

BOCC: Dramatic P&Z Showdown: Vogel song Folds, Carsten Skates

by George Gramlich, News and Commentary

The May 28, 2025 regular meeting of the Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) started at 9 a.m. at the All Aboard Westcliffe Meeting Room in downtown Westcliffe. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogel song.

In Commissioner Items, of note was Canda talking about donations to several county offices/departments the highlight being five used police car donated to the Sheriff’s Office. Canda, again, asked the audience to refrain from asking questions during Public Comments and to only make comments. (*The constant questions from the audience, the vast majority of which are totally a waste of time and only come from one or two people, were slowing*

down the meetings a lot and getting the Agenda Items off of the subject. Even with that admonition, the main person who constantly asked questions kept doing it during the meeting and Canda let him do it. Please make it stop....)

In New Business, the first Item was Accounts Payable. The two-week total was \$191k and it was ok’d.

Next was a request for applying for a “Rebate Grant” from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) by the Recycling crew. It was ok’d.

The proposed Weed Management Plan and Implementation Plan was presented for approval by Vogel song. Apparently, the money to fund this statutory required effort is drying up as Epp said we had better plan for funding in 2026. The plan passed.

Bob Smith from Human Resources then gave an update on the quest to replace CTSI as the County’s insurer. Smith said there were two insurance areas: medical (including eye and dental) and Worker’s Compensation. (Also, liability which CTSI has and the Commissioners have not been too happy about how CTSI has been handling some claims). Smith interviewed several insurance brokers to search for the insurance and recommended two:

Acrisure for medical and Network Insurance Services for Workman’s Comp (WC). The Commissioners agreed with his selection.

Next up was a Personnel Matter concerning Planning & Zoning’s Director, Dorothy Carsten. (Last week, at the BOCC meeting, the Commissioners went into Executive Session (ES) and after that passed a motion putting Carsten on paid

administrative until this meeting. Carsten had a choice on how to run this issue at this meeting: she could ask for it to be handled in private in an ES or have it discussed openly in the BOCC meeting. She chose the latter.) County Attorney Dan Slater reviewed the issue and warned Carsten she was waiving her right to confidentiality regarding her personal information. Carsten agreed to that.

Human Resources Director Bob Smith was up first to state the allegations of misconduct. Smith said there were two (although he alluded to other “performance issues” about Carsten): The first issue was that Carsten violated the County Employee Handbook rule about being absent from work for three days or more without notifying her

BOCC see page 5

Teens Take a Closer Look at Their Cell Phone Use in a Student-Led Socratic Seminar — And They Were Alarmed into Action

by Jenny Brundin, Colorado Public Radio

Livine is blunt in her description of her relationship to her phone.

“Parasitical.” The 15-year-old said it profits off of her and she gets harmed.

“Sometimes when I’m using my phone, and I try to put it down, I just feel like I want to use it even more,” she tells four other freshmen gathered in a circle in a school library. The teens each hold notes. There is no teacher.

It’s a Socratic Seminar — student-led and question-based, á la Socrates, the ancient Greek philosopher — and it’s just one tool on the road to recovery from an addiction to a powerful device that’s got billions of people in its grip: the cell phone.

Frustrated parents know all too well battling their teens over phone use. But what about when teens themselves do a deep dive into how the addictive devices hijack their brains? Would it change their habits? We checked in with a group

of freshmen at Aurora’s William Smith High School who’ve taken a three-part course on the matter. The issue is relevant given a **recent law passed by the Colorado legislation requiring school districts to develop a policy on phone use.**

“They’re not supporting your autonomy or your well-being.”

Students begin with a neuroscience project to understand *how* neurotransmitters like dopamine, linked to pleasure, are released in the brain with every “like,” notification and comment on the phone. They learn how phones activate the brain’s reward center, creating a “dopamine loop” that sucks you into staying on your phone for longer. Next, the teens tracked their phone use for four weeks and journaled about it. Finally, **they learned how to develop their own “wellness playbooks,”** healthier

TEEN CELL PHONE USE see page 22

Fire in Wetmore



Press Release, Wetmore Volunteer Fire Department

June 2, 2025

Two outbuildings were destroyed by fire at a home in the Greenwood area on Monday, June 2nd. Wetmore Volunteer Fire Department responded with three engines and got some backup from Florence, Custer County Sheriff’s Office and Custer EMS also responded, plus we had the valuable assistance of a water truck and backhoe from Custer County Road & Bridge. Four state wildland firefighters checked for hot spots in the surrounding woods. No persons or animals were injured.

Legislator Stephanie Luck: Overview of the 2025 Session

Colorado State Representative Stephanie Luck will present an overview of the 2025 legislative session on June 22nd at 2 p.m. The event will be held at the Cotopaxi Church. Rep. Luck has served for five years and represents Custer, Fremont and Teller Counties with a small section of Chaffee and Pueblo Counties.

A second presentation will be in Custer County on June 22nd at 5 p.m. at Valley Bible Church.

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In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Thessalonians 5:18 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.

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

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Winter Business Hours:

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

Subscription Rates:

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

How to contact us:

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



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Montrose Commissioner Pond: The Constitution Isn't a Suggestion – It's a Line in the Sand

by Sean Pond, Guest
Commentary,
The Rocky Mountain
Voice

Something is happening in Colorado. You can feel it.

Not on the surface, but beneath it. Beneath the silence. Beneath the carefully packaged language of equity, sustainability, and progress. We are being conditioned. Slowly, quietly, and deliberately.

Conditioned to comply. Conditioned to accept change without question. Conditioned to believe that liberty is negotiable, that tradition is outdated, and that resistance is somehow wrong.

But here's the truth they don't want you to hear.

The Constitution doesn't need to evolve. It needs to be defended.

Freedom isn't something you bargain with. It's something you protect.

And this get-along-with-everybody mentality? That's the problem. That's the trap.

In my first 100 days as a Montrose County Commissioner, I've seen this pattern unfold. It's not loud. It's not violent. It's quiet, comfortable, and dangerous. And it's how we're losing everything.

They tell us we're divisive if we draw a line. They say we're extreme if we stand our ground. They call it progress, but it's erosion. It's a slow bleed.

And the greatest threat isn't just the radical left. It's not even the policies coming out of Denver. It's the silence in the middle—from moderates and unaffiliated voters who don't realize they're standing on a fault line, where the foundation of liberty is cracking beneath them, ready to give way.

They don't storm the gates. But sometimes, unknowingly, they hold the door open.

Because they've been convinced that freedom is flexible. That compromise is noble. That going along to get along is virtuous.

It isn't. It's how freedom dies.

The Constitution is not a suggestion. It's not a starting point for discussion. It's a line in the sand.

That's why I'm done being quiet.

I'm only one vote on a three-member board. I don't control Montrose County. But I will use my voice, and I will use it loudly. This isn't about politics anymore. It's about survival. Survival of liberty, of land, and of the values that made Colorado what it once was.

Montrose County is the front line. A stronghold. A place where a constitutional renewal can begin.

Because here's the strategy: Outside agendas are moving into our communities. They show up on school boards, planning commissions, tourism boards, energy co-ops, and chambers of commerce. They blend in. They gain influence. Then they start making decisions that reshape your life.

They don't always need

to win elections. They just need a seat at the table.

And when the state says let the locals decide, they don't mean you. They mean the ones they've backed.

This isn't local leadership. It's coordinated political infiltration.

And now they're pushing harder than ever.

They want cattle off the land. They want roads closed. They want grazing rights gone. They want hunting phased out. They want firearms irrelevant. They want wolves roaming, wilderness locked up, and Western Colorado turned into a buffer zone for urban control centers.

They call it rewilding. I call it erasing.

They want to erase us.

Whether by design or consequence, their vision eliminates the rural way of life. They push centralized control through regulation, land designations, and green energy policies that hurt the very communities they claim to help.

You are not imagining this. Rural Coloradans are being pushed aside.

Colorado is shutting down all coal-fired power plants and mines by 2030. They're replacing reliable energy with unstable alternatives that scar our land and provide little benefit to local economies. They're killing jobs, gutting communities, and taxing working families into the ground.

We should be expanding coal. Opening more mines. Extracting critical minerals. Powering our grid. Driving down costs. Putting America and Colorado first.

Instead, we're being driven into dependence and debt by green fantasies and government overreach.

And it's all enabled by those who believe standing in the middle is the right place to be.

As regulations and restrictions grow, liberty dies.

LINE IN THE SAND
see page 17

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website <https://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

Luke 18:16:

Jesus called them to Him and said,
“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them;
for of such is the kingdom of God.”

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Obituary

Dwight Fullerton Zeller

September 13, 1929 - May 30, 2025

Dwight Fullerton Zeller, of Westcliffe, a devoted servant of God, departed this life peacefully Friday, May 30, to be with his Lord and Savior. His legacy is rich in accomplishments, service to others, and ministry of the Word for more than 75 years. He was a man with a massive personality, a great mind, a tireless work ethic, and perpetual wit.

Born in Monmouth, Illinois, in 1929 to Frederick and Bertha Zeller, Dwight’s father was a minister and Army chaplain, while his mother ran the household and taught school. He and his older brother, Paul, were lifelong friends and collaborators, serving together in ministry. After graduating from Bob Jones College, Dwight and Paul preached at churches in western Kansas and eastern Colorado, establishing deep friendships that lasted a lifetime.

In the early 1950s, Dwight and Paul founded Horn Creek Camp, a Christian youth and family camp near Westcliffe, in the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Dwight then served for 20 years as a Navy Chaplain, sending home funds early on to help launch the camp while Paul stayed behind to run it. Dwight’s final Navy tour was as Chaplain at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, at the end of which he began teaching full-time at the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia.

In 1976, Dwight founded Sangre de Cristo Seminary, in rural Westcliffe, which started as a summer school and became a full-time seminary in 1979. Focused on the practical application of Biblical exegesis and the study of Biblical languages, Dwight and his wife, Lois, worked side-by-side, teaching and serving students, building the seminary facilities, performing maintenance, and preparing men and women for ministry. Dwight often reflected on attending a Billy Sunday revival as a youth, where the tent floors were covered in sawdust—an inspiration for the wood-chip flooring in the seminary chapel. He stepped down from the seminary presidency in 2000 but continued teaching classes, including Old



Testament Hebrew, until the fall of 2024, when he became ill.

Unable to sit still, Dwight pursued a multitude of hobbies with an impressive tenacity: playing the accordion; building wooden clocks; crafting wood pens, herb grinders, and ice cream scoops; setting gems into jewelry; machine knitting woolen socks; experimenting with optometry eye testing machines; creating hundreds of Greek New Testaments; and so many more. Humble and hardworking, he insisted on doing maintenance and work around his property until his final months—cleaning out the chimneys, plowing roads, and inventing a way to move pellet bags for his stove. He was a master of grammatical rules; could discuss names, dates, and key issues of centuries of British monarchs; enjoyed studying genealogy; sang at the top of his lungs; laughed loudly and often (many times at himself); and loved visits from his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and his many friends and neighbors.

Dwight met his wife Lois in 1954, and their courtship was mostly done via letter correspondence as Dwight was stationed overseas. They married in October 1956. They lived overseas and stateside until his retirement in 1974 and were the proud parents of eight children.

He loved Lois immensely, and they enjoyed many overseas adventures, including their much-loved trips to Northern Ireland for many years where he served as a temporary pastor for months at a time. In their later years, after dinner, they would read the Bible out loud, pray, and play games like dominoes, triominoes, Quiddler, and Scrabble—sometimes adjusting the rules just to help the other person win.

A lifelong learner and passionate reader, Dwight earned several formal degrees:

Bachelor of Art, Bob Jones University; Bachelor of Divinity, Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Master of Divinity, Memphis Theological Seminary; Master of Theology, Chicago Graduate School of Theology; and Doctor of Ministry, The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Survived by his wife, Lois; children Joel Zeller, Andrew(Beth Ann) Zeller, Rebecca(Don) Vanderlinden, Lydia (Bruce Stewart) Zeller, Jerry Zeller, William Zeller, Daniel Zeller; 21 grandchildren; and 36 great grandchildren. He was preceded in his death by his brother Paul and his youngest son, Paul.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Sangre de Cristo Seminary.

John Emmerling

1946 - 2025

John Emmerling of Cañon City passed away on May 31, 2025. John was a Patriot of the highest order. Long time member of the Royal Gorge Tea Party and founder of the *Fremont County Crusader* newspaper (the *Sentinel's* “sister” paper), he will be sorely missed.

We will have a full obituary soon.
God Bless, John. We miss you, bro.





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Town Attorney Position

The Town of Westcliffe is currently seeking the services of a municipal attorney to serve as the Town Attorney for the Town. The deadline for submission of proposals is July 1, 2025. The Town expects to appoint the Town Attorney no later than July 25, 2025. The complete Request for Proposal is available on the Town’s website: www.townofwestcliffe.com or directly from the Town: 1000 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252; or by calling (719)783-2282 Ext 10.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Beckwith Ranch Spring Roundup Saturday, June 7th

Press Release

The Friends of Beckwith Ranch, Inc. announces the 4th Annual Beckwith Ranch Spring Roundup at the historic Beckwith Ranch near Westcliffe, Colorado Saturday, June 7th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In honor of this most significant event in the ranching life, Beckwith Ranch is having an extravaganza designed to entertain the entire family.

Meet members of the Beckwith Family portrayed by the Beckwith Docents hosting activities all around the old Beckwith headquarters. The mansion will be open for tours and presentations. And a Silent Auction featuring very nice items will be offered in the Ballroom of the Mansion.

Nearby, local bands and musicians will be playing great songs appropriate for a Ranching Roundup celebration. Shelby and Daniel Brown will be providing wagon rides from the ranch to the old Beckwith Whistle Stop and back. Bill Morgan is bringing his beautiful American Miniature horse and may provide lucky kids a ride on his miniature sulky. Enjoy Blacksmith demos by Ken Butler in our newly restored blacksmith shop.

Hungry for great cowboy cuisine? For lunch, experience an authentic Chuck Wagon meal with Rocky Mountain Soda, soft drinks and beer.

Visit Velma's Playhouse, our Family Fun Center, where families can help their little cowboy or cowgirl build a custom

stick horse to race in the Beckwith Derby. And they can learn calf roping and play games from the 1890s. Or get removable tattoos. Authentic American Stories will be presented by Joyce Gregor and the kids (and adults) can participate in Terra Raye's Native American song and drum activity.

In honor of Smokey Jack, former owner of Beckwith Ranch, the Dark Skies Organization she founded will have telescopes set up to safely view the sun and feature the Planet Quest kid's exhibit to learn about the Solar System.

Local antique car enthusiasts will be showing off their incredible collections. Local vendors will have booths set up to offer unique handmade products. And Lisa Gurian will be there to present Equine Assisted Learning demos.

And the event marks the opening of the Beckwith Gift Shop featuring great gifts and souvenirs, many made locally by our talented and artistic artisans, artists and authors.

Don't miss this exciting and fun event and help Friends of Beckwith Ranch raise money to preserve The Historic Beckwith Ranch.

The Historic Beckwith Ranch is located 6 miles north of Westcliffe on Highway 69 N. Admission is only \$10/adults, \$2/kids under 12

Visit our website for more information: www.BeckwithRanch.com

Obituary Clarence Melvin Lange

Clarence Melvin Lange passed away in Pueblo, CO, surrounded by family on December 3, 2024 at the age of 78. Clarence was born to August and Ellen (Nelson) Lange on July 31, 1946. He had 2 brothers Marvin Lange of Westcliffe and Charles Lange of Cañon City. He grew up in Westcliffe CO, and graduated from Custer County High School in 1965. He enjoyed playing basketball, woodshop, and farming. Most of all he loved fishing, playing cribbage, bowling, watching sports and westerns on TV, and spending time with family.

In 1967, Clarence made the choice to serve his country and enlisted in the Unites States Army and served overseas in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in February 1973. Clarence married Susan (Borges) in 1972 and had 4 children. After leaving the military, Clarence moved his family to Cañon City area for 19 years and worked for a number of years for Merlino's Belvedere making cider and truck driving and for Western Forge out of Colorado Springs, CO,

making tools. Clarence divorced in 1995 and never remarried.

After his divorce, He later moved to Pueblo and lived with his children. He also worked for Furr's Cafeteria, Park East, and Mi Ranchito out of Pueblo as a Dishwasher until he retired in 2018 due to health concerns. During his retirement years, he enjoyed spending time with friends and family doing the things he loved best; fishing, watching sports, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Clarence was a deeply beloved son, father, brother, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend. He was survived by his three daughters Tracy (Paul) Allen, Jenniffer (Evert) Crook, and Melody Lange, three sister in laws, Dorothy Sanchez of Sunset, Utah, Cindy Echols of Tyler, Texas, and Sharon Lange of Cañon City, CO. Grandchildren Robert and Tanisha Allen, Courtney (Dathan) Gall, James and Joanne Crook, Travis (Luna) Rutter, Melissa (Jonathan) Lee, Alexia (Cole) Peters, and Steven Peters and 15



grandchildren. He was preceded to heaven by his parents, both brothers, son Brandon Lange and one grandson, Wyatt Lange.

Graveside services to be held at Lutheran Cemetery in Westcliffe, Colorado, on Friday, June 20, 2025, at 1 p.m. A memorial celebration will be held in Pueblo on June 21, 2025, at noon.

Please see Holt Funeral Home website or contact Tracy Allen at 719-778-1336 for details. We invite you all to share your pictures and memories. It is our wish that we laugh and reminisce and smile together at this time. Any flowers or cards can be sent to daughter Tracy at 2714 Holmes St., Pueblo, CO 81005.

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BOCC
from page 1

supervisor (who is Vogel- song). The second is that Carsten was open carrying a handgun at two instanc- es when she was doing in- spections in the field. The Handbook says employees can carry a handgun but it must be concealed at all times. Smith said it was also an assumption that an em- ployee who conceals carry has a valid concealed carry permit.

Carsten was then asked to come forward and present her case. First, Carsten went into a long winded and somewhat convoluted explanation concerning her five-day absence from work. She noted, “I know I can’t miss work with out telling your superior,” She then went into a presentation attempting to say that, in some way during dis- cussions with Vogel song, that she explained at that time she was having “a hard time with some issue” and she would like to work at home for a bit. She said “she told Paul” that she would like to work from home and take some time away from the office.” Carsten said that Vogel song said, “you run your Department and do what you have to do.” *(The implication here is that she did tell Vogel song about working from home. As you will see below, Vogel song, in a somewhat vague manner, denied that.)*

She then segued into a series of statements on how good an employee she is and all the hard work she puts it.

Then, looking a bit odd, Carsten asks Vogel song, “What is the definition of back dooring a person?” *(Oh, oh.....)*

Vogel song looked a little taken back, and without answering the question, re- sponded, “You had emailed me or texted me and said you were taking the rest of

the week off” and Vogel song responded that that “was fine”. Vogel song then went on to say he thought Carsten was taking vacation or sick time to do this. Vogel song also said he asked the P&Z assistant, after Carsten was gone, what Carsten was working on and the assistant said she didn’t know.

Then, in a strange twist, Carsten then again switched topics and started talking about a discussion she had with Vogel song before these allegations arose. She said, “When we were walking out the door and you told me multiple times you need to watch my back” and then stated that Vogel song told her that Commission Bill Canda was the one she had to watch. *(Implying that Canda was out to get her.)* Vogel song then tries to avoid this topic and repeats he did not know that she was working on at home. Vogel song then addressed the “back dooring” saying it was about watching “your six” (military term for covering your rear) and mentions something about “special work permits”.

Carsten then goes after Canda again saying the “back dooring” culprit was Bill Canda and she “has the date”. *(Whatever that meant.)* She finishes her work-from-home defense stating that, “in my opinion, it was a miscommunication.”

(Interesting. Basically, it looks like Carsten is alleging that Vogel song was told she was going to work from home and he said it was ok. Vogel song, however, said, that he thought she was taking vacation/sick time. So, Vogel song was denying Carsten told him she was going to work from home. Also, Carsten said that Vogel song told her that Canda was trying to get her somehow and she should watch her back. Vogel song never denied that. So here we apparently have a Com-

missioner bad mouthing a fellow Commissioner to an employee. That folks, if true, is a big no no. And note it was Canda who asked Vogel song to run for Commissioner. Nothing like BOCC teamwork.... Also, Carsten bringing up the back dooring has NOTHING to do with her alleged offenses. It was a smoke screen trying to obfuscate the charges.)

Carsten then switched to the open carrying accusations. She said, “I always wear a sweatshirt. I have my holster.” She then stands up in front of the Commissioners and asks can you see my holster? *(That move was a first for our BOCC.)* She then stated, “I never intimidate a person” *(after standing up asking people if they could see her holster).*

Carsten then dropped some- what of a bombshell saying, “What was the date the complaint was made by Coroner Baltzly?”.

Human Resources Smith then responded saying that he had a complaint from Mr. Baltzly “that while you were doing an inspection for him that you were open carrying a sidearm.” (Baltzly has a very successful contracting business specializing in earth work including septic systems.) Smith then added that in “certain areas” that Carsten was alleged to have “open carried to those inspections. Other people said it too.” (So according to Smith you have multiple, people saying Carsten open carried multiple times while on the job.)

Without responding to the allegations, Carsten then went on a confusing series of statements about her husband, and needing some- one to come with her on “that inspection”. Then, out of nowhere, she attacked Deputy Coroner Nikita Phillips (who also works with Brad Baltzly for his company) saying Nikita

was making “Tik Tok” videos (the subject of which was not stated) and that she had brought that up to Commissioner Epp due to possible legal issues with the alleged videos. Carsten then said, “I feel that this is retaliation. I feel it is made up. I follow the rules in everything I do.” Then, “All I can say is that I didn’t do it.” Epp then commented that he had talked to the Coroner about the videos. *(Carsten basically called Baltzly a liar regarding Carsten open carrying at the inspection.)*

Not done, Carsten stated that she had “made complaints about Baltzly and Nikita harassing me and making false complaints.”

Vogel song then said he was “not aware of the other open carry complaints. You have to abide by the rules. *(Remember Vogel song’s statements here...)*

Smith then piled on saying there was another “credible witness” who said “Dorothy open carried” in a work situation.

Attorney Slater then said, “No one employee has the power to alter the Employee Handbook” (which states all sidearm carry must be concealed). Smith reaffirmed that stating that the “Handbook says it must be concealed no matter where you are except” for law enforcement people.

Vogel song them makes a motion to “remove Dorothy Carsten from the Director of Planning & Zoning as of May 30th and move the assistant Delenna Crawford to be interim Director”. Epp corrects Vogel song saying the date should be today, May 28th.

Carsten then tries again to dodge the open carry accusations stating, “Have you ever provided training about carrying?”. *(Trying to blame someone else due to lack of training about the rules in the Handbook. Carsten is a Director. A supervisor. It is her duty to read and understand the County’s Employee Handbook especially since*

she is managing someone. Her statement re “training” could be a scapegoat comment justifying open carry. Also, since she admitted to carrying on the job, who would NOT check with the Handbook or HR on that? Not a smart defense.)

Vogel song then rebuts the lack of training defense. Slater again stated that “policy says the Director must tell their Supervisor about taking time off.”

It was then time for a vote to terminate Carsten. Surprisingly, the first to vote, Epp votes Nay. Then the guy WHO MADE THE MOTON TO DISMISS CARSTEN,Vogel song,votes Nay on his own motion!! Canda votes Aye. Thus, Carsten was not terminated. *(Unbelievable. As an ob- server, it appears there was more than enough evidence to terminate her, Carsten never convincingly rebutted the accusations and multiple times tried to confuse the issue by bringing up topics that didn’t address the facts. Bottom line though, Vogel song folded and Epp made a bad call based on the allegations brough forward.)*

Making a bad call worse, Vogel song then made a toothless motion to put Carsten on “probation” for 60 days and that she must have no “infractions” during that time *(Whoopee. That does a lot.)* There was a brief discussion then all the mighty, let’s do what is best for the County Commissioners, voted “Aye” on putting Carsten on probation. *(Interestingly, during the discussion, Epp said that he would like to have regular workshops with P&Z to see what they are doing. This, of course, hints at other issues....)*

(Folks, this might not be the end of the Carsten affair....)

The Sentinel contacted Coroner Brad Baltzly after the meeting to see if he had any comments on the meeting especially concerning those of Carsten who denied open carrying at Baltzly’s septic

inspection. Brad told us some interesting things.

Brad said he had Carsten come to dozens of septic installations for inspections and she never was open carrying. He said that, for some reason, Carsten had started acting somewhat hostile towards him lately. Brad noted that he was quite surprised when Carsten showed up open carrying a pistol. He said that there were two other witnesses to the event: Brad’s assistant Nikita Phillips and P&Z assistant Crawford. Brad told us that both had told HR Smith that Carsten open carried during that inspection. Brad was concerned that it might have been some sort of intimidation as Carsten was hostile during the inspection and left without telling Brad if it passed or not. (Well, that’s three to one on whether Carsten was open carrying in violation of County policy. And remember she repeatedly, during the meeting, denied open carrying.)

Brad also stated that it was told to him that Carsten had open carried on other inspections that same day (as alluded to by HR Smith during the meeting). And without going into detail, Brad said other contractors were experiencing problems with Carsten. Other issues were also discussed.

So there you have it. Multiple, credible witnesses saying Carsten open carried at an official county in- spection and Carsten said she didn’t. Brad also said that all three Commissioners were aware of the other witnesses’ statements! *(Yet Vogelfold and Eppno still voted not to fire Carsten. Folks, we are talking a GUN here. Not a pencil, not a shovel, a firearm. This isn’t a minor policy violation. Some cojones are needed here, Commissioners, before some- thing bad happens.)*

And another episode of stellar local government and strong, moral, taxpayer driven leadership that our children would be proud of. Next week might be interesting....

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Recurring Events

Mondays

10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
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

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.



Six Hikers Rescued from Greenhorn Mountain

Press Release
Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office

May 31, 2025

The Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Services Division’s volunteer Search and Rescue (PCSO SAR) team, with the assistance of state and local partners, successfully rescued six hikers—including five juveniles—from Greenhorn Mountain this afternoon following a challenging 25-hour search in steep and heavily wooded terrain.

All hikers were found safe and, though exhausted, were uninjured. One SAR team member from PCSO sustained non-life-threatening injuries during the operation and was airlifted from the mountain by a Colorado National Guard helicopter.

The group, all from Texas, began a day hike Friday near Graneros Creek, southwest of the Town of Rye. After veering off their designated trail, they became disoriented in dense vegetation and were unable to find their way back.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on Friday, the hikers contacted the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office Communication Center to report they were lost. PCSO’s volunteer SAR team began an immediate ground search, working through the night despite steep terrain, heavy rain, and limited visibility. One SAR member was injured during the night but continued searching until he was unable to proceed.

On Saturday morning, a second PCSO SAR team and members of the Custer County Search and Rescue joined the operation. A Flight for Life helicopter was deployed and located the lost hikers, but due to rugged terrain, it was unable to perform a rescue or extract the injured SAR member.

The Sheriff’s Office coordinated with the Colorado Department of Public Safety and the Colorado National Guard to deploy a helicopter capable of high-angle rescue. At approximately 3:30 p.m., the helicopter crew used a hoist to extract the injured SAR member, who was then flown to Rye High School and transported by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, Custer County SAR teams located four of the six hikers on foot around 3:30 p.m. The two remaining juveniles had separated from the group in an attempt to find the trail. PCSO SAR members located them at approximately 4:45 p.m. All six hikers were safely escorted out of the area and taken to the incident command post, where they were evaluated and found to be in good health.

“This was a very long, difficult, and dangerous operation, and we are thankful for the positive outcome,” said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. “Everyone was safely rescued, and although one of our SAR members was injured, we are grateful no one suffered serious harm.”

Sheriff Lucero also expressed appreciation for the collaborative

effort: “We want to thank Custer County, Rye Fire, Flight for Life, and the Division of Fire Protection and Control for their assistance in this search. A special thanks goes to the Colorado Department of Public Safety and the National Guard for the successful rescue of our injured SAR team member.”

The Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office reminds outdoor enthusiasts to always be prepared before heading into the mountains:

- Never hike alone.
- Share your hiking plan with someone before you go.
- Bring plenty of food and water.
- Carry a fully charged cellphone and conserve battery life.
- Pack emergency supplies, including a flashlight, fire starter, and emergency blanket.
- Stay on marked and designated trails.
- If you become lost, call for help and stay in place.

Get Involved in Public Safety

The Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office welcomes volunteers who are interested in serving their community through programs like Search and Rescue or other public safety efforts. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 719-583-6200 or go to www.pueblosheriff.com/444/Response-Teams for more information on how to get involved.

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, June 9	Tuesday, June 10	Thursday, June 12
#18 Bratwurst on a Bun w/Onions & Cabbage	#79 Salisbury Steak Brown Gravy	#3 Arroz Con Pollo
Oven Browned Potatoes	Smashed Red Potatoes	Corn & Zucchini Mexicana
Peas & Carrots	California Mixed Veggies	Tossed Salad
Orange	Nectarine, WW Bread	Apricot
		WW Bread
Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)		
<i>The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.</i>		
Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations		
A \$4 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.		

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Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff</i> 719/783-4601	High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School <i>103 N. Adams St., Westcliffe</i> 719/783-9045	Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month <i>210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2491	Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service <i>120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-0903
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints <i>240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe</i> Pres: 719/214-4589	Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study <i>603 Leon Street, Walsenburg</i> (719) 251-9053	Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. <i>215 N Pikes Peak Ave. , Florence</i> 719/784-1184	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship <i>6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe</i> 719/ 371-1822
Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study <i>0157 County Rd. 27A</i> <i>Cotopaxi 719/942-3526</i>	Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study <i>3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe</i> <i>Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323</i> Lange Hall 719/783-2561	St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays <i>3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2477	Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship <i>116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff</i> 719/581-7572
Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship <i>202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe</i> 719/783-2511	Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m. <i>830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO</i> <i>Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863</i>	St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500	Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship <i>Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore</i> 719/371-1230
Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study <i>Pastor Steve Holcomb@gmail.com</i> <i>20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi</i>		Sacred Heart Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> Saturday Mass 4 p.m. <i>Highway 69, Gardner</i> <i>Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037</i>	Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship <i>699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore</i> 719/784-0596
Send Church updates to sdcsentinel@gmail.com (719) 783-3360			

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” Romans 1: 16-17 ESV



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Events

June 5 -28, Sangres Art Guild ~ “Colorful Colorado” Art Show, 3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69

June 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Local Farmer’s Market begins! In parking lot located at 59000 Hwy 69/N 3rd St

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. If you’d like to have a booth, please contact Laurie at CCKCkids@gmail.com

Saturday, June 14, 10 a.m.
Lonely Cat Lady Meetup on the Bluff

Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m. Public Solar Observing at Smokey Jack Observatory (SJO)

Saturday, June 14, 8:45 p.m. Beginner Telescope at the Smokey Jack Observatory (SJO)

Wednesday, June 18, 10 - 11 a.m. FREE
West Custer County Library presents “WCCL Nature’s Educators” Meet some animals. Jess Price Park on Main St.

Saturday, 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.

June 21, 22 Saturday 11 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.
Silver Cliff Tractor Pull @Silver Cliff Community Park, 1011 Butler St., Silver Cliff.

Dry camping available at most pulls. Free for spectators. Point of contact Kathy Reis 719-371-2154

Announcements

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Custer County Community Sharing Food Pantry
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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
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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“Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil;
in its worst state an intolerable one.”
—Thomas Paine

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT Just Asking A Question, OK?



by Fred Hernandez, Commentary

For some more observant locals you may have noticed something slightly strange on The Bluff. If you are like most people who visit The Bluff, you go there to enjoy the magnificent view of the Sangres. Needless to say you have to be facing west.

The new parking rule, however, is that you must back into the parking space. The sign even shows one how to do it in One, Two and Three moves.

The question then is, would it not have been more logical to just park head on into the slot thus facing the view rather than stop in the middle of the street and back into the parking space? And for what? To see the back of Lowe’s grocery building? We asked the Sheriff about this and he said that was the way the town wanted it. We won’t even mention that most people have a slightly more difficult time backing up. Oh well. Just saying.

Family Fun Day!

Press Release

Custer County Kids Council’s 6th Annual Family Fun Day is SATURDAY JUNE 14th, 2025, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Memorial Park. There will be a bounce house, FREE food, LIVE music, face painting, balloon art, raffles, and over 25 local agency booths! It is sure to be a FUN and FREE event for all ages.

We are looking for volunteers to help make this event possible. If you are interested please contact Laurie at cckckids@gmail.com or call 719-783-2074.

CCKC works across the community to support young children and families to ensure bright futures. We all have a role to play in preparing our kids for a healthy and successful future.

Tennis Lessons

Sponsored by Westcliffe Children’s Health

Lessons for kids 5-14 every Friday through August. Beginners from 9 -10 a.m. and Intermediate from 10 -11a.m. Tennis courts at Hermit and 5th St. in Westcliffe.

All classes taught by Pueblo Tennis Center-Affiliated Coaches. Cost is \$5 or scholarship, funds going toward rebuilding our courts. You can come as many times as you like. Register each Monday with the organizer Annie Dawid, for that Friday. 719-371-1647 or annie@anniedawid.com

Bring water, sunscreen, and hat. Free rackets available on site.

KIDS Friday, June 6, 2025 The Erie Canal

This year is the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal. Growing up in Western New York, I was well aware of the Erie Canal, an historic canal in upstate New York that runs east-west between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. It was completed in 1825, and was the first navigable waterway connecting the



Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. It helped accelerate the development of the Great Lakes region. It was dubbed the nation’s first superhighway. It was first proposed in the 1780s. Construction was authorized by the New York State Legislature in 1817. There were many opponents to the canal but upon completion the canal saw quick success upon opening on October 26, 1825, with toll revenue covering the state’s construction debt within the first year of operation.

The construction of the Erie Canal was a landmark civil engineering achievement in the early history of the United States. Miles of rough terrain in upstate New York were unearthed using human and horsepower to build the canal. When completed, the canal stretched 363 miles and was the second-longest in the world after the Grand Canal in China. Since then, it has been expanded several times, most notably from 1905 to 1918 when the “Barge Canal” was built and over half the original route was abandoned.

Governor DeWitt Clinton of New York became known as the “father of the Erie Canal” for championing the construction of the waterway through the state. On October 26, 1825, Clinton celebrated his pet project’s grand opening by pouring a jug of Lake Erie water into New York harbor. On its return trip, the Seneca Chief brought back a keg of Atlantic Ocean water, which was poured into Lake Erie by Buffalo’s Judge Samuel Wilkeson, marking the “Wedding of the Waters.” The Erie Canal was successfully completed in eight years at a total length of 353 miles and cost \$7.143 million.

Today, the Erie Canal is used primarily by recreational vessels, though it remains served by several commercial barge-towing companies. It is open to small craft and some larger vessels from May through November each year.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erie_Canal, <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/79853/14-navigable-facts-about-erie-canal>.

Photo:Erie Canal at Salina Street, Syracuse 1904, Public Domain

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness,
neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17 KJV

CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

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Congratulations Kenna!

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Custer County Board of Commissioners
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Wyatt Grundy

Dan Riggs Memorial
Cora Kane

Faculty-Staff
Jacksyn Adamov, Lily Bomgardner,
Isabella Ferron, Andrew Flynn,
Wyatt Grundy, Cora Kane

Farm Credit of Southern Colorado
Lily Bomgardner

Jack Slater Memorial
Kenny Simpson

John and Mary Dilley Memorial
Cora Kane

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
Isabella Ferron

Kirkpatrick Bank
Quincy Downing, Isabella Ferron,
Wyatt Grundy, Cora Kane, Kenny Simpson

Mission Wolf
Lily Bomgardner

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Cora Kane, Kenny Simpson

Rebecca’s Fund
Isabella Ferron, Cora Kane,
Paul Wiest

Richard and Iris Wilson Memorial
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Lily Bomgardner, Quincy Downing,
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Thank you to the Local Agencies for over \$100,000 in Local Scholarships for Custer County Seniors!

Congratulations Class of 2025!

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Westcliffe Town Meetings

Grants, Lawsuits, Workforce Housing, Dark Skies/SJO

Westcliffe Town Meetings: Hedberg Lawsuits Settlement, Grant Funded Water/Sewer to Move Forward on Town Lots for Workforce Housing, Dark Skies/ SJO Requests Improvements, Board of Trustees Searching for a new Attorney

by Laura Vass

During the Westcliffe Board of Trustees April 15 meeting, the trustees went into executive session to discuss settling the two lawsuits by Jordan Hedberg concerning open meeting violations and executive sessions which he wanted the records/recordings to. The trustees settled the two lawsuits by releasing the recordings requested and paying \$6,000 for Hedberg’s lawyer fees.

The town attorney, Clay Buchner, remarked that “there will always be the Hedbergs of the world that file lawsuits for gain.”

During the April meeting the Board voted to allow the Farmer’s market to use Jesse Park this year but it looks like, from press releases from the Market, that the location will remain north of Jesse Park. We shall see.

The Board also voted on the Contract for the town lawyer. However, the town put out an RFP after a special meeting on the 30th of May, in search of municipal attorney. Clay, who accepted a position with the 11th District Attorney’s Office months ago, and represents other municipalities as well, will stay on in his capacity as the town does its search.

With County Commissioner Canda pointing out that the county had dropped \$40K into the pockets of Round Mountain to help with the sludge removal project, Westcliffe’s board agreed to put in \$10K.

In the May 20 regular meeting, a few agenda items were tabled: The IT Report and Consideration to rezone a lot in Shadow Ridge subdivision from commercial to single-family residential, the latter of which must be open for discussion for one month. His request for rezoning started late March, so this was a surprise. Both will be on the agenda for June.

The Board discussed and voted on candidates for the Planning Commission opening, deciding on Brian Cline (Antler Liquor and Motel) for the position and the other two applicants, Leslie Parkes and Nadine Petersen, would be alternates.

Next was an update on the workforce housing. The Board did get the grant for infrastructure (water tap and sewer) to the property the town owns and has purposed for workforce housing. They’ll need to take bids on that soon. The grant for obtaining an economic assessment was also awarded to the towns and county and Community Attributes, Inc. has been commissioned to do the assessment. They were scheduled to come on the big snow day in May and will be up to meeting business folks and join in some focus groups June 2 -3.

An update from Barry Keene, who is part of the county’s Workforce Housing Committee, was next. He said that Charles Bogle had gifted them the non-profits, Custer County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) and a sister non-profit, which gives them a non-profit with longstanding to set up a Housing Authority which in turn can be a clearing house

for grants, loans and managing housing projects later. (Neither the county nor the towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff want to be in the business of managing rental units etc.) The CCEDC would need a Board, an office, personnel and other set up. No plans or deadlines were given for this, but Keene said he’d have something together by week’s end. He also wanted the towns and the county to put up some money to go with an 80/20 grant he’s looking at to set up that Housing Authority. Mayor Wenke suggested a workshop (scheduled for May 30) to get more information on this.

Erick Messick, local Vice President of Dark Skies, was there to approach the board about improvements. Apparently, the Smokey Jack Observatory (SJO) at The Bluff is on property that the town owns and the town is responsible for some improvements. They would like to put some more seating in which would require some dirt moving. They also are concerned about visitors using the drainage area (which is full of rock) as a pathway—which might be a good way to get injured, especially at night. Methods were discussed for blocking it off in a way that Dark Skies can still use the drainage area to drive a truck in and out when they have activities to set up.

This lead to a few questions. Mayor Wenke wanted to know who would be paying for improvements/changes. A discussion ensued about the property transfer agreement from the Land Conservancy several years back and who is responsible for improvements and if there was any money left from that transfer agreement. At one point Mayor Wenke suggested Dark Skies charge for their activities, which have always been free. The Board agreed that they need to research the documents on the transfer by the next meeting to determine responsibility for costs, etc.

This went from discussion of safety to the issue of the area not being very ADA compliant and the question of whether, as part of the city’s Bluff Park, it has to be ADA. The town lawyer was asked about it and he said ADA compliance is very complicated, and he didn’t want to speak to the issue without looking at the area and investigating it further.

In Public Comments, someone complained about the Saddle Club having their ‘non-compliant with Dark Skies ordinance’ lights on. Board member Mr. Jagow, who is president of Dark Skies, did say that it’s a problem and wondered if the town could lose its Dark Skies Designation.

Mayor Wenke said it was his understanding that they can have the lights on in the Arena/parking lot for 11 days a year which is enough to cover the Rodeo/4-H week and the gymkhana events. They are supposed to get a special use permit each time, however. This discussion, not on the agenda, could not go anywhere for this meeting.

The Board set up a special meeting for the morning of May 30, to consider putting out an RFP for a town attorney. They did agree and issued the RFP announcement to be published. There was mention but not actions on Mr. Wenke and Mr Fulton meeting with Round Mountain and DOLA to figure out the Engineering needs for the infrastructure grant before creating and RFP for that. Mr. Wenke said he would like to get the sewer/water put in before a fall freeze.



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COvid Chronicles May 8 - 15: C&C Made Headlines Polis Made an Example. Colorado Made Up Its Mind.

by Rocky Mountain Voice Editorial Board, rockymountainvoice.com

Part 2 of 2

May 13

With C&C's in Castle Rock igniting the fire for Colorado's return to freedom, residents across the state took the torch and ran – defying Gov. Polis and other lockdown-happy officials. That included Teller County, where commissioners submitted a variance request to allow social gatherings of more than ten people. In their application, the county pointed to a troubling rise in assaults and suicides as justification for ending their state-imposed state of “cabin fever.”

“People are just kind of going stir crazy,” Commander Greg Couch of Teller County told *The Gazette's* Debbie Kelley. “They feel like they're locked in their homes with other family members – and that's a recipe for more conflict.”

Meanwhile, if Gov. Polis had known the pro-Trump titan Elon Musk would become just four years later, he might not have extended such a warm welcome to the MAGA maverick. But on this day in 2020, as Musk publicly sparred with California officials over lockdown restrictions barring Tesla from reopening its plant, Colorado's governor made a play.

“We want you @elonmusk in Colorado, we are the best of all worlds,” Polis tweeted late Tuesday night. “We're very pro-business, low taxes, also pro immigration, pro-LGBT, globally minded.”

Musk ultimately chose Austin, Texas, for Tesla's headquarters.

“Frankly, I would call it forcible imprisoning of people in their homes against all of their constitutional rights, in my opinion,” Musk said during a May 2020 Tesla meeting. “It's breaking people's freedoms in ways that are horrible and wrong and not why they came to America or built this country.”

The Denver Post editorial board was incensed by Polis' olive branch. In an editorial titled “Polis' message to Musk should have been, ‘shame on you,’” the board blasted the governor for excoriating the Arellanos at C&C's for reopening – while simultaneously courting Musk for doing essentially the same thing in California.

“We're confused about what the difference is between opening a

manufacturing facility in defiance of a county health order and opening a dining area,” the editors wrote. “Polis' tweet was hypocritical and feeds to the narrative that across the United States, elected officials are selecting winners and losers with their shutdown order.”

The Post added, “There are times for civil disobedience.” But in their view, this wasn't one of them – so Musk, the Arellanos, and anyone else defying public health orders should be treated the same as any American violating the law.

One wonders if one of those acceptable “times for civil disobedience” might arrive just weeks later – right in the *Post's* own backyard, following the death of one George Floyd.

May 14

The front page of Thursday's *Gazette* offered a striking visual contrast between President Trump and Gov. Polis. In the Associated Press photo, Trump stands in the foreground, arms folded, maskless. Behind him, Gov. Polis looks on from the side – face fully covered by a Colorado flag cloth mask, pulled snugly from the bridge of his nose to below his chin.

Marianne Goodland of *Colorado Politics* noted in the *Gazette* report that Polis and CDPHE Executive Director Dr. Jill Hunsaker Ryan were the only individuals in the room “who appeared to be wearing masks.”

Out on the Western Slope, Garfield County officials secured a court order to shut down then-candidate Lauren Boebert's Shooters Grill – Colorado's second C&C-style flashpoint.

“If I can sit in a salon chair for an hour-and-a-half, then my customers should be able to come to my restaurant and sit at a table and have a 20-minute meal,” Boebert said in a social media video.

Garfield County Sheriff Lou Vallario voiced even sharper criticism of Polis' approach.

“These edicts issued by governors and health departments, in my opinion, violate those basic principles of our rule of law and violate our Constitution,” he said. “... I will not arrest anyone who violates these health orders, because the rule of law and due process are absent.”

And as for Colorado's kids – nearly

two months after schoolchildren's beloved personal items were left locked away in empty hallways and classrooms – Adams County officials finally announced that families would be allowed to retrieve them... via curbside pickup.

May 15

Thanks to the bold actions of restaurateurs, small-business owners, and a handful of elected officials, the floodgates officially opened. County-level leaders across Colorado began pushing back on Gov. Polis and the state, demanding more local control over pandemic restrictions.

Nearly half of Colorado's 64 counties were now requesting relief from certain “safer-at-home” rules within their jurisdictions – but only a handful of those requests had been approved, across just five counties.

Polis' health officials granted permission for select churches, gyms, restaurants and movie theaters to reopen – but only under reduced capacity and strict safety measures, including customer health screenings and mandatory masks for employees.

The rhyme and reason behind which counties were granted leniency remained murky. In some cases, it came down to arbitrary data points. In Logan County – a sparsely populated region with just 12 residents per square mile – population density didn't factor into the decision. Instead, the state focused on a concentrated outbreak at a single facility: the Sterling Correctional Facility.

Days earlier, Logan County's request for a variance had been denied. State officials pointed to the prison's outbreak, where 440 inmates and 16 staff had tested positive for COVID-19.

The message from the state to Logan County was clear: the health and movement of inmates mattered more than the livelihoods of local, law-abiding citizens. In fact, of the county's 483 total cases, only 25 were not connected to the prison.

“We are dying out here,” said Logan County Commissioner Jane Bauder. “We can't go any longer without these businesses being open.”

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

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Colorado State News



Colorado Environmental Justice Groups Are Struggling to Keep Their Projects Alive After Federal Funding Cuts

by Sam Brasch,
Colorado Public Radio

A climate resilience center in southwest Denver. A tree-planting project along Interstate 70. A constellation of urban gardens.

Those are just some of the Colorado projects on life support after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency terminated federal grants to support environmental justice programs.

Since President Trump returned to office, his administration has targeted federal support for initiatives seeking to address the disproportionate impact of toxic pollution and climate change in less-white and less-affluent communities. Multiple studies have linked concentrated environmental impacts to poor health outcomes.

The approach marks a swift reversal from the Biden administration, which made rectifying environmental inequality a core piece of its climate strategy. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, for example, earmarked nearly \$3 billion to support environmental

justice projects and established an environmental justice office within the EPA to distribute the funding.

Those federal grants began arriving in Colorado in late 2024. KC Becker, who oversaw the Mountain West region as the former EPA Region 8 administrator, said her team recognized political support for environmental justice would likely evaporate under a future Trump administration.

“We knew the grants were at risk, and we worked to finalize as much as we could,” Becker said.

Turns out Becker was right to worry. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has called environmental justice “an excuse to fund left-wing activists” rather than fix actual environmental issues. Besides putting all employees within its environmental justice office on leave, the EPA is now seeking to cancel 781 grants meant to bolster clean energy and environmental projects, according to an April court filing. Almost all of the impacted grant programs focus on environmental justice.

It’s unclear how many of those

grants would fund projects in Colorado or the Mountain West. A separate list released by several Democratic senators in March identified 13 Colorado-based environmental justice grants targeted for termination, which would have sent nearly \$25 million to communities, nonprofits and tribal nations.

Cyrus Western, the new EPA Region 8 administrator, said in a written statement that the agency has vetted grants to determine if they’re an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and align with Trump administration priorities. “Grants that do not support the Administration’s agenda have been terminated,” Western said.

Here are some examples of community and nonprofit projects grappling with uncertainty due to grant terminations or federal funding freezes. A spokesperson with EPA Region 8 confirmed it has terminated funding for each project listed below.

A new climate resilience center in southwest Denver

Organization: Commún
Total grant: \$20,000,000

A week before President Trump’s second inauguration, Commún, a Denver-based nonprofit, received a \$20,000,000 EPA grant to establish a resilience and community center in southwest Denver.

The center would usually serve as a gathering space in the heart of the Loretto Heights campus, a former Catholic boarding school, developers are now reshaping into a neighborhood and culture hub. The project would transform Machebeuf Hall, a former cafeteria and student union built in the 1950s, into a multipurpose facility with a grocery store, food stalls, a mental health center and a laundry facility.

It was also meant to serve as a disaster refuge in moments of crisis. In the event of a grid failure, for example, backup batteries and solar panels would help keep the center’s lights on. Air filtration would also help protect occupants from wildfire smoke or other air pollution threats.

Margaret Brugger, the executive director of Commún, said the grant would have allowed her group to start construction in March. It put those plans on

hold after the EPA froze the grant shortly after President Trump’s inauguration, and the group received a termination letter ending the grant funding in mid-May. The nonprofit is now working to appeal the decision and exploring ways to move forward with pieces of the estimated \$30 million project.

“Obviously, it’s disappointing, but I will always keep hope,” Brugger said.

Trees and shrubs along Interstate 70 in Globeville

Organization: National Wildlife Federation and the Green Dot Coalition

Total grant: \$500,000

In 2023, the National Wildlife Federation won a \$500,000 EPA environmental justice grant to plant trees and vegetation along Interstate 70 in Denver’s Globeville neighborhood, an area with well-documented air pollution issues compounded by traffic and major factories.

FUNDING CUTS
see page 17

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Local Mountain News & Notices



Letters to the Editor

Update on Wolves in Aspen

RE: ATF Raid

Dear Editor(s):

First, let me say that as a recent transplant from Oklahoma, I share some of the same political views as your newspaper supports, although my overall politics are more classical Libertarian than Conservative or Liberal (leaning Liberal...).

I read with interest the article on PG 17 of your May 30 edition regarding ATF raid in Arkansas: despite my left leaning politics, I'm (literally) enraged by Fed/State/Local overreach when it comes to "gun control". It's a Constitutional right. If "you" want to curtail firearms in this country, CHANGE THE 2nd

AMENDMENT!!!! Yes, I know how difficult that might be, but that's the whole point of the process. I grew up in the northeast (NJ). I'd expect NJ State Troopers to pull some garbage like this, not Arkansas. Unconscionable.... Paul Ressler

by Joe Rogan,
via Joe Rogan's Facebook Page

Back in February, I posted about wolves being released on my friend's ranch outside of Aspen, and the devastation it was bound to cause. Since then, just on his neighbor's property, they've had 7 calves and one cow killed by wolves, along with 4 calves and one cow wounded. And this is just one property.

This Memorial Day weekend there was a series of wolf attacks at Lost Marbles Ranch, Crystal River Ranch and McCabe Ranch leaving two calves dead and others injured.

These ranches have to hire men to patrol throughout the night to try to scare off wolves, and even that isn't enough.

These are cunning and intelligent killers that they've moved into Aspen, and they haven't even



started breeding yet. The people who live in this area are rightly freaked out by what's happening and it's only going to get worse.

For the record, I love wolves and all wildlife, but moving intelligent, ruthless predators into a community filled with cattle ranches that have no experience with wolves is an insanely stupid thing to do. And they've spent over 4.7 million dollars of

taxpayer money doing it.

Ballot box biology is a terrible idea, because most people have a romantic idea of what it means to have wolves living in the mountains near them.

The people outside of Aspen are getting to experience what it's really like, and it's only going to get worse.

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



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Pueblo Carjacking

Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Press Release

May 27, 2025

Sheriff's Deputies Arrest Man in Kidnapping of Aurora Woman

Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 28-year-old Fort Collins man early Monday morning in connection with a carjacking and kidnapping late Sunday night in Aurora. The arrest came following a nearly 30-mile-long vehicle pursuit on Interstate 25 that ended when deputies conducted a Pursuit Intervention Technique or PIT maneuver. The kidnapping victim was safely rescued.

Deputies were responding to a robbery at the Circle K store, 8950 S. Interstate 25 in Colorado City, when they learned the suspect had left the store in a 2020 grey Ford Escape. At about that same time, the carjacking victim's mother called the Pueblo County Sheriff's Communication Center to report her daughter had been kidnapped and her phone was pinging near the Circle K. The vehicle from the Circle K robbery also matched the vehicle of the victim in the kidnapping.

A deputy patrolling Interstate 25 saw the suspect vehicle going northbound on the interstate near the Pueblo Boulevard exit. The deputy attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver fled southbound on Interstate 25, leading deputies on

a dangerous, high-speed pursuit through south Pueblo County and into Huerfano County. The driver, who was later identified as Shane McSwane, refused to stop, crossing the interstate median multiple times, endangering other drivers on the interstate.

Huerfano County deputies successfully deployed stop sticks at mile marker 67, north of Walsenburg. The vehicle's tires deflated, but McSwane continued driving several more miles before Pueblo County Sheriff's Deputies did a PIT maneuver and, with assistance from Huerfano County deputies, were able to box the vehicle in near mile marker 64.

McSwane was taken into custody at gunpoint. The woman was rescued from the back of the vehicle. While visibly shaken and emotionally distraught, she was uninjured.

Deputies learned the woman was carjacked at about 11 p.m. Sunday, as she was stopped near Interstate 225 and Interstate 70 in Aurora due to a traffic accident. The victim said McSwane approached her vehicle and forced his way into her car. He threatened her and took control of the vehicle. He drove her against her will for nearly four hours, going as far south as the Town of Aguilar.

While he drove around, McSwane made repeated

sexual comments to the victim, touched her inappropriately, and forced her to touch him.

After stopping in Aguilar for gas, the victim said McSwane drove northbound on Interstate 25, stopping at Circle K in Colorado City. That's where he went inside and threatened to shoot the clerk if she didn't give him a lighter. The clerk was not injured.

McSwane was arrested for second-degree kidnapping, two counts of aggravated robbery, unlawful sexual contact, second-degree motor vehicle theft, two counts of menacing with a deadly weapon, felony vehicular eluding, reckless driving and driving under restraint. He was booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

McSwane could face additional charges as, during his arrest, the victim's debit card was found on him as well as drug paraphernalia. The victim's vehicle was seized, pending a search warrant. This is an active and ongoing investigation.

"I want to commend our deputies as well as the Huerfano County Sheriff's Office for their swift, professional, and courageous actions during this highly dangerous situation. Their decisive response saved this victim's life," said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. "We are thankful this ended without harm to the victim and the public."

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LINE IN THE SAND
from page 2

It is the duty of every Coloradan right now to protect our state from the government that’s trying to take it from us.

We need to elect true conservatives to the Colorado House and Senate. We need bold leadership in the governor’s office. We need to end the bad bill machine, protect our land and livelihoods, and give power back to the people.

Keep our ranchers ranching. Keep our farmers farming. Keep our mines mining. Keep our

power plants running. And keep Colorado free.

No more 30 by 30 land grabs. No more national monument declarations without input. No more alternative energy pipe dreams. No more globalist strings attached to local decisions.

This is the line. This is the moment.

That’s why I’m calling for a Freedom Rally in Montrose County around Independence Day 2026. Not just a celebration. A declaration.

If you’re tired of being pushed to the sidelines, if you feel like your voice doesn’t matter anymore, if you still believe in liberty, in the

Constitution, and in the future of this great state, then now is the time to rise.

Freedom doesn’t defend itself. Join your neighbors. Join the fight. Montrose County was the first in Colorado to formally call for federal intervention—reaching out to the U.S. Department of Justice, President Trump, and Pam Bondi over state overreach and Senate Bill 3.

Now we’re asking you to stand with us. Take up the banner. Help lead the fight for Colorado’s future.

I’m not here to play politics. I’m here to sound the alarm.

Montrose County can lead the way.

Will you join me?

If you believe it’s time to defend our freedom and take Colorado back, I’d be honored to hear from you.

Sean M. Pond
Montrose County Commissioner,
District 3
spond@montrosecounty.net

(Editor/GG: You can even see the infiltration of the left right here in Happy Valley on some of our local boards and committees. And look at the pathetic, Antifa wannabes full moon freak show walking down Main Street every couple of months. You talk about out of place! Custer County has made

a stand over the last 20 years with mostly conservative county commissioners running the show. We need to keep that up.

You want to support the Constitution movement locally? Show up for the Sentinel’s 2nd Amendment entry in this year’s Independence Day Parade. Polis and the dems are taking our 2nd Amend rights away and we need to push back. Make a difference. Show up on July 4. See page 24 for more information.)

Please see: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/05/montrose-commissioner-pond-the-constitution-isnt-a-suggestion-its-a-line-in-the-sand/>

FUNDING CUTS
from page 15

The nonprofit applied for the grant in partnership with Green Dot Coalition, a far smaller organization working to establish green spaces in historically disadvantaged urban communities. The project aims to improve barren concrete planters lining 10 blocks on either side of the highway.

On a recent visit, Jevon Taylor, the executive director of Green Dot Coalition, said almost all vegetation died more than a decade ago due to neglect and a faulty irrigation system. The only exception is a single tree clinging to the edge of one planter, which he said local residents don’t want cut down.

“It represents the neighborhood. It represents Globeville and Elyria and how resilient they are,” Taylor said.

The National Wildlife Federation said the EPA terminated its grant at the end of March. Before then, Taylor said his group managed to spend \$175,000 to pay an irrigation contractor and secure supplies. As a result, it will proceed with plans to paint a mural

and plant containers on one side of the highway this summer. He’s not sure if or when the group can proceed with plans to improve the north side of the highway.

Fruit trees and vegetable gardens in west Denver

Organization: Denver Urban Gardens
Total grant: \$500,000

Denver Urban Gardens received a \$500,000 EPA grant in November 2023. It also received an additional \$350,000 through a United States Department of Agriculture project to support urban agriculture projects and innovation around the same time.

Linda Appel Lipsius, the nonprofit’s executive director, said the funding would have helped her group install six new community gardens and nine “food forests” in West Denver. She said those projects would have supported issues identified by a recent city planning initiative, which found the area lacks grocery stores and green infrastructure to guard against rising urban temperatures.

Lipsius said since President

Trump took office, the federal government has terminated access to both awards. Denver Urban Gardens is now only moving forward with two gardens and up to four or five food forests.

“It’s just heartbreaking,” Appel Lipsius said. “It just seems like this is such simple, straight-forward, foundational, apolitical work, and that this is getting caught up in all this just feels confusing and misguided.”

A major hub for future grants

Organization: Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice Grants Hub
Total grant: \$48 million

Beside cutting off access to previously awarded grants, the EPA has also ended funding for another program designed to help rural governments and small organizations access federal resources.

In February, the Trump administration terminated \$177 million in federal funding for technical assistance centers to help rural communities and tribal nations apply for federal funding. The cut ended a \$10 million center at Montana State University to assist

rural communities and tribal nations in the Mountain West.

Then, in early May, the EPA also terminated its companion initiative: the Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program, a \$600 million initiative to hand out small grants worth up to \$350,000 through 11 regional hubs around the country. The Mountain and Plains Environmental Justice Grants Hub, or MAP EJ Grants Hub, planned to distribute \$40 million funding throughout EPA Region 8.

The Biden administration selected JSI Research and Training Institute, a Denver-based public health and education nonprofit, to operate the MAP EJ Grants Hub.

Alexandra Witonsky joined as a grant manager for the new program in August 2024. In an interview with *CPR News*, she said the initiative had committed about \$20 million to fund 96 projects before the Trump administration terminated its funding in early May. She also lost her position with JSI following the funding cuts.

Michelle Gabrielloff-Parish leads FLOWS, a Boulder-based climate justice group that earned \$250,000

from the MAP EJ Grants Hub, but the funding wasn’t finalized before the Trump administration terminated the program.

Gabrielloff-Parish said the grant would have supported projects to replace turf with native plants at affordable housing projects and help a mobile home community fight for clean drinking water. If the Biden administration was serious about environmental justice, she said it should have distributed the funding faster.

“These funds were always meant to support frontline communities. We were just last in line, we got them last, and they got cut,” Gabrielloff-Parish said.

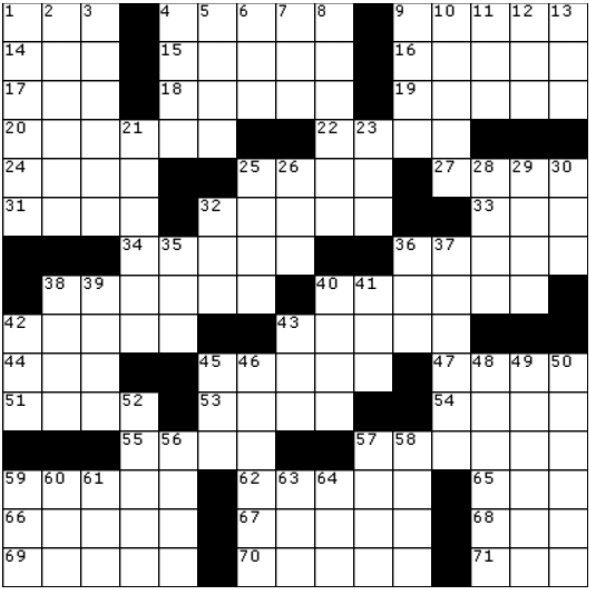
CPR Editor’s note: Linda Appel Lipsius is a member of the Colorado Public Radio Board of Directors. She had no editorial influence on this story.

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2025/05/28/colorado-environmental-justice-groups-struggling-federal-funding-cuts/>

(Editor/GG: Sweet. Just the start...)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Automobile
- 4 One-celled water animal
- 9 I am the ____ & the Omega
- 14 Card game
- 15 Noble
- 16 Living
- 17 Large weight unit
- 18 By ____ alone
- 19 Picture
- 20 Begin a journey
- 22 Please respond
- 24 Daniel was thrown into

the ____s’ den

- 25 Margarine
- 27 You are the ____ of the earth
- 31 Yin’s partner
- 32 Drinks
- 33 Stamping tool
- 34 Sugar-free brand
- 36 God’s forgiving mercy
- 38 Orange ____
- 40 Plot
- 42 Explode
- 43 Root beer brand

- 44 Advertisements
- 45 Interest
- 47 Open
- 51 Looked at a book
- 53 Very large truck
- 54 Toboggan
- 55 Garden of ____
- 57 Necessary
- 59 Desire
- 62 Comforts
- 65 African antelope
- 66 Religious holiday
- 67 Twirl
- 68 And so forth
- 69 Foot joint
- 70 Son of Amram & Jochebed
- 71 Compass point

DOWN

- 1 Adorably
- 2 Inability to recognize objects
- 3 Chocolate candy
- 4 Shorten (abbr.)
- 5 One of the Gospels
- 6 Before poetically
- 7 Scarf
- 8 One of the apostles
- 9 Tel ____
- 10 What a person with a hurt leg does
- 11 School group
- 12 Old, ugly woman
- 13 Brew

- 21 Heavenly beings
- 23 Distress call
- 25 Mined metals
- 26 Downwind
- 28 Father of Seth
- 29 Plague of Egypt
- 30 Ball holder
- 32 Heat unit
- 35 Pose
- 36 General headquarters
- 37 Selling again
- 38 An apostle
- 39 __ Major (Big Dipper)
- 40 Frock
- 41 Weep
- 42 Exclude
- 43 Tramp
- 45 Avail
- 46 Member of an American Indian people
- 48 Book near Joshua
- 49 Representatives
- 50 Diminish
- 52 Slanderer
- 56 Interbreeding population within a species
- 57 Roman emperor
- 58 Sports channel
- 59 Certified public accountant
- 60 Escape
- 61 Boat
- 63 Expression of surprise
- 64 Mr.
- Key on page 20

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Colleges, Cowards and Killings:
The Real Cost of Affirming Hamas

The recent murder of two Israeli embassy staffers outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., is a grim reminder that antisemitism is not a relic of the past—it is a growing, deadly threat in America today. The shooter, Elias Rodriguez, reportedly shouted “Free Palestine” as he gunned down Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, a couple who had just attended a humanitarian event and were planning to get engaged in Jerusalem the following week. This wasn’t a random act of violence. It was a targeted assassination fueled by hatred, and it reflects a disturbing trend: the normalization of antisemitism and hate under the guise of political activism.

Across U.S. college campuses, antisemitism is no longer lurking in the shadows, it’s marching through the quad. At Columbia University, anti-Israel protesters disrupted graduation by burning diplomas and chanting slogans in support of Mahmoud Khalil, a former student detained for alleged ties to Hamas. The university’s acting president even defended Khalil during her commencement speech, sparking outrage among Jewish students and families. At George Washington University, a student was banned from campus after delivering an unsanctioned commencement speech calling for divestment from Israel. These incidents are not isolated. They are part of a broader movement that cloaks antisemitism in the language of social justice, making it palatable to the uninformed and dangerous to the targeted.

Many of these campus protests are organized by groups like Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), which has been accused of promoting antisemitic rhetoric and even celebrating terrorism. The AMCHA Initiative found that antisemitism was eight times more likely to occur on campuses with at least one active anti-Zionist student group such as SJP. When students chant “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” they are echoing a call for the elimination of Israel. When they praise Hamas as “resistance fighters,” they are legitimizing a terrorist organization responsible for the murder of civilians. This rhetoric doesn’t just stay on campus. It spills into the streets, into our communities, and, as we saw in DC, into acts of deadly violence. Our society must confront this rising tide of antisemitism with unwavering resolve.

Universities must be held accountable for allowing hate to fester under the banner of academic freedom. Lawmakers must ensure that support for terrorist organizations like Hamas is not tolerated under the guise of political activism. And as a society, we must recognize that antisemitism, in any form, is a threat to the moral fabric of our nation. The murder of Yaron and Sarah is a tragic reminder that words have consequences. When hate is normalized, violence becomes inevitable. It’s time to stand up, speak out, and ensure that “Never Again” is not just a slogan, but a commitment. Ephesians 5:11 says, “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” Silence in the face of evil is not wisdom—it’s surrender. Let’s stand boldly, speak clearly, and never let hatred wearing the mask of justice go unchallenged.

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Bill Wilson Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

MAGA Hits The DOJ

Dept of Justice Exposed

DOJ’s ‘Color Revolution’ Wing:
‘Resistance’ Memos, ‘Unhappy Hours’, 7 ‘Crying Sessions’

by Tyler Durden,
zerohedge.com

In a revealing interview with Tucker Carlson, **Harmeet Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, pulled back the curtain on the entrenched resistance within the Department of Justice**, which she described as a stronghold of the deep state. **Dhillon revealed a culture of anti-MAGA defiance**, marked by resistance memos circulating among career lawyers, instructing them to obstruct directives through bureaucratic tactics. Dhillon also recounted a hilarious scene of **open crying sessions in the DOJ halls** and mass resignations as hundreds of attorneys recoiled at her push to align the division with the Trump administration’s agenda.

TUCKER CARLSON: You’re assistant attorney general, one of the greatest appointments, from my perspective, in this administration, running the civil rights division. What was it like when you showed up? What did you find when you got there?

HARMEET DHILLON: **The civil rights division is the color revolution wing of the Department of Justice.** Okay, whether it’s a Republican or a Democrat administration, there are career lawyers who are very focused on a particular agenda there. **So, when I showed up, or when I was, when the president was elected, I should say, there were over 400 attorneys in the civil rights division and about 200 staff, so a total of about 600 people.** Kristen Clark, my predecessor, anti-police, open racist, got in trouble during her term for not being candid with the Senate during her confirmation hearings on some issues. So, she had a particular agenda. She got in there and she

pursued that agenda aggressively. And she had all the staff to do it.

Now, under the first Trump administration, my predecessor in that job pretty much left it untouched. He told me he kind of, like, there were the career people there, if he wanted to get something done, they went to the U.S. attorney’s offices. I came in with a different perspective. I think it’s part of the promise of this administration under President Trump to fundamentally reform the government in the way that the people voted for. That means, in the civil rights division, we should be standing up for the civil rights of all Americans, not just some Americans. We shouldn’t be weaponizing the law in a particular way. We should apply those federal civil rights statutes, many of which were passed by and signed by Republican presidents and Republican administrations, evenly, and the government shouldn’t be putting its heavy thumb on the scale in most cases. But in egregious instances, we should step forward and right these wrongs.

But what I found there was a number of lawyers, I mean hundreds of lawyers, who were actively in resistance mode. There were memos out there by former government lawyers telling current government lawyers in my department how to resist if you’re given a direct order. Ask for clarification, send 20 emails, question it, slow down your response time, say it can’t be done. So, I was actually looking out for that when I came. I did my week of training after getting confirmed by the Senate. And then the next week, I was like, “Okay, guys, it’s time to get to business. I want everyone to be very clear what the agenda is here.”

So, there are 11 sections in civil rights, and I drafted memos for each of those 11 sections for the lawyers, telling them, these are the statutes. So, for example, Americans with Disabilities Act, this is the statute that we enforce, or Title 7 anti-discrimination, or some of the other federal civil rights statutes. And then that’s the baseline. And then this is the president’s agenda. These are his executive orders that he’s put out there about anti-discrimination, about anti-DEI, about enforcing our laws equally. And that’s the job. You are going to apply these statutes within the framework of anti-discrimination, even-handedly and without fear or favor. And this catalyzed hundreds of lawyers to quit the civil rights division.

TUCKER CARLSON: **So, wait, they quit because you informed them of the law?**

HARMEET DHILLON: Yes. And the law and the priorities, their pet projects had changed.

TUCKER CARLSON: They weren’t going to be able to do those the way that they wanted. And so, they thought that this part of the Department of Justice was just immune to democracy.

(Editor/GG: Why is my little heart singing with joy after reading this? Finally, finally, finally the deep state traitor commies are getting what they deserved. Re-Elect Trump! Here’s the youtube link. Harmeet is kicking serious butt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch>)

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/watch-harmeet-dhillon-exposes-doj-s-color-revolution-wing-secret-resistance-memos-unhappy>

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“Inside every progressive is a totalitarian screaming to get out.”
—David Horowitz

Pathetic! Dems Mull \$20 Million Plan to Figure Why Young Men Don't Like Them

by Tyler Durden, zerohedge.com

Six months after a stinging nationwide rejection that handed Donald Trump a commanding reelection and fractured their core coalition, the Democratic Party is turning to a new solution: spending \$20 million to figure out why young men don't like them.

The project, codenamed SAM — short for “Speaking with American Men: A Strategic Plan” - is described in a prospectus obtained by the *New York Times*. It outlines a massive push to decode the language and culture of disaffected young men, particularly in online spaces, and includes a proposal to buy ads inside video games.

“Above all, we must shift from a moralizing tone,” the document urges.

The effort comes amid widespread Democratic soul-searching after a loss that wasn't just electoral, but cultural. A recent NBC News poll placed the party's favorability at just 27 percent, its worst showing in the poll's 34-year history.

Focus groups show the branding problem is dire. One Georgia man recently summed it up succinctly: “A deer in headlights.” According to messaging consultant Anat Shenker-Orsorio, Democrats are consistently described in her focus groups as “sloths,” “tortoises,” and now, apparently, roadkill.

“You stand there and you see the car coming,” the man explained. “But you're going to stand there and get hit with it anyway.”

Democratic leaders are scrambling to reassemble a coalition that used to be rock-solid: young voters, working-class Americans, Latinos, and Black voters all shifted toward Trump in 2024 - and this time, he won the popular vote, too.

“There is fear, there is anxiety, and there are very real questions about the path forward - all of which I share,” said Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), who is charged with recruiting candidates to help win back the House in 2026. “We are losing support in vast swaths of the country.”

Even the long-standing gender gap, which typically favored Democrats, flipped in key districts as men swung harder to the right. It's one of the driving reasons behind the \$20 million SAM initiative.

Meanwhile, the party is facing open rebellion from within. Progressive activists are outraged at what they see as a lack of fight. Moderate Democrats are openly warning that cultural messaging - on issues like immigration, gender, and economic elitism - is alienating the very voters the party once claimed as its base.

“We've pushed, in so many ways, these people away from our party,” Crow said.

Former DNC Chair Jaime Harrison, who stepped down in February, admitted “The party has to find ways to compete in states where it's not.”

But instead of barnstorming in battleground counties, Democratic donors are reportedly huddling in luxury hotels, commissioning focus groups and digital rebrand efforts that - to some - look more like anthropology than campaigning.

Democratic pollster Zac McCrary said Trump's declining approval ratings may create openings in 2026, but warned against reading too much into a potential midterm bounce.

“A good 2026 midterm - we should not let that mask a deeper problem,” McCrary said, adding

that the party's brand is ‘repellent’ in so much of the country.’

He blamed a credibility gap: “Democrats have lost credibility by being seen as alien on cultural issues.”

For many in the party's activist and base circles, the appetite for bold messaging and confrontation remains strong.

“Voters are hungry for people to actually stand up for them - or get caught trying,” said Shenker-Orsorio. “The party is doing a lot of navel-gazing and not enough full-belly acting.”

Whether Democrats will rediscover their spine, or waste millions more studying why they don't have one, remains to be seen.

(Editor/GG: Well, jeeez. Look at the shriveled up, childless red diaper baby libs that “march” up and down Main Street every full moon. Holding juvenile, 1960s cardboard signs with truly pathetic bolshie sayings on them. Like “Free the Black Panthers”. Yea, young people identify with that crazy stuff. People want jobs. They want families. They want homes. All things the Dems have destroyed over the last 50 years. The Dems have virtually eliminated the middle class and moved tens of millions of Americans into poverty with their skyrocketing electric and other energy costs. Stifling regulations on every aspect of our society. Arresting people for speaking the truth. On and on and on. They are DONE. People finally have a ray of hope for their future. We ain't going back to certain doom. MAGA!)

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/dems-mull-20-million-plan-figure-out-why-young-men-dont-them>

Billy Mills Stuns at the 1964 Olympics



Via Facebook Lovely USA

In the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, nobody expected a Native American runner from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, to make history. His name was Billy Mills, a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation, and he entered the 10,000-meter race as a complete unknown.

The field was packed with giants: world-record holder Ron Clarke of Australia, Tunisia's Mohammed Gammoudi, and Ethiopia's Mamo Wolde. Billy Mills? He wasn't on anyone's radar. Not the media. Not the bookmakers. Not even the announcers.

But from the very first lap, Mills hung in. As others dropped off, he stayed. And with just one lap to go, chaos erupted. Clarke tried to break free of traffic and collided with Mills. Gammoudi surged ahead. Mills looked boxed out, his chances fading fast.

Then, something extraordinary happened.

Billy Mills found a second wind—no, a third. He shifted wide to lane four and unleashed a final sprint that no one saw coming. He passed Clarke. He passed Gammoudi. And he crossed the finish line first in 28:24.4, an Olympic record—nearly 50 seconds faster than he had ever run before.

The stadium froze. The world froze. And then came the call from NBC: “Look at Mills! Look at Mills!”

It was one of the most shocking and inspirational moments in Olympic history. No American had ever won the 10,000 meters before—and no one has done it since.

But Mills' journey didn't end on the track.

Instead of fame, he chose service. He co-founded Running Strong for American Indian Youth, dedicated to providing food, water, and resources to Native communities. He became a voice for health, education, and diabetes awareness, using his own diagnosis to help others live healthier lives.

Billy Mills didn't just win a gold medal. He shattered expectations, broke barriers, and changed lives.

Sometimes, the most unexpected victories are the ones that inspire us forever.

Photo: Public domain as a work of the U.S. Marine Corps

(Editor/GG: Was running high school cross country and track at the time and remember this win well. Inspirational.)

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

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Best Zero for Your Red Dot Pistol: 10 vs 15 vs 25

by Scott Witner, ammoland.com

If you’ve joined the red dot revolution on pistols, welcome to a faster, clearer, and (let’s be honest) *more forgiving* way to shoot. Whether it’s a concealed carry gun, a home defense setup, or a weekend range toy, adding a red dot is one of the best upgrades you can make.

But—and it’s a big but—a *red dot is only as good as its zero*.

If you just slap it on and call it a day, you’re basically setting yourself up for failure. Getting a proper zero isn’t rocket science. It just takes a little understanding and a few adjustments to your red dot.

So... What’s the Best Distance to Zero a Red Dot Pistol?

Spoiler alert: **It depends.**

Here’s a quick look at the three most common choices:

- 10 Yards: It’s fast, easy, and great for concealed carry guns and home defense
- 15 Yards: Best overall balance between all three
- 25 Yards: Best for competition use and requires a hold-over at closer self-defense ranges

10-Yard Zero: The “Real World” Carry Gun Standard

Most self-defense shootings happen within 7–10 yards. At 10 yards, a properly zeroed dot means if you need to make a life-or-death shot, you can just *press the trigger* without second-guessing where to hold.

If you’re stretching it out to 25 yards, expect a little “holdover.” In simple

terms, you might need to aim a hair higher if you’re trying to hit dead center at a distance. But at self-defense ranges? You’re golden.

Regardless, with a 10-yard zero, if you hold the center of the A-Zone, you’ll hit inside the A-Zone out to 25 yards.

15-Yard Zero: The “Do-It-All” Distance

If you’re running a gun for both carry and occasional competition or drills, 15 yards is arguably the sweet spot.

The bullet’s flight stays super flat out to about 70 yards. Translation? You won’t have to adjust much—if at all—when shooting at different distances. It’s forgiving, flexible, and keeps your brain power focused where it belongs: the target...or threat

25 Yard Zero

If you’re a competition shooter or you just like the idea of ringing steel plates at 50 yards and beyond with your carry pistol, the 25-yard zero is your friend.

Some serious USPSA and IDPA shooters set a 25-yard zero so they can nail longer shots without major dot adjustments. At close distances, though, they *know* they’ll have to hold a little high.

This isn’t ideal if you never plan to shoot past 10-15 yards. For pure concealed carry? It’s not ideal either.

How I Zero My Red Dots

Before I ever hit the range, I boresight my new red dot at home.

I use a 9mm bore laser that loads into the chamber like a normal round.

I pace off 10 yards in my house or garage, bring my pistol up in a normal shooting stance, and make my adjustments right there until the pistol red dot and the laser are stacked on top of each other.

It’s not a final zero, but it gets me *darn* close.

Confirm at 10 Yards.

At the range, I use a standard cardboard IPSC target and put my focus on the a-zone.

Once I can put three rounds into the center of the a-zone, I’m good. If they’re off, adjust, shoot again.

Verify at 15 and 25 Yards.

Moving back to 15 yards, then 25 yards. Look for elevation and windage drift.

Tiny errors at 10 yards become *big misses* at 25 if you don’t catch them early.

Final Thoughts: The Best Zero Is the One That Makes You Fast and Accurate

At the end of the day, there’s no one-size-fits-all answer (although I prefer 10 yards). What matters is **consistency** and **confidence**.

Pick a zero distance based on where you’ll actually fight or compete. Then zero and confirm at different distances.

The guy with a 10-yard zero who *trains* will beat the guy with a “perfect” 25-yard zero and no trigger time — every single day of the week.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/best-zero-for-your-red-dot-pistol-10-vs-15-vs-25/>



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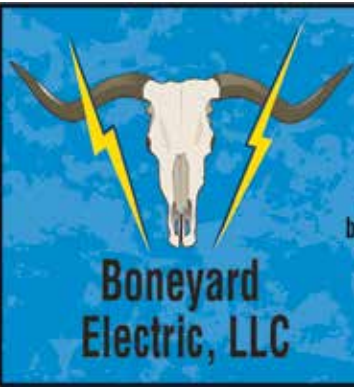


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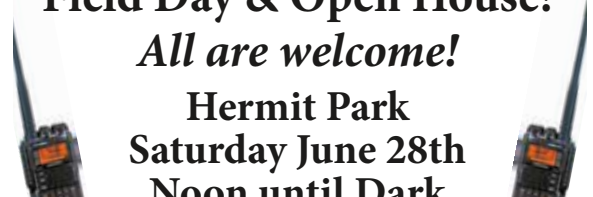


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TEEN CELL PHONE USE
from page 1

strategies to pass the time and deal with anxieties.

Back in the circle for the Socratic Seminar, the students state claims and evidence and question each other to spur deep conversation. Piper, also 15, quotes a line from the documentary *“The Social Dilemma,”* where she learned how the phone is designed to be addictive.

“I know that my phone is designed to trap my brain and keep me scrolling on it. When we first started the class I was super surprised with my screen time ... how is it that much? It doesn’t feel like I’m on my phone that much and now I know that it’s actually designed to keep me scrolling on it as long as I can so that they can make money.”

“This week I tried to put my phone away when I got home. For as much as I tried I always found myself picking it up again and again.”

It’s even more nefarious than that, Daniel, 14, adds. He quotes a line from the film.

“Everything they’re doing online is being watched, is being tracked, is being measured. Every action you take is being carefully monitored and recorded.”

The teens seem a little freaked out by this knowledge — the relentless notifications unleashed by a billion-dollar industry that’s designed to keep them on their phone. But their teachers believe if they can reflect with each other on it, and analyze and discuss their own use together, there’s a fighting chance they can become more responsible users.

Teacher Ryan Clapp said you can’t blame a 15-year-old who has an undeveloped prefrontal cortex for being on their phone all the time.

“These are fiendishly addictive devices, and they’re made that way by billion-dollar companies employing cutting-edge psychology and social science,” he said. “It’s not a fair fight, and we don’t want our students to have to fight this on their own.”

Clapp said for social media addiction to go the way of teen cigarette smoking, it needs to be a peer-led, peer-validated movement. A teacher can say “put away your phone away” a million times, but until students can reflect with each other on the costs of time wasted on phones, there won’t be meaningful change, he said.

The consequences of moving
social life online

The students take up the claim that the phone has manipulated and distorted the very meaning of culture and communication. They cite claims from *The Atlantic* magazine’s *“The Terrible Costs of a Phone-Based Childhood”* that social media has created a generation largely cut off from older generations, including knowledge about how to live a flourishing life. Frida, 16, feels that when she talks to her aunts, uncles, and grandma about when they grew up.

“I’m like, wow, life sounds so much more peaceful, so much more calm, you know, so much nicer because they didn’t have phones,” she says. “You just learn so much from just talking to other people instead of always constantly being on your phone avoiding human connections.”

The teens ask each other questions about whether the phone causes them to compare themselves to others and how it makes them feel. Kai, 14, says those comparisons motivate her to do better but she said it wasn’t always that way. Frida says reading so much about all the achievements of others “overwhelms her.”

They talk about the *opportunity cost* of phones, how much of life, including contemplation and imagination, is exchanged for screen time.

It’s not like these teens don’t have hobbies. They do. Cooking. Digital art. Drawing. Crocheting. But they’re often bored without their phones. The phone entertains them – remember, it’s designed to do that. But they acknowledge how the phone has changed them socially by relying on them in situations when they’re uncomfortable and using them as a coping mechanism.

“If I’m at a party or something, I’ll scroll on my phone if I’m bored or if I’m bored at home,” Piper explains. “I think that it’s just like an easy solution for boredom to fill your mind with random things that you don’t have to pay attention to.”

Eddie, who uses they/them pronouns and who is on the phone 10 to 12 hours a day, asks the group about whether using it as a coping mechanism is good or bad.

“For some people, they can’t find people in real life so sometimes they find people online to help,” Eddie says.

“I think that’s a much different thing than becoming addicted to your phone,” Piper responds sympathetically. “I think using it that way is good but if you start thinking

negatively about yourself or you start acting different, negatively, then I think that’s when it becomes a problem.”

Kai says she hopes in that situation a parent would help guide that child through that isolation like making sure an online therapist is the right person. Frida reminds the group what they learned about when you are relying on dopamine hits from what you *think* are social connections with people.

“I feel that’s when things have gone south for you and need personal connections and not the phone,” she says.

Piper said that’s where parents might need to limit usage so that a child can’t use the phone as a coping mechanism. But the students agree phones are tough for parents to regulate. Some admit they hate it when their parents locked down their phones. They want parents to talk openly with their kids about phones and listen to the child’s concerns.

How to break the addiction

Perhaps the most powerful part of the course is a four-week “Screen Time Experiments” where students journal and track their daily minutes, notifications and “pickups,” how many times they look at their phone screen or hold it. They get to compare what they thought they spent on their device to reality and then their use goals.

To see that evidence in black and white and transformed into a graph was alarming for them. Piper averaged six hours a day. She sometimes gets it to four now but still struggles. Before the course, Livine was at 8 hours a day and now it’s 3.5. Daniel is more cautious about the amount of time he spends on certain apps now. Many have deleted apps, “and actually my life has been so much better,” said Frida.

The teens practiced and analyzed strategies to put down the phone. Eddie struggled with keeping the phone outside of their bedroom.

“I was trying to go like a day without it and I couldn’t even do that.”

Some found shutting off notifications actually made it worse.

“It causes you to be checking your phone every 30 seconds -- like who’s texting me?” said Kai.

But others found turning off notifications significantly helped reduce the number of incoming notifications and phone ‘pick-

ups.’ “Instead of being on my phone checking notifications, I was focused on the assignment and even forgot about my phone at times.”

“I would like to try grayscale on my phone for the upcoming week in the effort to try and get more sleep or at night.”

Others tried “downtime” on a phone — allowing only certain calls or messages to come through — or turning the screen to grayscale, blocking the visual stimulus of color, those little red notification buttons. Frida found that strategy worked for her. She became more engaged in life.

“I don’t know why but I felt better having my phone on grayscale because I used it much, much less and I did so much more and I just enjoyed talking to people. That’s when I actually started enjoying doing the Socratic Seminars and going to class and doing all of (the teacher’s) community-building activities.”

“Instead of being on my phone checking notifications I was focused on the assignment and even forgot about my phone at times.”

Her use went from five to one or two hours a day.

Part of the course involved going to middle schools where the freshmen presented workshops on what they’ve learned to encourage younger students to do their own use experiments.

“Our students were like, ‘it’s too late for us,’ but save the children!” said Clapp.

He believes collective action will help strike a better digital balance. Students reflecting on their own use data and accountability measures from supportive adults.

The hour concludes. I think Socrates would have been proud.

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Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2025/05/28/teen-cell-phone-use-socratic-seminar/>



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ICE Apprehends Venezuelan Woman After Fatal Jet Ski Incident

Press Release
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
May 28, 2025

DALLAS — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in a joint operation with state and federal law enforcement, arrested Daikerlyn Alejandraa Gonzalez-Gonzalez, a 22-year-old citizen of Venezuela in Dallas on May 27,



following a state warrant execution for felony manslaughter. Gonzalez was operating a personal watercraft with a female passenger at high speed near the shoreline of Oak Grove Park May 25, when she collided with a kayak occupied by 18-year-old Ava Moore. The collision resulted in Moore's death. Gonzalez fled the scene with her passenger on board. Gonzalez and the passenger returned to Oak Grove Park. The passenger remained on the scene with witnesses and was

interviewed by Grapevine Police Department while Gonzalez left in a vehicle with 21-year-old Maikel Coello Perozo, also of Venezuela. Perozo has been charged with hindering apprehension. As the investigation unfolds, more state charges could be filed. "This criminal alien and her boyfriend will account

for the tragic accident that ended the life of a young woman who exhibited enormous potential," said ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Dallas acting Field Office Director Josh Johnson. "ICE Dallas will remain steadfast in our commitment to arresting and removing criminal aliens who pose threats to the safety of our communities." ERO Dallas lodged immigration detainers with the Grapevine Police Department following Gonzalez and Coello's arrests. Both are in removal proceedings

pursuant to the policies of the Immigration and Nationality Act as aliens present without admission or parole. "Our partnerships with law enforcement across jurisdictions are key during these types of investigations," said ICE Homeland Security Investigations Dallas Special Agent in Charge Travis Pickard. "This investigation will continue to be driven by facts, evidence and a firm commitment to justice. The arrests of these two illegal aliens reflect the diligence and professionalism of our law enforcement team." On September 28, 2023, Gonzalez illegally entered the United States without inspection or parole by an immigration officer. On the same day, the U.S. Border Patrol arrested and processed Gonzalez with a Notice to Appear and released her on an order of recognizance.

On January 22, 2023, Coello arrived at the Camino Real Port of Entry without authorization. He was released pending an immigration hearing. This investigation included law enforcement officials from ERO Dallas, HSI Dallas, the Texas Department of Wildlife, Grapevine Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Office of the Attorney General, the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas U.S. Marshals office.

ICE Arrests Convicted Rapist After Local Jurisdiction Fails to Honor Immigration Detainer

Press Release: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
May 27, 2025

BALTIMORE — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested an illegally present, 20-year-old Honduran national convicted of second-degree rape in Maryland. Officers with ICE Baltimore arrested Alex Yonatan Flores-Arce, May 22 after the Howard County Detention Center failed to honor an ICE immigration detainer and released Flores back into the community on two separate occasions.

"The decision by Howard County Detention Center to ignore our immigration detainer and release a removable individual with an egregious criminal history undermines public safety and put Maryland communities at risk," said ICE Baltimore acting Field Office Director Nikita Baker. "This failure is not an isolated incident, but part of a concerning pattern we see all too often. ICE Baltimore remains committed to prioritizing public safety. Working together with local jurisdictions is the only way to keep our neighborhoods safe and uphold the rule of law."

On March 12, 2019, the U.S. Border Patrol encountered Flores near El Paso, Texas, and served him a notice to appear. The Howard County Police Department arrested and charged Flores with second-degree rape October 17, 2024. The Circuit Court for Howard County convicted Flores April 29 and sentenced him to 15 years of



Alex Yonatan Flores-Arce

confinement and five years of supervised probation. ICE lodged an immigration detainer on Flores with Howard County Department of Corrections January 13th. On May 5th, the department failed to honor the immigration detainer and released Flores from custody. The Howard County Police Department arrested and charged Flores with a violation of probation May 8th. ICE Baltimore's Fugitive Operations team arrested Flores at large as he walked out of the detention center. Flores has a final administrative removal order and will remain in ICE custody.

Members of the public can report crimes and suspicious activity by dialing 866-DHS-2-ICE (866-347-2423) or completing the online tip form. Please see: <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-arrests-convicted-rapist-after-local-jurisdiction-fails-honor-immigration>

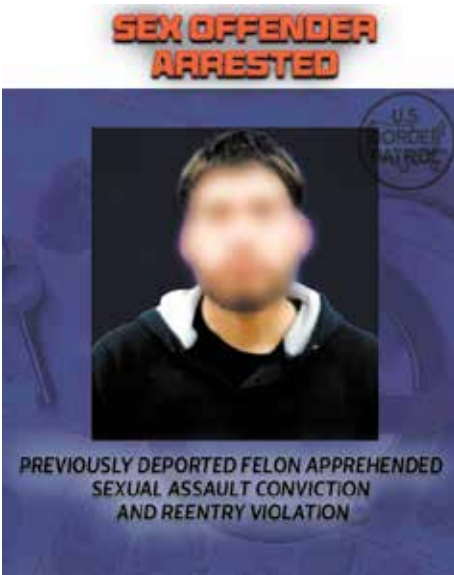
Convicted Sex Offender Apprehended

U.S. Border Patrol Press Release
Convicted Sex Offender Apprehended
5/29/25

On 5/21, USBP agents in Sunland Park, NM, tracked footprints to four illegal aliens hiding in thick brush. Among them: a Mexican national convicted of sexual assault in Adams County, CO—overcoming the victim's will.

- Served 18 months
- Previously deported
- Now facing felony illegal re-entry (8 USC 1326)

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ICE Arrest in Denver

ICE Denver Facebook page
ICE Denver arrested Jose Guadalupe Alvidrez-Ubanda, 33, a criminal alien from Mexico on May 23rd. He has convictions for conspiracy to distribute meth and will remain in ICE custody pending removal.
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RESTORED in Colorado. You have to SHOW UP to make a
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Assemble at 9:15 a.m., July 4th at the east end of Main Street
(Highway 96), Silver Cliff/Westcliffe, CO, at the open field just west of
the Conoco convenience store and gas station). Look for the Patriots
assembly area (USA Flags, Gadsden Flags, and guns, guns, guns). All
vehicles welcome! Plenty of places in town for lunch. The March is
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The parade begins at 10 a.m.

Firearm Protocol: Rifles: unloaded, safety on, no detachable
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