

Colorado’s Forced March to Energy Uncertainty

Part 1 of 2

by Amy Oliver Cook,
CompleteColorado.com

“Energy isn’t a luxury,” Colorado Springs Utilities CEO Travas Deal recently told my *Power Gab* co-host Jake Fogleman and me. His concern? The direction of Colorado’s energy policy—away from affordable, reliable baseload power and toward costly, intermittent wind and solar.

He’s right. Reliable power is not optional. It’s a matter of life and death. We saw that in Texas during 2021’s winter storm Uri, where 246 people died amid rolling blackouts that nearly triggered a catastrophic grid collapse.

We’re seeing blackouts in Colorado, too. At the same time, the cost of power in Colorado is

skyrocketing. Residential rates have increased over 85% since 2003, higher than inflation.

Yet Democrat Governor Jared Polis is doubling down on this dangerous trajectory to enshrine his unreal-

dates a 95% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the electricity sector by 2035 and 100% by 2040. This far exceeds the ambitious targets codified in 2019: 80% carbon emissions reduction by 2030.

wind turbines, utility-scale solar installations, and industrial batteries, force Coloradans into electric vehicles, require heat pumps, and drain Coloradans’ bank accounts.

Multiple **Independence Institute** analyses show that this will result in massive cost increases for Colorado’s working families and small businesses, as well as decreased reliability.

The breaking point

Environmentalists appealed to consumers by saying wind and solar would save ratepayers money. From the outset, Governor Polis refused to provide a detailed cost analysis of his plan while rejecting Independence Institute’s 2017

“... the Institute did the math. The total system cost for Polis’ plan, ...costs \$280-\$319 per megawatt-hour, compared to \$32 for existing coal and \$40 for gas. Wind and solar costs aren’t just expensive—they’re economically destabilizing.”

istic campaign promise of a grid powered by 100% “renewables” into state law. A draft bill circulated at the Capitol earlier this year man-

The only way to meet this emission goal is to shut down the remaining coal and natural gas baseload, blanket the state with industrial

ENERGY UNCERTAINTY
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Backlash Ignored: CO Senate Approves HB25-1312 Without Parental Rights Protection

by Jen Schumann,
The Rocky Mountain Voice

After weeks of public backlash, failed compromise efforts, and a marathon Senate floor debate, Colorado lawmakers gave final approval Tuesday to HB25-1312 – a bill that critics say severs parents from decisions about their children’s identities in school.

The bill passed its final Senate vote on Tuesday with no additional debate or amendments. The House voted to concur with all Senate amendments and repassed the bill without further changes, sending it to Governor Jared Polis.

The final version no longer includes the family court and out-of-state recognition provisions that triggered early backlash. Section 4 remains intact, allowing schools to recognize student-chosen names without informing parents – as long as the same rule applies to all students.

That provision became the focal point of more than eight hours of Senate floor debate Monday night, capping off weeks of outcry from across the state.

“I’ve been through a custody case. A bruise on a child’s hip was used against me,” said Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer. “Under this bill, calling your child by their birth name could be used against you in court. That’s terrifying.”

“Parents are the first and basic educators of their children,” she added. “Schools are supposed to add value to education – not infringe upon it.”

Senate Minority Leader Paul Lundeen called the bill “an affront” to families.

“This bill wants to disconnect the children from their parents,” Lundeen said. “When you take away that best support mechanism, you leave children alone.”

Sen. Rod Pelton read an email from a faith-based constituent who called the legislation “an attack on parental rights and a threat to the family structure as God designed it.”

In the House, Rep. Jarvis Caldwell said the debate had never been about animosity.

“I gave my children their names,” Caldwell said in a floor speech shared online. “Who are any of you to tell me that my child can go to school and change their name without my even knowledge?”

“We are sick and tired of it,” he continued. “It’s not about hate. It’s about love – the love I have for my kids.”

Rep. Jarvis Caldwell
@RepCaldwell

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“God willing, my kids will be by my side as I lay on my deathbed & take my last breaths on this Earth. NONE of you will be! YOU don’t care more about my kids than ME.”

We fought HB25-1312, Colorado. Silenced every step of the way. It’s in @GovofCO hands now. #copolitics #coleg

BACKLASH IGNORED
see page 17

Colorado Crime Shocker

by George Gramlich, from U.S. News & World Report
News and Commentary

U.S. News & World Report had a fascinating article last week where they ranked the 10 most dangerous states for violent crime. This was based on FBI statistics. They used both violent and property crime statistics. (The author of the article was Elliot Davis Jr. and it was titled, “The 10 Most Dangerous States in America”.)

The worst state was New Mexico with a Violent Crime Rate of 749 per 100,000 and a Property Crime Rate of 2,887 per 100,000.

Guess who was the second worst state in the whole country? Yup, Colorado! With a Violent Crime Rate of 474 per 100,000 and a sky-high Property Crime Rate of 2,879 per 100,000. Wow! What is interesting is that U.S. News gives Colorado a rank of 11 in its Overall Best States Ranking.

Why are we so high? Illegal criminal immigrants, liberal laws that favor crims with little or no bail, short sentences and early release from prison, lib judges who fail to protect us from the career criminals and who dismiss and downgrade charges. Not good.

With the dems running this horror show, don’t expect any improvements. Just hope you live in a law and order county.

The Top Ten: 1. New Mexico, 2. Colorado, 3. Louisiana, 4. Tennessee, 5. Arkansas, 6. Alaska, 7. Washington, 8. California, 9. Nevada, 10. South Carolina.

To read the whole article please see: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-most-dangerous-states-in-america?onepage>

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The reason the Son of
God appeared
was to destroy the
works of the devil.
1 John 3:8b ESV

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

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

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May 23, 2025

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The Frustration of Right and Wrong and Court’s Willingness to Ignore Truth

by Tom Knighton, *BearingArms.com*

When I read the *Bruen* decision, I rejoiced. It seemed pretty clear that there was a line in the sand and that most gun control laws were going to fall. There simply weren’t the historical parallels needed to justify them. Rahimi muddled the waters a fair bit, but I hoped that *Bruen* would be listened to and the world of gun control would change forever.

And at first, it sure looked that way. It seemed that gun control laws were falling left and right.

Now, though, we have a problem. The Ninth Circuit, for example, recently upheld a magazine ban, and it represents a real problem.

“Consider the recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Duncan v. Bonta*. The court decided in a 7-4 en banc decision that California’s ban on standard-capacity magazines did not violate the Constitution because it decided that magazines are not “arms” protected under the Second Amendment; they’re mere “accoutrements” despite being essential to the proper functioning of a semi-automatic firearm.

Judge Patrick Bumatay’s dissenting opinion noted that a correct application of the *Bruen* framework shows that because “the plain text of the Second Amendment protects the possession of magazines capable of feeding more than ten rounds, California’s ban is presumptively unconstitutional.” Likewise, he explained that California failed to overcome the presumption of unconstitutionality because it did not identify a historical analogue that was relevantly similar to California’s law, which “strictly bans the ownership, possession, and use of magazines in common use today.” Accordingly, he would hold that California’s magazine ban is unconstitutional.

[...]

It’s not just an unwillingness to abide by established court precedents that frustrates the firearm industry when gun control advocates use the courts to advance policy agendas. It’s also some courts’ willingness to take novel approaches and engage in sophistry to arrive at their decisions. But the 9th Circuit majority acknowledged in the majority opinion that this approach won the day in *Duncan*.

“We readily conclude that a more nuanced approach is appropriate here. This case

implicates both unprecedented societal concerns and dramatic technological changes,” wrote Judge Susan Graber for the *Duncan v. Bonta* majority opinion. She contended that the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Bruen* decision called for such an approach. “But, because the Court did not flesh out how the ‘more nuanced approach’ operates — for instance, whether more recent analogies should be consulted — we have taken the most conservative path in our analysis by declining to apply the more nuanced approach.”

Judge Ryan Nelson, siding with the minority, disagreed with that tact in his own dissenting opinion.

Obviously, I disagree as well, though as a layman, my opinion is meaningless to any court of law.

Still, it seems that when a court knows they’re in the wrong and they do it anyway, they’re not upholding the law like they’re supposed to. They’re simply engaging in mental gymnastics so they can advance their own political agenda through the courts.

The sophistry required to determine that magazines aren’t arms, but “accouterments” when semi-auto firearms don’t work without magazines is a prime example of the problem. They undoubtedly know this, as I have little doubt it wasn’t explained to them during arguments, but they made the decision anyway.

This is flat out wrong.

They know the law. They admit that there is a correct approach to the question they were considering. They admit that they opted not to take that correct approach. They know they’re not doing as directed by the Supreme Court. They’re just trying to twist things so that they can pretend to be in the right, and that’s the thing that infuriates me the most.

Recently, I rewatched the movie “*Silverado*”. It’s a great movie, and one line that sticks with me is when Mal, played by Danny Glover, says, “That ain’t right. I’ve had enough of what ain’t right.”

That’s where I am right now.

That’s where everyone should be with this. The courts are supposed to follow the law, not manufacture excuses to ignore it.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/tomknighton/2025/05/10/the-frustration-of-right-and-wrong-and-courts-willingness-to-ignore-truth-n1228553>



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Stained Glass Windows Project

Catholic Church Installs Ninth Of Twelve

by Fred Hernandez

On Tuesday, May 6th the team of Custer County's Glass Master Douglas Bayer installed the ninth stained glass window on the northside of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish church on 5th Street in Westcliffe town. The beautiful new stained-glass window is an integral part of the epic biblical story relating to the Twelve Tribes of Israel, with each of the tribes represented in each of the twelve windows. This ninth window in particular is representative of the tribe of Judah. The Biblical Narrative in the Book of John has it that Judah is the tribe of kings, the most preeminent of the twelve tribes. Many important persons came from this tribe including King David.

In the Catholic church, the twelve tribes are known as

the Old Covenant Community while the twelve apostles are the New Covenant Community established by our Lord Jesus. In the stained glass windows the names of the tribes are inscribed at the top of the window while at the bottom is featured the name of one of the apostles thus signifying the connection between the old and the new covenants with Jesus as the cornerstone.

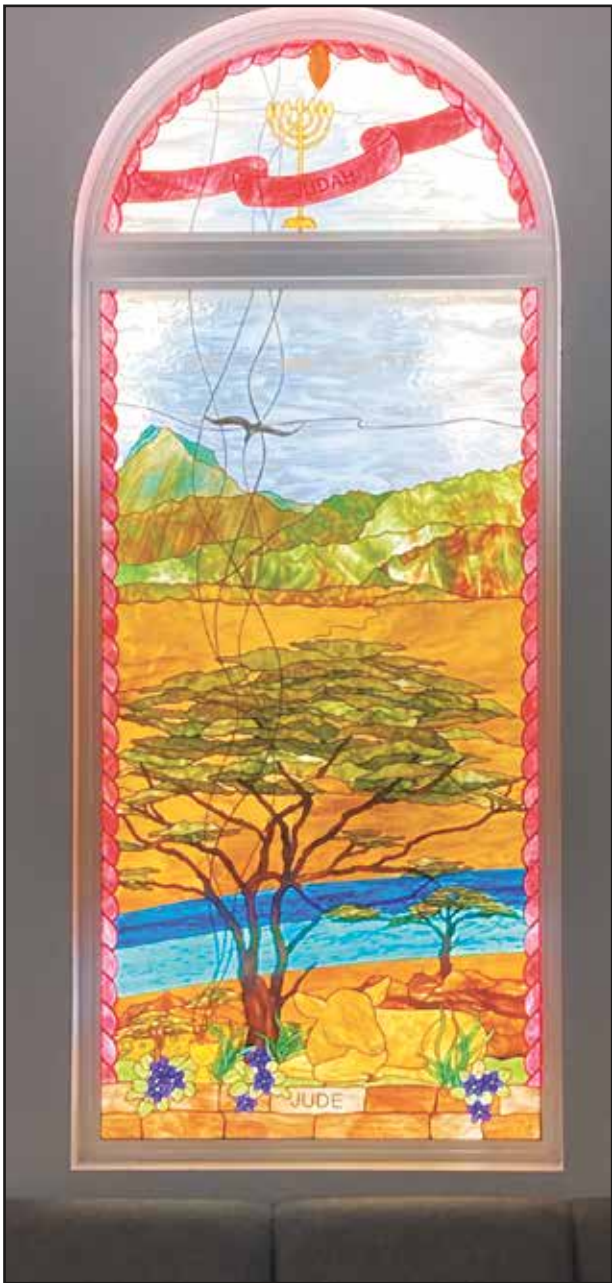
The ninth window has Judah and a menorah on the top panel and the bottom has the name of the apostle Jude. Also known as Thaddeus, Jude is the patron saint of lost causes and impossible situations. The menorah, the seven branched candelabra, represents faith, holiness and the ever-present guidance of God. It reflects a deep connection to Jewish and Christian traditions. The calf resting in the shade of

an acacia tree symbolizes the community with a gentle spirit and tranquility reminding us to approach life with kindness and respect. This window with sub-Saharan features depicts the importance of Africa with its fifty-four recognized countries, each with its own culture and several other unrecognized territories. Also noteworthy is the significance of African priests in our Diocese and Parish history as they overshadow our communities with their love, service and guidance much like the tree provides shade and comfort for the resting calf. A bird flies high in the sky symbolic of freedom, hope and a Divine connection that extends to the idea of transcending earthly limitations and reaching for higher ideals.

The bottom of the panel has a censer near the tree and violet flowers. The

flowers depict humility, modesty and is a reminder of the widows and orphans; while the censer indicates the burning of incense with the smoke rising up as our prayer offerings to God. Throughout all the twelve windows the blue river of life is shown flowing prominently in the background indicating the nourishment it provides everywhere, even in parched lands. The beautiful landscape beckons thoughts of the new Jerusalem; God's Heavenly Kingdom is a lush and magnificent garden.

With only three more windows to go this project is almost completed. The Church looks appropriately beautiful just as the house of God should always be. Come and visit sometime and feel the warmth of God's Fatherly presence. *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.* All for the Glory of God.



Panel 9. Photo by Fred Hernandez



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VA Opens Same Day Walk In Clinic in the Springs

—April 18, 2025
Colorado Springs , Co

Press Release
Veterans Administration.

VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (VA ECHCS) will open Veterans Express Care (Vet Express) at its PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom VA Clinic in Colorado Springs on April 17. Veterans will be able to walk in and be treated for minor health conditions such as coughs/cold/flu, sore throat, ear problems, urinary symptoms, skin conditions, minor injuries, strep throat and sprains/strains or lower back pain.

Vet Express is a walk-in clinic offering same-day visits for veterans requir-

ing prompt medical care. No appointment is necessary, and veterans can be seen the same day. Patience is required, as service is delivered on a first-come first-serve basis. Any veteran enrolled in VA health care can use Vet Express, making Vet Express a great choice for veterans who can't get in to see their regular doctor or are traveling.

"This is an exciting new component of care we here at VA Eastern Colorado are ready to provide to our veterans," said Paul Roberts, VA ECHCS Acting Director. "As a military retiree myself, I understand that there exists a space where we can't wait some days, and we need care as soon as possible.

That is what Vet Express will give veterans."

Vet Express will initially be open on Monday and Thursday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Veterans will check in at the front desk and ask to be seen by the Primary Care Team as a walk-in. Veterans experiencing serious or life-threatening emergencies should call 911 and go to the nearest Emergency Department for definitive care.

VA ECHCS is committed to providing accessible care to veterans with non-urgent/emergent acute care needs.

For more information, please contact Terri L. Clinton, Acting Public Affairs Officer, terri.clinton@va.gov; 720-335-3242.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of Custer County School District C-1 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and has been filed in the business office where it is available for public inspection. The proposed budget will be considered for adoption at a Regular meeting of the Board of Education of said District at Custer

County School Library on June 24, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Any person paying school taxes in said district may at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget file or register his objections thereto.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Dated May 13, 2025
Custer County School District C-1
Jennifer Kriegh

Published May 16, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

Custer County School District One

School Board Opening

The Custer County School District Board of Education has declared a director vacancy that will be filled by appointment by the Board no later than July 12, 2025.

To be eligible for appointment, a candidate must be a registered elector of the district for at least twelve consecutive months and have never been convicted of commission of a sexual offense against a child.

Interested persons are invited to submit a statement of interest and qualifications to the Board of Education Secretary via email at jennifer.kriegh@ccbobcats.net or via US Mail to Custer County School District PO Box 730, Westcliffe, CO 81252. All correspondence must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2025

The Board will interview prospective candidates at a public meeting, the date of which shall be established by the Board at a future public meeting. The term of this appointment shall be until the next regularly scheduled Board of Education election in November 2025.

Published May 15, 23, 30, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

BOCC: School Backpacks, Beckwith Beer, Possible IT Outsourcing, CTSI Loss Report

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The May 5, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting was held at the airport and started at 9:03 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda (via Zoom) and Lucas Epp and Paul Vogel song.

In Commissioner Items, Canda stated the new aviation fuel tank’s concrete approach apron was poured. Canda then noted that he had talked to Round Mountain Water about whether they can accept donations that are tax deductible and revealed that they could. (In a previous BOCC, Canda had stated that they could not.) Round Mountain is setting up accounts in our two local banks for donations to help with the construction of the new waste treatment facility. He also said that the Town of Westcliffe has approved a \$10k donation for the project.

In New Business, the first item was a presentation by the Custer County Backpack project. Deborah Bell gave the talk. She said the effort was started in 2016 and last year they delivered 162 backpacks to our school kids (which was 54% of the school population). After filling each backpack for the specific grade, the cost per pack runs from around

\$40 to \$100. They are looking for donations. Epp made a motion for the county to donate \$500. After a bit, this was passed.

Next Item was the Beckwith Ranch’s application for a beer permit for their June 12 Annual Round Up event. This was approved.

Epp was next with a proposal to change the quarterly budget review meetings to workshops (instead of a special BOCC meeting). This would give the Commissioners the option of having no public comment. (This was probably the reason. The public has the regular meetings to comment.) This was approved.

The next Item was a proposal to send out a Request for Proposal to various companies that provide in-house Information Technology (IT) support. Epp led this. Basically, instead of hiring one or more full-time County IT employees, the Commissioners want to know if these companies can do it cheaper (and maybe better). This discussion went on for a bit. They are looking at a contract for a price of around \$150k. They voted to proceed with this effort.

Lastly, the County’s insurance company, CTSI, had their loss expert there to give the annual review of the County’s

loss experience. The analyst had delivered the report to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. The big item was the large loss amount increase last year, the majority of which was from an excessive force on a minor incident a few years ago. (This was under the prior Sheriff’s term.) The case was finally settled last year with a settlement of around \$800k. The analyst stated that the County’s “employment conditions” lawsuits were settled for around \$300k. In our Workmen’s Compensation arena, most of the claims were from the Sheriff’s Office due to their physical training (including use of force training) courses and the regular course of business in arrests, etc. The analysts stated that there was a “rather high” number of claims from the SO the last two years.

This of course sent the Commissioners, especially Epp, into waves of lamentations about how they must manage the claims better and that the County must do a better job of training, etc.

On and on. In the end, no real plan was proposed.

At the end of the meeting, Epp announced that the BOCC meetings would be held on Wednesdays going forward starting May 28th.



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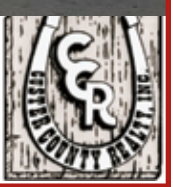


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ENERGY
UNCERTAINTY
from page 1

projection that the transition could cost \$45 billion. Polis insisted the Institute’s estimates were inflated and modeled a plan that wasn’t even his. Yet, Polis never offered an alternative figure, saying, instead, he knows it will be less.

Fast forward to 2024. The Colorado Energy Office’s (CEO) **Ascend Analytics** report offered an acknowledgment and a sobering warning: Polis’s wind, solar, and battery-only system would require 69,000 megawatts of new capacity by 2040 and still “barely meet reliability targets.” At \$61 billion, it’s also the most expensive scenario studied. That figure doesn’t even include the billions of dollars needed for transmission costs. The total system cost will be far greater.

Once again, the Institute did the math. The total system cost for Polis’ plan, including storage, necessary overbuild, backup, property taxes, and utility profits, new wind and solar costs **\$280–\$319 per megawatt-hour, compared to \$32 for existing coal and \$40 for gas.** Wind and solar costs aren’t just expensive—they’re economically destabilizing.

It gets worse. For backup, the state proposes “clean hydrogen,” which isn’t viable at this point and is also not cheap. **The Institute’s hydrogen analysis** shows that upgrading infrastructure costs could exceed **\$70,000 per natural gas customer.**

For his draft legislation, Polis still doesn’t provide a cost, but he does include a 1.5 percent rate cap. That sounds okay. Except it doesn’t include transmission, which will cost billions of dollars. Polis still isn’t providing Coloradans with a total system cost or the impact per ratepayer.

Fortunately, the Institute did the math, modeling the full electrification scenario that Polis campaigned on and has been promoting, including home heating and transportation. Our findings are up to \$695.3 billion in total costs through 2050. Average household electric bills could hit \$907 per month, peaking at \$1,279 in 2040. Since, he’s accelerating the timeline, those costs will be even higher.

Already, Colorado has the highest residential electricity rates in the Mountain West. That’s a significant change from

Buy a generator
At the same time, reliability is faltering. One Denver developer told the *Denver Post* in 2024: “Power outages are my No. 1 concern with the project right now, besides finance.”

In April 2024, a blackout cost one Colorado business \$12,212 per megawatt-hour. Our analysis shows that even if Coloradans spend the projected billions for wind, solar, and batteries, they’ll still have to endure blackouts—some as long as 24 hours based on historical weather patterns.

“We’ve mistaken climate virtue signaling for smart policy, and elected officials happily let ratepayers pay the price.”

Colorado’s historically low rates. Our **2024 Energy Fast Facts** report found average residential rates exceeding 15 cents per kilowatt-hour—well above neighboring states.

Denver and the state’s aggressive climate regulations are suffocating commercial building and economic development. A new study from NAIOP, which represents the national commercial real estate industry, shows that Colorado’s commercial development sector has sharply declined in economic contributions, dropping 55% from \$14.81 billion to \$6.67 billion in one year. In contrast, neighboring Utah, which prioritizes reliability and affordability, saw significant economic gains from commercial development, according to a *Denver Gazette* report.

The situation prompted developer Andy Feinstein to tell the *Gazette*, “I can’t do business in Denver now.”

Utilities are also raising red flags. The state is retiring reliable baseload faster than it is being replaced, and what’s being added often can’t run when we need it most. According to Xcel Energy’s 2024 resource adequacy report, the company plans to retire its remaining 1,650 megawatts of coal and another 784 megawatts of natural gas within five years. These losses will create a capacity shortfall of nearly 850 megawatts by the decade’s end.

Part of Colorado’s strategy is to import power from other states. However, during regional weather events, our neighbors won’t have the power to sell us. That is part of what happened to multiple mid-Atlantic states and the southeastern United States on Christmas Eve in 2022, which resulted in blackouts in several states.

Further, compelled baseload retirements are happening nationwide, putting the entire grid at risk. *Powermag.com* reports that

recent congressional testimony revealed “the nation’s top grid officials testified...the ability to maintain reliable electric service could falter. Their message was unusually direct: demand is accelerating, supply is lagging, and current tools may not be enough to bridge the gap.”

As we’ve seen, the human cost can be very high. Without power, people die. The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing knows this and is distributing free battery backups to Medicaid patients, so their medical devices won’t fail when the grid does.

This is not progress. It’s failure management.

Many states, such as Utah, Arkansas, Arizona, West Virginia, and North Carolina, are enshrining affordability and reliability into law. Colorado, by contrast, clings to a one-dimensional metric of emissions only. We’ve mistaken climate virtue signaling for smart policy, and elected officials happily let ratepayers pay the price.

A crisis of trust
Beyond price and reliability, Colorado faces another crisis: trust. The Polis administration and legislative Democrats have repeatedly moved the goalposts, with shortened timelines, aggressive mandates, and last-minute legislation without consensus or input. With this latest draft legislation, more than 60 groups, including investor-owned utilities, electric co-ops, labor unions, local governments, and business and civic organizations, signed a letter asking that the late bill be dropped.

What surprised some in the public likely wasn’t a surprise for the Polis administration. In his October 2024 “whole-of-government” directive, the

Governor quietly abandoned his campaign promise of a bottom-up, market approach, telling select state agencies to align with his push for full electrification of homes, transportation, and industry.

The dizzying rate of change in an otherwise glacial industry with 50-year time spans for planning makes me wonder how we got to where we are now.

The seeds of instability
Colorado’s energy shift began in 2004 when voters narrowly approved Amendment 37, requiring that 10% of electricity from large investor-owned utilities (IOUs) like Xcel and Black Hills come from renewable sources by 2015. It was the first voter-approved renewable mandate in the nation.

Republican Governor Bill Owens (1999–2007) opposed fuel source mandates and instead championed reliable energy resources such as coal, natural gas, and the transformative innovations of directional drilling and hydraulic fracturing. He recognized that these energy sources were vital to job creation, economic growth, and a dependable, affordable electric grid.

Amy Oliver Cooke is the President and Board Chair of Always On Energy Research, a nonprofit specializing in energy cost modeling, reliability analysis, and policy impact. She’s the energy fellow for the State Policy Network and directs energy and environmental policy for the Independence Institute.

(Editor’s Note: Bold text ours.)
Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/05/09/colorado-forced-march-energy-uncertainty/>

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
FROM: Custer County Republican Central Committee
CONTACT: Dawn Ramsdell at 719-371-5054**

“Take Two!”

A luxury dinner and dance on the theme of all the amazing movies filmed in Custer County will take the stage (or movie set) Saturday, June 21, at the Saddle Club, sponsored by the Custer County Republican Central Committee.

All are invited to the dinner and the dance following. The dance will feature the live band “Winchester Road”, a popular group from Colorado Springs.

Doors open at 5:30 in the evening. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. Prime rib is on the menu.

Separate tickets for the dance only are \$15 and available at the door. Dance begins at 8 p.m.

Some of the movies featured in the event will be *Comes A Horseman, Continental Divide, Saddle the Wind, Butch Cassidy, White Buffalo, Vengeance Valley, The Great K & A Train Robbery* (1926!) and the *Dutchess and the Dirtwater Fox*.

Period costumes are encouraged, and everyone knows a lady has that one special dress in the back of her closet, and a dressed up cowboy is the handsomest man anywhere!

For more information, please call chairman of the committee, Dawn Ramsdell, at 719-371-5054 or email Rivervalleyph@yahoo.com.

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Recurring Events

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10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 -7:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Meeting at First Baptist Church.
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Monday of the Month
10 - 11 a.m. Women’s Veteran Coffee Social
West Custer County Library Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary mo. mtg (year-round) Cliffe Lanes
2nd and 4th Monday
6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

Tuesdays
9 a.m. Women’s Bible Studay at First Baptist Church
12 noon – 1 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLDS)
“As Bill Sees It” St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita in W/C.
Call Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort Quilters @Valley Bible
6:00 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM

2nd Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Mtg @Valley Bible

3rd Tuesday of the Month
Liberty Rocks TUESDAY CANCELLED FOR MAY

Wednesdays
8-9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.
9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study
-SUMMER 3 meets - June 18, July 23, August 20 @ Alma’s House: 303 CR 305, Holly 703-338-4100 or Rene at 719-371-7076

10 a.m. Pickle Ball (SCMP) info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

First Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters, FBC (log bldg next to the church) 417 S. 6th St. Contact Delores at 719-371-1451.

2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee meeting. Ranchers Roost. The public is welcome See www.CusterGOP.com or Facebook page at https://m.facebook.com/custergop

3rd Thursday of the Month
2 p.m. Round Mt Water District Meeting.

Fridays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com

1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center

6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853

2nd Friday of the Month
8 a.m. Mens’ Prayer Breakfast at First Baptist Church

Saturdays
10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family Group meets at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Dee (719) 404-1851 or Jean (719) 371-1229.

3rd Saturday of Month
8 a.m. Valley Bible Fellowship Men’s Breakfast Open to all Men of the Community, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff Questions, **Mike @ 719-650-0362**

1 p.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room, Post Commander Burt Daniels 719-783-3050



Lagoon Dredging

Press Release RMWSD

Beginning Monday, May 12th, the process of sludge removal will commence at the Round Mountain Water and Sanitation lagoons. Operations will run seven days a week starting at 5 a.m. and finishing each day around 6 p.m. The project is scheduled to be completed by Tuesday, May 20th or Wednesday, May 21st. Odors should be kept to a minimum as sludge will be pulled from the bottom

of operating lagoon cells and pumped by hose into sealed tankers. However, residents in the vicinity of the lagoons need to be aware that operational noise and odors will be present during this process. The District appreciates the community’s understanding and patience while this necessary maintenance is completed.

Please call the Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District at 719-783-2604 if you have any questions or concerns.

by Jaclyn & Tom Manzione

Law enforcement professionals and researchers are increasingly recogniz-ing the vital role that emotional intelligence (EI) plays in effective policing. EI is viewed as a crucial skill that enhances community relations and supports the well-being of officers. Unlike many professions, police work presents unique challenges that require strong communication abilities and the capacity to connect emotionally with others. These skills not only enable officers to engage with community members but also help in building trust and addressing the needs of both the public and their agency.

Emotional intelligence encompasses the ability to recognize one’s feelings and those of others, as well as the capacity to motivate oneself and manage emotions effectively. Importantly, emotional intelligence is not a trait one is born with; rather, it consists of skills that can be

cultivated and developed over time.

Research has identified five key components of emotional intelligence: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. Developing these skills can significantly aid individuals, including law enforcement officers, in making more deliberate and thoughtful decisions.

Handling one’s own emotions is a central aspect of emotional intelligence. Since emotions often precede rational thought, an inability to maintain composure in critical moments can lead to negative outcomes. Misunderstandings may arise from diverse backgrounds, values, and cultural beliefs. Without adequate emotional control, individuals may not recognize how their actions impact others, become overwhelmed by their feelings, fail to consider other perspectives, or insist on approaches that are not effective. Such missteps can exacerbate conflicts, damage re-

Copper Gulch Road Work

Press Release
Custer County Commissioners

Please be advised that Copper Gulch Road (Custer County Road 215, Fremont County Road 28) will be closed to thru traffic starting May 19, 2025 through May 29, 2025 for road work and road reconstruction. Custer County Road and Bridge will be on site from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please use caution with the increase in personnel and heavy machinery. The speed limit will be reduced to 25 miles per hour and fines will double in the work zone.

CCSO CO-RESPONDERS’ CORNER
The Hidden Skill of Policing: Why Emotional Intelligence is Essential

lationships, and create stress within the community.

The application of emotional intelligence relies heavily on strong observation skills and authentic empathy. By paying attention to others, understanding different viewpoints, and applying emotional intelligence thoughtfully, officers can better diffuse situations and prevent escalation, ultimately fostering more positive interactions.

After nearly two decades of scientific research, emotional intelligence has gained recognition as a legitimate and valuable approach comparable to traditional psychological methods. Sheriff Smith has emphasized the importance of evaluating emotional intelligence during the hiring process for new law enforcement personnel. To support this initiative, he has advocated for the inclusion of emotional intelligence assessments in pre-employment psychological and social evaluations.

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, May 19 #58 Lentil Soup Egg Salad Sandwich Shredded Lettuce Three tomato slices Banana	Tuesday, May 20 #37 Combination Burrito Salsa, Lettuce, Tomato Cilantro Lime Rice Refried Beans Citrus Cup	Thursday, May 22 #53 Hungarian Goulash Calif Mixed Vegetables Green Peas Pineapple Tidbits WW Bread w/Butter
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Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)
The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.

Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations
A \$4 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.

Come and Worship

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

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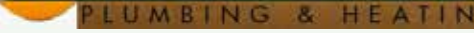
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KIDS

Friday, May 16, 2025

Lake San Isabel

Soon school will be out for the year and people will be looking to take vacations. Living here in the Southern Colorado Mountains we are blessed with beautiful scenery and pleasant temperatures. Let's take a look at the vacation spots we have here right in our own backyard. Today we will be looking at Lake San Isabel.



Lake San Isabel is a 40 acre reservoir in the San Isabel National Forest. It is on the border between Pueblo and Custer counties in Colorado. The lake is dammed and receives a significant amount of snow each winter as a part of the Wet Mountains range. The dam for San Isabel Lake was started in 1936 and completed in 1939. Upon completion, the dam was reported to be the largest earthen dam in the world. This area was also designed and created to be one of the first recreational areas in Colorado. The dam was built to store water for the CF&I Steel plant in Pueblo. Now the lake and the area surrounding it are managed by the United States Forest Service as the Lake Isabel Recreation Area.

Some of the earliest history goes back to the Paleo Indians who took refuge in sheltered valleys. They traveled on trails to hunt game animals and harvest wild plants. Evidence of these early Paleo-Indians has been found near Wetmore and the Bigelow Divide near Highway 96. The Ute Indians lived in the high country of Colorado, including the Wet Mountains and the Wet Mountain Valley. Extended family groups typically spent summers in the mountains gathering food and hunting. Many artifacts, like arrowheads, have been found in this area. In the 1800's things changed greatly when the lure of gold brought many newcomers to Colorado. Conflicts ensued as the newbies took over the Native Americans territory. Eventually the Utes were forced into reservations.

With 300 days of annual sunshine and breathtaking mountain landscapes the high country of Southern Colorado playground is a great place to get away from it all and to spend time with family and friends.

The pristine alpine setting, towering pines and nearby amenities make Lake Isabel a popular mountain retreat destination.

Photo: A view of Lake San Isabel, in Pueblo and Custer counties, in Colorado. The view is to the west, from a bridge over the spillway. The lake, which is actually a reservoir, is in the Wet Mountains .Pic Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

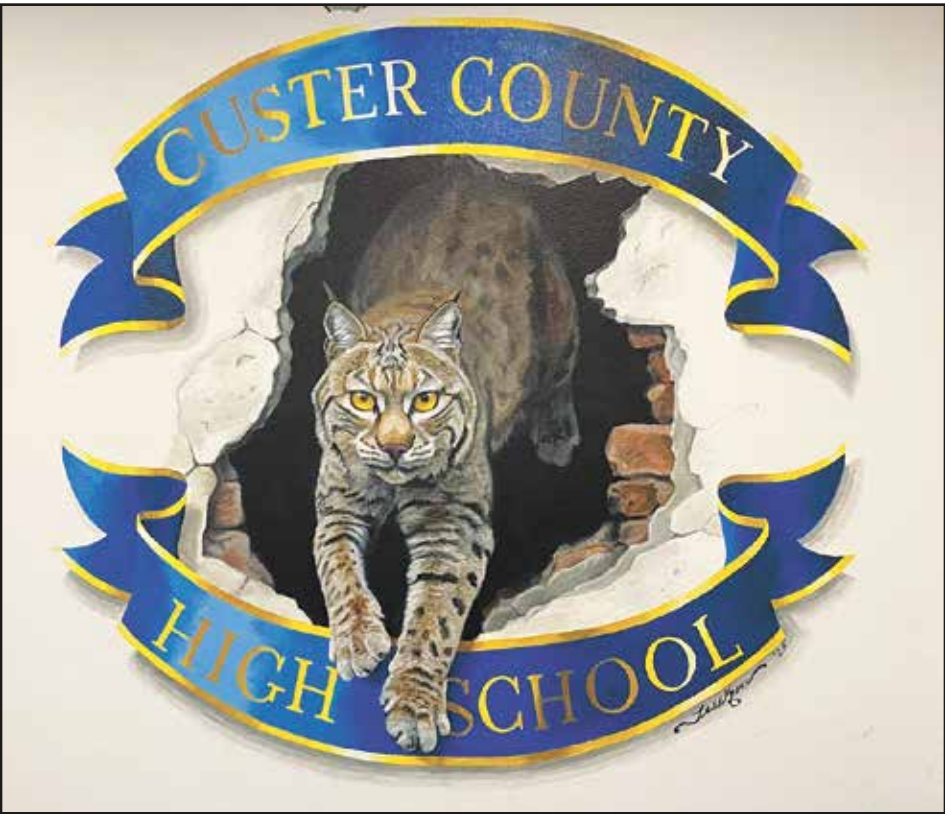
by Audrey Slater. Sources: Sources: <https://www.uncovercolorado.com/activities/lake-isabel/>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Isabel_%28Colorado%29. <https://www.historycolorado.org/story/2023/08/04/san-isabel-colorados-historic-mountain-playground>, <https://sanisabellodging.com/the-lodge/>.

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CORNER

New Mural

Bobcat Perrrrfection



The beautiful mural edition to the Custer County School was created by Tess Kane, local artist/muralist favorite.

Photo courtesy of Custer County Schools

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday, May 9:

Celebrations from Friday Night Lights @ Pueblo West:

55 Teams in attendance:

Grant Rusk: 4th in the High Jump, 5th in Long Jump, 5th in Triple Jump

Girls 4x400m Relay: 6th Place: Miranda, Reagan, Lily, Hayden

Levi Carichner: 6th in the 200m, 6th in the 400m

Liz Ergo: 10th in the 300m Hurdles

Miranda Benoit: 11th in the 1600m

Hayden Hampton: 11th in the Triple Jump

Mason Stover: 12th in the 1600m

Saturday, May 10:

Celebrations from 1A/2A Last Chance Qualifier @ Limon:

52 teams in attendance

Levi Carichner: 1st in the 200m, 3rd in the 100m

Mason Stover: 1st in the 1600m, 2nd in the 3200m

Grant Rusk: 1st in Long Jump, 1st in Triple Jump & 2nd in High Jump

Boys finished 3rd as a team!

Girls 4x400m Relay- 3rd place!

Liz Ergo: 5th in the 300 Hurdles, 8th in the 100m Hurdles

Hayden Hampton: 8th in Triple Jump

Brandon Richardson: 12th in the 100m, 13th in the 800m

Check back next week for results from the STATE Track Meet!

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Colorado State News



The Good, the Bad and the Alarming: What You Need to Know from Colorado's 2025 Legislative Session

by The Rocky Mountain Voice Editorial Board

The 2025 legislative session officially adjourned Wednesday evening after 120 days, leaving behind a flood of new laws, deep partisan divides, and a public increasingly skeptical of the pace and priorities of progressive lawmakers. From sweeping gender identity mandates to gun control and TABOR attacks, the Democrat supermajority pushed through one of the most ideologically driven sessions in recent memory.

Here's a full breakdown of what passed, what failed—and what it all means for Colorado:

The Most Controversial Bills of Session

SB25-003 – Gun Permit-to-Purchase Law (BECAME LAW): What began as a sweeping semi-auto ban was revised—under pressure from Gov. Polis—into a permit-to-purchase system. Starting in 2026, Coloradans must take government-sanctioned training to buy common firearms. The bill passed with zero

Republican support. Governor Polis signed it into law on April 10.

HB25-1312 – The “Kelly Loving Act” (PASSED): This bill dominated headlines and committee rooms alike. HB25-1312 updates Colorado's anti-discrimination law (CADA) to add protections for gender identity and expression in schools, public spaces, and the courts. Supporters say it ensures equal treatment, but critics warn the language is too broad and could force compliance with gender ideology, raising concerns about free speech, parental rights, and custody battles. Hundreds of Coloradans testified in opposition, and over 500 were turned away at the Capitol due to time constraints. Despite multiple amendments, the bill's core remained intact and passed along party lines. It now awaits Governor Polis' signature.

SB25-276 – Sanctuary State Expansion (PASSED): Another flashpoint came with SB25-276, which restricts cooperation between local governments and ICE agents. It limits federal immigration enforcement in places like schools and hospitals,

repeals affidavit requirements for driver's licenses, and is widely seen as an extension of “sanctuary” policies. Just as the Department of Justice filed a suit against the state and Denver for similar practices, Colorado lawmakers doubled down. It now awaits Governor Polis' signature.

HB25-1309 – Gender-Affirming Care Coverage (PASSED): Requires state-regulated health insurance to cover gender-affirming care, including for minors. Opponents argue it removes parental discretion and increases taxpayer burden. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.

HB25-1327 – Modify State-wide Ballot Measure Processes (PASSED): Shortens the time window for Title Board hearings and adds new reporting requirements and fines for ballot initiatives. Critics say it's a legislative workaround to Amendment K, which voters rejected in 2024. Opponents argue it will suppress citizen-led initiatives—especially conservative ones—by making the process more burdensome and expensive. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.

The Budget, TABOR Tensions & Fiscal Maneuvers

SB25-206 – 2025-26 Long Appropriations Bill: Despite facing a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall, Democrats passed a \$44 billion budget that increased overall spending by \$3 billion. Cuts came from transportation and local government funding, while health and education costs soared.

HB25-1321 – Lawsuit Fund for Federal Challenges (PASSED): HB25-1321 sparked Republican ire for its \$4 million earmark to fund legal action against potential “federal overreach.” Critics dubbed it “Polis suing Trump with tax-payer money”—a jab at Governor Polis using federal Jobs Act funds to preemptively challenge Trump-era regulations. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.

HJR25-1023 – Proposed TABOR Lawsuit (FAILED): Would have allowed the Legislature to sue over the constitutionality of TABOR. Shelved after major public backlash and legal threats.

Gun Control & 2nd Amendment Restrictions

HB25-1133 (BECAME LAW): Raises the age to purchase ammo to 21 and restricts access to ammunition displays in stores. Governor Polis signed it into law on April 18.

HB25-1238 (BECAME LAW): Tightens regulations on gun show transactions and imposes new data-sharing requirements. Governor Polis signed it into law on April 18.

HB25-1062 (PASSED): Increases penalties for firearm theft, part of broader package on gun access and enforcement. It now awaits Governor Polis' signature.

HB25-1225 (PASSED): Creates a centralized background check system run by the state. Critics say it duplicates federal processes and opens the door to registry abuse. It now awaits Governor Polis' signature.

CO Legislature 2025
see page 24



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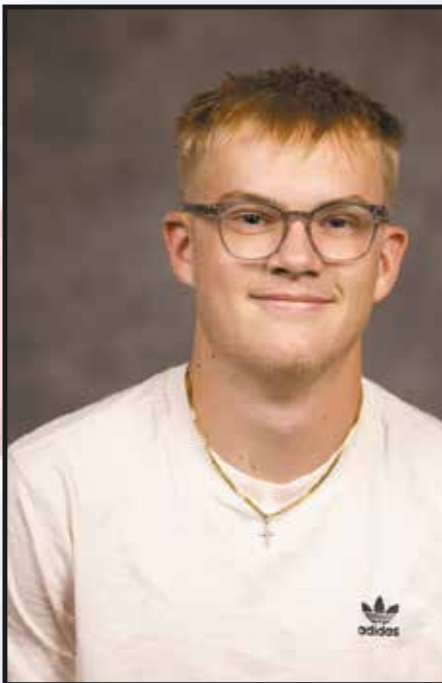
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Viola Joe Trujillo

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Orchid

Colors
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Song
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Motto
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box of chocolates,
you never know
what you’re gonna get.”*
AND
*“In case I don’t see you,
good morning,
good evening,
and good night.”*



Colorado Law Limits What Voters Can Verify, Critics Say That Needs to Change Part 3

by Jen Schumann,
Contributing Writer,
The Rocky Mountain Voice

Mesa County’s Ballot Verifier tool has been praised for giving residents unprecedented access to redacted ballot images and cast vote records. But for some longtime election integrity advocates, it’s only part of the solution.

“This is a great step forward,” said Ed Arnos, a Mesa County resident and former lottery systems designer. “But it doesn’t verify the most important part—how the ballots were actually read.”

A philosophical divide

Mesa County residents Tom Keenan and Ed Arnos have supported election transparency efforts for years. But both say the current system—while improved—is still legally and technically limited.

Keenan said the software gives the public access to images, but no way to link a vote to an individual voter’s intent. “Yeah, I mean that’s beautiful that we can look at a whole bunch of ballots, but I don’t know which ballot is mine.” He added, “All

we need is one. One person to see their ballot was changed—and that would stop the cheating.”

Arnos agrees. “All you’re doing is confirming that from images Dominion created, you’re getting the same tallies they created,” he said. “I would like to see images created by somebody other than Dominion from the paper ballots.”

“My criticism is not in [Mesa County’s] implementation,” Arnos added. “It might do what the vendor says very well. But it’s expensive. And if you want to do it right, give the software real ballot images—ones not created by Dominion.”

The case for system-agnostic verification

Both Arnos and Keenan support an approach that allows voters to confirm their own ballots—without relying on proprietary data or vendor-specific systems. Arnos suggests counties re-scan paper ballots using a commercial scanner, then run the tally through independent open-source software.

“Buy an exact replica of the scanner and create the images from the paper ballots yourself,”

he said. “To my knowledge, there’s no restriction in doing that.”

Keenan agrees that true trust requires more than image access. “If we had a way to track our ballot with a number that only I know, I could prove my vote was counted.”

Arnos proposes a secure 15-digit identifier for every ballot—a code voters could keep privately to track their vote without revealing their identity. “That scheme is better than the \$2 scheme. You now have a unique number... like a watermark.”

What Colorado law allows—and what it doesn’t

The Ballot Verifier launched in Mesa County allows the public to view digital images of scanned ballots. But under Colorado law, any personally identifiable markings must be redacted. Even if a voter chooses to embed something like a name or symbol for tracking purposes, the image is scrubbed before being released.

That’s because Colorado’s open records law—specifically C.R.S. 24-72-205.5—requires strict ballot anonymity. The goal is to protect voters from coercion or targeting.

But critics like Arnos and Keenan say it also prevents voters themselves from verifying their vote.

Mesa County Clerk Bobbie Gross said she understands the tension. “We’re not allowed to do anything that could tie a ballot back to a voter,” she said. “We have to redact even if someone writes something unique on it.”

In contrast, Idaho law gives counties more discretion. Ada County voters can view their ballot image and cast vote record and confirm how it was counted—without state rules requiring that identifying marks be redacted.

The difference is more than philosophical—it’s practical.

Public disclosure and disclaimers

Both Arnos and Tripple said one overlooked but vital feature of the Ballot Verifier is that it treats ballots as public records and warns voters accordingly.

“The information should be available to anybody who wants to look at it,” Arnos said. “The easy way to do that rather than paying to redact all the personal stuff... is put a disclaimer at the

top that says ‘this is a public record. Any personal information you put on it will be available to anyone.’”

Tripple said his office in Idaho uses a similar approach. “There’s a warning on the ballot that says ‘do not write any personally identifiable information on this. It is a public record and we will release it if requested,’” he said. “If people write their name on it, they’re outing themselves—it’s not that we’re outing them.”

A national push for deeper reform

Mesa County officials have said repeatedly that they’re doing everything they can within the boundaries of Colorado law.

But outside Mesa, a louder chorus is calling for those boundaries to shift.

During an April 10 cabinet meeting, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard said election security remains a top national priority. She described electronic voting systems as dangerously vulnerable.

ELECTION TOOL Part 3
see page 16

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Colorado State News

The Hidden Risks of Gender-Affirming Care Demand Colorado's Restraint

by Shaina Cole,
Guest Commenter,
The Rocky Mountain Voice

Colorado has embraced gender-affirming care for minors, covering treatments like puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and, in rare cases, surgeries through Medicaid and other state programs.

While intended to address gender dysphoria, these interventions pose significant long-term dangers to children, potentially causing irreversible harm, with limited evidence of sustained mental health benefits. The rise in gender identity issues among minors may be fueled by social media influence, mental health challenges, and parental dynamics, raising concerns about premature medical decisions.

Given the lack of long-term data and children's developmental vulnerabilities, we must restrict these treatments to rare, extreme cases where benefits clearly outweigh risks, safeguarding our youth from future health complications.

The medical risks of gender-affirming care are profound and often permanent.

Puberty blockers, prescribed as early as age 10 or 11, can reduce bone mineral density, increasing the risk of osteoporosis or fractures in adulthood. A 2021 study, Bone Mineral Density in Transgender Youth on Puberty Blockers, found that bone density may not fully recover, especially if cross-sex hormones follow.

Cross-sex hormones, typically started at age 14-16, heighten cardiovascular risks: testosterone in transgender males increases stroke likelihood, while estrogen in transgender females raises the risk of venous thromboembolism, according to a 2021 meta-analysis, Cardiovascular Risks in Transgender Individuals on Hormone Therapy.

Both can cause infertility, with reversal being rare once secondary sexual characteristics develop, per Fertility Outcomes After Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy. Potential cancer risks, such as breast cancer from long-term estrogen use, also loom, though data is limited.

Adolescence is a period of identity exploration, and gender identity can shift over time.

Hormone therapy can cause irreversible voice deepening

or breast growth, while mastectomies—performed on 16- or 17-year-olds—remove breast tissue permanently, with limited reconstructive options.

If a child's identity evolves to nonbinary or their assigned sex, they may face lifelong physical and emotional burdens in a mismatched body.

Younger children lack the cognitive maturity to navigate these risks. The prefrontal cortex, vital for decision-making, remains underdeveloped until the mid-20s, per a 2017 study, The Adolescent Brain: Insights from Neuroscience.

Children as young as 10-12, when blockers are often introduced, cannot fully grasp the implications of infertility, surgical outcomes, or health issues like osteoporosis, making them vulnerable to external influences driving the rise in gender identity issues.

Social media has emerged as a powerful force in this trend.

Platforms like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram expose children to gender identity content at unprecedented rates, often framing it as a trendy or validating identity. A 2020 study, The

Role of Social Media in Gender Dysphoria, highlighted how online communities can amplify gender dysphoria, with some minors adopting these identities rapidly without thorough self-reflection.

Algorithms promote content that reinforces gender exploration, with influencers and peers sharing transition stories that may glamorize the process. A 2022 analysis by the Center for Countering Digital Hate found that TikTok's algorithm recommended gender transition videos to users as young as 13 within minutes of searching related terms, exposing millions to this narrative.

This digital echo chamber can pressure children to question their gender, particularly during adolescence's natural identity crisis, potentially leading to medical interventions that cause permanent harm.

Mental health challenges also contribute. Anxiety and depression among youth may lead some to conflate emotional distress with gender dysphoria, prompting premature treatment.

A 2021 study, *Mental Health Challenges in Transgender Youth*, reported that 60% of transgender

youth experience suicidal ideation, suggesting underlying mental health issues that require careful differentiation.

Moreover, the assumption that gender-affirming care significantly improves mental health is not strongly supported by evidence.

A 2020 systematic review, *Hormone Therapy and Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender Youth*, found that only 20% of transgender youth on hormone therapy showed significant reductions in anxiety and depression after one year, with many experiencing persistent or worsening symptoms due to co-occurring mental health conditions.

A 2023 study, *Longitudinal Impact of Gender-Affirming Care on Mental Health*, reported that just 15% of youth receiving puberty blockers or hormones demonstrated sustained mental health improvements over three years, with 60% showing no change and 25% experiencing increased distress, often linked to

HIDDEN RISKS in GENDER AFFIRMING CARE
see page 16



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Liberty Rocks is on Spring Break in May.

We'll see you in June! Mark your calendars!

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Saudi Criminal Alien
Arrested by ICE in Denver

Press Release
Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE)

—May 9, 2025

ICE Denver arrested a 58-year-old Saudi criminal alien and suspected terrorist, Homaidan Ali Ilbrahim Al-Turki, after his release from the Arapahoe County Jail in Centennial, CO., May 6th.

1992 | He entered the United States at an unknown location.

1993 | He left the United States.

1994 | He lawfully reentered the United States again at an unknown location.

2001 | He was questioned about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He departed from the United States again at an unknown time and place.

2002 | He lawfully reentered the United States.

In 2006, Arapahoe County District Court convicted him of:

- 12 counts of sexual assault
- Kidnapping
- 2 counts of false imprisonment
- Theft of \$15K or more

He has an administrative order of removal from 2013 and he won't be welcome back to the United States again.

ELECTION TOOL Part 3
from page 14

"We have evidence of how these electronic voting systems have been vulnerable to hackers for a very long time," Gabbard said. "[They are] vulnerable to exploitation, to manipulate the results of the votes being cast." She added, "This further drives forward your mandate to bring about paper ballots across the country so that voters can have faith in the integrity of our elections."

That mandate was formalized weeks earlier. On March 4th, President Trump signed an executive order calling on states and counties to adopt systems that produce "timely, accurate and independently auditable election results." The order also directs federal agencies to support what it describes as "radical transparency" in the election process.

For Arnos, that order echoes what he's been arguing for all along. "The correct way to verify is to use adjudicated images and tally them using a separate system," he said. "Verification of the tally results by another system—particularly when you can get it done at little cost—is indispensable."

HIDDEN RISKS in GENDER
AFFIRMING CARE
from page 15

of feeling coerced by parents to affirm a transgender identity, only to question it later. These external pressures, combined with social media's influence and cognitive immaturity, heighten the risk of rushed medical decisions.

To protect children, Colorado must adopt stricter protocols: extend mental health evaluations to 6-12 months for those under 16, fund longitudinal studies to assess outcomes over decades, limit social media exposure and guide parents to prioritize their child's future over external influences.

RMV Editor's note: *Opinions expressed in commentary pieces are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the management of the Rocky Mountain Voice, but even so we support the constitutional right of the author to express those opinions.*

Please see: <https://rockymountaininvoice.com/2025/04/colorado-law-limits-what-voters-can-verify-and-critics-say-that-needs-to-change/>

HIDDEN RISKS in GENDER
AFFIRMING CARE
from page 15

social stigma or unmet expectations from treatment.

These low rates of mental health improvement cast doubt on the efficacy of these interventions as a primary solution for gender dysphoria in minors, especially given their irreversible physical risks.

Parental dynamics add another layer. Some parents, driven by activism or social validation, may groom their children to identify as transgender, using them as symbols for their agendas.

A 2021 study, *Parental Influence and Rapid-Onset Gender Dysphoria*, documented cases where parental encouragement led to rapid transitions, with some youth later expressing confusion when that influence waned.

Detransitioners on X have shared accounts

of feeling coerced by parents to affirm a transgender identity, only to question it later. These external pressures, combined with social media's influence and cognitive immaturity, heighten the risk of rushed medical decisions.

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Please see: <https://rockymountaininvoice.com/2025/05/cole-the-hidden-risks-of-gender-affirming-care-demand-colorados-restraint/>

BACKLASH IGNORED
from page 1

Rep. Jarvis Caldwell
@RepCaldwell

Follow

“God willing, my kids will be by my side as I lay on my deathbed & take my last breaths on this Earth. NONE of you will be! YOU don’t care more about my kids than ME.”

We fought HB25-1312, Colorado. Silenced every step of the way. It’s in @GovofCO hands now. #copolitics #coleg

Democratic sponsor Sen. Faith Winter defended the bill’s chosen name provision, saying it protects transgender students from being forcibly outed in unsafe homes.

“Any school can set any policy under this bill,” Winter said. “It just can’t be different for transgender children.”

Republican lawmakers, however, argued that parental notification is a neutral standard – one already expected in almost every other area of public education.

“You need parental permission for a field trip or a football team,” said Sen. John Carson. “But not to change your name in the school record? That just doesn’t make sense.”

Amendments that would have added parental consent or removed Section 4 altogether were all rejected along party lines. Those included:

- L022 – would have removed the section allowing schools to adopt

- chosen name policies without informing parents
- L034 – would have required a signed statement from a parent or guardian before a student’s chosen name could be used in school records
- L037 – would have removed language adding chosen names and gender expression to Colorado’s anti-discrimination laws
- L019 – would have carved out protections for religious institutions, such as schools or shelters, so they wouldn’t face discrimination claims under the bill

During the Monday night floor debate, Sen. Lisa Frizell called the final version of the bill “a missed opportunity to meet parents halfway.”

“The relationship between a child and their parent is not the school’s, and it’s not the state’s,” Frizell said. “The school should not be getting between them.”

In her closing remarks, Kirkmeyer warned that the process had left too many parents feeling dismissed. “We are still not there yet,” she said. “Not when parents are the last to know.”

Opponents say the public’s objections to HB1312 went far beyond political disagreement.

Lundeen described the public response to HB1312 as the most constituent-engaged issue he had seen in his 11 years in the Capitol.

On April 30, John Graboski, a resident from Larkspur, emailed every Republican lawmaker in the state. He called

HB1312 “a Satanic deviant ideology” and warned that God-fearing citizens would refuse to follow “unconstitutional, wrong, Satanic evil laws.”

“There are tens of thousands of us in this state who have had it with this kind of legislative idiocy,” Graboski wrote. “Don’t be surprised to see a righteous civil disobedience emerge.”

The Senate gave final passage to the bill on Tuesday in a 23–12 vote, with all Republicans and two Democrats – Sen. Kyle Mullica and Sen. Marc Snyder – voting no.

The bill now awaits Governor Polis’s signature. If signed into law, it will take effect immediately.

(Editor/GG: What young family would want to move here with this hanging over their parental rights? None. What company would want to move here with the new super pro-union forming bill they just passed? None. Who would start a new company here with the new mandatory retirement fund law requiring any business with 5 or more employees to offer a retirement plan with the attendant astronomical cost? We could go on and on and on. The dems have destroyed our state and are intent on sending us all into chicken coups in cities begging for electricity and a piece of real meat. Our advice to young people, small business, heck, any business: flee to a free state while you can.)

Please see: <https://rocky-mountaininvoice.com/2025/05/backlash-ignored-senate-ap-proves-hb25-1312-without-parental-rights-protections/>

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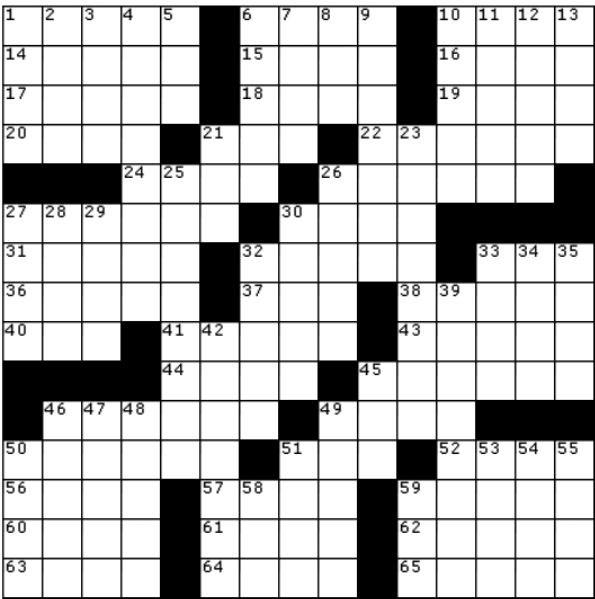
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ACROSS

- 1 Unconscious state(s)
- 6 Prayer ending
- 10 Hitch
- 14 Defense
- 15 Wedding town
- 16 Ripped up
- 17 Foremost of the twelve
- 18 Mined metals
- 19 Word meaning father
- 20 Has toed
- 21 ___ of the covenant
- 22 Sew
- 24 Northwest by north
- 26 Adhesive
- 27 Maneuvers
- 30 Dorm dweller
- 31 Solicit or beg (British)
- 32 Bake unshelled eggs
- 33 Dads
- 36 Sandwich cookies brand
- 37 Buddy
- 38 Last letter of Greek alphabet
- 40 Decade
- 41 After Wed.
- 43 Tiny amounts
- 44 The ___ is my shepherd
- 45 Lazy people
- 46 Do unto ___
- 49 Otherwise
- 50 Large desert
- 51 American sign language
- 52 Cook
- 56 Related
- 57 Thoughtfulness
- 59 Drink
- 60 Smart person
- 61 Island
- 62 I am the ___ and the Omega
- 63 Ceases
- 64 Sonata
- 65 Stupefy

DOWN

- 1 Captain (abbr.)
- 2 Tub spread
- 3 Small amount
- 4 Survivor of fiery furnace
- 5 Mr.
- 6 Nut
- 7 One of the Gospels
- 8 Vane direction
- 9 Yuckier
- 10 Solemn
- 11 Stately
- 12 Shelter under branches
- 13 Hiking equipment
- 21 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
- 23 Robots
- 25 Grappler
- 26 Plague of Egypt
- 27 Scotsman
- 28 Biblical weed
- 29 Garden
- 30 Leafy vegetable
- 32 Cowboy boot projections
- 33 Peter, for short
- 34 substance made from red algae for lab work
- 35 Talk back
- 39 Speck
- 42 ___ Hornblower
- 45 Sickly
- 46 Made of oak
- 47 Before fourth
- 48 Arm extensions
- 49 Painter Richard
- 50 Rational
- 51 Civil liberties org (abbr.)
- 53 What legs are attached to
- 54 Repeat
- 55 Deed
- 58 Poisonous snake
- 59 Prod
- 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

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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.

Biblical Prophecy Comes Into Focus as Turkey Aligns with Hamas

In a chilling sign of prophetic times, Turkey’s spy chief secretly met with Hamas leaders to coordinate so-called “aid deliveries” to Gaza. According to the *Times of Israel*, this high-level meeting underscores Turkey’s deepening support for Hamas, a terror organization sworn to Israel’s destruction. Far from humanitarian work, this alliance signals a dark, prophetic alignment where Turkey, once seen as a bridge between East and West, fully embraces its biblical role as an enemy of Israel. These developments move the end-times prophecy clock forward as Turkey’s dictator, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, continues his public crusade of disdain for Israel.

Erdoğan’s regime is doing what no other NATO country has dared: standing shoulder-to-shoulder with terrorists while isolating Israel. With Turkey’s intelligence agencies openly working alongside Hamas, the intentions are unmistakable: to destabilize Israel under the banner of “humanitarian assistance” that, in truth, funds terror. Turkey’s outright support of Hamas, combined with its severance of diplomatic ties with Israel in November 2024, signals a dramatic shift in Middle East geopolitics. His inflammatory rhetoric, including comparing Israeli leadership to Adolf Hitler, leaves no doubt where Turkey stands. As Turkey cozy ups to Iran—the biblical Persia—the ancient alliances foretold in Scripture are materializing before our eyes.

Biblical prophecy in Ezekiel 38 names ancient regions—Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah—all modern-day Turkey—as leading the coalition that will attack Israel. Persia (modern Iran) will be right there beside them. For decades, political and religious divisions made such an alliance improbable. But hatred for Israel is proving stronger than sectarian rifts. Turkey’s aggressive turn toward Hamas and its open hostility to Israel mark a significant prophetic milestone. With Iran stirring in the background, and Turkey rapidly positioning itself as a champion of anti-Israel forces, the pieces of the Ezekiel 38 puzzle are snapping into place.

As Erdoğan positions Turkey as a leader of this anti-Israel axis, he is moving from words to action, leveraging diplomatic, intelligence, and financial resources to empower Israel’s sworn enemies. The prophetic warning of Zechariah 12:9 looms closer: “And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” We are seeing the early formations of these nations today. The world’s political stage is being set, and believers must be alert, prayerful, and anchored in God’s Word. Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem—and for the strength to stand boldly as we witness prophecy unfold before our very eyes.

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Bill Wilson
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The Wait Is the Price:

Quiet Rationing Plagues

Canadian Health Care

by The Daily Economy,
The American Institute for
Economic Research

Last month, a video was trending on social media showing a Canadian woman explaining that she had a 13-month wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test to check for a brain tumor.

On X, formerly known as Twitter, community notes popped up to say that the video was misleading. “Priority is decided by physicians, not the province,” wrote one commenter. Another noted that wait times did vary by province.

None of this, however, detracts from the core truths: Canadian health care is not free and it has two prices: the taxes Canadians pay for it and the wait times that make Canadians pay in the form of service rationing.

Canada’s publicly provided health care system actually requires rationing in order to contain costs. Because services are offered at no monetary price, demand exceeds the available supply of doctors, equipment, and facilities. If the different provinces (which operate most health care services) wanted to meet the full demand, each would have to raise taxes significantly to fund services. To keep expenditures down (managing the imbalance from public provision) and thus taxes as well, the system relies on rationing through wait times rather than prices.

The rationing keeps many patients away from care facilities or encourages them to avoid dealing with minor but nevertheless problematic ailments. These costs are not visible in taxes paid for health care, but they are true costs that matter to people.

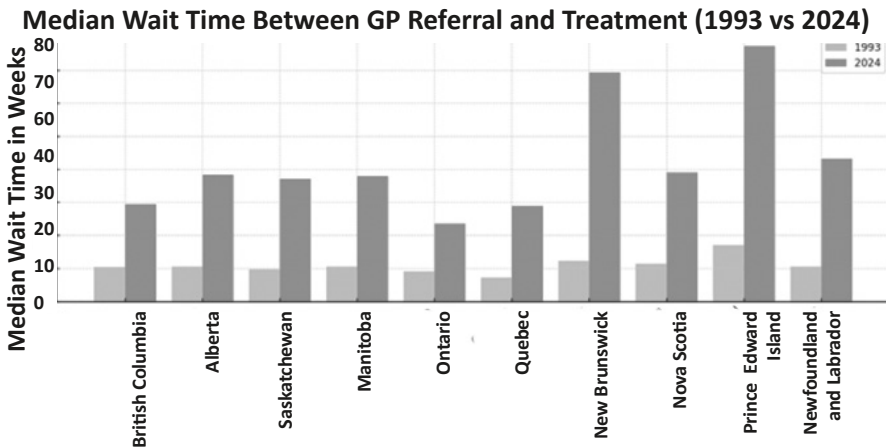
All this may sound like an economist forcing everything into the “econ box,” but the point has also been acknowledged by key architects of public health care systems themselves. Claude Castonguay, who served as Quebec’s Minister of Health during the expansion of publicly provided care, conceded as much in his self-laudatory autobiography. The reality, he explains, is that eliminating rationing would imply significantly higher costs — costs that politicians are generally unwilling to justify through the necessary tax increases. Multiple government reports also take this as an inseparable feature of public provision — even though they do not say it as candidly as I am saying it here.

To illustrate the magnitude of rationing (and the trend), one can examine the evolution of the median number of weeks between referral by a general practitioner and receipt of treatment from 1993 to 2024. In

most provinces (except one), the median wait time in 1993 was less than 12 weeks. Today, all provinces are close or exceed 30 weeks. In two provinces, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the median wait times exceed 69 weeks. For some procedures, such as neurosurgery, the wait time (for all provinces) exceeds 46 weeks.

a figure, for 2023, of \$10.6 billion or \$8,730 per patient waiting.

One study attempted to estimate the cost of rationing in terms of lives lost. This may seem callous, but lives lost means lost productivity — a way to approximate the cost of wait times. One study found that one extra week of delay in the period between meeting with a GP and a surgical



Estimating the full cost of health care rationing is far from straightforward. The central challenge lies in balancing data reliability with the breadth of conditions considered. While some procedures and ailments are well documented, they represent only a subset of those subject to rationing. For many other conditions, data quality is limited or inconsistent, making comprehensive analysis difficult. As a result, most empirical studies focus narrowly on areas where measurement is more robust, leaving much of the total cost unaccounted for.

In 2008, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) released a study estimating the economic cost of wait times for four major procedures: total joint replacement, cataract surgery, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), and MRI scans. For the year 2007, the CMA estimated that the cost of waiting amounted to \$14.8 billion (CAD). Relative to the size of the Canadian economy at the time, this represented approximately 1.3 percent of GDP. That study did not include, as one former president of the CMA noted, \$4.4 billion in foregone government revenues resulting from reduced economic activity. It also does not include the cost of waiting times for new medications.

These procedures do not capture the full scope of delays in the system and only a few procedures — and the analysis focused only on an arbitrary definition of “excessive” wait times. In 2013, the Conference Board of Canada found that adding an extra two additional ailments boosted the cost from \$14.8 billion to \$20.1 billion.

Another study used a similar method, but considered the cost in terms of lost wages and leisure. It arrived at

procedure increased death rates for female patients by 3 per 100,000 population. Given that the loss of a life is estimated at \$6.5 million (CAD), this is not a negligible social cost in terms of mortality.

And all of this for what? One could argue that these wait times come with good care once obtained. That is not true either.

Adjusting for the age of population, Canada ranks (out of 30):

- #28 in doctors
- #24 in care beds
- #25 in MRI units
- #26 in CT scanners

In one comparative study examining care outcomes — such as cancer treatment, patient safety and procedural success — “Canada performed well on five indicators of clinical quality, but its results on the remaining six were rated as either average or poor.” This is despite, after again adjusting for population age structure, Canada ranking as the highest spender among a group of 30 comparable countries. The reality is that, whatever nuances one wishes to introduce — whether in good faith, pedantically, or simply to troll — the core message of the viral video remains accurate: Canadian health care works well for those who can afford to wait. To which I might add: wait very long.

(Editor/GG: We have a few local libs who preach the gov free health care for all mantra. It doesn’t work and it won’t work EVER in the USA. Want to make our current system better? Get the government out of it in all aspects.)

Please see: <https://thedailyeconomy.org/article/the-wait-is-the-price-quiet-rationing-in-canadian-health-care/>

REPORTING: THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD AS A CASE STUDY

by Kenyn Cureton,
The Washington Stand

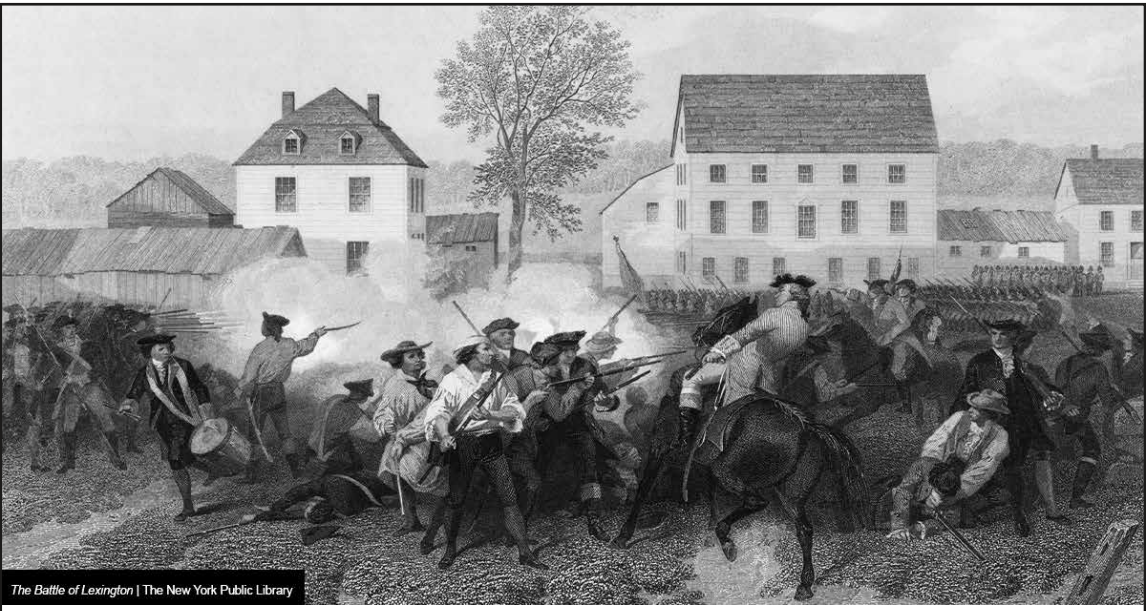
—April 26, 2025

Part 1 of 2

This week, Attorney General Pam Bondi launched a task force to eradicate anti-Christian bias — a laudable goal that is greatly appreciated. They will rightly look at how the rights of professing Christians have been threatened, but there are certainly more subtle varieties of anti-Christian bias. Notably, Christian faith and influence are being completely omitted from historical interpretations of those momentous events that launched us toward liberty 250 years ago.

As an example, one needs to look no further than the many news reports this past Saturday on the anniversary of the “Shot Heard ‘Round the World,” the battles between local patriot militia and British regulars at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, which marked the beginning of the War for Independence. Since this 250th Anniversary was sandwiched between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, many Americans may have missed media reports recounting the history of the fateful events of April 19, 1775.

One video of interest was produced by Hillsdale College on behalf of the White House, the first in a series for their America 250th celebration. Wilfred McClay, professor of History, recounted much of the same information as the other news reports about Lexington



The Battle of Lexington | The New York Public Library

and Concord, but the video was ultimately disappointing because of its huge omission: Nothing was said about the fundamental role the pastors played in both communities in raising the town militias that took on the world’s most powerful military in the British.

Some might claim such an omission was unintentional, done out of ignorance. Yet somehow all of the subject matter experts and historians who populated the news reports and videos I reviewed were silent. In fact, the CBS “Sunday Morning” piece, which was done on location in Lexington, went to extraordinary lengths to omit any information about Pastor Jonas Clark — even though the interview took place in his parsonage! When the CBS reporter interviewed Sarah McDonough of the Lexington Historical Society, she referenced the fact that Paul Revere made

his famous “midnight ride” to this very home where Patriot leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams had sought refuge from the British. While McDonough may have identified the parsonage off camera or she was edited out, CBS glaringly omitted the fact that Hancock and Adams stayed with Clark in the church parsonage, which was the destination of Paul Revere’s storied ride. Consequently, I believe this omission was indeed intentional.

That begs the question: if CBS, and indeed all the mainline media reports, left out that important bit of information from the discussion about the fateful events of April 18-19, what else was left out about this pastor and his influence on his town and even with these patriot leaders? Turns out it’s quite a lot. Now, some might call “time-out” at this point and ask: What’s the big deal

about the patriot leaders staying in the home of the pastor of the Lexington church? After all, John Hancock’s grandfather served as pastor in that same church before Jonas Clark. Yet why would these patriot leaders seek refuge in Clark’s parsonage? Because, like Hancock and Adams, Rev. Clark was also an ardent supporter of American resistance to British tyranny.

Jonas Clark: Patriot Pastor of Lexington

A graduate of Harvard and only 20 years old when he assumed the reins of leadership as pastor at Lexington, Jonas Clark became a patriot. Not surprisingly, according to Historian Alice Baldwin, his parsonage became a “patriot hangout,” reporting that: “[P]atriots ... gathered often at his home to discuss politics. ... [H]e was... a statesman. ... For years before the Stamp Act, he is said

to have preached Sunday after Sunday and explained in many a town meeting the doctrines of natural and constitutional rights and right of resistance.”

From 1765 until 1775, when the first shots were fired in the shadow of his church, Clark drew up a series of reasoned responses to the British Parliament’s oppressive rulings. When the Stamp Act tax passed in 1765, he called it “a door to numberless evils.” When the Quartering Acts passed in 1768 and the British quartered troops in the Colonies, he condemned it as “an infringement of their natural, constitutional, and chartered rights.” When the Tea Act tax on tea and other goods passed in 1773, Clark argued that any citizen of Lexington who purchased or consumed British tea “should be looked upon as an enemy of the town.”

When the other so-called “Intolerable Acts” were passed, Clark guided the town to prepare for war. It was he who prompted the town’s decision to raise and train militia for the purpose of defending their town should armed conflict break out. Historian George Bancroft records that in 1774:

“[A]t various town meetings, they voted: ‘to increase their stock of ammunition,’ ‘to encourage military discipline, and to put themselves in a posture of defence against their enemies.’ In December, they distributed to ‘the train band and alarm list’ arms

LEXINGTON CONCORD
see page 22



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

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



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The Second Amendment Corner

1776

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



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

Five Drills for Beginners at the Range

by Travis Pike, ammoland.com

Going to the range without a plan is like going to the gym without a plan. You show up, do some bicep curls, wander around, and ultimately make no progress. Without a plan, you're wasting ammo, time, and not learning anything. One of the easiest ways to make a plan is to turn to drills. There are many drills out there, and today, we are bringing you the five best beginner drills.

Beginner Drills – How To Plan

A drill is a shooting exercise that prescribes nearly every element of your shooting. It describes your distance, your accuracy standards, the time you have to accomplish the drill, how many rounds are fired and more. Most importantly, it has a time and accuracy standard.

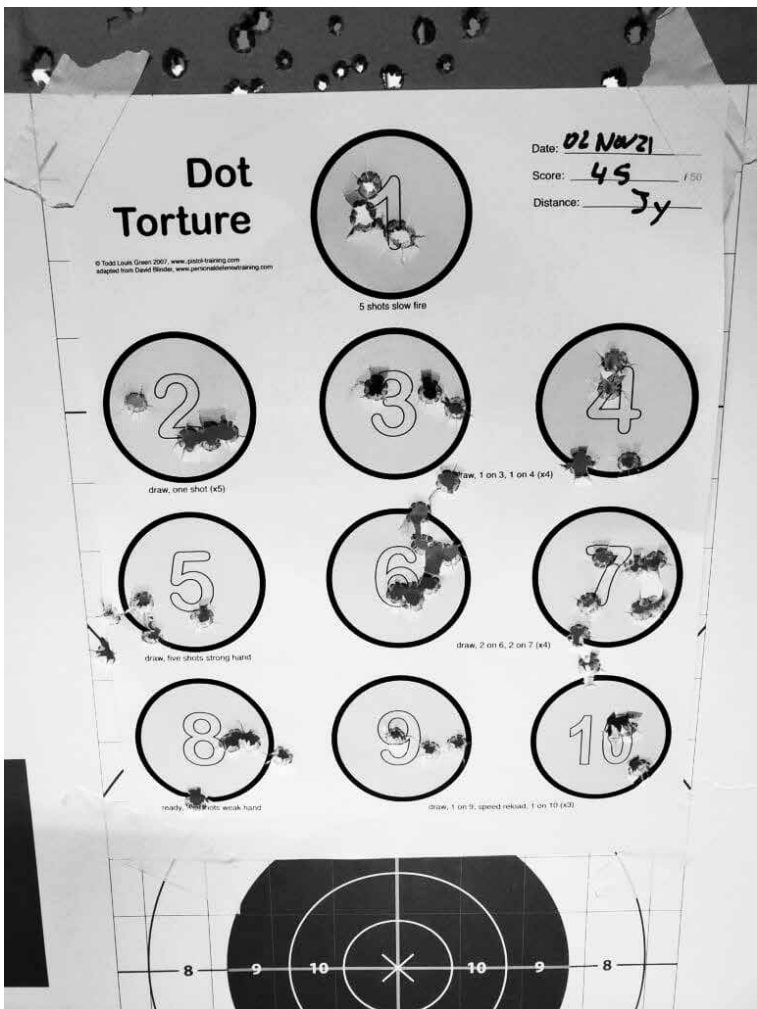
A time and accuracy standard gives you a goal to meet. If you can't meet these goals, you'll be able to identify your weaknesses and, hopefully, improve your shooting skills continually. Shooters should never dive too deep or too fast. Attempting the FAST Drill as a new shooter can be a recipe for disaster.

To avoid throwing new shooters into the pool's deep end and seeing if they sink or swim, I wanted to provide five basic, safe drills. These are still challenging and provide an excellent tool to advance your shooting skills.

With that in mind, as a new shooter, it's always wise to try these drills dry first. Dry being ammo-free, just walk through them at your pace and ensure you understand exactly what you're doing. Take your time, maintain the basics of grip, sight picture, and basic manipulations, and only go as fast as you can safely.

Dot Torture

- **Range** – 3 to 5 Yards
- **Time** – None
- **Equipment Required** – Two magazines, one magazine pouch, and a holster.
- **Ammo** – 50 Rounds



One of my more recent attempts at Dot Torture. This drill gains its name from the target you're required to use.

Dot Torture is a training classic built around handguns and one ammo box. This drill gains its name from the target you're required to use. The target has ten 2-inch dots. The target can be printed and found easily online. Each dot has an assigned task that ranges from five shots of slow fire to drawing, reloading, and more. Dot Torture isn't a single drill but a combination of several beginner drills that provide an all-around shooting workout.

There is no time standard, and the range depends on your comfort level and skill. I always advise starting at three yards and working your way back. This can be a great way to test some basic skills in a fairly low-pressure scenario. Plus, it eats exactly fifty rounds, which is perfect for new shooters with a single box of ammo.

The 10-10-10 Drill

- **Range** – 10 Yards
- **Time** – 10 Seconds
- **Extra Equipment Required** – Shot Timer
- **Ammo** – 10 Rounds

The 10-10-10 Drill is one of my favorite beginner drills. It's a bit of a yardstick for new shooters. The drill uses a basic B8 target, which is a very traditional Bull's Eye you can find anywhere or even print one at home. The name explains the entirety of the drill. You're firing ten rounds in ten seconds at ten yards.

Your goal is to hit nothing ten on the B8 target, but that's something most people have to work towards. You'll have to find the right balance of accuracy and time, and new shooters who tend

to go too fast tend to miss fast. This drill works your ability to hold a consistent grip, track your sights, and control recoil, all very important skills to master.

The Failure To Stop Drill

- **Range** – 5 to 7 Yards
- **Time** – 3 Seconds
- **Extra Equipment Required** – Shot Timer
- **Ammo** – 3 Rounds

The Failure to Stop Drill is one of the oldest formal shooting drills, and with age comes adaptability. The drill is insanely simple. The shooter starts in the low or high ready position, and at the beep, they shoot two rounds to the chest quickly and then fire one well-aimed headshot. Different par times have been used historically, but I like 3 seconds for beginners.

This is a practical shooting drill that can be simple. You need a target with a chest and head portion. You can use any silhouette target, but I like to use a B8 for the chest and a 3x5 index card for the head. This gives you smaller targets and demands more accuracy. Being able to quickly place effective rounds on target is a critical defensive skill, and that's what the Failure to Stop Drill teaches.

Doubles Drill

- **Range** – 5 Yards
- **Time** – None
- **Extra Equipment Required** – None
- **Ammo** – 2 Rounds Per Run

The Doubles Drill is a super simple drill that's very popular with competition shooters. It requires you to fire two shots rapidly, and the goal is for those two shots to be as close as possible. You'll start in the ready position and fire two rounds rapidly, aiming for them to be on top of each other.

We are attempting to control recoil and get the gunsight back on target after our second shot is fired. You can use anything as a target, but smaller targets demand better control. A B8 works great because I want the shots in the

X ring, and I can easily measure how far off I am. Focus on your recoil control, and you'll also be exposed to firing quickly, which can be stressful, but this is a controlled effort.

The Five Shot Red Dot Drill

- **Range** – 5 Yards
- **Time** – None
- **Extra Equipment Required** – Shot Timer, Extra Magazine
- **Ammo** – 5 Rounds Per Run

This drill uses a red dot but can be done with iron sights. You don't have a time requirement, but you should use a shot timer to record your times to examine if you're getting quicker or slowing down. You should aim to go faster without sacrificing accuracy. Our target will be an 8-inch circle, which means you can use a B8.

Traditionally, this is fired from the holster, but beginners should start at a low readiness. At the beep of a shot timer, you'll aim and quickly fire five rounds into the 8-inch circle. Your goal is to properly track your sights and keep all five rounds into the target. This means you'll need to exercise proper recoil control, too, another very valuable skill.

After you fire the fifth round, you'll conduct a reload and get the gun right back to the ready position. As far as beginner drills go, they are practical efforts that keep you trying to get faster and faster.

Beginner Drills and You

Beginner drills should offer very simple goals. We want to see an accuracy standard, a time standard, or both. The goals should be clear, and you should be working on specific skills. Until your skill level grows, you should avoid complicated skills like drawing, multiple positions, and even one-handed manipulations.

Drills offer clear goals that ensure you get the most from your range time.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/five-drills-for-beginners-at-the-range/>



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PSA Rock 5.7: A Lever Delayed Revolution

by Travis Pike, ammoland.com

I’ve shot pistols in 5.7x28mm before, but only very briefly. Palmetto State Armory’s Rock is the first time I’ve had a ton of time and rounds downrange with a 5.7, and it’s helping change my opinion of the round. The PSA Rock is PSA’s answer to the 5.7 phenomenon, and like most PSA products, it aims to give you more for less. FN, Ruger, and S&W all produce 5.7mm pistols, but PSA does it a bit cheaper with the Rock.

What’s The Rock?

The Rock is a 5.7x28mm semi-automatic pistol. It’s a striker-fired gun with a polymer frame, which isn’t crazy in 2025. The weapon uses a pre-cocked striker-fired design, leading to a consistently light trigger. The Rock comes with a 4.7-inch barrel in the standard design, but there are also 5.2-inch versions with threaded barrels.

The gun comes in an optics-ready version, but this is the iron-sighted variant. The gun takes full advantage of the 5.7’s size and squeezes 23 rounds into the flush-fitting magazine. As far as I can tell, this is the highest capacity of a flush-fitting magazine in the 5.7 realm. The gun uses Glock-compatible sights, so there are an abundance of options out there.

That’s all fairly standard, but the Rock’s use of a lever-delayed blowback system makes it stand apart. Lever-delayed blowback is fairly rare and was seemingly invented by John Pedersen. Compared to basic blowback systems, this means less recoil and a flat shooting design for the end user.

A lever-delayed system isn’t new in a handgun, but it’s still relatively rare in a modern handgun. That



The PSA Rock is a big gun, and 5.7’s need to be for velocity’s sake. Full size describes the Rock well, but there is a compact variant.



I’ll take this kind of accuracy.

novelty alone makes the gun worth the price of admission for me, just because I nerd out on an interesting operating system.

The Rock Ergonomics

One of the downsides of every 5.7x28mm pistol is the grip. The 28mm long case and total overall length are 1.594 inches. This forces the grip to be wide when measured from the front of the grip to the rear of the grip. Smaller hands will feel like they are handling a 2×4. The initial FN 5.7 pistols had a very board-like feeling.

The Rock does its best to keep things nice and comfy, but the very

nature of the cartridge will make this gun tougher to handle for those with smaller hands. Overall, I think PSA did a good job with the gun’s grips and ergonomics. It’s got a great texture and shape that does its best to resist the 2×4 feeling.

The texture feels aggressive and is hand-filling. The Rock uses a nice rear hump and a grip design that allows for a nice high grip on the gun. I’m sure it’s not intentional, but it reminds me of a larger TX22. It’s quite comfy overall.

The Rock requires very little effort to rack the slide, another benefit of

the 5.7x28mm caliber. It doesn’t require a hefty recoil spring, and the slide has a nice set of serrations for a sure grip and easy access.

My only real ergonomic complaint is the slide lock. It’s stiffer than woodpecker lips, and pushing it down requires some serious effort. This is probably a gun I’d slingshot rather than use the slide lock to reload.

Shooting the Rock

When I hear a loud gunshot, I typically assume I’ll be greeted with substantial recoil. This is true for shotguns, magnum revolvers, and long-range rifles. This isn’t true with 5.7x28mm pistols. They are loud, but the recoil sits at a low point. The Rock shoots smoothly and feels closer to a .22 Magnum than a centerfire handgun.

We get very little recoil and very little muzzle rise. You can shoot the gun quickly and maintain great control over it. I’ve been shooting a Micro Dagger with one hand recently, and the contrast between the Micro Dagger and the Rock is crazy. The Rock delivers a much friendlier and easier-to-control recoil impulse.

I had recently zeroed in an Osight S and had a target made up of two-inch dots, with some unmolested dots still around. My first shots fired with the gun were at 15 yards at one of these two-inch dots. I had no problem putting five rounds into these dots over and over without a single round breaking the line.

At 25 yards, I could keep every round on a B-8 target and in the black. At 50 yards, I could easily hit C-Zone steel, even keeping the rounds mostly in the A-zone. Mostly. The Rock certainly lands on the accurate side of 5.7

firearms. A dot would probably help me clean my accuracy even more.

I do not believe in triggers affecting accuracy, but the Rock has a very nice trigger. It’s smooth with minimal takeup, and a very short reset. I can always appreciate the nicer side of triggers.

Like a Rock

I fed 300 rounds of Fioochi 5.7 Range Dynamics through the gun without any failures. The gun seems robust and reliable. I’d love to shoot more, but the price of 5.7 ammo is a big downside to any 5.7 gun. At around 50 cents per round, it can be a bit of a turnoff compared to the much cheaper 9mm option.

I could see this being a low-recoil option for defensive use. It packs 23 rounds of ammo and has hardly any recoil. It’s soft-shooting and easy to control. The 5.7 round is tiny but gives you centerfire reliability and penetrates deeply. The 5.7x28mm round isn’t quite proven, but it isn’t a pea shooter.

The Rock is an affordable 5.7x28mm option made in America, and a gun that’s a lot of fun to shoot. It offers an impressive range and excellent accuracy and is a rather loud little gun with very little recoil. It’s an interesting combination of features and high points with very few downsides. Sure, ammo isn’t cheap, but that’s not the Rock’s fault. My only complaint regarding the gun is the slide lock. That’s it.

I think PSA has a real winner with the Rock.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/psa-rock-5-7-a-lever-delayed-revolution/>

DOJ Says Machine Guns Not Protected by the 2nd Amendment

by David Codrea, ammoland.com

“Trump administration says machine guns aren’t protected by Second Amendment,” The Washington Times reported two weeks ago.

“Machine guns are not the kind of arms protected by the Second Amendment,” Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Case argued in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. “Machine guns are not typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes. Instead, they are uniformly restricted, highly lethal and well suited to criminal purposes.”

“Feds insist Second Amendment doesn’t protect machine guns,” Courthouse News Service reported Wednesday on another case. “Machine guns are atypical weapons not protected by the Second Amendment because a reasonable person would not expect them to be used in militia service, the federal government argued Wednesday before an appeals panel.”

What unsupportable nonsense that is:

The weapons that were in common use in the Founding Era were precisely the arms the military had, that is, what was in common use by the infantry. Considering that many Patriots were equipped with rifles and the standard issue British long arm was a musket, in those cases, “the authorities” were even “outgunned.” We simply cannot ignore that the militia, at the time the Second Amendment was ratified, kept the same types

“...very little information about this being shared by influential voices in the Second Amendment community...”

of weapons at home as they were likely to encounter when called forth – otherwise, they would be marching off to their slaughter. That’s hardly an outcome that would be “necessary to the security of a free State.”

These are two cases that go to the heart of what the Second Amendment is ultimately about,

and they lead to an inconvenient truth for everyone trying to dance around its edges.

Yet aside from this correspondent’s recent *Firearms News* offering, there’s very little information about this being shared by influential voices in the Second Amendment community at this writing (Thursday afternoon, May 8th), and that’s curious considering all the major gun groups have been doing

handsprings praising the Trump Administration and Attorney General Pam Bondi for personnel assignments and their “Second Amendment Task Force.”

At this writing, there is nothing about the administration’s machinegun position on any of the major national gun association websites or on their social media pages. See for yourself, and

if something is posted, check the date stamp and remember it’s been two weeks since the Bondi DOJ’s position was first reported.

Why?

“Here’s the inarguable truth: If machine guns aren’t protected, the Second Amendment is a dead letter and anyone who maintains otherwise is a fraud.”

Arguing that there’s not enough political power to change the status quo, and admittedly there’s not, is no answer. That’s irrelevant to the truth, and that doesn’t explain why these groups haven’t treated this like the major story for their members that it is. If it’s because they’re all invested in staying on Donald Trump’s good side, that’s the opposite of how things should be, and if the guy is so mercurial that questioning his administration puts him in attack mode, then what do we really have? We’re the ones who put him over the tip—we shouldn’t have to walk on eggshells.

It’s also further evidence that Pam Bondi’s Task Force, without gun advocate participation, and where all of its members feed from the same hand, is going to keep coming up with negative

surprises—for us and for the administration.

Here’s the inarguable truth: If machine guns aren’t protected, the Second Amendment is a dead letter and anyone who maintains otherwise is a fraud.

(Editor/GG: You don’t have a belt fed?)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/doj-says-machineguns-not-protected-by-2nd-amendment-and-silence-of-gun-groups-is-deafening/>



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Supreme Court Allows Trump Admin to Enforce Transgender Military Ban

by Katelynn Richardson,
The Daily Caller News Foundation

THE DAILY CALLER
NEWS FOUNDATION

The Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration on Tuesday to enforce its transgender military ban.

In a 6-3 decision, the majority granted the administration’s request to halt a lower court’s ruling preventing the policy from taking effect.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson would have denied the administration’s request, according to the order.

In its application, the administration argued that the lower court’s injunction “cannot be squared with the

substantial deference that the Department’s professional military judgments are owed.”

“It is undisputed that gender dysphoria is a medical condition associated with clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning,” Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote April 24.

Judge Benjamin H. Settle, a George W. Bush appointee, found in a March 27 decision that the transgender service members and activist group who challenged the ban were likely to succeed on their claims.

“Because the military has operated smoothly for four years under the Austin Policy, any claimed hardship it may face in the meantime pales in comparison to the hardships imposed on

transgender service members and otherwise qualified transgender accession candidates, tipping the balance of hardships sharply toward plaintiffs,” Settle wrote. “There can be few matters of greater public interest in this country than protecting the constitutional rights of its citizens.”

The Department of Defense (DOD) updated its policy in February to state that individuals with gender dysphoria do not meet “the high mental and physical standards necessary for military service.”

(Editor/GG: Hallelujah! About time. It was a freak show. Now our soldiers can be soldiers. God Bless Trump and Hegseth.)

Please see: <https://daily-caller.com/2025/05/06/supreme-court-allows-trump-admin-to-enforce-transgender-military-ban/>

LEXINGTON CONCORD from page 19

and ammunition, and resolved to ‘supply the training soldiers with bayonets.’”

Additionally, he preached biblical sermons like “The importance of Military Skill, Measures for Defense, and a Marshall Spirit in a Time of Peace.” The town’s resolve is the voice of Clark: “We shall be ready to sacrifice our estates and everything dear in life, yea and life itself, in support of the common cause.”

That brings us to the night of April 18, 1775, when the now 44-year-old Clark hosted John Hancock and Samuel Adams when Paul Revere arrived at about 11:30 p.m. On his famous ride from occupied Boston, Revere had been captured earlier but escaped to warn these patriots of the approaching British troops. Under orders from the military governor, General Thomas Gage, the 800 British troops marched under the command of Colonel Francis Smith with a two-fold mission: 1) apprehend these traitors to the crown and 2) seize the military arsenal hidden at Concord. In view of the immediate threat, these three patriot leaders huddled in the home of Clark, essentially asking him: “Will the men of Lexington fight?” Indeed, it could be answered that Clark had “trained them for this very hour.” He believed his men would fight, and if necessary, die, to defend their families and their freedom.

A couple of hours later, the alarm sounded, about 135 mustered on Lexington green, but Captain John Parker ultimately sent them back home. However, just before dawn broke, the alarm sounded for a second time, and Parker assembled the minutemen into two lines on the Lexington green, around 70 men. One of them, Prince Estabrook, was an African American slave who fought that day, was wounded, and eventually won his freedom. Another African American, Peter Salem, joined the fight in Lexington later, but both white and black patriots took their stand for liberty that day. As the sound of the British drums and marching redcoats grew closer, Parker called out: “Stand your ground! Don’t fire unless fired upon. But if they mean to have a war, let it begin here!” Soon the shot heard round the world rang out right in the shadow of Clark’s church. Nearly every man in the militia attended Clark’s church. They drilled on the green before Clark’s church. The ammunition and gunpowder for the militia was stored in Clark’s church.

Yet the patriots soon found themselves outnumbered at this point — some 400 to around 700 as the British continued to pour around both sides of their church meetinghouse and onto Lexington green. Parker ordered his men to disperse, but not everyone heard him as the British were shouting “Huzzah!” as they bore

down on Parker’s men. In the confusion, Major John Pitcairn of the British Royal Marines yelled: “Lay down your arms ... Ye villains, Ye Rebels! Disperse, damn you!” Clark, who recorded eye-witness battlefield testimony, claimed that it was one of the 200 officers with the expedition who fired the first shot from a pistol as Parker’s patriots were dispersing. Pitcairn, brandishing a short sword, then pointing toward them, with a loud voice shouted to the troops: “Fire! By God, fire!” Clark reported that “order was instantly followed by discharge of arms from the ... [British] troops and succeeded by a very heavy and close fire on our dispersing party so long as any of them were within reach.”

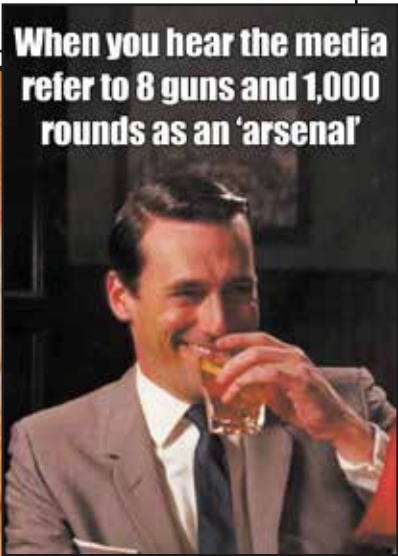
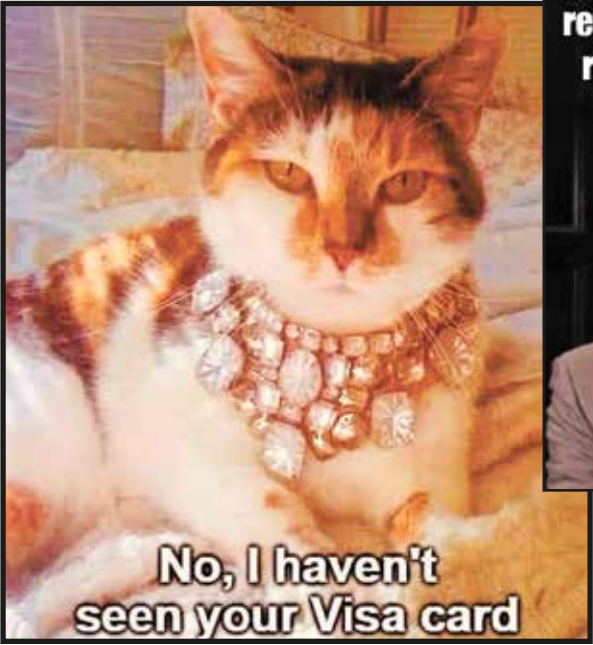
Caleb Harrington was killed as he exited the church meetinghouse as the skirmish started. Joseph Comee was wounded in the arm as he tried to exit the church building. Inside the meetinghouse, Joshua Simmons retreated to the upper room where the town’s supply of gun powder was stored, and he thrust his musket into a barrel of powder. If the regulars attempted to storm the building, he was determined to destroy it.[x] A few patriots fired in return but with little effect, wounding only three British regulars. As the smoke cleared, eight of the Lexington militiamen lay dead, and seven were members of Clark’s church.

The British troops fired a victory salute and offered three cheers to the King, then marched off the green and on the road to Concord. As the redcoats left, wives, children, and spectators emerged from hiding and made their way onto the green. Many were overcome with emotion and grief at the sight of family members and neighbors lying dead or wounded on the green, including Clark. Those gathered helped treat the wounded and carried the dead into the church meetinghouse.

At 10:00 a.m., the pastor led a brief memorial service for those men who were killed. The bodies were then quickly buried in a common grave covered with brush for fear the gravesite would be desecrated on the return of the British regulars. One year later, in this 1776 anniversary sermon, Clark reflected after having buried seven men who were a part of his flock and declared: “From the 19th of April, 1775, we may venture to predict, in future history, the Liberty or the Slavery of the American World ...” Thus began the War for Independence in the shadow of a church, and a patriot pastor was at the heart of it.

(Editor/GG: Question: Where are pastors like these here today? Hard to find....)

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/commentary/antichristian-bias-in-history-reporting-the-250th-anniversary-remembrances-of-lexington-and-concord-as-a-case-study>



Sierra Valley, California Under Grey Wolf Siege

Press Release
Sierra County Sheriff's Office

April 28, 2025

Over the past 28 days, ranchers and residents in Sierra Valley have been under siege from escalating gray wolf activity. While the presence of wolves in the valley is not new, this spring has seen a dramatic increase in attacks.

The incidents began early this month with six calves attacked and wounded. This was quickly followed by two additional calves that were attacked so severely they had to be euthanized. During a visit by Sacramento news media to one of the affected ranches, two wolves were observed and recorded in broad daylight among cows and calves. Although efforts were made to haze the wolves from the pasture, they returned within an hour and attacked two more calves.

Since then, DS Ranches have reported three additional calf attacks resulting in either death or euthanasia. One particularly concerning incident involved a calf killed while California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) game wardens were actively patrolling the property. This highlights the inefficiency of current hazing policies, which are impractical for large-scale ranching operations.

Beyond the DS Ranch incidents, a ranch just north

reported three calves, and one cow killed, while a ranch just south reported one cow attacked. In total, at least 18 confirmed wolf attacks have occurred in Sierra Valley within the past 28 days.

On Saturday night, following the Loyalton Fire Department's Spaghetti Feed at the Sierra Brooks Lodge, the Sierra County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call around 11 p.m., reporting a suspected wolf attack on a deer in a resident's side yard, just 100 yards from the Sierra Brooks Lodge. Deputies responded, but the suspected wolf had fled. As deputies approached, the severely injured deer stood up and fled into nearby brush. While the witness reported extensive injuries consistent with a wolf attack, deputies were unable to euthanize the deer to obtain DNA confirmation. The Sheriff's Office is awaiting confirmation from CDFW that the tracks located in the yard are wolf.

This morning, at approximately 7:30 a.m., Sheriff Mike Fisher received a call from a local resident reporting that his son had discovered evidence of an animal attack on their front porch around 12:30 a.m. The resident provided photographs showing bloody wolf tracks on the porch. Sheriff Fisher coordinated with CDFW and responded to the scene.



Upon investigation, it was determined that at least two wolves were involved in the attack. It is believed that an elk, while being chased by the wolves, ended up at the residence's doorstep before ultimately being taken down and killed approximately 50 yards from the house.

Fortunately, no human injuries occurred. The resident, awakened by the commotion, initially believed someone was attempting to break into the home through the front door.

The suspected wolf attack in Sierra Brooks, combined with the confirmed elk attack just feet from a residence, underscores a growing and alarming trend: these wolves are demonstrating very little fear of humans and are moving closer and closer into our residential areas and communities. This escalating behavior represents a serious public safety concern that cannot be ignored by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Border Patrol April Press Release: Winning, Winning, Winning Only FIVE Illegals Let In, Last Year in April: 68,000!!!!

Press Release
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

(Editor/GG: Some amazing excerpts from the Press Release. Our border is now secure due to one man, Donald Trump.)

—May 12, 2025

WASHINGTON D.C.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released operational statistics today for April 2025. CBP monthly reporting can be viewed on CBP's Stats and Summaries webpage.

"For the first time in years, more agents are back in the field—patrolling territories that CBP didn't have the bandwidth or manpower to oversee just six months ago," said Pete Flores, Acting Commissioner of CBP. "But thanks to this administration's dramatic shift in security posture at our border, we are now seeing operational control becoming a reality—and it's only just beginning."

Below are key operational statistics for CBP's primary mission areas in April 2025.

Halting the flow of illegal aliens into the country

Driven by the administration's decisive and effective immigration enforcement, our frontlines continue to see overwhelming improvements when it comes to securing our border. Because of this, only five illegal aliens were temporarily allowed into the U.S. in April for U.S. special interest court cases—a staggering drop from the roughly 68,000 released along the southwest border during the same month last year.

Operational Control – At Entry and At Large

CBP is sharpening its enforcement posture by categorizing apprehensions into two strategic areas: At Entry and At Large. This framework gives a clearer picture of how operational control is being asserted—both where illegal crossings typically begin and beyond.

At Entry refers to interdictions along the border or in an illegal alien's transit toward their intended destinations. These are the frontline areas where CBP has already seen a sharp decline in attempted crossings, thanks to sustained deterrence and enforcement.

At Large encompasses everything beyond those corridors. It includes broader operations aimed at disrupting illegal activity wherever it takes hold—making communities across America safer. A clear example of At Large enforcement is Operation Tidal Wave, the largest joint immigration operation in Florida history. Conducted in late April with support from CBP, it resulted in 1,120 criminal arrests in just one week.

With these distinguishing factors, the breakdown in April 2025 shows Border Patrol recorded 8,383 apprehensions along the southwest border, with 906 classified as at large — a 93% drop from the 128,895 apprehensions recorded in April 2024. That averages out to 279 apprehensions per day, including 30 at large, which is a dramatic decrease from 4,297 per day just a year ago.

For the whole PR, see: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-april-2025-monthly-update>



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CO Legislature 2025
from page 11

HB25-1250 (PASSED): Autho-rizes local governments to enact stricter firearm ordinances than state law, overriding local preemption protections. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.

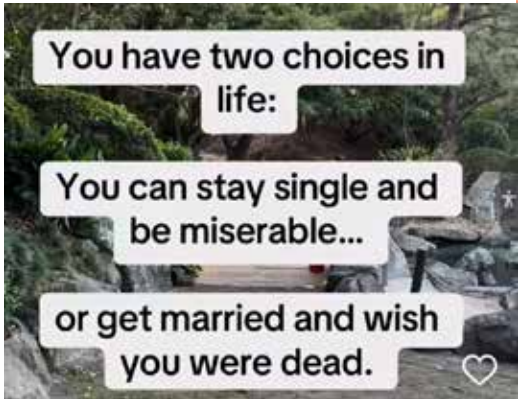
Education, Speech & Parental Rights

SB25-063 – School Board Transparency Rules (BECAME LAW): Otherwise labeled as “Speak and Be Doxxed,” as any parent who requests that a book be reconsidered for a school library will have their name made public. That request becomes a CORA-able document, meaning it falls under the Colorado Open Records Act. This bill requires every Colorado public school and district to establish written policies governing how library materials are selected, displayed, retained, and reconsidered. These policies must protect First Amendment rights, prohibit discrimination, and set transparent standards for reviewing and potentially removing books, while also protecting library staff from retaliation for following those procedures. Governor Polis signed it into law on May 1.

SB25-147 (PASSED): SB147 increases transparency and accountability in the governance of the Public Employees’ Retirement Association (PERA) by officially defining the Board of Trustees as a “local public body” under the state’s open meetings law. It sets term limits for board members, mandates public access to meeting and financial records on the PERA website, and reaffirms that the board retains final responsibility over the administration of the association. It now awaits Governor Polis’ signature.

HB25-1320 (PASSED): HB1320 updates Colorado’s school finance system by extending the transition between the current and new funding formulas through 2030–31. It changes how district funding is phased in year by year, adjusts how pupil counts are calculated, delays a new at-risk measure to 2026–27, and sets new base funding levels statewide. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.





Housing, Zoning & Local Control

HB25-1169 (FAILED): Would have forced local governments to allow churches and schools to build high-density housing on their land—bypassing zoning, density limits, and community input. It stalled amid bipartisan pushback but signals Polis’ ongoing push to erode local land-use authority.

Medical Policy, Tech, and Civil Liberties

SB25-183 (BECAME LAW): Codifies state-funded abortion coverage for Medicaid and CHIP recipients following Amendment 79’s passage. Governor Polis signed it into law on April 24.

SB25-288 (PASSED): Makes it a crime to distribute AI-generated explicit content—a bipartisan move as Colorado grapples with tech and privacy ethics. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.

SB25-304 (PASSED): Creates a Sexual Assault Forensic Review Board to tackle a growing backlog of rape kit testing across the state. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.

The Wins for Conservatives (Few and Far Between)

Polis’ Veto of SB25-077 (Open Records restrictions) was cheered by First Amendment groups. Polis also vetoed a con-troversial open records bill, SB77, which would have limited access to government rec-ords for non-media entities and raised costs. His veto letter argued the bill created inequity in access based on who was requesting the in-formation.

HB25-1315 (Vacancy reform) is a step forward for transparency and voter empowerment in Colorado by re-quiring special elections to fill many legislative

vacancies, rather than leaving those decisions solely to party insiders. It opens up the process to the public through livestreamed meetings and new campaign finance rules. While conservatives successfully pushed for more voter input, concerns remain about the cost to taxpayers, the inclusion of unaffiliated voters, and a new restriction that delays voting rights for newly appointed pre-cinct officers. It is headed to Governor Polis for signature.

What to Watch Next

- Lawsuits are already brewing around HB1312, SB276 and SB3
- The state budget’s structural deficit is expected to deepen in 2026.
- TABOR reform remains a quiet but ongoing battleground, with efforts to challenge it legally still circulating behind the scenes.

Bottom Line: Colorado’s 2025 session proved that even in a divided nation, Democrats in the Centennial State are united—and emboldened. For conservatives, the message is clear: the Left is legislating faster and more aggressively than ever. But the backlash is growing, and many Coloradans are waking up to the consequences. Want more like this? Subscribe to Rocky Mountain Voice and follow us on social for continued coverage as Governor Polis signs—or vetoes—the final stack of bills.

(Editor/GG: Sentinel readers, subscribe to the Rocky Mountain Voice. They are doing unbelievably good work. And its free. Go to: <https://rockymountainvoice.com>)

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