

"I Will be a Bobcat Forever"

Longtime Counselor Troy Bomgardner Bids Adieu

by Fred Hernandez

Everything has a beginning and an end. For Troy Bomgardner it began in Kansas, where he lived with his family. His parents, who were living in Colorado, suggested he move the family closer to them. Happily accepting the invitation, he started looking for work before making the move. With the right qualifications, he readily found employment with the local school district and made his move to Custer about thirteen years ago.

His three children attended Custer County School while Troy worked as football coach and student counselor. Two of the young Bomgardners have



Student Counselor Troy Bomgardner at his desk in school. Behind him are the pennants of some of the colleges/universities local students attended.

now graduated and moved on. His youngest graduates from high school this school year. For Troy, this moment seems just right to make his parting move. He has decided to end his days in academia.

Over the last decade, the school district has had its share of good times, successes and challenges. Throughout those times however, Troy has always remained steadfast in his commitment to the school children as a most dependable counselor for thirteen years and football coach for nine of those years. He will be remembered as one who instilled a positive influence on the youth of the county during his tenure at the school district.

Aside from his many day-to-day responsibilities, his contributions include involvement in writing two grants that gained for the school a cool one million dollars. One grant for \$400K was dedicated for a counselor for the elementary grades and a second one for \$600K was for substance abuse prevention.

Together with other staff, Troy helped in the development of the Early College Program which features concurrent enrollment for kids in high school to simultaneously take college courses. This saves them much valuable time after

FOREVER BOBCAT  
see page 10

COvid Chronicles May 8 - 15:

C&C Made Headlines

Polis Made an Example

Colorado Made Up Its Mind

Part 1 of 2

by RMV Editor, The Rocky Mountain Voice Editorial Board, The Rocky Mountain Voice

(This fourth installment of RMV’s COvid Chronicles picks up where the last left off – but this time, the spark became a blaze. We split this chapter into two parts to capture the rapid escalation. Part one chronicled the mounting tensions. Part two reveals the eruption.)

The governor’s enforcers tried to make an example of C&C. Instead, they created a rallying cry.

In just seven days, Colorado witnessed threats, shutdowns, viral videos and a surge of defiance that no press conference could contain. Counties revolted, small towns re-opened and sheriffs made it clear: the edicts had lost their teeth.

These are the COvid Chronicles for May 8-11, 2020...

COvid Chronicles catch-up

- Introducing The COvid Chronicles: How fear and force reshaped Colorado
- COvid Chronicles April 1-15, 2020: Fifteen days that changed Colorado forever
- COvid Chronicles April 16-30,

2020: From tattletales to tyranny

- The COvid Chronicles May 1–7, 2020: Seven days that set the stage for open rebellion

May 8

The Gazette featured Gov. Polis front and center – suited up in his Colorado flag mask – extending the state’s disaster declaration while Coloradans tried to figure out if eating indoors now qualified as a felony.

Just a day ago, the Denver Post admitted the COVID response was forcing restaurants to close permanently.

It was also reported that not a single business had been reported as noncompliant with Denver’s shiny new mask mandate.

All quiet on the compliance front, they implied. Nothing to see here.

Except there was. Across Colorado, business owners and law enforcement had already begun quietly – and not so quietly – refusing to play along with the charade.

That included Larimer County, where Sheriff Justin Smith openly refused to enforce the new county

COvid Chronicles  
see page 16

BOCC: Have a Tourniquet,

OEM Audit, Jet Fuel Tank

Operational

by George Gramlich,  
News and Commentary

The May 22, 2025 regular meeting of the Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) was held at the All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room in the distressed area on Main Street, Westcliffe, Colorado. It started at 9 a.m. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogelsong.

Opening the meeting after the salute to the flag and the invocation, Canda said that going forward the once a month BOCC meeting which features elected officials and department heads reports would have the actual officials and heads present during the whole meeting so that all could hear the reports of the others. Thus, there were a lot of those officials/heads sitting in the peanut gallery. Canda said that all the officials/heads would submit a written report before the meeting and each would give a five-minute summary during the meeting.

So sayeth Canda.

In Elected Officials reports, Sheriff Rich Smith was the first victim of the new format. Smith gave the April stats: 629 calls for service, five arrests and 524 traffic stops. Smith said that FRECOM, Custer County and Fremont County’s combined dispatch system

handled 7,098 calls in April. Smith noted that the Sheriff’s Office had complied with various security upgrades at the school. He also thanked our IT guy, John Mapes, for finally fixing some glitches in the dispatch system that has plagued the SO for a long time. Smith, used a recent gruesome motorcycle accident on Hardscrabble as an example for why citizens should carry at least one tourniquet in their vehicles. Smith said he will be going to the Hospital Board to ask for additional EMS/ambulance staffing. Also, Smith stated he has started various “focus groups” in the valley each one based around a certain demographic like ranchers, faith healers, etc.

Virginia Trujillo gave the Treasurer’s report. No surprises there. The County’s bank balance at the end of April was about \$10 million.

Coroner Brad Baltzly was next. Brad said they only had two deaths in the county in April but they were both on the same day.

Staff Reports were next with VSO Director, Dominic Edginton giving the report. As usual, Dominic was very busy in April with 40 walk-ins and a bunch of appointments. Dominic said he has filed a

BOCC  
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PATRIOT ALERT!

The Red Line  
page 18



Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King.  
1 Peter 2:17 KJV

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of Conservative  
Colorado!



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

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

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

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# New USDA Report Paints Troubling Picture for America's Cattle Industry

by Tyler Durden,  
ZeroHedge.com

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's April report, published on Friday, offers a crisis-level snapshot of the cattle industry and raises further concerns that a near-term recovery remains unlikely. This comes as average supermarket prices for ground beef hit new record highs, just as Americans fire up their grills for Memorial Day weekend.

The report showed that the number of cattle fattening on grain at large commercial feedlots declined to the lowest seasonal level since 2020, while cold storage supplies of beef fell to 418 million pounds in April—the lowest for this time of year since 2014, according to Bloomberg.

Readers have been well informed about the USDA's annual Cattle Inventory report, released earlier this year. The report showed that the nation's cattle herd in 2024 fell to a 73-year low, totaling around 86.6 million head.

In early May, Brady Stewart, head of Tyson Foods' beef and pork supply chains, told a Barclays analyst during an earnings call that there are some encouraging signs that a cattle herd "rebuild" cycle could be approaching. He added, "From a liquidation standpoint, we're really seeing the bottom at this point as well."

By mid-month, Tyson Foods CEO Donnie King told investors at the BMO Global Farm to Market Conference in New York that, due to the ongoing cattle crisis, there would be a major push to ramp up chicken production as a more affordable alternative to sky-high beef prices for consumers.

The cattle shortage, plus new developments of U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins shutting down live cattle, horse and bison imports from southern border land ports, have sent Chicago cattle futures soaring to new heights.

At the supermarket, USDA data shows the average price for a pound of ground beef hit a record high of \$5.8/lb in April.

The White House's Rapid Response 47 X account recently reposted a video from Fox News that interviewed a rancher who warned, "It's going to take time to rebuild" the nation's herd.

Rapid Response 47  
@RapidResponse47

5th Generation Cattle Rancher Steve Lucie: I think at this point, we should be all-in on what's happening... We have the lowest beef herd that we've had since 1950 and that's because so many people have gotten out of the industry. If we could've exported more of our beef, I don't think we would've lost all these farmers and ranchers.

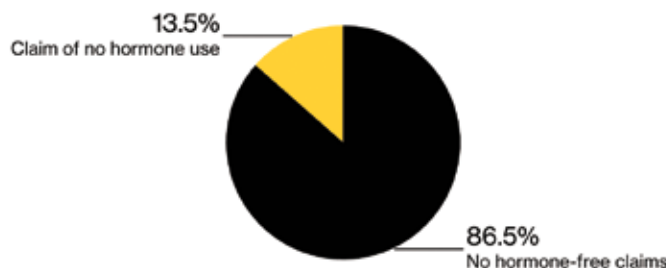
The purpose of this report is radical transparency about our current state to spur a conversation about how we can build a world - together - where:

- American farmers are put at the center of how we think about health.
- The American healthcare system thrives when disease is prevented and reversed, not just "managed" in a sick-care system.
- The Great American Comeback of energy dominance powers AI technology that will develop new tools and push the frontiers of science to help us better understand how to measure and reverse chronic disease.
- The next ten years see a revolution in living standards and prosperity, while we understand how to better manage the increased threats to our children's health that come from industrialization.

America will begin reversing the childhood chronic disease crisis during this administration by getting to the truth of why we are getting sick and spurring pro-growth policies and innovations to reverse these trends.

## Most US Beef Is Produced Using Growth Hormones

Share of feedlots marketing cattle as hormone-free



Source: USDA, 'Management Practices on US Feedlots, 2021'

Note: Meat products without specific marketing claims are regarded as conventional

Most Americans don't realize that the beef industry has been hijacked by "chemical pushers," according to Beef Initiative founder Texas Slim.

The bottom line: America's beef industry is in deep trouble. While the Trump administration begins to take steps to kick-start a cattle herd rebuilding cycle, a meaningful recovery could take years. In the meantime, consumers should

expect higher prices and tighter supplies. At the same time, the MAHA movement will begin pushing consumers towards clean, locally sourced food.

Please see: <https://www.zero-hedge.com/food/new-usda-report-shows-us-beef-supplies-still-crisis-level>



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# Local Mountain News & Notices

## Memorial Day Service

Press Release  
Custer County Veterans  
Service Officer

—May 26, 2025

by Dominic Edginton,  
CC VSO

Thank you to the American Legion Post 170 Family... the post members, the Auxillary, and the Sons of the American Legion for all that you do in the community and for ensuring this observance takes place.

Thank you to the Civil Air Patrol for posting and retrieving the colors. Y'all looked sharp!

Thank you to the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for always being involved and supporting veteran events in the community.

Thank you to the Community Choir, y'all sounded great...as always!

Thank you to the town of Silver Cliff for providing and maintaining the beautiful venue.



Commissioner Bill Canda receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from American Legion Post 170 Commander Richard Posadas at [this year's] Memorial Day Observance.

Thank you to everybody that took the time to join us in honoring and remembering those brave souls that gave all in defense of our great nation. I'm honored to be a part of this proud community.

## Goodnight Barn

Press Release

Saturday, May 31st at 10 a.m., the Goodnight Barn Historic Preservation Committee invites you to join us for the unveiling of our new acquisition, an historic chuck wagon generously donated by the David L. Wade Family and Baxter and Brianna Kirkland of Rye, CO. We are proud to be able to share this piece of western history with visitors to the Historic Goodnight Barn, located at 5475 W. State Hwy 96 in Pueblo, Colorado.

The legendary cattleman and rancher Charles Goodnight, who settled for a time on the Rock Canyon Ranch, right here in Pueblo was the inventor



of the chuckwagon in 1866. Goodnight's use of these mobile kitchens (chuck boxes), constructed atop covered wagons, was instrumental in the success of his cattle drives along the famous Goodnight-Loving Trail.

We are thrilled to be able to share this piece of Western history with the community

and will be hosting a special exhibition of our new chuckwagon at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 31st at the Goodnight Barn located on Hwy 96, east of the Valco Ponds. Charles Goodnight 1870 Barn, 5475 W. St. Hwy 96, Pueblo, CO 81005 Tours will be available. For more information call Laurel at 719-250-9435.

The Goodnight Barn Historic Preservation Committee invites you to join us for the unveiling of our new acquisition, a historic chuckwagon. We are proud to be able to share this piece of western history with visitors to the Historic Goodnight Barn.

Donated by: David L. Wade's Family and Baxter and Brianna Kirkland.

[goodnightbarnpueblo.org](http://goodnightbarnpueblo.org)  
[facebook.com/goodnightbarn](https://facebook.com/goodnightbarn)  
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## SDCEA Announces New CEO

Press Release

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association announces Jon Beyer as its new Chief Executive Officer, set to officially begin his tenure on July 7th. Beyer will succeed CEO Gary Kelly, who previously announced he will retire from the position this summer.

"This marks an exciting new chapter for our organization as we continue our mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable services to our valued members," Board Chair Sandra Attebery said.

Beyer brings 29 years of experience working with electric cooperatives, including Tri-State Generation and Transmission, SDCEA's wholesale power supplier; and with San Isabel Electric Association, based in Pueblo West. He currently serves as Vice President of Energy and Member Services at Dakota Electric Association in Farmington, MN.

"I am honored to be joining SDCEA and look forward to working with the dedicated team of employees. Together we will continue the cooperative's success in providing safe, reliable and affordable energy with a focus on enhancing the member experience," Beyer said.

Familiar with the area, Beyer is excited to return to Colorado, where he and wife Jennifer previously lived for 24 years. "We are excited to make Buena Vista and the surrounding area our home," he said.

Following discussions with the board, Beyer expressed confidence in the cooperative's vision for the future — including its lasting partnership with Tri-State as an energy services and wholesale power supplier, and the development of



future SDCEA products and programs.

"The Board of Directors and I are aligned in our commitment to providing best-in-class service and reliability to the member-owners of SDCEA. The changes occurring in the electric industry will not stop and will require us to continually evaluate how we serve the membership. We will be proactive in our approach and work to exceed our members' expectations in the years to come," Beyer said.

Beyer plans to attend and meet members at SDCEA's annual meeting on June 19th at Buena Vista High School, which is open to all members (account holders) of the cooperative. Meeting registration begins at 9 a.m. A light breakfast will be provided, and staff will be available to visit with members and answer any questions about the cooperative. The business meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

"SDCEA is proud to serve as a trusted partner with our members. With Jon at the helm, we are ready to move into a future that prioritizes innovation and reliability for those we serve," Attebery said.

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# "We the People" Speak

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Flabbergasted and Disheartened

Editor;

Saturday afternoon was a beautiful day for a Memorial Day parade. After months of cold weather, it was a joy be out in the sunshine, paying tribute to the men and women who serve our community, and to those who gave their lives for our freedoms.

I was standing on 5th Street and Main, watching with excitement as the fire trucks started rolling by polished and shining and the Sheriff's vehicles. There was something that was missing, though, the applause! Where was the applause? The horsedrawn carriages came trotting by. Next came the Search and Rescue trucks and the brave men and women marching behind. I thought surely

there would be a rousing ovation for their bravery and dedication, but nothing. Also, a truck with the words, "For the brave soldiers who gave their lives for our freedoms." Where were the hands that should have been clapping in gratitude for their service and sacrifice? Where was the waving, showing appreciation for those keeping us safe? It was as silent as a cemetery.

Have we as a community lost the gratitude and respect for people risking their lives to save ours? Can we not show our humility to praise the people who willingly do for others what we would not do ourselves?

We are a small mountain town with big hearted peo-

ple who constantly help our neighbors and those in need. Are we losing the gratitude to say "thank you" to those who help us the most?

The Independence Day parade will be marching through town in the next couple of months. Can we find the appreciation to stand on our feet, wave our flags and applaud for our local heroes? Can we show them the gratitude they deserve? I believe we can. I believe in the good people of these small mountain towns to show others our esteem and respect for what they do to keep us safe.

God Bless America!

Patrick Henry,  
Custer County

### The Budget

Subject: The hypocrisy of the Democratic party is so obvious. The budget bill just passed the House. Not one Democrat voted for the bill. The reason: because President Trump has responsibility for the budget bill. The Democrat party has always been known as the party for the people. Well, not anymore. There were so many items that help all Americans and the ones the President pushed as a promise, NO TAX ON TIPS, NO TAX ON OVERTIME PAY AND BEST OF ALL FOR SENIORS, NO TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY. As a senior this makes sense as seniors have already paid taxes on their social security. This tax started by President Clinton in the 1990's. That is how Clinton supports Seniors. The Democrat party hates the President so much they are willing to stab seniors and working taxpayers in the back. This bill was a promise to the American people and

the election results of November 5, 2024, reflects this as he won the electoral college and the popular vote. Democrats are sore losers, and it is so obvious observing their reactions on Fake news and other left-wing media. We know who looks out for the working and retired Americans, and it is not the phony Democrat party. They let their hate ruin the country. Also, we see how Democrats and their Left-wing judges stand up for criminal illegals and no caring for the victims. They voted against the Laken Riley Act. Their whole scheme to flood these illegals in so they can eventually be made citizens and replace Black and Hispanic voters. The Democrat party has no agenda and no leader. It is a party in shambles. Americans do not like Socialism and Marxism.

Steve Levine  
Pueblo West

### BOCC from page 1

total of 451 new claims with the VA since he started. VA claims payments to our successful veteran claimants this year alone totaled \$765k. He said he is taking on more veterans from Fremont County as the three part-time VSO officers there are not doing a good job.

Director Bob Smith gave the Human Resources report. He was quite busy including completing a new department plan and sending our three RFP's for the County's Workmen's Comp (WC) insurance. Bob said the County had 25 to 30 new WC claims this year and three indemnity claims. There are several open WC claims, some coming from the SO and Road & Bridge.

The Finance Department's report was presented by its Director, Vernon Roth. Vernon said he was involved in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) audit of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). (This was a normal audit.) He said he learned a lot from the audit regarding "best practices". He said he sent out an RFP for a closed camera system and an RFP for "contract IT service". (That would facilitate hiring an IT company to assist with our normal IT staff. A large company could bring a lot of expertise to the table when needed.) Vernon said our regular yearly audit process with the auditor will start June 2nd.

Our IT guy, John Mapes, gave his department's report. John noted that he had audited the entire County's Microsoft account due to changes made by those geniuses. He also audited the County's land lines and stated that there are a ton that are not being used and we are still paying for them. He also had to work on our CIC accounting system as CIC did an update that caused some problems. John thanked Vernon Roth for his "leadership and tutelage".

The Human Services report was delivered by its director Vicky White. She said the

total EBT payout for April was \$107,894 and that HR had two child welfare intakes. She also noted that HS had 72 current Child Support cases, five Adult Protection cases and five open Child Welfare cases.

Road & Bridge reported they are working on the big rehab of Copper Gulch Road and should be done by next week. R&B will be chip sealing Rosita Road for six miles in July plus they are replacing and fixing a bunch of cattle guards all around Happy Valley.

The Airport report was given by its Director, Clyde Baxter, who stated that the new jet fuel tank was finally operational and that should bring in a lot of new business. The annual Airfest is set for August 16th.

Landfill reported that the new phase 2 area landfill needs a berm around it.

The Recycling report again showed a lot of activity with YTD (through April) 90 total bales produced of which most was cardboard (65). YTD revenue was \$11k. The thirteen volunteers who staff Recycling were thanked.

The OEM report was given by its Director Robyn Knappe. She started off with a lot of bureaucratic mumbo jumbo, blah, blah, blah. She then stated that the \$750k Enterprise grant she applied for was denied. Knappe proudly announced the gold plated, \$100k wood chipper for our rich landowners to play mitigation pong was finally delivered. Epp again asked Knappe about the status on new radios (with R&B's going dead at the end of June). She still working on it.

Director Reggie Foster gave the Extension report. Reggie had 68 walk-ins in April and had been busy with a ton of projects.

Kid's Council (CCKC) announced that the popular Family Fun Day is June 14th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

And that was it. Hopefully some drama next week...



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### 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](mailto:Rivervalleyph@yahoo.com).**

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Recurring Events

**Mondays**  
**10 a.m. Pickle Ball** Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)  
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com  
**6 -7:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Meeting** at First Baptist Church.  
**6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous** (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.  
**1st Monday of the Month**  
**10 - 11 a.m. Women’s Veteran Coffee Social**  
West Custer County Library Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe  
**5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary** mo. mtg (year-round) Cliffe Lanes  
**2nd and 4th Monday**  
**6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous**  
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

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

**1st Tuesday of the Month**  
**9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort Quilters @Valley Bible**  
**6:00 p.m. American Legion Post 170** monthly meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room.  
**4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM**  
**2nd Tuesday of the Month**  
**9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Mtg @Valley Bible**  
**3rd Tuesday of the Month**  
**Liberty Rocks TUESDAY** Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m. Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.

**Wednesdays**  
**8 -9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social**, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe  
**9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers** meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.  
**9:45-11:45 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study** SUMMER **3 meets** - June 18, July 23, August 20 @ 305 County Road 159, 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



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.



by A Miserable Offender

St. Paul admonished the churches to pray ceaselessly “with prayers, Psalms and spiritual songs.” (Ephesians 5:19)

People need prayer because this is how to link up with God Almighty himself. Like branches cut from the vine, faith dies without that connection.

Prayer takes many forms, including personal prayer, contemplative prayer, reciting the Psalms and the singing of spiritual songs. There’s that earnest prayer we utter right before a math test or for a loved one on the brink of tragedy.

When someone decides to structure his or her life around Christ, one primary and powerful step is to commit to the Daily Offices in the Book of Common Prayer.

In our house, we try to maintain the habit of saying Family Morning Prayer. This consists of an Old Testament passage, a New Testament passage, a portion of the Psalms, plus six prayers.

The whole thing takes about twenty minutes, as we take up a prayer list of people and situations close to our hearts. Maybe including you!

I like to pray Evening Prayer some-time before dinner each day. Some-

St. Patrick’s Corner  
On Common Prayer

times if you wait until after the dinner dishes, you lose the time. In Evening Prayer there is another Old Testament passage, New Testament portion and Psalms, plus seven wonderful prayers to close the day. The way the Bible passages run, they all go together and if you are faithful enough, you get through most of the Bible in one year, the Psalms monthly.

The Prayer Book has ancient roots, written straight from the Bible by early Fathers, by monastics who prayed the entire 150 Psalms every week, by hermits who converted whole islands, (like Patrick), by erudite Shepherds who lay their holy, consecrated lives at the foot of the cross for their flocks. All this historic excellence can be accessed between these humble covers.

Taking this step in our prayer life is like laying a foundation for a beautiful cathedral. It focuses us upon the Lord and his teachings first thing and last thing every day. At night, praying the Evening Office is the most peaceful thing in the world, bedtime, at peace with your Lord.

No one turns you down when you ask if you may pray for them. Deep down inside, we are all hardwired to desire that connection with the Creator, Redeemer, Comforter.

Instinctively we must know how tremendously powerful Prayer is.

Praying “rote words” from a prayer book is very countercultural in today’s popular Christianity, but let me explain why doing so is a force multiplier.

When we pray the Psalms of the day from the Prayer Book, say the Lord’s Prayer, then confess that we are miserable offenders and ask forgiveness and strength to serve, all over the world there are people praying the same thing in different languages. All over heaven and earth Christians praise God together. Powerfully!

It seems to be a timid step into the New Heaven and the New Earth to begin to pray like that, but in heaven, we are part of a great choir singing heaven to earth.

It seems uncreative to pray an old written prayer and say an old Psalm of David, but in heaven, time is nothing. God and the heavenly host are hearing us sing along with the Church Universal, made up of martyrs and mothers, soldiers and farmers, old timey preachers, innocent children and cloistered nuns all singing the praises of God together in one voice, in perfectly harmonized prayers and psalms that have united Christians since the dawn of Christ.

Picture that.

**Monday, June 2**  
**#36 Roast Beef Sandwich on Wheat**  
Chunky Vegetable Soup  
Oven Browned Potatoes  
Confetti Salad  
Apple  
**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.*

**Tuesday, June 3**  
**#9 BBQ Chicken**  
Potato Salad  
Spinach Salad w/Mandarin Oranges  
Apple  
WW Roll w/Butter

**Thursday, June 5**  
**#17 Black Bean & Tortilla Casserole**  
Steamed Brown Rice  
Whipped Sweet Potatoes  
Mixed Fruit

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.

**Christian Science**  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
*8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe*  
**Church of Christ**  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
*818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601*  
**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
*240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589*  
**Cody Park Community Church**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.  
Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study  
*0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526*  
**Community United Methodist Church**  
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship  
*202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511*  
**Cotopaxi Community Church**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship  
6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study  
PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com  
*20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi*

**First Baptist Church of Westcliffe**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship  
10:45 a.m. Worship  
4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS  
*410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe Pastor Josh Olsteen 719/783-2498*  
**High Country Mennonite Church**  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School  
*103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045*  
**Huerfano Community Bible Church**  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study  
*603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053*  
**Hope Lutheran Church**  
2 p.m. Worship  
3:15 p.m. Bible Study  
*3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561*  
**Living Stone Calvary Chapel**  
Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m.  
*830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863*

**Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church**  
*Diocese of Pueblo*  
11 a.m. Sunday Mass  
10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass  
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass  
5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass  
*109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507*  
**Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church**  
11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month  
*210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491*  
**Praise Community Church**  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m.  
*215 N Pikes Peak Ave. , Florence 719/784-1184*  
**St. Luke’s Episcopal Church**  
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays  
*3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477*  
**St. Patrick’s Anglican Church**  
11 a.m. Worship  
403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe  
925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500  
**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
*Diocese of Pueblo*  
Saturday Mass + p.m.  
*Highway 69, Gardner Bldg.Mickey.719/746-2037*

**Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church**  
*Pastor: Mike Shields*  
10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study  
11 a.m. Worship  
Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon  
sangredecristocowboychurch.com  
also on Facebook  
*60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372*  
**Sangre de Cristo Fellowship**  
9 a.m. Meet & Greet  
9:30 a.m. Service  
*120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903*  
**Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel**  
10 a.m. Worship  
*6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822*  
**Valley Bible Fellowship**  
10 a.m. Worship  
*116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572*  
**Wetmore Baptist Church**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Worship  
6 p.m. St. Patrick’s  
*Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230*  
**Wetmore Community Church**  
9 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. Worship  
*699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596*

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest. Matthew 9:38 KJV



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## Events

May 1-31, Sangres Art Guild ~ Light and Motion Art Show, 3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69

Friday May 30, 5-8 p.m. RSVP to 513-317-7647  
Veteran’s Dinner at The Pines Ranch

Saturday May 31, RSVP  
EvenPulse Optimal Performance under Stress.  
@ The Pines Ranch. Text or Call 303-990-2324

May 31, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Flea Market Beckwith Ranch @  
64159 Highway 69 N, Westcliffe

May 31, 9: 30 p.m.  
SJO Star Party OPEN TO PUBLIC  
View planets, stars and other celestial objects through our powerful 14” telescope at the Smokey Jack Observatory @ the Bluff Park

Sunday June 1, 3 p.m. Tickets at Door Christ Church  
Recital Series ‘FRENCH DELIGHTS’  
802 Harrison Ave., Canon City, CO  
For more information: 719-429-7551

June 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$2 – \$10  
Beckwith Ranch Roundup, 64159 Highway 69 N.

June 14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
CCKC Family Fun Day, Memorial Park @  
305 Hermit Rd.

June 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Silver Cliff Community Fun  
Day, Silver Cliff 5K Run: Registration 8:30 a.m., Starts  
at 9 a.m. @ 1011 Butler St.

## Classifieds

Announcements

FREE BOOKS  
At the Sentinel’s Lending Library:  
History, biography, war, crime, etc. Good quality.

OUTDOORSMANS DAYS  
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Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

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

## Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness  
(719) 783-0750

American Legion Post #170  
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[talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com)  
(719) 783-2462 [westcliffepost170.org](http://westcliffepost170.org)

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(719) 275-2429 [FamilyCrisisOnline.org](http://FamilyCrisisOnline.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### COUNTY ROAD WORK

Please be advised that Copper Gulch Road (Custer County Road 215) will be down to one lane to repair the cattle guard on County Road 215, at the intersection of CR 220 and 214, starting Monday, June 2, 2025.

Custer County Road and Bridge will be on site from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. 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.

# Local Mountain News & Notices

## KIDS

Friday, May 30, 2025

### Great Sand Dunes

On the Western slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, on the eastern fringes of the San Luis Valley you will find The Great Sand Dunes covering almost 30 square miles. This week we will be looking into how they came to be.

While the actual age of the Sand Dunes is unknown, it is agreed that the San Luis Valley's strong southwesterly winds bear primary responsibility for their initial formation. Prevailing winds have swept loose sand eastward over and across the floor of the valley, piling it near a series of three low passes that form a distinct pocket in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains: Music Pass to the north, Medano Pass in the middle, and Mosca Pass to the south. Unable to carry its load the wind continually deposits sand at the foot of the Sangres. Northeasterly winds gusting through the low passes also contribute to the dunes' tremendous height, some of the tallest sand dunes in North America can be found here, up to 750 feet tall.

Discovery of gold in the San Juan Mountains around 1870 along with the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad brought an influx of miners, ranchers, farmers and settlers into the San Luis Valley. The growing popularity of the Great Sand Dunes in the 1920's, inspired San Luis Valley citizens to advocate for federal protection. On March 17, 1932, President Herbert Hoover named the Great Sand Dunes as the nation's thirty-sixth national monument.

Accessing the dunes requires walking across the wide and shallow Medano Creek which typically flows past the main dunes parking area from late April through late June, with peak flow occurring from late May to early June in most years. In other months, the creek is usually only a few inches deep. Hiking is permitted throughout the dunes, with the warning that the sand can get very hot in the summer. Sand wheelchairs are available at the visitor center. Sandboards and sand sleds can be rented just outside the park entrance or in Alamosa which is the closest city.

Today, the Sand Dunes are a tourist attraction, with better roads, a new visitor center in 1961 and Pinyon Flats Campground in 1964. By 2004, visits had increased to more than 267,000 annually.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/great-sand-dunes-national-park-and-preserve>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Sand\\_Dunes\\_National\\_Park\\_and\\_Preserve#Recreation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Sand_Dunes_National_Park_and_Preserve#Recreation)  
Photo: Wikipedia

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

## CORNER



## Veterans Rescue Ranch Events at The Pines Ranch

### Veteran's Dinner Optimal Performance Under Stress Training

Press Release

#### Veterans Dinner

Veterans Rescue Ranch is hosting a Veteran's Dinner at The Pines Ranch on Friday May 30th. Christy Schram will speak about her new book and life in the army. All veterans are welcome and the dinner is free for them. 5-8 p.m. RSVP 513-317-7647

#### Optimal Performance Training

On Saturday May 31st, EvenPulse is hosting their 3rd Annual event for the

Westcliffe Community on their training - Optimal Performance under Stress. The training has been taught to active duty, law enforcement and first responders for over 20 years with 65,000 people trained. People will learn valuable skills for self-regulation of stress, day to day, moment to moment. Childcare and lunch are included.

This event is offered as a fundraiser for Veterans Rescue Ranch so donations are welcome. RSVP Text or Call 303-990-2324

### FOREVER BOBCAT from page 1

high school and is one of the programs Troy is most pleased about. He truly enjoys helping kids get ready for the adult world they will face soon after high school. The positive impact on a young person's life is one of the satisfying rewards of his work. On the other hand, it is truly emotionally difficult, Troy admits, to watch a student make poor choices. What he will miss the most is the relationships he has forged with members of the school staff and the young ones he has met and worked with over the years. Throughout all, Troy's strong Christian faith drives his basic attitude towards the successful relationships he has with most everyone he comes in contact with.

About seven years ago Troy started a little part-time project, more as a therapeutic endeavor, which he enjoyed very much. It is a painting business called Blue Skies Painting. In this activity he immediately sees the fruit of his labor and can take pleasure in the finished product. If he paints for a client he might be complimented for do-

ing a good job. In comparison at school, most of the time, one does not see the end product because after graduation the young person is gone. Most graduates will leave the area for college or jobs and may not be heard from for years, if at all. For someone like Troy who develops close ties with the youths he counsels it can cause a certain disquieting feeling not knowing what may have become of some of his students.

As the time draws near for his exit from the school district, Troy reminisces the many good things he has experienced working in a small community like Custer. He always wanted to work in a small town where one can get involved and make positive contributions that make a community stronger and better. He will continue to live and work in Custer County for the foreseeable future as he plans to turn his once part-time project, Blue Skies Painting, into a full-time business.

But even as he moves on to new beginnings, Troy says firmly "I will be a Bobcat forever". No doubt the Bobcats will miss their Student Counselor, Coach Troy.

We wish Troy Bomgardner the very best in all his future endeavors.

The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him.

Nahum 1: 7 KJV



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## West Custer County Library

# Obituary

## Gregory Arthur Sullivan

June 4 1947 - January 3 2025

Gregory Arthur Sullivan, 77, of Westcliffe, Colorado, passed away January 3, 2025, in Pueblo at the nursing facility Rock Canyon Rehab & Respiratory Center, while surrounded by his daughters, Brianna and Casey Sullivan.

He was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1947 to John Lawrence and Jean (Bina Masten) Sullivan. Greg attended Holy Family Catholic School as a child followed by South Pasadena High School. He then went on to attend Pasadena Community College and University of California - Berkeley earning his Bachelor's in Police Sciences, Masters in Criminology, Masters/Doctorate for Investigative Sciences, as well as a Bachelor's in Business. Overall he spent eight years beyond high school educating himself. He was a firm believer in "Knowledge is the one thing they can never take away from you. It's priceless." He showed this philosophy through his deep and lasting connections with everyone he met, no matter where in the world they were or what language they spoke.

Before settling in the Wet Mountain Valley with his daughters and volunteering as a posse member for many years, Greg was an avid traveler in his days. He went to many places such as: Egypt, Turkey, Spain, England, Ireland, Scotland, Mexico and beyond. With his father, John being



his best friend, he showed him the ropes of Europe during many trips together, including kissing the stone of Blarney; evermore certifying and granting him the gift of eloquence.

A celebration of life for Gregory Sullivan has been set for Saturday May 31, 2025, 10:30 a.m. at Sangre de Cristo Fellowship, 120 Jerry Drive Westcliffe, CO, including Military Honors by American Legion Westcliffe Post 170.

The service will be followed by a potluck lunch with protein and salad being provided.

## Memorial Service

### Joseph A. Fawcett

Joseph A. Fawcett died at 7:41 p.m. on October 5, 2024, at the University of Colorado Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with friends at his bedside. He received last rites from a Catholic Priest. His death was preceded by his parents, Peter and Rita Fawcett of Racine, Wisconsin, and brothers, Paul and Anthony Fawcett. He is survived by siblings, John, James, Teresita, and Catherine Fawcett.

Joe was a 1978 graduate of Saint Charles Preparatory High School in Columbus, Ohio. Having retired from the Floral Industry and his work as a designer and talented Artist, Joe resided in Vista Celesta Apartments at 109 South Adams Blvd.

in Westcliffe, Colorado, situated between the Wet Mountains to the east and the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range to the west. He spent most days sitting in his wheelchair smoking his pipe with his dog, Dusty, by his side and overlooking the small lake at Bluff & Summit Park near his home. Joe had become an amputee as a result of damage caused through radiation treatment for cancer in the mid-2000's.

Per his wishes, his body was cremated and his family will spread his ashes in a private ceremony.

A Memorial Service is rescheduled for 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at the Smokey Jack

Observatory at the Bluff and Summit Park in Westcliffe, Colorado, with a reception at Vista Celesta Apartments common room, where friends and family will visit and some of Joe's Artwork will be available for viewing. The reception location will also act as the Memorial Gathering location in case of inclement weather.

As Joe in his final years practiced the faith of Messianic Judaism. In lieu of flowers, any acknowledgment of Joe's passing can be made through donations to: "Shammash Ariel Synagogue" and delivered to 2612 South Prairie Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado, 81005. Please note: "In Memory of Joseph Fawcett".



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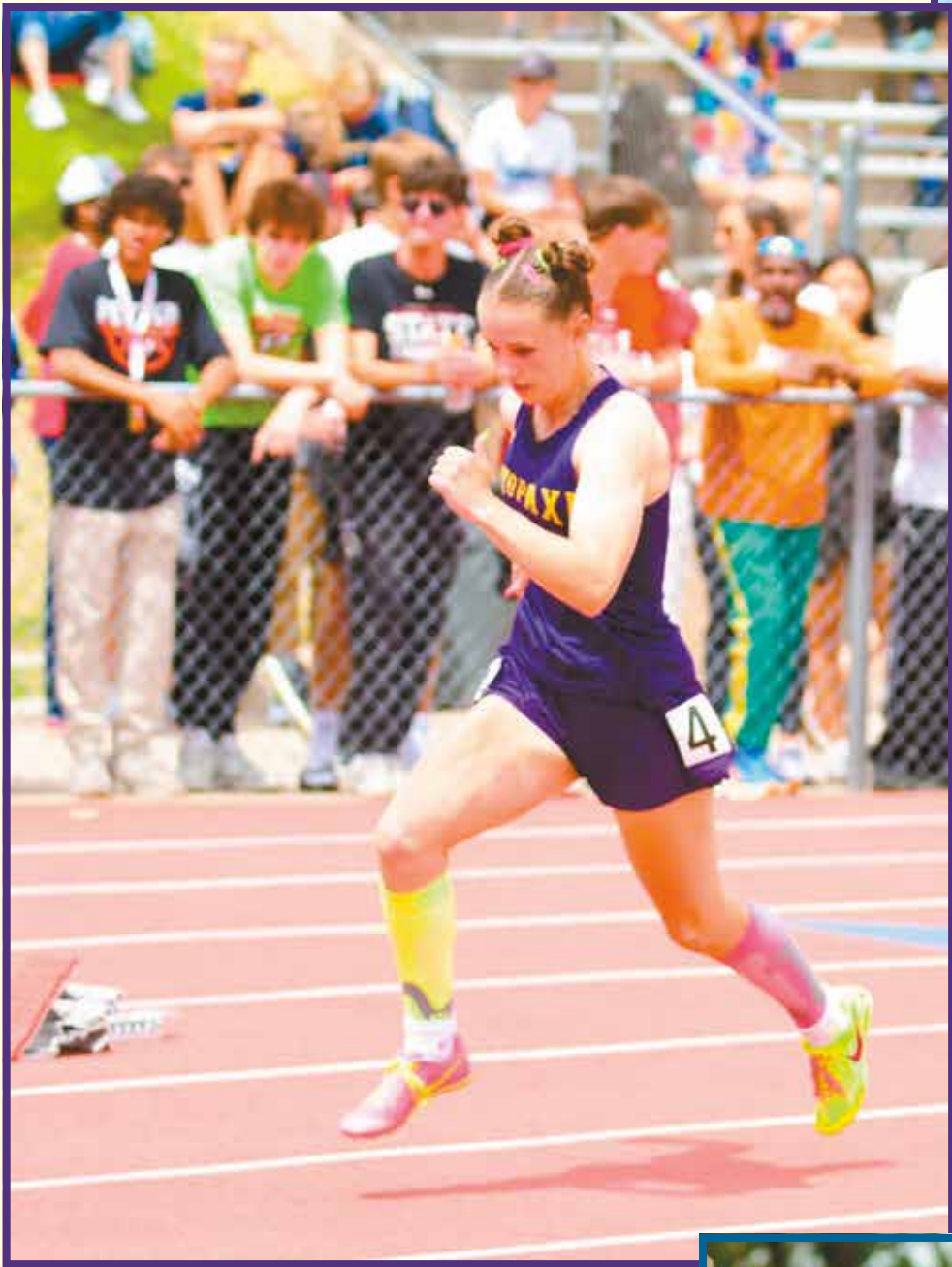
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# State Track Meet!





# Colorado State News



## ICE Removes Child Rapist Illegal Alien Wanted In Honduras



Press Release,  
U.S. Immigration and  
Customs Enforcement

—May 23, 2025

SAINT PAUL - U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement removed a dangerous foreign fugitive and illegal alien wanted by law enforcement authorities in Honduras for rape and preparation for use of aggravated child pornography May 16th.

Felipe Nery Casco Murillo, first came to the attention of immigration authorities, May 13, 2023, when he applied for admission to the United States at the Hidalgo Port of Entry in Hidalgo, Texas. On the same date, U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued Casco a notice to appear and paroled him into the U.S., pending immigration proceedings.

On November 5, 2024, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) received notice that Casco

was wanted in Honduras for the crime of rape and preparation and use of aggravated child pornography. ICE ERO arrested him on January 28, 2025, and an immigration judge with the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review ordered him removed April 17th.

ICE ERO St. Paul removed Casco and turned him over to Honduran authorities May 16th.

## Mass Shooting Suspects

CHICAGO — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced the arrests of the shooters involved in the December 2, 2024, mass shooting at a house party in Chicago predominantly attended by Venezuelan nationals. This incident resulted in multiple injuries and the loss of three lives. Authorities believe the shooting was perpetrated by members of the Tren de Aragua gang.



Ricardo Granadillo Padilla, Edward Martinez Cermeno

One of the suspected shooters, Venezuelan national Ricardo Granadillo Padilla, 25, was arrested February 8th by ICE Homeland Security Investigations Chicago and Raleigh, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Raleigh, U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, the U.S. Marshals Service, and CBP Air and Marine Operations in Raleigh, North Carolina. Granadillo Padilla is currently in federal custody after being sentenced in March 2025 for illegally entering the United States in 2022 near El Paso, Texas.

Multiple firearms, high-capacity magazines, narcotics and fraudulent documents were seized in January 2025 from Granadillo Padilla's residence in Chicago. During his arrest in Raleigh, NC, a pistol, ammunition, and other evidentiary items were also seized.

Another suspected shooter, Venezuelan national Edward Martinez Cermeno, 24, was arrested on January 26th by ICE HSI Chicago and the CBP Office of Border Patrol in Schaumburg, IL. Martinez Cermeno was initially released by a federal magistrate judge in

Illinois following a federal detention hearing but was then re-arrested by ICE HSI Chicago on administrative immigration charges for being illegally present in the United States. He is currently in federal custody facing criminal charges for illegally entering the United States in 2023 near Eagle Pass, Texas.

Over the past weeks, sixteen additional TdA members and associates of the shooters in the Chicago area and Raleigh, North Carolina were arrested by ICE HSI Chicago on immigration charges.

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# Waitress Assaulted, Staff Subdues Attacker

Press Release  
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office  
—May, 19, 2025

Suspect Arrested After Armed Assault at Rock Rest Lodge - A quick-thinking waitress and staff at Rock Rest Lodge turned what began as a quiet afternoon into a display of courage and teamwork when they stopped an armed suspect from seriously injuring an employee.

On Wednesday, May 21 at about 1:45 p.m., 30-year-old Brandon Montano walked into the Rock Rest Lodge, 16005 Mt. Vernon Road, sat down, and ordered a beer. According to those involved, Montano asked his waitress to check

the women's restroom for something his girlfriend may have left in there. When she went into the bathroom, he followed her inside and assaulted her by brandishing a handgun and choking her.

Refusing to be a victim, the waitress fought back and wrestled the firearm away from the suspect. She then ran out of the bathroom and alerted coworkers. The coworkers quickly subdued and detained Montano until Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies arrived on scene.

Montano was taken into custody without further incident. He was arrested on multiple charges including 2nd degree kidnapping, 2nd degree assault strangulation, false imprisonment, menacing,



and prohibited use of weapons. He is being held on a \$100,000 cash bond. The investigation is ongoing, and more charges could be added based on the outcome.

The charges are merely legal allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent of the charges against them unless and until they are proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

# Denver Responds to \$250 Million Shortfall with Hiring Freeze, Furloughs

by Derek Draplin,  
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – The city and county of Denver plans on hiring freezes and furloughs as it projects \$250 million in revenue shortfalls over the next couple years.

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston, a Democrat, laid some of the blame on the Trump administration for the municipality's budget woes in a fiscal update given on Thursday.

"The economic downturn and volatility brought on by President Trump is a major challenge facing Denver," Johnston said in a written statement. "This uncertainty, coupled with declining revenues and significant growth in the cost of city government over the past decade, require us to immediately address the city's structural budget deficit while protecting essential services and positioning Denver for

economic growth in 2026 and beyond."

The city projects a \$50 million revenue gap for the remainder of this year and a \$200 million shortfall in 2026.

Johnston explained the growth of city government is "unsustainable," nearly doubling in size over the last 12 years while costs have increased 83% and revenue has grown by 75%, leaving an 8% difference.

"It is not possible to support that level of growth and the quality of services required at this pace," he said.

The mayor said the city will move forward with revenue-generating projects that aren't drawn from the general fund, such as the National Western Center expansion and the National Women's Soccer League stadium development.

The furloughs will be tiered and from two to seven days

depending on city employees' pay. The city's hiring freeze will be in place until September 15th.

To work toward a more sustainable government, Johnston said the city will put "all solutions on the table" including possible program reductions, department consolidations and layoffs.

*(Editor/GG: Of course, it is Trump's fault. Couldn't have been the hundreds of millions of dollars you spent on illegal alien medical care, housing, food, legal defense, etc. Nah, couldn't have been that. So now you are laying off American citizens because of your sick obsession with illegals. Denver libs, this is just the start of your self-induced nightmare.)*

Please see: [https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article\\_f8fa59ca-e6d3-4695-b2dadf673e28c621.html](https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_f8fa59ca-e6d3-4695-b2dadf673e28c621.html)

Through This World Of Toil And Snares,  
If I Falter, Lord, Who Cares?  
Who With Me My Burden Shares?  
None But Thee, Dear Lord, None But Thee.

From "Just a Closer Walk with Thee (Author unknown. First Published in 1942)

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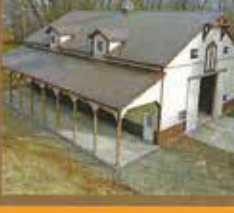
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# COvid Chronicles from page 1

wide public health order requiring all residents over age two to wear masks while patronizing businesses through at least May 30th. The order classified violations as a misdemeanor criminal offense.

“We’re starting to get to a tipping point, and I’m just, I’m not going to walk us to the tipping point,” Smith said. “I’m going to walk us back.”

Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario also raised concerns – pointing to the confusion and inconsistency from public health officials themselves on whether masks were effective in slowing the virus.

“How come I can wait in line for a cheeseburger at McDonald’s but I can’t go to church in the parking lot?” Vallario asked.

“If we have a blizzard in Glenwood Springs or Garfield County this winter,” he continued, “and we are under a winter storm warning, can the government say I have to wear a parka or I can’t go outside? Or I have to wear Sorel boots or I can’t walk in the snow?”

Up in Boulder, the demographic arguably at the least risk from the virus – college students – had clearly had enough. CU Boulder students defied restrictions and gathered to celebrate their graduation together, some even (gasp) partying, despite the school’s decision to take commencement “virtual.” The display shocked lockdown-loving campus administrators and many across the People’s Republic at the foot of the Flatirons on high.

Boulder County Public Health spokeswoman Chana Goussetis had just two words: “Holy cow” – and not in a good way.

“Not only is it a risk to people at those gatherings,” she said, “it’s a risk to everyone around them. It’s a risk to our elderly population, who is being hit very hard by COVID-19.”

Wonder if Goussetis said “Holy cow” when those same students marched down Pearl Street two weeks later.

## May 9

As many in the media and political class continued to mull whether reopening mom-and-pop businesses was “essential,” the moms and pops of those very businesses were blunt.

“It was not a hard decision,” Steve Weil, president of Rockmount Ranch Wear in LoDo told the *Post*. “It’s essential to the well-being of our economy.”

Weil and other Denver retailers were able to reopen this weekend, but under the conditions of a limited number of shoppers at a time based on square footage and, it goes without saying, everyone at a six-foot distance from one another.

The urgency to open came as Gov. Polis announced he was “considering” reopening in-person education for Colorado’s kids come fall and in-person dining at Rocky Mountain restaurants by the end of May.

“We don’t have a crystal ball,” the governor said, “We’ll see where that data emerges.”

## May 10

The rebellion of restaurateurs spread north and west as C&C Coffee and Kitchen reopened for this Mother’s Day Sunday “in defiance,” as the *Denver Post*’s Shelly Bradbury put it,

of Polis’ public health order.

“These restaurants are not only breaking the law, they are endangering the lives of their staff, customers and community,” Polis’ deputy press secretary Shelby Wieman penned in a statement.

C&C’s “illegal and dangerous” actions, as Polis’ people put it, were quickly named and shamed virally across social media, shocking some Coloradans to see an indoor establishment with few people wearing masks.

“It was unbelievable,” said Nick Whitehill, who intended to patronize C&C’s via curbside pickup before leaving in disgust without any food due to the masklessness. Whitehill himself said he shared the video he took of C&C’s to social media to “shame” the restaurant.

Whitehill posted photos of the crowd on Twitter to warn others against frequenting the restaurant and “shame” the eatery, he said. Whitehill proceeded to file a complaint with the Tri-County Health Department.

“I wasn’t even going to eat the food even if I had gotten it,” he said. “I walked in, took the picture and turned right around.”

C&C Coffee and Kitchen owner April Arellano declined to speak to the *Post*, but wrote on Twitter she reopened “for America, small businesses, the Constitution and against the overreach of our governor in Colorado!!”

Arellano also wrote on Facebook she “would go out of business if I don’t do something,” and said that “if I lose the business at least I’m fighting.”

“We are so behind,” she said in a comment on her post. “We have complied for two months. We cannot make it on \$200/day sales when two staff cost me \$250 not counting, food, cost, utilities and rent.”

Arellano wasn’t afraid to post her own brief live video on her Facebook page showing the crowd in the restaurant.

“So much for some of those people saying nobody would show up,” she said in the video. “Thank you, thank you, thank you so much for the support, guys. I got to get back to work.”

Arellano’s potential criminal offense? A spokeswoman for CDPHE said though no one was available Sunday to formally comment, violating the state public health order is a misdemeanor, “punishable by a fine of \$1,000 or up to a year in jail.” And that Arellano risked a revocation of her restaurant license.

While restaurant and small-business owners were itching to get back to work, the politicians responsible for crafting the very policies governing their livelihoods? Not so much.

The Colorado legislature was now set to reconvene on May 26th, after extending its temporary suspension by another week. The reason, according to Democrat leaders, was to “allow lawmakers additional time to make safety preparations, consider legislation and research how the General Assembly can deal with the looming budget shortfall caused by the novel coronavirus,” they said in a statement.

## May 11

Castle Rock remained the epicenter in the fight for constitutional freedom as the curious case of C&C’s spilled into Monday, with Polis’ CDPHE doubling down on its threats and revoking Arellano’s restaurant license.

Polis dubbed what C&C did over the weekend an “immediate health hazard.”

“I hope, I pray that nobody falls sick from businesses that chose to violate the law,” Polis said. “But if the state didn’t act and more businesses followed suit, it’s a near guarantee that people would lose their lives and it would further delay the opening of legitimate businesses.”

Despite the governor’s actions, his public statements, and a shutdown order from Tri-County Health, Arellano’s restaurant remained open. Many customers dined in to “show support.” A sign posted on the door Monday sent a clear message:

“ATTENTION! Our freedom doesn’t end where your fear begins. If you are scared, stay at home. If you are afraid to be within six feet of another business, DO NOT ENTER THIS BUSINESS! God Bless America, Land of the ‘Free’ and home of the brave.”

Co-owner Jesse Arellano revealed the backlash had been intense.

“We’ve gotten death threats; ‘We’re going to burn the place down,’ ‘I hope all your family all gets COVID and dies,’ and things like this,” Arellano said. “...What kind of life are we going to have if we’re all scared to live and we’re always in a bubble? No one wants to live like that. There are risks all over the place, every day. There are animals who can hurt you in the mountains, but you don’t stop going there.”

## May 12

The *Gazette* in Colorado Springs captured the raw emotion of the Arellanos’ ordeal on its Tuesday front page. In one photo, Jesse Arellano is seen smiling as he hands food to a friend outside C&C’s front door.

In another, he wipes away tears during an impromptu press conference, surrounded by news cameras, as he responds to the governor’s shutdown order.

On Tuesday, Polis followed through. The doors of C&C were locked, the lights were out. Still, customers showed up. In a quiet but striking display of support, they began taping cash to the restaurant’s front wall. Within two hours, about \$300 had been posted, with supporters continuing to stop by.

“I’d like to see the governor take this seriously as a message that small business owners, we have done our part,” said supporter Paula Waterman. “We have participated, we have done our part, and now we need him to be faithful to us. We need him to care about the small business owners who are losing their jobs and their employees. We have really tried to comply with everything he’s asked us to do, but now it’s gone too far.”

The case of C&C’s was inspiring other restaurants across the state to reopen. According to *Denver Post* reporter Shelly Bradbury, that included Charro Mexican Restaurant and Grubby’s in Weld County. Then-Republican congressional candidate Lauren Boebert also vowed in a social media video that she had reopened her Rifle-based restaurant, Shooters Grill.

“No one is taking a stance,” Boebert said of political leaders. “Everyone is rolling over and saying, ‘Why don’t you just fall in line.’ I’m not falling in line. Are we free people or are we not?”

See: <https://rockymountaininvoice.com/2025/05/the-covid-chronicles-may-8-15-2020-cc-made-headlines-polis-made-an-example-colorado-made-up-its-mind/>

# ATF Raid that Killed Airport Exec Sparks Explosive Fed Lawsuit

by Ammoland Editors & Staff,  
ammoland.com

By now, you’ve probably heard that the ATF shot and killed Bryan Malinowski, a well-respected Arkansas airport executive, during a predawn raid at his home. What you might not have seen is the 230+ page lawsuit [H/T arkansasadvocate.com] just filed by his widow, Maer Malinowski — and it lays out a jaw-dropping case of **overreach, recklessness, and deadly incompetence** by the federal government.

Let’s break it down.

## A Deadly Raid Over... a \$200 License?

Malinowski’s alleged “crime” wasn’t murder, trafficking, or terrorism — it was allegedly selling too many guns at local shows without an FFL. He wasn’t running an underground arsenal. He was a coin and gun hobbyist who liked to wheel and deal on weekends. He made over **\$260,000** a year running Little Rock’s airport — *hardly someone flipping guns for a living*.

But in the early hours of March 19, 2024, the ATF rolled up in ten vehicles, **disabled his security cameras, banged for less than 20 seconds, and blew down his door with a battering ram**. Within a minute, Malinowski was shot in the head and left to die.

“The ATF predicated this ultimate seizure of his person on a federal search warrant... for acting as

a firearms dealer without having secured a \$200 firearms license.” — [Complaint, p. 1]

## The Lawsuit: A Scathing Indictment

The federal lawsuit, filed May 15, 2025, charges ATF agents and the U.S. government with:

- **Wrongful Death [some call it murder]**
- **Excessive Force**
- **Failure To Knock And Announce**
- **Illegal Entry**
- **False Imprisonment**
- **Assault And Battery**
- **Intentional Infliction Of Emotional Distress**

Malinowski never received a letter, a visit, or even a phone call to inform him he was being investigated. He had no criminal record, no signs of being violent, and lived a quiet life with his wife and dogs.

Even the ATF agents themselves admitted they expected no trouble.

“Mr. Malinowski was ‘the last person I would have imagined that we would have been in an armed confrontation with.’” — [Agent Shannon Hicks, Complaint, p. 13]

Yet ATF chose to launch a military-style raid using tactics designed for drug dealers and violent felons.

## Bodycams Off. Shield Left Outside. No Real Announcement.

Despite ATF policy requiring body cams during raids, **not a single agent wore one**. They didn’t use their PA system. They **covered the Ring doorbell**. The one cop who flipped his siren did so for just 1.5 seconds — so brief, not a single neighbor noticed.

Worse? They waited just **19 seconds** after knocking before smashing through the door.

“At 6:02:58 a.m. they began knocking... at 6:03:17 a.m., they stopped knocking and breached.” — [Complaint, p. 27]

Malinowski, awakened from sleep, thought he was being attacked by home invaders. He grabbed a pistol and fired a warning shot into the floor. An agent fired back, hitting him in the head.

“He did not know... the people who broke down his front doors were law enforcement.” — [Complaint, p. 3]

## They Let Him Die. Then Treated His Wife Like a Criminal.

After the shooting, agents **offered no medical help**. Bryan lay on the floor, gasping for air. His wife, Maer, was detained in 30-degree weather, barefoot in a tank top and boxers, for hours. She was denied a ride in the ambulance, denied clothes, denied even a bathroom break — **then filmed**

## by bodycam while using the restroom at a firehouse.

“We didn’t do anything wrong... Oh, you guys got the wrong house.” — Maer Malinowski, over heard on a patrol car audio.

## The Rule Changed... After They Killed Him

Even more outrageous? The ATF rule that supposedly justified the raid — the “engaged in the business” definition — **didn’t take effect until a month after Bryan’s death**.

“The law at the time... required the principal motivation behind selling guns be livelihood and profit.” — [Complaint, p. 11]

But Bryan was a collector, not a dealer. And ATF knew it.

“They decided his suspected infraction was serious enough to warrant a pre-dawn dynamic raid.” — [Complaint, p. 12]

## No Accountability. No Arrest. No Justice... Yet.

The Arkansas State Police refused to evaluate whether ATF’s tactics were lawful, saying that’s up to DOJ. And DOJ? Crickets. Nobody’s talking. Nobody’s facing consequences.

This lawsuit might be the only shot at justice.

## Why This Lawsuit Matters

This wasn’t just a botched raid. This was the state using federal firepower against a peaceful, law-abiding citizen over a paper-

work technicality — and executing him in his own home.

Gun owners across America should take notice. If they can do this to a well-paid airport exec with no criminal record, they can do it to anyone.

As the lawsuit reminds us: “*The Constitution is designed to prevent this very tragedy.*” — [Complaint, p. 1]

## Final Thoughts

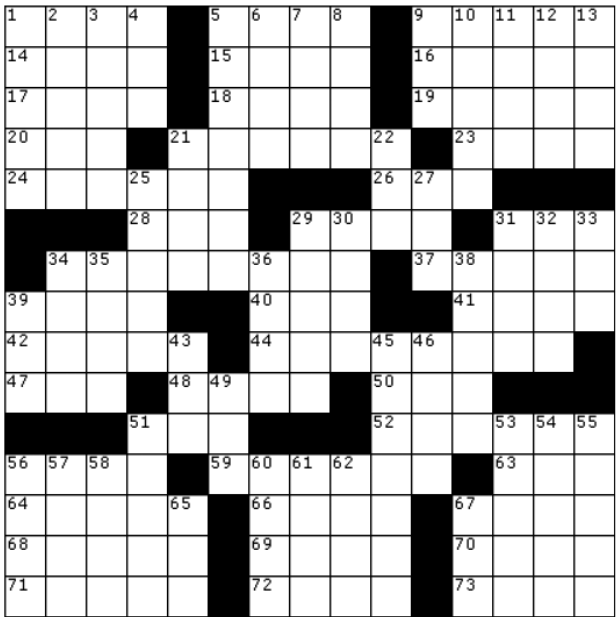
We’ve seen the ATF bungle operations before — Waco, Ruby Ridge, Fast and Furious — but this feels different. This is post-Bruen. This is post-Trump raid. And this time, they left a quiet coin & gun collector dead in a pool of his own blood, over an accusation that wouldn’t even be illegal under the rules in effect at the time.

Let’s be clear: **The ATF isn’t just out of control. It’s out of bounds.** And if Congress doesn’t rein them in, we’re going to see more body bags before we see justice.

*(Editor/GG: Thank goodness Trump is here. New ATF leadership is replacing the Biden anti-gun fascist that ran the place and correcting dozens and dozens of anti-gun “rules” the ATF created out of thin, Bolshie air. )*

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/atf-raid-that-killed-airport-exec-sparks-explosive-federal-lawsuit/>

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 Teen skin ailment
- 5 Water carrier
- 9 Cliff dwelling bird
- 14 Voiced
- 15 Writer Bombeck
- 16 Big businessman
- 17 House topper
- 18 Tears
- 19 Man shall not live by \_\_\_\_ alone
- 20 Turkey
- 21 Tennis player Andre
- 23 Has

### DOWN

- 24 Position with hands on hips and elbows bent outward
- 26 Not (prefix)
- 28 Moray
- 29 Wedding town
- 31 West northwest
- 34 Hail (3 wds.)
- 37 Darnel
- 39 Bit
- 40 Less than two
- 41 Cry like a cat
- 42 Analyze
- 44 Motel (2 wds.)
- 47 Married woman

- 48 Last word, often
- 50 However
- 51 Snacked
- 52 Modes
- 56 Chicken
- 59 Miserable person
- 63 Business title ending
- 64 First letter in Hebrew alphabet
- 66 Land unit
- 67 Ripped up
- 68 Headquarters of British India
- 69 Shank
- 70 After awhile
- 71 Fizzy drinks
- 72 Faith, \_\_\_\_ and charity
- 73 Island

### DOWN

- 1 Main artery
- 2 Bend
- 3 Mother-in-law of Ruth
- 4 Pixy
- 5 Arbor
- 6 Opera solo
- 7 Pixies
- 8 Young girl
- 9 Recede
- 10 Son of Amram and Jochebed
- 11 Nourished
- 12 Borrowed money
- 13 Ceases

- 21 Son of Adam and Eve
  - 22 Where Mary and Joseph didn't stay
  - 25 What heated cheese does
  - 27 Cereal
  - 29 Authoritative list of scripture
  - 30 To incite
  - 31 Small bird
  - 32 Lighted sign
  - 33 Compass point
  - 34 Blacken
  - 35 Put on \_\_\_\_
  - 36 Arrive
  - 38 Peacefulness
  - 39 Typing rate
  - 43 Consume
  - 45 Offensive to social standards
  - 46 Wife of Boaz
  - 49 Kitten's cry
  - 51 I am the \_\_\_\_ and the Omega
  - 53 Animals from Daniel
  - 54 Register
  - 55 Panorama
  - 56 Trends
  - 57 Tub spread
  - 58 Join metal
  - 60 Thoughtless
  - 61 Resound
  - 62 Trigger
  - 65 Hellos
  - 67 Thai
- Key on page 7



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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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*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.*

Trump’s Tariff Doctrine—  
Trade Wins with Teeth

In a world where globalism has often meant gutting American jobs, President Trump’s latest series of trade agreements with China, the United Kingdom, and India signal a bold return to bilateral, America-first, fair trade economics. These deals aren’t just about diplomacy, they are reshaping the global supply chain to favor American workers, the domestic economy, and long-term consumer resilience. Let’s start with the headline-grabber: the U.S. - China agreement. Following years of lopsided trade balances and intellectual property theft, the U.S. secured a deal where both nations agreed to reduce tariffs by 115% for 90 days while maintaining a 10% baseline tariff going forward. The point? Leveling the playing field.

Trump kept the pressure on China by retaining Section 301 and 232 tariffs, ensuring that strategic sectors like steel and aluminum are protected. For the American worker, especially in manufacturing and heavy industry, this is not just a win—it’s a welcome reversal of the death-by-offshoring policies of the past two decades. Next, the U.S.-UK deal. The United Kingdom was hungry for new trade relationships, and the U.S. capitalized on that. In a calculated move, tariffs on British autos dropped from 27.5% to 10% for 100,000 vehicles annually, while steel and aluminum tariffs were eliminated. In exchange, the UK axed its 19% ethanol tariff, opening the door for a surge in U.S. biofuel exports and farm goods.

This is more than economic arithmetic; it’s strategic alliance-building. This deal also prioritizes the aerospace and high-tech sectors, which is a nod to protecting U.S. intellectual and manufacturing prowess. Then there’s the U.S.- India agreement. Often overlooked, this partnership has enormous long-term potential. India has agreed to lower tariffs on key U.S. imports and is projected to support up to \$500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030. With tariffs dropping in sensitive sectors like agriculture and defense, the ripple effect for American farmers, ranchers, and energy producers is significant. India gains access to high-quality U.S. goods, and Americans gain a growing market and a democratic ally in a volatile region.

So, what does all this mean for the American consumer? Lower prices in some sectors—yes. But more importantly, these agreements protect the integrity of our supply chains, reduce reliance on adversarial nations, and bring jobs home. This isn’t just policy—it’s a philosophical shift. Under Trump, tariffs are not punishment; they’re leverage. They’re the price of access to the world’s most valuable consumer market. And for once, the leverage is being used to defend Main Street instead of appease Wall Street. Fair trade is biblical. In Proverbs 11:1, we are reminded: “Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, But a just weight is His delight.” This fair trade doctrine is a shift from dishonest global scales to fair weights. It’s not just about economic wins. It’s about restoring righteousness in how we do business—with strength, strategy, and a spine.

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Bill Wilson

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The Red Line: Democratic  
Officials Claim a Dangerous  
License for Illegality

by Jonathan Turley,  
[JonathanTurley.Org](http://JonathanTurley.Org)

Across the country, a new defense is being heard in state and federal courtrooms. From Democratic members of Congress to judges to city council members, officials claim that their official duties include obstructing the official functions of the federal government. It is a type of liberal license that excuses most any crime in the name of combating what MN Gov. Tim Walz called the “modern-day Gestapo” of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The latest claimant of this license is Rep. LaMonica McIver (D-NJ), who was charged with assaulting, resisting, and impeding law enforcement officers during a protest at Delaney Hall ICE detention facility in Newark, New Jersey. McIver is shown on video forcing her way into an ICE facility and striking and shoving agents in her path.

This was not a major incursion, but these state and federal officials joined a mob in briefly overwhelming security and breaching the fence barrier after a bus was allowed through the entrance. Federal officials were able to quickly force back the incursion.

McIver and House Democrats insisted that McIver’s forcing her way into the facility might be trespass and assault for other citizens, but she was merely exercising “legislative oversight.” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D., N.Y.) declared “You lay a finger on someone – on Bonnie Watson Coleman or any of the representatives that were there – you lay a finger on them, we’re going to have a problem.”

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D., N.Y.) even ominously warned the federal government that Democrats would bring down the house if it tried to charge McIver: “It’s a red line. They know better than to go down that road.”

Well, the red line was crossed in a big way after Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey Alina Habba charged McIver with a felony under Title 18, United States Code, Section 111(a)(1).

The ACLU called the charged “authoritarianism” and insisted that these state and federal politicians “have every right to exercise their legally authorized oversight responsibilities for expanded immigration detention in New Jersey.”

The problem with the oversight claim is that McIver’s status as a member of Congress does not allow her access into closed federal facilities. Congress can subpoena the Executive Branch or secure court orders for access. However, members do not have immunity from criminal laws in unilaterally forcing their way into any federal office or agency.

If that were the case, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez would not have posted images of herself crying at the fence of an immigrant facility, she could have climbed over the fence in the name of oversight.

Conversely, Republicans in the Biden Administration could have simply pushed their way into the Justice Department to seek the files on the influence-peddling scandal.

Yet, the point of the claim is less of a real criminal defense and more of a political excuse.

It is the same claim being heard this week from Worcester City Councilor Etel Haxhijaj who was shown in a video shoving and obstructing ICE officers attempting to arrest a woman on immigration charges. Two other individuals (including a Democratic candidate for a school board) were arrested, but not Haxhijaj who claimed that she was merely protecting “a constituent.” After the melee, the city manager issued an order preventing city police from assisting in any way in the carrying out of such civil immigration enforcement efforts by the federal government.

Even judges are claiming the same license. In Wisconsin, Judge Hannah Dugan has been charged with obstructing a federal arrest of an illegal immigrant who appeared in her courtroom. Dugan heard about agents waiting outside in the hallway to arrest the man and went outside to confront the agents. She told them to speak to the Chief Judge and that they needed a different warrant.

The agents complied and the Chief Judge confirmed that they could conduct the arrest. In the interim, however, Dugan led the man out a non-public door and facilitated his escape (he was arrested after a chase down a public street).

Judge Dugan also claimed that she was carrying out her duties even though her hearing was over, the charges were not part of state matter, and the arrest was being carried out outside of her courtroom.

As Democratic leaders like Walz engage in rage rhetoric and paint Republicans (and federal law enforcement) as Nazis, political violence is on the rise across the country. Many of the people burning Teslas and engaging in such crimes claim the same type of license that the ends justify the means. That includes affluent professionals who are now shoplifting from Whole Foods as a “protest” against Jeff Bezos meeting with Trump.

When the Administration sought to investigate those burning Teslas and dealerships, Rep. Dan Goldman (D., N.Y.) denounced it as a “political weaponization” of the legal system. The comments suggest that such arson is somehow a form of political expression on the left.

House Minority Leader Jeffries was correct that a “red line” was crossed but not the one that he was thinking of in threatening consequences for any charges. The red line is the one separating political expression and criminal conduct.

Border Czar stressed repeatedly to political leaders that they can protest and refuse to help but “you can’t cross the line” into obstruction and interference with their operations.

If oversight means that members can force their way into any federal facilities, we would have 535 roaming inspectors general who could wander at will through the executive branch.

Rep. McIver would be better to claim a different type of oversight, in allowing her passion to briefly overwhelm her judgment in rushing into the facility.

In the end, however, McIver and Dugan may have a license of a different kind.

Both have the advantage of being charged in liberal districts where they would appear before sympathetic jurors. They need to just convince a single jury to engage in “jury nullification,” to vote based on the cause, not the crime, in the case.

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

Please see: <https://jonathanturley.org/2025/05/20/the-red-line-democratic-officials-claim-a-license-for-illegality/#more-231957>

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# ‘Debunked’ Study Served as Key Pillar in Academia’s DEI Temple

by Emily Kopp,  
The Daily Caller News  
Foundation

THE DAILY CALLER  
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An unsound study alleging that white doctors are responsible for worse clinical outcomes with black newborns because of “spontaneous bias” serves as a tentpole propping up diversity, equity and inclusion in academic medicine, a new report by nonprofit Do No Harm argues.

The disparity in mortality rates between black newborns and white newborns declines by 58% if the black newborns are under the care of black physicians, according to a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) in August 2020. Hundreds of media outlets, which were gripped at the time by the Black Lives Matter movement, covered the “debunked” paper, which ranks in the top 5% of studies over the last five years in terms of impact in the lay press, according to a data aggregator used by scholars called Altmetric.

But the coauthors of the study made a major methodological error, according to the Manhattan Institute, finding that controlling for very low birth weight

newborns nullified the apparent effect of racial concordance on infant mortality. The authors buried an inconvenient data point in the appendix, a Freedom of Information Act request by Do No Harm further revealed in March 2025. Finally, one of the coauthors – a star academic heading a new center for health equity – left her university in April amid accusations from her staff of plagiarism and incompetence.

Now, the new report by Do No Harm shows the lasting impact of the study in the scientific literature despite its serious flaws. The flagship journals of prestigious medical associations often cited the paper in articles that advocate for affirmative action in medical school admissions and DEI programs for physicians, according to Do No Harm, which opposes identity politics in medical research and clinical practice.

In all, the study has received 786 citations in the scientific literature, Google Scholar shows. Sixty-six citations occurred this year.

The study is far from the only one to argue that a diverse workforce improves clinical outcomes through what may be commonly called cultural competence, but which the scientific literature

describes as “racial concordance.” Yet the PNAS study is undoubtedly among the most influential.

The study provides a case study in how unsound science that serves a predetermined policy goal can permeate the scientific literature, the halls of academia and the media, the report argues. Its centrality to the scientific literature justifying DEI in academic medicine should provoke a second look at that scientific literature, according to Ian Kingsbury, director of Research at Do No Harm.

“This was holding up much of the DEI enterprise. It’s the foundational study in racial concordance mythology,” Kingsbury said.

The PNAS study even made its way into an amicus brief to the Supreme Court by dozens of medical associations led by the Association of American Medical Colleges in favor of affirmative action in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*. Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson cited the study in her dissent in the case.

But many prestigious journals published by major medical associations have also cited the study to support the premise that DEI programs supporting racial concordance improve clinical

outcomes, the report alleges, including the American Academy of Pediatrics’ journal *Pediatrics*, *Academic Medicine*, the *Journal of Neurosurgery* and the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*.

The study crops up in the policy guidance issued by these professional societies and in the policy papers written by think tanks, the report states.

For instance, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ “Committee on Advancing Equity in Obstetric and Gynecologic Health Care” cited the PNAS study in a 2024 guidance that states physicians should “acknowledge that the current system providing care for obstetric and gynecologic patients causes harm, particularly for marginalized and minoritized communities, and contributes to preventable and premature death.”

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics did not respond to requests for comment.

Medical associations have been slow to change course on DEI guidance, even as many of their members’ institutions have pulled back or eliminated DEI programs in response to President Donald Trump’s January 20th executive order.

“What these organizations say is really important. They set the standards for their field and produce and disseminate policy,” said Kingsbury.

The enduring impact of the study also raises questions about the rigor of scientific journals and exposes the fallibility of peer review, according to Do No Harm. PNAS has not retracted the study.

When it comes to allegations of liberal bias in scientific journals, the racial concordance field may be “ground zero,” Kingsbury said.

“You can see the ideological bent of this. For some reason it’s completely acceptable for journals – in order to make the claim that racial concordance is beneficial – to cite one or two bad studies, ignoring the weight of the evidence,” he said.

Please see: <https://daily.callernewsfoundation.org/2025/05/14/exclusive-debunked-study-served-as-key-pillar-in-academias-dei-temple/>

**(Editor/GG: Funny. Just saw a bit on Roku TV touting this false study justifying racial quotas for the healthcare industry (and others). Below is a recent study that showed the original one was wrong. Dead wrong.)**

## Research: Physician-patient racial concordance and newborn mortality

**(Editor/GG: Below is the abstract. See the link at the end for the whole magilla.)**

by George J. Borjas and Robert VerBruggen, PNAS.Org

### Significance

An influential study suggests that Black newborns experience much lower mortality when attended by Black physicians after birth. Using the same data, we replicate those findings and estimate alternative models that include controls for very low birth weights, a key determinant of neonatal mortality not included in the original analysis. The estimated racial concordance effect is substantially weakened, and often becomes statistically insignificant, after controlling for the impact of very low birth weights on mortality. Our results raise questions about the role played by physician–patient racial matching in determining Black neonatal mortality and suggest that the key to narrowing the

Black–White gap may continue to lie in reducing the incidence of such low birth weights among Black newborns.

### Abstract

The racial gap in infant mortality is a pressing public-health concern, and [B. N. Greenwood et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 117, 21194–21200 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1913405117>] suggest that Black newborns are more likely to survive if cared for by Black physicians after birth, even in models that control for numerous variables, including hospital and physician fixed effects, and the 65 most common comorbidities affecting newborns (as described by International Classification of Disease codes). We acquired the data used in the study, covering Florida hospital discharges from 1992 through the third quarter of 2015, to replicate and extend the analysis. We find that the magnitude of the concordance effect is substantially reduced

after controlling for diagnoses indicating very low birth weight (<1,500 g), which are a strong predictor of neonatal mortality but not among the 65 most common comorbidities. In fact, the estimated effect is near zero and statistically insignificant in the expanded specifications that control for very low birth weight and include hospital and physician fixed effects.

An influential study (1) recently concluded that Black newborns experienced significantly lower mortality when attended by Black physicians. The research received considerable media attention (2, 3), was noted in Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson’s dissent in 2023’s *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (4), and has clear implications for medical school admissions, hospital practices, and Black expectant parents.

The analysis, which covered Florida births from 1992 through 2015, reported that White

babies had a mortality rate of 0.3 percent regardless of the race of the attending physician; Black babies had a rate of 0.9 percent if cared for by White physicians, and 0.4 percent if cared for by Black physicians. A more sophisticated regression model, which controlled for the 65 most common comorbidities [as identified by the International Classification of Disease Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes assigned to the child] and other variables, found that the effect weakened but did not disappear. Nevertheless, the authors advised that some “caution regarding the persistence of omitted-variable bias is warranted” (1, p. 21996).

In fact, a crucial omitted variable is evident after examining the list of regressors (1, SI Appendix, Table S2 ). Because controls for the newborn’s health condition are limited to only the 65 most common diagnoses across all births, there are no controls for a birth weight under 1,500.g.

Such “very low” weights are an important predictor of mortality. In 2007, only 1.2 percent of White newborns and 3.3 percent of Black newborns had weights in this range; but these newborns accounted for 66 percent of neonatal mortality among White babies and 81 percent among Black babies (5). The very low birth weight diagnosis, however, is spread out across 30 individually rare ICD-9 codes (6), so that no indicator for the condition makes it to the list of the 65 most common comorbidities. This paper shows that the influential estimates of the impact of racial concordance on **Black newborn mortality are substantially weakened and often become both numerically close to zero and statistically insignificant, once the analysis controls for the mortality effect of very low birth weights.**

Please see: <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2409264121>



# The Second Amendment Corner

## Liberty's Line in the Sand



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

## Springfield Armory SA-35: High Praise for the High Power

by Mike Hardesty,  
ammoland.com

The Browning High Power is an iconic pistol. Developed in the 1920s and 1930s, first by John M. Browning and then later by Dieudonné Saive at FN Herstal, the gun has a legend of historic proportions. It was finalized in 1934 and released in 1935 as the P-35 and was used by various militaries. The Springfield Armory SA-35 is a direct descendant of the original High Power. Let's look at a bit of history before looking at the gun itself.

### The Backstory

Many of my gun reviews are about modern firearms without much history, but since the High Power is such a storied pistol, I'll break with my usual form and discuss some history.

It all began in the mid-1920s. The French military wanted a new service pistol. That pistol had to meet several requirements:

- The gun must be compact.
- The magazine must have a capacity of at least 10 rounds.
- The gun must have a magazine disconnect device, an external hammer, and a positive safety.



SA-35

- The gun must be robust and simple to disassemble and reassemble.
- The gun must be capable of killing a man at 50 m (55 yd).

The last criterion dictated a bullet of at least 35 caliber, a bullet mass of around 120 grains, and a velocity of 1,100 f.p.s. All of these pointed to 9mm being the caliber of choice, especially since it was for the French military. The 9mm was popular in Europe. It was with these requirements in mind that FN commissioned John Browning to come up with a new pistol.

One problem was that he had to start over, as he had sold his 1911 design to Colt and therefore could not just duplicate that design for this pistol. He built two prototypes, one blowback-operated and the other a locked breech design. He duly applied for patents for these two guns in 1923. It was granted in 1927. Both pistols used the new staggered magazine arrangement invented by Saive... we call it double-stack. (Coincidentally, that's where the High Power gets its name – its magazine held 13 rounds, an unheard of capacity at that time. Truly High Power!).

The story gets more involved. John Browning died in November of 1926, so Messr. Saive took over development of the pistol. The military had expressed interest in the locked-breech model, so that was the one chosen for further development. The Colt patents expired in 1928, so Saive incorporated some 1911 traits into this new pistol, such as similar take-down and a barrel bushing.

In 1929, FN decided to cut to the chase and release a pistol that would stand on its own merits and hopefully be picked up by a military organization. The French were still deliberating on pistols, after all these years. FN settled on pursuing the locked-breech variation. They came out with the "Grand Rendement" – High Resource, evidently because of the 13-round capacity. By 1931, the gun had that capacity, a curved backstrap, and a barrel bushing integrated into the slide, after ditching the 1911 holdover parts. The Belgian military ordered 1000 of them for field tests, a good start.

By 1934, the pistol was basically in the form we know today and had been adopted by Belgium and other nations. Funny... France went with a different pistol, but by then, FN didn't care because

they were selling them elsewhere. It was officially released as the "Grand Puissance" (High Power) in 1935 and was given the model number P-35.

This was one of the few pistols to have fought on both sides during WWII, as the Germans took over the FN factory and had the guns produced for their Wehrmacht. But, FN had been cagey earlier when they could see the writing on the wall and had plans and designs sent to the John Inglis company in Canada, where the gun was also produced for the Allies.

That's enough history. Now, let's look at the Springfield Armory (SA) pistol before us...

### Features

The SA-35 is a faithful reproduction of the original High Power, but with a few differences. It is important to note that parts are interchangeable, and that the original High Power magazine will work in the SA-35. The safety lever is different – it's extended, and only on the left side of the gun. Also, the sights are different... they are larger and

SA-35  
see page 21

## Armed Citizen Ends Deadly Knife Rampage in Spokane: A Case for Concealed Carry Preparedness

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

In a quiet neighborhood in Spokane, Washington, a horrifying knife attack turned into a life-or-death moment for an unsuspecting dog walker—until he drew his firearm and ended the threat.

### It Started with a Knife Attack

Just after 1:30 p.m. on May 14th, a man armed with a knife began attacking residents at the Hart Terrace Apartments in Spokane's East Central neighborhood. According to police reports, the suspect first targeted a woman outside the apartment complex. Thankfully, another resident pulled her to safety before she was harmed.

*But the suspect wasn't finished.*

Police say he then turned on a random man near the stairwell, fatally stabbing him in what appears to have been a completely unprovoked attack.

### The Armed Dog Walker

The attacker's rampage didn't end there. Moments later, he spotted another man walking his dog nearby and charged him—still armed with the bloody knife.

*What the attacker didn't count on? His next target was legally armed.*

Faced with an imminent threat, the dog walker drew his handgun and shot the suspect, stopping the attack instantly. Spokane Police

later confirmed the shooting was in self-defense.

But this story doesn't end with just a defensive shooting. Witnesses say the armed citizen immediately tried to render aid—not only to the attacker who had just tried to kill him, but also to the earlier stabbing victim. Tragically, both died of their injuries.

Still, his actions—both defensive and compassionate—show the kind of responsibility and readiness that concealed carriers train for every day.

**Police: All Cooperating,  
No Charges**

Authorities confirmed that all individuals involved in the inci-

dent have been cooperative. As of now, no arrests have been made, and investigators believe there is no ongoing threat to the community.

Residents of the apartment complex remain shaken. One longtime neighbor noted that while the area has seen some odd behavior in the past, nothing ever this violent.

### DRT

This wasn't a movie. This wasn't a "what if." It was a real moment where an armed citizen was forced to defend himself—and possibly others—from a deadly, fast-moving threat. He didn't look for trouble. Trouble found him.

And because he was ready, he survived.

Let this be a reminder to those who carry: danger doesn't always come with a warning. It charges. Will you be prepared?

*(Editor/GG: With the increasing number of left wing, emotionally unstable, red diaper babies parading around town, it makes sense to be prepared for one of their melt downs. Get a gun. Get good training. And keep practicing.)*

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/armed-citizen-ends-deadly-knife-rampage-in-spokane-a-case-for-concealed-carry-preparedness/>

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SA-35  
from page 20

easier to acquire than those on the original.

Sights

Speaking of sights, here’s what we have on the SA-35. A front post with a white dot, and U-notch, Tactical-rack rear. These are definite upgrades over the original “bumps”.



My front white dot has morphed into an orangey-red one, better for my eyes.

Checkered Walnut Grip Panels

The grip panels are definitely old-school walnut with some well-defined checkering. I like the way they feel. Two coats of Tru-Oil on them bring out the grain and protect them.

Matte Blue Finish

No, it’s not Parkerized, but it is a matte blue finish that should withstand bumps and bruises well.

Recoil Spring

Here’s something I discovered by accident. The SA-35 spring is longer than that of the original gun and those of other clones being made today. This provides sure operation of the slide and practically guarantees good functioning. The original High Power spring is about an inch shorter than this one, as are most of today’s other clone springs. As I allude to below, please notice which direction the guide rod “loop” is pointing when you take it out, and replace it the same way. There’s a spring-loaded detent ball in the guide rod that grabs the slide release rod and needs to be oriented correctly. It usually will work the other way, but doing it right is best.



Photo: SA-35 barrel and recoil spring

Specifications

- Caliber 9mm
- Color Black
- Barrel 4.7” Cold Hammer Forged, 1:10
- Slide Forged Carbon Steel, Blued
- Frame Forged Carbon Steel, Blued
- Sights White Dot Front, Serrated Tactical Rack Rear
- Recoil System SA-35™ Recoil Spring & Guide Rod
- Grips Checkered Walnut
- Magazines (1) 15-Round

Trigger Pull 4 lbs., 5 oz. (measured)  
Weight 31.5 oz  
Length 7.8”  
Height 4.8”  
MSRP \$799

Variations: Tactical Gray, Coyote Brown (either, \$859)

Quibbles

I don’t have enough quibbles to constitute a “con” listing, but there are a couple. The gun ships with one magazine. That’s it. Every other pistol SA sells (as far as I know or have had experience with) comes with at least two mags. One is all you get here. The pistol is solid, accurate, and reliable; I just wish it had a spare mag with it. You can order a SA-35 mag for about \$30. Other 15-rounders are out there, as well.

The other quibble has to do with the safety lever. On the other hand, High Power clones are out now, and the safety is on both sides of the gun. The original wasn’t ambidextrous, but beginning with the FN MkII, it was. I wish it and the slide release were replicated on the right side of the gun. That would allow this lefty to carry it when needed without resorting to gyrations to disengage the safety or to drop the slide. Because

of that, I doubt if this gun will be carried much outside of my property.

Thoughts

I wasn’t quite sure what to call this section, so we’ll go with thoughts. I have some thoughts and opinions about this pistol that don’t fit elsewhere, so here goes.

First, I had always wanted to shoot a High Power, but since I didn’t know anyone who owned one, that didn’t happen. I remember when SA brought the SA-35 out and how I thought I’d love to try one. Again, I didn’t know anyone with one. So, when the chance to get one for review popped up, I grabbed it. I really like this pistol.

Why?

Because it fits. It fits my hand. It’s almost like a 1911 but a bit different. The grip angle is pretty much the same, and the grip is familiar… minus the grip safety. Takedown is way easier with no barrel bushing to mess with and no swinging link under the barrel.

What else does it fit? It fits my old-timey idea of a full-size duty pistol.

I cut my shooting teeth about 50 years ago, before polymer was ever a gleam in its daddy’s eye, to use the old saying. I grew up shooting chunks of blued, hardened steel with real walnut grip panels attached. That was the standard. Do I like “modern” pistols? Of course. I own a bunch. It’s just that, when I first saw and then picked up the SA-35, I knew it had to come live with me – it reminded me of times gone by, a different era. Sometimes, that’s not a bad thing.

The grip panels are truly comfortable – checkered walnut is hard to beat. Again, the gun just fits. I knew when I picked it up for the first time, fresh out of the box, that I would sell a rifle or whatever so I could buy it, which I did. I don’t get that feeling with too many pistols. Recently, that feeling has crept up when I



Take Down: SA-35 Stripped

handled two other SA guns… their Echelon compact and their XDM Elite 10mm 4.5”. Both of those pistols now live with me.

*Once you find a well-fitting pistol that is accurate and reliable, you run with it. So it goes with this SA-35.*

Another reason the gun didn’t go back is its trigger. That under-5-pound single-action trigger is great… hardly any take-up and minimal creep, a clean break. It pretty much lets you put bullets where you’re looking — at least it will for a better shot than I am. Add in the very useful sights and you have a winner.

Take-Down

It’s easy. Remove the mag and make sure the chamber’s empty. Pull the slide back and lock the safety into the second notch. Push up on the slide release and press it out the left side. Release the safety and remove the slide. Separate the barrel and spring. When putting things back, make sure the spring guide rod is in the correct orientation, as I mentioned above. It goes back together easily. For shooters who may not be familiar with uncaptured (free) recoil springs, you just need to show it who’s boss and shove it into the channel. Line it up straight after it’s in and you’re good to go.

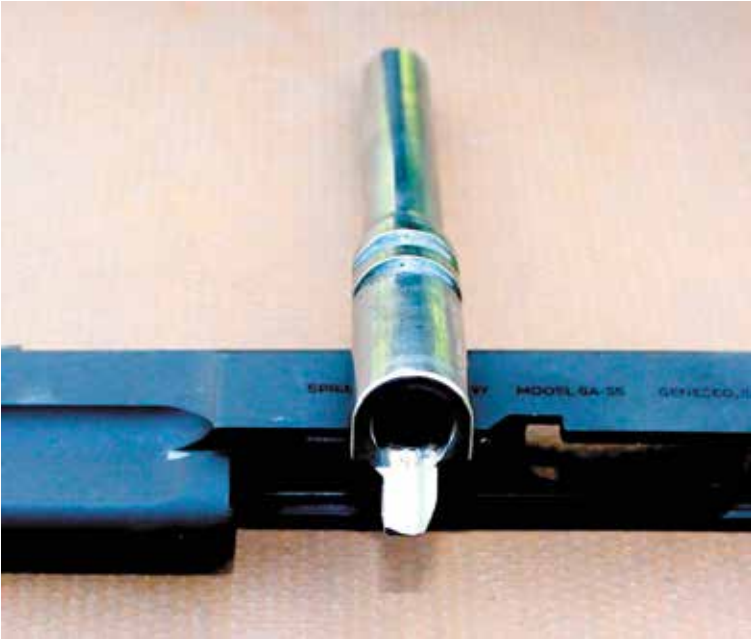


Photo: SA-35 barrel feed ramp

Target Time

I waited for the wind to calm down – it was going at a good 35 mph clip – and then set a large “shoot and see” target up at 25 yards at my backyard range. I gathered a small assortment of 9mm ammo and proceeded to “shoot for record” 10-round groups. Ten-round groups are my preference. You get more info than with 3- or 5-shot groups.

Any of these loads would work for practice. Although not tack-drivers, they are all mostly shooting fairly close to the point of aim. The Armscor and the Winchester are closest to P.O.A.

It’s worth mentioning that some reviewers complain about the SA-35’s “beavertail” digging into their hand due to sharp corners, but I had no such experience. I have medium-sized hands; maybe that’s why I came away blood-free. No hammer bite, either – the hammer used is a round one, not a spur variety. That helps.

Conclusion

The Browning High Power has been around for 90 years. It has been used by many military organizations and thousands of civilian shooters since its introduction in 1935. Although it’s undergone some minor upgrades, the current High Power is still recognizable as such. Springfield Armory’s SA-35 is one of the more refined clones on the market. They upgraded the sights and the trigger, put a nice matte finish on it, and extended the safety lever. They also added some spiffy walnut grip panels. The gun is handsome and is a shooter. I know I’m glad I finally own a well-made tribute to the venerable High Power, I believe I’ll keep this one and NOT sell it to buy something else!

*(Editor/GG: If you don’t have a High Power in your collection, grab one of these now. Before you can’t...)*

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/springfield-armory-sa-35-high-praise-for-the-high-power/>

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LEGAL NOTICES

Custer County School  
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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](mailto: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

On Education,  
Mississippi Shows the Way

by Michael Barone,  
The Daily Signal

Mississippi leads the nation. That’s not a typographical error. And it’s not just a gotcha phrase, preparing the reader for learning that Mississippi leads the nation on all sorts of negative things.

Once upon a time, that was true, and in some respects it still is. Mississippi has the lowest or nearly the lowest income levels of any state.

It’s been lagging in population growth over the last decade and in the longer term. Mississippi topped the 2-million mark in 1930, and it got within 18,000 of the 3-million mark in 2018, 88 years later, but it has fallen by 55,000 since.

Mississippi has long been the state with the highest percentage of black residents, and black people have had, on average, lower incomes and educational achievement by various measures than others.

Thus, not much notice was taken in 2011, nearly a decade after passage of the bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act, when Mississippi finished dead last in the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests in reading and math taken by fourth- and eighth-grade students. Louisiana, with the second-highest black population percentage, ranked 49th.

The 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress tests produced some starkly different results. Mississippi jumped to No. 14 in fourth-grade math and No. 9 in fourth-grade reading. And when the Urban Institute adjusted the scores for various poverty measures, thus measuring students in one state with those in another of the same level of economic status, Mississippi ranked No. 1 in both fourth-grade reading and fourth-grade math.

Louisiana ranked No. 2 and Florida No. 3 in adjusted fourth-grade reading, and Florida, Texas and Louisiana ranked just behind Mississippi in fourth-grade math.

On the eighth-grade tests, Mississippi fell in the lower half of states in

unadjusted reading and math scores. However, in the Urban Institute’s adjusted scores, Mississippi ranked fourth in reading, behind Massachusetts—whose unadjusted National Assessment of Educational Progress scores typically lead the nation—Louisiana and Georgia. And on adjusted eighth-grade math scores, Mississippi ranked first.

These astonishing numbers represent substantial and, so far as I know, entirely unpredicted progress in Mississippi, and just slightly less in Louisiana. They stand in vivid contrast to the national trend, as lengthy school shutdowns produced by powerful teacher unions in more “progressive” states resulted in sharply diminished learning and lower test scores.

The watering down of No Child Left Behind standards in the bipartisan 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act has also produced less proficiency in many states. “States like New York and Washington, with powerful teachers’ unions,” Real Clear Investigation’s Vince Bielski writes, have been “tamping down rigor, such as testing for graduation and accelerated programs, to achieve ‘equity’ for disadvantaged students.”

In contrast, “Southern states have seized on a political environment that allows them to do the things that matter,” Frederick Hess, American Enterprise Institute education policy studies director, writes. “To drive improvement, it’s easier if you have the politics of Mississippi than the politics of Massachusetts.”

As a result, black and low-income pupils are getting a better education in Deep South states such as Mississippi and Louisiana than in the “progressive” big cities of the North.

What is Mississippi doing right? According to The 74’s Chad Aldeman, over the last decade, it has deployed literacy coaches to low-performing schools, prompted schools to screen pupils early for reading problems, and required holding back third graders not reaching reading proficiency.

Schools use “science of reading” phonics-based curricula, which require repetitive drills that education school professors and many teachers loathe but young children thrive on. Parents are notified when their children are lagging and mobilized to help.

One gets the sense of group mobilization to encourage constructive learning rather than fostering grievances—something like the culture of mutual reinforcement that has produced so many successful black STEM graduates at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s Meyerhoff program.

Three generations ago, from 1940 to 1965, millions of black people moved from places such as the Mississippi Delta to “the promised land” of cities such as Chicago. Today, young black people are receiving better educations in Mississippi than they are in Chicago, whose mayor, Brandon Johnson, is a former teachers union organizer.

Johnson has the city government borrowing to pay for current spending on a contract with raises for teachers and administrators for a school system that parents have fled, with enrollment down 20% over the past decade. His fellow Democrats seem little bothered by this doubling down on a failed system. Former Democrat presidential nominee Kamala Harris’ 2024 platform talked about preschool and college loan forgiveness but said nothing about K-12 public schools.

Those interested in doing so, and improving the life chances of disadvantaged children, need to look to Mississippi and to other mostly Republican-run states in the South, which have shown the nation the way without substantial spending increases.

*(Editor/GG: If Mississippi, of all places, can make huge progress, why is Colorado test scores so low? Mississippi teachers are paid less than Colorado teachers. Mississippi is a true poverty state while Colorado is up there in GDP. Why?)*

Please see: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2025/05/18/on-education-mississippi-shows-the-way/>

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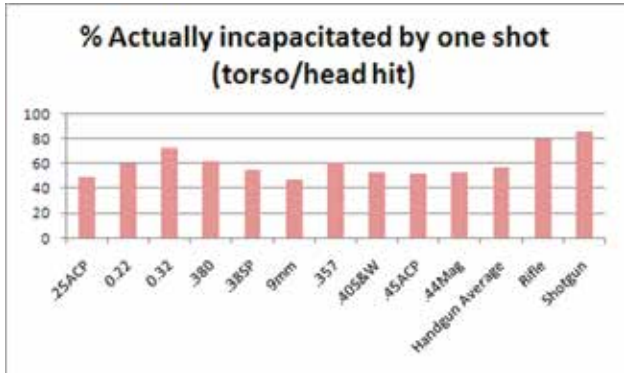
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# An Alternate Look at Handgun Stopping Power Part 2

—July 08, 2011 Part 2 of 2  
by Greg Ellifritz, Buckeye Firearms Association

Discussion:

I really would have liked to break it down by individual bullet type, but I didn't have enough data points to reach a level of statistical significance. Getting accurate data on nearly 1,800 shootings was hard work. I couldn't imagine breaking it down farther than what I did here. I also believe the data for the .25, .32 and .44 Magnum should be viewed with suspicion. I simply don't have enough data (in comparison to the other calibers) to draw an accurate comparison. I reported the data I have, but I really don't believe that a .32 ACP incapacitates people at a higher rate than the .45 ACP!



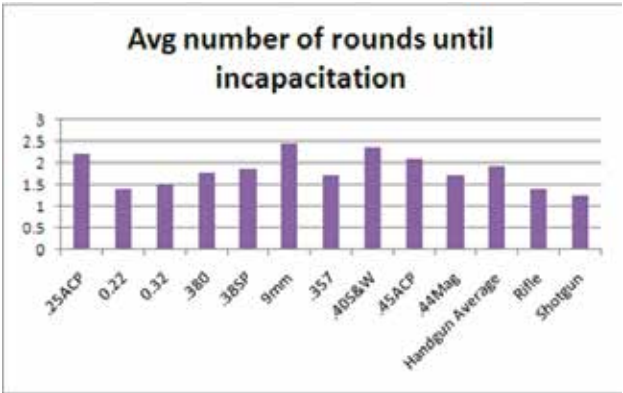
One other thing to look at is the 9mm data. A huge number (over half) of 9mm shootings involved ball ammo. I think that skewed the results of the study in a negative manner. One can reasonable expect that FMJ ammo will not stop as well as a state of the art expanding bullet. I personally believe that the 9mm is a better stopper than the numbers here indicate, but you can make that decision for yourself based on the data presented.

Some interesting findings:

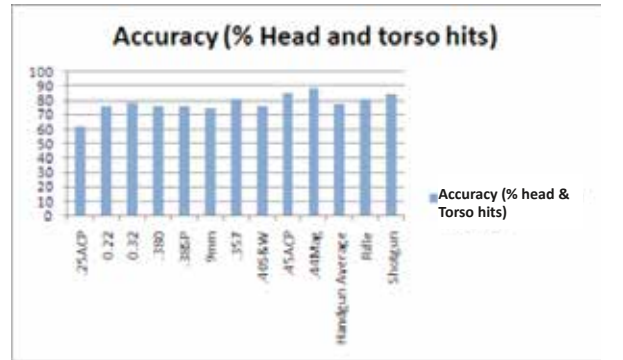
I think the most interesting statistic is the percentage of people who stopped with one shot to the torso or head. There wasn't much variation between calibers. Between the most common defensive calibers (.38, 9mm, .40, and .45) there was a spread of only eight percentage points. No matter what gun you are shooting, you can only expect a little more than half of the people you shoot to be immediately incapacitated by your first hit.

The average number of rounds until incapacitation was also remarkably similar between calibers. All the common defensive calibers required around 2 rounds on average to incapacitate. Something else to look at here is the question of how fast can the rounds be fired out of each gun. The .38 SPL probably has the slowest rate of fire (long double action revolver trigger pulls and stout recoil in small revolvers) and the fewest rounds fired to get an incapacitation (1.87). Conversely the 9mm can probably be fired fastest of the common calibers and it had the most rounds fired to get an incapacitation (2.45). The .40 (2.36) and the .45 (2.08) split the difference. It is my personal belief that there really isn't much difference between each of these calibers. It is only the fact that some guns can be fired faster than others that causes the perceived difference in stopping power.

If a person takes an average of 5 seconds to stop after being hit, the defender who shoots a lighter recoiling gun can get more hits in that time period. It could be that fewer rounds would have stopped the attacker (given enough time) but the ability to fire more quickly resulted in more hits being put onto the attacker. It may not have anything to do with the stopping power of the round.



Another data piece that leads me to believe that the majority of commonly carried defensive rounds are similar in stopping power is the fact that all four have very similar failure rates. If you look at the percentage of shootings that did not result in incapacitation, the numbers are almost identical. The .38, 9mm, .40, and .45 all had failure rates of between 13% and 17%.



Some people will look at this data and say "He's telling us all to carry .22s". That's not true. Although this study showed that the percentages of people stopped with one shot are similar between almost all handgun cartridges, there's more to the story. Take a look at two numbers: the percentage of people who did not stop (no matter how many rounds were fired into them) and the one-shot-stop percentage. The lower caliber rounds (.22, .25, .32) had a failure rate that was roughly double that of the higher caliber rounds. The one-shot-stop percentage (where I considered all hits, anywhere on the body) trended generally higher as the round gets more powerful. This tells us a couple of things.

In a certain (fairly high) percentage of shootings, people stop their aggressive actions after being hit with one round regardless of caliber or shot placement. These people are likely NOT physically incapacitated by the bullet. They just don't want to be shot anymore and give up! Call it a psychological stop if you will. Any bullet or caliber combination will likely yield similar results in those

cases. And fortunately for us, there are a lot of these "psychological stops" occurring. The problem we have is when we don't get a psychological stop. If our attacker fights through the pain and continues to victimize us, we might want a round that causes the most damage possible. In essence, we are relying on a "physical stop" rather than a "psychological" one. In order to physically force someone to stop their violent actions we need to either hit him in the Central Nervous System (brain or upper spine) or cause enough bleeding that he becomes unconscious. The more powerful rounds look to be better at doing this.

One other factor to consider is that the majority of these shootings did NOT involve shooting through intermediate barriers, cover or heavy clothing. If you anticipate having to do this in your life (i.e. you are a police officer and may have to shoot someone in a car), again, I would lean towards the larger or more powerful rounds.

What I believe that my numbers show is that in the majority of shootings, the person shot merely gives up without being truly incapacitated by the bullet. In such an event, almost any bullet will perform admirably. If you want to be prepared to deal with someone who won't give up so easily, or you want to be able to have good performance even after shooting through an intermediate barrier, I would skip carrying the "mouse gun" .22s, .25s and .32s.

Now compare the numbers of the handgun calibers with the numbers generated by the rifles and shotguns. For me there really isn't a stopping power debate. All handguns suck! If you want

to stop someone, use a rifle or shotgun!

What matters even more than caliber is shot placement. Across all calibers, if you break down the incapacitations based on where the bullet hit you will see some useful information.

Head shots = 75% immediate incapacitation  
Torso shots = 41% immediate incapacitation  
Extremity shots (arms and legs) = 14% immediate incapacitation.

No matter which caliber you use, you have to hit something important in order to stop someone!

Conclusion:

This study took me a long time and a lot of effort to complete. Despite the work it took, I'm glad I did it. The results I got from the study lead me to believe that there really isn't that much difference between most defensive handgun rounds and calibers. None is a death ray, but most work adequately...even the lowly .22s. I've stopped worrying about trying to find the "ultimate" bullet. There isn't one. And I've stopped feeling the need to strap on my .45 every time I leave the house out of fear that my 9mm doesn't have enough "stopping power." Folks, carry what you want. Caliber really isn't all that important.

Take a look at the data. I hope it helps you decide what weapon to carry. No matter which gun you choose, pick one that is reliable and train with it until you can get fast accurate hits. Nothing beyond that really matters!

Please see: <https://www.buckeye-firearms.org/alternate-look-handgun-stopping-power>



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