

Sludge Be Gone? Good News On Sludge Drama Looks Like a Deal Is Near

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The Round Mountain Water & Sanitation District’s (Round Mtn) epic quest to install a groundbreaking new technology (Electrical Coagulation) system to treat its waste water has had its twists and turns over the last few years and the recent drama has been no exception.

(Round Mtn needs a new waste treatment system. Using standard current technologies to do this would be in excess of \$14 million dollars. They have nowhere near this money. Round Mtn’s District Manager, Dave Schneider, discovered and has been pushing for years now to

use a new methodology, electrical coagulation (EC) , to do this as it can be installed for around \$5 million. It is simple, cost effective and unbelievably efficient. It truly is the wave of the future after battling with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for years, CDPHE finally approved a full blown “pilot test” for the system. The kicker is that they have given Round Mtn only 180 days to do it. In order to use the new system, the accumulated sludge in the existing lagoon sediment ponds must be taken out for the new system to work. That sediment sludge needs to go somewhere. Round Mtn has proposed dispersing it on a ranch on the Valley floor (the Johnson

Ranch) as “fertilizer”. This is a common practice around the country, however, there have been many people and groups opposing this saying it is unsafe.)

The company that Round Mountain contracted with, Denali Water Solutions, to suck up the sludge and apply it to the local ranch recently sent an email to our Planning & Zoning Department notifying them of the project. Denali considered the sludge dispersal a standard agricultural fertilizer application and thus needed no special permission to do it. News leaked out and there was an outcry from ranchers and other inhabitants of the Valley, and all over the county, that the application was dangerous and could contaminate the water

system in the Valley including the streams draining the water. Critics alleged that the “forever chemicals” (aka PFAS chemicals) in the sludge would permanently damage the land.

Responding to the controversy, the Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) scheduled a “town hall” meeting where Round Mtn and Denali would give their spiel, and the citizens could comment and ask questions. This took place at the Lutheran Church’s Lange Hall, Thursday, March 27, 2025. About 110 people showed up.

SLUDGE DISPOSAL
see page 24

Senate Bill 3: Gun Licensing Scheme Much Broader Than Claimed

“Bill would apply to ALL semi automatic centerfire handguns”

by Dave Kopel and Matt Larosiere,
CompleteColorado.com

The Colorado legislature is close to final passage of Senate Bill 25-003, to impose one of the most restrictive licensing systems in the nation on many, but not all firearms. Legislators and the public should understand that the bill would apply to *all* semiautomatic centerfire handguns. The kinds of handguns that Coloradans typically choose—from companies such as Glock, Ruger, or Smith & Wesson—would become much more onerous to purchase.

Senate Bill 3 seems cunningly written. It purports to apply only to the “gas-operated semiautomatic handgun.” (p. 4). The bill then provides five types of gas operation. Cumulatively, the definitions cover almost every centerfire semi-automatic handgun.

The bill does not apply to semiautomatics that fire the puny .22 rimfire cartridge.

There is only one centerfire semiautomatic handgun model that does not fall within the bill’s definitions. That unique item is the Benelli B-80, a collector’s item last manufactured in 1990. The identical gun was produced in six different calibers, model numbers 76 through 82.

As for every other model of semiautomatic pistol, Coloradans will be forced to navigate their way through one of the most onerous systems in the nation, far exceeding even California’s.

Clever bill language

The new system includes three additional fees on top of the ones already charged to firearms purchasers in Colorado, and none of those fees are capped. Unlike Colorado’s system for issuing handgun carry licenses, no government official has any obligation to make a decision on an application within a time frame.

Coloradans would still be able to buy revolvers rather than semiautomatics without running the new gauntlet. But revolvers constitute only about a sixth of all handguns sold these days, because American buyers prefer semiautomatics for their lower recoil, greater accuracy, and easier handling, among other reasons.

If Senate Bill 3 had been written straightforwardly, it would say “This bill applies to all semiautomatic centerfire handguns, except the Benelli B-80 models.”

SENATE BILL 3
see page 16

BOCC: Big AP Amount, Annual Clean Up Day, STR Moratorium

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

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

In Commissioner Items, Epp said he attended a Colorado Wildfire Fire Protection Plan meeting where the attendees reviewed maps and zones in Custer County. County Interim Attorney Dan Slater said another ex county employee is suing the County. He doesn’t think this lawsuit “has a lot of merit”.

In New Business, Accounts Payable was first up. Epp led the discussion noting that this AP (which covers just the first two weeks of March) was high due to a lot of normal, annual expenses that come in around this time. Epp reviewed all the expense items greater than \$5k. The total of \$567k was approved.

Next was the announcement that the annual Towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff Clean Up day will be May 10th. Residents of the two towns can put out items on the curb to be taken away. No batteries, tires or household trash. No appliances

that use freon. All county residents can bring their electronic items to the Dome in Silver Cliff to be recycled.

Eight County Resolutions were next. These supplemental resolutions were to approve money to pay for expenses that were above the budgeted amounts. The Commissioners Health Insurance got \$13.6k. The VSO got \$6k for training. The VSO got another \$20.8k for the new assistant. Road & Bridge received \$66k for the newly acquired used roller/compactor. \$49.5k was allocated for the infamous chipper. The County Clerk got \$69k for recording services and the airport was on the receiving end of \$125k for improvements to the fuel system there.

The last Agenda Item was a Resolution for a Moratorium on new Short Term Rental applications and permits. This would last until December 31, 2026. Planning & Zoning needs time to adjust the regulations based on issues that came up in the last few years plus new state laws are coming down. (A new state regulation will control the size of the STR septic and will use the number of beds, instead of bedrooms, as the measurement tool.) The Resolution was approved.

And that was it.

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Your will,
for You are my God!
Let Your good Spirit
lead me
on level ground!
Psalm 143:10 ESV

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

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

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Colorado's Budget Troubles Caused By Fiscal Tailgating

by Mark Hillman

Headlines from the State Capitol might cause a reader to believe Colorado is in a deep recession. Legislators say they must cut more than \$1 billion in spending to balance the 2025-26 budget.

Still, state government has \$687 million more to spend than last year in a \$19 billion budget. So why all the histrionics about a budget "crisis"? Because Colorado lawmakers practice "fiscal tailgating."

Tailgating on the highway is dangerous because when drivers travel too fast and follow too close to the car ahead, the tailgating driver doesn't have time to react if the lead driver unexpectedly brakes or swerves.

Fiscal tailgating is much the same. Lawmakers spend money as fast as it comes in, then when the economy slows, they face much harder choices than if they had tapped the brakes when awash in money.

After COVID, Congress inflated the money supply and passed out trillions to states. Colorado raked in billions, which lawmakers knew would someday run out.

Not long ago, veteran members of the Joint Budget Committee, regardless of party, would stand firmly against spending one-time funds for ongoing programs because they knew they'd ultimately be

forced to either cut the new program or cut something else. Ending a program people have come to rely on is never popular.

But for the past few years, the Democrat-controlled legislature has done the opposite. As the *Colorado Sun* reported, "The budget has actually been out of balance for years. Infusions of one-time federal funding during the pandemic helped pay for some of the legislature's biggest priorities, like eliminating the K-12 funding shortfall, expanding mental health and early childhood programs and boosting funding to higher education."

Now, this spending must be funded from state taxes, which voters have chosen to limit. Federal funds, by contrast, are like free money because they are exempt from spending limits.

Some lawmakers claim constitutional spending limits, collectively known as the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR), are the problem.

But the budget mess would be uglier without TABOR. In both 2022 and 2023, economic growth generated over \$1 billion more than the legislature was able to spend; that money was refunded to taxpayers. Had legislators instead spent that money as freely as they spent federal funds, the current budget hole would be much deeper.

TABOR recognizes that voters have a right to limit how much money their government takes from them. TABOR then acts as a brake on government spending in good times by forcing legislators to seek efficiencies in the same way competition forces businesses to be lean. In hard times, TABOR doesn't affect government spending at all.

After COVID, profligate federal funds allowed lawmakers to take a holiday from reality. They used tax dollars to pay for programs like free phone calls for prison inmates (\$5 million); an energy efficiency program for marijuana growers (\$500,000); food pantries (\$1 million) and diaper banks (\$500,000); health care for children of illegal immigrants (\$19 million); and bailing out the new program that provides "free" lunch for every public school student (\$50-100 million). They also added 8,662 new state employees.

Those programs and others like them certainly add up, but cutting them all makes only a small dent. The biggest expenditures are health care and Medicaid (\$5 billion, 32% of the general fund), K-12 education (\$4.5 billion, 29%), higher education (\$1.7 billion, 11%), and human services (\$1.2 billion, 8%).

Democrats have held the governor's mansion and largely controlled the legislature since 2007. Back

then, K-12 education received 42% of the general fund. Had K-12 funding simply kept pace with overall budget growth, the education budget would be \$1.5 billion more. Under Gov. Bill Ritter, Democrats created the budget stabilization factor to balance the budget by reducing education spending while Medicaid spending exploded.

Last year, lawmakers also created roughly \$1 billion in "refundable" tax credits for low- and middle-income families. These programs literally write checks to families, including illegal immigrants, that pay little or nothing in taxes. A single parent with four children and less than \$15,000 in taxable income could collect a check for \$15,215.

A few years ago when economists were predicting TABOR surpluses exceeding \$3 billion a year, lawmakers were lulled into complacency. I recall similar assumptions in 1999-2000; then came 9/11 and the bursting of the tech stock bubble. Economic euphoria was extinguished.

This year's predicament is unique because the economy isn't in recession; the problem is unsustainable spending.

Mark Hillman served as Colorado State Treasurer and Senate Majority Leader. To read more or comment, go to www.MarkHillman.com.



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Press Release
The Friends of Beckwith Ranch

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The Historic Beckwith Ranch is located 6 miles north of Westcliffe, CO on Highway 69 North. The Ranching Heritage Center has 10 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and is owned and preserved by Friends of Beckwith Ranch, Inc. as a 501(c)3 non-profit.

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- Dick Jones presents his new book “Walking the Same Ground”
- Courtney Miller presents his new book

“The Beckwith Dynasty” Proceeds go to Beckwith Ranch

- Julie VanLaanen, with Filter Press, Presents “The Women of the Colorado Gold Rush”
- Goodnight meets Beckwith, portrayed by Gary Ziegler and Courtney Miller;
- Roping Clinic by local Rodeo star, Creed Ingram. Creed will demonstrate and teach roping techniques
- Ken Butler will be providing Blacksmith Demos in the Blacksmith Shop

For times and dates go to www.beckwithranch.com.

Explore the fascinating stories of the Wild West Era on Displays featuring “The Beckwith Story”, “The Kennicott’s Story”, “The Rustlers”, “Mining”, and “Cattle Ranching”. Admire our new collection of period clothing. We will have authentic artifacts from the era displayed throughout. And the “Discovery Room” will have interactive exhibits for the young and young at heart including games played during that era like Triangle Peg, Jacks, Jack Straw, Checkers, and many more.

Admission fee for the event is \$5/person for those older than 12. Note: Beckwith Ranch Members bring your Membership card and get in free. Learn more at www.beckwithranch.com

Colorado General Assembly Passes Controversial Gun Bill

by Derek Draplin,
The Center Square contributor

A controversial gun control bill has cleared the Colorado General Assembly and now heads to the governor’s desk to be signed into law.

Senate Bill 25-003, when introduced, initially outright banned the sale or purchase of most semi-automatic rifles or shotguns that take detachable magazines and exempted firearms with “permanently fixed” magazines.

The bill was later amended to allow purchases if an individual secures a “firearms safety course eligibility card” from their local sheriff department and then completes a qualifying firearm education course.

SB 25-003 passed a concurrent vote of 19-15-1 in the upper chamber on Friday after the House passed it with amendments earlier this week.

The bill’s Democratic sponsors argue the legislation is necessary to enforce the state’s 2013 ban on magazines that hold more than 15 rounds. Opponents argue that the legislation amounts to a firearm owner identification card and question its constitutionality.

“We passed legislation – in this building, in this General Assembly in 2013 – that limited the sale and possession of high-capacity magazines over 15 [rounds],” said bill sponsor Sen. Tom Sullivan, whose son was killed in the 2012 Aurora theater shooting.

“In the 10-12 years since, it has been woefully inadequate [and] they were not enforcing it. We knew they were not enforcing it,” said Sullivan, D-Centennial.

Sullivan noted the Boulder King Soopers shooting in 2021 and the Club Q shooting in 2022 as examples where the gunmen used illegal high-capacity magazines.

“If we allow the government to redefine rights as privileges, which I argue this bill does, then we place our freedoms at the mercy of those in power,” Senate Minority Leader Paul Lundeen said Friday leading up to the vote.

“Rights, once treated as privileges, can be restricted, taxed, licensed and ultimately, if they can do all of that to them, they can take those rights away,” the Republican legislator said.

Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, is expected to sign SB 25-003 into law.

Other gun bills have advanced through the legislature recently, such as a bill to raise the age for ammunition purchases from 18 to 21 and a bill to require gun show operators to have liability insurance.

Democrats failed to pass outright bans on so-called assault weapons during the last two legislative sessions.

Please see https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_bd8a647b-4009-4a71-a448-cb5e1481bbba.html



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Rocks Night at Liberty Rocks MacKenzie Landslide

by Fred Hernandez

The guest speaker at Liberty Rocks on Tuesday, March 18, was geologist Jay Temple recently retired from the Colorado Geological Survey who now makes his residence in Custer County. After the meeting was called to order by Chair Ann Barthrop and the usual preliminary points of order including The Pledge and the Invocation by Dr. Ann Willson, Mr. Temple gave the audience a quick study in Geology 101. Before that tutorial however, he began with a little story about how a vortex suddenly manifested in his backyard and slammed an eight-pound brick, one of four used to hold the tarp down over the hot tub, through the picture window sending hundreds of glass shards into his easy chair and sofa. Luckily, he was not seated in the living room at the time. So much for unpredictable weather conditions in the month of March.

Much of what Mr. Temple talked about was esoteric information regarding a most complex science. Just imagine he refers to events four hundred million years ago, or was it billions, and in the same breath explains how that has an effect on the earth's surface fourteen million years ago. As Mr. Temple says about geology, "Day before yesterday is fifteen million years ago." Suffice it to say, we did learn that there are three basic rock types under each of which there are other rocks related to that type: First, Igneous Rock (molten rock formation)- which is formed from molten material. Second, Metamorphic Rock (changed by pressure)- formed when existing rocks are changed by elevated temperatures and pressures in the subsurface. Third, Sedimentary Rock (layered material creation)- formed when existing rocks are broken down into smaller grains by chemical action. As the audience sat in rapt attention he went on to explain the recent landslide at MacKenzie Junction. Incredibly, the slide produced seventy-five thousand tons of small rocks



and very few boulders. Landslides are triggered by heavy rain and earthquakes. Snow getting into cracks also plays a role. Faults in the earth are slow motion landslides that take years to fully manifest. The problem of dealing with Mother Nature is that no one can know for certain what could happen.

It was then the moment that was probably what most of the audience came to hear in this talk: to learn more about rare earth which lately has been prominent in the news. Mr. Temple led the team that came to Custer County about four years ago. They came to identify areas that might contain significant amounts of rare earth. That team included the black helicopter with the long antenna in its front used for tracking the electromagnetic force in the earth that indicates mineral content. He laughed as he remembers how many landowners refused to grant him access to their land because as they put it "he was part of the helicopter operation" which most folks despised. The final results of that project to identify sources of rare earths was that there is not enough concentration to make any mining financially justifiable. Mr. Temple received a warm round of applause as the meeting came to an end.

It was yet another good meeting of Liberty Rocks at Tony's Tavern.

Hanme Clark Hearing, Transportation Issues

by George Gramlich

There was another hearing in the alleged Hanme Clark triple homicide case Thursday, March 27, 2025. It was held in the 11th Judicial District, Custer County District Court with Judge Swan presiding. Attorney Janene McCabe led the defense team while District Attorney Jeff Lindsay headed the prosecution. Clark is being held in the Pueblo County Jail on \$2 million cash bond.

The defense noted that Clark was and is "pale" and that was concerning to them. Judge Swan also noted that Clark was "pale" at the last hearing.

The main issue of the day was that apparently Clark alleged he was mistreated in the trip from Custer County to the Pueblo Jail at the last hearing. It was a bit unclear, but it appeared that Clark alleged that the seat belt was rubbing against his neck causing some pain or discomfort. The Judge stated that she looked at the photos taken at the jail when he arrived and she did not notice any "redness" in the neck area.

The defense then stated that the Custer County Posse members were the ones that transported Clark and that none of them

were "post certified".(i.e., actual deputies). And somehow this was not right. The defense also stated that the vehicle used in the transport was somehow deficient in some way.

The Judge asked DA Lindsay to comment on this and Lindsay deferred to Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith. Sheriff Smith said that it is normal and customary for jail transports to be done by Posse members and that is often the case in southern Colorado.

Smith then noted that due to Clark's alleged offenses and the fact that he is a trained mixed martial arts fighter and has been in official fights that a vehicle with a cage is the preferred transportation method. Smith also said the Pueblo Jail personnel had told the Custer Posse members that Clark "spends all day working out". DA Lindsay also commented that when the Posse members went to pick Clark up he had a bad attitude declaring, "I don't care what happens to me". DA Lindsay said he asked Sheriff Smith to have a camera in the vehicle for all future transports.

Judge Swan concurred and ordered Sheriff Smith to have body cameras operational or have a post certified deputy in the vehicle in all future transports.



"We the People" Speak

Letters to the Editor



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

One Take on Denali Water System's Presentation for the BOCC

Gentleman--

Top of the day to you all.

Dave [Schneider], my hat is off to you on your effort and the situation that you have to deal with. It's exciting to see there is a possible solution to the huge bureaucracy we face dealing with the Colorado State Health Department.

With that being said, I don't trust Denali as far as I can throw them. Here's why. They expect us to believe that their testing information is credible and the testing information from Eurofin is inaccurate without showing us the test they refer to.

They had more than ample time to prepare, and the document in question is the most critical piece of information for the whole presentation. Quite convenient for the position there in.

I have quite a bit of experience with

GC and HPLC testing. The fact that Denali says they took their test in December, but they say 'well we really don't have it back yet, but we know it's 3ppb' is a slide-of-hand on the people of Custer County, Round Mountain, and the BOCC. This action is completely unacceptable and dishonest at every level.

In the name of transparency and professional business, only people who are uncredible will try to disprove information without written proof to back it up. Typical bureaucratic action from entities like the EPA.

Honestly, I didn't really get to my point as well as I would of liked but those gentleman are very polished [in] dealing with high powered people and sliding questions to the side. When I asked Luke where the test actually was, he says 'somewhere in my email'. Does he honestly expect

us/me to believe him when Denali is in an industry, that day by day will have less and less credibility with their stance on forever chemicals and eventually be shut down due to the extreme negligence from the EPA? This is apparent by the 6,400 lawsuits already settled with the EPA for over 11 billion dollars.

That being said, in my professional opinion, the county should go through the proper procedures to get permitting at the landfill and end the lunacy before we step into a potential position that the County, Round Mountain, Joseph and Denali get sued into OBLIVION.

I appreciate your due diligence in this matter and offer my participation in any way possible.

Highest Regards,

Steven Rorick, Custer County

'Forever Chemical'-Laden Sewage Sludge Is a National Emergency

by Dave Dickey, Columnist

This is a public service announcement to any farmer who either has fertilized their crops with sewage sludge or is considering doing so this spring to save on input costs.

Stop. Don't. To do otherwise potentially puts your farm at risk.

The Environmental Protection Agency promotes the agricultural use of biosolids, which is sewage sludge that has been treated to meet the requirements in the EPA's regulation, "Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge."

The EPA's 2022 Biosolid Annual Report shows that 31% of all biosolids were used in agricultural applications. Another 24% were used on home gardens, landscaping, golf courses and the like.

But EPA is asleep at the switch when it comes to testing sewage sludge for the presence of polyfluoroalkyl substances — more commonly known as "forever chemicals." It doesn't.

Which is inexcusable since EPA was informed in 2003 by 3M, then the nation's chief producer of PFASs for

products like Teflon pans, that high levels of PFAS were turning up in the nation's sewage.

Yes, more than two decades ago. EPA's tepid response was to ask 3M for more information. EPA's slow walk has proven costly.

It wasn't until last April that the feds ramped up a PFAS testing program for the nation's drinking water. As for sewage sludge? In January, EPA finally released a draft risk assessment for sewage sludge that:

"...reflects the agency's latest scientific understanding of the potential risks to human health and the environment posed by the presence of PFOA and PFOS in sewage sludge that is land applied as a soil conditioner or fertilizer (on agricultural, forested, and other lands), surface disposed (e.g., placed in a sewage sludge-only landfill called a monofill), or incinerated."

For agricultural applications the EPA risk assessment considered three particular scenarios:

- application to a farm raising dairy cows, beef cattle or chickens
- application to a farm growing fruits or vegetables
- application to reclaim damaged soils such as an overgrazed pasture

The results of the draft risk assessment should be alarming to farmers fertilizing with sewage sludge:

"...in some modeled scenarios, there could be human health risks exceeding the EPA's acceptable thresholds to those living on or near impacted farms or primarily relying on their products. These risks are associated with multiple individual exposure pathways if the impacted person consumes the modeled amounts of food or water from the biosolids-amended farms (e.g., drinking 32 ounces of milk per day, drinking 1 liter of water per day, eating 1 egg per day, or eating 1-2 servings of fish from the impacted waterbody per week)."

What risks? Last year, EPA classified two types of PFAS that can be found in sewage sludge — perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) — as likely to

FOREVER CHEMICALS
see page 8



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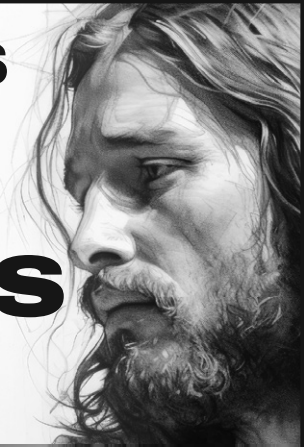
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The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the bowling alley.



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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



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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



Please contact Claudia Pratt for more information 719-406-1557
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

FOREVER CHEMICALS from page 5

— as likely to be carcinogenic to humans.

And more concerning, EPA in April 2024 declared “there is no level of exposure to these contaminants without risk of health impacts, including certain cancers.” Forever chemicals can also be responsible for hepatic, immunological, cardiovascular, and developmental effects.

For its part 3M was less than forthright back in the day in sharing with the feds what it knew about PFOS. Sometime this year, 3M claims it will cease forever chemical production. But hundreds of millions of pounds of forever chemicals produced over more than 50 years remain in the environment and our blood.

The bottom line is that farmers all over the United States have unknowingly spread contaminated sewage sludge loaded with forever chemicals on their land, thanks in no small part to EPA’s failure to make investigation of PFAS a priority more than 20 years ago.

Farmers are just now waking up to the unfortunate news that they may have polluted their own fields.

Lawsuits are already flying. One to keep an eye on is *Farmer, Alessi, Schultz, and Coleman v. EPA*. The lawsuit accuses EPA of negligence in informing the public of the the dangers of forever chemicals:

“EPA’s failure, in its biennial reports, to identify toxic PFAS that available information shows are present in sewage sludge in concentrations which may adversely affect public health or the environment under 33 U.S.C. § 1345(d)(2)(C) is arbitrary and capricious, while EPA’s failure to regulate certain toxic PFAS despite ample available information warranting such regulation constitutes an agency action unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed.”

The lawsuit could potentially be a bellwether for a flood of litigation against EPA and perhaps 3M.

And in case you were wondering, cleaning up of existing forever chemicals currently in the environment falls into the realm of science fiction.

It probably won’t be long until states write laws that prevent farming on acres contaminated with forever chemicals. Farmers no longer able to farm will need federal assistance. Congress needs to reintroduce and

pass the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act.

And as a nation, we must slow additional PFAS contamination on our soil and in our water. Wastewater plants have the legal authority under the Clean Water Act to limit PFAS contamination by requiring factories to clean up the effluent sent their way under the national “pretreatment program.”

They should do so. Everywhere.

EPA can help by immediately putting a moratorium on the usage of sewage sludge as a fertilizer until systems and practices are in place ensuring it is forever chemical free.

The nation needs to be proactive. There isn’t time to waste.

(Originally published in *Investigate Midwest* on February 4, 2025.)

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Please see <https://investigatemidwest.org/2025/02/04/forever-chemical-laden-sewage-sludge-is-a-national-emergency/>

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, April 7	Tuesday, April 8	Thursday, April 10
#87 Stewed Chicken w/Olives	#97 Teriyaki Beef, Brown Rice	#85 Spinach Cheese Squares
Greek Spinach Rice	Chinese Vegetables	Tossed Salad w/Pear
Salata	Asian Cabbage Salad	Whipped Hubbard Squash
Parslied Carrots	Orange, Fortune Cookie,	Citrus Cup
Orange, Raisin Nut Cup	WW Bread w/Butter	WW Bread w/Butter
Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)		
The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.		
Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations		
A \$4 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.		

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Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe	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	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	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 sangredecristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook 60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372
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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	Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053	Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave. , Florence 719/784-1184	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822
Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511	Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study 3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kleke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561	St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays 3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477	Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572
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	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	St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500	Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230
		Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037	Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596

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Events

April 3. Throughout April on Fri-Sat-Sun, 12 - 3 p.m. (Closed on Easter Sunday) Beckwith Ranch ~ Wild West Era Exhibition \$5 for ages 13+. Speakers, kids activities, and exhibit. SEE STORY on PAGE 3

April 10, 1 - 2 p.m. Mobile Market at Silver Cliff Park

April 11, 7 p.m. Free Admission Resurrection Morning: An Easter Cantata by B.Cecil Gates presented by Custer County Chamber Choir at the Custer County School West Gym

April 12 @ 6 - 9 p.m. \$\$ Fundraiser for Jones Theater--staged reading of Louise Penny's radio play, "Still Life"

Saturday, April 26, Meet 10:30 a.m. End 2:30 p.m. FREE. Trails for All Hike. Hike is 4.4 miles total. Park vehicle(s) on 4th Street Parking area at the Silver Cliff Community/Town Park and meet at the Flag Court at 10:30 a.m.

SHARING CENTER CHANGES

The Sharing Center is changing distribution dates. Beginning in April, Care and Sare Distributions will be twice a month.

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Announcements

The Custer County School Board is taking applications for the School Accountability Committee/ District Accountability Committee (SAC/DAC). If you are interested in serving, please send a letter of interest to Brad Davis, Vice President of the School Board, at brad.davis@ccbobeats.net before April 8, 2025.

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is a full-time hourly non-exempt position, starting \$17.00/hr.-\$24.65/hr. DOQ including benefits. Position is open until filled. Applications may be submitted to:
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Email: hr@custercounty-co.gov

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

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And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. I John 4:21 ESV

Local Mountain News & Notices



Custer County School District C-1 MENU for the WEEK of April 7 thru Apr 10, 2025

	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Cereal, Oatmeal Mixed Fruit, Yogurt Milk	Beef Sandwich Potato Salad, Coleslaw Fruit Choice of Milk
Tuesday	Donuts Yogurt, Fruit Choice of Milk	Nacho Supreme Lettuce, Tomato, Onion Fruit Choice of Milk
Wednesday	Breakfast Sandwich Yogurt, Fruit Choice of Milk	Garlic Pizza Bread Green Beans Choice of Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Choice of Milk	Sloppy Joes Oven Fries Fruit, Choice of Milk

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

Local Student Earns Boettcher Scholarship

Kenna Ingram, a senior at Custer County High School, has been selected as a recipient of the Boettcher Foundation Scholarship.**

Boettcher Scholarships recognize Colorado’s top students by providing them with



the funds to attain an excellent in-state education and access to additional opportunities to enrich their time in college and beyond. Boettcher Scholars become part of a network of Alumni and community leaders who will support and engage them throughout their lifetimes.

“Boettcher Scholars are selected for their academic achievement, outstanding character, and service and leadership in their schools and communities,” said Katie Kramer, president & CEO of the Boettcher Foundation. “The Boettcher Scholarship is an investment in our state’s doers and difference makers. It not only recognizes their past achievements but also their future impact on the State of Colorado.”

Established in 1952, the Boettcher Scholarship program awards 50 scholarships each year and has established a network of more than 2,800 Boettcher Scholars. Nearly 2,000 graduating high school seniors apply for the scholarship annually.

The scholarship Kenna has been awarded includes \$20,000 per year for four years

from the Boettcher Foundation. Partner institutions will then use institutional aid to support up to either the cost of tuition and fees, or the full cost of attendance to attend the Colorado school of their choice.

“The Boettcher Foundation’s scholarship selection process is competitive and rigorous,” said Tiffany Anderson, vice president of grants and programs. “Kenna really stood out with her commitment both in and out of the classroom. We’re proud to have Kenna representing the Boettcher community, and we look forward to seeing how their future leadership positively impacts the State of Colorado.”

*** Please note that while this student has been offered a Boettcher Scholarship, they are not considered a Boettcher Scholar until they officially confirm acceptance. If they decline, we will offer the scholarship to an alternate.*

KIDS

Friday, April 4, 2025

Cherry Blossom Festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival takes place in Washington, D.C. Let’s look into the history of cherry trees in D.C.

The idea of having cherry trees in Washington was the idea of Mrs. Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, she was a world traveler, writer and diplomat. After her visit to Japan, she approached the U.S. Army Superintendent of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds with the idea of having Japanese cherry trees along the Potomac waterfront. Over the next 24 years she continued to propose this idea.



The Jefferson Memorial visible through cherry blossoms across the Tidal Basin

In 1906, Dr. David Fairchild, plant explorer, was planning to test the ability of cherry trees to thrive in the environment near Washington DC. So, he imported seventy-five flowering cherry trees and planted them on a hillside on his own property in Chevy Chase, Maryland. One year later he deemed the experiment a success. In 1909, Eliza Ruhamah teamed with then, First Lady, Helen Taft, to make this dream of cherry trees in Washington happen. In 1909, Tokyo’s Mayor, Yukio Ozaki, supported the gift of cherry trees to Washington D.C. and first lady Helen Taft accepted the offer. On January 6, 1910, 2,000 trees arrived. However, to everyone’s dismay an inspection team discovered that the trees were infested with insects and nematodes and were diseased and had to be destroyed. Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki and others suggested a second donation be made. By now, the number of trees had grown to 3,020.

On March 27, 1912, Helen Herron Taft and the Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, planted two Yoshino cherry trees on the northern bank of the Tidal Basin. At the end of the ceremony the first lady presented a bouquet of “American Beauty” roses to Viscountess Chinda.

The first Cherry Blossom Festival was celebrated in 1935, but an interruption in the annual celebrations soon ensued in 1941, when four cherry trees were cut down shortly after the Japanese invaded Pearl Harbor.

This year’s festival spans from March 20 to April 13, with the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on April 12: It’s a springtime parade with lots of pink, lots of floats and giant helium balloons.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: : <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/history-of-the-cherry-trees.htm>, <https://www.americanforests.org/article/the-history-behind-d-c-s-cherry-blossoms/>, Pic Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jefferson_Memorial_Cherry_Blossoms_Tidal_Basin_Washington_DC.jpg

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CORNER

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.
We love because He first loved us.

I John 4: 18-19

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Monday, March 24:
HS Baseball @ Kiowa: 16-4, loss

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your
Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

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

Study Destroys Basis of EPA Climate Regulations

by Vijay Jayara,
The Daily Signal

For two decades, the public has been bombarded with dire warnings of an impending climate-induced agricultural apocalypse. The claim is that a climate warmed excessively by the carbon dioxide emissions of human activity will ravage the food supply and plunge humanity into famine and chaos.

For many reasons, none of this ever made sense. Now, a new study published in *Scientific Reports* has turned this narrative of catastrophe on its head, revealing that a global temperature rise of even 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit) would not reduce crop yields—and might even increase harvests.

The paper, written by economist Ross McKittrick, dismantles a key pillar of the Biden administration’s always-suspect upward revision of the “social cost of carbon”—a metric used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to quantify the supposed economic damage of carbon dioxide emissions. The fivefold increase of the social cost of carbon—from \$51 per ton of carbon dioxide to more than \$250—was based partly on the assumption that warming would devastate agriculture.

The new findings aren’t just a minor correction to the scientific record; they are a reversal of dangerous conclusions drawn from sloppy—perhaps even fraudulent—analyses. Everything we’ve been told about climate change and food security is wrong.

How did the EPA arrive at a social cost of carbon that equates with mass starvation?

In 2014, a widely cited meta-analysis of crop-model studies claimed that a warming climate would slash global crop yields, an assertion that fed into subsequent models that influenced the Biden EPA’s social cost of carbon hike.

That original dataset, however, was flawed—crippled by missing variables. Of its 1,722 records, nearly half lacked critical data, such as changes in CO2 concentrations, leaving only 862 usable entries. This incomplete picture painted a grim outlook of crop yields declining with only modest warming.

McKittrick, undeterred by what had become climate orthodoxy, dug deeper. By revisiting the source material, he recovered 360 additional records, bringing the total to 1,222—about a 40% increase in usable data.

The additional information showed “positive average output gains for all crop types across the warming scenarios even up to 5 degrees Celsius”—a temperature jump far beyond warming predictions of the U.N.’s International Panel on Climate Change. This isn’t cherry-picking; it’s what happens when the full scope of evidence is examined.

“If over the next 100-200 years, yields of all crop types increase, it does not stand to reason that a global trade model could generate global welfare reductions,” writes McKittrick in his concluding remarks.

McKittrick’s findings, grounded in a more comprehensive dataset, suggest the doomsday assumption was built on sand. Far from heralding a collapse, the data show crop yields at least holding steady and even improving with significant warming.

Moreover, plants are not too frail for a warming world. They’re built to thrive in the contemporary temperatures of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Most crops fall into two categories: C3 and C4 plants, so named to reflect their different photosynthetic processes. C3 crops, such as wheat, rice, and soybeans, flourish in elevated CO2 conditions characteristic of the 21st century.

Carbon dioxide is food to plants, necessary for the process of photosynthesis—a process where oxygen is a byproduct.

Higher levels of CO2 act like a supercharger, boosting photosynthesis and water-use efficiency. Studies have long shown that CO2 enrichment in greenhouses can increase C3 yields by 20% to 40%. C4 crops—like corn and sorghum—are less responsive to CO2 but do well in hotter, drier conditions.

In summary, if crop yields don’t crash—if they hold steady or grow—the rationale for a sky-high social cost of carbon disappears.

The McKittrick study is consistent with an extensive historical record that documents human flourishing during earlier eras warmer than today. The Minoan Warm Period 3,000 years ago and the Roman Warm Period and Medieval Warm Periods that followed are examples.

Unfortunately, the United Nation’s International Panel on Climate Change—relied on by many as the standard-bearer for information on climate change—favors adherence to climate dogma over rigorous scientific inquiry. It often ignores cutting-edge findings like McKittrick’s.

So where do we go from here?

First, the social cost of carbon calculation needs a reset. A realistic assessment would show that carbon dioxide is a benefit, not a pollutant, and that increasing CO2 adds to global productivity rather than imposes costs on society.

The EPA must revisit its numbers, stripping out inflated agricultural damages and grounding its estimates in all the data available. It is time to look at the facts, trust the real science, and end the irrational governmental messaging that feeds climate hysteria.

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2025/03/16/study-destroys-basis-epa-climate-regulations/>



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Colorado State News

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House Bill 1206: Dems Push Lower Penalties for Attempted Murder

by Sherrie Peif,
CompleteColorado.com

DENVER, Colorado

If a trio of Democrat lawmakers have their way, randomly shooting a gun into a crowd but not actually hitting anybody, would be charged under the same felony classification as failure to pay child support.

House Bill 25-1206, titled "Extreme Indifference Offenses Not Causing Death" creates lower felony classifications in Colorado for attempted first degree murder "under circumstances evidencing an attitude of universal malice manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life," according to the bill summary.

The bill is sponsored in the House by Reps. Michael Carter and Jennifer Bacon, and in the Senate by Mike Weismann.

Currently a class 2 felony, the bill would adjust the penalties for attempted first degree murder as follows:

- A class 3 felony if serious bodily injury results to any person;
- A class 4 felony if bodily injury results to any person; and
- A class 5 felony if no injury results to any person.

Class 5 felonies are the second lowest felony classification in Colorado, with a sentencing range of 1-3 years plus mandatory parole, and in certain circumstances are probation-eligible.

The bill also repeals the crime of assault in the first degree when "under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life, the person knowingly engages in conduct that creates a grave risk of death to another person and thereby causes serious bodily injury to any person."

The 'bad shot' bill

Republican State Rep. Jarvis Caldwell said in an interview on the Mandy Connell radio show that he and his colleagues who oppose the bill have a new name for it.

"We're all calling it the 'bad shot' bill," Caldwell said, "because you're trying to kill people, you're shooting at them, you don't hit them, and now you get a slap on the wrist if this bill passes."

Rep. Carter was already attempting to justify the bill before he even presented it to the House Judiciary committee on March 19th, which took testimony only that continued past midnight, meaning there was no vote taken.

"I want to make sure that I do not dishonor or impugn any of the horrific stories that we are going to be listening to," Carter said. "I want to make sure that no one believes this bill is about excusing any type of conduct or minimizing any of the trauma from the results of that conduct."

Carter called his bill an "attempt to right-size the punishment."

However, Rep. Bacon was clear in why she was sponsoring the bill, noting that she believes there is a difference between actual murder and attempted murder, placing the latter into an assault category.

"We are not talking about completed acts of homicide," Bacon said. "We are talking about attempted crimes, particularly assault."

Elected District Attorneys from across the state on both sides of the political aisle disagreed, including Denver DA John Walsh and El Paso County DA Michael Allen.

Rep. Caldwell said every DA admitted there may be some room for changes, but not this drastic.

"When you're talking about dropping it down to a felony class five, you're literally talking about doing a drive

by shooting and missing people and then getting probation for that," Caldwell said.

Club Q survivor testifies

Michael Anderson, a survivor of the Club Q mass-killing in November of 2022 told the committee he is not opposed to more scrutiny into the penalties but that this is neither the moment or the legislation to do that.

"I was the only bartender that would clock out that night alive," Anderson said, adding he has not had the question "why now" sufficiently answered. "I am sitting here before you today as someone who has lived through the hypothetical (what if someone is not injured). It's horrible hypothetical. And it simply happens far to often in this country."

"It was not out of the goodness of Anderson Lee Aldrich's heart that dozens of bullets that should have hit me, missed. It wasn't because he made that decision actively. That was sheer luck and entirely random that I did not receive those bullets. Thanks to the current law as it stands, District Attorney Allen was able to get 48 years tacked on to the overall sentence simply for the fact I survived the shooting and Aldrich's bullets missed me. And I'm grateful for those 48 years."

It is not clear when the bill will be back before judiciary for a vote. Complete Colorado will continue to follow its progress.

(Editor/GG: These freaks are insane! What world are they living in? And at the same time they are making it almost impossible to get a CCW permit and or gun. Enough is enough.)

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/03/25/house-bill-1206-dems-push-lower-penalties-for-attempted-murder/>

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Colorado State News

Colorado: Fees Going to EV and Public Transit, Not Fixing the Roads

by Elyse Apel,
The Center Square

Colorado's roads are deteriorating, as more money moves away from maintaining the roads in favor of funding public transportation and electric vehicle programs.

This comes even as transportation fees continue to increase for Coloradans, raising over \$200 million.

This is all according to a March report titled “*The Ongoing Shift of Transportation Dollars*,” which was authored by Ben Stein for the Common Sense Institute of Colorado.

In an exclusive interview with *The Center Square*, Stein said that one of the biggest problems currently facing Colorado's transportation infrastructure is the misdirection of funds away from directly fixing the roads.

“I think that the average citizen, when paying these additional fees that have been created in the last four or five years, presumes that that money is going to improve the transportation infrastructure,” Stein said. “In fact, only a small proportion of it is.”

Instead, the report found that the “bulk” of the money collected through those fees has gone to environmental mitigation and mass transit efforts.

Many of those efforts are being pushed as part of Gov. Jared Polis' Transportation Vision 2035 plan, which makes it a goal to lower emissions in the state by methodically reducing "the use of vehicles, particularly those powered by fossil fuels."

Yet, Stein argued that Colorado's geography will make it nearly impossible to effectively move toward mass transit.

"I don't believe, if you look at the land-use patterns where people live in Colorado today, that mass transit is really going to be an effective solution," he told *The Center Square*. "It's very difficult to imagine that mass transit is a viable solution."

The report added that the monies that are directed toward infrastructure just aren't meeting the Department of Transportation's needs, with inflation, the redirection of funds and the state's geography all playing a role in that.

“Over the long term, the resources available simply are insufficient to operate, maintain and expand the state’s highway system to maintain appropriate service levels,” the report found.

The problem isn't going to get any better either, as Colorado's roads already rank some of the worst in the nation.

This is according to a March report from the Reason Foundation, which ranked Colorado 47th for the condition of its rural highway pavement and 45th for urban highway pavement.

Stein said it is important to raise awareness about the redirection of funds, so that Coloradans know what their transportation fees are actually funding.

“There really needs to be statewide conversation so that the people of Colorado can say, ‘Yes, removing emissions is so important to us that we are prepared to have these fees go toward this, regardless of what it means for the long-term condition of the state highway infrastructure.’ ”

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_ec1a5a16-cc67-46ec-81b7-67aa27726808.html



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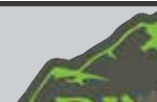
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SENATE BILL 3
from page 1

Perhaps demonstrating the craft of expert drafting, the bill comes to the same result, but by using many more words.

The definition covers five types of operating mechanisms. Definitions (I) and (II) cover pistols in which expanding gas from the gunpowder explosion moves a “piston” to “cycle the action.” A firearm with a semiautomatic action ejects an empty cartridge case from the firing chamber and then moves a fresh cartridge into the firing chamber.

Definition (III) does not appear to apply to any handgun that currently exists, but would apply if someone designed a handgun using a mechanism from certain obscure rifles.

Definition (IV) covers any “hybrid.”

Definition (V) is any system that “directly utilizes” the gas pressure of the gunpowder explosion to cycle the gun, capturing all semiautomatic handguns: “a blowback-operated system that directly utilizes the expanding gasses of the ignited propellant powder acting on the cartridge case to drive the breechblock or breech bolt rearward.”

The definition describes how every semiautomatic handgun

works, excepting the unique Benelli B-80. The cycling of a semiautomatic handgun physically cannot happen independent of “ignited propellant powder acting on the cartridge case to drive the breechblock or breech bolt rearward.”

In a semiautomatic, an empty cartridge case is left in the gun after the bullet has exited the muzzle. The empty case is ejected, and a fresh cartridge is loaded, in a mechanical operation that is powered by expanding gunpowder gases driving the empty cartridge case to push the breechblock or breech bolt rearward. (Except for the unique Benelli B-80.)

Definitions (I), (II), and (IV) cumulatively cover every semiautomatic by including every handgun that uses “a piston.”

According to *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, a piston is a “sliding cylinder with a closed head (the piston) that is moved reciprocally in a slightly larger cylindrical chamber (the cylinder) by or against pressure of a fluid” of liquid or gas.

Some semiautomatic handguns, but not the majority, have a built-in part that is called the “piston.” Every semiautomatic handgun, except the Benelli B-80, uses a piston to cycle the gun. (That is, to eject the empty cartridge case and load a fresh cartridge.)

In a semiautomatic handgun, the empty cartridge case itself

functions as a piston. The case is a cylinder that moves inside another cylinder (the firing chamber). The closed base of the empty cartridge is pushed against the gun’s breechblock or breech bolt by the expanding gunpowder gas.

In short, all semiautomatics (except one) use a gas-powered piston. In some guns the piston is built in, and in others the piston is supplied by the ammunition. Notably, Senate Bill 3 does not limit its coverage only to guns with built-in pistons.

‘Gas’ versus ‘recoil’

People often informally call guns with built-in pistons “gas” guns and call guns with only cartridge case pistons “recoil” guns.

But scientifically speaking, no semiauto handgun (excepting the Benelli) operates via pure recoil rather than gas. Thus, Senate Bill 3’s exemption for handguns that use “recoil to cycle the action” covers only a single model type.

The Benelli B-80 handgun is deservedly a collector’s item today because of its unique inertia-based recoil system, which used no gas assistance. Benelli’s inertia recoil system was developed for the company’s well-respected shotguns.

Scientifically, recoil is the equal and opposite momentum imparted on a firearm by a bullet being fired. The forward pressure that drives the bullet out the

muzzle is matched by an equal amount of backward pressure that is felt by the shooter as recoil. To demonstrate that so-called “recoil” guns (the ones without built-in pistons) are not actually operated by recoil, you can put a Glock or other common handgun in a vise so that it cannot recoil. The gun will function perfectly fine when fired, even if it does not move at all. Why? Because, in reality, the gun is operated by the gas-driven pressure imparted against the operating assembly by the empty cartridge case.

In contrast, if you locked a Benelli in a vise, the gun could not function, because the gun’s function is powered by solely by recoil, not by gas.

In sum, Senate Bill 3 uses two different techniques to cover virtually every semiautomatic handgun: First, the “piston” in (I), (II), and (IV). Second, definition (V) encompassing anything that “directly utilizes” gas pressure on an empty cartridge to cycle the gun.

At the treasurer’s pleasure

While the Senate Bill 3 text is very plain, scientifically speaking, some supporters of the bill may have thought that the bill only covered semiautomatic handguns with built-in pistons (a minority) rather than essentially all semiautomatic handguns.

According to Senate Bill 3 (p. 23),

the state treasurer, via a division in his or her office, shall publish a “guidance” list of guns covered by the new restrictive licensing system. The division “may consult with firearm experts and convene working groups.”

In other words, Senate Bill 3 gives the state treasurer the power to impose the new system on every centerfire semiautomatic handgun, except the Benelli B-80.

If the state treasurer were to follow the bill as written, the expensive approach would be to compile a complete list of every semiautomatic centerfire handgun ever manufactured. The simpler approach would be for the list to simply read: “Everything except the Benelli B-80, as well as other models of that same gun in different calibers.”

For practical political purposes, present and future treasurers may take a more cautious approach, and not crack down on everything all at once, even though the bill so allows. Rather, treasurers may use their newly granted gun control powers to expand the list in steps, based on the political expediency of the moment.

David Kopel is Research Director at the Independence Institute. Matt Larosiere is a firearms attorney and gun designer.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/03/28/senate-bill-3-gun-licensing-broader-than-advocates-claim/>



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LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following term of office of Directors of the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District representing Division 1 (area encompassed by Fremont County School District RE-3); Division 3 (area encompassed by Chaffee County School District R-31); Division 6, Seat A (area encompassed by Fremont County School District RE-2, excl. Custer County portion); and Director at Large (area encompassed by Divisions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6), shall expire June 1, 2025.

Property owners having resided for one year in each of such divisions, respectively, may apply for appointment to the term of office commencing June 1, 2025 for a four year term expiring June 1, 2029. Any real property owner eighteen years of age or older owning property within the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District and residing within the Division for which the appointment is sought is eligible for appointment to office. Applicants shall be knowledgeable in water matters and have backgrounds reflecting agricultural, municipal, and industrial, and other interests in the bene-ficial use of water within the District.

Applications should be made to all of the following: The Honorable Amanda Hunter, Chief District Judge, 11th Judicial District, P.O. Box 190, Fairplay, CO 80440, The Honorable Amanda C. Hopkins, Chief District Judge, 12th Judicial District, Alamosa County Courthouse, 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101, and The Honorable Erin Sokol, Chief District Judge, 4th Judicial District, 270 South Tejon, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Applicants should submit a letter in writing setting forth the applicant's desire and qualifications to be on

the Board. Applications will be accepted until thirty days prior to June 1, 2025.

/s/ Timothy C. Canterbury
Timothy C. Canterbury
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District

Published April 4, 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.

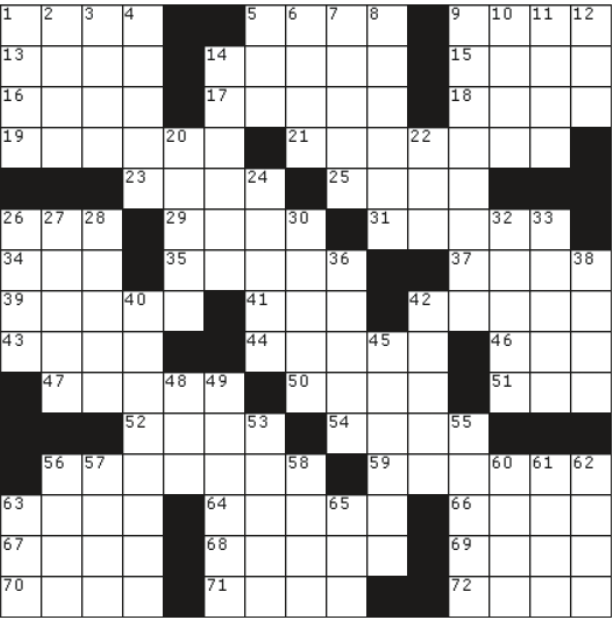
Letters of interest must be submitted on or before Friday, April 11, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

Erin Christie
Town Clerk
Town of Westcliffe

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

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- 13 Johnnycake
- 14 City in Ohio
- 15 Imitated
- 16 On top
- 17 Famous psychologist
- 18 __ Piper
- 19 Famous painter
- 21 Father of Ishmael
- 23 Continent
- 25 Trial
- 26 Border
- 29 Sequel to Luke
- 31 Dock
- 34 Spanish "one"
- 35 Brother of Miriam
- 37 Sister of Rachel
- 39 Kind of acid
- 41 Wrath

42 __graph machine

- 43 Trickery
- 44 Coke's competitor
- 46 No room for them in the ____
- 47 Religious songs
- 50 Drains energy
- 51 Children's game
- 52 Fresh
- 54 Stare
- 56 Pentateuch book
- 59 Where Noah's ark landed
- 63 Herr's wife
- 64 Tribe of Israel
- 66 Tree trunk
- 67 Bond together
- 68 Protein sources
- 69 Wine bottle
- 70 Eve's son
- 71 Writer Bombeck
- 72 Baal

DOWN

- 1 Goad
- 2 Faith, ____ and charity
- 3 Soon
- 4 Italian city
- 5 Danish krone (abbr.)
- 6 Location
- 7 Mistrust
- 8 One of the apostles
- 9 Tribe of Israel
- 10 Capital of Western Samoa
- 11 Swarm
- 12 Strange
- 14 Continent
- 20 Son of Abraham
- 22 Tree
- 24 A vacation (2 wds.)
- 26 Wheel centers
- 27 First son of Cain
- 28 Eel
- 30 Aches
- 32 Make a payment
- 33 Matador's passes at bull
- 36 Asian country
- 38 __ Kong
- 40 God with us
- 42 Tightwad
- 45 Pointed weapons
- 48 North northeast
- 49 __ Street
- 53 Smarter, like an owl
- 55 Jewish teacher
- 56 Food
- 57 Relieve
- 58 Pillow covering
- 60 Crucifix
- 61 Singing voice
- 62 Duck
- 63 Future Farmers of America (abr.)
- 65 Terminal abbr.

Puzzle key on page 8

Constitution Banned From Colorado House Podium

from Kevin Lundberg

Sometimes you just cannot make this stuff up. Representative Ken Degraff had a sticker on his laptop that quoted a portion of the Second Amendment: "shall not be infringed." He was told that he could not display that in the well of the Colorado House because it was offensive. He complied, but not before making the point that apparently the US Constitution is no longer welcome in the Colorado House.

Personally I don't think I would have complied. House rules like that do not deserve anything more than contempt. However, at least the story got out nationally, so now people across the nation can see what a despicable circus the Democrat leadership has made of the Colorado House and our Constitution.

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Tabernacle of the Heart

We often hear preachers panning for money. Give to our ministry and you will be blessed. There are cliché’s like “You can’t out give God.” Or trying to tie giving to scripture, like “give \$133 because Psalm 133 says we will dwell together in unity, so you are giving according to scripture.” Nine ways to Sunday, many are guilting people to give. Others try to compel you to give. I remember a ministry that required its staff to give a minimum of 10 percent, otherwise they would be removed from the ministry. There are a lot of money mongers in ministry. Just saying. But what does God want of your giving? God tells us through His example as far back as in building the Tabernacle in the time of Moses.

Before construction could start, many materials were needed for the building of the Tabernacle. The people generously provided these materials. Exodus 35:1 tells us that Moses assembled the whole community of the people of Israel, and said, “Take up a collection for the LORD from among yourselves—anyone whose heart makes him willing is to bring the offering for the LORD...” We are to give from the heart. The Bible tell us that the people gave all that was needed to build the Tabernacle, even to the point that Moses had to give an order to stop because they were giving too much (Exodus 36:4-7). The giving from the heart was one lesson, but yet another deeper and very powerful lesson was to come.

In Exodus 30:14-15, Moses was instructed to take a census and each person over 20 either poor or rich was to give a half shekel of silver, no more, no less. All were equal in the half shekel donation each was required to give. These shekels were melted down and used as the base sockets that held the whole Tabernacle together. They held the many beams in place, that in turn supported the whole structure, there were 48 acacia beams that were mounted in the silver sockets which supported the walls of the Tabernacle. The message is a clear one— without the valuable contribution of each member, there would be no Tabernacle. Each person is represented equally before the Lord, no one is excluded. All are needed for the building and support of the house of God.

In the New Covenant, we see a similar connection to the building up of God’s people/house in Ephesians 4:15-16, “speaking the truth in love, we will in every respect grow up in to Him who is the head, the Messiah. Under His control, the whole body is being fitted and held together by the support of every joint, with each part working to fulfill its function; this is how the body grows and builds itself up in love.” Each person has an important part to fulfill in the “assembling” of the dwelling place for God through love. And the foundation, according to 1 Corinthians 3:11, is Jesus the Messiah. The Tabernacle is the perfect picture of the Body of Christ, and the living breathing dwelling place, of “God with us.” We all have value in the Body of Christ. And you don’t need to be guilted into giving, give from the heart. That’s what God wants.

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

From Feeding the Kids to Fleecing the Government:

INSIDE THE COUNTRY’S LARGEST COVID FRAUD

by Scott W. Johnson,
The Free Beacon

What happens when you cross a Third-World tribal culture with an urban Democratic establishment? You can probably guess the outcome, but in Minnesota we don’t have to guess. We have seen it on display in the sprawling Feeding Our Future case that represents the largest COVID fraud discovered so far in the United States.

A cast of almost entirely Somali immigrants is charged with siphoning some \$250 million from the federal child nutrition program administered by the Minnesota Department of Education into their own pockets between March 2020 and January 2022, when federal agents assembled from around the United States to raid the many scenes of the crime around the Twin Cities. Since then 70 defendants have been charged, 37 have pleaded guilty, and seven have been convicted in the two trials conducted in the case so far. The others have yet to be tried.

Minnesota—mostly the Twin Cities area—is home to some 100,000 Somali immigrants, the largest Somali population in North America. Starting in the 1990s, the State Department directed thousands of refugees from Somalia’s civil war to Minnesota. As Kelly Riddell reported in a 2015 *Washington Times* story, Minnesota affords these refugees “some of America’s most generous welfare and charity programs.” Riddell quoted Professor Ahamed Samatar of St. Paul’s Macalester College: “Minnesota is exceptional in so many ways but it’s the closest thing in the United States to a true social democratic state.” After a dip in 2008, the inflow of Somalis has continued unabated and augmented by Somalis from other states. If it takes a village, Minnesota has what it takes.

Minnesota’s Somali community has been a fertile source of recruits for ISIS and al-Shabab. The FBI’s Minneapolis field office has accordingly devoted substantial resources to terrorism-related issues.

The Feeding Our Future case represents old-fashioned corruption of two federal nutrition programs. Feeding Our Future was a small nonprofit that served as a “sponsor” of “sites” such as day cares that participated in the programs. In the COVID era, from April 2020 until January 2022, Feeding Our Future along with its sites and site vendors found it remarkably easy to bilk the programs out of millions of dollars a month by filing false claims for reimbursement supported by false meal counts, fake rosters, and bogus invoices.

The programs were administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. With regulatory “waivers” adopted by the department on account of COVID, the MDE

proved a remarkably easy mark. It didn’t take much more than absurd claims of racism to scare the agency off its suspicions while “sites” proliferated and funds kept rolling out the door. In 2021 alone, Feeding Our Future siphoned nearly \$200 million to fraudulent sites and vendors.

A frustrated MDE official, however, tipped the FBI to her suspicions in April 2021. FBI forensic accountant Pauline Roase followed up in the ensuing months by collecting relevant bank records. FBI special agents Jared Kary and Travis Wilmer investigated in the field. In the last six weeks of the investigation they posted surveillance cameras outside 12 sites. The videos depicted a sleepy time at the sites that were supposedly feeding thousands of kids a day.

On January 20, 2022, the investigation “went overt” when federal authorities raided sites around the Twin Cities in the largest such operation ever conducted in Minnesota. The following September then-United States Attorney Andrew Luger announced the first indictments handed up in the case.

Aimee Bock was the founder and executive director of Feeding Our Future as well as the ringleader of the fraud scheme. As the sponsor of more than 250 sites sponsored by Feeding Our Future around the state, Bock certified the accuracy of the ludicrously inflated meal claims she submitted for reimbursement on behalf of the sites she enrolled in the program with the approval of MDE. Unlike the Somali players at Feeding Our Future’s sites and vendors, however, Bock was white. She introduced a multicultural liberal element to the massive fraud she oversaw.

The fraud in this case is gross, disgusting, and despicable. In financial terms, Bock herself may have profited the least from it. Defendants expended proceeds intended as reimbursement for meals served on cash purchases of luxury automobiles, deluxe homes, and commercial properties in Minnesota, Ohio, Kentucky, Turkey, and Kenya. Bock appears to have been compensated mostly in the form of the autocratic coin and the adoration of her Somali co-conspirators. Still, the amount she received in the scheme—\$1.9 million, according to FBI accountants—is nothing to sneeze at.

Bock was the star defendant in the second of the two trials conducted so far. Her trial concluded with the jury’s guilty verdict on all counts this past Wednesday. Bock was tried along with Salim Said, whose fraud netted him \$5.5 million. Said’s Safari Restaurant off Lake Street in south Minneapolis reported approximately \$600,000 in annual revenue in each of the three years prior to the onset of COVID. In April 2020, Safari enrolled in the federal child nutrition program under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future. By July 2020, Said claimed to

be serving meals to 5,000 children per day, seven days a week, every month. In total, Said claimed to have served over 3.9 million meals to children from the Safari Restaurant food site between April 2020 and November 2021. Said profited from claims that associates provided more than 2.2 million meals at other food sites involved in Feeding Our Future’s fraud scheme.

Bock’s fakery occasionally had an unintentionally comic component. Except for the checks it issued to sites and vendors, everything about Feeding Our Future was fake. Feeding Our Future listed three key outside board members who had no idea they had been so named. Two were bartenders and one was a small-engine mechanic for the city of Eagan, Minnesota.

Called as witnesses by the prosecution, they radiated blue-collar charisma. When Asst. United States Attorney Joe Thompson displayed a Feeding Our Future organization chart with St. Paul bartender Ben Stayberg at the top, he commented laconically: “Yeah, big shoes.” They all testified to their lack of qualifications to serve on a nonprofit board and their lack of knowledge that they were (allegedly) on the Feeding Our Future board. The board held no meetings. Bock’s board minutes were fake. She never communicated by email with any of her purported board members. She never sent them any documents to review. There is a Coen Brothers movie lurking in the facts of this case. Frances McDormand could play Aimee Bock.

Minneapolis’s Lake Street runs east-west through the city from St. Paul to St. Louis Park. Feeding Our Future sponsored 21 sites in 2021 (including Safari) on a 1.8 mile stretch of Lake Street. Together these sites claimed to be serving as many kids as populated the Minneapolis public schools.

Bock and Said were charged on 28 counts of wire fraud, federal programs bribery, money laundering, and related conspiracy counts. In the course of the six-week trial federal prosecutors introduced a massive amount of evidence in support of the charges. The jury convicted Bock and Said on all counts within five hours of commencing their deliberations. More trials are scheduled this year, but in part thanks to the result in this case there will probably be more guilty pleas as well.

Sitting through every day of the trial I wondered if there was a single Somali who elected not to participate in the fraud when he or she was presented with the opportunity. Everyone who heard about it seemed to want to get in on the action.

One Somali immigrant, however, spoke up when he saw something shady. His name is Abdihakim Osman Nur.

COVID FRAUD
see page 22

Marijuana Users Face Substantially Higher Risk of Heart Attack

Users Under 50 Are SIX TIMES More Likely to Have Heart Attacks

by American College of Cardiology, citing a Study: Myocardial Infarction And Cardiovascular Risks Associated with Cannabis use: A MultiCenter Retrospective Study

WASHINGTON (Mar 18, 2025) - Marijuana is now legal in many places, but is it safe? Two new studies add to mounting evidence that people who use cannabis are more likely to suffer a heart attack than people who do not use the drug, even among younger and otherwise healthy adults. The findings are from a retrospective study of over 4.6 million people published in *JACC Advances* and a meta-analysis of 12 previously published studies being presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session (ACC.25).

Marijuana use has risen in the United States, especially in states where it is legal to buy, sell and use the drug recreationally. In the retrospective study, researchers found that cannabis users younger than age 50 were over six times as likely to suffer a heart attack compared to non-users. The meta-analysis, which is the largest pooled study to date examining heart attacks and cannabis use, showed a 50% increased risk among those who used the drug.

"Asking about cannabis use should be part of clinicians' workup to understand patients' overall cardiovascular risk, similar to asking about smoking cigarettes," said Ibrahim Kamel, MD, clinical instructor at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine and internal medicine resident at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Boston and the study's lead author. "At a policy level, a fair warning should be made so that the people who are consuming cannabis know that there are risks."

Kamel and his team conducted the retrospective study using data from TriNetX, a global health research network that provides access to electronic medical records. Their findings indicate that over an average follow-up of over three years,

cannabis users had more than a sixfold increased risk of heart attack, fourfold increased risk of ischemic stroke, twofold increased risk of heart failure and threefold increased risk of cardiovascular death, heart attack or stroke. All study participants were younger than age 50 and free of significant cardiovascular comorbidities at baseline, with blood pressure and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels within a healthy range and no diabetes, tobacco use or prior coronary artery disease.

For the meta-analysis, the researchers pooled data from 12 previously published research studies that collectively included over 75 million people. The studies were rated as being of moderate to good quality in terms of methodology. Of the 12 studies, 10 were conducted in the United States, one in Canada and one in India. Some of the studies did not include information about participants' ages, but the average age was 41 years among those that did, suggesting that the pooled sample reflected a relatively young population.

Taken individually, seven of the studies found a significant positive association between cannabis use and heart attack incidence, while four showed no significant difference and one showed a slightly negative association. When the researchers pooled the data from all studies and analyzed it together, they found a significant positive association, with active cannabis users being 1.5 times as likely to suffer a heart attack compared with those who aren't current users.

Cannabis use and heart attack incidence was assessed in a similar manner across the different studies. However, due to inconsistencies in the data available from each study, researchers were unable to account for several potential confounding factors including the duration and amount of cannabis use or the use of tobacco or other drugs.

"We should have some caution in interpreting the findings in that

cannabis consumption is usually associated with other substances such as cocaine or other illicit drugs that are not accounted for," Kamel said. "Patients should be forthcoming with their doctors and remember that we are their number one advocate and having the full story matters."

While the mechanisms through which marijuana or its components may impact the cardiovascular system are not fully understood, the researchers hypothesize that it can affect heart rhythm regulation, heighten oxygen demand in the heart muscle and contribute to endothelial dysfunction, which makes it harder for the blood vessels to relax and expand, and can interrupt blood flow. One of the studies included in the meta-analysis found that the risk of heart attack peaked about one hour after marijuana consumption.

Since both studies were limited by their retrospective nature and the meta-analysis was limited by the challenges inherent in pooling data from multiple studies, researchers said that additional prospective studies would help to confirm the findings and determine which groups may face the highest risk.

A previous study presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session in 2023 found that daily marijuana use was associated with an increased risk of developing coronary artery disease.

The retrospective analysis will simultaneously publish in *JACC Advances*.

Kamel [presented the study], "*Risk of Myocardial Infarction in Cannabis Users: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*," on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. CT / 19:00 UTC in South Hall.

Please see: <https://www.acc.org/About-ACC/PressReleases/2025/03/17/15/35/Cannabis-Users-Face-Substantially-Higher-Risk#>

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025

MOLON
LABE

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

From Maxim to Modern Warfare: The Evolution of the Machine Gun

by John Farnham,
ammoland.com

Machine guns!

By the time I was involved in active fighting in Vietnam in 1968, the “heavy” infantry machine guns of World War fame were all gone. My unit (*USMC Infantry*) was equipped with the open-bolt, gas-operated, belt-fed M60 machine guns. Each copy required a three-man crew. Belts had to remain sealed in ammo cans until the last moment, as ammunition would corrode immediately (and subsequently refuse to feed) when exposed to moist air.

The M60 earned a spotty reputation for reliability (it has since improved, but the M60 is also long gone). My gun crews maintained them meticulously, but it was still difficult to keep them running.

Some history:

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, American-born Hiram Maxim happily sold his avant-garde machine gun to anyone and everyone, and nervous Europeans displayed great and immediate enthusiasm! The only nation’s war planners who expressed only casual interest were America’s!

reciprocating barrels and required bearing surfaces, don’t work as well in the field.

Maxim’s toggle-lock would influence George Luger when he designed his famous Luger pistol and John Pedersen when he developed his toggle-lock Pedersen Rifle (which ultimately lost out to the Garand in 1936).

Most Maxim and Vickers heavy machine guns were “gas-assisted” via a bulky funnel-shaped muzzle device (actually a venturi) that generated a degree of backpressure. This backpressure contributed to driving the bolt backward and thus reliably completing the gun’s cycle of operation. Many such boosters came with a manual carbon scraper, as excessive carbon build-up on the inside of the booster was a common issue.

Vickers was a huge British arms company that immediately saw the potential of Maxim’s system.

Vickers engineers took the original Maxim design and flipped it upside-down, making the Vickers ultimately lighter and more compact than the Maxim. The Vickers, adopted by the UK in 1912, continued in active service in the UK until 1968. It acquired

an excellent reputation for both reliability and durability. The Vickers was generally considered superior to the Maxim, although both saw extensive service during WWI. During the course of the War, the UK had both Vickers and Maxim guns in their system, mostly Maxims. 75k Vickers guns were manufactured in the UK before the end of the War.

After WWI, Maxim and Vickers guns were considered outdated due to their weight and bulk, so most were packed away into warehouses and forgotten. Interestingly, many have been recently rediscovered, brought out of mothballs, and returned to active service in Ukraine—*modern battlefield monitors, over one hundred years after being naively declared “obsolete!”*

For continuous, sustained fire, water-cooled machine guns have no equal! So long as the water-cooling jacket is full of water, these guns will never overheat. “Water-cooled” machine guns are more correctly described as “steam-cooled,” as water used for cooling is quickly super-heated as the gun fires. There is no “active circulation” of water. Water is simply collected in a condensation tank and then poured back into the water-cooling jacket. The

condensation tank quickly re-condenses the steam so that a plume of steam does not rise up and reveal the location of the gun.

One exception is the Italian Fiat/Revelli water-cooled machine-gun of 1914 (the Italian version of the Maxim), which actually featured a hand pump on the collection tank so that water could be force-circulated through the water-cooling jacket.

The Finnish version of the Maxim featured a large screw-cap on the top of the water-cooling jacket, which allowed crews to fill the jacket with snow when liquid water was unavailable. Russians later copied this feature on their own version of the Maxim.

As noted, water-cooled machine-guns were considered obsolete by the end of WWI and definitely by the end of WWII. They were too heavy and ponderous, and they required large crews to move them, set them up, and keep them running. Efforts to lighten these guns and make them more portable (MG08-15, 08-18) were only partially successful.

German MG08 Machine Gun

Germany enthusiastically adopted the Maxim Gun (MG08), manufactured under license by DWM (Deutsche Waffen Munitionsfabriken) in Berlin and SNA (Spandau National Armory), after seeing how effectively

was chambered in 11mm Mauser, a black powder cartridge. The Swiss wanted the system but chambered for 7.5 Swiss (7.5×55), a smokeless-powder cartridge. Maxim immediately goes to work and delivers the first Swiss-contract guns in 1894 (MG94).

Maxim’s patent expired in 1909, and DWM immediately produced an improved version of Maxim’s Gun for the German Army. The Swiss, in turn, adopted DWM’s version in 1915. It remained in service in Switzerland until 1951, when it was replaced by the Swiss MG51 (a Swiss version of the German MG42).

During the interwar years, Germany led the way to the next generation of machine guns with its open-bolt, belt-fed MG34, and later MG42 (designed by Grossfuss). These guns were relatively light and could be moved and set up quickly. Quick-change barrels replaced water cooling to address the issue of overheating. A two-man crew sufficed!

In fact, German infantry squad tactics during both World Wars centered around the machine gun.

British infantry squad tactics were largely the same, centering around the Bren LMG. Other squad members existed mostly to bring ammunition to the

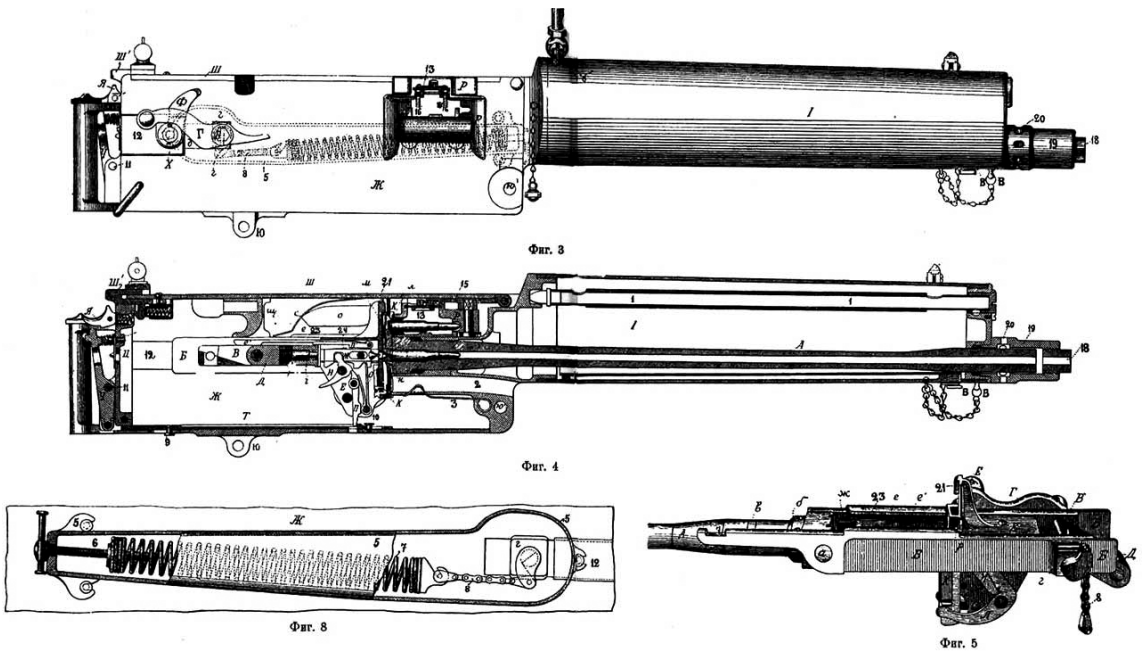


Illustration of the Maxim Gun in Brockhaus and Efron

Encyclopedic Dictionary, 1905 Public domain

During WWI, belt-fed, recoil-operated, closed-bolt, water-cooled Maxim and Vickers machine guns #AD (toggle-jointed, but with no rotating bolt) ran well, but recoil operation ultimately proved inferior to gas operation, combined with rotating bolts, particularly as machine guns got lighter and handier.

In subsequent years, rotating-bolt/gas-piston and roller-delayed-blowback operating systems are considered by many to be the only ones suitable to auto-loading military rifles, automatic rifles, and LMGs. Recoil-operated rifles and machine guns, with their



Vickers Machine Gun YORCM CA78ac

York Castle Museum, CC BY-SA 4.0
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Russians used the earlier Madsen Gun (what few copies Russia had) during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05). Germany’s war planners clearly saw what most others didn’t, and by 1914, the German Army was thus equipped with 4,400 copies of their MG08, along with crews well-trained to run them, while the naive British and French were still nostalgically in love with their flashy cavalry!

The Swiss, who had adopted the Gatling Gun in the 1870s and in 1883, had just replaced it with the crank-operated, hopper-fed, two-barreled (alternate-firing) Gardner gun, (designed by William Gardner and manufactured by Pratt and Whitney in America), suddenly ordered the Maxim Gun, based on an impromptu demonstration in 1887 by Hiram Maxim himself! The Maxim Gun used in the Swiss demonstration

machine guns. This is the reason neither German nor British war planners saw any need for an autoloading individual infantry rifle and thus stuck with bolt guns for the majority of WWII. Only Americans and Soviets started developing autoloading infantry rifles prior to the outbreak of WWII. At the end of WWII, the rest of the world finally (and embarrassingly) took notice and had to play quick catch-up!

Browning’s first machine gun, the gas-operated, tilting-bolt 1895 Colt/Browning’s “Potato Digger,” enjoyed only a lukewarm reception. The 1895 Browning acquired a spotty reputation for reliability, and it quickly overheated, so it was

Armed Citizens vs. Police: Who Stops Active Shooters Better?

The Numbers May Surprise You

by Fred Law,
ammoland.com

For years, the media and gun control advocates have painted a grim picture of armed civilians intervening in active shooter events.

Hollywood dramatizes chaos. Anti-gun pundits warn that civilians will shoot the wrong person, get in the way of police, or make everything worse. But what if the numbers tell a completely different story?

Dr. John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D., President of the Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC), just released a new study that throws cold water on the fear-based narrative. This decade-long review of 180 cases from 2014 to 2023 shows that armed citizens don't just make a difference—they often outperform the professionals.

Let's break it down.

Civilians With Guns: The Real Stats

Out of **180 active shooter incidents** where a **concealed**

- carry permit holder** stopped the attacker:
- **Only one case (0.56%)** involved a bystander being accidentally shot.
 - **Zero civilians** got in the way of law enforcement.
 - **Only one** had their gun taken.
 - **Two civilians (1.1%)** were killed.
 - **(24%)** were wounded while bravely stopping the attacker.
 - **58 cases** likely prevented mass public shootings altogether.
- Police Response: The Numbers**
- In **350 police-involved stops** of active shooters over the same period:
- **27 officers (7.7%)** were killed.
 - **100 officers (28.6%)** were wounded.
 - **Four people** were mistakenly shot by police, including **two other officers**.

When comparing performance in **non-gun-free zones**, armed civilians stopped **51.5%** of

- attacks versus **44.6%** stopped by police. *That alone raises eyebrows.*
- So... Who's Safer, Really?**
- Despite the constant fear mongering, armed citizens consistently showed better or equal outcomes compared to trained law enforcement officers.
- **Civilians almost never shoot the wrong person** (0.56%)
 - **Police are twice as likely to make that mistake** (1.14%)
 - **Police officers are 5.94 times more likely to die** during an intervention
 - **Police are 17% more likely to be wounded**

This isn't an indictment of law enforcement. It's a reality check: civilians are often the first on the scene. They're already there.

Colion Noir: "This Study Demolishes the Anti-Gun Argument"

Pro-gun YouTube personality **Colion Noir** broke down the report in a viral video:

"Armed citizens almost never make the mistake that gun control activists warn you about."

"When seconds count, the police are minutes away. Even in police-heavy cities, they can't be everywhere at once."

He points to Israel, where the government encourages civilians to carry. The logic is simple: ***the first person on the scene is the real first responder.***

Why You Never Hear This on CNN

Every time a mass shooting happens, the media runs wall-to-wall coverage. But when an armed citizen stops the killing? Silence. No headlines. No praise.

In one Virginia case, an off-duty federal agent stopped a shooter within 20 seconds. The attacker had already shot two people with an AR-15-style rifle. But mainstream media didn't even blink.

Why? Because it disrupts the anti-gun narrative.

A Quiet Army of Patriots

Most concealed carriers aren't looking for glory. They're moms, dads, store clerks, off-duty officers, veterans, and everyday Americans who choose to be ready.

This study is more than stats. It's proof that the **Second Amendment saves lives.**

Final Takeaway

Armed citizens are not a liability. They are a **force multiplier**.

This isn't just about gun rights. It's about truth. When politicians and media lie about guns, studies like this blow the doors off their narrative. If you believe in self-reliance, freedom, and protecting your family—the numbers are on your side.

Share this. Talk about it. Be ready ***and stay dangerous.*** You are your own first responder.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/03/armed-citizens-vs-police-who-stops-active-shooters-better/>

MACHINE GUNS from page 20

not suitable for prolonged use in static positions, but it was lighter and much more mobile than the Gatling Gun! The 1895 Browning (in various calibers) was exported to Europe, the UK, Russia, and Mexico, seeing some active employment in far-flung places, including South Africa. It saw some use with Canadian troops during WWI but was quickly swept aside by the Vickers. None saw use with American Troops during WWI (aside from stateside training)

The French Hotchkiss (Benjamin

Armory. The gun was chambered for 30-06, air-cooled (but now with quick-change barrels), gas-operated, strip-fed, and fired from an open bolt. As was the case with the 1895 Browning, none saw service with U.S. troops in Europe during WWI. However, four copies of the Benet-Mercie were used by U.S. troops to fire upon Pancho Villa's Columbus, NM marauders in 1916, and some went with Jack Pershing during his subsequent brief punitive Mexican excursion.

Browning's 1917 water-cooled, recoil-operated machine gun, firing from a closed bolt, was clearly superior to the Maxim, Vickers, the 1895 Browning, and

just two months before the end of the War. Val Browning (John Browning's son) went to France and instructed troops in the operation of this new machine gun and the new BAR, but neither had much impact on the course of the War, which, as noted, was virtually over by the time they arrived on the battlefield.

The subsequent M1919 Browning machine gun was air-cooled. With the M1919, a gas booster was re-added. The M1919 was first developed for use in tanks, but it was later adapted to infantry.

German-made Maxim machine-guns did enormous damage on WWI battlefields, and Americans

essentially as artillery, to great effect!

American troops had to rely upon the marginally reliable French-manufactured CSRG Automatic Rifle, the infamous Chauchat, as it was the only "support weapon" they had. Better candidates were not available until the very end of the War, as noted. President Wilson's unpreparedness was caustically criticized during the inter-war years!

"Interrupter-Gears" & "Synchronizers"

During both World Wars, "interrupter-gears" and "synchronizers," that prevented machine-gun fire through active aircraft propellers from actually striking propeller blades, were suitable only to machine guns that fired from a closed bolt, like the Vickers and Maxim.

"Interrupter gears" blocked the gun from firing when a propeller blade was directly in front of the muzzle, hence generating a "staccato" pattern of fire. This method was employed first.

Subsequent "synchronizers" coordinated fire with the rotation of the propeller, hence tying the machine gun's rate of fire with the propeller's RPM. Mechanical safeties had to be added, so that a mechanic working in front of the aircraft would not shoot himself, since manually rotating the propeller would fire the gun!

Open-bolt guns could not be made to work properly with synchronizers because their lock time is variable enough to not fit within the brief window necessary to protect the propeller. Hence, Vickers guns were installed in aircraft low enough to fire through the propeller, but

open-bolt guns (Lewis, BAR) were not.

As noted, the pan-magazine Lewis Gun, which fired from an open bolt, could not be made to synchronize so as to shoot through a spinning propeller adequately. Lewis Guns were thus set up on a universal mount and used by the observer, who sat behind the pilot. Lewis Guns used by American and British forces during WWI were mostly manufactured by Savage Arms and mostly confined to aircraft. Bulky water-cooling jackets (air-cooling in the case of the Lewis Gun), where gone or skeletonized, as airborne slip-streams provided plenty of cooling.

American design genius Issac Newton Lewis invented his famous "Lewis Gun" in 1911. It was the original "light machine gun." It was rugged, potent, portable, and enduringly reliable, and American troops loved it, but precious few ever got to use it!

Lewis himself, like Maxim, had an abrasive personality and did not suffer fools! Not surprisingly, he developed an immediate personality conflict with the gallery of shallow, self-serving "careerists" at the War Department. Like Maxim, in disgust and frustration, he took his gun to Europe, where it was enthusiastically received by the British and Australians.

Wasting no time, they mounted the Lewis Gun on bi-planes, converting aircraft from merely observation platforms to weapons of war!

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/03/from-maxim-to-modern-warfare-the-evolution-of-machine-guns/>



Browning machine guns armed almost every U.S. plane in WWII – B10 Gunner



Ken Wittekiend, Owner of Witt Machine & Tool and AmmoLand Editor, Fredy Riehl (pulling the trigger), shooting the first ever Suppressed M1919A4 Machine Gun

Hotchkiss, by now long-dead, was originally an American) Mk 1 "Benet-Mercie" (Lawrence Benet and Henri Mercie were the designers) machine gun also enjoyed a mostly irrelevant tenure with the U.S. Army, although around the turn of the Century it did see significant use in other parts of the world. The U.S. Army purchased 670 copies in 1909, manufactured under license by Colt. Some were also manufactured at Springfield

the Benet-Mercie, but it was not in production (at Colt) until WWI was nearly over. Remington and Westinghouse were also recruited to produce the 1917 Browning after the U.S. War Department officially adopted it in 1917. Westinghouse produced the majority of 1917s. Browning's machine gun did not require a muzzle-mounted "gas booster."

Browning 1917 machine guns were not actually used in WWI combat until September 1918,

entered the War with nothing that compared!

Germans had sound machine gun tactics down pat right from the beginning of the War. Americans (when they finally arrived in Europe in 1918), had no idea how to deploy, nor use, any kind of machine gun and had to learn on the fly! Conversely, both British and Germans had long-range machine gun fire down to a science and were routinely using Maxim and Vickers guns

Finally, A Firearms Study with Real Data

by Tom Knighton, BearingArms.com

One thing everyone should always be cautious with is being too quick to support conclusions that meet your own biases. If you like what you're seeing out of a study, take a moment to be skeptical. Bad studies are bad studies, only when they support gun rights, they're examined far more closely than those that go the other way.

But we all know the truth. We know that guns save lives.

And now, we've got yet another data point to prove it thanks to a study that tells the truth.

People legally carrying concealed firearms stop more mass shootings than police do, nationally-known gun rights researcher John Lott claims.

That's proof that Wyoming made the right decision in repealing its gun-free zones, gun rights advocate Mark Jones of Buffalo told Cowboy State Daily.

However, gun control advocate Devin Hughes of Washington, D.C., argued that Lott's research and conclusions are flawed, and having more firearms around increases danger.

In a recent article by Lott published in The Federalist, he claims that 51.5 % of active shootings between 2014 and 2023 were stopped by civilians with permits to carry concealed firearms.

Police stopped 44.6% of those shootings, Lott claims.

[...]

Lott's data on stopping mass shooters, through the Crime Prevention Research Center, is more proof that eliminating gun-free zones will make Wyoming safer, Jones said.

Evidence suggests that when killers plan their shooting spree, they frequently choose places where they know civilians won't be armed, said Jones, national director for Gun Owners of America (GOA).

[...]

Lawmakers in several other states also seem to realize that Lott is correct in his claims that armed citizens deter mass shooters and other violent criminals, Jones said.

Gun-control advocates will skew mass shooting data by including incidents such as "when two gangs are shooting at each other in the street, in a drug war," he said.

However, "almost any way you look at the numbers, good guys with guns help deter bad guys with guns," Jones said.

We've long seen that gun-free zones are really criminal empowerment zones, but with the seemingly increased frequency of mass shootings in recent years, that has also highlighted that these are the preferred targets for those planning massacres.

And why wouldn't it be? The last thing a person planning such a thing would want is to get popped by some schmoe he thought was a target right up until the schmoe in question presents a firearm and starts dumping more than a hundred grains of attitude adjustment into him. So, he picks targets where that's unlikely to happen.

Lott found that when they don't, though, and decide to skip a gun-free zone, they end up being killed by armed citizens more often than by police.

In both cases, they're killed by good guys with guns, but only one group happens to be in place when the time is right. The police might want to be. They probably want to be. They just can't.

Armed citizens are just going about their lives, but in states with high rates of concealed carry, that means there are plenty just about everywhere they can be.

And unlike anti-gun studies, these numbers are solid. They're not manipulated to reach a conclusion, which is why a lot of people just don't want to talk about them, but that doesn't change the truth.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/tomknighton/2025/03/15/theres-finally-a-firearm-study-that-gun-rights-supporters-can-believe-n1227986>

COVID FRAUD from page 18

He was my first Somali source on Ilhan Omar's fraudulent marriage to her brother. Coincidentally, in his defense Salim Said sought to introduce a campaign video of Omar serving meals at Safari. Judge Nancy Brasel asked Said's counsel to edit Omar from the video and it was never introduced, but it would have been perfect—one pioneering fraudster speaking up for another.

In January 2022, just before the raids that brought the fraud to an end, Abdi commented in Somali on a video in a Facebook post that a mutual friend translated for my use on Power Line. Prosecutors introduced both the video and a version of Abdi's commentary into evidence. Abdi's was the voice of decency in this case:

The most amazing incident that you all witnessed happened last night in Minneapolis. We all witnessed a wedding of a young Somali woman who works at the office of Feeding Our Future—a nonprofit that helps provide meals to indigent children who need supportive food programs. ... [Vendors] are contracted in that program to distribute that food.

Last night what happened at that staff member's wedding was shocking to the entire city. The contractors gifted the young woman in charge of coordinating the program gold worth 10,000 dollars each—so much gold that it was wheeled in on a gold tray. The people who gifted her that entire tray are the very contractors in charge of that delivery.

Can someone tell me how and with what funds they were able to gift an office person that expensive gift individually and collectively almost \$100,000? These same people, some of whom are under investigation for forging names of young children they are supposed to serve!

We cannot close our eyes to such corruption which will put our entire community's

name in the news as fraudsters and criminals when we only have a few bad apples. These women who are gifting this have been submitting names of thousands of children who are in no data base anywhere and are still being audited for those invoices.

I'm saddened that this same bride was once asked why she had signed people as vendors who were clearly unqualified and unable to follow the program's rules. These are the same characters who did a song and dance event for the lady contracted to manage this program whose name is Amy [i.e., Aimee Bock]. I would like the entire community to be aware that we are following these events very closely as they unfold.

Sitting through the trial I also wondered where state authorities were while the funds continued to roll out the door from MDE to Bock and her co-conspirators through 2021. Governor Tim Walz has bragged with respect to the colossal fraud in this case that "we caught it very early." He declined to respond to any of the related questions I submitted to him in writing—twice, the second time in response to an email asking me to submit my questions to another email address.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison has recently been quoted bragging (about President Donald Trump): "I know a scam when I see one." He too declined to answer my questions asking when he saw that Feeding Our Future and its sites were operating a scam and what he did about it.

In a post-verdict press conference, Thompson, the assistant U.S. attorney, aptly called the Feeding Our Future fraud "the shame of Minnesota." Thompson and fellow AUSAs Matthew Ebert, Harry Jacobs, and Dan Bobeir should be the pride of Minnesota.

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Please see: <https://freebeacon.com/democrats/from-feeding-the-kids-to-fleeing-the-government-inside-the-countrys-largest-covid-fraud/>

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Supreme Court Upholds Biden’s “Ghost Gun” Ban

by John Crump, ammoland.com

The United States Supreme Court has upheld the Biden era “Ghost Gun” rule by a 7-2 margin.

The case *Vanderstok v. Garland* challenged a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) rule that banned the sale of unfinished firearms frames. The Firearms Policy Coalition (“FPC”) filed the case after an executive order by the Biden administration instructed the ATF to create a rule to ban privately manufactured firearms. The rule that was put into place required the serialization of incomplete frames and background checks before they could be sold.

Initially, the rule only applied to complete kits with jigs, and the frames and jigs could be sold independently. However, on December 27, 2022, the ATF

issued a letter stating that all unfinished frames are now considered to be firearms under the Gun Control Act of 1968 (“GCA”). FPC claimed that the rule violated the Administrative Procedures Act (“APA”) because the ATF exceeded its authority in regulating privately manufactured firearms (“PMF”).

A District Court Judge in Texas agreed with the plaintiffs and blocked the rule from being enforced. The ATF appealed the decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The Fifth Circuit upheld the District Court ruling. After the decision, the government asked the Supreme Court for an administrative stay pending a petition for a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court. The high court would grant the request and ultimately grant cert meaning they would hear the case.

The government’s case hinged on whether kits such as those sold by the now defunct Polymer80 were readily convertible. The ATF argued that they could turn a kit into a working firearm in less than 21 minutes. During oral arguments, Associate Justice Samuel Alito surmised these kits were like going to a grocery store and buying ingredients to make a salad. Associate Justice Amy Comey Barrett shot back and equated it more to a “Hello Fresh” order where all the ingredients are packaged together with instructions.

In its opinion penned by Chief Justice John Roberts, SCOTUS said that the changes in technology made the rule necessary. He highlighted new materials and manufacturing processes in his conclusion. The materials included reinforced polymer, and the manufacturing tools included 3D printers.

Roberts wrote, “Recent years, however, have witnessed profound changes in how guns are made and sold. When Congress adopted the GCA in 1968, “the milling equipment, materials needed, and designs were far too expensive for individuals to make firearms practically or reliably on their own.” 87 Fed. Reg. 24688. With the introduction of new technologies like 3D printing and reinforced polymers, that is no longer true. Today, companies are able to make and sell weapon parts kits that individuals can assemble into functional firearms in their own homes.”

The Supreme Court also rejected the plaintiffs’ complaints that the ATF considers “jigs,” “tools,” and “instructions” when deciding whether an incomplete “frame or receiver” is close enough to the finished product to fall under the control of the GCA. The court said

it didn’t have to decide because what was in question was whether some unfinished frames were firearms. Chief Justice Roberts wrote that they were guns.

Roberts wrote, “As litigated, this case does not call on us to address what weight, if any, ATF may lawfully give jigs, tools, and instructions when deciding whether a frame or receiver is present. This case requires us to answer only whether subsection (B) reaches some incomplete frames or receivers. Saying that it does is enough to resolve the dispute before us.”

The ruling means that selling most unfinished frames without serial numbers is prohibited. Justice Clarence Thomas and Alito dissented.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/03/supreme-court-upholds-bidens-ghost-gun-ban/>

Sgt. Randy McConnell: 7 Purple Hearts

by The Giant Killer via Facebook

In 1967 Sgt. Randy McConnell went to Vietnam attached to 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division. He arrived in country a month before North Vietnam launched the “Tet Offensive.”

“I was 21 on January 30, 1968, the day before ‘Tet’ started. We were at a rubber plantation near Bien Hoa where we set up a defensive perimeter. We were there about a month,” the 68- year-old local resident recalled.

“That’s where I got my first Purple Heart on January 31, 1968. We had been probed at night by the VC and the NVA. They attacked that night and we killed maybe a dozen of the enemy. I was one of the people sent out to retrieve some of the enemy bodies.

“I found a body, rolled it over and started dragging it back to our lines. The enemy had already booby trapped it with a white phosphorous grenade. As I began dragging the body the grenade went off. I got burned on my chest in the blast.

“I received my first Silver Star a short time later when we were

moving up Highway 1 with armored personnel carriers. I had a gun Jeep with an M-60 machine-gun mounted on it.

“Along the way we dismounted and went out on a search and destroy mission. We were searching rice paddies for enemy when we came up on a tree line and ran into two enemy machine-gun bunkers,” McConnell said. “Before my platoon could flank the machine-guns and knock ’em out, they wounded or killed 47 of our men. Seven of our men were evacuated and one was killed.

“We had to maneuver closer in under enemy fire to take the bunkers out. I had an M-16 rifle and my Grenadier had an M-79 grenade launcher. When we got close enough to do the job, I laid down supporting fire so he could lob a grenade into the enemy bunker.

“Just before we were able to knock out the second bunker I got shot in the chin and chest. It was kinda of a bad day for me,” he recalled more than four decades later. Eventually we knocked out both bunkers and took some NVA prisoners.

“I got evacuated out that day.”

It was the battle in which he received his second Silver Star McConnell recalls best during the six months and three days he served in Vietnam.

“We were in LaChu when our squadron commander Lt. Col. Julius Becton, who later became a lieutenant general before he retired, decided we were going to attack the enemy at night in formation. He had no idea what we were getting into.

“At 2 a.m. 100 of us initiated our night attack against, what we learned later, was the D-212 NVA Battalion intrenched and waiting for us. It was by far the worst battle I was involved in,” he said with a grimace. “We were drastically out numbered by a seasoned NVA battalion who knew the territory.

“It was pitch black night when the enemy opened fire on us. Immediately I ran into an enemy machine-gun bunker. I returned fire and right away two more NVA soldiers popped out of spider holes on either side of the machine-gun. I shot and killed one of the soldiers holding an RPG,” McConnell said.

“I got the second soldier in the other spider hole just as he fired his RPG at me. It hit the side of an



armored personnel carrier beside me, then hit the ground in front of me and spun like a top. I knew it had a time fuse that would go off any second.

“When it exploded it threw me into a nearby tree. I was hanging upside down from a branch with a piece of shrapnel in my neck. I thought I was a goner.

“When the medic got to me I was bleeding profusely from my neck wound. I stuck my finger in the hole in my neck to stop the bleeding,” he said. The medic got me out of the tree and set me upright on the ground to work on me. It was May 6th and this was my fifth Purple Heart wound.

I remember asking the medic, ‘Am I gonna make it doc?’

“He patched me up with a bandaid and said to me, ‘Get your **s back in the battle!’ “That’s exactly what I did.

Remarkably this hero would receive 7 Purple Hearts during the Vietnam War. God Bless Our Vets!

Please see: <https://www.facebook.com/smallestsoldier>



Randy McConnell received seven Purple Hearts fighting with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam during the “Tet Offensive” in 1968. He was also awarded two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star for valor together with an Army Commendation Medal with a V-device for valor.

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SLUDGE DISPOSAL from page 1

BOCC Chair Bill Canda prepped the peasants with the agenda and how it was going to go down. This took a bit. First up was Round Mtn’s District Manager, Dave Schneider.

Dave gave an excellent, fairly in-depth review of how Round Mtn got here, going over the entire history of the waste treatment system. Bottom line is that the State of Colorado (CDPHE) has told Round Mountain that the current system is out of compliance, and they need to put a new one in ASAP or they will be having big problems with the Colorado Deep State.

Luke Bond, from Denali, then gave a presentation on Denali and what they do. And what they want to do with the lagoon sludge. It was detailed and presented professionally. Bond stated repeatedly that this use of sludge for fertilizer is common, and they have done this in Colorado.

Bond alleged that the contaminants in the sludge are way below any safety standards levels and is completely safe to apply on hay/pasture fields.

The citizens who spoke thought otherwise. They cited a multitude of safety concerns including runoff, “forever chemicals”/PFAS contamination of the soil, property values, the smell, and “100 year floods”. They cited news reports of this process causing harm in various spots across the country. There were concerns that the small amount of acreage (approximately 80 acres) is not enough for the

1,200,000 estimated gallons of sludge that is needed to be applied. There were also questions whether the PFAS sludge test samples were correctly done or current.

Dave Nequette, a local retired water well driller, made an excellent proposal. Dave said the ground beneath the county’s landfill is a perfect place to dump the sludge due to its volcanic ash nature which makes it virtually impermeable. All that would be needed is some new pits to dump the sludge into. (It was later stated that the landfill, by its charter with CDPHE, is prohibited from taking any biosolids.)

Other citizens asked why not ship it out-of-county to some place approved to take it. Bond and Schneider said the cost would be prohibitive (The estimated cost to transport the sludge and apply it locally is around \$300k. Schneider figures it would cost another \$600k up to \$1 million to ship it out-of-county.)

All the citizens said they didn’t want it here, save one. There was unanimous opposition to the idea except for one lone soul, our very own James Gilbert, who at the end of the comments section, said humans have been using human waste for fertilizer forever implying that this local application was ok.

And that was the end of Public Comment. BOCC Commissioner Lucas Epp said the landfill option is a no-go as our permit doesn’t allow biosolids. He noted other Colorado landfills do have permission to accept biosolids.

Canda then did a wrap up. There

were no decisions made. Round Mtn did not commit to any course of action. The meeting took over 3 hours. There were around 25 people there at the end.

Time is an issue here. CDPHE gave Round Mtn only 180 days to construct and implement the entire huge pilot system and the clock is running. If Round Mtn can’t put this new system in, it will be in big, big trouble with the state and it will impact the growth of the two towns it serves. And very possibly their pocketbooks, not in a trivial way.

So what to do? We talked with Commissioner Canda the day after, and he is interested in asking CDPHE to modify our landfill permit to allow biosolids deposits. However, knowing the glacial pace of CDPHE, any possible positive decision could be too late. Canda will be pursuing this option hoping the emergency status of the project might get them to expedite things.

We also corresponded with Commissioner Epp. He said he is asking our landfill people to contact CDPHE to “see what kind of time frame and requirements would take place (to put) dried biosolids in the landfill”. He also thought the out-of-county sludge trucking price might be “over priced”. He asked Schneider to get firm trucking prices for hauling the sludge out of the county.

We then contacted Dave Schneider. Dave said the county landfill option “is off the table” as the landfill’s permit doesn’t allow it. Getting that changed would probably take too long. Dave said he is actively looking at various options to haul

the sludge out-of-county but it is complex. (Dave noted it would take 200 trips with 6,000 gallon tanker trucks to haul the sludge.) If all out-of-county options fail, Dave said the only alternative would be in-county with the Johnson Ranch still being a possibility. Dave concurred that CDPHE might grant Round Mtn an additional six months to complete the project but the odds of that are unknown.

Update: *The Sentinel* received notice from Commissioner Epp that the BOCC would be holding an emergency meeting Thursday, April 3rd at 1 p.m. to consider helping Round Mtn in their effort to have the sludge moved out of the county.

We then called Dave Schneider to see what was up. Dave said that Round Mtn was very close to a “deal” with Denali on hauling the sludge to an out-of-county site. He couldn’t commit to any real details at the time but indicated that Denali made a big concession on the option of hauling the sludge out of the county. Dave also indicated that it was more than the \$300k that Round Mtn had contracted to do it in-county but was very, very reasonable. He also confirmed that the BOCC will be having a meeting Thursday to discuss helping pay Round Mtn with the increased cost.

So things are looking good. Denali made big time concession to make this happen. This is good for Denali from a public relations viewpoint and considering they are a big company with a ton of money, it is not a big bite. And kudos to

the Commissioners attempting to remedy a potentially ugly end result. (*Note: We have been told that Towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff have not offered to help with the dollars. Funny —it is their sewage.*)

And thanks to the citizens who showed up at the BOCC ‘sludge meeting’ to protest the application of the sludge on hallowed Happy Valley ground. This citizen pressure was probably the primary reason why Denali came to the table with a great offer to haul the sludge out-of-county. Don’t forget too, that Dave Schneider help orchestrate this deal.

BREAKING:
Dave Schneider just sent us an update on press day:

“The amended quote details from Denali are still being negotiated into a contract amendment with them. I can report that RMWSD has requested \$40,000 from the Custer County Commissioners to help defray the additional trucking costs needed to export the sludge to an approved land application site located in another county. RMWSD and its constituents will bear the remainder of the additional shipping costs. The finalization of the Denali Contract is contingent upon the County Commissioners approval of our request at their meeting at 1 p.m. on Thursday the 3rd and full contract details will be available at the RMWSD board’s emergency meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday the 4th.”

Let’s hope this deal comes through. We will keep you posted.