

# Eight New Members from Custer County Schools Inducted to the National Honor Society



Custer County Schools honored eight new members inducted into the National Honor Society a few weeks ago. Pictured top row, L to R: Kenna Ingram, Isabella Ferron, Jason Hemsath, Sponsor Ms. Vania Nameth, Alyssa Gaide, Lily Bomgardner, Hayden Hampton, and Logan Nameth. Bottom row, L to R (new inductees): Mary Weber, Shelby Langford, Reagan Shank, Creed Ingram, Wesley Bennett, Taylor Bradford, Layna Jones, and Makenzee Creasy. Acceptance is based on Scholarship (GPA), Service, Leadership and Character. Photo courtesy of Custer County Schools

## Triple Murder Motions Hearings, Evidence Challenges, Venue Change Motion

by George Gramlich

There were two recent hearings regarding the alleged triple murder off Oak Creek Grade in November of 2023. One concerned the alleged perpetrator of the murders, Hanme Clark, and the other one was about his associate, Nancy Median-Kochis, who was charged with multiple counts of accessory to a crime. Clark is being held in the Pueblo County Jail while Kochis is out on bail.

Both of the hearings regarded motions by the respective defendants' Defense teams regarding various issues. Clark's hearing was mostly about the defense motion to suppress some possible evidence gathered in a search on the defendant's property. The scenario was this: The Custer County Sheriff's Office, the day after the alleged murder, obtained a search warrant to search the defendant's property which included a residence and a "small house". The search was led by (ex) Deputy Jason

Salbato. It was completed with daylight left. Various items were seized. The next day it appears that Deputy Salbato wanted to continue the search in case they missed something.

The Defense alleges that Salbato asked the Undersheriff, Susan Barnes, if it was ok to search again or should they get another search warrant. The Defense then alleged that Barnes responded that they could search again under the initial search warrant.(This testimony might be disputed.) The two Deputies again searched the property primarily to look for one of the victim's cell phone. (Editor/GG: If I remember right, there might not have been anything found and seized during the second search.)

At the hearing, the Defense argued that the search warrant expired after the first day as there was

MOTIONS HEARINGS

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## Salida Gun Shop: Community, Education, Awareness Family Day on May 17th

by George Gramlich

Salida Gun Shop on Highway 50 in Salida is not only a gun store, it is a community center. To promote this line on their website (salidagunshop.com) they state: "Salida Gun Shop is Colorado's go-to facility with a goal to foster a strong, safe community through awareness and education." When you see all the activities and efforts they hold and sponsor in the community it becomes readily apparent that they follow through on their commitments.

As you can see in our centerfold this week, Salida Gun Shop has an incredible inventory of new and used guns, gun accessories, reloading supplies, hunting items, ammunition and a ton more of gun related inventory. Their handgun, rifle and shotgun inventory is amazing with item prices ranging from budget friendly to very high end. They also stock a ton of silencers and have an online application system that is quick and easy to use.

Their staff is extremely knowledgeable and very friendly and helpful. From first time buyers to the experienced pistoleros, they can accommodate all levels of experience.

One of the great things about the shop is that they have an on-premises, two lane gun range! You may bring your own or try a variety of rental firearms. The range is available to rent by the hour for a nominal fee.

The amount of education they provide to the public is impressive. They have Firearm Safety Videos online. They also hold a whole bunch of in-person courses including: Non-Firearm Safety Classes, Firearm Courses for different levels of shooters including Concealed Carry Courses, a variety of combat firearms classes, New Shooter Fridays , Ladies Range Night, Steel Challenge, and a once a month After Action Coffee for Veterans.

SALIDA GUN SHOP

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But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.  
2 Peter 3:8 ESV



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of Conservative  
Colorado!



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

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

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

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

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Closed Mon, Thurs & Weekends

Subscription Rates:

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\$59 yearly elsewhere  
\$29 yearly for Digital Edition

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# From Critics to Champions: How Ballot Transparency Tool Won Over Idaho Voters and Inspired Mesa County

by Jen Schumann,  
The Rocky Mountain Voice

When Ada County launched a ballot audit tool built by a small independent company, no one knew what to expect. But what followed surprised even the clerk who helped shape it.

Election skeptics became supporters, recount demands dropped and

voters started tracking their own ballots—sometimes using nothing more than a \$2 bill.

What began as a simple idea sketched on napkins between an Idaho election official and a civic-minded data entrepreneur would grow into a public-facing ballot verification platform now used by counties in multiple states, including Mesa County, Colorado.

## Why Ada needed something new

For Ada County Clerk Trent Tripple, the years after 2020 were less about defending election results—and more about finding a better way to show them.

His office could keep responding—or it could build something that would let voters do the checking on their own.

“Post-2020, we were getting inundated with public records requests. People wanted the ballot images so they could verify independently... we were spending a lot of time responding to those.”

Tripple added, “It just got us thinking. Are we operating in a way

ELECTION TOOL Part 2  
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## MOTIONS HEARINGS from page 1

no indication that the SO needed to search anymore and that there was still daylight to continue the search if they thought they weren’t finished.

The District Attorney, Jeff Lindsay, stated that the search the next day was simply a continuation of the initial search.

11th Judicial District Judge Lauren Swan then reviewed the research she had done on this issue. She noted several, mostly federal, case decisions that seemed to favor the Defense.

Judge Swan analyzed each decision and referenced them to the facts in the current case. She eventually ruled that the search warrant expired after the first day and that the second day search was illegal. Thus, any items seized during the second search were inadmissible in the case. Nobody had a list of items

seized on the second search so it is unknown if this will affect the case in any meaningful way. (The DA will present a list of the items seized at the next hearing. However, it is very possible that nothing was found and seized during the second search so this whole Motion could have been a waste of time.)

The other issue discussed concerned the identification process that was used by Deputy Salbato the day of the murder to try to identify the perpetrator. This was between Deputy Salbato and one of the survivors of the attack. The Defense was concerned about the existence of a state mandated identification policy that all LEO entities in the state must have and whether the SO had that at the time of the alleged crimes. The defense argued that the way Deputy Salbato attempted to obtain the survivor identify of the alleged perpetrator was not proper and didn’t follow standard policy. (Deputy Salbato showed the driver’s license photo of the alleged perpetrator to the survivor who indicated that he was

the perp.) The DA countered that at the time, it was indeed proper as there was a dangerous person on the run and time was of the essence. This went on and on. It appeared that the Judge ruled that this issue was to be argued during the actual trial.

The Defense also asked for an extension of time before the next Motions Hearing as they just received the DNA results from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and they wanted their own DNA specialist to examine them. They estimated it would take four to six weeks. As the trial date was set for June, this would push the trial date past the six-month fair trial deadline. Because of this, the Judge asked if the Defense was ok with that. Clark was asked and he said it was fine. The Judge noted that she had multiple important trials all summer and the earliest she could hear the two-week trial would be the time frame of September 22 through October 3, 2025. All parties agreed to this.

The final issue mentioned was the Defense’s motion to change the venue of the trial due to local negative news coverage. (Editor/ GG: We don’t think it was the Sentinel but we will see.) Judge Swan said she would rule on that in the next hearing which is scheduled for June 16th at 1:30 p.m. There is also one final Motions Hearing scheduled for June 23rd. Judge Swan allocated a whole day for this. (Note: Since the trial has been pushed out to September, we are likely to see more hearings.)

The prior Kochis Motions Hearing lasted quite a while. There were some heated moments especially when DA Lindsay objected to the Defense attempting to enter into evidence a certain item. There was also a disturbance from one of Kochis’ supporters in the gallery with that man speaking out during the trial and abruptly leaving. The hearing will continue at the next court date. This will mostly concern the Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss.

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# Obit: Ronnie, are you there?

Esther Beluca Chavez Barrio left us April 22, 2025, to be with our Heavenly Father. Born in El Rosier Farm, Alquizar, Cuba in 1933, she was one of seven children, the youngest of four girls. She was placed in the Cuban military school as a young child under Batista's rule and it didn't take long before she was made captain of her class.

She had but one memory of her father, which was of him coming home from work with a loaf of bread in hand. He passed away when she was six. Her mother, Clara, raised the seven children with the help of family and friends. In the early 1950's with papers in hand, she and several siblings boarded Cuban Airlines (Pan Am) and went to the Bronx in New York looking for a better future. She worked with her sisters at the Sheraton and Plaza Hotels in New York City where in the day, were filled with Hollywood movie stars. Her most famous clients were Lucille Ball and Mary Kay, to name a few.

Life later took her to Union City, NJ, where she would meet Rodolfo Barrio. She once told her mother, "He is so skinny!" Her mother replied, "Don't worry, you'll fatten him up, besides he's got strong legs, good for carrying things up the stairs"....they lived on the upper floor of the apartment building. They married in April of 1959.

Esther was the matriarch of the Chavez family. Her attitude was always, ... oh yeah?, watch me... which was the case when she took the family car, that was a standard - stick shift and determined to learn to drive it - she did, except when she returned, the parking spot was taken -she was caught red handed



by Rudy when he returned home from work. In the mid 1960's, she decided she was done with the snow and headed south to Miami to raise their three children. Esther and her sister Lisa opened their own beauty salon, Lisa's Beauty Salon which they owned for many years. Later in life they moved to Orlando, then to High Springs, Florida, with their final stop in Westcliffe, Colorado, to live with their daughter and son-in-law, Barb and Ron Beckner. Westcliffe was filled with many gatherings at home and around the community, cooking her amazing Cuban recipes for friends and family. She was the queen of the kitchen in the family, and some of her family members were amazing cooks. She had the reputation for the Best Black Beans ever! Her other passion was with Walt Disney and all paraphernalia. She couldn't get enough of Disney.

As the family matriarch, her love for her family was unwavering. She was proud of her three children but even more so of her three grandchildren. Everyone

who got to know Esther, could say she gave them a word or two of advice, set them in the right path or taught them something new. That was her way.... always sharing her life experiences. Esther was spirited, had a zest for life and always loved being the center of attention.

Esther was preceded in death by her husband, Rodolfo Barrio with whom she was married 64 years, son Rudy Barrio, many of her siblings, and her parents. Survived by her sister Hildelisa Hernandez, daughter Barbara (Ron) Beckner, son Robert (Christy) Solano, grandchildren Jonny (Candy) Saldana, Chichi Barrio, Madison Solano and many many nieces and nephews.

Her spirited zest for life will be missed by many friends and family but our hearts are filled with her memories, and knowing she is home with our Father.

Services to be held at our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 109 South Fifth Street, Westcliffe, CO, on Saturday, May 17th at 11 a.m.



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## Obituary Barbara Jeanne Abel

Barbara Jeanne Abel, 78, of Penrose, Colorado, departed this life peacefully on May 3, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Barbara was born in Upper Darby, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, to Herman (Cy) Grenfall Conner and Ruth Anne Weidman. Barbara grew up in Springfield, Pennsylvania, where she met the love of her life, Charles Aloysius Abel Sr. They were married on September 25, 1965, and would spend 59 years together. Of those years, 50 years were spent in Chaffee County, at the base of magnificent Mt. Antero and the Collegiate Peaks Mountain Range.

Charles and Barbara raised two children together, Charles and Jessica.

Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, nana, sister, and aunt who loved her family unconditionally.

Barbara was a very talented lady who always loved to try a new craft. She made everything from stained glass windows to mohair teddy bears, goose feather Christmas trees, and most recently, old fashioned sheep's wool Santas. Barbara had an eye for creativity and could make those ideas come to life. She also

had a love for horses, especially draft horses. She enjoyed sitting atop a carriage with Charlie, while driving a team of Percheron's for a wedding or team of Haflinger's at the County Fair.

In the early years, Barbara was a homemaker while raising her children. Later in life, she worked outside the home in the banking and hospital industries. She held the offices of Vice President of 1st National Bank of Salida, President/CEO of Thatcher Bank, Vice President Operations Pueblo Bank & Trust, Vice President of Human Resources at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center, and Vice President of Human Resources at High County Bank.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Cy and Ruth Conner. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Charles, children Charles (Receene) Abel of Nathrop, CO, Jessica (Donald) Scott of Springfield, CO, sister Maureen Scanlon of Texas City, TX, grandchildren David (Brandy) Packard, Krista (Caleb) Guyton, Terrance (Meghan) Packard, and



bonus grandchildren Zach and Aly Bernhardt and Phillip Packard, numerous great grand-children, cousins, nieces, nephews and Gus, her beloved pup. She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by so many.

Barbara was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in honor of Barbara Abel to the General Marion Chapter, 472 N. 19th Street, Cañon City, CO 81212.

No services are set at this time.

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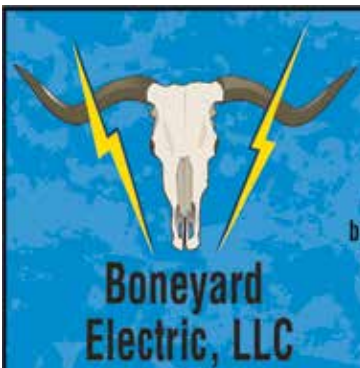
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## National Poppy Day® May 24, 2024

Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion Family brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Donation cans are located at businesses throughout the community. Pick a Poppy and make a donation.

Please join us for the Memorial Day Observance at Silver Cliff Park, Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.

The American Legion Post 170 Auxiliary thanks you.

## Outstanding Colorado High School Student



Custer County High School junior Alyssa Gaide was selected as an Outstanding Colorado High School Student by the University of Colorado. The award recognizes students who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, and community and school service. Students selected will receive a \$4,000 scholarship to the University of Colorado. Alyssa is planning on majoring in Molecular Biology and pursuing a career in Genetic Counseling. Congratulations Alyssa! *Courtesy photo*

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# Local Mountain News & Notices

## Hayseeds Instrument Library Presents “Dolly Jam”

### A Community Celebration of Music & Fun

Press Release

Get ready to strum, sing, and celebrate! The Hayseeds Instrument Library invites the community to “Dolly Jam,” a free, family-friendly music event on Saturday, May 18th at the West Custer County Library.

The festivities kick off at 2 p.m. with a Kids Jam, followed by the Adult Jam at 3 p.m. Attendees of all ages can enjoy a puppet show, mini-performance, prize drawings, and even learn to play a Dolly Parton song—no experience necessary!

This special event is designed to bring people together through music, promote creativity, and celebrate the spirit of community. Instruments will be available to borrow through the Hayseeds Instrument Library, so everyone can join in the fun.

Event Highlights:

- Kids Jam – 2:00 PM
- Adult Jam – 3:00 PM
- Puppet Show & Mini-Performance
- Prize Drawings
- Learn a Dolly Parton Song!
- Instruments available for use

Whether you’re a seasoned musician or picking up an instrument for the first time, “Dolly Jam” is a chance to connect, play, and sing in honor of Dolly Parton’s joyful legacy.

The Hayseeds Instrument Library is musical education and enrichment program sponsored by the High Mountain Hay Fever Festival (HMHF) and the West Custer County Library District (WCCLD). The program is designed to provide families in the Wet Mountain Valley with access to a wide range of instruments and music education resources.

Location:  
West Custer County Library  
209 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO

For more information, contact:  
Hayseeds Instrument Library  
Heidi Clare or Michael Hayes at (719) 315-1151

hayseedslibrary@gmail.com  
Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/highmountainhayfever/>

About the High Mountain Hay Fever Festival  
The High Mountain Hay Fever Festival (HMHF) is an annual bluegrass festival that brings musicians and music lovers together for a celebration of live music, workshops, and community engagement in the Wet Mountain Valley. HMHF is dedicated to promoting music education and preserving bluegrass traditions.

About the West Custer County Library District  
The West Custer County Library District (WCCLD) is a community-focused library system offering a variety of programs, resources, and services to the residents of West Custer County. The library is committed to fostering a love of learning and providing enriching experiences for all ages

## Hospital Board Election

JUDGES UNOFFICIAL ABSTRACT OF VOTES FOR  
WEST CUSTER COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

For the regular election held for West Custer County Hospital District on May 6, 2025.

Ballots counted for the following candidates (numeric only):

| CANDIDATES FOR 4-YEAR TERM | VOTES COUNTED |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| CLIFFORD DOUGLAS BROWN     | 158           |
| SHANNA MCKELLIP            | 580           |
| RON TERRY                  | 515           |
| CINDY L. ALVARADO          | 635           |
| JAMES H. GILBERT           | 446           |
| THOMAS AKERS SHEPHARD      | 532           |

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

*Deanna Newcomb*  
Election Judge  
*Nikita Phillips*  
Election Judge  
*Paulie Hoffmann*  
Election Judge

Six candidates ran for four positions open on the West Custer County Hospital District Board. The unofficial results (above) indicate the newly elected candidates who won are ; Shanna McKellip, Ron Terry, Cindy Alvarado and Tomas Akers Shephard. Of the 4,209 ballots mailed out, only 765 were returned.

## Letters to the Editor

### Freedom Loving

Mr. Gramlich,

I read with great satisfaction your piece on the great pushback on Independence Day in 2020. It made me smile and certainly hopeful for America. I am curious if the same politicians are in power or if the county has

voted in freedom loving representatives. I must confess that my motives are purely selfish as my wife and I are freedom loving Americans on the cusp of retirement and looking for a mountain home absent of liberal ideals. We are simply looking for a place

to retire that values the rights of Americans as opposed to the infliction of rule on Americans. Thank you again for your piece. It was a great read this morning.

Respectfully

Jason Gray



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|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5 | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| A  | M  | O  | S |   | D  | A  | C  | C  | A  |    | C  | U  | S  | S  |    |    |   |   |   |   |
| 14 | L  | A  | M | P |    | 15 | A  | G  | O  | R  | A  |    | 16 | I  | N  | C  | A |   |   |   |
| 17 | A  | G  | A | R |    | 18 | T  | U  | D  | O  | R  |    | 19 | A  | D  | A  | M |   |   |   |
| 20 | N  | I  | H | I | L  | 21 |    | 22 | A  | E  | S  | O  | P  | 23 |    | 24 | E | N | E |   |
|    | 25 | C  | A | N | O  | N  | 26 |    | 27 | S  | N  | E  | E  | R  |    |    |   |   |   |   |
|    |    |    |   |   | 29 | G  | O  | A  | D  | S  |    |    | 32 | A  | L  | P  | H | A |   |   |
| 35 | 36 | 37 |   |   |    | 38 | I  | O  | U  |    |    | 39 | E  | C  | L  | A  | I | R |   |   |
| 40 | A  | D  | M |   |    | 41 | P  | A  | L  | M  | A  | T  | E  |    |    | 43 | S | R | I |   |
| 44 | F  | L  | A | R | E  | D  |    |    |    | 46 | A  | S  | H  |    | 47 | A  | S | E | A |   |
| 48 | T  | E  | N | E | T  |    |    |    | 49 | C  | L  | I  | M  | B  |    |    |   |   |   |   |
|    |    | 51 | A | M | E  | N  | 52 | 53 | S  |    |    |    | 54 | C  | A  | R  | P | S |   |   |
| 57 | 58 | P  | A | T |    |    | 59 | R  | U  | M  | B  | A  |    | 62 | T  | A  | R | E | S |   |
| 64 | A  | C  | I | D |    |    | 66 | D  | A  | L  | E  | S  |    | 67 |    | 68 | H | I | V | E |
| 69 | S  | H  | O | O |    |    | 70 | G  | L  | A  | R  | E  |    |    | 71 | A  | D | E | N |   |
| 72 | S  | Y  | N | C |    |    | 73 | E  | L  | B  | O  | W  |    |    | 74 | M  | E | N | D |   |

**AGGRAVATED FELON**  
**ARRESTED**

**CRIMINAL HISTORY:**

- MURDER
- NEGLIGENCE HOMICIDE
- SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE
- TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
- CARRYING A PROHIBITED WEAPON

He also has a final order of removal—now he faces penalties related to removal under 8USC1253. This apprehension underscores the critical role checkpoints play in keeping our communities safe from violent criminals.



-Chaffee County Sheriff  
Andy Rohrich

# Border Patrol Arrest of the Week

## April 30: CBP Intercepts Liquid Methamphetamine in Dog Shampoo Bottles Heading to Australia from LAX

# Come and Worship

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

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

Now the Lord is the Spirit;  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.  
2 Corinthians 3:17





# Happy Birthday Tony Supan!

*The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.*

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| <div><b>Custer County School District C-1</b><br/>MENU for the week May 12 thru May 15, 2025</div>                    |                                                                |                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Breakfast                                                      | Lunch                                                                         |
| Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Cereal<br>Yogurt , Oatmeal<br>Fruit<br>Milk                    | Salisbury Steak<br>Mashed Potatoes w/gravy<br>Mixed Vegetables<br>Fruit, Milk |
| Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Donuts<br>Yogurt<br>Fruit, Milk                                | Mexi Chicken and Rice<br>Green Beans<br>Fruit, Milk                           |
| Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                | Scrambled eggs<br>Sausage<br>Fruit<br>Milk                     | Swedish Meatballs<br>Noodles<br>Peas and Carrots<br>Fruit, Milk               |
| Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Biscuits and Gravy<br>Sausage<br>Yogurt, Oatmeal<br>Fruit Milk | Chicken Fried Rice<br>Oriental Vegetables<br>Fruit<br>Milk                    |
| ELEMENTARY - MAIN DISH, GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT & MILK<br>MIDDLE & HIGH - MAIN DISH (OR SALAD BAR), GRAIN PRODUCT,<br>VEGETABLE, FRUIT & MILK This institution is an equal opportunity provider. |                                                                |                                                                               |

**Bobcats Scoreboard!**

Thursday, May 1:  
HS Track Celebrations from the Southern Peaks League Meet:  
15 teams in attendenc:  
Grant Rusk: 2nd in the high jump  
Levi Carichner: 3rd in the 400m, 4th in the 100m  
Miranda Benoit: 3rd in the 1600m and 6th in the 800m  
BOYS Finished 3rd OVERALL!  
Doc McCoy: 6th in discus  
Robert Bachman: 7th in triple jump, 8th in the 200m  
Ivy Carichner: 7th in triple  
Piper Cunningham: 8th in the 800m  
Brandon Richardson: 9th in triple, 10th in the 200m

Friday, May 2:  
HS Track Celebrations from Cañon City Blossom  
20 teams in attendance:  
Grant Rusk: 1st in high jump, 1st in long jump, 2nd in triple jump  
Mason Stover: 2nd in the 3200m, 4th in the 1600m  
Levi Carichner: 3rd in the 400m, 5th in the 200m, 6th in the 100m  
Miranda Benoit: 4th in the 1600m  
Boys placed 4th overall!  
Chris Mullett: 5th in shot, 8th in discus  
Reaghan Shank: 5th in the long jump  
Hayden Hampton: 5th in triple, 8th in the 100m  
We had 9 PR's!

**Booster Club Bobcat Corner**



**Come out and support your  
Custer County Bobcats!**

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday, May 9:  
1 pm HS Track: Friday Night Lights @ Pueblo West  
Saturday, May 10:  
tbd HS Track: Limon Last Chance @ Limon  
Thursday-Saturday, May 15-17:  
STATE TRACK MEET!

Come support the Bobcats Concession Stand at every Home game!

# KIDS

Friday, May 9, 2025

## Memorial Day

This may be a little early but this week we will be looking at the history of Memorial Day in the U.S. People all over are preparing for Memorial weekend activities, parades, barbecues, yard sales and all the fun things that people do to start the summer. but really how did this celebration weekend actually start?

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the U.S.A. It was originally known as Decoration Day. Mary Ann Williams has been credited with the “idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate” with flowers, ergo the name Decoration Day. It was first observed on May 30, 1868. Recognition of this holiday spread across the states until 1890, when every union state had adopted it. After the world wars it was turned into a Day of Remembrance for all military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress changed its observance to the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees, and in 1971 standardized its name as “Memorial Day”.

Memorial Day is observed with the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Flags, insignia and flowers are placed on the graves of veterans in local cemeteries. Some towns decorate their main streets with flags, and place flowers on graves of their local veterans and many wear the poppies which began after the publication of the poem, “In Flander’s Field”, by Lt. Colonel John McCrae, On Monday some cities and towns have a somber gathering remembering those who gave their lives so that others may be free. So, watch the parades, visit with family, put flowers on graves and wear your poppies.

**In Flander’s Field**  
By Lt. Col. John McCrae, 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields  
Take up our quarrel with the foe  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep,  
though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields

Lt. Col. John McCrae is buried in Wimereux, France, after succumbing to pneumonia in 1918.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day), <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Memorial-Day>, <https://www.usmemorialday.org/red-poppy>.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel · Westcliffe, Colorado

# CORNER

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

James 1:20-21 ESV



# Tony's Players of the Week

Layna Jones  
Track & Field MPV

Layna just added an event (800m) to her repertoire and did a really good job, never having any middle-distance experience before. It is always important to try new things because you never know what can happen. We are really proud of Layna for stepping out of what she thought was her comfort zone and finding success in something new.



Layna Jones. Photo by Joanna Jones

Southern Peaks  
League CHAMPIONS:

Congratulations to these two for being crowned LEAGUE CHAMPIONS!

- Grant -- Triple Jump AND Long Jump 1st Place
- Levi- 200m 1st Place



# Rusk Breaks School Record for Long Jump

Please join us in congratulating Grant Rusk! He has broken a 52-year-old school record for long jump, which was previously held by J. Peterson in 1973 with a jump of 20'10.75". Grant achieved an impressive jump of 21'0.5" on his final attempt at the League Meet in Del Norte! He faced a tremendous amount of pressure, and his hard work has truly paid off with this new record. We believe this will be the first of many sports records for Grant!



Grant Rusk. Photo by Lea Grundy

# Senior Spotlight TRACK & FIELD

**Christopher Mullett**  
This is his 3rd year competing in track as a thrower. He is on the verge of making it to state for the first time! He even coaches the middle school throwers.

**Lily Bomgardner**  
This is her 3rd year competing in track as a sprinter/jumper/middle distance runner. Last year she competed at state in the 4x400m relay and is

working hard to get there again this year.  
**Ivy Carichner**  
This is her 4th year competing in track as a sprinter and now jumper. She added an event for her senior year and is finding a lot of success, placing 3rd in our last meet in the triple jump. She is the queen of prompts.  
**Elizabeth Ergo**  
This is her first year here with us at Custer County

to finish out her track and field career. As of right now, she will be representing our school in the 300m hurdles at state!  
All of these seniors will be missed! They are the leaders of our team. They help the underclassmen tremendously and make sure everyone is also having fun. We've got some big shoes to fill for next year.  
—Coach Joy Parrish

## Liberty Rocks - 2025

**May: Spring Break!**  
**Next Meeting is Tuesday, June 17th**  
**Tony's Steak & Tavern**  
**Tony's Mountain Pizza's Full Menu will be offered**  
— All are welcome —  
**Meet & Greet and Dinner begins at 5:30 pm**  
**Presentation begins at 6pm**  
**Come eat, discuss, engage, and learn**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Liberty Rocks is on Spring Break in May.**  
**We'll see you in June! Mark your calendars!**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Proudly sponsored by: Custer Citizens for the Constitution  
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### Posse Ladies Bible Study - Summer Sessions

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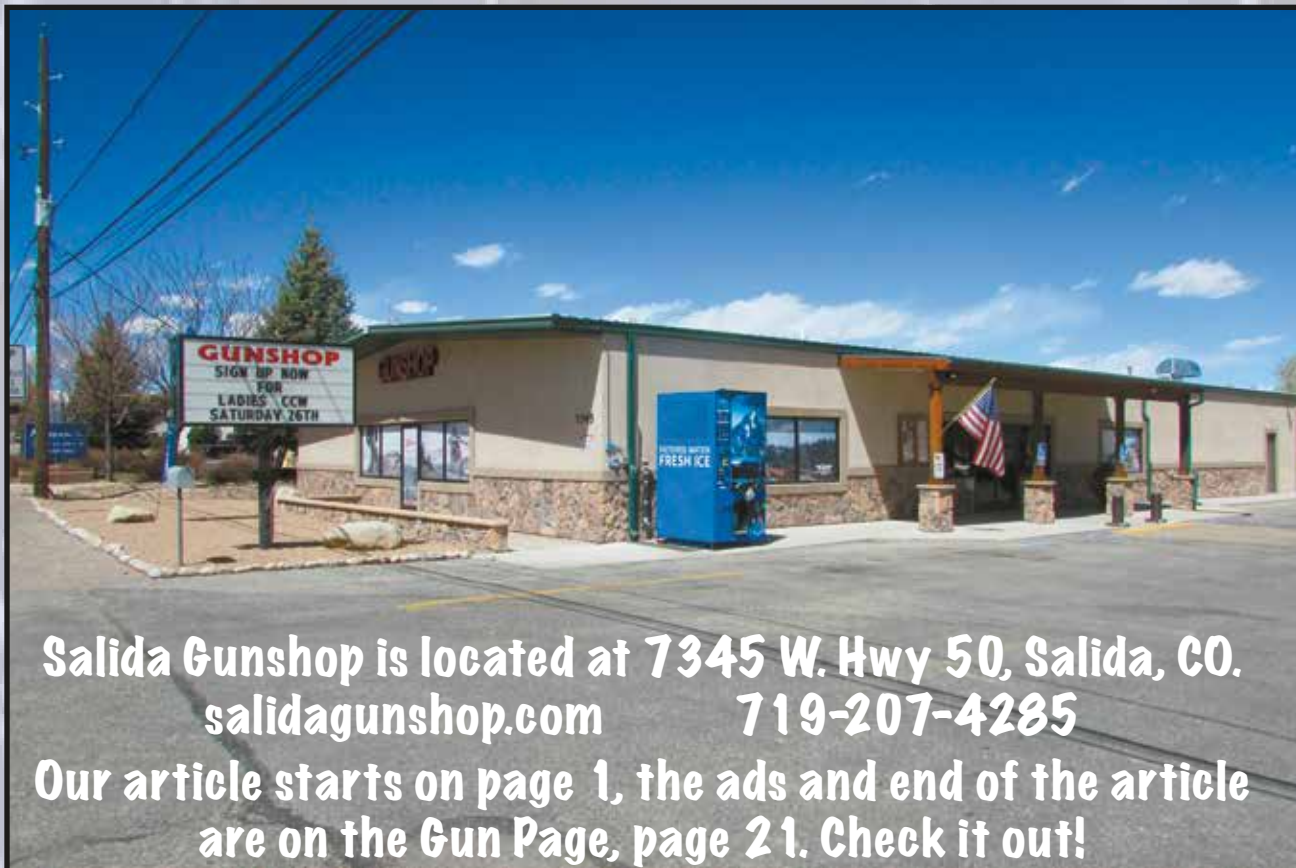
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Sentinel photos by Lea Grundy; Layout by Katherine Brenchley





# Colorado State News

## Majority Democrats Move to Slam Door on Citizen Engagement

by Natalie Menten,  
CompleteColorado.com

A new Democrat-backed bill moving rapidly through the Colorado legislature poses a serious threat to one of the most fundamental rights in our state Constitution: the right of citizens to initiate laws through the petition process.

And hot on the heels of that is yet another legislative attack on the Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

House Bill 25-1327, which has already passed both the House and the Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, would significantly restrict the ability of Coloradans to bring citizen initiatives forward. Among other

provisions, it shortens an already tight timeline for title-setting, imposes new procedural hurdles, and adds new fines of up to \$1,500 on petition organizers for non-compliance with reporting requirements.

What makes this particularly alarming is the inclusion of the "safety clause" — legislative language that declares the bill is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health or safety. The practical effect? Voters are prohibited from filing a referendum to challenge the law at the ballot box. It's an ironic — and telling — twist that a bill restricting petition rights also blocks any citizen-led challenge of its own passage.

This isn't a partisan issue. It's a matter of democratic access. Historically, both liberal and conservative groups in Colorado have used the initiative process to bring policy directly to the people — from campaign finance limits and term limits to marijuana legalization and tax policy reforms.

[House Bill 25-1327 passed on May 2nd.]

At the same time, House Joint Resolution 25-1023 is awaiting debate on the House floor. That measure would authorize the legislature to file a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or TABOR—a voter-approved amendment that requires

voter consent before most tax increases. If passed, it would use taxpayer money to fund litigation aimed at overturning the will of the voters.

The lawsuit, if successful, could have far-reaching consequences beyond TABOR. Numerous other voter-passed measures — including sunshine laws, ethics rules, and term limits — could become targets under the same legal theory.

Both HB 1327 and HJR 1023 reflect a troubling trend: elected officials using their power not to expand democratic engagement, but to restrict it. Colorado voters have repeatedly voiced support for transparency, fiscal limits, and the right to challenge

government action through the initiative process. Yet here we are again — with those same rights back on the chopping block.

As someone who has worked for nearly two decades to protect fiscal transparency and petition rights — and as a current Board Director of the TABOR Foundation — I can say this is one of the most sweeping threats to Colorado's constitutional balance I've seen. These measures, taken together, are designed to silence voters.

If the public doesn't push back, we risk losing the very tools that allow us to hold government accountable.

Natalie Menten has been an activist in Jefferson

County for over 20 years focusing on state and local public policy. She is a former elected RTD board member and sits on the board of directors for the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights Foundation. Contact Natalie at [NMLakewood@gmail.com](mailto:NMLakewood@gmail.com).

(Editor/GG: You see this all the time. Every time the Dems take over a political entity— fed, state, county, city, town— they institute fascist rules to keep their power. Their gods are government, power and, of course, money.)

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/04/25/majority-democrats-slam-door-colorado-citizen-engagement/>

### ELECTION TOOL Part 2 from page 1

that builds trust, or are we doing things that cause suspicion?"

#### From ElectionStats to Verifier: Civera's evolution

Friedman said his company's mission began with a frustration: government election data was too hard to access.

"The company was born out of my own frustration with accessing government data... mostly around election results and voting statistics." He added, "If there was any record that should be considered public, it should be the ballots."

Unlike traditional election vendors, Civera doesn't make voting machines or ballot tabulators—and Friedman said that's by design.

"We're fully bootstrapped... an independent company. We think there's great value in us being independent so that we can provide a check on the established players."

Friedman described the tool as a digital bridge between official tallies and the public's right to know. "Instead of just a handshake and saying 'trust us,' show the work being done. We're trying to culturally create a shift to ensure that this is the norm, not the exception."

#### Ballot transparency in practice

The Ballot Verifier lets voters view ballot images alongside cast vote records. In Ada County, Tripple said it has changed how people engage with the system—starting with those who once doubted it.

"Some of our biggest critics... became our

biggest fans. I said, come in. Test the system. Tell me what's wrong. They did. We made adjustments. Now they're our best advocates."

One voter marked their ballot with the serial number of a \$2 bill—just to test whether they could find it later. They did.

"That's been a fun thing for folks—to verify their actual ballot was counted correctly and still maintain their privacy."

Most voters won't ever check, he admitted—but knowing they can has a powerful effect.

"Most residents won't look at it... but the fact that it exists brings great comfort and trust."

The tool has helped with candidate relations, too. "We're not having to conduct recounts. Candidates can look at

the data and say, 'There's nothing here.'"

#### A shift in culture—and expectations

The transparency changed how his staff worked on election night.

"You have to have people that are dedicated. It's not just a flip-the-switch product."

"Knowing that everyone is going to see everything we do... we don't pray for wide margins anymore—we just ensure the results are exact."

That mindset shift, he said, is just as important as the software itself.

#### A national vision

Mesa County became the third in the nation to adopt the Ballot Verifier, after Ada County and Tarrant County, Texas. More counties, Friedman said, are on the horizon.

"This is as much a movement as it is a product. We can't wait to provide this throughout counties across the United States—and eventually at the state level."

Tripple believes that kind of access belongs everywhere. "It's not my information. It's not the government's information. It's the voters' information. I hope that radical transparency becomes the norm"

He added, "We want people talking about how candidates and elected officials are doing their job, not whether or not they were duly elected... That's the conversation we want to happen around the dinner tables."

Friedman hopes the platform sets a new standard for election offices nationwide. "We're trying to culturally create a shift in the cultures of election offices

across the country to ensure that this is the norm, not the exception." He added, "Taxpayers are already paying for this data. They should have the right to access it 24/7."

This article is Part 2 of a three-part series.

• Part 1: Local access, national implications See how Mesa County rolled out the Ballot Verifier

• Part 3: The case for deeper reform. Read what critics say about how Colorado law blocks full transparency

(Editor/GG: We'll run Part 3 next week.)

Please see: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/04/from-critics-to-champions-how-a-ballot-transparency-tool-won-over-idaho-voters-and-inspired-mesa-county/>



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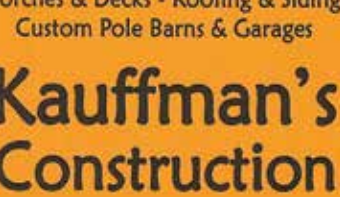
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# Colorado State News

## Colorado Governor Signs Law Forcing Taxpayers to Fund Abortions

by Sarah Holliday,  
*The Washington Stand*

In recent times, Coloradans appear to be facing the weight of policies that attack their First Amendment rights.

Earlier in April, state Democrats launched a full assault on free speech through HB25-1312 — legislation that seeks to classify “misgendering” and “deadnaming” as forms of abuse. But while Coloradans grapple with threats to their free speech, another policy shift undercuts their religious and moral convictions. Gov. Jared Polis (D) officially signed SB25-183 into law, effectively forcing taxpayers to fund abortions.

With the stroke of a pen, Polis weaponized Amendment 79, transforming a political agenda into a crushing taxpayer burden. Mere weeks ago, thousands of Colorado pro-lifers encircled the state capitol, fiercely defending the sanctity of life. Yet, Polis — dismissing their convictions — claims this fulfills the “will of voters to strengthen

access to reproductive care.” Now, pro-lifers’ own tax dollars are being funneled to fund abortions, the very procedure they passionately oppose.

The legislative vote was almost perfectly split among party lines. All Republicans opposed the legislation, while all but one Democrat was in favor. Before now, Section 50 of Article V of the Colorado Constitution had prohibited using public funds to fund abortions. But as *The Christian Post* reported, “Section 50 has now been repealed from the state Constitution after 62% of voters approved Amendment 79 in the 2024 election.”

As such, the outlet added, “Amendment 79 established a right to abortion in the state Constitution and allowed abortion to be covered in health insurance plans for state and local government employees as well as those enrolled in state and local government insurance programs.” The legislation “appropriates \$1.5 million in state taxpayer funds to pay for abortion reimbursements.”

Furthermore, cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment were previously the only instances allowing reimbursement for “abortion care services,” as the fiscal note stated. But under the newly enshrined Senate Bill 25-183, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is required to use taxpayer dollars to cover abortions for anyone enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus programs. This law also prevents Colorado from helping out-of-state or federal investigations that try to punish people or groups for providing abortions.

In response to the bill passing, before it was officially signed, a group of Colorado bishops sent an open letter, pleading for the governor to veto the bill. “Every human life, from conception to natural death, is a sacred gift from God. No act of law can change this truth, nor can it erase our moral obligation to defend the most vulnerable among us. The allocation of millions of dollars in taxpayer funds to subsidize the deliberate ending of innocent life is a tragedy for Colorado.”

The letter continued: “Rather than using state resources to support life-affirming alternatives ... this bill instead prioritizes public funding of abortion at the expense of the lives of preborn children, the health of their mothers and the conscience rights of millions of Colorado taxpayers who morally object to abortion. We urge you, Governor Polis, to consider the millions of Coloradans who do not want their hard-earned tax dollars to be used in the destruction of human life. We call upon you to veto SB 183.”

Evidently, the governor did not heed their pleas and instead boasted about signing it. Following his signature, Polis lauded the new legislation. “In the Free State of Colorado,” he said, “we are protecting Coloradans’ health-care freedoms, while leaders in DC and across the country are focused on bringing government between doctors and patients, overreaching into our families and lives. This past November, Coloradans from every walk of life overwhelmingly voted to enshrine reproductive freedom into our Constitution.”

Additionally, Colorado House Speaker Julie McCluskie (D) claimed this bill cuts costs because “a birth is more expensive than an abortion.” However, as Family Research Council’s Director for the Center of Human Dignity Mary Szoch told *The Washington Stand*, “McCuskie’s comments are disgusting.”

She continued, “Taxpayers in Colorado will now be forced to pay for killing the most innocent among us.” As Szoch emphasized, “In the United States, most people stopped placing dollar amounts on persons lives after the Civil War — and that practice is acknowledged as one of the greatest sins of America.”

“Every person has value beyond measure,” she concluded, and “House Speaker McCluskie should be ashamed to be part of such an evil act.”

Please see: <https://washington-stand.com/commentary/colorado-governor-signs-law-forcing-taxpayers-to-fund-abortions>

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# FBI Arrests Wisconsin Judge Accused of Helping Illegal Immigrants Hide from ICE

by Tyler Durden,  
ZeroHedge.com

FBI Director Kash Patel announced Friday that the bureau has arrested Judge Hannah Dugan out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on charges of obstruction, accusing Judge Dugan of obstructing an arrest of illegal immigrants last week.

“We believe Judge Dugan intentionally misdirected federal agents away from the subject to be arrested in her courthouse, Eduardo Flores Ruiz, allowing the subject — an illegal alien — to evade arrest,” Patel said in a brief statement shared on X. “Thankfully our agents chased down the perp on foot and he’s been in custody since, but the Judge’s obstruction created increased danger to the public.”

FBI Director Kash Patel  
@FBI DirectorKash

Just NOW, the FBI arrested Judge Hannah Dugan out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on charges of obstruction — after evidence of Judge Dugan obstructing an immigration arrest operation last week.



We believe Judge Dugan intentionally misdirected federal agents away from the subject to be arrested in her courthouse, Eduardo Flores Ruiz, allowing the subject — an illegal alien — to evade arrest. Thankfully, our agents chased down the perp on foot and he’s been in custody since, but the Judge’s obstruction created increased danger to the public. We will have more to share soon. Excellent work @FBIMilwaukee

10:11 AM · Apr 25, 2025  
6M Views

The bombshell arrest comes after radio host Dan O’Donnell reported that a federal investigation had been launched



into Dugan, who was said to have assisted an illegal alien evading FBI and ICE agents attempting an arrest at the courthouse. The alleged incident occurred after a clerk was notified of federal agents’ arrival to apprehend the illegal alien.

WSAU reports:

*She then allegedly allowed the illegal migrant to hide in her jury room, which traditionally is not open for defendant use.*

*Chief Judge Carl Ashley allowed the agents to enter Dugan’s courtroom after he was presented with a warrant to enter the building and arrest the suspect, which led them to learning*

of Judge Dugan’s alleged obstruction.

The sources told O’Donnell that Chief Ashley sent an email to his fellow judges explaining the incident and said, “All of the agents’ actions were consistent with our draft policies, but we’re still in the process of conferring on the draft,” to which Judge Dugan responded by claiming that a warrant wasn’t “presented in the hallway of the 6th floor,” where her courtroom is located.

Obstructing federal officers or providing false information in an investigation carries serious penalties. **Under 18 USC § 1001, such actions are felonies, punishable by up to five years in prison, or eight if terrorism is involved, WSAU reports.**

This incident follows a memo from Gov. Tony Evers’s Department of Administration, advising state employees they can avoid cooperating with federal agents by declining to answer questions or provide access to files or systems without legal counsel, even when presented with a warrant, according to the local news outlet.

Dugan’s arrest follows the arrest of a former New Mexico judge, who is accused of having an alleged Tren de Aragua gang member as a tenant.

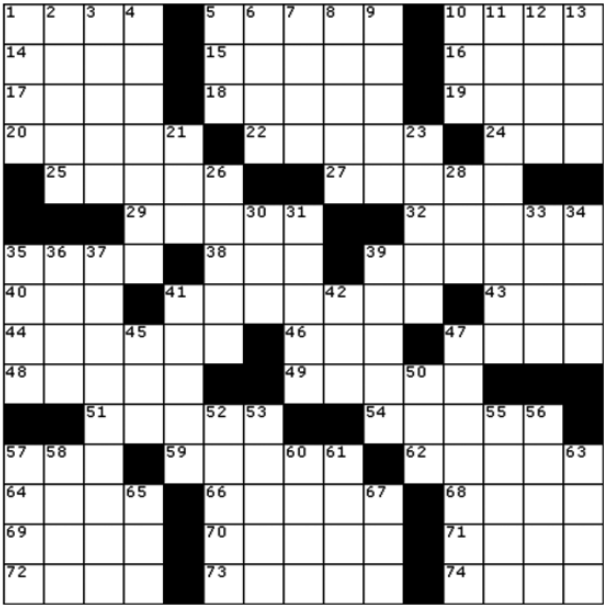
Former Doña Ana County Magistrate Joel Cano and his wife, Nancy Cano, were arrested this week at their North Reymond Street home.

The arrests stem from the couple’s ties to Cristhian Ortega-Lopez, an alleged member of the notorious Tren de Aragua gang. As reported by News Nation affiliate KTSM, Cano rented out a casita on his property to Ortega-Lopez at his wife’s urging last year after she hired the suspect for household chores, the criminal complaint reads.

*(Editor/GG: Beautiful. Arrest them all. These illegals are killing, raping and robbing us all over the country and these judges let them go. Kudos to Kash Patel.)*

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/fbi-arrests-wisconsin-judge-accused-helping-illegal-immigrant-hide-ice-patel>

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 OT prophet
- 5 Capital of Bangladesh
- 10 Swear
- 14 Give me Oil for my \_\_\_\_
- 15 Ancient Greek marketplace
- 16 Ancient Indian
- 17 Seaweed substance
- 18 Architecture style
- 19 Father of Cain
- 20 Zero or nothing in Latin
- 22 Fable writer
- 24 Compass point
- 25 Authoritative list of scripture
- 27 Grimace
- 29 Instruments to guide oxen
- 32 The \_\_\_\_ and the Omega
- 35 Knots
- 38 Promissory note
- 39 Pastry
- 40 High naval rank (abbr.)
- 41 Hand shaped, leaf

DOWN

- 43 \_\_\_\_ Lanka
- 44 Blazed up
- 46 Fire remains
- 47 Afloat
- 48 Belief
- 49 Scale
- 51 Last words, often
- 54 Poor quality fish
- 57 Caress
- 59 Ballroom dance
- 62 Darnel
- 64 Sour
- 66 Valleys
- 68 Bee’s home
- 69 Scat!
- 70 Reflection
- 71 A cozy room (2 wds.)
- 72 In \_\_\_\_ (together)
- 73 Arm joint
- 74 Patch
- 1 Actor Alda

- 2 Supernatural
- 3 City in Nebraska
- 4 Leaps
- 5 Digital audio tape
- 6 Water (Spanish)
- 7 Regulation
- 8 Symbol of suffering
- 9 Son of Amram and Jochebed
- 10 Central Intelligence Agency
- 11 Subway
- 12 Look over
- 13 Similar
- 21 W.C.
- 23 On earth \_\_\_\_, good will toward men
- 26 Mythological water nymph
- 28 Wing
- 30 \$ (abbr.)
- 31 Berried shrub
- 33 Engage
- 34 Opera solo
- 35 U.S. President William Howard \_\_\_\_
- 36 Doing nothing
- 37 Thing emitted
- 39 Moral principles
- 41 A.k.a. Simon
- 42 American sign language
- 45 Rock group
- 47 Father of Ishmael
- 50 Entrance rug
- 52 Elbow
- 53 Petite
- 55 \_\_\_\_ goeth before destruction
- 56 A lucky number
- 57 Move past
- 58 Sore
- 60 Tattle
- 61 Air (prefix)
- 63 Deliver by post
- 65 Physician
- 67 \_\_\_\_ me an email.

Puzzle Key on page 8

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

The Difference Between Strange Fire & Obedience

Have you ever seen someone passionately take on something that they say God has ordained, only to see it essentially go down in flames? Leviticus 9:1–11:47 informs us that not all well-intended passion aligns with God’s. Chapter 9 begins in celebration and ends in sobering reflection. After seven days of preparation, Aaron and his sons were finally stepping into their divine roles as priests of Israel. But what should have been a joyful climax to the holy week, turned to tragedy when Aaron’s two older sons, Nadav and Avihu, acting on their own initiative, offered incense in the Holy of Holies. They offered what scripture calls “unauthorized fire” before the Lord—and were consumed by His fire in response.

The Hebrew phrase used, *esh zarah*, is loaded with meaning. Many sages interpret it as a symbol of misguided passion—intense, but misaligned with God’s command. Others believe the brothers were under the influence of wine, confusing emotional fervor with spiritual purity. They might have thought that wine had a sanctifying effect, as wine was offered with most sacrifices as a libation poured out on the altar. It was never drunk like the pagans did. It wasn’t Nadav’s and Avihu’s place to determine how God should be approached. And in this holy space, presumption proved deadly. The unauthorized or “strange fire” was illicit passion brought on by an artificial means. In other words, the brothers had been drinking wine before their service.

God’s fire appears three times in this story—first, to consume the offering and affirm the Tabernacle’s consecration (Leviticus 9:24); second, in the fire offered by Nadav and Avihu without God’s command (Leviticus 10:1); and third, in the judgment that followed (Leviticus 10:2). The same fire that confirms God’s presence also disciplines. It’s a reminder: passion in worship is essential, but it must be guided by obedience. Leviticus 10:10 provides the heart of the message—“so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, the clean and the unclean.” God desires a people who know the difference. This theme continues into the dietary laws in chapter 11, closing with God’s charge: “You are to be holy because I am holy” (Leviticus 11:45). Holiness isn’t just about ritual—it’s about the posture of the heart.

The deeper question is: what do we learn from this? We are invited into intimacy with God, but it comes with reverence. Hebrews 12:28-29 echoes this: “Therefore, since we have received an unshakable Kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may offer service that will please God, with reverence and fear. For our God is a consuming fire!” Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once wrote, “Entering the holy space requires humility—the total renunciation of human initiative.” When we confuse our will with God’s, even with the best intentions, we risk turning the holy into the profane. Yet, God refines those closest to Him. As Peter reminds us, our faith—more precious than gold—is tested by fire so it may be found genuine (1 Peter 1:7). Therefore, let us approach with humility. Worship with awe. And let the fire of God shape us—not consume us.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.  
Proverbs 9:10 KJV

Bill Wilson  
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Beware the False Claims About Trump

Table 1. Summary of Receipts, Outlays, and the Deficit/Surplus of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, by Month

| Period       | Receipts  | Outlays   | Deficit/Surplus (-) |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| FY 2024      |           |           |                     |
| October      | 403,434   | 469,997   | 66,564              |
| November     | 274,830   | 588,842   | 314,012             |
| December     | 429,311   | 558,665   | 129,354             |
| January      | 477,320   | 499,250   | 21,930              |
| February     | 271,126   | 567,401   | 296,275             |
| March        | 332,079   | 568,635   | 236,556             |
| April        | 776,198   | 566,669   | -209,529            |
| May          | 323,647   | 670,778   | 347,131             |
| June         | 466,255   | 537,220   | 70,965              |
| July         | 330,377   | 574,119   | 243,741             |
| August       | 306,540   | 686,620   | 380,080             |
| September    | 526,988   | 462,298   | -64,690             |
| Year-to-Date | 4,918,104 | 6,750,493 | 1,832,389           |
| FY 2025      |           |           |                     |
| October      | 326,770   | 584,220   | 257,450             |
| November     | 301,754   | 668,517   | 366,763             |
| December     | 454,415   | 541,146   | 86,732              |
| January      | 513,294   | 641,935   | 128,640             |
| February     | 296,424   | 603,441   | 307,017             |
| March        | 367,635   | 528,165   | 160,530             |
| Year-to-Date | 2,260,292 | 3,567,425 | 1,307,132           |

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

by Karl Denninger,  
Market-Ticker.Org

(Editor/GG: Some local person posted the false claim on FoolBook that Trump was running a bigger deficit than Biden did. They also showed a false graph. Here’s the real deal.)

“Federal spending is up over 7% from Biden’s last year!” -- misleading at best.

Why?

Because Joe Biden was in office until nearly the entire month of January had passed and the fiscal year for the United States starts on October first.

So the *correct* analysis is “what are tax receipts and spending *during the time in which Trump has been in office* compared with the previous year -- when Biden was?”

The answer is found here. <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/files/reports-statements/mts/mts0325.pdf>

See Table 1 above.

Further, we can analyze the progress if any because in February most of Trump’s Cabinet and “DOGE” stuff had not actually done anything. *By March this was not true*; at that point most of his Cabinet *was* in place and much “DOGE” activity (and kvetching about it by the Democrats) had occurred.

So what does it tell us?

Well, in February *receipts* were up \$25.298 billion, or 9.3% but spending was up \$36.040 billion or 6.3%. This sounds like revenue is going up faster and it is in percentage terms but not in dollar terms, so the deficit was expanding in February.

March, however, tells a very different story. Receipts were up \$35.556 billion, or 10.7% while spending was down by \$40.470 billion or 92.9% of last fiscal year.

In other words the deficit was contracting (not a surplus, but going the right way) in March and that’s not a small difference; it amounts to a fiscal improvement of \$86.788 billion -- or just over \$1.041 trillion annualized were that delta to be maintained (not improved, just maintained) over a full year.

*If it continues that’s half the deficit from last year.*

Note that there are no tax rate changes in here at all, and thus far very little if any tariff revenue is reflected in here either. This is simply revenue going up by tax receipts to a modest degree and spending coming down by a lot.

In other words all the people yelling about this (and if you’re either doing it or worse, *changing your asset allocation picture because you*

*fear imminent devaluation or worse in the monetary realm as a result of deficit spending*) are not bothering to do the work themselves and if they’re promoting that in various financial realms *they’re either not taking the 30 seconds to do the work and thus promoting something they heard without verifying it or they’re deliberately lying whether for political or other purpose*.

There is a problem coming with *this* month’s data, however, which you can see in that “revenue” line from last year: *April is almost-always a surplus month because it is the month in which individual taxes are due*. The spending side will still tell us quite a bit, but the revenue side may not. As such it will likely be June (when we have *both* the April and May figures) before I can legitimately opine on the likelihood that this is real change and will have real meaning in the deficit *and thus the fiscal sustainability path*.

However, those peddling a “Trump is making it worse” claim based on the current data, when they include all of Biden’s last term in office in said claim are making a demonstrably and deliberately false statement, and if you rely on it and change your market allocation as a result you are almost-certainly going to be making a grave error in doing so.

Please see: <https://market-ticker.org/akcs-www?post=253177>

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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.





# Islamic Terrorism Is Genocide

by Daniel Greenfield,  
FrontPageMag.com

When Muslim terrorists began their latest massacre in Kashmir, they first checked IDs and asked their victims to recite the ‘Kalmas’ one of several Islamic recitations used by Indian Muslims, beginning with, “There is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his messenger.”

Those who could not recite the Islamic doctrine were killed.

“Are you Muslim? If yes, then recite the Kalma,” victims were told by the Jihadis.

“He asked my husband’s name and religion. Then he shot him,” one female survivor testified.

Describing the massacre of 26 innocent people, including an American citizen, in a Kashmir meadow as terrorism is misleading. The targets were not selected because they were government officials. They were not screened for their politics. The location was not a strategic target. The only thing that the victims had in common was that they were non-Muslims.

This is not terrorism. It’s genocide.

Muslim terrorists have followed the same protocol for screening out and exterminating non-Muslims. During the Westgate Mall Massacre in Nairobi, the Muslim terrorists killed over 60 people after asking their victims to name Mohammed’s mother or recite the “Shahada”, the Islamic creed, with the same premise as the ‘Kalma’ to tell apart the non-Muslims from the Muslims. The dead included children as young as eight killed for not being Muslim.

Al-Shabab, the Somali terrorist group that carried out the attack, stated that their Jihadis or “Mujahideen carried out a meticulous vetting process at the mall and have taken every possible precaution to separate the Muslims from the Kuffar before carrying out their attack.”

By ‘Kuffar’ they mean infidels or non-Muslims.

The Jihadist group had done the same thing at Garissa College in Kenya, first attacking a Christian morning prayer group and then going door to door asking students if they were Christians or Muslims, and then demanding that those who claimed to be Muslims recite the Islamic Shahada. “If you were a Christian, you were shot on the spot,”

“We sorted people out and released the Muslims,” Al-Shabab announced and massacred 147 Christian students.

The terrorist group did the same thing at villages on the Kenyan coast where dozens were killed in a number of attacks accompanied by religious tests. “They ordered all of us to get out of the house, and then asked us to recite ‘shahada’.” one man recalled.

Those same tactics were used by Boko Haram in its genocide of Christians in Nigeria.

During a terrorist attack in Bangladesh, terrorists took over a cafe before the Islamic period of Ramadan, and massacred 22 people. Muslims and non-Muslims were separated. Suspected non-Muslims were asked to recite verses from the Koran. The Muslims sat and ate in one section while the non-Muslims were being tortured and murdered to cries of “Allahu Akbar.”

The dead included a number of Japanese tourists and an American citizen who was murdered for not being Muslim. The victims were not killed for their politics, many were tourists, but for being non-Muslims. This was not terrorism. It was ethnic cleansing and a religious massacre.

When Abu Sayyaf Jihadis took over the city of Marawi in the Philippines, they “gave civilians a de facto religious test prior to killing them; they were asked to recite the Shahada... civilians who did not recite the Shahada or failed to respond appropriately were often summarily executed.”

Christians were shot or had their throats cut. Others were taken hostage. The men were forced to

help the terrorists while the women were used as sex slaves.

This is not ‘terrorism’. It’s ethnic and tribal warfare whose goal is to kill or enslave members of other groups. The ultimate aim of Islamic Jihad is not a change of government, but genocide.

Terrorism is a western concept that was transplanted to the Muslim world by the Soviet Union. Moscow trained groups like the PLO were taught some of the same tactics utilized by the USSR’s networks of Marxist terrorist organizations, but the old Marxist groups in the Muslim world have long since become either Islamized or irrelevant, and the Islamist groups utilize some terror tactics within the larger context of the Jihad, but only as part of their traditional conquest of non-Muslims.

Marxist terrorism is political while Muslim terrorism is identitarian supremacism. Jihadists do not care what form a government takes as long as it abides by Islamic law. Their ideological programs mix bits and pieces of capitalism and socialism with little regard for any consistency. Their mission is to ensure that their religion, Islam, and ethnic group, conquers the country. Everything else is a

minor detail. That’s why even ISIS allowed self-government in captured cities. It’s why Hamas has kept Gaza dependent on Israeli services and allowed the PLO to run some of its bureaucracy. The Jihad does not care about who actually fills out the paperwork.

Islamic terrorists don’t limit their attacks to the government. They focus them on non-Muslims. A meadow in Kashmir, a music festival in Israel, a theater in Paris or a school in Africa are all fair game because the overriding objective is the extermination and the subjugation of non-Muslims.

An 8-year-old in a Kenya mall is a target not because he’s a means of taking over the government, the way traditional terrorists do, but because every single infidel is an enemy.

Apologists for Islamic terrorism want to pretend that these are all local political conflicts motivated by local human rights abuses. They insist that what motivates Hamas in Gaza, Al-Shabab and Boko Haram in Africa, Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, Lashkar-e-Taiba in Kashmir, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen in Bangladesh and a litany of other Muslim terror groups in other areas are local matters, that they don’t share

any global aims or an overriding ideology, and that their concerns have to be addressed by removing or reforming local governments.

But a movement that massacres members of other groups wholesale is not looking for political change. Killing anyone who isn’t a Muslim is not about the form of government, but religious and ethnic supremacism, and a genocide taking place on a scale so large we can no longer see it.

The Islamic Jihad against non-Muslims is far worse than Rwanda or all the African genocides put together because it is a worldwide phenomenon being practiced on every major populated continent. After over a thousand years of butchery in which tens of millions were killed, raped or enslaved, entire cultures and peoples were wiped out, it remains the greatest threat to humanity.

Dismissing the Islamic Jihad against human civilization as terrorism obscures the scale and horror of the threat. What we call terrorism is really the mass killing of non-Muslims.

It’s not terrorism. It’s genocide.

Please see: <https://www.front-pagemag.com/islamic-terrorism-is-genocide/>



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for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.

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# The Second Amendment Corner

## Liberty's Line in the Sand



2025

# The SRM 1216, A Revolving Revolution

by Travis Pike,  
ammoland.com

The shotgun market can be awfully stale. We get a new wonder rifle or handgun seemingly weekly, but a new shotgun hardly gets any attention. Most of them come in pump-action or semi-auto. They fire a load of shot. Most have tubes, some have magazines, but the overall design is fairly simple. Well, that's changed with the SRM 1216. Don't worry, and it's a good change.

The SRM 1216 could be the future of combative shotguns.

**So What I Am Looking At**

Well, I call it one of the most innovative and underrated shotguns currently on the market. It's a 12 gauge, semi-automatic shotgun in a quasi bullpup configuration that utilizes a removable, rotating magazine made up of four tubes. Oh, and it's a roller delayed system, not inertia or a traditional gas-operated gun.

The magazine sits under the barrel and is essentially four tubes that form one magazine. Each magazine holds 16 rounds of 2.75-inch shells. When a tube runs dry, the user rotates the magazine to the left or right and feeds from the next tube. Once every tube is dry, you can eject all four tubes as a detachable magazine and load another magazine of 16 rounds.

Pretty dang simple. I say quasi bullpup because the action isn't behind the trigger/pistol grip but placed directly over it. It's like an Uzi in a lot of ways. The end



The SRM 1216 ain't your Dad's Shotgun



These four tubes each hold four rounds.

result is a 33-inch shotgun that's a fair bit shorter than your standard shotgun with an 18.5-inch barrel. For reference, a Mossberg 590 short-barreled shotgun with a 14-inch barrel that holds five rounds is 33.75 inches.

As a bullpup, it could be challenging to lefties, but you can actually swap the ejection to the opposite side. It's not easy, but it can be done at home. The same goes for swapping the bolt release and charging handle. Or even better, just order it from SRM Arms in the configuration you desire.

**The SRM 1216 Ergonomics**

Ergonomically the gun is set up perfect for me. The gun ejects out of the right, but the charging handle is on the left. The

bolt release is on the right and takes nothing more than a press of my trigger finger to close. The safety is ambidextrous AR-like in many ways. The magazine release and unlock devices are also ambidextrous.

To rotate to the next tube, you need to flick one of two tabs to unlock the magazine for rotation. This does require a rather long reach but is quickly accomplishable. The magazine release is the same way. Overall, magazine swaps won't be AR 15 fast and will best be done while chicken-winging the gun. However, after 16 rounds of 12 gauge, I'm not sure how much reloading you'll need to do.

You cannot top off the magazine on the fly like a normal shotgun. It's all or nothing. Loading the magazine takes two hands,

but once it's loaded, it can remain loaded. Traditional box magazines cannot be left loaded, or the shells deform. That's not an issue here.

The 13.25-inch length of pull is quite nice. It's not superbly long and uncomfortable. Too many shotgun companies use 14 to 14.5-inch length of pulls that are downright sickening for tactical shooting. Here we get a controllable length that makes using the gun with modern gear possible.

**The SRM 1216 – More Than A Gimmick**

At the range, the SRM 1216 handles quite well. The semi-auto action is quick and cycles rapidly. With a red dot on the gun, I can get on target and start dispatching buckshot with little effort. Recoil is a stiff push, but the semi-auto takes some sting out of the gun. The SRM 1216 has very little muzzle rise, and with a good recoil mitigation technique, you'll be putting buckshot right where you want it.

Swinging between targets and engaging rapidly feels natural with the short length of the gun. I can swing between several targets and rip them to shreds with controllable double-taps. Swapping from tube to tube can be done quite quickly. When shooting the gun, I practiced loading one round in each tube practiced running the tubes.

When a fresh tube comes into place, the bolt automatically closes and loads the fresh round. As soon

as you rotate the tube, the gun is ready to shoot. I got it down to the point where I could do all four rounds from four tubes in less than four seconds.

The gun weighs a little more than seven pounds, so it's not beefy, and most of the weight is to the rear,

the cheapest of ammo. In fact, the only issue I can manufacture is using purposefully underpowered skeet and trap loads. Anything about 1,000 FPS runs fine. And no, it doesn't use mini-shells. The SRM 126 is one helluva shotgun, and it's shocking that it's been around for a decade



Flip these tabs up and the tube can be easily rotated.



The SRM 1216 is reliable, fast cycling, and very capable.

so it balances well. When loaded, the front doesn't feel too heavy, even with 16 rounds of buckshot. The gun has a cylinder bore, and that works well since I adore Flitecontrol. There is nothing special about its ability to pattern with standard buckshot. It's quite typical in that regard.

**Does It Run!**

Yep, even with crappy, lightweight birdshot, it goes bang every time and cycles

and has never gotten the attention it truly deserves.

It's right around \$1,700 bucks, (less \$s on line) but that puts it priced much lower than a Benelli M4. Extra mags cost 200 bucks a pop but are seemingly always available. What say you? Is the SRM 1216 for you?

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/04/the-srm-1216-a-revolving-revolution/>

# Pro-2A Coalition Seeks Probe of Colorado's Laws

by Derek Draplin,  
The Center Square

A coalition of pro-Second Amendment groups, Republican lawmakers and sheriffs in Colorado sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi making the case for her office to look into gun laws they argue are unconstitutional.

The letter asks Bondi to direct the new Second Amendment Task Force to investigate local and state laws they say infringe on Coloradans' Second Amendment rights.

“Over the past few years, the State of Colorado and some of its larger cities and political subdivisions have, through a progression

of increasingly oppressive and burdensome statutes and ordinances, engaged in a systematic and unrelenting campaign designed to restrict, impair, impede and ultimately extinguish Coloradans' right to keep and bear arms in violation of our Constitution,” the letter states.

The letter goes on to list off several state laws and municipal codes, with Senate Bill 25-003 at the top of the list. The bill, which Gov. Jared Polis signed into law April 10th but goes into effect in August 2026, bans the manufacture, sale or purchase of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns that take detachable magazines. The

law makes an exception for individuals who get a “firearms safety course eligibility card” from local law enforcement and then complete a state-approved firearm education course.

SB 25-003 “impermissibly burdens law-abiding gun owners, erodes self-defense rights, and restricts access to firearms in common use,” the letter says. “It clearly fails to meet the constitutional benchmarks set by the Supreme Court in these cases.”

The letter comes from the Colorado State Shooting Association, Colorado's Republican congressional delegation, Republican state lawmakers and other Second Amendment ad-

vocates. U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert, one of the letter's signees, has previously called on the task force to sue over SB 25-003.

The letter also listed off the state's 6.5% excise tax on firearms and ammunition, the 21-years-of-age purchase requirement and three-day waiting period for firearm purchases, among other state laws. It also lists “assault weapons” bans in Denver and Boulder.

“The Department of Justice has a vital responsibility to protect constitutional liberties, and the Second Amendment Enforcement Task Force is well-equipped to tackle this crisis,” the letter added. “Colorado's

laws not only infringe on our citizens' rights but also threaten to inspire similar overreach in other states. Swift federal action can once again demonstrate that the Trump Administration stands with the people in defending their constitutionally guaranteed freedoms that the federal government is tasked with preserving.”

Republicans in the Colorado House of Representatives also sent a letter earlier this month urging the task force to review SB 25-003.

A DOJ spokesperson could not confirm the letter's receipt with *The Center Square*.

The department in March launched an investigation of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's handling of concealed handgun license applications, warning the investigation “will be the first of many similar investigations, lawsuits, or other actions involving other localities in California, the State of California itself, and any other states or localities that insist on unduly burdening, or effectively denying, the Second Amendment rights of their ordinary, law-abiding citizens.”

Please see: [https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article\\_7fb22274-385d-45e0-951e-0a30fed-fe73b.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_7fb22274-385d-45e0-951e-0a30fed-fe73b.html)



# Congress Moves to Protect Veterans' Gun Rights from VA's Automatic Gun Bans

by Jose Nino,,  
Ammoland.com

A decades-old United States Department of Veterans Affairs policy is under fire for stripping veterans of their right to own firearms without due process, sparking a bipartisan legislative response.

The VA fiduciary program was established to assist veterans who, due to physical or mental health conditions, are deemed unable to manage their VA benefits independently.

A fiduciary — often a family member or trusted individual— is appointed to oversee the veteran’s finances, ensuring bills are paid and benefits are used appropriately. However, since 1993, the VA has interpreted federal law to require reporting these veterans to NICS under the category of “adjudicated as a mental defective,” a classification that triggers an automatic firearm prohibition.

Critics argue that this practice violates veterans’ due process and Second Amendment rights. Unlike civilians, who typically lose firearm privileges only after a judicial determination of danger to themselves or others, veterans lose these rights administratively, without a court hearing or medical evaluation. Jim Whaley, CEO of Mission Roll Call, emphasizes that this creates a “stigma” that discourages veterans from seeking mental health care or financial assistance, fearing loss of their constitutional rights.

In response to this VA policy, lawmakers in both chambers of Congress have introduced bills to protect the civil liberties of veterans. The Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act has a bill in the House (H.R. 1041) and a companion bill in the Senate (S. 478). The bill is sponsored by Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) and Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA), respectively.

The legislation aims to do the following:

1. Prohibit Automatic NICS Reporting: Bars the VA from sending veterans’ names to NICS solely due to fiduciary assignment.
2. Require Judicial Determination: Mandate that firearm restrictions apply only if a court or judicial authority finds the veteran dangerous.

H.R. 1041, introduced on February 6, 2025, has garnered over 60 Republican co-sponsors, including House Veterans’ Affairs Committee members Morgan Luttrell (R-TX) and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA). Its Senate counterpart, S. 478, introduced shortly thereafter, has 18 co-sponsors, with Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS), chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, among its key supporters.

Both bills were introduced following a February 25 hearing where Chairman Bost highlighted the need to codify due process protections: “Veterans should never be forced to choose between receiving VA assistance and their fundamental rights.”

By linking firearm restrictions to judicial findings as opposed to administrative decisions, the bills aim to harmonize veterans’ rights with those of civilians. Rep. Bost underscored that this adjustment is not about expanding gun access but correcting a procedural injustice.

No compromise gun organizations have largely celebrated the introduction of this legislation.

“The National Association for Gun Rights fully supports the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act because no bureaucrat should have the power to strip a veteran of their gun rights

without due process. The VA has no business sending names to the NICS list without a court ruling, and this bill stops that blatant infringement. Our veterans fought for our freedoms—it’s disgraceful that they must fight their own government to keep theirs. We commend Senators Kennedy and Moran, along with Chairman Bost, for taking action to end this unconstitutional abuse,” declared Hunter King, the Director of Political Affairs for The National Association for Gun Rights.

“Gun Owners of America is thankful to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for its focus on the lost gun rights of a quarter of a million veterans. GOA proudly supported the provision in Public Law 118-42 blocking the VA from disarming veterans and we hope to see this provision made permanent law through H.R. 472, the Veterans’ 2nd Amendment Protection Act, and to have all veterans’ lost gun rights restored in full,” said Aidan Johnston, Director of Federal Affairs, Gun Owners of America (GOA). “Veterans who have risked life and limb and now suffer from the psychological consequences related to their service should receive the best mental health care our nation has to offer. But VA gun control measures, such as this “fiduciary rule” to arbitrarily report veterans to the NICS database, pose major barriers to care for gun owning veterans who may need life-saving mental health treatment.”

As lawmakers move toward reform, the hope is that no veteran will ever again be stripped of their rights for simply asking for a helping hand.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/congress-moves-to-protect-veterans-gun-rights-from-vas-automatic-gun-bans/>

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Salida Gunshop Upcoming Events

Friday, May 9, 4-8pm: Ladies Night

Saturday, May 10, 9am-1pm: Steel Challenge

10-11am: Senior Citizen Safety

Tuesday, May 13, 5-6:30pm: Veterans After Action Coffee

Friday, May 16, 8:45-11am: CCW Refresher

Sat., May 17, 9am-4pm: 2nd Annual Family Day!

Friday, May 23, 10am-12pm: Firearm Identifying & Clearing for Professionals

Saturday, May 24, 9am-3pm: Combat Rifle

4:30pm: Ruck with us - SGS Hunt Club

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## SALIDA GUN SHOP

from page 1

(See their website for detail descriptions of these courses.)

Typical of their community outreach is their upcoming Family Day on May 17th. From their website:

“Join us for our second annual Family Day event on Saturday, May 17th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Get ready

for a fun filled day focused on community, safety and education! Stop by to meet some of our amazing first responders from Chaffee County Sheriff's Office, Salida Fire Department, and Chaffee County EMS and get to check out their emergency vehicles. Colorado Parks & Wildlife will be there with some great wildlife education. We'll have free Family Firearm Safety and Kids Safety Awareness classes throughout the day. Salida

Ice Machine will be sure to keep everyone hydrated. Enjoy some delicious food from Crêpe Magouille and Gigi's Betchin Chick-N food trucks and you'll even have a chance to dunk some familiar faces at our dunk tank!”

The Salida Gun Shop is located at 7345 West Highway 50 in Salida, Colorado. Their phone number is (719) 207-4285 and they are open every day (see their website for the current hours of business at [salidagunshop.com](http://salidagunshop.com))



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# 'Gone Off the Rails': Colorado Dems Stir Up Hornet's Nest After Passing One of America's Most Extreme Anti-Gun Laws

By Thomas English,  
The Daily Caller News Foundation

Colorado Republicans are pushing back against Democratic Gov. Jared Polis for signing one of the most extreme anti-gun laws in the country this month, accusing him of turning a constitutional right into a privilege bought with permits and fees.

The law, SB25-003, bans the sale, transfer and manufacture of most semiautomatic firearms unless prospective gun owners obey a range of new requirements, including training mandates, tests and sheriff-issued eligibility cards. Republicans, like state Rep. Ty Winter, say it's a deliberate effort to choke off lawful gun ownership through bureaucracy and paperwork — a view increasingly shared by Second Amendment organizations now mobilizing to fight the law in court.

"This bill is putting a paywall in front of a God-given, unalienable right — and that's the right to self-defense and the right to keep a free nation," Winter, assistant minority leader in the Colorado House, told the *Daily Caller News Foundation*. "Gun rights aren't a red or blue issue. Gun rights are an American issue. We forget what the Constitution is for — it's not to go hunting. It's not to go target shooting. It's to keep a nation free. It's to keep a government in check. And I think that's the first thing our colleagues across the aisle don't realize."

Governor Jared Polis@GovofCO

Today, I signed bill SB25-003 into law, and I want to address some common myths so everyone understands what this means for our community.

✖ MYTH:

No other state has a law like this.

✔ FACT:

Colorado joins the 14 other states that also require a card, permit, or completion of a firearm safety course in order to purchase certain types of firearms.

✖ MYTH:

SB25-003 will take away guns that people own.

✔ FACT:

This bill does not affect firearms that an individual already owns, and the common sense education and training requirements in the bill would only apply to the purchase of certain firearms starting in August of 2026.

6:00 PM · Apr 10, 2025

Under the new law, Coloradans seeking to buy virtually any semiautomatic firearm with a detachable magazine — most modern guns — must now navigate a three-part gauntlet: completing 12 hours of training, scoring at least 90% on written test and obtaining an eligibility certificate from their county sheriff — none of which will be free.

Winter says that's the point.

"First and foremost, it's the cost," he said. "They're increasing every fee in this state ... if you're getting dinked and dunked and nicked and dimed every time you turn around, and that's what's keeping you away from your gun rights — and then you figure, OK, if they can afford the fees, then they have to take off work for the class. Then they have to take the time out of work to go talk to the sheriff. There's just so many different things that make it hard."

The bill's Democratic sponsors, like state Sen. Tom Sullivan, say it's an "evidence-based" solution to "the public health crisis that is gun violence." Though Colorado ranks near the middle nationally in overall gun violence rates, the state's recent history is marred by a grim catalog of mass shootings — Columbine, Aurora and the Boulder supermarket attack — which Democrats routinely invoke to justify broad restrictions on gun ownership.

"High-capacity magazines are what put the 'mass' into mass shootings, which is why

over a decade ago Colorado Democrats passed legislation to prohibit magazines that hold over 15 rounds of ammunition," Sullivan said in a statement in support of the bill.

Winter is skeptical the law has anything to do with public safety.

"They don't actually want to stop crime," he said. "I mean, we're horrible on crime in Colorado. We're number one in bank robberies. I think we're number two in auto theft. We've got kids overdosing from fentanyl every day, and all they talk about is guns — how guns are a health issue in Colorado. But they don't ever want to go after criminals. I mean, we had a legislator this year run a bill to stiffen the penalties for child rape, and they killed it in the Judiciary Committee. They want to let people off for everything."

Colorado Republicans are already laying the groundwork to challenge the law, framing it as a constitutional overreach that can't survive scrutiny under the Supreme Court's *Bruen* standard. That ruling requires gun regulations to be consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearms law — a bar the law's permitting scheme and training mandates fail to meet, according to the Colorado Republican delegation's letter to the governor.

State Rep. Max Brooks, a freshman Republican, introduced a resolution urging the state's Supreme Court to issue an advisory opinion on the law's constitutionality. In what Winter called the "second step," Colorado Republicans called on Pam Bondi, the attorney general, to deploy the Justice Department's newly formed "Second Amendment Enforcement Task Force" against the law before it takes effect in 2026.



U.S. Department of Justice@TheJusticeDept

ATTORNEY GENERAL PAMELA BONDI STATEMENT ON CREATION OF A 2ND AMENDMENT TASK FORCE

APRIL 9, 2025

"The prior administration placed an undue burden on gun owners and vendors by targeting law-abiding citizens exercising their 2nd Amendment rights.

The Department of Justice's new 2nd Amendment Task Force will combine department-wide policy and litigation resources to advance President Trump's pro-gun agenda and protect gun owners from overreach."

JUSTICE.GOV

Attorney General Pamela Bondi released the following statement regarding her creation of a 2nd Amendment Task Force at the Department of Justice

9:43 AM · Apr 9, 2025

But the chances of relief from the state judiciary are remote, Winter said, pointing to the Colorado Supreme Court's makeup after years of Democratic appointments. With "no hope" the court will intervene, and with state-level remedies already effectively exhausted, the onus falls on outside organizations like Rocky Mountain Gun Owners (RMGO) — which called SB25-003 "the most extreme gun control bill in Colorado history" — to wage a more substantive federal courtroom battle. RMGO did not immediately respond to the DCNF's request for comment.

"Colorado Republicans will not be filing the lawsuit," Winter said. "But we have been told that, other than the national groups, we also have state gun rights groups that are currently fundraising on behalf of the citizens of Colorado to take this on in the courts ... We're legislators. We're not attorneys. That's why we're going to put it in the hands of the DOJ

OFF THE RAILS  
see page 23

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He said - What have you been doing with all the grocery money I gave you?  
She said - "Turn sideways and look in the mirror"



# Still More Winning: Trump Sends Back 4,000 Foreign Criminals Who Were Here on Student Visas

by Robert Spencer,  
FrontPageMag.com

Hey, MSNBC, are you hiring? I ask because I can write your story on this for you. Here you go, this one’s on the house: “The Trump White House’s shameful removal of 4,000 foreign students from the country is yet another blot on the record of this administration, which in just 100 days has proven to be a legal, political and moral disaster. Selfless and hard-working intellectuals of color from non-racist countries potentially sacrificed their future to grace this systemically racist, xenophobic, paranoid nation with their presence, only to be unceremoniously expelled by a white supremacist megalomaniac who is threatening our democracy today even more severely than he did last week. Now who will commit the crimes for us that Americans do not want to commit?”

Anyway, back in the real world, it is true that the Trump administration has revoked the visas of 4,000 foreign students, mostly from Asia and the Middle East, and that is something that every American should celebrate. The *New York Post* reported recently that most of those who are losing their privilege to be in the United States “have committed crimes in the U.S. including arson, assault and robbery.”

It’s going to be entertaining to see leftist “journalists” stand up for the “rights” of these criminals, but after they made heroes out of the likes of Mahmoud Khalil and Kilmar Abrego Garcia, there’s no stopping them. If Trump is against it, the left is for it, and vice versa. Trump could cure cancer (as Old Joe Biden actually promised to do more than once), and

suddenly Democrats would discover that hey, they really like the wasting disease after all, and isn’t it terrible for Orange Man Bad to deprive the cancer community of its raison d’être. (After all, this is already happening with autism and RFK Jr.)

That’s the left’s MO, but coming out for these deported foreign students is going to be a hard sell. *The Post* adds that “more than 90% of the rogue students who saw their visas nixed had committed crimes such as arson, wildlife and human trafficking, child endangerment, domestic abuse, DUI and robbery.” This comes from “a senior State Department source” who added “more than 500 of them had assault raps.”

The State Department official added: “They came and they were breaking the law with no consequences. We set up a special action team to handle this.” They only expelled foreign students who had committed serious crimes: “There were cases like where it was not a serious thing, like littering, or somebody had charges that were dropped, where we didn’t revoke those. Because it should be a serious matter.”

Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently explained the Trump administration’s reasoning with unarguable clarity:

*“No one is entitled to a student visa to the enter the United States. No one. It’s not a constitutional right. It’s not a law. Every day, consular officers on the ground in face-to-face interviews are denying people visas for all kinds of reasons – because we think you’re going to overstay, because we think your family member is a member of a drug ring, whatever*

*it may be. We deny visas every day all over the world. No one is entitled to a visa. Let’s start with that, because I hear some of this reporting out there like if somehow we – you’re allowed to have a visa unless we can come up with a reason why you shouldn’t have one. That’s not true. The burden of proof is the other way.”*

You’d think all that would be simple common sense. Why should the U.S. bring in foreign criminals when we have plenty of our own already? Why should foreigners take spaces in universities that an American student could have gotten, only to end up committing crimes in the nation that welcomed him?

It’s a sign of the absolute insanity of our age that Trump’s removal of criminal foreign students is controversial at all. Apparently, leftists think Americans should willingly put up with any and every policy that harms their economic and social interests, no matter how damaging it is, all for the reward of not being called “racist” and “xenophobic.”

Trump, in contrast, is willing to do the hard work that is necessary in order to protect Americans from the beneficiaries of the left’s welcoming attitude. Cosseted members of the political and media elites could watch crime skyrocket while sipping Chardonnay in their gated communities, but ordinary folk did not have that luxury. They had no one to champion them until Trump came along.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/still-more-winning-trump-sends-back-4000-foreign-criminals-who-were-here-on-student-visas/>



## OFF THE RAILS from page 22

to try to figure this out, and that’s where we’re going to go from here.”

If the law takes effect as written in 2026, enforcement will largely fall to Colorado’s 64 county sheriffs, some of whom testified against its signing. That raises the likelihood of uneven compliance and enforcement across the state, as it remains unclear whether all sheriffs will enforce a mandate some consider fundamentally unconstitutional.



**Sheriff Darren Weekly**@SheriffWeekly

I testified with other Sheriffs in firm opposition of SB25-003. This bill has taken on many forms since introduced. The latest version requires a state approved permitting process to obtain commonly owned firearms. It requires most Coloradans to buy back your #2A gun rights.

With SB25-003 on the books, Colorado now joins California and New York in enacting some of the strictest gun control measures in the country. While those states have faced legal pushback — and partial defeats — under the Supreme Court’s *Bruen* decision, Colorado’s law could be the next major test case for how far blue states can go in regulating the Second Amendment through bureaucracy rather than outright bans.

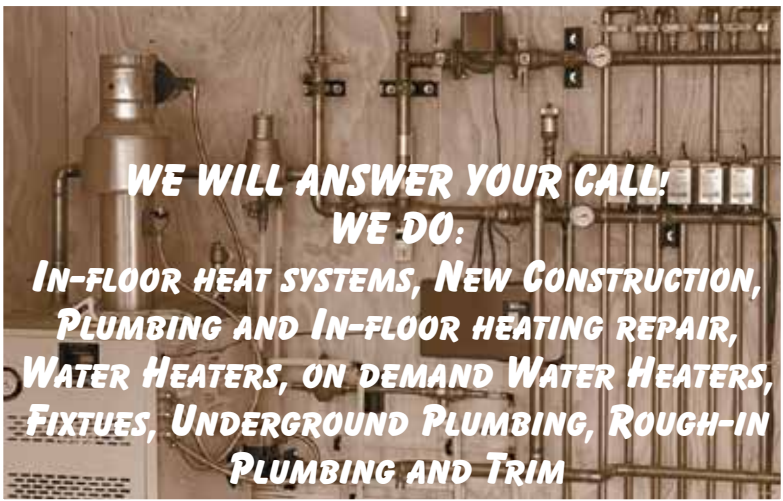
Winter urged gun rights organizations at every level — from grassroots state groups to national legal foundations — to challenge the law by any means available.

“We are asking anybody, anybody in the gun community who can help us — put this in your article — we need all the help we can get in Colorado. We need all the attention from gun groups, national media to put a stop to the tyrannical overthrow of the Second Amendment in the state of Colorado,” Winter said. “People need to know what’s going on in this state, and how far it’s gone off the rails.”

Please see: <https://dailycaller.com/2025/04/24/colorado-anti-gun-law-second-amendment-jared-polis-ty-winter/>

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