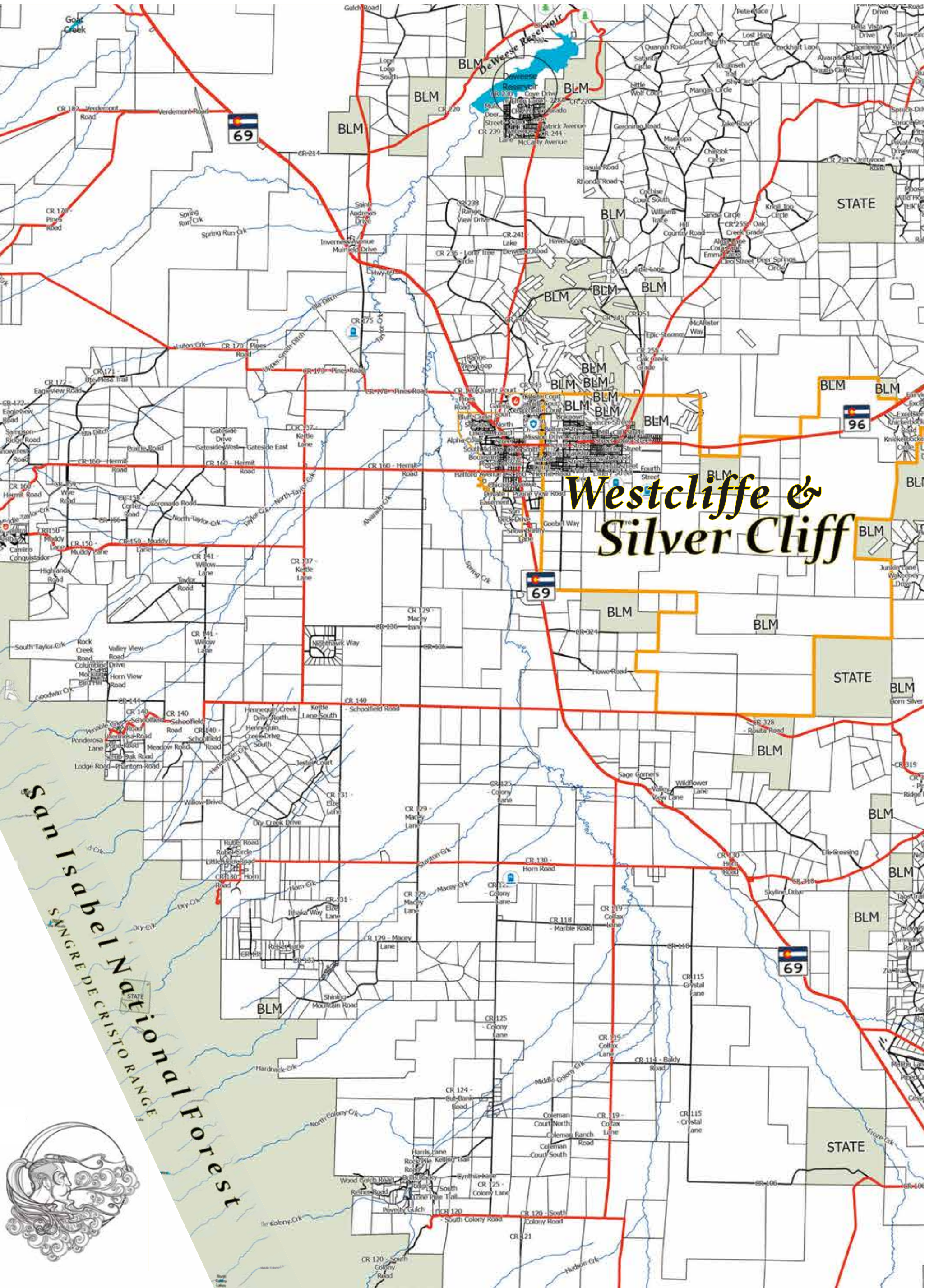
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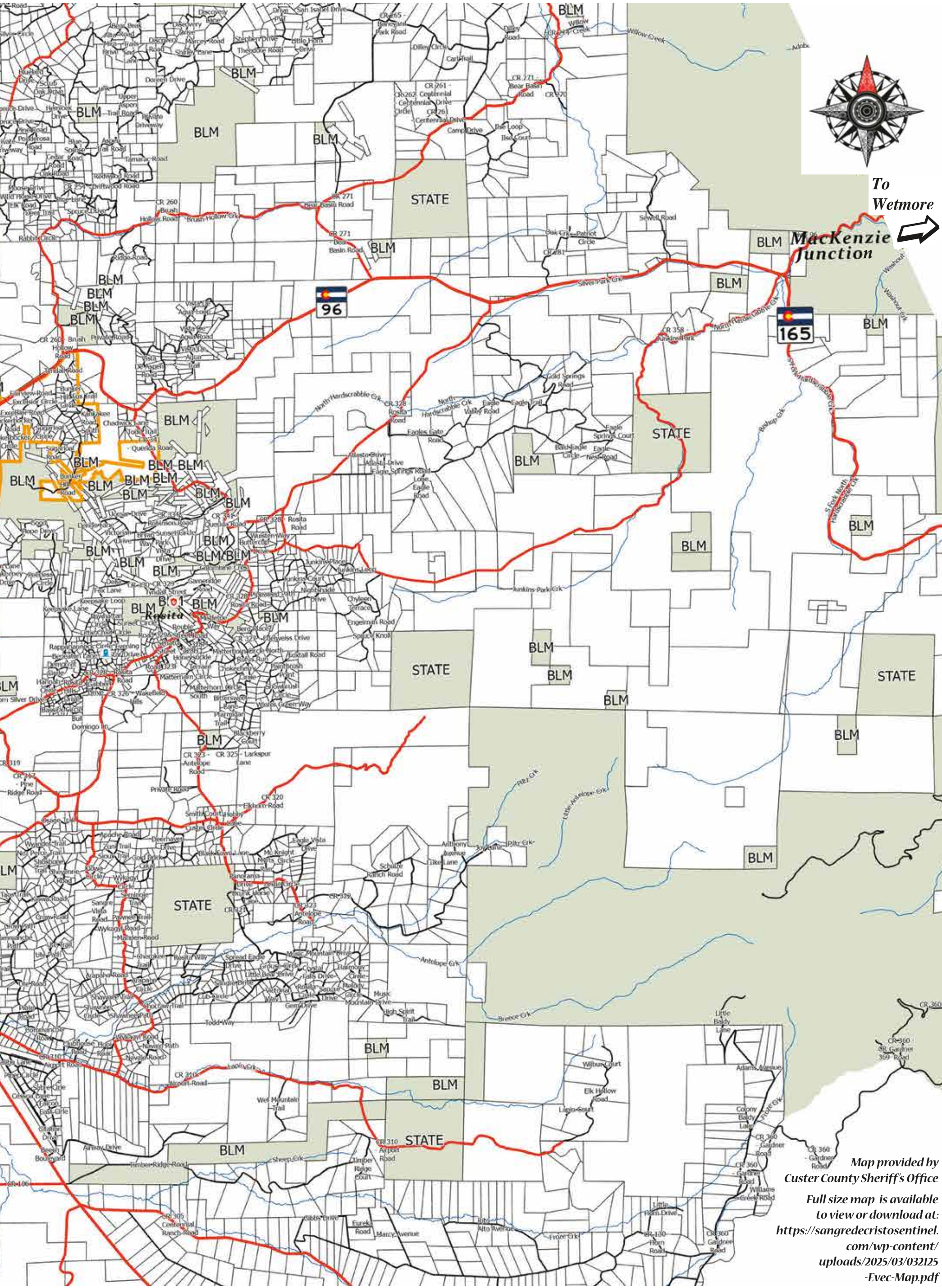
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EVACUATION ROUTES



Map provided by
Custer County Sheriff's Office

Full size map is available
to view or download at:
<https://sangredecristosentinel.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/032125-Evec-Map.pdf>



Colorado State News



Democrats Cling to Secrecy Behind Closed Doors

by Sherrie Peif,
CompleteColorado.com

DENVER — Majority Democrats on Monday doubled-down on doing the public’s business behind closed doors by killing a bill intended to give a boost to government transparency.

House Bill 25-1242, with the most significant part being a repeal of an open meetings law carve-out (**Senate Bill 157**) lawmakers granted themselves during the 2024 legislative session, was postponed indefinitely on a straight party line vote of 8-3 in the House State Civic, Military, and Veteran’s Affairs committee.

Last year’s bill, among other things, exempted legislators from a law that says no more than two elected officials can be in the same location at the same time unless by chance or at a function where public business is not being discussed.

Rep. Chad Clifford, a Democrat from Arapahoe County said he was “shocked” to learn he couldn’t have a conversation with another legislator without it being open to the public, and would not vote to repeal last year’s special exemption from the law for legislators.

“You have just specified that this makes this unequal with other governments,” Clifford said to a group of constituents testifying in favor of the bill. “But every other government body has some ability to have an executive session or to discuss, opine, talk strategy.”

Clifford’s remarks were overly broad and not necessarily accurate. Legislators were previously allowed to talk to another legislator, and while Colorado government entities can hold executive sessions, they just need to be limited scope, with the public

notified of the general content of that discussion.

Additionally, before **SB 157**, legislators also had additional protections from the work product exemptions Clifford claimed didn’t exist.

Transparency advocates on the offensive

Sponsored by Rep. Lori Garcia-Sander (R-Eaton) and Sen. Byron Pelton (R-Sterling), **HB 1242** also sought changes to the deadlines for custodians to respond to Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) requests, the amount that can be charged to the requestor, the number of “free” hours that are granted, and caps the amount a custodian can charge for attorney review of the information at \$50 per hour.

The bill was drafted in response to an ongoing stakeholder’s meeting involving several dozen entities that wish to change the way public records are treated in Colorado. Those stakeholders include, among others, traditional news media outlets, the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition, Colorado’s print and broadcast news associations, the League of Women Voters, Independence Institute, along with several citizen journalists who publish consistently and frequently on their own social media pages and websites.

Jon Caldara, President of Independence Institute, told the committee he has never seen anything like this in his more than 35 years of being involved in Colorado politics.

“Never in my life have I seen such violent and drastic polarization going on throughout the county and the state,” Caldara said. “I have never seen such vile inability for both sides to talk

to one another about common goals. I’d like to thank the state legislature for doing something that I thought was completely impossible, to bring together so many different sides of the political aisle to work on this bill in trying to correct the overreach of last year’s Senate Bill 157.”

HB 1242 as written excluded any special considerations or waivers for “credentialed” journalists, nor does it attempt to define “news media,” something that has been a bone of contention in prior attempts at CORA and open meetings reforms, and which is included part of another transparency-related effort, **Senate Bill 77**, which was heard prior to 1242, and which passed the committee 8-3.

Garcia-Sander told the committee that she brought the bill because for over five decades Colorado has upheld its open records and transparency commitment, until now.

“Our laws insured that journalists could report on government actions, citizens could access records, and elected officials were held accountable to the people they serve” Garcia-Sander said. “With the passage of 157 we granted lawmakers an exemption from key transparency laws making it easier to negotiate policy behind closed doors, making it harder for the press, and even some legislators to make it harder to know what was happening in this building.”

Push for open government

Garcia-Sander said her bill was to restore public trust and reaffirm open government.

The bill also pushed for other changes, including:

- Requires the requestor to submit an affidavit of service with all requests in order to make

official the date the request was submitted.

- Clarifies that the custodian cannot increase costs charged or expand date and time for inspection.

- Does not include the day that the service is fulfilled in the time computation.

- Requires that the computation of time begins on the third day after a request is postmarked if mailed.

- Changes reasonable time from three to five working days.

- Requires a custodian to provide evidence of proof that a document requested would violate copyright or licensing agreement.

- Caps hourly fees for public records at \$25 per hour.

- Adds to the definition of “official record” any incident report or other record of an interaction between any on-duty peace officer and any member of the public.

- Changes the response time for Colorado Criminal Justice Records Acts (CCJRA) requests to three days after the request is received with up to 10 days for extenuating circumstances.

- Records from a completed internal investigation be available within 21 days of the request being submitted, whether or not the investigation involved a member of the public.

- Applies all the same parameters as those under CORA for search and retrieval and attorney fees to CCJRA.

“Supporters claimed (157) was about efficiency, about allowing law makers to have candid discussions without violating the open meetings laws,” Garcia-Sander

said. “But we’ve already seen the consequences. Journalists were barred from legislative meetings. ... Reporters were barred from caucus meetings where lawmakers were discussing a potential special session.”

Garcia-Sander also pointed out that even lawmakers have complained they are kept out of discussions.

“One Democrat said they felt like they had a gun to their head when being forced to vote on a deal they were not involved in crafting,” she said. “If lawmakers don’t know what’s happening, how can we expect the public to trust this process.”

Caldara told the committee the stakeholder’s group is prepared to take their request to voters as one or more ballot initiatives, including a constitutional amendment, in the November 2026 election, where he is confident voters will agree overwhelmingly.

“Before you knew it, organizations that I have criticized for more than three decades. Organizations that I have gone to political war with, were sitting down at the table with us because of their outrage over what happened,” Caldara said. “In 2026, we will be bringing forward a constitutional amendment. ... The last time we put something on the ballot on sunshine laws, it passed 70-30. And that was without any coalition behind it. This one is going to be exceptional, and I thank you for bringing us all together.”

Complete Colorado, which is a part of the transparency stakeholder’s group, will continue to follow this story.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/03/11/transparency-bill-killed-democrats-choose-closed-door-meetings/>



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Colorado State News

Concealed Carry Grows in Colorado, Over 29 Thousand New Permits in 2024

*by Mike Krause,
Complete Colorado Page Two*

DENVER— Despite majority Democrats in the legislature heaping new restrictions on the lawful carrying of concealed handguns, new data shows 29,495 Colorado adults still subjected themselves to the scrutiny required to become concealed handgun permit (CHP) holders in 2024, while another 27,751 renewed existing permits. That's according to a County Sheriffs of Colorado annual report, published earlier this month.

While that number trails a permitting surge during Covid lock-downs and rioting related to the police killing of George Floyd (over 37,000 in 2020 and more than 41,000 in 2021), it's larger than both the 23,250 permits issued in pre-pandemic 2019 and the 25,218 issued in 2023.

In the five-year period covering 2020-2024, just over 161,000 Coloradans obtained new permits, while more than 146,000 existing permits were renewed (a Colorado CHP is valid for five years).

The Crime Prevention Research Center in 2024 estimated that just under 18 percent of the Colorado population 21 or older holds a carry permit.

Shall issue

Colorado is what is known as a ‘shall issue’ state, meaning as long as an applicant passes the basic requirements set out by law, the issuing authority is, for the most part, required to issue a permit.

CHP applicants must pass a fingerprint-based criminal background check and a firearms training class by a certified instructor, and it must be taken in person. Permits are usually issued by elected county sheriffs, though in Denver and Broomfield it's through the police department. Depending on where you live the process could be completed in a few weeks to as long as several months.

Sheriffs are allowed some leeway for permit denials or revocations, if they believe the applicant is a danger to themselves or others. In Jefferson County, with over 4,400 new and renewed permits and a sheriff endorsed by extreme gun control groups, an aggressive 31 applicants were denied for what the report calls ‘discretionary’ reasons. In Weld County, with just under 5000 new and renewed permits and an overtly pro-gun rights sheriff, there were no discretionary denials.

Other reasons for denial or revocation include arrests, residency issues, restraining orders, and mental illness or addiction. Of the more than 52,000 permits either issued or renewed, a modest 592 applicants were denied statewide, while 405 existing permits were revoked.

Permit holders exceptionally law-abiding

David Kopel, research director at the Independence Institute* and adjunct professor of advanced constitutional law at the University of Denver's Sturm College

of Law, notes that concealed handgun permit holders as a group are among Colorado's most law-abiding citizens.

“Concealed carry is, by its nature, virtually impossible to detect, unless a person walks through a metal detector or is frisked by the police. Obtaining a concealed carry permit requires hundreds of dollars in fees and expenses, including for training, as well as the post-training hours necessary to go through the permitting process,” Kopel said. “The only people who bother to go through the onerous process are people who are so concerned about legal compliance that they spend significant resources just to obtain a card from the government allowing them to legally do what they could have done anyway for free, and with very low risk of being caught.”

In 2022, Kopel presented data to the Denver City Council showing that among Colorado’s 21 and over adult population, a CHP holder is “about 39 times less likely to be arrested than an adult without one.”

Lawmakers target concealed carry

Concealed carry keeps growing despite majority Democrats in the Colorado legislature passing new laws aimed at making the application process more difficult and expensive, as well as severely restricting where concealed handguns can be lawfully carried.

House Bill 24-1174 significantly expands the classroom training requirements for a permit, to include a live-fire exercise and a written exam, with instructors “verified” by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The bill also requires a “refresher” class for the renewal of a permit. Nowhere does the bill cite evidence of any issues arising from existing requirements, nor of CHP holders as committing gun violence. The bill does require an appropriation of over \$364,000 to the Department of Public Safety to implement the law. While a few provisions of the bill are already in effect, the majority of the new mandates go into effect July 1 of this year.

Senate Bill 24-131 “prohibits a person from carrying a firearm, both openly and concealed” in what the bill designates as “sensitive spaces,” to include government building, colleges and universities, courthouses and schools.

The law, which has been in effect since mid-2024, includes a section that allows local Colorado governments to opt-out of the ban.

As previously reported by *Complete Colorado*, numerous local government have, or are are working towards opting-out of the law, including Douglas, Logan, Routt, and Weld counties, as well as municipalities such as Pueblo, Palmer Lake and Monument in El Paso County, and Castle Rock in Douglas County.

* Independence Institute is the publisher of Complete Colorado.

Please see: <https://completescolorado.com/2025/02/23/colorado-concealed-carry-over-twenty-nine-thousand-permits/>



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Livestock Depredation Estimated at \$24,000 Per Imported Wolf

by Complete Colorado Staff,
[CompleteColorado.com](https://completecolorado.com)

(Editor/GG: Below is a brief overview of a Jon Caldara podcast about livestock depredation in Colorado. See the end of the article for the YouTube address of the podcast.)

When Colorado's imported wolves prey on private livestock, ranchers can be reimbursed by the state for their losses. According to one former county commissioner, that cost so far is \$24,000 per wolf.

During a recent interview on Independence Institute's* public affairs tv show "Devil's Advocate with Jon Caldara" former El Paso County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf explained the state's "reintroduced" wolves have destroyed an estimated \$600,000 worth of private livestock, or \$24,000 per wolf.

Here is an edited transcript of the exchange:

Caldara: How many wolves were introduced?

VanderWerf: So, it's not been a large number, and I think the number is about 25. First set of wolves that were

introduced actually came from areas where the wolves were known to conduct depredation. What that means is they had learned to attack livestock, to attack cows and sheep and other animals as a way for them to survive. And that's because of this interface between the wolves and humans in those areas. And those are the wolves that came originally to the state of Colorado.

Caldara: So, we got them pre-trained to kill livestock.

VanderWerf: Pre-trained. They came here and went straight to that livestock.

Caldara: How much livestock has been damaged or killed.

VanderWerf: It's over \$600,000 worth of damage as far as direct reimbursement requests that have come from ranchers so far in Colorado. That's a pretty large number.

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

<https://youtu.be/s-g-Z0mcjBs>

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/02/20/cost-livestock-depredation-24000-per-imported-wolf/>

CO Dems Nab \$10 Million to Redecorate Their Offices, Thumbing Noses at State's \$1.2 Billion Budget Hole

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Colorado is facing a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall this year that has Democrats looking to make cuts in programs precious to taxpayers and low-income residents.

But what the Democrat-controlled legislature is not willing to sacrifice is the \$10 million they've set aside to renovate and redecorate their own personal offices on the Capitol grounds.

That's \$4 million just for their new furniture, and \$6 million for the office renovations.

Surely "Extreme Makeover: Greedy Democrats Edition" could do it for a lot less?

Republican State Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer spoke out against the Democrats' budgetary largesse at a hearing Friday, chiding them for putting their own comfort and interior design needs ahead of funding for children with severe disabilities.

"Where are your values? Where are your priorities? Is it with these kids that are neglected and abused? Is it with these low-income families that we're trying to get childcare for. Is it for children with severe disabilities? Or is it for furniture?" Kirkmeyer asked.

Kirkmeyer proposed a measure to throw water on their plans. Long story short,

Democrats voted to keep their own luxuries and to heck with the budget shortfall and developmentally disabled children.

Shaun Boyd over at *Denver's CBS News* reported on the state's excesses, including this statement from Democrat Senate President James Coleman:

"These updates were approved through the normal legislative process, planned well in advance and part of responsible long-term stewardship of government facilities," Coleman said.

That's the Democrats' idea of financial stewardship, putting their needs ahead of the people who keep electing that party to power over, and over again.

For those keeping track, Kirkmeyer is expected to run for governor to replace Gov. Polis in the 2026 election.

(Editor/GG: They don't care. It ain't their money. Dem voters: How long will you put up with this elitist selfishness? Your dem leaders DO NOT CARE ABOUT YOU AT ALL. IT IS ALL ABOUT POWER AND CONTROL. They are bankrupting everybody with their delusions.)

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/03/10/dems-nab-10-million-to-redecorate-their-offices-thumbing-noses-at-states-1-2-billion-budget-hole/>

The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
In those who hope in His mercy.

Psalm 147: 11 NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Vacancy

The Wet Mountain Fire Protection District is declaring a vacancy on the Board of Directors and is looking to appoint a person to fill the vacancy within sixty days after the vacancy occurs. In accordance with state law, the Board declared a vacancy at a Regular Board Meeting on March 12th, 2025, due to a resignation of one at-large director seat on the District’s Board effective March 17th, 2025. Beginning March 17th, 2025, any person who meets the qualifications and who desires to be considered for the appointment is invited to submit a letter of interest, to the Secretary of the Board, Teri Munson, at the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District Main Station, 215 N. 4th St., Westcliffe, Colorado 81252, POB 324, Westcliffe, CO 81252, via email wmfpdclerk@gmail.com, or in person during regular business hours. The letter of interest must be submitted by noon on Thursday, April 3rd, 2025. To be eligible for appointment, an applicant must be an eligible elector of the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District (1. A resident of the District; or 2. The owner (or spouse/civil union partner of owner) of taxable real or personal property situated within the boundaries of the District, Spouse’s Name, if property is in spouse’s name; or 3. A person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within the District). The Board will interview prospective candidates on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025, in a public session of a Regular Meeting of the Board. The Board plans to appoint the person to fill this vacancy at its Regular Board Meeting scheduled for May 14th, 2025.

Published March 21 , 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Westcliffe Planning Commission needs to fill a vacancy on the Commission. The member must be 18 years of age or older and must live within the Town of Westcliffe limits. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Town of Westcliffe at P.O. Box 406 or Patterson Hall – 1000 Main Street, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252.

Letters of interest must be submitted on or before Friday, April 11, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

Erin Christie
Town Clerk
Town of Westcliffe

Published March 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

Custer County Board of Commissioners

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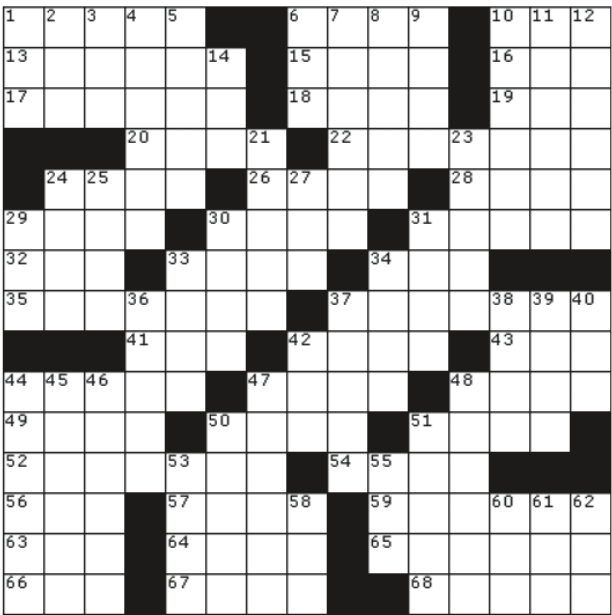
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Cell 719-431-9979 Bill@custercounty-co.gov

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ACROSS

- 1 Light makers
- 6 Bunches
- 10 Dad’s mate
- 13 Major Jewish prophet
- 15 Margarine
- 16 Government agency
- 17 Work lightly
- 18 Gumbo
- 19 Dickens’Tiny ____
- 20 Glasses part
- 22 Father of Ishmael

- 24 Excuse me!
- 26 Aptly
- 28 Dorothy’s dog
- 29 Avails
- 30 Decorative needle case
- 31 Weighed down
- 32 Evergreen tree
- 33 Father of Abel
- 34 Crony
- 35 Rowers
- 37 Of the chamber of a judge

DOWN

- 1 Offer
- 2 North American country
- 3 Scientist’s office
- 4 Collections of sacred books
- 5 Capital of Oregon
- 6 Court
- 7 Strong chemical base
- 8 Plug hat
- 9 Fly
- 10 Plan of action
- 11 Narcotic

- 12 KJV word for wealth
 - 14 Egg layer
 - 21 Prince of this world
 - 23 Dickens’ “__ of Two Cities” (2 wds.)
 - 24 Land mass
 - 25 Frau’s husband
 - 27 Tramp
 - 29 Flying saucer
 - 30 Garden of ____
 - 31 The ____ of God (Jesus)
 - 33 Last word of a prayer
 - 34 Author of Philemon
 - 36 High School dance
 - 37 Shoe projection
 - 38 train support
 - 39 Book after Gospels
 - 40 Downwind
 - 42 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - 44 Support
 - 45 Talking to God
 - 46 Punctual
 - 47 Where Noah’s ark landed
 - 48 Roman title
 - 50 Foreign visitor
 - 51 Say “hello”
 - 53 __ mater
 - 55 Tree
 - 58 Boxer Muhammad
 - 60 __ Maria
 - 61 Women’s partners
 - 62 Goal
- Puzzle key on page 7



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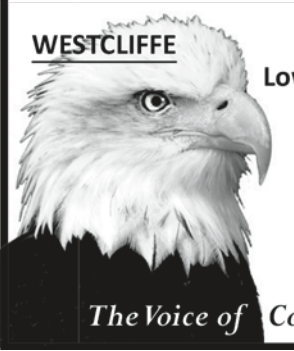


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The Daily Jot

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

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

Treasury Loses \$5T; holds you accountable for pennies

While the mainstream news media (translated propagandists for the left) and the Democratic Party (translated modern Marxists) are melting down over President Trump holding the government accountable to the people, a historic level of fraud has been perpetrated by the administrative state. Just recently, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) revealed that the Treasury Department cannot account for \$4.7 trillion of your tax money. The expenditures were missing a Treasury Account Symbol, a tracking code to verify how the money was spent. This is the same government agency that houses the IRS, which makes each of us justify every single penny of our income under severe penalties.

The media and Democrats are making Elon Musk the issue and essentially ignoring the government fraud that has been exposed at a lightening pace. CNN, for example, is clearly focused on the concept that neither Musk nor his DOGE team should have access to private IRS information. Democrats have shopped around at various courts to find a judge to put a stop to the DOGE investigation. In real terms, the Democrats concerned about access to their private IRS information are likely afraid of what DOGE will reveal. Congresswoman Maxine Waters, (D-CA) said, “the people of this country are being violated because all of our privacy is being taken up by Elon Musk and Trump and we don’t know what all they have on us, our bank accounts, everything in our lives.” Key words: “We don’t know what all they have on us.”

Putting this in perspective, the IRS has nothing, inasmuch as your private information, that you haven’t disclosed in getting numerous credit cards or other so-called private industry privileges. Tracing where the \$4.7 trillion went is part of holding government accountable. Considering that the national debt is \$36.5 trillion (\$323,047 per taxpayer), most of which has been run up by the Obama and Biden Administrations, it is high time we find out what is happening. The smokescreen is that a government agency headed by someone legally appointed by the President should not have access to any private information. They are trying to divert your attention away from the fraud and malfeasance.

Bill Clinton made a big deal about getting rid of government employees. So did Obama. They make a big show of little intent. What they were doing was getting rid of anyone who opposed their agendas and replacing them with Democratic Party operatives. Both Bush’s were globalist and more aligned with Clinton/Obama than Americans ever knew. Trump is the first president since Reagan that is actually trying to restore the government’s responsibility and Constitutional obligation to the people. Yet the Marxists in government and media are fighting this because Trump is getting closer to identifying who was pilfering your tax dollars. As Jesus said in Matthew 24:4, “Take heed that no man deceive you.”

Sources:
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/elon-musk-doge-irs-sensitive-information-b2699770.html>
<https://www.newsweek.com/doge-almost-impossible-trace-trillion-tas-treasury-2032470>
<https://www.usdebtclock.org>

Bill Wilson

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The Red Scarf Girl: The Fight Over Parental Rights Just Got Primal

by Jonathan Turley, JonathanTurley.org

In her celebrated book “Red Scarf Girl,” author Ji-li Jiang recounts growing up during the Cultural Revolution in China. She and millions of others had to choose between obeying the country’s communist government or obeying her parents.

‘Now, you have to choose between two roads,’ ” Jiang wrote. “Thin-Face looked straight into my eyes. ‘You can break with your family and follow Chairman Mao, or you can follow your father and become an enemy of the people.’”

Thankfully, we are constitutionally and culturally protected against such authoritarianism. Yet, we are experiencing our own type of cultural revolution as parents and schools collide over the education of our children.

Court refuses to recognize parents’ rights

A recent legal decision captured this growing divide. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit ruled last month that parents had no protected right to be informed when their children change their gender identity in public school.

In *Foote v. Feliciano*, Marissa Silvestri and Stephen Foote sued Baird Middle School in Ludlow, Massachusetts, after they learned that school administrators did not inform them that their 11-year-old child had self-declared as “genderqueer” and that teachers and staff were using a new name and new pronouns for the student.

The parents were initially told only that their child was experiencing mental health difficulties, including depression. Silvestri said they would seek mental health support for their child and asked that administrators “not have any private conversations with (the Student) in regards to this matter.”

The parents later learned that the school’s staff had continued to meet with their child without their knowledge, implemented the change in gender identity and took active measures not to reveal the change to them (including using the student’s birth name in communications with the parents). The school, without the parents’ knowledge, arranged for changes in everything from the use of male bathrooms to the exclusive use of the child’s new name in class.

The district court in Massachusetts denied the parents a trial and granted a summary dismissal in favor of the schools.

A panel of three federal judges agreed and rejected any due process claim of parents to be informed, let alone to control, such decisions for an 11-year-old child.

Court says educators, not parents, are ‘experts’ on children

In a truly Orwellian line, the judges declared, “As per our understanding of Supreme Court precedent, our pluralistic society assigns those curricular and administrative decisions to the expertise of school offi-

cials, charged with the responsibility of educating children.”

Most of us must have missed that memo. Few would believe that sending our children to a public school means we have transferred the most fundamental parental rights to “experts” on rearing our children.

We understand that schools need to maintain certain standards and conduct. However, changing the gender of a child is a bit more weighty than requiring a school uniform or stipulating nutritional choices in school lunches.

The Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment guarantees citizens that no state shall “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” There is no part of our lives more valuable to most of us than our children.

I remember when we had our first child and were escorted out of the hospital by a nurse. After helping my wife into the car, I turned around and was handed a swaddled bundle with a baby inside.

The nurse then walked away as I stood there in a moment of utter panic. We were given a small human being at the curbside with the level of preparation of a Starbucks latte. I stood there looking at my son Ben with the same level of confidence that I would have had if handed a small nuclear device and then tasked with defusing it. You soon realize that you are all in.

The only thing you have at that moment is the only thing you truly need. They have you. Every part of you. Our children had us at hello. The moment that bundle was put in my arms, I changed. I was a dad and all of the prior priorities in my life suddenly became irrelevant.

No one told me at the hospital carport that he was ours until he is old enough to be turned over to the expertise of public school officials.

The fact is, by the time our kids go to school, we are the experts of that child. While teachers clearly have important training and expertise, they do not know that child. Not really.

They were not there to perform monster inspections at 3 a.m. or to wrestle with a goat who decided to eat his favorite blankie at a petting zoo. They do not know that look when he is panicked or that curious smile when he is near tears. These experts took Child Development 101. We have a Ph.D. in our kids, a developmental dissertation on late-night fevers, sibling fights and orthodontic bills.

This is not to say that teachers have no responsibility for children. In too many cases, children can be abused or they may be unable to express themselves to their parents on issues like gender identity. Schools have a right to confirm that a child’s mental health issues are being addressed. However, absent evidence of abuse, the parents must be informed and make decisions on such treatment.

Parents have the natural right to control the upbringing of our kids

The *Foote* case comes at a time when

parents are becoming more alarmed and more active in education. The response from some school boards, teachers and politicians has been strikingly hostile and territorial.

In 2023, Rachel Wall, a now former school board member in Marion, Iowa, posted on Facebook: “The purpose of a public ed is to not teach kids what the parents want. It is to teach them what society needs them to know. The client is not the parent, but the community.”

In 2022, state Rep. Lee Snodgrass, D-WI, tweeted: “If parents want to ‘have a say’ in their child’s education, they should home school or pay for private school tuition out of their family budget.”

Faced with declining educational achievement and rising social agendas, many families are leaving public schools and others are demanding school choice in the form of vouchers.

At the same time, there is growing support for a Parents Bill of Rights. The Trump administration can work with Congress to condition federal funding on schools’ respect for parental rights, even if the courts do not protect such rights.

In the meantime, *Foote* should be appealed to the Supreme Court, which can reinforce the constitutional protection afforded to parents.

A century ago, the nation’s highest court ruled in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* that “the child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

In its 2000 *Troxel v. Granville* decision, the court recognized “the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children.”

There is no greater natural right than the right to control the upbringing of our children. This right was not granted to us by the grace of the state. It rests with us as human beings. It is part of a panoply of natural rights embraced by the framers – a commitment made nearly 250 years ago in our Declaration of Independence.

Progressives’ shock over the results of the last election could prove a prelude to what is coming if they continue down this road. There is no more powerful identity than that of a parent. When you mess with our children, all other issues instantly become trivial. It is not just passionate. It is primal.

Many politicians are terrified of defying the far-left teachers unions. They and these “experts” have no inkling of what is coming.

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

Please see: <https://jonathan.turley.org/2025/03/13/the-red-scarf-girl-the-fight-over-parental-rights-just-got-primal/#more-229622>

Telling OFF White Men and in the Wall Street Journal, No Less

by Bruce Bawer,
FrontPageMag.com

The op-ed was entitled “Can White Men Finally Stop Complaining?” and it appeared the other day in the *Wall Street Journal*. White men, it charged, have a “victim mentality” – even though they’re back on top. Not only has Donald Trump returned to the Oval Office, but for white dudes, everything’s coming up roses:

The manosphere won. Bro podcasters top the charts. Meta’s Mark Zuckerberg declares his company needs more “masculine energy.” Elon Musk shares a post saying only “high-status males” should run the country. The White House kills diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies, and so do multiple companies, from Target to McDonalds.

Yet white men keep complaining: for over half a century they’ve “blamed others for their job losses, educational failures, economic problems and drug addictions....Somebody else is always at fault. The mighty white guy, it turns out, is quite the delicate flower.”

Who wrote this intrepid j’accuse? Her name is Joanne Lipman. I checked out her Wikipedia page. She was raised in suburban New Jersey; her mother was a “programmer analyst,” her father a CEO. At Yale she got a summa cum laude in history. She’s worked at *Conde Nast*, as “chief content officer” for Gannett, and as editor-in-chief of *USA Today*. She’s on the Council of Foreign Relations.

And she married her husband, an “entertainment lawyer,” at the National Arts Club in Manhattan.

Yes, it’s all right out of one of those *New York Times* wedding announcements. Which is another way of saying that Lipman is a member of the progressive cultural elite from Central Casting.

But back to her article. Whatever else it might have been, it was a perfect specimen of *Conde Nast* copy – not a sincere effort to argue a serious point, but a slick stretch of prose intended to gratify upscale left-wingers by telling them what they want to hear, even if it turns the truth on its head. How clever to assert that the very people who’ve complained about victim mentalities are the ones who really have a victim mentality! How cunning to contend that it’s the “mighty white guy” who’s really “the delicate flower”!

It’s cute. It’s facile. It’s oh so glib. It’s adorably contrarian. And it’s patently untrue. Indeed, it’s pretty offensive. In 2025 America, men – most of them white – still do the dirty jobs, the deadly jobs, the thankless jobs. Many of them choose not to go to college because the environment is so toxically anti-male. Instead they take hard jobs, real jobs, and work long days until they’re bone-weary – only to turn on the TV in the evening and hear themselves demonized by the likes of Al Sharpton and Rachel Maddow.

Of course, when it comes to dishonesty, Lipman gave Sharpton and Maddow a run

for their money. Instead of fairly representing the argument against DEI, she actually harkened back to the 1970s to cite an episode of “*All in the Family*” on which Archie Bunker “complained about a female colleague whose pay was equal to his.” Lipman quoted Archie: “What’s the point of a man working hard all his life, trying to get someplace, if all he’s gonna do is wind up equal?!”

Does anyone really believe that this line of fifty-year-old sitcom dialogue sums up your average white American male’s point of view in the year 2025? No. It doesn’t even sum up what your average white American male was thinking in the 1970s: Archie, the working-class bigot from Queens, was a fool, a buffoon, a cartoon character – the fever dream of Malibu mega-producer Norman Lear.

Yes, Lipman included in her op-ed the obligatory “to be sure” sentences, acknowledging that in recent decades, while women have begun “earning more college degrees than men,” the loss of manufacturing jobs has resulted in the denial to “white men without college degrees” of “opportunities for a robust middle-class life.” She admitted that the media have long depicted men as “idiots” and that “white guys aren’t all sexists or racists.” Gee, thanks. Talk about faint praise. Still, she insisted that white guys have it far too good to be complaining.

Of course, the timing was perfect for Lipman’s dose of nonsense. In the November

election, every county in the nation shifted to the right. Wokeness seems to be crumbling. What a time to go solidly against the grain, to rally the PC crowd! What could be more wonderfully contrarian than defending DEI at a time when a presidential administration that was a total DEI freak show (a gay Transportation Secretary who took paternity leave; a health official who was a portly man in a bad wig; an imbecilic black lesbian press secretary; a “gender-fluid” nuclear-waste administrator who stole suitcases at airports; and a mushmouthed vice president whose only credential was being Indian, Afro-Jamaican and female) has yielded to a dream team of men, women, gays, blacks, Hindus, etc., all of whom are presentable, and all of who are there on sheer merit?

And this is all that most white men have been asking for – equality, fairness, meritocracy. Period. Reading Lipman’s piece, I recalled the time when comedian Adam Carolla, who began his career doing menial work on construction sites,

testified to a congressional committee that he waited seven years after applying for a job as a fireman to be granted an interview. Waiting in line at the fire department he asked the black woman behind him when she’d applied. “Wednesday,” she said.

Carolla’s was not a unique personal story. Many men have them. When I went to grad school in the 1980s, which I was able to afford because of a teaching assistantship that covered my tuition, it was virtually impossible to get fifth-year financial support – if you were a white male. Fortunately, I finished my Ph.D. in four years. But the one black woman in the program didn’t. She ended up getting not only fifth-year support but sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and (if memory serves) even tenth-year support. That’s how desperate the department was to have a black female Ph.D. to point to.

Does Lipman really buy her own snide line about white men’s wimpy fear of “the scary DEI monster,” her premise that DEI is a tool of social justice, a cure-all for sexism and racism – rather than the decidedly unjust enemy of merit, skill, and effort? I sorely doubt it. She’s not the kind of writer who’s mounting the barricades in the name of illuminating reality, speaking truth to power, setting the facts straight. No, I think she’s just one more soldier in an army of smug, complacent pseudo-journalists whose role, as they see it, is to ratify the knee-jerk mindsets of upscale, Democrat-to-the-death readers – in this case, affirming those readers’ disdain for the the overwhelmingly white male riffraff who farm their food, build their homes, connect their electricity, and maintain their roads.

I understand, then, why Lipman is a hot ticket at *Conde Nast*, where such glib garbage belongs. But why would the *Wall Street Journal*, one of the few remaining bastions of reasonably sane commentary in the legacy media, choose to run such a piece – especially since its most stead-fast readers are, by and large, white males?

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/telling-off-white-men/>

Them: You don’t need 30 rounds for hunting.
Me: Well, I don’t think you need 6+ boosters for a cold.
But here we are.

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



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

Colorado Lawmakers Reject Bill to Remove Hunting As a Priority for Wildlife Management

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

DENVER, Colorado

A bill that sought to downgrade hunting, trapping, and fishing from their long-standing status as the primary methods of wildlife management in Colorado was decisively defeated in the House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee.

House Bill 1258, introduced by Democratic Representatives Tammy Story and Elizabeth Velasco, proposed changing state law to say that hunting, trapping, and fishing “may” rather than “shall” be used as management tools, emphasizing “the best available wildlife and ecological science” instead. However, after nearly four hours of testimony, the bill failed with bipartisan opposition on a 10-3 vote.

Opposition Calls the Bill an Attack on Hunting

Opponents viewed the bill as an attempt to undermine Colorado’s hunting traditions, which provide critical funding for conservation efforts. The bill’s failure marks the second major defeat for anti-hunting activists in recent months, following the rejection of Proposition 127, which aimed to ban hunting of mountain lions, bobcats and lynx.

Former state senator and retired wildlife officer Perry Will called HB 1258 “an all-out attack on hunting,” according to *Colorado Politics*. Critics argued that the bill misrepresented the role of hunting in wildlife management, which is a core principle of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Gaspar Perricone, chair of the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project, said, “The bill suggests CPW is currently and intentionally dismissing the application of best available science,” adding that CPW employs “hundreds of scientists and wildlife biologists” to make data-driven decisions.

Opponents also pointed out that hunting and fishing licenses generate about \$100 million annually, which funds conservation programs for both hunted and non-hunted species. During testimony, CPW Executive Director Dan Gibbs acknowledged that apex predators such as wolves could reduce elk and deer herds, potentially leading to fewer hunting licenses being issued and impacting conservation funding.

Bill Sponsors Defend the Proposal

Bill sponsors insisted that the measure was not meant to eliminate hunting but to give wildlife

officials more flexibility. They argued that wildlife management decisions should be based on modern science rather than being dictated by a statutory requirement to prioritize hunting, trapping and fishing.

Rep. Story said, “Our responsibility is to ensure that all [wildlife] are effectively managed and safeguarded for future generations,” referencing factors such as climate change and biodiversity loss. She described the bill as a way to “modernize” state law and clarify that hunting, trapping, and fishing would remain valuable tools but wouldn’t be the only methods considered.

However, the bill’s sponsors struggled to identify a specific problem it was meant to address. When asked by committee members, Story did not directly answer, while Velasco argued the bill was meant to update “outdated provisions” and ensure transparency in CPW’s work.

Who Decides What Science is ‘Best’?

A key concern raised by opponents was that the bill could inject politics into wildlife management by shifting decision-making power from CPW

biologists to politically appointed commissioners.

Committee Chair Rep. Karen McCormick, D-Longmont, said the bill was “potentially problematic” because it failed to define what science was missing from CPW’s work. She expressed concern about giving the CPW Commission—the majority of whom are political appointees—greater authority over scientific decision-making.

Perricone warned that the bill could expose CPW to frivolous lawsuits, citing a similar situation in Washington State, where changing wildlife management language led to years of unresolved legal disputes.

Hunting and Conservation: An Intertwined Legacy

Colorado’s wildlife management framework is built on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which recognizes regulated hunting as a key tool for maintaining healthy ecosystems. The model successfully restored species like elk, bighorn sheep, and wild turkeys while funding habitat conservation.

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership pointed out that fishing,

for example, is essential in managing invasive fish populations. “When a non-native fish starts to dominate a reservoir and outcompete native fish, utilizing fishing as the first line of defense” is necessary to control the population, said Liz Rose, the organization’s Colorado program manager.

Despite claims from bill supporters that hunting participation is in decline, CPW reports steady interest in big-game hunting. However, anti-hunting activists continue to push for legislative and ballot initiatives to restrict the practice, making HB 1258 likely just one battle in a larger conflict.

For now, Colorado hunters and conservationists can breathe a sigh of relief. With HB 1258 soundly defeated, hunting remains the cornerstone of wildlife management in the state—but opponents of the practice are unlikely to give up anytime soon.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/03/colorado-lawmakers-reject-bill-to-remove-hunting-as-a-priority-for-wildlife-management/>

The NRA's New Era: A Unique Opportunity to Secure Life Membership

by Jeff Knox, ammoland.com

This article is somewhat self-serving. While the reconstruction of the NRA is well underway, a group of NRA board directors decided that now would be a good time for what I suspect will be an annual recruitment challenge among board members.

It’s not a competition, per se, but I guarantee some people are keeping score like T-ball and Pee-Wee Soccer. I don’t expect to “win,” but neither do I want to come in last.

The basics for the challenge are really simple. Doug Hamlin and the Membership Department dug deep and came up with the lowest price for a Life Membership they could muster, then gave Directors a very limited time to recruit as many new Life Members at that price as possible. If you’re happy with the NRA’s recent reorganization and improvements and have been thinking about becoming a Life Member, now is the perfect time.

For the next few days, you can secure a Life Membership for just **\$600**—a **60% discount** off the regular **\$1,500** price!

Anyone interested in taking advantage of this deal can easily do so by going to my website at **www.FirearmsCoalition.org**, **downloading the form**, and submitting it to the NRA by March 17, 2025. *Mail to: National Rifle Association of America • Attn: Derek Robinson • 11250 Waples Mill Road • Fairfax, VA 22030 .*

It’s been reported to me that this can also be done over the phone by calling the NRA membership line [877-672-2000] and requesting the \$600 Life membership deal, naming me, Jeff Knox, (or another current Director) as your sponsor, but I’ve not verified this.

Life Membership in the NRA comes with a wide variety of perks, including your choice of NRA magazines, eligibility for NRA-affiliated clubs, ranges, and competitions, special insurance options, various discounts, **and the right to vote in NRA elections**, as well as avoiding the hassle of having to renew – and receiving all of those renewal notices (which we’re working on reducing, by the way). And, of course, every new member of the NRA adds to the Association’s political clout and influence

with politicians at every level of government, helping to protect all of our firearm rights.

The NRA is under new management, and progress is being made every day. Wayne LaPierre is gone and has repaid over \$5 million in “excess compensation” to the Association. Contrary to what many outlets reported, LaPierre was NOT given a multi-million dollar “Golden Parachute.” In fact, he was given no parachute at all, and several Directors are working on clawing back any funds expended by NRA on his personal defense in the New York lawsuit. He also has been forbidden by the court from holding any position within the Association for the next 10 years. At 75 years old, that pretty well guarantees that he’s gone for good.

Along with Mr. LaPierre’s departure, there have been major changes in staffing and organization, policies and procedures, and our use of outside contractors.

In-depth audits have been performed across the entirety of the Association, looking not only at the NRA’s books but also at all

of our policies and procedures, particularly those dealing with finances. We’ve installed a new Chief Compliance Officer, whose sole job is to make sure that everything is being done above board and in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and our Association Bylaws. This includes ensuring that every whistleblower complaint or question is thoroughly investigated and addressed. We’ve elected new officers, including Doug Hamlin as Executive Vice President and CEO, who has led the charge in removing and replacing many senior managers and vendors and restructuring departments and programs.

And all of this has been done under the watchful eye of Judge Joel Cohen of the New York Supreme Court.

Just a couple of years ago, I was ready to throw in the towel on the NRA. I was convinced that there was no chance of recovery, but I was wrong. In a last-ditch effort, three other staunch member advocates joined me in running for the NRA Board of Directors. We thought that, if

we could get elected, it would take at least two or three years of electing additional reformers to the NRA board before we could build a coalition strong enough to turn things around and get the Association moving back in the right direction. To our surprise, when we arrived at our first Board meeting in Dallas last May, we found that over half of the Board was anxious to ally with us. Buz Mills, longtime NRA Director and owner of Gunsite Academy had been actively lobbying and building a reform movement within the Board for several years. With the resignation of LaPierre in January, the Jury verdicts against him and others, as well as against the NRA itself in February, and then the overwhelming election of the four of us by the membership, along with the addition of several new Directors over the past few election cycles, the majority of the Board was ready for change.

There’s still much work to do, and I believe the currently ongoing Director elections

NRA
see page 24

Glock 43X Handgun

Maximum Concealment and It Shoots

by Tom McHale, [ammoland.com](#)

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

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

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

Glock 43X

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

The Basics

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

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

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

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



Glock 43X



The Glock 43X shot the Inceptor ARX injection-molded bullets particularly well.



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

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

The trigger on this 43X measured 6 ¼ pounds when pulled from the vertical center of the trigger face. The face has a slightly rounded profile with vertical serrations

and of course, the safety leaf in the center. Given my hand size, I found the natural trigger finger placement on this pistol to be in the first joint crease. Normally I shoot more with the pad of my finger, but the joint placement just felt natural on this pistol, and I preferred that rather than forcing a "pad centric" trigger press. To use the pad, I had to draw my trigger finger far enough away from the frame that it negatively impacted my firing hand grip, so I went with that felt right – with good results. The press sensation gives you about a quarter of an inch of

weighted take-up followed by about 3/16ths of an inch of steady pressure before the break. The reset required about a quarter of an inch of forward travel and was easy to feel and hear.

The Glock 43X shown here is the standard model with the plastic Glock white dot sights. You can also order this pistol with Glock Night Sights or Ameriglo BOLD sights. As I'll probably buy this sample pistol, one of the first things I'll do is swap out the sights. I'm thinking of testing out the brand new XS Sights DXT2 Big Dots in the bright orange configuration. Seems like the fast nature of those sights would pair well with this compact carry pistol.

Shooting the GLOCK 43X Handgun

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

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

Ammo chart 1

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

You'll notice a couple of big numbers in there from the Doubletap and Inceptor entries. The Inceptor ARX is a defensive round with a number of twists. The projectiles are injection molded from a heated goo of polymer and cop-

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

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

Ammo chart 2

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

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

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

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/03/glock-43x-maximum-concealment-and-it-shoots-review/>



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BOCC from page 1

celebrating Pike’s exploration journey through this area in search of the source of the Arkansas River. Kit gave a fascinating account of Pike’s travels including the fact that Pike and his crew probably camped at Commissioner Canda’s ranch. Kit noted that he and others are raising money to replace the signs as they are getting old.

After that talk, Kit segued into quite a different subject, the unconstitutional gun ban, SB25-03 that is being pushed by our lovely, tyranny enraptured Democrats up in Denver. Kit said he went there and testified against it. He reviewed the magazine ban part and how the Dems want us to take a very long course, pay a lot of money to the state, and pass a test with a score of 90, in order to buy most common semi-automatic rifles and also pistols. (I guess the clear meaning of the 2nd Amendment means nothing to these traitors.) In Public Comment after Kit finished, local lefty James Gilbert asked why would one need more than 15 rounds in a weapon and that if you have detachable magazines then you can just switch in a new one, and somehow that is a bad thing. (Well done mag changes are beautiful to watch, James. It is an art form. Are you against art?) (James, James, James: I know I

am wasting my time here, but the core of the 2nd isn’t really about hunting or personal defense, it is clearly about citizens having arms capable of over throwing a tyrannical government. The framers of the Constitution knew that the only reason we beat the Redcoats was that the citizens had firepower equal to the English. The Framers knew that eventually their beautifully laid out plan for our government might go bad, and they wanted the citizens down the line to have the same ability to replace tyranny with freedom that they had. That ability has been degraded dramatically over the last 50 years due to people like you, James, but we still have our semi-auto rifles with detachable magazines which are probably good enough. And you, and your lib homies, want to take that away from us. That ain’t gonna happen. We already have over 100 million AR style rifles and probably a BILLION detachable magazines for them. And a ZILLION boolits. If this law is passed by the Dems, it will be ruled unconstitutional. And, believe me, in the time before that happens, there will be no shortage of AR’s or mags available in Colorado. Our rights come from God, James, not the government which is the liberal’s deity. You can’t take them away. We will not comply.)

Canda shut Gilbert down. Epp commented that most of the counties in Colorado are

“against it” and that the cost to implement the proposed insane training and testing rules would cost our Sheriff’s Departments millions and millions of dollars. (It would also cause massive job losses with our gun stores and supporting businesses.) County Attorney Slater said that the bill is an unconstitutional unfunded mandate.

The West Custer County Library District ladies then gave their annual report. All is going good.

Dorothy Carsten, our Planning & Zoning Director, was next with a Special Use Permit (SUP) application. It was for a proposed “feed store” on the Valley floor on CR155. The Planning Commission voted not to recommend approval as it is a retail business in an agricultural zone. This caused all the Commissioners to opine on the same old ‘business in ag areas’ issues. Finally, they voted not to approve the SUP.

Next was another SUP request. This time for a “wedding venue” in the Hayden subdivision. There were all kinds of issues here including the access road was not county maintained, Neighbor Eric Swanson spoke up against it saying he was never notified of the Planning Commission hearing.

After quite some time, it was approved.

Carsten was up again with a proposal to halt all new Short Term Rental (STR) applications as she said there were many changes needing to be made in the Zoning Resolution to properly handle them. These issues have come to light as they have been processing the STR’s over the last couple of years. This will be on the March 27 agenda.

Epp led the next Agenda Item: Road & Bridge needs a new road roller compactor as the current, very old one, needs a ton of expensive repairs. Epp said our John Deere dealer, Four Rivers, has their rental one for sale for \$61k. It is in very good shape with low hours. Epp had quotes for other used ones that were a lot higher. After a lot of discussion, the Commissioners decided to go with JD from Four Rivers’ purchase/rental agreement.

There were then five Resolutions passed regarding our OEM Office and federal regulations regarding grants. (Basically, the feds forcing us to follow more rules and regulations so we can get their blood money grants.)

The Office of Emergency Management Director, Robyn Knappe, was next with a potential state wildfire grant to mitigate Custer County’s evacuation routes in case of a fire. (Sheriff Smith has recently produced a map of the official evacuation routes.) The grant would be for \$750k and

would comprise of three phases. 1. Hire a contractor to plan it. 2. Hire contractors to mitigate the roads. 3. Mitigate neighborhood roads going to the evacuation routes. There is no county matching funds requirement. The Commissioners voted to have Knappe apply for the grant. (Folks, where is the research indicating that \$750k can actually do the job? Or even come close? This is just another case of throwing our tax money at an undefined issue with NO DATA on whether the grant will actually do the job. Any business would have a basic analysis done of the feasibility of the project. Not here in Happy Valley. Yeah, \$250k for a short section of sidewalk by the courthouse. \$100k for a new chipper when we already have one. Now, \$750k to cut some brush and trees for undetermined and unknown stretches of roads. No DOGE here. Free Money!!!! Elon: We will PAY YOU to come here and tell our commissioners that the borrowed money gravy train is over and we should be FRUGAL with our tax dollars.)

Lastly, Knappe was up for another grant application for the Sheriff’s Office, \$18k, to get real gas masks for hazmat incidents. This is a Homeland Security grant. The Commissioners approved Knappe to apply for the grant.

Another one down in Happy Valley. “Money for nothing, and the chicks for free.”

NRA from page 20

[covered in detail by Ammoland News] will dramatically advance and accelerate that work. However, most of the major reforms have already been achieved. A good bit of what we’ll be working on going forward will be fill-ing in details and overseeing the execution of the new commitments—especially our commitments to core programs and member services.

I know that the comment section under this article will be flooded with negative comments suggesting that the NRA is beyond re-

demption, that other groups are a better investment, and that the NRA has never done anything worthwhile in support of gun owner rights.

Those folks are simply wrong. I’m working on a column covering the real history of the NRA, including it’s good, it’s bad, and it’s ugly, so I won’t go into a lot of detail now, but here’s the Cliff’s Notes:

1. Even after the scandals and serious depletion of our resources in recent years, the **NRA still has twice as many members** and raised and spent far more on the 2024 elections than all other Second Amendment groups combined. *Several times more.*

2. The NRA is much **more than just a 2nd Amendment organization**, and while a few other groups might do a little in the areas of training or competition, no other group comes anywhere close to the broad array of programs and activities that the NRA is involved in.

3. While the NRA and some of its leaders have made some major mistakes over the past 150+ years, the **Association has been the nation’s most effective and influential defender** of the right to arms for all of that century and a half. No other gun rights organization has even existed for a third of the time that the NRA has,

and every legislative or judicial success that any of those other groups has ever achieved was based on a foundation laid by the NRA. The most recent and glaring example is the Bruen decision, which has been the basis of almost all of the recent court wins across the country. That was an NRA case that set the stage for all of those victories and for the many more that we expect to see in the near future.

As I said, I’ll have more details on all of this published soon [subscribe to AmmoLand News so you don’t miss it], but the main point is that the NRA has been a significant force in

politics and the courts for many decades and is still the most powerful tool in the rights movement’s arsenal.

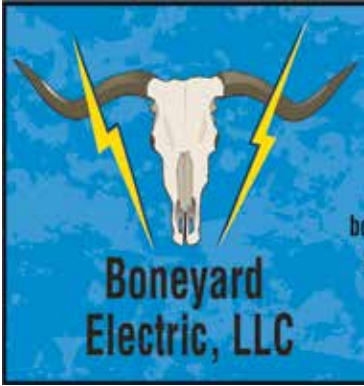
My objective here, though, is not to convince anyone that they should join the NRA or to argue the pros and cons of the NRA’s history. My objective is simply to inform people of an opportunity so they can decide whether to take advantage of it or not.

Anyone who does want to take advantage of this opportunity can print the form at www.FirearmsCoalition.org, fill it out, and send it in. Thanks to everyone else for taking a

look and staying in the fight for your Right to Keep & Bear Arms.

(Editor/GG: Think I am going to rejoin. Dropped out about six years ago with all the waste of money and LaPierre spending \$100k on clothing so he could look pretty. Looks like the lawsuit and the election has cleaned things up dramatically. Plus, we need all the help we can get to fight the commies destroying our Constitutional rights.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/03/nras-new-era-secure-life-membership-60-off/>



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The Many Ways Concealed Carry Permitless Enhances Public Safety

by *NRAHQ*,
via *ammoland.com*

Amid the push for national concealed carry reciprocity legislation, gun control opponents continue to insist that concealed carrying has no public safety benefits and that lawfully armed civilians simply escalate the risk to first responders and others nearby.

Brady United on carrying in public places, for instance, claims that “[f]irearms are rarely used successfully in self-defense... When a firearm is present, a situation that could have been diffused may instead end in injury or death.” Concealed carry reciprocity “would only add fuel to the gun violence epidemic by allowing visitors from other states, and non-residents to carry without a permit within their borders. This is just one step closer to the Trump administration’s vision of America where guns are everywhere.”

This distorted view of public safety conveniently ignores

the facts that criminals have always had their own version of “permitless” concealed carry and tend to be the ones most likely bent on inflicting injury or death on members of the public going about their legitimate business.

Contrary to claims that guns are “rarely used successfully in self-defense,” a study published in 1995 by criminology professor Gary Kleck concluded that “each year in the U.S. there are about 2.2 to 2.5 million DGUs (Defensive Gun Use) of all types by civilians against humans.” The NRA’s “Armed Citizen” has tracked the scores of instances in which armed civilians save lives; likewise, Dr. John Lott’s Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC) website lists at least 328 documented instances in just 2024 in which a person lawfully carrying defended themselves or others from a criminal attack.

The CPRC has now released new data examining

“active shooting” incidents (as defined by the FBI) in the United States over a ten-year period starting in 2014, and in particular, how concealed handgun permit holders respond in these situations.

The CPRC compared outcomes in the armed civilian cases with how law enforcement performed and offers many valuable conclusions. Armed civilians were less likely than police officers to accidentally cause harm to bystanders, and there were no cases in which the civilian responder interfered with the law enforcement response.

The CPRC examined the 180 active shooting cases in the study period in which a concealed handgun permit holder stopped an active shooting attack. (An Excel document with the details of each case is included in the CPRC article link.)

Out of the 180 incidents, there was only one case each (0.56%) of a concealed handgun permit

holder accidentally shooting a bystander or having their handgun taken away. Although there were two cases (1.1%) in which where the permit-holder was killed, it was much more likely for the permit holder to be injured in saving the lives of others (44 cases, or 24%). There were no instances where the permit holder “got in the way of police.” Most significantly, the CPRC maintains that there were 58 cases “where a mass public shooting was likely prevented” by the permit holder.

In contrast, police officers shot and killed the wrong person in four cases (two in which another officer was accidentally shot, and two involving innocent bystanders), meaning the rate at which police accidentally shoot bystanders is over twice the rate at which armed civilians cause such harm (1.14% versus 0.56%). Police officers were also “much more likely to lose their lives or be wounded in stopping these attacks than armed civilians.” Officers were shot and wounded in just over 28% of the cases and killed in almost 8% of the cases. The rate at which police officers were killed was 5.94 times greater than the rate for permit holders.

The CPRC also found that armed civilians with concealed handgun permits appeared to be more effective, overall, at stopping an active shooting event. Such civilians “stopped 51.5% of the active shootings in non-gun-free zones, [while] police stopped 44.6% of the cases (124 arrested or killed by police, 32 committed suicide when police arrived = 156/350 = 44.57%).” The CPRC offers no explanations for this, but one possible reason may be that the armed civilian is more likely to already

be on the scene than the summoned first responders, with a grasp of the danger as it unfolded.

These figures show that concealed handgun permittees at an active shooting incident pose less of a risk to bystanders and responding officers than do the professional law enforcement personnel on the scene and are less likely to be themselves killed or injured.

This confirms, in a different way, the contribution of concealed carry permit holders to general public safety. The CPRC has previously released its annual report on concealed carry permit holders across the United States. One of the consistent findings across the years has been that it is very rare for permit holders to violate the law – as a class, these individuals are even more law-abiding than the police. The report for 2024 observes that “it is impossible to think of any other group in the U.S. that is anywhere near as law-abiding.”

According to the CPRC, there are now over 21 million concealed carry permit holders in the United States.

In 16 states, more than ten percent of adults have a carry permit (Indiana has the highest concealed carry rate, at 23.1%). At the same time, the momentum for permitless carry continues, with 29 states currently recognizing the right of those who are legally eligible to possess firearms to carry a concealed handgun for self-protection without the need for a separate government permit.

Since 2007, the percentage of adults with carry permits has increased by about threefold. This exponential growth in permits and permitless carry coincides with “a general linear

decline in rates of violent crime offenses. Violent crime fell from 4.77 per 10 million people in 2007 to 3.64 per 10 million people in 2023, a 24% drop.” The rise in lawful concealed carrying alone isn’t likely to be responsible, given the complexity of what drives changes in crime rates, but at the very least this shows there’s no “obvious positive relationship between permits and crime.” Additional details and studies are available in the CPRC’s *amicus* brief filed with the United States Supreme Court in the *NYSRPA v. Bruen* case.

The brief points out that the “debate surrounding the Second Amendment sometimes includes a simplistic, false dichotomy which can be summarized as: Guns versus safety.” The opposition to national public carry laws frames this as expanded public carry has no public safety benefits and will only intensify violent crime. Citizens, so the rhetoric goes, may have either guns or safety, but not both. If the gun control doomsayers were right about law-abiding citizens carrying in public allegedly fueling “the gun violence epidemic,” [then] Baltimore, where lawful carry was until recently all but impossible, should have been the safest place in America.

Sensible Americans, now as ever, will continue to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights, secure in the knowledge that should they be faced with dangerous conduct and direct attacks on themselves or others, they will be both ready and able to respond appropriately.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/03/cprc-the-many-ways-concealed-carry-permittees-enhance-public-safety/>



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HEARING

from page 1

The overall gist of the defense allegations was “that substantial evidence was not disclosed before the Preliminary Hearing.”

Lindsey answered that the body cam footage was uploaded to the state designated evidence system the day after the crime.

The other defense issue concerned phone calls made by Clark from his time in the New Mexico jail (where he was caught) and from the Pueblo County Jail (where he is now). His calls were recorded by law enforcement at both locations. (In Pueblo, it was the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).) Apparently, defense had problems with the listening to the recordings of the New Mexico calls but eventually figured it out. Defense complained that CBI was very late in turning over Clark's Pueblo calls.

McCabe then circled back to the issue of not having certain evidence before the Preliminary Hearing regarding Sheriff Smith's and Detective Sergeant Robinson's testimony. The defense wanted "sanctions" against the DA for all these alleged infractions.

Judge Swan then spoke. She said that there were Rule 16 discovery violations and that DA Lindsey had been doing a good job at trying to remedy the issues that his predecessor caused. Judge Swan said that she would offer the defense two options to remedy the violations. One, the Judge would re-open the Preliminary Hearing to allow defense to cross-examine Smith and Robinson now that the defense has the body cam footage, or Two, the Judge would issue a jury instruction during the trial explaining the whole thing to the jury. Judge Swan said she would not consider a dismissal or a reduction in charges.

McCabe chose Option One, re-opening of the Preliminary Hearing. This will be on April 1, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

The next issue in this hearing was the request from defense to move Clark from the Pueblo County Jail to the Fremont County Jail. McCabe alleged there were issues in seeing Clark in Pueblo and getting him out for court hearings. The defense also stated that when Clark first arrived there, he was assaulted and beat up pretty bad and had to go to the hospital to get stitches, Clark also suffered a concussion from the attack.

DA Lindsey responded that Custer County Sheriff had placed

Clark in Pueblo rather than Fremont for a variety of reasons including that there have been five escapes from the Fremont jail in the last two years. Lindsey also noted that by statute, the Sheriff is responsible for jail placement and not the courts. Judge Swan reflected on this a bit and decided to not do anything.

The final topic of the hearing was a request by the defense to reduce Clark's cash only bond of \$2 million. Lindsey gave a stirring speech on the crime and Clark's background which included a prior felony conviction in Colorado and a violent misdemeanor conviction in Idaho. Lindsey noted that Clark fled the state after the crime. Judge Swan then asked if any victims might want to testify and Patti Dalton responded that she would like to.

Patti got up and stood behind the prosecutor's table. She said she had a prepared statement to read. Patti said she "opposed" any reduction in bond. In heart breaking statements, Patti said she "fears for her life every second of every day" and "every semblance of my life is gone". She pleaded with the judge not to reduce bail so that Clark could get out.

DA Lindsey then took his turn reviewing some horrendous details of the alleged crimes

stating that it was a “cold blooded triple murder” caused by Clark’s obsession with alleged trespassing. Closing, Lindsey related the content on the 911 call Mr. Dalton made as he was lying on the ground, shot and dying. Lindsey said the only words on the call made by Mr. Dalton was, “Stop.....Stop.....Stop.....” as the dispatcher heard gunshot after gunshot in the background. (The reaction in the courtroom to this was horrific as many were crying.)

The son of victim Beth Wade Geer then testified via telephone saying that Clark had shot his “grey haired” sixty-one-year-old mother six times and that Clark should not get any bail reduction.

The judge then gave her ruling reviewing some the details of the crime, especially concerning Clark's capture out of state. She also stated that she "can't disregard community safety". Eventually she denied "modification of the bond". So the \$2 million cash bond still stands.

The re-opened Preliminary Hearing is set for April 1, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. There will also be a Motions Hearing after that. The trial is set for June 16, 2025.

(Editor/GG: You won't believe the amount of money the State of

Colorado is spending to defend Clark on this alleged triple murder. It is a David vs. Goliath deal. Our David is District Attorney Jeff Lindsey with his tiny staff. Goliath is the Colorado Public Defender's office with an apparently unlimited cash resources to hire a whole slew of private attorney's supplementing the public defender attorney's on the case.

Defense Attorney McCabe is no country bumpkin. She is a very experienced homicide attorney and, get this, is President of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar! Imagine what her hourly rate is. Colorado also hired two other expensive private attorney's for the case: Alison Paige Gordon and Ian Hudson McDavid. Plus there are two Public Defender attorney's on the case: Adam Robert Tunink and Emilee A. Woodfin. So Clark has FIVE attorneys, paid by us citizens versus DA Jeff Lindsey.

The Colorado criminal justice system is broke on so many levels it is no wonder Colorado, once a truly safe, rural place, is one of the top crime ridden states in the nation. And this outrageous waste of money spent by Colorado to defend this guy is obscene and just another example of the self-destructive nature of liberalism. God help us.)

He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.
Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.
The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.