

School Board's Press for Accurate Hiring Information Comes to a Head

by Laura Vass,
News and Commentary

The Special Meeting

On April 16th, The Custer County School Board held a Special Meeting to determine a course of action concerning recent hires based on the recommendation of the Superintendent. According to CRS 22-32-109.8 (6.5) at least one of the new hires may not be eligible for school employment in the state of Colorado. The agenda called for the board to consider the following actions:

Consider placing Superintendent Thom Peck on paid administrative leave, consider placing High School Principal Aundrea McCormick on paid administrative leave, and if approved, to hire temporary replacements for the three positions those actions would leave open; Superintendent, HS Principal, and Athletic Director.

Board President Reggie Foster announced the business of the meeting and after citing policies, she

said "I've been made aware that our hiring practices, which are the responsibility of the Superintendent, may have violated State law. District protocols and policies and State statutes were not followed and must further be investigated by the Board and its legal team. While investigation concerning the violations of state law, District policies and most importantly, school and student safety continues, I believe that it is in the best interest of the District, Superintendent, and the High School Principal for the Superintendent and the High School Principal to be placed on administrative leave effective immediately and until such time as these alleged illegal practices are fully examined."

With that, the Board put forth its first agenda item, recommending that the Board place the "Superintendent on paid administrative leave per Section 10 of his contract, pending an investigation into alleged violations of applicable state law and district policy in connection with district hiring and background check procedures."

During discussion by the Board, it was noted that there are about 20 statutes on hiring and that they are giving a list of those policies so people can look them up. Those are to include, "but not limited to, CRS 22-32-109.8 (6.5) and district policies to include but not limited to GCE/GCF-R and GDE/GDF for hiring and background checks."

It was also noted that no violent crime offenders can be hired. It's a state law. They're disqualified from employment by the school district.

To clarify, one Board member said, "I just want to make sure that we, I, know that every meeting I keep asking. --Do we have everything, background checks done, licenses, references and I keep getting the answer is yes.-- And now this is yet another time where we have been given information that was not correct and we are now faced with having to investigate. Am I understanding it correctly?"

That was affirmed. Kobe Lewsader, School Resource Officer was asked

if he had everything in place to assure the safety of students. He said yes.

The Board voted Yea. And authorized Reggie Foster to notify the Superintendent in writing of the reasons for his leave and otherwise be the Board's liaison with the Superintendent during the period of paid administrative leave.

The Second agenda item, to place Principal McCormick on Administrative leave,, was also passed by the Board. The Board made it clear that it was for the same issue but that the Superintendent and Principal have different roles and responsibilities and the actions of both must be looked into.

Next the Board voted on temporary replacements. It was agreed that Walter and Lori Cooper would be offered the positions and receive the same pay as the superintendent and the principal contracts and act as superintendent and principal

SCHOOL BOARD
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BOCC: Grant Money Drying Up, Coroner Wants a Cooler, Tourism Volunteer Director Now Wants Pay

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The April 17, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular meeting was held at the historic All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room and started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogelsong.

In Commissioner Items, Epp foreshadowed the coming dramatic drop in grant money coming to the County in announcing that the *(total waste of money)* courthouse sidewalk "improvement" project funding "may be pulled back" as the Colorado Democrats Colorado budget is ONE BILLION DOLLARS over budget and they are cutting a ton of things to save the money for their welfare state bribes.

Canda spoke about local realtor Bob Senderhauf's effort to raise money to help Round Mountain Water & Sanitation District's wastewater treatment project. Bob is opening donation accounts in both local banks and is encouraging various groups and entities to cough up some moolah to help out.

Interim County Attorney Dan Slater said he had settled two Planning & Zoning lawsuits against local property owners

without going to court. There are still a bunch of lawsuits pending.

Epp talked about the new state Fire Resiliency Board and how each county, by law, is supposed to have a comprehensive plan in place this summer. This would affect home construction (it would be a form of building code for new home and business construction) and as we don't have a building code in Happy Valley this will be a problem.

Elected Official Reports

First up was Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith. He had two main issues to bring to the Board. First, he is selling two Dodge Durango police vehicles and he figures he can get about \$20k each at auction for them. However, the City of Walsenburg is starting up a brand new police department and they are desperate for vehicles and they offered \$26k for each one. Rich wanted to know if he could sell them to Walsenburg without going through an auction. It was decided later in the meeting that County Attorney Slater would draw up a contract to sell the two vehicles to Walsenburg.

The second item concerned the new jail standards the libs in Denver are issuing

BOCC see page 4



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ALERT!

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Create in me
a clean heart,
Oh God;
and renew a right
spirit within me.
Psalm 51: 10 KJV

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

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

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

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel (USPS 11280) is an independent newspaper, published weekly by The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 179, Westcliffe, CO 81252. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. P.O. Box 179, Westcliffe, CO 81252

Key Personnel

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

Fred Hernandez - Vice President
FredHer8@proton.me

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

Katherine Brencley - Advertising Coordinator
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support

Accounting Services
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com

Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery

Galen Studebaker

Sentinel Founders

Mike Hess
George Gramlich
Mary Seifert
Rob Canterbury
Katherine Brencley

Sentinel Honor Roll

Dan Bubis
Jackie Bubis
Carol Clemenson
Scott Clemenson
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors

Audrey Slater
Mtn. Photo in Logo
by Peggi Collins

Winter Business Hours:

Tues: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wedn: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Closed Mon, Thurs & Weekends

Subscription Rates:

\$49 yearly for 81252 zip code
\$59 yearly elsewhere
\$29 yearly for Digital Edition

How to contact us:

719-783-3360
P.O. Box 179
601 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252



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SangreDeCristoSentinel

New Fun Kingdom For Kids Opens in Florence

by Fred Hernandez

Hear ye, hear ye! This is a heads up for all parents of kids between the ages of one and 17: there is a new place in the City of Florence where the kids can safely enjoy hours of good, clean fun and healthy, physical activity in an ultra clean environment.

GOKIDZ officially opened its magic doors on Wednesday, April 23rd. Their hours and days of operation are seven days a week, Monday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oh my, what great joy for all the children who visit this magical place called GOKIDZ. The young ones can climb up ladders or stairs and slide down into pools of colorful plastic balls, crawl in and out of tunnels, swings of all types and many attractions to ride on, climb or bounce on. Truly a joyful place that guarantees hours of safe fun for the young ones and the adults who accompany them. The very reasonable price of \$20 per child for three hours of fun includes one adult. The adult can join the child and go through all the attractions or may prefer to sit in the dining area which offers delicious pizzas, sodas and other snacks.

Florence Mayor Steve Wolfe was at the GOKIDZ indoor playground Monday, the 21st of April during the unofficial dry run



Mayor of Florence Steve Wolfe cuts the ribbon at the soft opening of GOKIDZ on Monday, April 21st. Owner Henry Usmin beams with joy (at the left of the Mayor.)

Photo by Fred Hernandez

opening of the newest business in the city. The mayor welcomes GOKIDZ as a wonderful addition to the commercial area on Church Avenue and congratulated business owner Henry Usmin and his

family for the innovative concept that will surely delight all parents and children who will enjoy this facility for many years to come. The mayor also said that Florence is a kid friendly city and welcomes

everyone to come visit soon. GOKIDZ is located at 111 Church Avenue in the City of Florence. Call 719-372-1647 for more information.

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Obituary

James “Jim” Herbert Littrell

James “Jim” Herbert Littrell passed away on the morning of Thursday, April 17, 2025, at his home in Westcliffe, Colorado, at the age of 78. He was born May 23, 1946, to Jesse “Herb” and Goldie (Osborn) Littrell in Westcliffe.

After meeting the love of his life while attending Custer County High School, Jim was united in marriage to Deanne E. Crow on June 17, 1967. They were blessed with three children, Terri, Edie, and Jimmy, whom they settled down in Salida to raise. Jim spent the early years of his marriage attending and graduating from Southern Colorado State before serving his country as a member of the Army in Vietnam in February of 1969. He spent most of his adult life working on various business adventures with his wife and children, who could often all be found working together in the businesses Jim started. Throughout his career as a businessman, he owned and operated 12 businesses including Reining Blue Print and Center Printing, Western Sporting Goods and Taxidermy, Bottle Shop Liquor, Salida True Value and VS Variety, Poncha Mini Storage, Buena Vista True Value, Sante Fe True Value, Jim’s Guns, Monarch Crest, The Crest Scenic Tramway, J’s New and Used Guns and many rental properties.

When not working and spending time with his family or out dancing with his wife, he was known to be an avid

outdoorsman that loved to enjoy God’s creation while hunting, fishing, and simply enjoying all that the Rocky Mountains have to offer.

Jim is survived by his wife, Deanne Littrell (Crow); his daughters, Terri Littrell of Hays, KS, Edie Schoenfeld (Jerry) of Salida, CO; son Jimmy (Rhonda) of Cut Bank, MT; grandchildren Courtney (Brady) Maska of Hays, KS, Kody Hageman of Cottonwood, AZ, Jake (Mykeltie) Schoenfeld of Salida, CO, Kylie Streck of Denver, CO, Jesse Schoenfeld of Westcliffe, CO, Kendrew Streck of Cottonwood, AZ, Coalter Littrell of Cut Bank, MT, Sydnei Littrell of Las Vegas, NV, and Darci Littrell of Cut Bank, MT; great grandchildren Paxton and Decker Maska of Hays, KS, and Sutton Schoenfeld of Salida CO; sisters Myrtle Schulze, Mary (Jim) Patterson, Nancy (Wayne) Hanssen; Brother-in-law Dennis Crow; Sisters-in-law Delaine Crow and Susan Crow; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Jim is preceded in death by his parents; his in-laws George and Lois (Geroux) Crow; sisters Colleen Armstrong, Betty June Coleman, Jesse May La Mora, and Laurel Aldridge; brother’s-in-law Les Schulze, Joseph Truskowski, Richard Saunders, John Coleman, Don La Mora, and Don Crow; and his sister-in-law, Shirley Crow.

Jim lived out his final years embodying the John Wayne quote,



“Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway.” He faced all things in life head on and with fierce determination and instilled that trait in his children and grandchildren. He was a hardworking man that deeply loved his family and friends. Though he will be dearly missed, his memory will live on in the hearts of those that knew him best. Memorial contributions can be made to the Cut Bank Volunteer Fire Department. (911 Railroad Street, Cut Bank, Montana, 59427)

A service will be held at 10 a.m. on **Friday, April 25th** at the Lange Hall in Westcliffe, Colorado (312 3rd St.) followed by a burial service at Ula Cemetery in Custer County. A luncheon will follow.

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SDCEA Board Names New Member

Press Release

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA) is pleased to announce the selection of Michael Robinson as the new At Large director on the SDCEA board.

Robinson, who previously served on the SDCEA board, has extensive experience in the telecommunications field and investment firms. He is a resident of Chaffee County and serves as a board member of the Chaffee County Community Foundation.

Robinson steps into this role following the resignation of former director Jeff Fiedler earlier this year and will serve the remainder of Fiedler’s term, which concludes in June 2026. Robinson will be eligible to run for the seat at that time for a full 3-year term.

Robinson was selected by the board after interviews with four candidates who applied for the position. Per SDCEA bylaws, the board must appoint a director within 3 months of a resignation. He will be formally seated as a director during the cooperative’s April 23 regular board meeting in Buena Vista.

About the Election Process

Director terms on the SDCEA board are for 3 years, with elections held annually on a rotating basis for each seat. Board members are elected by SDCEA’s membership, comprised of account holders in the cooperative. This democratic process ensures that all members have a voice in the direction of their electric cooperative.



While board members are elected to represent specific geographical areas of the cooperative, they are elected to serve all members. Two board seats are designated as At Large.

Current board officers include:

- Sandra Attebery, representing Custer County, Chair
- Charlie Abel, Rural Chaffee/Lake County, Vice-Chair
- Blake Bennetts, town of Buena Vista, Secretary & Interim Treasurer

The board also includes directors Mark Boyle, Rural Chaffee/Lake County; Sandy Long, At Large; Rob Canterbury, Fremont County; and now Robinson, At Large.

It's not too early to Pre-Order for Mother's Day!

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BOCC from page 1

which will dramatically drive up the cost to house inmates. Rich said this is going to raise our cost big time. He is also looking at a grant to get closed circuit security cameras installed at the courthouse.

The written Treasurer’s report was briefly reviewed. No biggies there.

Coroner Brad Baltzly gave his office’s report. Brad said he wants to get a 20-foot metal shipping container and put a cooling system in it to store the deceased when it is not possible to immediately bring the bodies to a funeral home or to an autopsy. He said it would take about \$6k to do the job.

Other Reports

The Veteran’s Service Office report was given by the Director, Dominic Edginton. He said he had 47 scheduled visits last month and 32 walk ins. Plus he filed 19 new claims last month. Dominic noted that since he took over, he has filed 437 claims for our veterans and has gotten over \$3 million in compensation for them. He said there are 581 Custer County veterans registered in the VA system, plus there are a bunch more not registered.

Bob Smith gave the Human Resources report. He said the RFP for county insurance is out and he is talking to five brokers about it. Also, there are three open county positions currently posted.

Finance Director Vernon Roth delivered the Finance report. Vernon said they are working on a bunch of procedures while he and Redlands Accounting continue to work on various issues like grant management and audit data. He stated that CORA open records requests consume too much of his time and he would like to see some changes there. County Attorney Slater is working on revising the County’s CORA policy. Epp noted that an RFP for a new County auditor is going out August 1st.

Epp then reviewed the Information Technology (IT) written report noting the IT employee John Mapes is doing a great job. Epp stated that they will be issuing an RFP for “contract services” to help in the IT Department. (IT is severely understaffed considering the amount of work in the county now.)

No big news in the written Human Services and Road & Bridge reports.

The Planning & Zoning Report was written. All types of permits are up dramatically from last year, showing good growth in the housing market. Total income for P&Z, YTD was \$117k.

The written Landfill report noted that in the first quarter 4,816 cubic yards of trash was delivered to the landfill via waste collection companies and 2,837 bags of trash were brought to the landfill.

The Recycling written report stated that they made a total of 23 bales of all materials in March with 15 being just cardboard.

In New Business, our Tourism Board Director, Deb Adams, had a proposal for the BOCC. Adams first spent a fair amount of time reviewing the things she has done with the Tourism Board since she became the Director a few years ago. (She has done a good job.) (The Tourism Board Director

and all the Board members are volunteers. It has always been that way.) Adams then segued into what she was really there for: she wants to get paid for the job now. Adams argued than since she puts a lot of time into the volunteer job that she should now get paid. She wants her new job to be called the “Destination Management Director” and she would become a county employee. (It sounded like it would initially be a part-time position but that was unclear. The issue of county benefits, insurance, retirement, were not discussed.) Canda said she needed to produce a job description, and this might be a new County “department”. Epp stated the job would have to be posted for competition. The discussion ended with agreement that Adams will produce a job description and no decisions on actually doing this were made.

(Well, it is always the money. Remember Adams ran for County Commissioner a while back looking for that county job and was beaten badly by Canda. So, no county paycheck there. We don't like this new paid position proposal for a variety of reasons. First, it is a volunteer position like the dozens of other volunteer boards in the county. Just because one is doing a good job in those positions doesn't justify that position getting paid. It is a volunteer position for a reason. Second, this would set a bad precedent for other boards: If Adams can get paid why can't I? Third, it is unnecessary. Things are going fine with the current setup. She has a whole board of people helping so no need to spend a ton of time personally. (Delegation is the word here.) It is her call on how much time she spends on the job. If it is too much for now, cut back and have others help you. Why do we now have to pay for it out of tax money? It is a VOLUNTEER position. She has plenty of resources available.

Fourth: The last thing the County needs now is to add more “optional” employees. The County is going to be in a ton of trouble in the near future as the fed and state grant money dries up (and these fund over half of the County’s budget). And we should be looking at downsizing County government, not growing it. Fifth: The three conservative, small government, Republican County Commissioners ran on being FISCAL CONSERVATIVES. Which means SMALLER GOVERNMENT, not growing it. Remember all governments tend to grow like a cancer eating up our tax money and sending us taxpayers to the poor house. Governments grow incrementally and then all of a sudden. Each new proposed job must be totally analyzed to see the impact on the county’s future financial liability. There is absolutely no need to create a new paid government job when it is currently being well handled on a volunteer basis. It is a total waste of money.

Commissioners: You were elected to be fiscal conservatives. And this is an easy one. Do what you were elected to do. NO GO on this. You should be REDUCING the County government’s financial footprint, NOT INCREASING it. And no offense against Adams looking for a county paycheck. I guess it is human nature, and the County is the biggest fat cat in Happy Valley. But Adams signed on knowing it was a volunteer job. No need to change that. There are plenty of true volunteers willing to fill that position.)



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Colorado State News

More Lib Insanity: Colorado Bill Blocks Deportation Efforts While Discouraging Legal Citizenship Efforts

by ColoradoPeak
Politics.com

Colorado Democrats use a lot of energy and our tax dollars encouraging migrants to come here illegally and then remain as non-citizens, rather than promoting legal U.S. citizenship.

And here they go again.

A state Senate panel this week passed radical legislation to further restrict deportation activities of federal immigration officers in every Colorado city.

Plus, the bill kills current requirements that migrants be actively pursuing legal citizenship when applying for a driver's license or in-state tuition to a public university, which is subsidized by taxpayers.

And shamefully, not a single reporter or Democrat voter is asking why the legislature is incentivizing non-citizens to retain their illegal status.

The pending bill is SB25-276, and it's being hailed as a civil rights protection law for illegal aliens.

The legislation is sponsored by the usual radical suspects, including state Sens. Julie Gonzales of Denver and Mike Weissman of Aurora, and state Reps. Lorena Garcia of Adams County and Elizabeth Velasco of Glenwood Springs.

If enacted, it would shield criminals by further blocking federal law enforcement access to jails, hospitals, and schools to make arrests.

Democrats also included a scheme to allow non-citizen lawbreakers to take back their guilty pleas and vacate their convictions on non-felony crimes that might add cause for their deportation.

Those crimes include theft, disorderly conduct, check fraud and criminal trespass. Plus, traffic violations that includes

reckless driving, careless driving resulting in physical injury to another person, overtaking a school bus, drag racing, spilling loads on highways, and driving through construction zones over 25 mph over speed limit.

The questions Coloradans should be asking themselves is why Democrats are so determined to encourage illegal immigration, subsidize them with our tax dollars while cutting our own services, and passing more laws to encourage folks to maintain their illegal status rather than pursuing U.S. citizenship once here.

Colorado House Republicans@
COHouseGOP

Yesterday, House Republicans fought 14 hours for a better, smarter, safer budget. When we looked into this year's proposed budget, we found at least \$39M allocated for illegal immigrants over lifelong Coloradans. Watch our breakdown of those costs here

#copolitics #coleg

It's modern-day slavery that keeps immigrants in low wage jobs, dependent on government welfare, and voting Democrat while working at menial jobs for less wages than their U.S. citizen counterparts.

This kind of governing only serves to dissuade migrants from pursuing the American dream that can only be realized with full citizenship, self-reliance, and hard work.

The measure has already passed the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, and now goes before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Friday before proceeding to the full Senate for a vote.

Please see: <https://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2025/04/10/colorado-bill-blocks-deportation-efforts-while-discouraging-legal-citizenship-efforts/>



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This event, known as The Bobcat Café, will feature a delicious meal prepared by our talented 5th-grade chefs!

On the menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Rice Pilaf, California Mixed Vegetables and a dessert.

For those dining in, iced tea and water will be available. Please RSVP

to 719.783.2291 by May 6th. Cash donations will be accepted to support future student cooking competitions.

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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 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
10 - 11 a.m. Women’s Veteran Coffee Social
West Custer County Library Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
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
9 a.m. Women’s Bible Studay at First Baptist Church
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 CANCELLED FOR MAY

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 a.m. Mens’ Prayer Breakfast at First Baptist Church

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



CCSO Co-RESPONDERS' CORNER

Boiling Beneath The Surface

by Jaclyn & Tom Manzione

Did you know that beneath the surface of modern grammar and high school life, a hidden subculture may exist that many parents and even some educators, including teachers, school counselors, and administrators, may not be fully aware of? This situation is a mix of intense emotions, like frustration and misunderstandings. Sometimes, the tension can build up without anyone noticing, leading to some challenging dynamics.

As social interactions shift, those who feel left out can sometimes become vulnerable to negative experiences. This environment can contribute to the emergence of bullying and other issues that affect kids’ mental health. Stress can cloud judgment and may lead to unhelpful ways of dealing with conflict, making it vital for everyone involved, students, parents, teachers, and school staff, to recognize these signs early on.

Addressing these realities is crucial for the well-being of our children and for creating a positive school atmosphere. It’s important for parents and educators to stay aware and involved. Together, we can work on training families and school staff to recognize and respond to concerning behaviors, enabling us to intervene early and effectively. Also, fostering a sense of community can go a long way. Programs aimed at reducing social isolation and encouraging connections among students can help those who might feel disconnected find support.

The Custer County Sheriff’s Office is taking a thoughtful approach to prevention by collaborating with social workers, mental health experts, law enforcement, and community organizations. This teamwork not only helps identify risks but also provides essential support to those who need it. Sheriff Smith is working hard to develop the Behavioral Threat Assessment Unit (BTAU), which includes training for deputies and

staff on how to handle critical situations with care and responsibility. Recently, deputies took part in a training program called “The Guardian Mindset,” dedicating themselves to supporting the community and safeguarding the well-being of our youth.

The Behavioral Threat Assessment Unit (BTAU) is all about creating a safe and supportive community! They work together with the district attorney’s office, mental health professionals, teachers, and community leaders to identify and manage potential threats of violence. Their main mission is to prevent any harm before it happens by recognizing concerning behaviors and offering the right support and resources. Together, we can foster a safer and more compassionate environment for all!

Will you join Sheriff Smith, his administration, and deputies in this proactive interdisciplinary effort?

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

Colorado Sheriffs Displeased with State’s New Semi-Auto Ban

by Tom Knighton,
BearingArms.com

There’s a lot about the gun debate I find funny. Not “ha ha” funny, but “that’s freaking stupid” funny.

For example, anti-gunners will routinely claim that pro-gun lawmakers aren’t really about “law and order” because they oppose something that a handful of big city police chiefs say they like, all while ignoring anytime law enforcement takes issue with a gun control law.

In other words, it’s only relevant when it’s convenient.

experts across the state opposed this legislation, as it will be burdensome on law-abiding citizens, and have no adverse effect on criminals.”

Roybal also said, “It is clear those who hold the power in our state legislature are more interested in carrying out a political agenda, rather than sponsoring and voting for legislation which enhances public safety and preserves the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.”

Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell also released a video statement in response to Governor Polis signing SB 25-003. In the video, Mikesell called the bill the “most restrictive gun rights bill in the United States’ history.”

Senate Bill 25-003 prohibits the purchase or sale of “rapid fire conversion devices, like bump stocks and binary triggers,” according to Colorado Senate Democrats.

Yeah, exactly. Never.

They’re not going to slow down. No one is.

And what’s worse is that Polis has framed himself as a libertarian Democrat, which should suggest that he’s at least open to gun rights.

He’s not. That’s clear as day now to anyone who has eyes.

And yes, a lot of sheriffs are saying that it’s a terrible idea, which anti-gunners don’t care about, even as they try to use opposition from other law enforcement officers for gun rights into a talking point. It only matters when it’s convenient.

Meanwhile, at least this side of the debate has some consistency. Rights are rights, and it doesn’t matter if police favor or disfavor a given policy to most of us. They’re still our rights.

Take the most recent trainwreck in Colorado, where Gov. Jared Polis has signed some very troubling legislation into law. You know about it by now, of course, and if not, well, Cam has covered it.

And, as you might have gathered, at least some law enforcement officers are less than thrilled by this.

Several sheriffs in Southern Colorado are making their feelings known about a new gun control bill, SB 25-003, that was signed into law this week by Governor Jared Polis.

The El Paso County Sheriff’s Office called the bill “the most atrocious anti-2nd Amendment bill in Colorado history.” In a release, Sheriff Joseph Roybal said he was deeply disappointed in the Governor’s decision to not veto the bill and added, “Public safety

The truth of the matter is that this bill will likely impact semi-automatic pistols, such as those preferred for self-defense purposes, to such a degree that people aren’t going to bother getting them, making them far more vulnerable to violent crime.

However, criminals aren’t going to even blink because, well, when have criminals demonstrated they’re law-abiding and get the appropriate licenses before they buy firearms illegally?

As noted in Cam’s piece from Friday, there’s a lawsuit already in the works, and I honestly don’t see how this can be justified under the history, text, and tradition standard laid down in Bruen.

But I also can’t imagine how Polis can justify it to himself, especially with so many sheriffs upset over it.

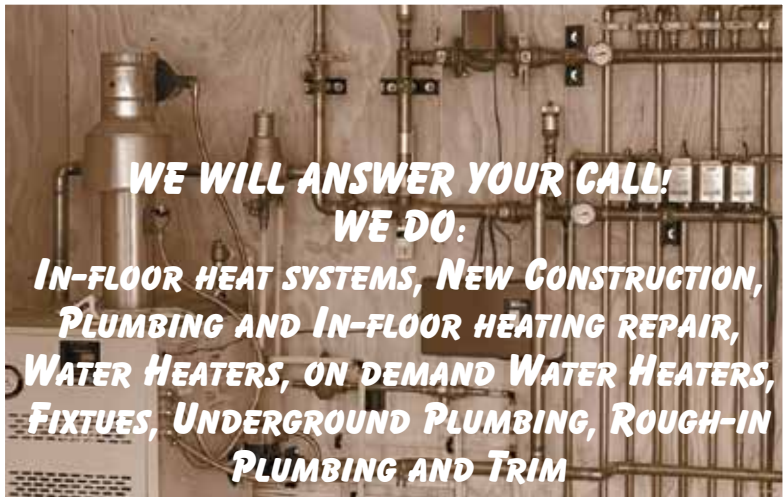
Please see: https://bearingarms.com/tomknighton/2025/04/12/colorado-sheriffs-displeased-with-new-semi-auto-ban-n1228291

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, April 28 #71 Roast Beef Sandwich/Wheat Chunky Vegetable Soup Lettuce, Tomato, Mustard, and Mayonnaise Waldorf Salad, Banana	Tuesday, April 29 #32 Chili con Carne Steamed Broccoli Cornbread Trail Mix w/Nuts & Raisins Apple	Thursday, May 1 #20 California Veggie Bake Spinach Salad w/ Egg and Lite Italian Pear, Citrus Cup Oatmeal Raisin Cup WW Bread w/Butter
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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.

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April 27, 2-3:30 p.m.
LIFE CHAIN - Prayer for the unborn
Meet at the school in the West Parking Lot

May 2, 10:30 a.m.
Spring Widows’ Luncheon See ad below for
details

May 2 & 3, Friday 5:30- 830 p.m.
Saturday 9:30- 3:30 p.m.
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Lunch on Saturday- Conference is FREE

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High Country Mennonite Church is inviting all
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Church on 103 North Adams Street, Westcliffe.

The event will begin at 10:30 a.m., on Friday,
May 2, and will include delicious food and
inspiring entertainment. Come join us and be
blessed and encouraged! Please RSVP by April
26th to Jen @ 719.371.0713.

Celebration of Life Services

Littrell, James “Jim” Herbert
April 25, 10 a.m. Lange Hall (312 3rd St.)
Interment at Ula Cemetary following

Hey, Ralph Louis
June 21, 12-3 p.m.
Town of Ula (Rural Custer County)
403 County Road 175

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

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8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff
719/783-4601

**Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter Day Saints**
240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe
Pres: 719/214-4589

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.
Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study
0157 County Rd. 27A
Cotopaxi 719/942-3526

Community United Methodist Church
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship
202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-2511

Cotopaxi Community Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study
PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com
20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Worship
4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS
410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
Pastor Josh Olsteen
719/783-2498

High Country Mennonite Church
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe
719/783-9045

Huerfano Community Bible Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study
603 Leon Street, Walsenburg
(719) 251-9053

Hope Lutheran Church
2 p.m. Worship
3:15 p.m. Bible Study
3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe
Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323
Lange Hall 719/783-2561

Living Stone Calvary Chapel
Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m.
830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO
Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863

**Our Lady of the Assumption
Roman Catholic Church**
Diocese of Pueblo
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass
5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass
109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-3507

**Our Lady of Mt. Zion
Catholic Church**
11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month
210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe
719/783-2491

Praise Community Church
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m.
215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence
719/784-1184

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays
3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe
719/783-2477

St. Patrick’s Anglican Church
11 a.m. Worship
403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe
925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
Saturday Mass 4 p.m.
Highway 69, Gardner
Bldg. Mickey 719/746-2037

Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church
Pastor: Mike Shields
10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study
11 a.m. Worship
Last Sunday of Month:
Potluck at Noon
sangredecristocowboychurch.com
also on Facebook
60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
719/232-5372

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
9 a.m. Meet & Greet
9:30 a.m. Service
120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe
719/783-0903

Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel
10 a.m. Worship
6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe
719/371-1822

Valley Bible Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship
116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
719/581-7572

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore
719/371-1230

Wetmore Community Church
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore
719/784-0596

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what
we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him;
for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2 KJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS

Friday, April 25, 2025

Dire Wolf

Recently we have been hearing about the resurrection of the extinct dire wolf. They roamed the Americas many years ago but have been extinct since the Ice Age. Let’s take a look at what is going on with this extinct beautiful animal now.



Dire wolves were made famous by the ‘Game of Thrones’ books and TV show. This species was closely related to the grey wolf and lived in the Americas during the Ice Age. They are the largest known members of the genus that includes all wolves, coyotes and jackals.



Scientists believe that the dire wolf spread to South America via the Andean corridor. Their fossils have been found at three sites in South America (in Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia). The site of the largest number of dire wolf fossil finds is La Brea tar pits in Los Angeles, California. They are believed to have lived and hunted in packs. Their diet consisted of at least 70% meat and its skull and teeth were adapted to hunting large prey. The dire wolf became extinct after the last Ice Age. The most recent verified dire wolf remains were found in a cave in Boone County, Missouri.

The private company Colossal Biosciences claims to have resurrected dire wolves through genetic editing and have birthed three dire wolf pups—Romulus, Remus, and Khaleesi. Some believe these are better understood as slightly modified gray wolves rather than true dire wolves. The company’s researchers extracted and studied ancient dire wolf DNA from a pair of fossils and then made 20 edits to the genomes of modified modern gray wolf embryos to make the resulting clones.

Dire wolves were first recognized in 1858. In size, the Dire wolves were comparable to large gray wolves (Canis lupus) living in Alaska today. However, the largest differences are seen in their skulls. La Brea tar pits and museum paleoecologist Emily Lindsey notes that “Dire wolves have large sagittal crests on their skulls,” or a flange of bone for increased jaw muscle attachments, “and more robust teeth, which suggest they had a stronger bite force”.

Colossal Biosciences concluded “Dire wolves are not simply an ancient version of today’s gray wolves,”. Though the company’s website still brands their genetically modified gray wolves as de-extinct dire wolves.

I will be interested in staying in touch with this subject. So, you just may hear more of the Dire wolf.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.activewild.com/dire-wolf/>, <https://wolf.org/headlines/what-is-a-dire-wolf-how-formerly-extinct-species-compares-to-gray-wolves/>, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/dire-wolf-deextinction-colossal-paleontology>
Illustration: Public Domain - File:The American Museum journal (c1900-1918)) (Aenocyon dirus), Pups photo: Colossal Biosciences

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Jesus asked--

If I have told you earthly things, and you believe not, how shall you believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

John 3:12 KJV



Custer County School District C-1 MENU for the week April 28 thru May 1, 2025

	Breakfast	Lunch
	Cereal Yogurt Oatmeal Fruit Milk	Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Tomato Soup Carrots and Celery Fruit, Milk
Tuesday	Breakfast Sandwich Yogurt Fruit, Milk	Cheese Enchiladas Rice, Beans Fruit, Milk
Wednesday	Breakfast Burrito Fruit Milk	Turkey Tetrizzini Green Salad Fruit, Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Sausage Yogurt. Oatmeal Fruit, Milk	Fish Sticks Tater Tots Colcslaw Fruit, 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 opportunity provider.

HS Men’s Baseball Team



Congratulations
to the West Central League
Champions!

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Tuesday, April 15:

Celebrations from HS Track @ CSCS Invitational:

14 teams in attendance:

Grant Rusk: 1st in the High Jump, AND, 1st in the Triple Jump, AND 1st in the Long Jump

Mason Stover: 1st in the 3200m AND 1st in the 1600m

Chris Mullett: 1st in the Shot Put, 2nd in the Discus

Liz Ergo: 1st in the 300 hurdles

Boys finished 2nd as a team!

Robert Bachman: 2nd in the Triple Jump, 4th in the 400m, 6th in the 100m

Hayden Hampton: 2nd in Triple Jump, 3rd in the 200m, 4th in the 100m,

Reaghan Shank: 5th in Long Jump, 6th in the 100m

Girls finished in 5th overall!

Doc McCoy: 6th in the discus, 7th in Shot Put

Layna Jones: 6th in Triple Jump

Piper Cunningham: 7th in the 1600m

Wednesday, April 16:

HS Baseball @ HOME vs Florence: **18-8, WIN!**

Thursday, April 17:

HS Baseball Double Header @ Centennial: 1st Game: **24-0, WIN!;** 2nd Game: **29-1, WIN!**

Monday, April 21:

HS Baseball @ HOME vs South Park: **14-4, WIN!**

Tuesday, April 22:

HS Baseball vs Cripple Creek-Victor: **22-4, WIN!**

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your
Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, April 25:

9 am HS Track @ Rye Thunderbolt Invitational in Rye
2pm/4pm HS Baseball vs La Veta (Double Header - away)

Saturday, April 26:

9 am HS Track @ District 2 Invitational @ Harrison - Co. Springs
11 am HS Baseball @ HOME vs Hinkley ~ SENIOR NIGHT! ~

Tuesday, April 29:

tbd HS Baseball District Quarterfinals

Friday, May 2:

9 am HS Track @ Cañon City Blossom

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

Local Mountain News & Notices

Tony's Player of the Week



Grant Rusk High Jump and Long Jump.

Our Athlete of the Week for HS Track and Field is Grant Rusk. Grant has been continuously growing since day one. He had an amazing meet last Tuesday. Not only did he take 1ST PLACE IN ALL OF HIS EVENTS, he had a PR (personal record) for each event in the same day. He is now ranked top five in the state for ALL THREE EVENTS! His hard work, commitment and dedication are in full display with that kind of performance. Keep up the great work Grant, we are proud of you!

Photos by Wendy Rusk



Tony's MVP's Receive Gift Cards

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS



Top L: Grant Rusk, Track MPV for 1st in High Jump at Warren Mitchell Invitational on 4/5 with Johnny Winton.



Top R: Levi Carichner Track MPV Two weeks ago



Bottom R: Wyatt Grundy, MVP vs Centennial First home run! Ground double, 6 RBI's



L toR: Coach Eddie Crispe, Wesley, Johnny (owner of Tony's), Coach Brandon Bradford
Photos by Lea Grundy

Wesley Bennett
MPV Baseball

Hoehne Game - Wesley completed 7 innings, pitched 6 hits, and allowed 8 runs with 11 strikeouts.



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We invite parents to come learn more about partnering with us to build your child's academic success.

When: Wed. April 30
at 6:30 pm
Please RSVP

Where:
The Pines Ranch, just outside Westcliffe.
Please visit their website for directions.
www.thepinesranch.org

To RSVP, or if you have questions,
please contact:
Mary Carol Maxam at 719-360-5173
or mc.maxam@gmail.com



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Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep,
but we shall all be changed. I Corinthians 15:51 KJV

Bobcats Prom King & Qu



Congratulations to Bobcat
King Chris Mullett
& Queen Reagan Hatfield!



Queen and After Prom 2025



Sentinel Photos by Jennifer Russ Photography; Layout by Katherine Brenchley



Colorado State News

Pair of Democrat Backed Colorado Bills Trample Constitution

by Rob Natelson, Complete Colorado Page Two

The “progressive” clown show that runs Colorado entertains us from time to time by stumbling over obstacles—little obstacles, like the Constitution of the United States and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The madcaps are entertaining us again. They passed **Senate Bill 3**, which regulates firearms and their owners in ways that directly violate the Second Amendment. Some legislative wags are sponsoring **House Bill 1312**, which not only tramples on the First Amendment, but breaches parental rights protected by the Fourteenth.

The language of both Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 1312 apparently was designed to play Supreme Court justices for fools. But the justices are on to their tricks.

You see, Colorado’s “progressive” overlords already have a rap sheet. In 2018, the justices gave them a pen-lashing for flagrant bias against the Christianity of a Colorado baker. In 2022, the justices intervened to prevent the Colorado Clarabels from stomping on the free speech rights of a Christian web designer. Earlier this year, the court decided to take up the case of a counselor threatened by a Colorado statute preventing her from helping children affirm their biological genders.

But now our legislative Krusties have decided to get clever. Or, what in Clownland passes for

clever.

Senate Bill 3: Gun rights

First, let’s consider Senate Bill 3, the gun ban our “libertarian” (yuck-yuck!) governor recently signed into law.

The Supreme Court tells us that under the Second Amendment, states cannot ban the purchase, transfer, or possession of firearms commonly used for sporting or self-defense.

The court says states may impose permit requirements, but the permits must be “shall issue” instead of “may issue.” That means the official authorizing the permit must be guided by firm criteria and not have a lot of discretion.

So here’s the methodology of SB 3:

First, it bans guns the court says it can’t ban.

Next, it offers an exception for buyers who go through a lot of bureaucratic rigmarole and acquire a “firearms safety course eligibility card” from their county sheriff and then take a course. This card is essentially an official permit.

Next, it says the sheriff “shall issue” the eligibility card.

But then it adds that “the sheriff may deny an application if the sheriff has a reasonable belief that documented previous behavior by the applicant makes it likely the applicant will present a danger to themselves [*sic*] or others if the applicant holds a firearms safety

course eligibility card.”

But the bill does not explain what “documented” means. Or what is a “reasonable belief.” Or how one can present a danger to “themselves” or others merely by *holding* a card.

In other words, SB 3 gives the sheriff almost total discretion. Which is exactly what the Supreme Court says the states may not do.

House Bill 1312: Violating the First Amendment

And now for our next act of legislative comedy: **House Bill 1312**.

The bill’s title says it’s about protecting transgender individuals. Actually, it’s an effort to evade the Constitution’s First and Fourteenth Amendments.

Admittedly, some of of HB 1312 is not unconstitutional—just plain silly: For example, there’s the part that forces government schools to let kids wear the clothes of whatever gender they want. I look forward to seeing how the kids have fun with that. I also look forward to the resulting increase in the number of home and private schoolers.

HB 1312 also includes some fun verbal selzer-spray. Throughout all recorded history—until, maybe, last week—it was an essential part of parenting to guide your child toward living with, and fulfilling the responsibilities of, that child’s biological sex. But in HB 1312, that’s called “coercive control” and it’s somehow bad.

Also, under HB 1312, if you describe a gender-denier by the sex fixed in the chromosomes that give him life—you are guilty of “deadnaming.” And if you call a gender-denier by pronouns that identify with his real sex, then you are “misgendering.”

However, this is Orwellian as well as funny, and HB 1312 tries to give its Orwellian language serious consequences. Thus, HB 1312 would make it illegal, “with intent to discriminate” (whatever that means) to “publish materials that deadname or misgender an individual.”

So if I write an op-ed calling a biological male “he” when the person wants to be called “she” or “xe” or “themselves” or “Her Majesty,” then the bill says I’m guilty of a crime.

But Attention, Ye Legislative Jesters! This part of the bill is void! We have freedom of the press in this country. It’s a well-known fact. Look it up.

Violating constitutional rights of parents

There’s more: HB 1312 allows a judge to deprive a parent of custody of his or her child for “coercive control,” including “misgendering” and “deadnaming.”

So if my little boy Johnny says his name is now “Joanie” and I insist it’s “Johnny,” that counts *against* my continued custody. If Johnny says he’s a “she,” and I tell him he’s a he, that also counts against my custody.

Is that a scream or what?

Whether or not it is, it is screamingly unconstitutional. A century ago, SCOTUS decided two cases sustaining the “liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control.” The cases were *Meyer v. Nebraska* (1923) and *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925).

The court reaffirmed their continued force in 2022.

According to the court, laws that unduly infringe the right of parents to direct the rearing of their children violate the Fourteenth Amendment by denying protected liberty.

The court said something in the *Pierce* case the jokers in the Colorado legislature might take to heart:

“The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

Notice, also, Honorable Lawmakers, the court’s usage of the correct generic pronouns.

Robert G. Natelson, a former constitutional law professor who is senior fellow in constitutional jurisprudence at the Independence Institute in Denver, authored “The Original Constitution: What It Actually Said and Meant” (3rd ed., 2015).

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/04/15/colorados-stampeding-democrat-majority-trample-the-constitution/>

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Colorado State News



State Taxpayers Heavily Subsidize Sundance Film Festival's Boulder Move

by Jon Caldara,
CompleteColorado.com

Hollywood is coming to my hometown. By now you've heard the Sundance Film Festival is moving to Boulder.

What a relief! Finally, some common folk are coming to town. As you know, Boulder is home to the state's most smug elite, those who know how the rest of us should live, what we should value. And they are thrilled to use government to mandate it upon us.

But starting in 2027, for one glorious week a year, Hollywood types, with their humble, live-and-let-live, limited government views will descend on my little hamlet of progressive hate. People with more common sense and basic American values will finally be walking the streets of my neighborhood. Boulder's level of arrogance should be cut in half.

It will be so refreshing to hang with thousands of Harvey Weinstein types, who have so much more respect for people.

For one week my hometown won't be all about virtue signaling.

My little metropolis will be visited by normal folks like George Clooney who, next to the average Boulderite, doesn't need to constantly emote his beliefs and political desires.

Sundance said they moved to Boulder because of its "welcoming environment." Don't need to be a codebreaker to read between the lines. They wanted to move out of a red state to a pronoun-policed, righteousness-infatuated city nestled in a Trump Derangement Syndrome state.

The corporate welfare dole

And I don't mind my whacky town getting wackier for a week. Tens of thousands of mega-wealthy, moralistic, image-obsessed progressives will descend upon the town of mega-wealthy, moralistic, image-obsessed progressives. Maybe I'll Airbnb my house and make a few bucks. After all the governor's office says this party will bring in \$2 billion of revenue over 10 years. That's a lot of cheddar.

In fact, that's why he just signed a bill to give Sundance \$35 million out of our massively underfunded state budget.

Wow! Only \$35 million to bring in \$2 billion! We should make that deal all day long. That's a 57-fold return on investment. How many of your investments are paying 5,700%? I'm guessing less than half?

A 5,700% return is known as "economic development math," which also goes by the street name "complete fiction."

Before special interests can extract that kind of payoff, they need to give elected officials some political coverage. Economists come up with "multiplier effects" to show us taxpayers we're not just giving our money to the politically connected, especially during a state budget shortfall.

But wait a second. If the economic benefit is going to bring in \$2 billion, why would taxpayers have to put in a penny? Boulder hotels, restaurants and movie houses would be more than happy to scrape together the kickback for that kind of payout. For \$2 billion it's a no-brainer.

So, either they don't want to pay it because they can use other people's money, or they know the

return on investment might not actually be 5,700%. (It's both.)

Who actually benefits?

Diffused taxpayers getting their money confiscated and bundled then given to concentrated politically tied special interests is how cronyism works. Thus, the code name "economic development."

And might there be some conflicts of interest here? Gov. Jared Polis owns property in downtown Boulder, and purportedly income property as well. Instead of tapping taxpayers across the state, our near-billionaire governor could pay a good share of the ransom if he's getting some of the benefit.

Among all the economic development scams, subsidies to filmmakers are notoriously the worst. Analysis from New Mexico's own government discovered their "films subsidies have a negative return on investment." Now, I'm not a mathematician, but a "negative return on investment" sounds like less than a 5,700% return.

New Jersey found out the \$430 million in taxpayer subsidies looked like more than the \$300

million earned by all film and video production employees. But then again, Jersey isn't known for math. Well, maybe the mob accountants.

On behalf of the governor and all the economic winners in Boulder, I like to thank the taxpayers from all the far-flung corners of Colorado who will get almost nothing out of this corporate welfare except some pictures of celebrities in the news. Taxpayers in Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Grand Junction and every little town in between are paying Robert Redford's organization to make the state's richest city just a little more wealthy.

Sounds fair.

Jon Caldara is president of the *Independence Institute*, a free market think tank in Denver.

(Editor/GG: Libs giving other libs our tax money. Sound familiar? How about a few shekels to Round Mtn Water to help us out with the waste treatment mandate, Polis? Nah. That might make sense.)

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/04/16/state-taxpayers-subsidize-sundance-film-festival-boulder/>



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“Celebrate the Win”: Boebert’s Gray Wolf Delisting Bill Clears Key House Committee

by Jen Schumann,
The Rocky Mountain Voice

In rural Colorado, the fight over wolves isn’t just about wildlife—it’s about life and livelihoods. On Tuesday, a bill sponsored by Reps. Lauren Boebert and Tom Tiffany passed a key House committee, aiming to take gray wolves off the Endangered Species List and block federal courts from reversing the move.

The Pet and Livestock Protection Act (PALPA) cleared a key vote, handing a win to farmers, ranchers and energy producers across the West. In Colorado, wolf attacks on livestock and fears that the predators could stall energy projects have kept the issue front and center.

Boebert took to social media to celebrate the committee’s vote and reaffirm her stance on state-led wildlife management.

Rep. Lauren Boebert@RepBoebert

BREAKING: My “Pet and Livestock Protection Act” has PASSED in the House

@NatResources

Committee! The science has been very clear on this topic for years: gray wolves are fully recovered and their comeback should be touted as a success story. Now it’s time we

encourage states to set their own guidelines and allow ranchers, farmers, and landowners to protect their livelihoods.

2:19 PM · Apr 9, 2025

25.6K Views

“I’m very excited to see PALPA take another step toward being signed into law,” Boebert said following the vote. “The science has been clear for years: gray wolves are fully recovered. Now it’s time we let states set their own guidelines and allow ranchers and landowners to protect their livelihoods.”

If passed, PALPA would reinstate the Trump-era delisting rule from 2020, which a California judge overturned in 2022. That decision reignited frustration among Western ranchers who argue wolf numbers are not only healthy but harmful to rural economies and wildlife herds.

During the committee hearing, Boebert blamed “rogue judges” and “extremist groups” for undermining bipartisan efforts to delist the gray wolf, calling the legal reversal a political move that ignored science.

“But we had rogue judges who want to put them back on,” she said. “This frivolous litigation was filed by the Defenders of Wildlife, WildEarth Guardians and other extremist groups.” She

added, “The California activist judge subsequently pandered to these groups by vacating the 2020 rule and unilaterally relisting the gray wolf by judicial fiat.”

“The Endangered Species Act was never meant to be a Hotel California where species check in but never leave,” said House Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (AR-04), who backed the bill.

Supporters say the bill is long overdue. In Colorado, wolf depredation claims have topped \$580,000, and ranchers are still left with unanswered questions about funding, enforcement and accountability.

Boebert pointed to management successes in neighboring states as proof that federal oversight is no longer necessary. “Idaho’s successful state management resulted in gray wolves being 700% above recovery goals.”

She backed her case with population numbers that far exceed recovery goals. “There are now an estimated 6,000 wolves in the lower 48, which greatly exceeds the agency recovery goals of 650 wolves.” Boebert added, “Montana’s successful state management resulted in gray wolves being 500% above the Fish and Wildlife Service recovery goals. There are an

estimated 7,000 to 11,000 gray wolves in Alaska.”

She then turned to Colorado’s controversial wolf reintroduction effort. “Canada has so many, we’re starting to import them from Canada into Colorado, which is just adorable,” Boebert stated, referencing the state’s controversial introduction of Canadian wolves despite local pushback.

Bonnie Eddy of the Colorado Wool Growers Association called the bill a necessary fix. “With over 2,000 wolves in the western U.S., the species has been biologically recovered for years. Unfortunately, ESA species are often used to restrict land use and control habitat,” Eddy added, “Delisting gives flexibility back to those who deal with wolf attacks firsthand.”

Mike Clark, Chairman of the Colorado Conservation Alliance, said the legislation is just as critical for the state’s energy sector. “Colorado’s Western Slope has the second largest deposit of natural gas in the world, and wolves on the landscape will put drilling and investing at a full stop—you can open up all the leases and it won’t make a difference if wolves aren’t delisted and dealt with.” He added, “Energy producers need this bill to pass, or they’ll just

pack up and leave the wolves and Colorado’s economy behind.”

Keith Mark, president of Hunter Nation, said the bill marks a turning point in the fight to return wildlife management to the states. “The best part of this legislation is that it prevents activist judges from interfering with sound, science-based conservation.”

Boebert echoed that view, calling it a chance to turn a bureaucratic tug-of-war into a conservation win. “It’s time to delist the gray wolf and celebrate it as an ESA success story. That’s what it is,” she said. “If y’all want to defend the Endangered Species Act, well, let’s celebrate the victories that it produces and not continue to make this look like it’s another failure from the federal government.”

The bill has gained support from more than 30 House Republicans, including fellow Colorado Reps. Jeff Hurd (CO-03) and Gabe Evans (CO-08). It’s also backed by a broad coalition of ranching, energy, hunting and land-use groups such as the Colorado Farm Bureau, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, Safari Club International and the Mule Deer Foundation.

Please see: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/04/celebrate-the-win-boeberts-gray-wolf-delisting-bill-clears-key-house-committee/>

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Local Mountain News & Notices

LEGAL NOTICES



NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

In the Matter of the Estate of

Michael R. Colgate a/k/a Michael Roland Colgate a/k/a Michael Colgate

Deceased

Attorney for Personal Representative: Evan C. Withrow
Colorado Law Group, PLLC
121 E. Vermijo Avenue, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Telephone: (719) 635-4200
Fax Number: (719) 635-2493
Evan@coloradolawgroup.com
Atty. Reg. #: 46225

Case Number: 2025PR30001
Division: 1 Courtroom: 1

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PURSUANT TO 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Michael R. Colgate, Deceased
Case Number 2025PR30001

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

District Court of Custer, County, Colorado
on or before August 18, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred

Patsy R. Colgate
17525 S Columbus Blvd
Sahuarita, AZ 85629

Published April 18, April 25, May 2 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE OF ELECTION
WEST CUSTER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Tuesday, May 6, 2025
7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
§1-13.5-502

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special district election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. for the West Custer County Hospital District. This election will elect four (4) directors, to serve a 4-year term.

The persons nominated and certified as candidates by the WCCHD DEO for the District board director positions are as follows:

Clifford Douglas Brown
Shanna McKellip
Ron Terry
Cindy L. Alvarado
James H. Gilbert
Thomas Akers Shephard

Follow the instructions enclosed with your ballot and return the Mail Ballot by one of the following options.

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Mail Option (affixed with proper postage)
West Custer County Hospital District
PO Box 120
Westcliffe CO 81252

In Person Drop Off Location
Custer County Court House (inside at the 1st floor Election Room)
205 S 6th St
Westcliffe CO 81252

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, contact the WCCHD DEO with any questions.

/s/ Marjorie Ann Barthrop
Designated Election Official Signature
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Published April 18 and 25, 2025
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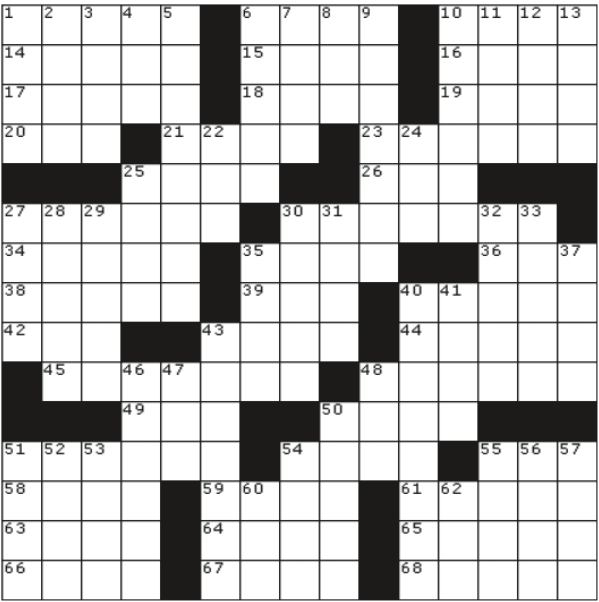
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35 Wife of Joseph
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38 Dance for two?
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40 Widen
42 South southeast
43 Points
44 Ceremonies of passage

- 45 Hydrogen compound
48 Chinese religious person
49 Sailor's yes
50 Seth's brother
51 Stretched to see
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55 Teaspoon (abbr.)
58 Shoshonean
59 Candid
61 Land of Hebrews' slavery
63 Otherwise
64 Malt
65 Brown
66 Sense
67 Roman emperor
68 Adolescents
- 13 Soup
22 Rescue
24 Zip
25 Gorilla "king"
27 Dines
28 Disagree strongly
29 Food of John the Baptist
30 A la ____
31 Globes
32 Raccoon-like animal
33 Darnel
35 Atmosphere
37 Quiz
40 Weakest
41 Daniel was thrown into the ____ s' den
43 Lessen (2 wds.)
46 He survived lions' den
47 Grain
48 Thai
50 Poem division
51 French cook
52 Portrayed character
53 Recess
54 Frau's husband
55 Use a keyboard
56 Gyrate
57 Parent groups
60 "Raven" author
62 "To the right!"

- DOWN
- 1 Pontiff
2 Domain
3 France & Germany river
4 What a nurse gives
5 Survivor of fiery furnace
6 Biblical unit of length
7 Son of Seth
8 Limited (abbr.)
9 Faithfully
10 Buyer
11 Aroma
12 Alcoholic drink
- Puzzle key on page 8

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Professional Protesters

April 5th [and again April 19] saw thousands of “demonstrators” across the country protesting President Trump’s policies, giving leftist news organizations a hay day of reporting and criticism of the president. What they didn’t report was that a large slate of socialist- and communist-inspired groups paid for the protests and hired people to actually do the “protesting.” This type of gaslighting the American public has become commonplace in society, fueling the ignorant and apathetic masses perceptions against Trump and America. This is all part of a growing revolution in the name of “democracy” and resistance against anything that would strengthen America, provide jobs and generate individual success.

Look no further than the so-called sponsors of the “Hands Off” demonstrations: Democratic Socialists of America, Greenpeace, Human Rights Campaign, Indivisible, MoveOn.org, National Education Association, Our Revolution, Planned Parenthood, Pride at Work, Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Progressive Democrats of America, Rainbow Push Coalition, Reproductive Freedom for All, Rise and Resist, Stand Up America, Volunteer Blue, a host of labor unions, homosexual activist groups, climate change and global warming groups, social just groups, environmental activists, teachers unions, including the National Education Association and Catholics Vote Common Good. Just to name a few.

MoveOn Executive Director Rahna Epting is quoted on the Hands Off 2025 website: “What we witnessed today was nothing short of extraordinary. Across the country and around the world, people came together to say: we will not be silent while our rights, our futures, and our democracy are under attack. This peaceful movement is powered by everyday people—nurses, teachers, students, parents—who are rising up to protest what matters most. We are united, we are relentless, and we are just getting started.” The website uses lies, fearmongering and class warfare—a tried and true communist strategy. They say Trump is dismantling Social Security and Medicare, handing trillions to billionaires, allowing money sources to scam Americans, and assaulting communities and rights by targeting political opponents, kids, transgenders, farmers, and others.

Who robbed Social Security and Medicare and diverted funds to cronies and politicians? Who handed trillions to billionaires? Who assaults communities with violence, enablement and lawfare? Trump has exposed exactly what the Democrats have been doing and now MoveOn and others want to blame Trump for their own actions. They hire people who don’t even care about these issues to hold signs and shout slogans. They abuse their right to free speech by promoting the very type of revolution that will end free speech, end economic freedom and enslave everyone to an all-powerful regime. Proverbs 17:11 says, “An evil man seeks only rebellion; a cruel messenger will be sent against him.” They rebel against country, but even worse, they rebel against God.

Sources:
<https://handsoff2025.com/about>
Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

The Father of the Constitution Was Also the Father of Tariffs

by Daniel Greenfield, FrontPageMag.com

The Father of the Constitution was also the father of tariffs. Indeed, the first piece of legislation passed was James Madison’s Tariff Act. Madison, known as the Father of the Constitution, saw tariffs as a driving purpose of the Constitution and a sustaining force of the new government.

The United States was deep in debt after the American Revolution and its previous system of government had made it impossible to either pay its debts or form a national economic policy. And without it, individual states and powerful figures would be corrupted by British and French agents into manipulating the country and eventually doom the nation to collapse in a civil war.

As I described in my book, ‘Domestic Enemies: The Founding Fathers’ Fight Against The Left’, Rhode Island’s radicals had nearly scuttled the Constitution over economic policy. And when the Tariff Act was passed, Rhode Island still had not joined, and some suspected it never would, and instead would go on serving as an entry point for dumping foreign cargoes into America.

That collaboration with British economic warfare against the new country led to threats of annexation until the radicals ruling Rhode Island finally agreed to join the constitutional union.

The American Revolution had been fought and won, but British economic warfare threatened to bring the nation to its knees, cutting off American ships from British territories, while dumping British cargoes in an unregulated fashion in the United States. Much like President Trump, Madison understood that the only thing that might put a stop to this were national tariffs.

The Tariff Act of 1789, immediately following the Constitution, almost wholly financed the federal government created by that magnificent document, while also keeping it small enough so that it would not balloon in size the way that it did once income taxes were introduced during the Civil War, the Progressive Era, and catastrophically during the New Deal and Great Society.

Without tariffs, there would have been no Constitution and no United States of America.

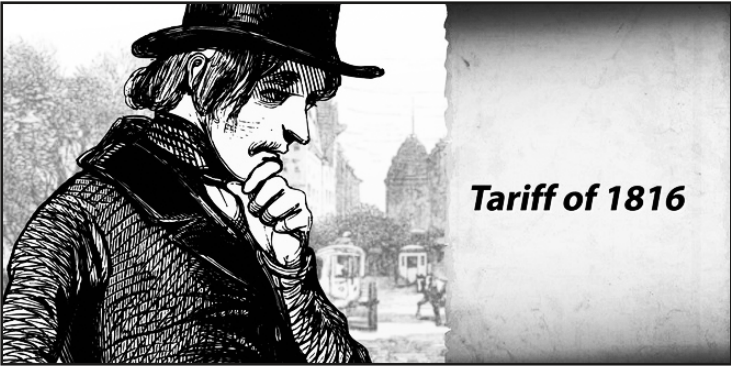
The economic imbalance between America and Britain had been one of the foundational causes of the American Revolution, but simply pushing British governors and armies out of the Colonies had not actually changed the imbalance in trade or the ability of the British to set all the rules. As long as the British government had the ability to set a unified economic policy while the American Colonies were a mass of widely varying rules with states selling out each other, America might

be legally independent, but would never be economically independent.

The next generation of American foreign and economic policy would be taken up by that great question of achieving national independence. Including Madison’s presidential administration.

was tariffs that slowly forced British concessions for American trade from the West Indies to Manchester.

American political leaders and presidents had attempted to convince Britain along with other nations of the moral and economic virtues of free trade only to get nowhere. British



Madison’s greatest tariff challenge came after the War of 1812. The Father of the Constitution had been forced to flee the nation’s capital during the British assault. In a haunting recreation of the way the Founding Fathers had been forced to flee during the American Revolution, the president found a horse and huddled in a country house trapped by the storm. While the White House was burned, Madison and the country survived.

But the war still wasn’t over.

The British, having once again failed to conquer America by force, turned back to economic warfare, dumping large amounts of products at low prices in the United States in order to cripple its already shaky manufacturing whose poor state had been credited with the country’s near defeat. The growing industrialization of warfare had already made it obvious that wars would not be won by courageous charges or compelling rhetoric, but by factories like the ones that would determine the outcome of the future Civil War, not to mention the coming two world wars.

If America could not maintain an independent industry, then it would also have no future.

Madison, like other Founding Fathers, also understood that tariffs were not just a means of economic warfare or a scheme to finance the government, but also a means of building up American industries. And his Tariff of 1816 is regarded as the first true ‘protectionist’ tariff.

The British had wanted to bury American industry under a flood of cheap imports, instead it was they who were forced to rethink their economic policies. Less than a decade after, the British Parliament passed the Reciprocity of Duties Act. The United States had used tariffs to create mutual trade agreements with other nations making America less dependent on British trade. The road to improving America’s balance of economic power with Britain remained a very long one, but it

thinkers could articulate those virtues better than we could. Practicing them was another matter. What did work was the strategic use of trade barriers to build relationships from a position of strength.

And that is what President Trump is trying to do.

It’s possible for good people to disagree about tariffs, and like any other form of warfare, it’s possible to win or lose. In the generations since the American Revolution, some restrictionist policies were successful in building up the domestic economy and making America respected abroad, while others brought domestic economic misery and were laughed off abroad.

But much like blanket opposition to war is foolish, so is the blanket opposition to tariffs.

A school of libertarianism arose that asserts that restricting Chinese imports is no different than banning us from buying a glass of lemonade from a child’s roadside stand. Under this ideology, nation states don’t exist, only individuals do, and nothing must interfere with ‘free trade’ even when it’s a malicious effort by an enemy state to bring us to our knees and then enslave us.

Had we followed this ideology from the beginning, there would have been no America.

We don’t have to imagine too hard what Madison would have done about China. Or the course Alexander Hamilton, who argued that, “preserv-[ing] the balance of trade in favor of a nation ought to be a leading aim of its policy” would have pursued to resist China’s economic warfare.

Good people may disagree about any specific application of tariffs, but we should not forget that America was built on tariffs and that the Father of the Constitution was also the father of tariffs.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/the-father-of-the-constitution-was-also-the-father-of-tariffs/>

'The Beacons Are Lit. Who Will Answer?'

Colorado Christians Unite to Fight a 'Wicked Political Agenda'

by Sarah Holiday,
The Washington Stand

Colorado’s “wicked political agenda” has been met by the righteous fury of Christians in the state.

At the beginning of April, HB25-1312, dubbed the “Kelly Loving Act,” was introduced by Democratic Representatives Lorena García, Rebekah Stewart, Faith Winter, and Senator Chris Kolker. The bill’s core aim is to label “misgendering” or “deadnaming” as forms of child abuse or “coercive control.” If passed, this law could strip parents of custody for rejecting their child’s self-prescribed transgender identity. Parents could even risk being thrown in jail if they don’t comply with the law’s dystopian demands.

Of course, the legislation’s tentacles extend far beyond parents. Businesses that don’t comply could face fines, closures, or be forced to take “anti-discrimination” training. Schools would no longer be able to enforce gender-based dress codes, and they would have to enforce “inclusive” policies related to “chosen names,” meaning that “all reasons” for why “a student might adopt a chosen name that differs from the student’s legal name” must be permissible.

During “*Washington Watch*” last week, Family Research Council’s Senior Fellow for Education Studies Meg Kilgannon probed deeper. It’s a “bill regarding parental rights,” she said, and it “is really, really concerning.” In effect, it’s “saying that if a parent does not adopt the name that a

child chooses for him or herself, that if a parent calls a child by the name that they gave them the day they were born, [then] that parent is guilty of child abuse. ... [T]he implications of that are that the child could be removed from your custody for ... not agreeing that your son is ... your daughter, or vice versa.”

“It’s really chilling,” Kilgannon stressed. “And then the fact that they don’t allow debate on the topic ... tells you that they know they’re wrong. They know they can’t defend it.” And yet, added Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, “[It’s] how the Left operates.” At its core, Kilgannon stated, “We know this is such a destructive ideology.” Its radical edge has galvanized Colorado’s Christians, igniting a fierce stand against what they see as an assault on truth. Lawmakers may have stifled discussion, but passionate pastors are rising, undeterred, to shield children and confront dangerous ideologies head-on.

In Boulder, Colorado, Pastors Matt Patrick and J. Chase Davis are rallying believers to take a stand against the Kelly Loving Act. Leading a bold coalition of “united pastors of Colorado,” they’re mobilizing to “fight HB25-1312 for our kids, for our future.” They call[ed] Christians across the state to join a powerful prayer walk encircling the Colorado Capitol on Thursday, April 17th, followed by a “joint pastors press conference.” Their movement is a clarion call to protect children and shape a future grounded in faith.

“The time is NOW to defend our



<https://www.freepik.com/author/freepic-diller>

families and our future,” reads the info flyer they posted on X. “Come join us to peacefully assemble and make our voices heard against HB25-1312.”

From pulpits to social media, Patrick and Davis are urging believers to rise up. “All eyes on Colorado,” wrote Davis on X. “We’re seeing a groundswell of otherwise disengaged Christians waking up and joining the fight against Colorado HB 25-1312. They are writing letters, providing testimony, and contacting government officials. But where are the pastors?”

In a gripping X thread, he dug deeper:

“Earlier this week, I joined many other pastors from small to medium-sized churches across Colorado to write a letter to the largest churches in our state — churches that represent tens of thousands of believers. We need these churches to leave ‘neutrality’ behind and take a stand against this wicked legislation. Their leadership and platform can

change the game. ... As it stands, we have received just one response. This fight needs more support. We need the big churches with the loudest voices to get involved. If you attend one of these churches in Colorado, or know someone who does, encourage your pastors and elders to join the fight. We need reinforcements. The beacons are lit. Who will answer?”

From his pulpit, Patrick confronted the urgency of combatting HB25-1312 with unwavering resolve. “Why do I bring this up in the middle of my sermon?” he asked his congregation. “Am I just getting political for the heck of it? No, because, friends, it’d be a heck of a lot easier to not touch this. You understand that, right?”

“[I]t would be a lot easier to not get up here and talk about political things. But we are the church, and we must stand for truth. And when the truth of God is being defied, we must call it out.” Patrick did not mince words: “[M]y job here as a pastor is to tell you what is true, right, and good from the word of God. We must be anchored, and

our anchors must be set. They must be in the ground, and we must not be led astray. We must not be swept away by the currents of culture and society. We must be strong in the Lord here today.” With conviction, Patrick declared that “first and foremost” his duty is to submit to the Lord — not to man. My job, he emphasized, “is before God.”

Quoting Ezekiel 33:6 — “But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand” — Patrick challenged himself and his flock. “If I do not speak to the church that I, pastor on this, then I must ask myself the question: what do I fear?” He urged believers: “[T]oday, I am calling us to fear God. ... To call wickedness wicked. To pray that people would be saved,” even enemies.

“Yes,” he added, “pray for your enemies. Pray for them. Pray that they would be saved. Pray that they would know the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. Pray that those things happen.” And yet, Patrick concluded, “If they do not submit themselves to Jesus Christ, we must pray that they are defeated. If we will not protect the unborn, if we will not protect children, then what are we doing?”

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/the-beacons-are-lit-who-will-answer-colorado-christians-unite-to-fight-a-wicked-political-agenda>

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



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

An Eye Opening Study on Civilian Responses to Active Shooters

by John Petrolino, [BearingArms.com](#)

Active shooter events have been tracked by the FBI for over two decades. There are interesting results when those statistics are compared to other data. A new study states that civilian responses to these events are less adverse than police responses. The April 2025 study found that “armed citizens do not interfere with police, and in active shooter situations, they reduce deaths and injuries significantly more effectively than the police.”

Dr. John R. Lott, Jr. from the Crime Prevention Research Center and Dr. Carlisle E. Moody, Professor of Economics, Emeritus from College of William and Mary, aggregated the data. Their paper, “Do Armed Civilians Stop Active Shooters More Effectively Than Uniformed Police?” was released on April 3rd.

For a list of cases, Moody and Lott pulled from the “Active Shooter

Incidents in the United States in 2023.” The Federal Bureau of Investigation published the report. In order to compare those incidents with civilian responses, they pulled data from “the Heritage Foundation, Defensive Gun Use Tracker, Gun Violence Archive, the *American Rifleman*, the *Daily Signal*, and Reddit that met the FBI’s definition of an active shooting.”

The report notes that there’s a complete list of “cases where civilians have stopped active shooting attacks,” which can be accessed at Crime Prevention Research Center’s webpage.

Once all the data was compiled, some initial findings were observed.

“The first takeaway is, assuming our count is complete, that armed citizens have stopped more active shooter incidents than the police have, although the difference is not significantly different from zero,” Lott and Moody noted.

“Also, armed citizens do not appear to interfere with the police or blunder so badly as to get their weapon taken away by the shooter or kill the wrong person.”

Moreover, one of the more significant findings was that “according to police, armed citizens have stopped 57 active shooter events which otherwise were likely to have escalated into mass public shootings – where ‘many’ people risked being murdered.”

The rates at which citizens vs police affect the number of people killed during an active shooting event have a rather large chasm. The study noted that “armed citizens reduce [emphasis added] the number of people killed by 49 percent while the police increase [emphasis added] the number killed by 16 percent in comparison to the omitted class (shooters who are arrested later or stopped by unarmed citizens or stop of their own accord).”

Beyond casualty rates, instances of injury are also lower in the

civilian response category: “Armed citizens reduce the number of people wounded in active shooter incidents by 41 percent while the police have no significant effect.”

Of the hypotheses presented in the paper, one stands out. The authors assert that “Armed citizens are not trained like police officers as to the correct response to an active shooter event.” Therefore, the question presented is if “they could make the situation worse by inserting themselves into the event[?]” Lott and Moody state that their “analysis soundly rejects that idea.”

This study by Lott and Moody has uncovered several important developments. Holistically, they found that a civilian response is more effective than uniformed police officers when it comes to stopping mass shooting events. That being said, the pair is quick to point out that the “result isn’t a criticism of law enforcement, it simply reflects the tactical reali-

ties they face.” They cite the high visibility of uniformed officers making them more of a target.

The work being done by Dr. John R. Lott, Jr. from the Crime Prevention Research Center and Dr. Carlisle E. Moody is significant. Whether or not their findings will take a more mainstream foothold when it comes to the narrative remains to be seen. Having these statistics cited in future Congressional hearings and by other bodies that shape policy will be refreshing. Lott has shown again, “More Guns, Less Crime.”

The report, “Do Armed Civilians Stop Active Shooters More Effectively Than Uniformed Police?” can be read in its entirety (*Editor/GG: see https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5205768*)

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/john-petrolino/2025/04/16/study-on-civilian-response-to-active-shooters-eye-opening-n1228321>

Colorado Wins the Prize as Worst State for Gun Rights

by Dan Wos, [ammoland.com](#)

You thought New York and California were bad when it came to unconstitutional firearm legislation. Don’t get me wrong. They are bad but Colorado may be the worst. Several things related to gun regulations are happening in Colorado. This is what happens when liberals take over a perfectly good state.

First, let’s talk about SB25-003. This law specifically attacks “Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid-Fire Devices”

The enactment date for this new law is August 1, 2026. At which time, the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of semiautomatic rifles or shotguns with detachable magazines and gas-operated semiautomatic handguns with detachable magazines are prohibited. Certain firearms, such as those designed to accept .22 caliber rimfire ammunition and specific listed models, are exempted. So you can still engage a group of home invaders by shooting them with a .22LR in self-defense. The goal of the Colorado legislature would appear

to try and appease some semblance of the Second Amendment while making sure that the average citizen is rendered inefficiently armed and ultimately helpless. This law will effectively protect criminals and disarm Coloradans.

SB25-003 also requires the completion of:

- A hunter education course certified by the Division of Parks and Wildlife and, within 5 years before making the purchase, completed a basic firearms safety course,
- the completion of an extended firearms safety course within 5 years before making the purchase or
- the completion of an extended firearms safety course more than 5 years before making the purchase and completed a basic firearms safety course within 5 years before making the purchase.

The State of Colorado has even found a new way to create a registry of all those who have passed any of the required courses to be held by the Division of Parks and

Wildlife. This is not a traditional gun registry because they know that’s illegal at the federal level, but a registry of those who would likely own firearms, essentially achieving the same result. Like the State of New York, Colorado has found a clever way of creating their own in-house gun owner registry at the state level.

Under this new law, unlawful manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale or purchase of a specified semiautomatic firearm is a class 2 misdemeanor and a second or subsequent offense is a class 6 felony. The department of revenue shall revoke the state firearms dealer permit of a dealer who unlawfully manufactures, distributes, transfers, sells or purchases a specified semiautomatic firearm.

As if that wasn’t enough, three Democrats from Colorado, including Rep. Steven Woodrow, Rep. Elizabeth Velasco and Senator Nick Hinrichsen, have decided to create a bill to spread anti-gun propaganda and further their narrative. The bill is called HB1225, “The Freedom From Intimidation in Elections Act.”

The bill makes it unlawful for an individual to:

1. Intimidate, threaten, or coerce (or even attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce) anyone in connection with voting or attempting to vote, urging or aiding another person to vote, exercising duties related to election administration, such as vote counting, canvassing, and certification, and the individual’s role or status as a participant in the administration of elections (both past and present).
2. The bill specifies that an individual who carries a visible firearm, imitation firearm, or even a toy firearm while interacting with or observing any of the specified election-related activities is presumed, in the absence of any affirmative showing to the contrary, to have engaged in intimidation prohibited by the bill.

This bill is very vague and leaves many openings for a judge to find an open carrier in violation. In short, this bill is nothing more than a way of making the public believe that gun owners

are intimidating people when it comes to elections. The bill’s implication appears to be for the purpose of building a narrative that gun owners are using guns to threaten and coerce people to vote Republican. This, of course, is not true. It’s simply not happening, but by creating a law called “The Freedom From Intimidation in Elections Act,” the average person is led to believe that this is an actual issue. Otherwise, “why would legislation be needed?” The truth is, it’s not needed but appears to be very much wanted by Democrats to bolster their anti-gun narrative and garner support for more unconstitutional gun laws while simultaneously demonizing their political opposition.

Democrats not only create laws to restrict their political opposition from keeping and bearing firearms but often create bills and laws to further a false narrative and tarnish gun ownership. This appears to be one of those bills.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/04/colorado-wins-the-prize-as-worst-state-for-gun-rights/>



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COVETED SHORT-BARREL COLT PYTHON REVOLVER IS OUT THERE

By Jim Grant,
ammoland.com

Often dubbed the “finest production revolver ever made,” the Colt Python built a cult following among wheel gun enthusiasts.

In 2020, Colt relaunched its famous Python revolver with two-barrel length options—a 4.25-inch and a 6-inch. And after more than a twenty-year production hiatus, this announcement was music to shooters’ ears. However, collectors still longed for the 3-inch model. Well, this is just a polite reminder – a production 3-inch Python is available!

Colt Python 3-Inch Barrel Revolver

Like all Colt Pythons, the 3-inch barreled version is chambered for the powerful .357 Magnum and features a 6-round cylinder. Cosmetically, these models



Colt brings back the 3-inch barreled Python revolver.

look like the original revolvers. Its semi-bright stainless steel finished barrel and frame contrast with stunning walnut grips. The grip’s shape, deep checkering, and inlaid golden Colt logo are reminiscent of the classic. Its ribbed top strap and full-length underlug are unchanged from the original.

Pythons are double- and single-action guns with a spurred

hammer. The silky-smooth trigger pull on a Colt Python is second to none and is part of why these premium revolvers have such outstanding accuracy. Adding to its performance, the Colt Python includes more steel in the frame, so feeding the Python a steady diet of hot Magnum loads is no problem!

A match-grade adjustable rear sight (windage and elevation) and

interchangeable red-ramp front sight allow zeroing the revolver with any load from full-house .357 Magnums to .38 special target loads.

Colt Pythons are always fun to shoot, but a peppy load in the 3-inch model promises to bring an even bigger smile to everyone’s face. The compact 3-inch model’s classic looks and modern enhancements ensure a lifetime of shooting pleasure. So, whether it’s for personal defense, enjoyment at the range, or filling a gap in a firearms collection, the Colt Python 3-inches is worth a closer look.

Colt Python 3-Inch Features:

- Stainless Steel Frame
- Walnut Grips
- Adjustable Rear Sight (windage and elevation)
- Interchangeable Red-Ramp front sight
- Double and Single Action Trigger

- Powerful .357 Mag cartridge
- 6-round capacity

Colt Python 3-Inch Specifications:

Caliber: 357 Mag
Capacity: 6 round
Barrel: 3-inch
Overall Length: 8.5-inches
Overall Height: 5.5-inches
Overall Width: 1.55-inches
Barrel Technical: 1:14 LH, 6 Groove
Frame: Stainless Steel
Finish: Semi-bright
Grip: Walnut
Sights: Rear, adjustable (windage and elevation); Front, red ramped
Trigger Action: Double Action/Single Action
Trigger Pull Double Action: 7.0 – 9.5 pounds max
Weight: 40 oz.
MSRP: \$1,499

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/04/the-coveted-short-barrel-colt-python-is-back/>

by Ammoland Editors & Staff,
ammoland.com

DENVER, CO — The Colorado State Legislature is drowning in a flood of radical anti-gun bills, and gun owners across the state are fighting to keep their rights above water.

From sweeping bans on semi-automatic firearms to backdoor gun registries and bureaucratic power grabs, lawmakers in Denver are unleashing a full-frontal assault on the Second Amendment. The Firearms Coalition of Colorado is urging citizens to act fast, testify, and contact their elected officials before more rights are stripped away.

The Big One: SB25-003 – A Ban on Semi-Autos Disguised as “Public Safety”

Signed into law by Governor Jared Polis, SB25-003 bans the sale, manufacture, and transfer of nearly all modern semi-automatic rifles and gas-operated handguns. Despite claims that the bill targets only a small percentage of firearms, legal experts say it effectively bans **virtually every semi-automatic handgun** sold in America.

To make matters worse, a last-minute “Pay to Play” amendment has turned the bill into a de facto gun registration scheme. Critics argue the bill was passed under false pretenses and that sponsors either didn’t understand their own legislation—or misled the public on purpose.

Lawsuits from the Colorado State Shooting Association, the NRA, and other pro-gun groups are already in motion.

What Else is on the Chopping Block?

Here’s a breakdown of the other anti-gun measures advancing through the Legislature:

- **SB25-034** – A “voluntary” Red Flag bill that lets individuals give up their own gun rights, possibly permanently. Critics warn it could be used to coerce people into disarmament under pressure from law enforcement.
- **SB25-059** – Signed into law, this bill uses taxpayer money to patch up financial holes created by anti-gun legislation—especially the

revenue loss from the 6.5% “sin tax” on guns and ammo.

- **SB25-158** – This bill would impose red tape on firearm dealers who sell to law enforcement. It originally included a plan to force the **destruction** of surplus firearms. That part was temporarily stripped, but bill sponsors promised to bring it back next year.
- **SB25-205** – Requires FFLs to run serial number checks through law enforcement on any gun they suspect might be stolen. A fee will be charged, and dealers could lose their license if they fail to comply.
- **HB25-1133** – Awaits the Governor’s decision. It would raise the ammo purchase age to 21, require face-to-face ammo transactions, and force vendors to lock up all ammunition—even at gun shows. Small businesses say it could crush them.
- **HB25-1238** – Effectively bans private individuals from selling firearms at gun shows and imposes surveillance mandates on promoters. This

bill could kill the state’s gun show circuit. Headed to Governor Polis’s desk.

- **HB25-1225** – Expands the ban on open carry to nearly **any** election-related activity statewide. Opponents say the vague language makes it dangerous to carry even near your own home during election season.
- **HB25-1314** – Grants “peace officer” status to Department of Revenue gun enforcement agents, creating a **state-level gun control police force** and bypassing elected sheriffs. It’s already passed committee.

Two Bills Gun Owners Support

Not everything coming out of the Legislature is bad:

- **HB25-1062** – Would make all firearm thefts a felony, regardless of the gun’s value. It passed the House and now heads to the Senate.
- **HB25-1171** – Targets repeat auto thieves by restricting gun ownership for those convicted of vehicle theft three times. It passed committee with bipartisan support.

The Fight Ahead

With many bills up for debate, the Firearms Coalition of Colorado is urging citizens to **call their legislators, submit testimony, and donate** to support legal challenges. Hearings are often packed, schedules change quickly, and Capitol security is tight. Dress respectfully, follow the rules, and show up early.

This isn’t just about Colorado—what happens here could set a dangerous precedent for other states.

How to Take Action

- **Find Your Legislators:** leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator
- **Submit Testimony or Watch Hearings:** www2.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2023A/commsumm.nsf/signIn.xsp
- **Contact the Governor:** (303) 866-2885 | 200 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203

Stay alert. Stay active. And most of all—**stay free.**

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/04/anti-2a-bill-avalanche-hits-colorado-capitol-gun-owners-sound-the-alarm/>

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SCHOOL BOARD
from page 1

together, splitting duties as they see fit. The Coopers are retired Superintendent and assistant Superintendent, respectively. This passed unanimously.

Finally, the position of athletic director, also held by Aundrea McCormick, needed to be assigned temporarily to someone. Joy Parrish, who had held the position before, did accept the nomination. The Board approved Ms. Parrish to serve as acting athletic director.

Without accepting questions from the public, the Board adjourned. As it should be. It's a meeting in the public, not of the public.

The Background

At the March School Board meeting, there was an effort to move new hires, non-renews, and renewals as well as moving school employees to the proper categories of staff or faculty lists. (The Superintendent created the agenda in the Board President's absence. The names listed under the categories were incorrect or misplaced, and some were included that should not have been.) So the meeting started with many adjustments to the agenda.

Clarifying Procedures on Hiring

The Board asked Superintendent Thom Peck very specifically about proper procedures on non-renewals, renewals, and new hires. The Board appeared intentional in their questions to ensure that any non-renewals had been given all their options including the opportunity to resign, that all hires had complete background checks and certifications, all renewals had had the required observation and evaluations completed, and that if there were teachers not certified, that they at least meet the state statute requirements under the rural hardship guidelines. Superintendent Peck stated over and over that everything was in order. He had one teacher changing positions and one teacher completing certifications over the summer as well as a few on the non-renewal list. He said there were few final classroom observations/evaluations to complete. *(That turned out to be 60% more evaluations to complete by the time the next meeting in April was held. And there were many teachers who had not had any classroom observation at all, formal or informal.)*

Based on the information presented by the Superintendent and affirmations to their many questions, the Board proceeded to approve renewals, non-renewals, and new hires.

Bullying is Still a Big Problem

Also at the March meeting, the

Board became aware via a letter read by a member of the public, (Peggi Collins with the permission of the parent and student) said that some serious ongoing bullying was taking place and not being addressed to the satisfaction of the victim or the victim's parent(s). According to the letter, the student had even attempted suicide over the issues and the parents were having to come up with a relocation plan for the child.

Mr. Peck did not directly answer the question when asked. Instead he mentioned a student survey he had done before Christmas break that did not indicate a student perception of a bullying problem, programs that are already in place to address the issue, and singing the praise of our "good kids". Nothing got solved here and the Board seemed taken aback (aghast, really) that Peck and the Principals had not brought any bullying issues to the attention of the Board nor included it in their reports to the Board over the last several months. Steps were put in place for Mr. Peck to address the issue and report back to the Board and then to ensure the Board was kept informed of future issues. *(Note that the steps are more likely than not, in his job description, part of state statutes and school policies--part of his job in the first place.)*

First April Meeting

The new meeting agenda item, "Board of Education and Superintendent Accountability"

At the April School Board meeting, it became clear that Superintendent Peck had possibly not been truthful or accurate in his statements concerning the hire, renewal or non-renewal process.

First, during a new meeting agenda item which Peck approved of, via a mediation session, teachers, faculty, parents and the public can submit for reading or present to the Board items concerning "Board of Education and Superintendent Accountability".

Under this new category, a teacher spoke concerning new teachers not getting the guidance they need, that FAC reports and surveys are being ignored or at least not utilized, and that "it's unfair to evaluate the teacher and not even have the courage to speak with them before handing them a non-renewal letter."

Megan Agnew complained about the new accountability section added and said it seemed to be a personal attack on Thom Peck. The Board President reminded the public that Superintendent Peck had agreed to this form of discussion via a mediation session and that he had requested all communications with him

regarding his performance be done in a public meeting for transparency. The Board President confirmed that this is the path Peck and the community had demanded.

One teacher said that Mr. Peck had not been in her classroom to observe even once during the school year.

Michelle Tillotson said that the Administration had not done observations or worked on a plan to help one of the teachers. Specifically lacking, she noted, is the past effort to work with new teachers on an "improvement plan, clearly identifying areas of concern, stating specific goals, and stepping out an action plan." She also asked the pointed question, "On a related topic, how much of our teachers' failures are related to our district administration's consistent inability to implement our behavior policy?"

Lea Grundy said two students will not be able to attend prom because of ineligibility. She wondered if the policy could be revisited, because this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The Board hit the highlights of letters and emails they had received for both the Correspondence and Accountability sections.

"We do have an evaluation and survey that was done about the evaluations that contradict what we were told and advised in the last Board meeting. One teacher's letter says..."

"I'm writing this letter in regards to several concerns about teachers and our current practices of evaluations. I'm deeply concerned with our current management process. There's no support in place for struggling teachers. There's no one guiding them or coaching them through the challenges of being in the classroom. I was at the Board meeting. Mr. Peck assured the Board that teachers were given every opportunity to resign. This was a flat out lie. That opportunity was not given. It is truly disheartening to me that Mr. Peck could lie that easily in front of everyone, as well as lying about evaluations and feedback to teachers. I can't speak for everyone, but to my knowledge there's not been an informal observation in any high school classroom and formal observations didn't begin until December."

Another teacher said that she was given short notice of non-renewal and that contrary to what Peck said at the last meeting, he did not advise her on her options to resign from her position.

Just an example of the Board's frustration in having made decisions based on false or inaccurate information from Peck:

Peck, instead of taking re-

sponsibility for evaluations and classroom observations, pointed out that the "RANDA" system had issues and that he and Principal Aundrea McCormick had to go through training modules to learn how to use it and that the school was flagged last year on these issues (timely evals)) and that some of the faculty hadn't been evaluated in six years so he thought they were actually ahead of the game this year. *(Technology being the excuse/hurdle for not completing the required duties.)*

The Board's frustrated reaction to this;

"Let me just listen to people making statements that you lied to us in a meeting and now you're justifying it by something about 'RANDA'. All we did was ask you a question, which was 'did you have evals done' and you said yes. And we made our decision based off what you told us. And we cannot make decisions based off not factual information. It has to be--We have to know what's going on." *(Highlight ours.)*

"So from my perspective, in your interaction with the Board, like the number one thing we need from you is accurate and useful information. And any information that we make decisions on, that we have to vote on, and we specifically ask you for, ask a question... If you give us the wrong answer that's not factual in any way, shape or form, you're misleading and undermining the Board."

Executive Session

The Board also had to go into an executive session on personnel issues which, based on decisions made afterward, pertained to teacher grievances relating to Mr. Peck's decisions and/or interactions with those teachers.

Post-executive session, the Board voted to rescind a non-renewal vote, and asked Mr. Peck to provide that teacher with all his/her options, and then bring his recommendations back to the Board on that teacher, so that they can properly proceed. The other executive session item was also a grievance. The public was able to surmise via the Board's request of Mr. Peck, that he provide that teacher with all options available within the district and that he apply his "mantra" of "the school is a family" since there was an accusation that he was very unprofessional when dealing with that teacher. Again, he is asked to come back to the Board with written documentation and recommendation for the Board before they vote on renewal or non-renewal of that teacher's contract.

Two Meetings Better than One?

There have been several school Board meetings this year that

lasted four or five hours. This is more than most parents, teachers, and even school Board members can handle on top of a full workday. The Board proposed and passed a decision to split these meetings up and have two meetings the first and second Tuesday of the month.

More Approvals Made based on the Superintendent's Recommendation

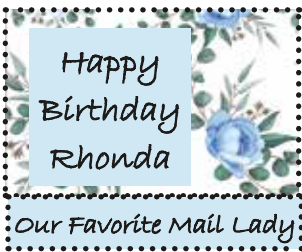
With Mr. Peck's assurance that procedures were followed and completed for recommended new hires and renewals, the Board voted on a list of hires and a list of renewals. One can speculate from the calling of a Special Board Meeting within a week, to consider placing Superintendent Peck and Principal McCormick on paid administrative leave, that some of those new hires did not, in fact, meet the state standards for employment by the district, putting the staff, students, and School District at risk.

(Reporters NOTE/OPINION: There is one social media commentator and one local "reporter" who cry foul, every time the School Board calls a special meeting. This meeting and the last one were posted within the required time. And no Sunshine laws were broken.

Also for the record, the reason that the agendas in both cases had actions listed is so that those actions, if needed, can be taken and legally voted on. Agenda items do not express intent.

Clearly the job of an administrator is to handle the administrative duties. Though admirable, it is not to give pep talks about how wonderful our kids are, or to drum up great ideas for an already highly involved community to be more involved, or for an already highly sports-conscious school to have more kids in sports. Great ideas do not make a great administrator. It's just icing on the cake. First things first. The school Board has been working on not only their own accountability and School District accountability through policies that align with State statute and community mindset, but that of their one employee, the Superintendent.

For the first time in years, we have a school Board that goes beyond the good intentions of serving, and is capable of taking on the complicated challenges in our district. **Let them do their job.)**



1 in 31 Kids Had Autism in 2022

Up From 1 in 36 in 2020

By Brenda Baletti, Ph.D
The Children's Health Defense

An estimated 1 in 31 (3.22%) 8-year-old children had an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis in 2022 — up from 1 in 36 (2.8%) in 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in its latest study.

Overall, the prevalence of autism in U.S. children rose approximately 17% between 2020 and 2022, continuing a decades-long trend.

The condition was 3.4 times more prevalent among boys than girls — 1 in 20 for boys overall and as high as 1 in 12.5 in California. ASD rates were lower among White children than among Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic and multiracial children, continuing a pattern that first emerged in 2020.

“The 1 in 31 number is a testament to the failure of the medical system as we know it,” said Mary Holland, CEO of Children’s Health Defense.

Holland added:

“The level of autism among 8-year-olds has been steadily increasing for decades without unbiased, real research into the likely causes. Tens of thousands of parents have come forward in recent decades to say they believe vaccines triggered their children’s autism. Yet mainstream science, media and government regulators have rejected the idea of even examining this observation seriously.”

However, Holland praised efforts by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to study the problem.

“The only good news here is that we finally have a president and HHS secretary truly committed to looking at all the potential causes and stopping this downward

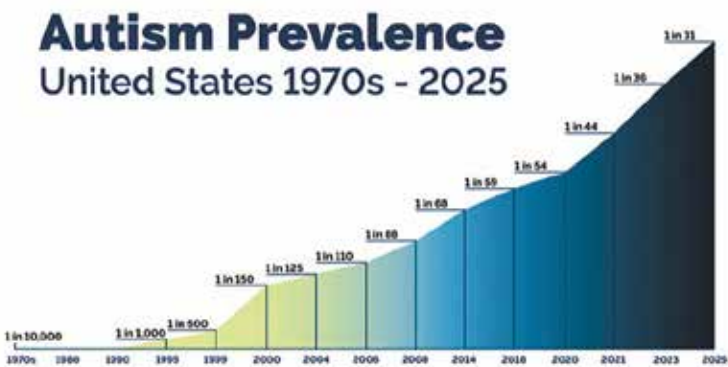
trajectory that is putting our nation at risk,” Holland said.

Kennedy announced in a Cabinet meeting last week that the government has launched a “massive testing and research effort” to determine what causes autism. He said the effort involves hundreds of scientists globally and will be completed by September. Once the environmental causes of autism are identified, “We’ll be able to eliminate those exposures,” Kennedy said.

data come from 16 sites across the country.

Since the CDC started collecting the data, prevalence estimates have skyrocketed from 1 in 150 in 2000 to today’s estimate of 1 in 31 children.

The trend has persisted for decades. Autism prevalence in the 1990s, which was 1 in 1,000 children, already represented a tenfold increase over the condition’s estimated prevalence in the 1970s.



Commenting today on the CDC report, Kennedy said: “The autism epidemic has now reached a scale unprecedented in human history because it affects the young. The risks and costs of this crisis are a thousand times more threatening to our country than COVID-19. Autism is preventable and it is unforgivable that we have not yet identified the underlying causes. We should have had these answers 20 years ago.”

‘This is beyond an epidemic’

The CDC study is based on data from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network, which has used health and education data since 2000 to track autism rates among 8- and 4-year-olds at multiple sites across the country.

The CDC releases a report on the data every two years. The 2022

Toby Rogers, Ph.D., a fellow at the Brownstone Institute for Social and Economic Research and co-author of “Autism Tsunami: The Impact of Rising Prevalence on the Societal Cost of Autism in the United States,” said the new numbers were “stunning.”

Rogers said:

“How long is the U.S. public health establishment going to keep pretending there isn’t a problem? An ASD rate of 3.2% nationwide among children aged 8 years in 2022, 4.9% for boys, 5.3% in California, 4.7% in Pennsylvania and autism rates a full percentage point higher in Asian and Black communities than in White communities — this is beyond an epidemic.”

The CDC study also evaluated 4-year-old children, who typically have lower autism rates because many of them have not yet been diagnosed, and found

rates among that age group also increased. Four-year-olds born in 2018 had ASD at rates 1.7 times higher than those born in 2014, suggesting that future rates will likely be even higher.

In five of the CDC’s 16 study areas, autism rates are already higher among 4-year-olds than 8-year-olds.

Data don’t support ‘better diagnosis’ theory on rising autism rates

The CDC and mainstream media suggest that increasing rates of autism are a result of improved diagnosis, which has led to the inclusion of many more high-functioning people with autism in the data collection.

However, the data in the latest CDC report contradict that theory.

The latest data show that nearly two-thirds of children diagnosed in 2022 with autism have an intellectual disability or borderline intellectual functioning, meaning they have an IQ of 85 or lower. Those numbers have also increased since the last report.

“These children face lifelong challenges with learning, communication, and independence,” said Rebecca Estep, longtime autism advocate and mother of an adult son with autism. “Many will need specialized care, educational supports, and social services for decades — services that are already stretched thin in many communities.”

Research shows the costs of those services are rising exponentially and impacting the entire society.

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Autism industry ‘too big to fail?’

Over the past several decades, as autism rates skyrocketed among U.S. children and concern has risen among parents, researchers have looked to the role environmental risk factors might play in compounding underlying genetic factors that may make some children more susceptible to autism.

Environmental risk factors include metals like aluminum and mercury in vaccines, glyphosate exposure, use of acetaminophen during pregnancy and infancy, heavy metals in baby food and other organic pollutants.

Studies also link industrial chemicals, including lead, arsenic, copper, selenium, iron and magnesium, to the disorder.

Despite growing evidence that environmental factors play a role in the development of ASD, the CDC report did not mention environmental exposures as a potential cause.

“Words that do not appear anywhere in the report: toxic, vaccine, environment,” Rogers said. “We need better researchers who aren’t afraid to challenge corporate power.”

“Autism is an industry in the U.S. that has become ‘too big to fail,’” Rogers said. “Causing and treating autism generates hundreds of billions of dollars in profits every year for Big Pharma and various professions, from doctors and hospitals to ABA [applied behavioral analysis] providers and university researchers. With a few notable exceptions, the autism industry does not want the autism epidemic to end, ever.”

Please see: <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/autism-prevalence-rise-1-in-31-cdc-study/>

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What is a Miserable Offender?

by A Miserable Offender

Last Sunday, all over the world, everyone shouted the same thing: “He is risen, He is risen indeed, Hallelujah”! Christ is alive. The remembrance of it still makes us tremble.

I wish Jesus Christ’s victory over sin and death had immediately created a New World Order of perfection, but God’s wisdom is greater than ours.

The resurrection did change the world. Obviously, Jesus turned everything upside down.

Two Jewish followers of Jesus met him on the road to Emmaus late the day Jesus rose from the grave. They were perplexed by what had happened. Clearly, Christ’s resurrection changed everything, yet Rome still ruled, and people still sinned.

They did not recognize him. Their Lord opened their hearts to the Old Testament. All had been foretold and fulfilled.

The travelers, Cleopas and Simon, asked Jesus to stay with them for dinner.

Christ, exercising rabbinic authority, took their simple meal, blessed it, and thanked God. Suddenly the travelers recognized their Savior. This was the first Holy Communion, or Eucharist, the Greek word for Thanksgiving.

Simon and Cleopas were among the first Miserable Offenders.

The term Miserable Offender comes from the *Geneal Confession* in the “*English Book of Common Prayer*”. Those who say morning and evening prayer each day must admit to being Miserable Offenders twice! Terrible!

This book was compiled mostly by Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer, a Protestant theologian in England under King Edward the VI. Through the reign of Bloody Mary and the English Civil War, it underwent many iterations, but by 1662, it achieved pretty much its permanent state. It made the daily practice of prayer available to all Christians, not just the professionally religious folks who worshiped in Latin. Cranmer used prayers from the very first century of Christianity. Today this book is found in almost all countries and is published in 150 languages. Its famous prayers have been adapted by most other protestant denominations and by Hollywood, which always knows how to do a proper miserable funeral.

The expression Miserable Offender is explained so beautifully by be-

loved Anglican author and scholar C. S. Lewis in one of his earliest books, “*God in the Dock*”. Lewis himself was a new Christian at that time. He noted that today’s Christians are somewhat offended by the wording in the *General Confession*. He explained that miserable was more a term of pity than judgment. We may not feel miserable, but looking down from heaven, and living in our hearts, God sees who we are, how we WANT to follow Christ completely, but we still fail!

Lewis continues: One of the advantages of having an ancient worship service is that when a certain phrase sticks out, it is a kind of a wakeup call.

He continued: The modern solution would be to take out the offending phrase. We think we are so much smarter these days!

We would be throwing out almost 2000 years of agreement by people who soaked themselves in the Bible and prayer. In the time this prayer was written, it was normal for dedicated Christians to recite all 150 Psalms every week!

In the *General Confession*, from which the term Miserable Offender appears, in fewer than 100 words there are sixteen quotes from the Holy Bible.

I gladly own the title Miserable Offender. It gives me proper perspective to who I am, in relation to Christ. I still sin every day.

But every sunrise, I am grateful for another day to ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to sin less, to follow Jesus more.

Are you a Miserable Offender, too?