

# One in 20 Workers is a State Employee Who’s Footing the Bill?

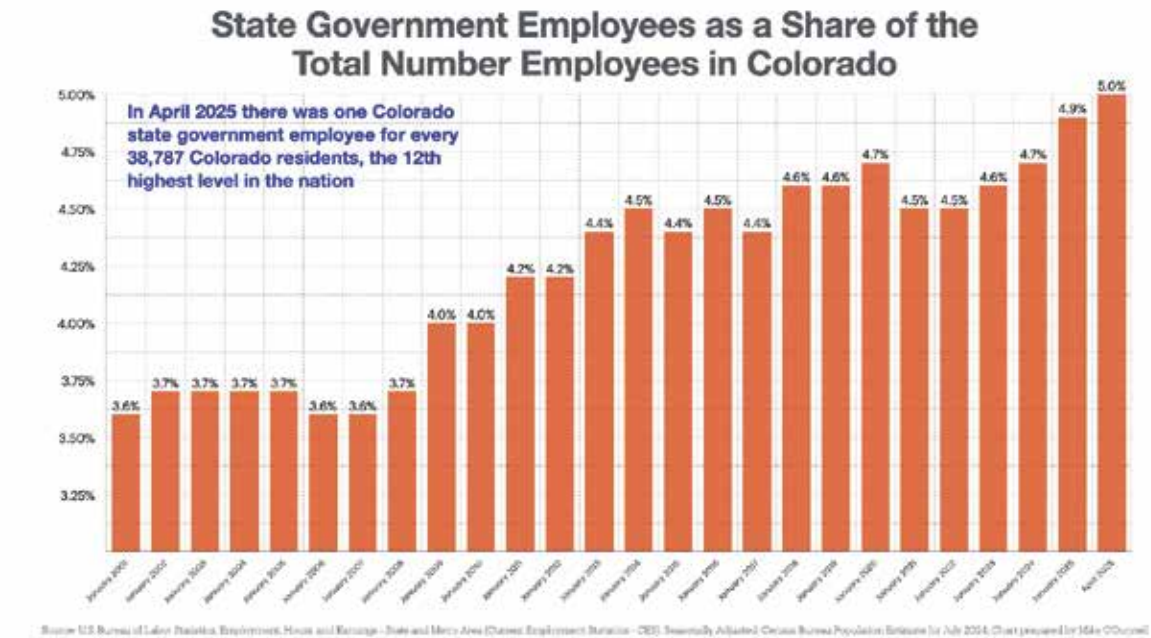
by Mike O’Donnell, Guest  
Commentator, The Rocky  
Mountain Voice

Communism, socialism, Marx-  
cism, Maoism, post-Mao  
Chinese-ism, and fascism may  
wear different uniforms, but they  
all march to the same beat—state  
control. One-party rule, diminished  
freedoms, political prosecutions,  
judicial overreach, hostility to  
markets, and the slow suffocation  
of private enterprise under the  
weight of public bureaucracy.

Over the past decade, Colorado’s  
ruling class has embraced a  
philosophy that echoes these themes  
—what academics have dubbed  
“Radical Markets.” Promoted by  
groups like RadicalxChange, the  
idea is that centralized systems and  
enforced redistribution can solve  
economic inequality and displace  
what they see as the instability of  
free markets.

Whether Coloradans voted for this  
or not, that’s what they’ve been  
given.

Since 2019, one party has held  
unchecked control over state govern-  
ment. As a result, Coloradans now  
endure a growing maze of fees  
(you aren’t allowed to call them  
taxes) they have to pay as they’re



just trying to get by. These fees  
disproportionately burden working  
and middle-class families.

The outcome? Since January 2021,  
Colorado has suffered the highest  
inflation rate in the nation. And  
today, Colorado households carry  
the highest average debt burden  
in America.

But here’s another number that  
deserves attention: One in every

20 workers in Colorado is now  
employed by the state government.

Let that sink in. It’s not a typo, not  
an exaggeration. In April 2025,  
according to Bureau of Labor  
Statistics data, 5.0% of all workers  
in Colorado were state government  
employees. That’s a record high.  
And it’s not just a pandemic  
artifact—it’s the continuation of a  
steady climb that’s accelerated in  
recent years.

In contrast, federal employment in  
Colorado has stayed roughly flat  
since 2000, hovering around 2% of  
the workforce. Local government  
jobs (county and municipal) have  
also remained relatively stable, just  
under 10%.

But state government jobs have  
surged, now making up a far larger

**1 in 20 WORKERS**  
see page 14

## Colorado’s Woke Zealotry Ushers Islamist Terror Into Boulder

by Ahnaf Kalam, Guest  
Commentary, The Rocky Mountain  
Voice

Just over a week ago, I warned that  
the shooting of two young Israeli  
embassy employees in Washington,  
D.C., by a far-left zealot chanting  
“Free Palestine” was not an isolated  
act but a harbinger.

In progressive strongholds, where  
criminal fanatics like Luigi Man-  
gione are lionized, such violence  
would not merely persist—it would  
metastasize. And so it has. In Boul-  
der, Colorado, barely an hour from  
my home, the grim prophecy has  
been fulfilled.

Last Tuesday, I was in Washington,  
D.C., attending a policy conference  
under heavy security. That  
morning, I spoke with a friend and  
colleague, an IDF reserve major in  
the Homefront Command, about  
the gnawing vulnerability we felt in  
a city like D.C.

Stripped of the Sig Sauers we carry  
daily for protection, we were left

defenseless, reliant on others to  
keep us safe. It was a worry that  
would sadly be vindicated in blood.

That same evening, I sat with Yaron  
Lischinsky, a bright young man  
with a future ahead of him, and  
conversed at length. Hours later, as  
my plane touched down in Denver,  
I learned that he and his fiancée-  
to-be, Sarah, had been gunned  
down by a “Free Palestine” activist  
on a meticulously planned mission  
of murder.

A week later, in Boulder, another  
atrocious unfolded. A group of mostly  
elderly Jews and Israel supporters,  
gathered to raise awareness for the  
58 hostages still languishing in  
Hamas’s tunnels, were firebombed  
by a man shrieking the same  
poisonous slogan.

Among the victims, we now know,  
was a Holocaust survivor—a detail  
so grotesque it could double as a  
parable.

**BOULDER TERROR**  
see page 22

## U.S. Flag Day Celebration At the Sentinel



### Saturday June 14 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

by George Gramlich

Saturday will be a beautiful  
day to celebrate the day our  
country recognized June 14  
as National Flag Day. With all  
the negative events around the  
country we need to display our  
respect for our country and our  
flag and this Saturday is the  
day to do it. That can be done  
by showing up at the *Sentinel*  
(601 Main St., Westcliffe) this  
Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
and bringing an American or  
patriotic flag for you to display.

We will be assembling on the  
spacious front lawn of the  
*Sentinel* to display our flags to  
our fellow citizens. Bring your  
kids, family and friends and lawn  
chairs if you want to sit.

Show our neighbors, our visitors  
and the rest of the country what a  
patriotic county looks like!

Feel free to enjoy your 2nd  
Amendment rights for without  
them, we would have no Flag  
Day.

God Bless Custer County and  
God Bless America!

**We Will Not  
Comply Memes  
Photo Feature**  
pages 12-13

**Silver Cliff  
Fun Day**  
page 4, 24

**Flag Day**  
page 4

**Father  
Definition**  
page 8

**U.S. Army  
Anniversary**  
page 11

**Pronoun  
Tyranny**  
page 2

**Emmerling  
Obituary**  
page 3

**Sue Menz  
Obituary**  
page 3

**ICE Reports**  
page 17

**Anatomy of a  
Smile**  
page 19

**AR-15  
Malfunctions**  
page 20

**PATRIOT  
ALERT!**

**Illegals  
Crime**  
page 18



*Those whom I love,  
I reprove and discipline,  
so be zealous and repent.  
Revelation 3:19 ESV*



SANGRE DE CRISTO  
SENTINEL

Copyright©2025

The Voice  
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

Key Personnel

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

Fred Hernandez - Vice President  
FredHer8@proton.me

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

Katherine Brencley - Advertising Coordinator  
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support

Accounting Services  
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com

Yvonne Phillips  
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery

Galen Studebaker

Sentinel Founders

Mike Hess  
George Gramlich  
Mary Seifert  
Rob Canterbury  
Katherine Brencley

Sentinel Honor Roll

Dan Bubis  
Jackie Bubis  
Carol Clemenson  
Scott Clemenson  
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors

Audrey Slater  
Mtn. Photo in Logo  
by Peggi Collins

Winter Business Hours:

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

Subscription Rates:

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

How to contact us:

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

www.SDCSentinel.com

Please send your letters to sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/  
SangreDeCristoSentinel

# The Quiet Tyranny of Pronouns: Why Forced Speech Isn't Progress

by Allen Thomas, Commentary  
via The Kim Monson Show

As a kid, I was raised to address adults and those in authority with a high level of civility: using only their last name with either Mr. or Mrs. and always including "sir" or "ma'am" in my replies. By high school, I realized I was one of the few among my peers who still used this civil language. Many adults would ask me to call them by their first name or say they were too young to be called "sir" or "ma'am." But despite their protestations, I was still allowed to say "No sir" out of habit or "Yes ma'am" when reflex took over. I was never sent to the principal's office, but neither were my classmates when they addressed teachers with a dismissive "Yeah, sure, whatever man."

Sadly, our legislature and governor have decided to insert themselves into literal public discourse. With the passage of HB25-1312, they have ensured that personal expression is now subject to government oversight. What was once a habit of civility could now send me before the tribunal of anti-discrimination enforcement. Compelled speech does not have a record of producing genuine progress, in fact quite the opposite. That is precisely why the First Amendment was designed to safeguard against it.

The argument made in favor of the bill is that public accommodations require individuals to use others' preferred pronouns. But how is this different from a performance that reinforces an ideological belief? This kind of policing of private speech is only a step away from the public recanting of "wrong thinking" and participation in "struggle sessions" required in Maoist China. However, compelled speech is not unique to communism or fascism, it is thousands of years old. Socrates was charged with corrupting the youth and was told to stop speaking or face death. He chose the latter and famously declared, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Did our state legislature realize they are retracing the same missteps as the Athenians? Long before our Founders penned the First Amendment, history was filled with regimes, monarchs, and religious authorities who used speech control as a means to control the people.

Even beyond historical warnings, the question remains: does compelled language achieve what its proponents claim? Does forcing individuals to affirm pronouns they don't agree with actually change their hearts and minds? Research suggests it does not. Social psychologists have noted that compelled speech teaches compliance, not inclusion or compassion.

Compliance may silence disagreement, but it does not produce sincerity. As William Edmundson wrote: "Mandates can mimic virtue, but do not cultivate it." Just ask any religious scholar what matters more: rote words or inner conviction. A 2019 study on psychological reactance found that peer pressure to express support for social causes not only failed to produce understanding but it instead reinforced opposing views. Far from building empathy, ideological coercion tends to backfire.

This leads to the natural objection: it is just a couple of pronouns so why make such a big deal? But once we accept forced speech in one area, where do we draw the line between protecting rights and policing thought? The authoritarian impulse behind compelled language is especially dangerous because it is never satisfied. The slope from pronouns to broader ideological enforcement is steep. And deeper than that, speech is not just a social function, it is the vessel for personal thought. When the right to express words is violated, it undermines the very foundation of a free society and more importantly an individual's right to even think freely. It is cruel to strip away an individual's conscience under the guise of kindness. It is dangerous to erode free thought in the name of civility.

This is not just a mandate about manners but an attack on the right to think.

There is a certain irony in the final version of HB25-1312. In its original form, the bill required government agencies to adopt new gender identities and language on official forms. But in order to gain enough votes to pass, the sponsors removed that provision. Now, the government continues using legal names, while the public is compelled to participate in a redefinition that the government needs not adopt itself. That is not civility – it is coercion. This is not a ban on yelling "fire" in a crowded theater. It is a ban on speaking any truth not approved by the ideological proposed. Progressives should fear this precedent and ideological coercion with as much vigor as conservatives. Would they support forcing all Americans to recite the Pledge of Allegiance under a right-wing administration? Thankfully, the judicial branch has historically protected us from compelled speech as they did in *West Virginia v. Barnette*. We can only hope and pray that it will do so again with this deeply misguided law.

Please see: [https://kimmonson.com/featured\\_articles/the-quiet-tyranny-of-pronouns-why-forced-speech-isnt-progress/](https://kimmonson.com/featured_articles/the-quiet-tyranny-of-pronouns-why-forced-speech-isnt-progress/)

SANGRE DE CRISTO  
SENTINEL

WHERE TO PURCHASE THE PAPER

SILVER CLIFF

WESTCLIFFE

Conoco Country Store  
Dutch Pantry & Deli  
Tony's Pizza

Antlers' Liquor Store  
Lowes Market (Box outside)  
Sunflower Natural Foods  
Wescliffe Petroleum

SDC Sentinel Office  
Inside or Box outside  
USPS (Box outside)

The Voice of

Conservative Colorado!

MAGA PROUD!

H & L TRUCKING & SKID STEER WORK

719-371-1570

Zita's  
mountain bistro

GUEST CHEF SERIES

109 N. 3rd St. Westcliffe, CO CALL 719-235-5820

TICKETS: WWW.ZITASMTNBISTRO.COM/EVENTS

JUN 21 - SHANE DEAN

PROFESSIONAL CHEF, CULINARY  
CONSULTANT & AIRCRAFT MECHANIC

MENU: "ASIAN TASTING MENU -  
A CURATED JOURNEY OF FLAVOR,  
TEXTURE, AND BALANCE"

(FULL MENU ON OUR WEBSITE)

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](http://www.townofwestcliffe.com) or directly from the Town: 1000 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252; or by calling (719)783-2282 Ext 10.

REGULAR FEATURES

Business Directory

Classifieds

Churches

Crossword Puzzle

Events

Obituaries

Business Directory QR  
(Scan to download)

website <https://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

page

page

page

page

page

page

6-7

9

8

17

8-9

3



# Obituary

## John Emmerling III

John Emmerling was born April 25, 1946, on the East coast. He passed away on May 31, 2025, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The oldest of five children, John and his family moved to Alabama, where his father earned a master's degree from the University of Alabama. The family then moved back to New Jersey, where his father taught school. One of his fondest memories, John enjoyed living on the East coast, working on the farm with his grandfather, picking fruit, growing vegetables and learning to build onto the home where his family lived.

After high school graduation, John earned an engineering degree from Steven's University and went to work for GE in Cincinnati, Ohio. He spent a good portion of his life working at GE, which he talked about fondly.

He was married and he had three daughters. After a divorce, John moved to Wetmore, CO, with the idea of starting a vineyard. He ended up joining a group of about 20 people to start the *Fremont County Crusader*, which he worked at for about 10 years.

John was very patriotic and was a member of the Fremont County Republicans, Royal Gorge Tea Party, Cañon City Rotary, Cañon City Noon Lions, Florence Elks Lodge No. 611, Sons of American Legion Post 13, and many other organizations. He worked tirelessly as a precinct captain for numerous candidates during election time. John enjoyed talking about his experiences with GE and his father's heroism during World War II.

John was able to travel all over the world with his job. He also enjoyed sailing, riding his motorcycle, camping, fishing



and taking photographs at the Florence Farmers Market, Blossom Festival, Florence Pioneer Day and many other events for the newspaper.

When John's health declined, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, to live with his daughter, Meredith and son-in-law, Jared Morris.

John is survived by three daughters and sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a brother, James, and three sisters.

The family has planned to hold a memorial at a later date in Ohio. Those who would like to send cards and/or donations may do so to Meredith and Jared Morris, 4179 Stonecreek Way, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241.

The Celebration of Life service will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 29th, at "The Venue at Oak Creek", at 800 N. Frazier in Florence. Finger food to follow.

This is the former milking barn at Camerlo Dairy in Florence. Turn north at the light on the west side of Florence.

# Obituary

## Susan "Sue" Ruth Menz

Susan "Sue" Ruth Menz, Sage 76, passed away on December 27, 2024, after a brief battle with cancer, which she faced with her typical good nature. She was a resident of Westcliffe, Colorado, for 12 years and was formerly a resident of Omaha, Nebraska. She spent most of her career as a computer programmer, starting out with punch cards and mainframe computers.

Sue (also known as "Grammy Sue" or "the Cookie Lady") was born on February 25, 1948, to Bernhard Schmieder and Ruth (Wellner) in Ute, Iowa. Sue attended high school in Charter Oak, Iowa. On September 1, 1968, she married Brian Menz in Ute, Iowa, after meeting in college at the University of Northern Iowa. Sue graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Mathematics, while raising her two children, Jeff and Kristi.

Sue's love of the mountains began on a honeymoon trip to Rocky Mountain State

Park and many subsequent summer camping trips. It eventually brought her to Westcliffe in her retirement, where she enjoyed daily hikes near her home. She also passed time by sewing quilts to donate to Fremont Victory Quilters in Florence, amongst other veteran's organizations and homeless shelters, and baking delicious desserts and breads for local fundraisers. She had a strong Christian faith, finding God everywhere in nature.

She is survived by her children: Jeff Menz of West Des Moines, Iowa, his wife, Jessica, and their children, Kaitlyn, Braden, and Isaac; Kristi Detweiler of Concord, Massachusetts, her husband, Sean, and their children, Carson and Alexa; her siblings: Bruce Schmieder and Connie Doudy; and her ex-husband, Brian Menz. Her family finds comfort in her excitement to meet God in heaven, and to be reunited with those who preceded her in death, including her parents; and her brother, Anthony Schmieder and



sister, Joyce Lohoff.

A Celebration of Life will be held at "Willie's" – Silver Cliff Mountain Inn & Restaurant, 700 Ohio St., Silver Cliff, CO, on Thursday, July 10th, 2025. Please feel free to join us from 3 -5 p.m. to meet her family, grab a snack and share your favorite Sue memories.

Sue's kindness and generosity will be missed by all who knew her. Those wishing to pay it forward, as she so often did, can donate in her name to one of her favorite charities:

Mission Wolf, PO Box 1211, Westcliffe, CO 81252 (<https://missionwolf.org>), or to Patriotic Productions, 16213 Lamp Street, Omaha, NE 68118 (<https://www.patrioticproductions.org>).

WE ARE OPEN FOR LUNCH WED-SUN 11AM-4PM

630 MAIN ST SILVER CLIFF 719.783.9300

\$13 LUNCH SPECIALS

\$3 16OZ PBR

WED-FRI 11AM TO 4PM

STEAK & TAVERN Tony's SILVER CLIFF CO

Custer County Republican Central Committee Presents

Take Two June 21, 2025

Doors Open 5:30 PM Dinner 6 PM Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club

For Tickets Contact CCRCC @ www.custergop.com or Dawn Ramsdell @ 719-371-5054 Rivervalleyph@yahoo.com

FEATURING Dinner Prizes Dessert Auction Live Band & Dancing

DATE Doors Open From 5:30 PM - 10 PM WMVSC 90 CR 241 Westcliffe, CO

LIC#8395

J.R.B. ELECTRIC, LLC

Quality service at a reasonable price!

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL Solar, Hot Tubs, Generators, Lighting Retrofit & Installation, Service Upgrades, & Electrical Design

SERVICING THE FOLLOWING AREAS Fremont, Custer, Chaffee, & Pueblo Counties

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

719-320-0913 • JRBELECTRICLLC.COM Like & Follow @JrbElectricLlc

GENERAC AUTHORIZED DEALER



# Enjoy World Class Art Westcliffe, Colorado



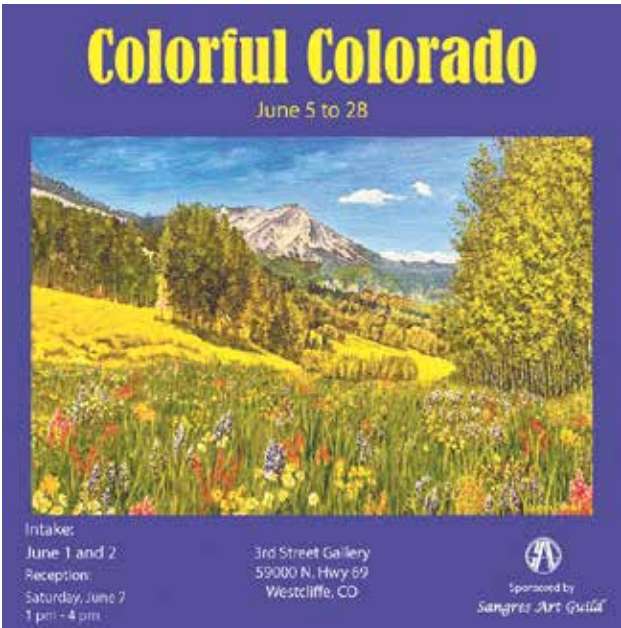
Press Release

WESTCLIFFE, CO

The Sangres Art Guild (SAG) hosted a free June art reception Saturday, June 7, 2025 in Westcliffe, Colorado's 3rd Street Gallery located at 59000 N Highway 69 with food and entertainment. The show, Colorful Colorado, will run through June 29th.

Celebrating the diversity of this state and the many ways we find color in Colorado. Whether it is in the foliage, the rocks, mountains, flowers or the many people who inhabit Colorado, the artists all have their own lens and style.

A two-day acrylic workshop with Desarae Buza began on Monday, June 9 and Monday, June 16 from 1-3 p.m. Participants will produce an 8" x 10" or 9" x 12" canvas artwork



with acrylic paint choosing their own design or by selecting a composition suggested by Desi.

For beginning artists SAG hosts a Second Saturday beginning workshop. In June the workshop will focus on watercolor with

artist Julie Hutslar.

An intermediate arts workshop is held the Third Saturday of each month and June features water-colorist Curt Gillespie.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.sangresartguild.org/>

# How Flag Day Became a National Holiday

by Mark Soroka, National Flag Foundation

Popular history holds that Flag Day became a nationally recognized holiday in 1916. However, the story of Flag Day started much earlier and includes one of the most unlikely cast of characters to step onto the national stage.

According to tradition, the city of Hartford, CT, began this patriotic custom on June 14, 1861, after native son Victor Morris urged his community to celebrate the 84th Anniversary of the adoption of the American flag with a special day of remembrance.

Public support for Flag Day picked up steam in 1885, when B.J. Cigrand, a schoolteacher from Fredonia, Wis., mobilized his students to celebrate "Flag Birthday" on June 14th. Cigrand later championed for establishing a national flag holiday when he became editor-in-chief of American Standard magazine.

George Balch, a kindergarten teacher from New York City, brought Flag Day to the children of his school in 1889. Interest in this event became so popular that the State Board

of Education of New York soon adopted its variation of Flag Day.

Across the state border, Colonel J. Granville Leach, a noted historian for the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution, worked diligently to establish a similar Flag Day event in Philadelphia. On June 14, 1893, school children assembled at Independence Square, where they honored the Stars and Stripes by waving small flags and singing patriotic songs.

Not to be outdone, the American Flag Day Association organized the first general public school celebration of Flag Day in Chicago, IL. More than 300,00 students participated in this event on June 14, 1894.

It was when Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane delivered a stirring Flag Day speech in 1914 that the nation began to recognize the significance of this event. "I am what you make me; nothing more," said Lane. "I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

All these efforts finally paid off in 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson issued

a proclamation establishing June 14 as Flag Day. In 1937, Pennsylvania became the first state to make Flag Day a legal holiday.

President Harry Truman later signed an Act of Congress in 1949, officially designating June 14 as National Flag Day.

President Donald Trump, who was born on Flag Day (June 14, 1946), expanded the celebration in 2017 by proclaiming Flag Day and Flag Week.

Across the country, numerous cities and towns have made Flag Day an annual patriotic celebration, replete with parades, picnics, essay contests and fireworks. Fairfield, WA, Appleton, WI, and Quincy, Mass. each lay claim for the nation's longest-running Flag Day parade while Three Oaks, MI, maintains that it has the largest Flag Day parade in the country.

With a surge of patriotism and a steady increase in flag sales, Flag Day should continue to be a highly revered American holiday for a long time to come.

Please see: <https://nationalflagfoundation.org/how-flag-day-became-a-national-holiday/>



## We create heirloom furniture so you can create lasting memories.



*Dining Tables  
starting under \$1,000!  
Beautiful furniture of all  
kinds, Live Edge Slabs,  
Amish Handcrafted Beds  
& Mattresses, Metal Art,  
Quality Footware and  
SO MUCH MORE!  
Come check us out!*

*At Yoder's, we only source the highest quality materials.  
Our furniture is built by the best Amish craftsmen in the country  
and will last for generations to enjoy.*

**Open Mon - Sat | 9am-5pm**  
**57965 Hwy 69, Westcliffe | 719-783-0988 | <https://shopyoders.com>**

## Silver Cliff Community Park Fun Day

### June 21st 9a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for the 2nd Annual Silver Cliff Community Park Fun Day on June 21st, from 9am to 3pm! Something for all family members!

Enjoy a variety of events and games, including the "5k Run at 8k Feet," the "2 Mile Walk featuring the Historic Silver Cliff Cemetery," Pickleball, Cornhole, Horseshoe Tournaments, a Golf Challenge, and a Home Run Derby. Check the flyer on page 23 for registration fees and times.

There will be plenty of free activities for kids including a bounce house, face painting and more, food and drinks for purchase, a beer tent, live music and a characteristic to capture you.

All proceeds support park improvements, future programs and grant opportunities. We have been working closely with GOCO and will be submitting a grant application this year for a new playground and pickleball courts.

## RAYMOND JAMES

**We're #1,  
because you always have been.**



At Raymond James, the priority has always been people. We think that's a big reason why the firm took top marks in the J.D. Power 2025 U.S. Investor Satisfaction Study:

- #1 for Advised Investor Satisfaction
- Most Trusted

The emphasis on putting clients first and the belief that doing what's best for you is the best we can do for the firm is what brought me to Raymond James in the first place.

It's an honor to be part of this firm and of this recognition, made even greater knowing that it came from clients like you. Thank you.

**Barb Beckner**  
Financial Advisor



[Barb@peaks-integrity.com](mailto:Barb@peaks-integrity.com)



### RAYMOND JAMES

Peaks Integrity Wealth Management, LLC  
595 Hermit Rd Westcliffe, CO 81252  
719-581-(PEAK) 7325  
[www.peaks-integrity.com](http://www.peaks-integrity.com)

**Ron Beckner**  
Financial Advisor



[Ron@peaks-integrity.com](mailto:Ron@peaks-integrity.com)

*Your Full-Service Investment Office in Custer County and Surrounding Areas*

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Peaks Integrity Wealth Management LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services.





# Colorado State News

## Colorado Governments, News Media Need a Public Notice Divorce

by Cory Gaines,  
*CompleteColorado.com*

Back in May, the Town of Bennett trustees yanked their regular and public notice advertising from their local newspaper, citing their objections to how the publisher handled a story about a local sexual assault.

This brought to mind an earlier story, this one from 2022, where Custer County commissioners tried to do the same thing. In December of that year, fed up with what *Wet Mountain Tribune* publisher Jordan Hedberg had printed about them, they voted 2 – 1 to stop any county advertising in that newspaper. They instead opted to give the county’s business to a rival local paper with a (gasp) conservative bent to it.

A lawsuit followed, eventually ended in a settle-

ment with the owner of the *Tribune*. The county paid \$50,000 and agreed to continue to run their public notices in that paper for four more years.

### Free to choose?

It might be tempting to try and make the analogy here with ordinary business. That is, that we should all be free to choose which businesses we patronize, government bodies included, but some speed bumps get in the way.

Local governments are required by state law to publish public notices in the local newspaper of general circulation. Also, it’s obvious that having the government retaliating against the media for things they don’t like is not a good idea.

But turn this issue in your hand a little more and what

you see are other, equally compelling sides to the issue. What about fairness to those who foot the bill? What about the idea that someone else’s rights shouldn’t compel you to support them economically? How on earth could you, as a small government, freely move among contracts if a publisher could play the First Amendment card, essentially compelling you to give them taxpayer money?

In the article, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP—a national legal defense organization for journalists) was saber rattling: “‘The right to make editorial decisions about what to cover and how is a fundamental right of news publishers,’ said Rachael Johnson, RCFP’s Local Legal Initiative attorney in Colorado, in a statement sent to the Colorado Freedom of Information

Coalition. ‘Attempts by the government to chill reporting cross a dangerous line.’”

Then there’s the publisher of the Bennet newspaper in question, Douglas Claussen, ironically touting objectivity with an entity he has financial ties to: “We can’t have the government censoring the media. You have to have an independent media in order to have objectivity when it comes to government reporting, and the government needs to leave that ability alone.”

### Time for a divorce

All these issues arise because governments overlap with, and have to engage in the market with a news media that enjoys special status. There are constitutional protections for journalists that don’t for the company that, say,

provides toilet paper to your county offices.

The thing is that, in this case at least, the overlap is unnecessary. There was a time when public notices needed to be published because newspapers were the information-carrying vehicle of the time. With a few exceptions, I don’t think you can reasonably claim that this is the case any longer. It’s just as easy, just as meaningful, for the local government to take those same public notices and put them up on their own website. All it would take is a change in law.

It’s time for government and the news media to get a divorce (both at the local level and nationally, but public media and public funding is a whole other topic). Public money supporting the news media in any way is simply too

fraught with problems to justify continuing the practice. Media outlets want to be (and should be) independent and unconstrained in what they do. Taxpayers and those they elect to make their decisions don’t want to be (and shouldn’t have to be if the service is unnecessary) paying for things they find objectionable.

Untangling that particular Gordian knot shouldn’t be any more complicated than simply cutting it.

**Cory Gaines** is a regular contributor to *Complete Colorado*. He lives in Sterling on Colorado’s Eastern Plains and also writes at the *Colorado Accountability Project* substack.

Please see: <https://completemountain.com/2025/06/08/government-journalism-public-notice-relationship-turns-toxic/>



**NORUP GAS INC.**  
**28 RANGEVIEW LP**  
**PH 783-9338**  
**AUTOMATIC DELIVERIES**  
**COMMERCIAL**  
**RESIDENTIAL**  
**BUDGET BILLING**  
**TANK RENTAL**

**Norup Gas Inc.**  
28 Rangeview Loop  
(Rangeview Industrial Park)

**Located**  
one mile north of Westcliffe  
on Highway 69.

**Office hours:**  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. until 5 p.m.  
**719-783-9338**

**BRAND NEW MOUNTAIN HOME  
IN THE TREES**



**NEW 3 bed/2.5 bath spacious mountain home on large 1-acre lot with covered porch, deck, 2-car attached garage. Low maintenance metal log-look siding, stucco, metal roof. Granite counters and knotty alder cabinets, doors & trim. Close to National Forest access. \$650,000**

**Brenda Bosse**  
Realtor®  
*26 years listing and selling in the valley!*



**(719) 371-3270**  
**9 Bassick Place, Westcliffe**  
**brenda@brendabosse.com**  
**www.brendabosse.com**

**WILDFIRE MITIGATION**  
HOME & PROPERTY PROTECTION  
SKID STEER WORK / HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIRS



**SWOTA ENTERPRISES**  
SERVING CUSTER COUNTY & SURROUNDING AREAS

**RAY SWOTA**  
**719-783-4477**  
**RSWOTA@GMAIL.COM**

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Automotive Services

**The Cliffes Auto Service**  
Automotive Repair and Service  
215 E Main St, Silver Cliff • 719-783-3281  
CliffesAutoSvcs@gmail.com

**Wrasse & Son Diesel Repair, LLC**  
719-429-9275 | wrasseandson@gmail  
Please call for an appointment  
Diesel Repair & Maintenance, Full Service Tire

Banks & Financial Services

**Collector & Investor Coins -  
Buying Selling & Trading**  
719- 269-7507 • 123 S 5th St, Canon City, CO  
www.canoncitycoins.com

**Kirkpatrick Bank**  
8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe, CO  
719.783.2030  
www.kirkpatrickbank.com

**Peaks Integrity Wealth Management, LLC**  
**Raymond James**  
Investments, Financial and Insurance Services  
719-581-PEAK (7325) / www.peaks-integrity.com

Building SUPPLY

**Central Building Supply**  
Hardware, Lumber & OSB  
705 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff  
719-783-2385

Builders/ Construction

**Construction Solutions of Colorado, LLC**  
Steel Buildings -- Licensed & Insured  
Casey N. 719-371-7454 - Corey N.- 719-371-6143  
Nordyke Family • constsolutions@icloud.com

**CUSTOM Home Builders**  
**Westcliffe Construction, LLC**  
From the Ground Up!  
719-371-5231

**Eagle Edge Construction, LLC**  
Ronnie Miller  
719-239-0300  
Honesty is Everything

**Eagle Peak View**  
All phases of Construction & Plumbing  
Mike Mitzner  
719-494-4026 | mike@eaglepeakview.com

**Hershberger Construction**  
719-216-9545  
Matt@HershbergerConstruction.net

**Kauffman’s Construction**  
Porches & Decks - Roofing & Siding  
Custom Pole Barns & Garages • Free Estimates  
Owen 719-371-7863

**Old Country Construction**  
719-458-4184  
New Homes, Additions, Polebarns, Garages  
Certified Passive House Tradesperson

Cabs & Transport

**RANDY CAB**  
Randy Schiro Owner /Driver  
719-210-5908  
randolf.schiro@icloud.com

Computer/Cell Phone Repair

**Electron Wizard**  
sleuth1@sleuth1.com 719-431-9442  
615 Main St, Westcliffe  
Computer Repairs, Sales, Cell Phones, and More!

Clothing & Footwear

**Custer County Supply Co**  
206 Main St. Westcliffe | 719-659-8743  
Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm  
Guns, dog supplies, clothing, & much more!

**Salty Pine Floral & Boutique**  
411 Main St, Westcliffe  
719-783-9393  
www.westcliffeflowershop.com

**Yoder’s Home Furnishings**  
57965 Hwy 69, Westcliffe  
Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear  
Mon - Sat 9am-5pm

Construction Services

**Beach Redi-Mix & Concrete Pumping**  
Precast septic tanks &  
decorative blocks  
719-783-3558 | info@SBCompanies.com

**Colorado Forestry & Earthworks, LLC**  
Gravel: Landscape Rock, Topsoil & More  
Excavation: Septic Installs, Driveways, Foundations  
719-429-1676 | coforearth.com

**Frontier Kitchens & Interiors**  
Full Service Interior Design Store  
318 Main Street  
(719)-783-9225

**Harald Frank Skid Steer Services  
and H & L Trucking**  
HaraldFrank7@gmail.com 719-371-1570  
Driveways Build/Repair - Gravel & Road Base Hauling

**KLM Seamless Gutters**  
Marlin Miller  
Quality and Experience  
719-371-7021

**No Job Too Small**  
Tony 719-783-2883 INSURED  
Interior Painting, Repairs  
For your small Construction Needs

**Sapiah Woodworks, LLC.**  
Lisa Kidwell, Owner/Contractor  
Custom & Fine Carpentry, Restoration, Consulting  
720.309.4262 sapiahwoodworks@gmail.com

**Seifert Enterprises**  
Excavation, Septic Systems, Culverts,  
Driveways, Rock Sales & Delivery  
719-783-2757 info@SBCompanies.com

**Solar Solutions Ltd**  
Off Grid and Grid Tie  
10 Hermit Lane. Silver Cliff 719-783-9666  
email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

**Spray Foam Insulation**  
Average is No Option  
719-239-4739  
lmiller.millersroofcoatings@gmail.com

**Valley View Windows & Doors**  
Call Marty Byler at 719-220-4151  
or Email Will@valleyviewwindows.net  
Free Estimates, Replacements, New construction

**Don’t see Your Business?**  
Call us for Great Rates! 719-783-3360

Construction Services Cont’d

Daryl CUSTOM Home Builders  
**WKM Construction, LLC**  
New Homes, Renovations  
719-371-5231

**Westcliffe Concrete**  
Flatwork & Stamped Concrete, ICFs  
Lee Hostetler: 719-371-6193  
Matt Troyer: 719-221-8940

Countertops

**SOL Granite & Natural Stone**  
4804 Dillon Dr. Pueblo - 719-544-3085  
solgranite.com  
Inventory, Custom Design, Fabrication & Installation

Dentist

**Jared Smith, DMD**  
618 Main St, Cañon City  
719-275-0661  
www.jaredsmithdmd.com

Electricians

**Boneyard Electric LLC**  
Steven Hardin  
719-371-1221 - boneyardelectric@gmail.com  
Industrial - Residential - Commercial

**J.R.B. Electric, LLC**  
Residential & Commercial  
Serving Fremont, Custer, Chaffee & Pueblo Counties  
719-320-0913 · JRBElectricLLC.com

Firewood

**Westcliffe Firewood**  
Ryan Stover  
719-371-6074  
westcliffefirewood@gmail.com

Florist

**Salty Pine Floral & Boutique**  
411 Main St, Westcliffe  
719-783-9393  
www.westcliffeflowershop.com

Funeral Homes

**Holt Family Funeral Home**  
806 Macon Ave, Cañon City  
719-275-4113  
www.holtfamilyfuneralhomes.com

Furniture & Home Goods

**Yoder’s Home Furnishings**  
57965 Hwy 69, Westcliffe  
Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear  
Mon - Sat 9am-5pm

Grocery & Health Foods

**DUTCH PANTRY & DELI**  
404 E. Main St., Silver Cliff  
719-298-6689 Call for store hours  
DELI HOURS: Mon-Friday 11 - 4 , Sat: 11- 2:30

**Lowe’s Market**  
50 Main St, Westcliffe  
719-783-0550  
www.lowesmarket.com

Shopping Local Helps Local Economy & Creates Local Jobs



Grocery & Health Foods Cont'd

**Sunflower Natural Foods**  
405 Main St., Westcliffe  
719-783-9266  
Mon-Fri 10am-7 pm, Sat 9am-4pm

Guns , Ammo, Knives

**Custer County Supply Co**  
206 Main St. Westcliffe | 719-659-8743  
Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm  
Guns, dog supplies, clothing, & much more!

**Salida Cutlery & Smoke Shop**  
132 W Hwy 50 Salida  
719-539-2884 Monday-Friday 9-6  
Where you'll find sharp gifts & smokin' deals!

**Salida Gunshop**  
7345 W Hwy 50, Salida  
salidagunshop.com | 719-207-4285  
please see ad on page 20 -21 for hours

Gun Clubs

**Royal Gorge Gun Club & Lincoln Park Pawn**  
1345 Elm Ave, Cañon City 719-276-3030  
Lincolnparkpawn@hotmail.com  
1 foot to over 1 mile, 75 different powders

**Sangre Shooting Sports Club**  
P.O. Box 1554, Westcliffe  
http://sangreshooting.com

Heating & Spas

**Salida Stove & Spa**  
11130 W Hwy 50, Poncha Springs  
719-539-2125  
salidastove.com

Heating & Air Conditioning

**Greenstreet Plumbing**  
Licensed, Bonded and Insured Master Plumber  
Infloor Heat Systems - Plumbing  
719-783-2800 - greenstreetplumbing@gmail.com

**Piñon Plumbing, LLC**  
All Service Heating · Residential & Commercial  
Boilers, Furnaces & Propane Heaters  
Licensed & Insured · Jeff Ray 719-783-0379

**White Bros Custom Plumbing & Heating, Inc.**  
www.whitebrosplumbing.com  
P.O. Box 957, Westcliffe ~ 719-217-7202  
Locally Owned & Family Operated

Insurance

**State Farm Dennis Podzemny**  
1004 S 9th St, Cañon City  
719-275-1548  
https://www.canoncityinsurance.com

Landscaping

**Yardcrafters**  
Full Landscapes, Xeriscaping, Retaining Walls  
719-275-5091  
yardcrafterscolo@outlook.com

Lodging

**Darksbies Vacations**  
Enter WMV-LOCAL for 10% off vacation home rentals.  
Visit Darksbies.vacations or call  
719-783-0648

Mitigation/ Pest Control

**Premier Pest Control LLC**  
719-371-7404 ~ ppc16@privategarden.org  
inspections, estimates, professional pest management  
residential, commercial, licensed and insured

Mitigation/ Tree Removal

**Swota Enterprises**  
Wildfire Mitigation and Excavation  
719-783-4477  
rswota@gmail.com

**Wise Tree Service**  
719-429-2866 Local, Insured, Experienced  
Complete tree service-difficult removals, trimming/  
shaping, stump grinding and fire mitigation

Pharmacy

**Palace Drug - Silver Cliff**  
Get your prescriptions filled while you wait!  
94 E Main St., Silver Cliff  
Palacedrugco.com | 719-371-9402

Plumbing and Heating

**Greenstreet Plumbing**  
Licensed, Bonded and Insured Master Plumber  
Infloor Heat Systems - Plumbing  
719-783-2800 - greenstreetplumbing@gmail.com

**Piñon Plumbing, LLC**  
All Service Heating · Residential & Commercial  
Boilers, Furnaces & Propane Heaters  
Licensed & Insured · Jeff Ray 719-783-0379

**River Valley Plumbing and Heating**  
250 Moore Dr, Florence  
719-784-3876  
www.rivervalleyplumbingandheat.com

**White Bros Custom Plumbing & Heating, Inc.**  
www.whitebrosplumbing.com  
P.O. Box 957, Westcliffe ~ 719-217-7202  
Locally Owned & Family Operated

Propane

**Norup Gas**  
28 Range View Loop, Westcliffe  
719-783-9338

Real Estate Services

**Brenda Bosse HomeSmart Preferred Real Estate**  
9 Bassick Place, Westcliffe, CO 81252  
719-371-3270, brenda@brendabosse.com  
Selling locally for 24 years.

**Custer County Realty**  
902 Main St, Westcliffe  
719-783-9221  
www.custerrealty.com

**Lori Kastendieck**  
Independent Broker  
719-269-0653  
WestcliffeBroker.com

Restaurants & Dining

**ALPINE LODGE**  
RESTAURANT, LOUNGE, CABINS, CATERING, SPECIAL EVENTS  
719-783-2660 • 6848 COUNTY ROAD 140, WESTCLIFFE  
facebook.com/TheHistoricAlpineLodge

**DUTCH PANTRY & DELI**  
404 E. Main St., Silver Cliff  
719-298-6689 Call for store hours  
DELI HOURS: Mon-Friday 11 - 4 , Sat: 11- 2:30

Restaurants & Dining Cont'd

**Stage Stop Gourmet Sundaes & Espresso**  
3rd and Main Street, Westcliffe  
Follow Us: Facebook.com/inthesangres

**Tony's Mountain Pizza**  
719-783-9300 • tonysmountainpizza.com  
Tues, Wed, Thursday &Sun 11-8.  
Fri-Sat 11-9 closed Mon  
630 Main Street, Silver Cliff

**Tony's Steak & Tavern**  
719-783-9300 • tonyssteakandtavern.com  
Wedn-Thurs 11-8, Friday-Sat 11-9  
Sunday 10 -8, closed Mon-Tues

**Zita's Mountain Bistro**  
109 N 3rd, Westcliffe  
https://www.zitasmtnbistro.com/

Septic Installation

**Colorado Forestry & Earthworks, LLC**  
Gravel: Landscape Rock, Topsoil & More  
Excavation: Septic Installs, Driveways, Foundations  
719-429-1676 | coforearth.com

**Finney Drilling**  
Cañon City  
719-275-9525  
larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com

**Seifert Enterprises**  
Excavation, Septic Systems, Culverts,  
Driveways, Rock Sales & Delivery  
719-783-2757 info@SBCompanies.com

Solar / Renewable Energy

**Solar Solutions Ltd**  
Off Grid and Grid Tie  
10 Hermit Lane. Silver Cliff 719-783-9666  
email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

Storage

**Wet Mountain Storage**  
300 Main St, Westcliffe (office)  
719-783-9321  
www.westcliffecoloradoselfstorage.com

Tractor/Trailer Sales

**True Value Hardware and Trailers**  
635 Shoop Dr, Penrose  
719-784-0123  
https://www.truevaluetrailers.com

Vacation / Accommodations

**Darksbies Vacations**  
Enter WMV-LOCAL for 10% off vacation home rentals  
Visit Darksbies.vacations or call  
719-783-0648

Veterinary

**High Peaks Animal Hospital**  
1200 Broadway St, Silver Cliff  
719-783-3770  
www.highpeaksanimal.com

Well Drilling and Pump Services

**Finney Drilling**  
Cañon City  
719-275-9525  
larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com

Recurring Events

Mondays

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

1st Monday of the Month

**10 - 11 a.m. Women’s Veteran Coffee Social**  
West Custer County Library 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](mailto:colobamanana@yahoo.com)

Tuesdays

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

1st Tuesday of the Month

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

2nd Tuesday of the Month

**9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Mtg @Valley Bible**

3rd Tuesday of the Month

**Liberty Rocks TUESDAY** Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m. Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.

Wednesdays

**8 -9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social**, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe

**9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers** meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.

**9:45-11:45 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study SUMMER 3 meets** - June 18, July 23, August 20 @ 305 County Road 159, Holly 703-338-4100 or Rene at 719-371-7076

**10 a.m. Pickle Ball** (SCMP) info: [lizbrannen@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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

What Is The Definition Of A Father?

by Robin L. Schwarz

I looked in the dictionary for a few definitions of the word “Father”. It said, in this order, “A male parent; any male ancestor; especially the founder of a race or family; any man who exercises paternal care over another or others; one of the leading men in a city or town; God.”

We all have many Fathers throughout our lives and most of the time we question their rules.

Whether they are right or wrong at that time, a lesson is always learned from their guidance.

We take these lessons and apply them to our lives. If we are lucky, they were good lessons and sometimes it helps make the person we become.

The dictionary had the word “God” as the last definition of the word “Father”. I personally thought it should have been much higher on the list. The lessons from him are too numerous to write about. One lesson happened when I was in my

bank trying to get a cash draw on my credit card and the teller explained for the 3rd time it didn’t go through. As the tears started popping out of my swollen eyeballs I kept asking, “Why me God, why me?”

I later learned that by being delayed, I meet the lady standing behind me and we started to talk.

She invited me to a very important Chamber meeting where I met the people who encouraged me

to start writing for a purpose and for the enjoyment of others. My lesson . . . sometimes things happen for a reason and the man upstairs has a bigger picture.

My biological Father, who was a famous War Pilot, taught me to live, love and fight for my country. Always tell the truth and most importantly make one person smile a day. My lesson from him was that the act of honesty and humor work much better then lying and saying hurtful words.

My second Father was a world-famous

Cowboy. He taught me something that applies to a lot of things in life. If you don’t want to fall off the horse and hit the ground anymore, take the time to learn how to be a better rider. The most valuable lesson I learned from him was to go to school and get a good education so ya don’t have to get up at 0’Dark Thirty and milk the damn cow for the rest of your life.

My third Father, famous in the plant world, was known by the name of, “The Sod Father”. He was sent to earth to help everyone. He unselfishly thought me generosity and that the community you live in is one big family. Always stick together and take the time to help each other. Many voices are stronger than one. My lesson from him, if you water it enough and apply the right amount of manure . . . it will grow.

All four of my Fathers are in Heaven now. Hopefully they will continue to guide me in my journey on earth and their wisdom be able to cut through the ozone layer they all warned me about.

### Custer Senior Center Menu

| Monday, June16                      | Tuesday, June 17           | Tuesday, June 19           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>#83 Spaghetti and Meat Sauce</b> | <b>#109 Turkey Pot Pie</b> | <b>CLOSED</b>              |
| Salad w/Lite Italian                | Peas & Carrots             | <b>Juneteenth Observed</b> |
| Green Beans                         | Salad w/Lite Ranch         |                            |
| Orange                              | WW Roll w/Butter           |                            |
| WW Bread w/Butter                   | Orange, Oatmeal Cookie     |                            |

**Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)**  
*The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.*

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

### Come and Worship

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

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

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Hebrews 12: 7-8 ESV



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.







### Cañon City Coins

Collector & Investor Coins - Buying, Selling & Trading



(719) 269-7507

Jason

123 S. 5th St., Cañon City, CO 81212

www.canoncitycoins.com





### Eagle Peak View

Commercial Construction  
Quality and Experience  
at Residential Pricing

All Phases of Construction & Plumbing

Mike Mitzner  
719-494-4026  
eaglepeakview.com



# Classifieds

### OUTDOORSMANS Announcements

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

DAYS  
August 8th & 9th 2025  
Pathfinder Regional Park  
Florence, CO  
VENDORS WELCOME  
for more information go to  
coloradooutdoors  
mansdays.com  
or call  
719 275-4077

ORGANIC EGGS  
and Meat

For Sale

Call the Egg Lady  
(719) 371-5497

### Garage Sale

Planning a Sale?  
Let us help you get  
the word out



### Help Wanted

Custer County School  
District is now hiring.  
Apply online at <https://www.applitrack.com/ccbobsats/onlineapp>  
\*\*\*

### Real Estate

Lori Kastendieck  
Independent Broker  
Real Estate  
WestcliffeBroker.com  
719-269-0653  
Serving buyers &  
sellers  
Since 1982

### Services

WILDFIRE  
MITIGATION  
Home and Property  
Protection  
Skid Steer Work/Home  
Improvement and Repair  
Serving Custer County  
and Surrounding Areas  
Swota Enterprises  
719-783-4477

### Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

We Need Local  
people to Report on  
LOCAL News  
Stop by Tues -Wedn.  
9-3, Fri. 9-12  
601 Main St.,  
Westcliffe

### Happy Birthday Donald!



## Events

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

June 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Local Farmer’s Market, parking lot located at 59000 Hwy 69/N 3rd St

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

Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Celebrate Flag Day at the Sentinel - Bring your flags! 601 Main St., Westcliffe

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)

Friday-Sunday June 13-15 and 20-22 \$\$  
Friday & Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m.  
WCPA Shakespeare in the Sangres ~ *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Historic Jones Theater, 119 Main St Westcliffe.

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. Free for spectators. Point of contact Kathy Reis 719-371-2154

Saturday, June 21  
12th Annual Westcliffe Consignment Auction  
Call or email Nathaniel [ngl@privategarden.org](mailto:ngl@privategarden.org)  
719-792-2817 to consign your good, unused merchandise

Friday, July 4th & 5th COMING  
Independence Day Parade, All Aboard Westcliffe’s Pancake Breakfast, AAW Annual Flea Market and Yard Sale, Fireworks Display, and more....

## Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness  
(719) 783-0750

American Legion Post #170  
PO Box 424, Westcliffe, CO 81252  
[talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com)  
(719) 783-2462 [westcliffepost170.org](http://westcliffepost170.org)

Custer County  
Community Sharing Food Pantry  
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994  
OPEN First 3 Fridays of the month  
11 – 2 p.m.

JUNE SCHEDULE  
Care & Share-June 13 & 27 from 11-2  
TEFAP- June 9 from 12-2  
Everyday Eats boxes are available during any regular distribution from 11-2  
An Equal Opportunity Provider

Family Crisis Services  
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center for Fremont and Custer Counties  
(719) 275-2429 [FamilyCrisisOnline.org](http://FamilyCrisisOnline.org)

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

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

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

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

Wet Mountain Rotary Van Service  
Limited Dispatch 719-783-2343



### Frontier Kitchens & Interiors

Frontier Kitchens is a full-service interior design store specializing in custom new builds and remodels.

- 3D Designs
- In-Store Consultations

Visit our local showroom on Main Street to see a HUGE selection of product choices!

719-783-9225  
[www.Frontierkandi.com](http://www.Frontierkandi.com)  
318 Main Street, Westcliffe

My kids asked me if I have a Dad bod.  
I said no, this is a father figure.



## HAS YOUR INSURANCE PUT YOU ON NOTICE FOR FIRE MITIGATION?

Come & Learn what you can do to Make Your Property Safe

June 28th 10 a.m. to noon & Lange Hall  
Lunch will be provided

## NEW for the season



### Boba Smoothies

Mango • Peach • Strawberry • Kiwi • Dragon Fruit • Ginger

Corner of 3rd and Main

## The Palace DRUG STORE

Accepting most insurance, including Tricare!

Offering the same great service in Custer County that has won us “Best Pharmacy in Fremont County” for the past 20 years!

Your local source for Prescriptions and Over-The-Counter Medications & Supplies

**OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5:30PM**  
**CLOSED SAT & SUN**

palacedrugco.com 719-371-9402

94 E. Main St., Silver Cliff ~ 601 Main St., Cañon City

### High Peaks Animal Hospital

Dr. Kayla Ingram

Call for an appointment:  
719-783-3770

1200 Broadway in Silver Cliff

Porches & Decks - Roofing & Siding  
Custom Pole Barns & Garages

## Kauffman's Construction



Call Owen 719-371-7863

Free Estimates - No Job to Big or Small

EST. 2018

## WESTCLIFFE FIREWOOD

719-371-6074

westcliffefirewood@gmail.com

Ryan Stover  
719-371-6074

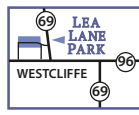
## FOR SALE NOW!



#1, #7 and #10

Affordable, 2 and 3-bdrm manufactured homes in the Heart of Westcliffe. Built for our climate, located for our views. See them now.  
Visit: [www.lealanepark.com](http://www.lealanepark.com)

LEA LANE PARK



Call Lynda: 719-371-3735  
email: [lealanepark@gmail.com](mailto:lealanepark@gmail.com)  
[www.lealanepark.com](http://www.lealanepark.com)

## FREE SINK with purchase

### SOL GRANITE

STONE & TILE CENTER

Countertop purchase of 45 square feet minimum required. Valid only on Stainless Steel sinks. \$195 value.  
Coupon must be presented at time of sale. New proposals only.  
Only one coupon per customer.  
Not to be combined with any other offers.

## SOL GRANITE

STONE & TILE CENTER



Serving Pueblo Since 2007

Pueblo's Only Granite & Quartz Countertop Fabricators!

Shop Local. Shop Direct.  
WE ARE OPEN  
M-F 8-5, SAT 10-3

**719-544-3085**  
4804 Dillon Drive, Pueblo  
(Behind Texas Roadhouse)

# KIDS

Friday, JUNE 13, 2025

## Pikes Peak

If you have visited or live in Colorado for any amount of time you probably have heard of Pikes Peak. You may even have driven up to the top or taken the cog railway. Either way it is a magnificent sight. It was the inspiration for Katharine Lee Bates' iconic American anthem, "America the Beautiful". This week we are looking into some of its history.



Pikes Peak is the highest summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in North America, at 14,107 feet. It is located in the Pikes Peak National Forest, 12 miles west of Colorado Springs with the town of Manitou Springs at its base. It is listed as one of Colorado's 54 fourteeners, mountains more than 14,000 feet above sea level. It is designated as a National Historic landmark and has a characteristic pink hue due to the pink granite called Pikes Peak granite.

The first Europeans to see Pikes Peak were the Spanish in the 1700s. The first American sighting is credited to the Zebulon Pike expedition. In November 1806, Zebulon Pike and his expedition attempted to climb to the top with no success. In the summer of 1820, the first Europeans ascended to the peak. Edwin James signed on with Stephen Harriman Long's expedition. They explored the South Platte River as far as present-day Denver. James and two other men camped on the plains and ascended the peak in two days with little difficulty. There James encountered the blue columbine which now is known as the official Colorado flower.

In 1922, five men climbed to the summit of Pikes Peak on New Year's Eve to set off fireworks. The AdAmAn Club continues the tradition to this day. Every year, thrill seekers race up Pikes Peak in the second oldest auto race in the United States.

To drive to the top of Pikes Peak, you will need a reservation. The drive to the peak is 19 miles long, has 156 turns, and climbs 6,715 ft. from the entrance of the highway. Check your gas tank first. The drive is only 39 miles round trip but you will use more than 1/2 tank of gas, and the closest gas station is 7 miles away from the Pikes Peak Highway entrance in Manitou Springs.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.visitcos.com/things-to-do/pikes-peak/>, <https://www.pikespeak.us.com/events/>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pikes\\_Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pikes_Peak). Photo: Pike's Peak east aspect, Wikicommons.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

# CORNER



# U.S. ARMY 250 YEARS Happy Anniversary !



(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mason Nichols)

by Fred Hernandez

The world’s premier fighting force, the United States Army, honors its legacy with a grand military parade in Washington D.C., celebrating their 250th Anniversary. It was initially formed from a band of militiamen for the protection of the first thirteen colonies of America. In 1775, the 2nd Continental Congress formally established the U.S. Army. Its main responsibility is defend-

ing the country and fighting land battles and military occupation as needed. Significant contributions are also made by the Corp. of Engineers in the control of rivers within the United States.

Over the years the U.S. Army has performed crucial roles in various conflicts all over the world. It has also adapted as necessary to the changing needs of the nation. On June 14th, President Donald J. Trump

will join veterans of wars, wounded warriors, Gold Star Families and Patriotic Americans from all across the country to celebrate our nation’s heroes and their selflessness, bravery and commitment.

The U.S. Army has a 250th Anniversary coin on sale. Visit their website or shop at Amazon.com or EBay. Happy Birthday to the world’s premier fighting force!

USA, USA, USA,USA!!!

## VSO Officer Encourages Veterans to Get Involved

Press Release  
Custer County Veteran  
Service Office

As a veteran, it’s easy to sit around chatting with other veterans and start listing off all of our negative experiences with the VA.

I want to change the mindset. As veterans, we should be helping each other first! That includes navigating the complexities of the VHA and VBA.

I’ve been here 20 months now and regularly attend American Legion Post 170 and VFW Post 12063 general membership meet-ings. I see the same folks in attendance, and the same folks supporting events and

outreach. These organizations have done a tremendous amount of good in our community and strive to do even more.

Both organizations are looking for new and younger members to continue to move their posts forward. If you’re a veteran, I want you to ask yourself, “What am I doing to help enhance the quality of life for my brothers and sisters in our community...especially those that paved the way for me?”.

Maybe you’re like me and missed the camaraderie and a sense of purpose, here’s an opportunity for you to reconnect!

Consider attending a general mem-

bership meeting to learn what each organization is about and how you could contribute.

The AL Post 170 general membership meeting is the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at Cliff Lanes.

The VFW Post 12063 general membership meeting is the third Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. at Cliff Lanes.

Custer County Veteran Services, AL Post 170, VFW Post 12063, and Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center all work together to provide services and resources for our veteran families. In a state with 64 counties, Custer County has emerged as the model county for the other 63 counties to emulate. Be a part of the change.



- Sewer Line Cleaning
- Video Camera Inspection
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Replacement of Main Water and Sewer Lines
- Repair & Replacement of Water Heaters, Furnaces & Boilers
- Geo Thermal Heating & Cooling
- Air Duct Cleaning

**Certified Backflow Installation and Testing**  
Service and New Construction  
Licensed and Insured  
Locally Owned & Operated



www.rivervalleyplumbingandheating.com  
250 Moore Dr, Florence

**719-784-3876**





**Open Mon - Thurs**  
10 am - 7 pm  
**Fri** 9 am - 7 pm  
**Sat** 9 am - 6 pm  
**Sun** 10 am - 5 pm  
405 Main St.,  
Westcliffe  
719-783-9266

**Your local option for healthy food!**

We carry:

- Local Produce
- Local Meats
- Local Dairy & Cheeses
- Supplements
- Personal Care items

We also do special order requests for hard-to-find items!

**Come see us today!**



**Eagle Edge Construction LLC**  
Honesty is Everything

**Ronnie Miller**

Custom Homes  
General Construction  
Framing, Siding  
Metal Roofing & Decks

**719-239-0300**  
eagleedgeconstruction@yodermail.net



**Lisa Kidwell**  
Owner/Contractor

- ♦ Deck Restoration ♦ New Deck Construction
- ♦ Log Home Restoration ♦ Custom & Fine Carpentry
- ♦ Interior/Exterior Painting ♦ Hardwood Floor Installation
- ♦ Hardwood Floor Restoration ♦ Custom Barn Doors
- ♦ Project Management ♦ Consulting

Fully Insured ♦ Complimentary On-Site Consultation

**720.309.4262** ♦ **sapiahwoodworks@gmail.com**



**Arkansas Valley Flywheelers**

**SILVER CLIFF TRACTOR PULL**



**Saturday, June 21st & Sunday, June 22nd**  
**Starting at:**  
**11:00 on Saturday,**  
**10:00 on Sunday**  
**at the Silver Cliff Park**  
**Spectators are free!**  
Registration for pullers is 8:00 to 10:00 on Saturday, 8:00 to 9:00 on Sunday.



There are 6 different weight classes ranging from 0 to 7501 and up.  
Tractors can be as new as 1990 with a maximum of 100 hp.

Please visit our website for entry fees and details:  
**avflywheelers.com**

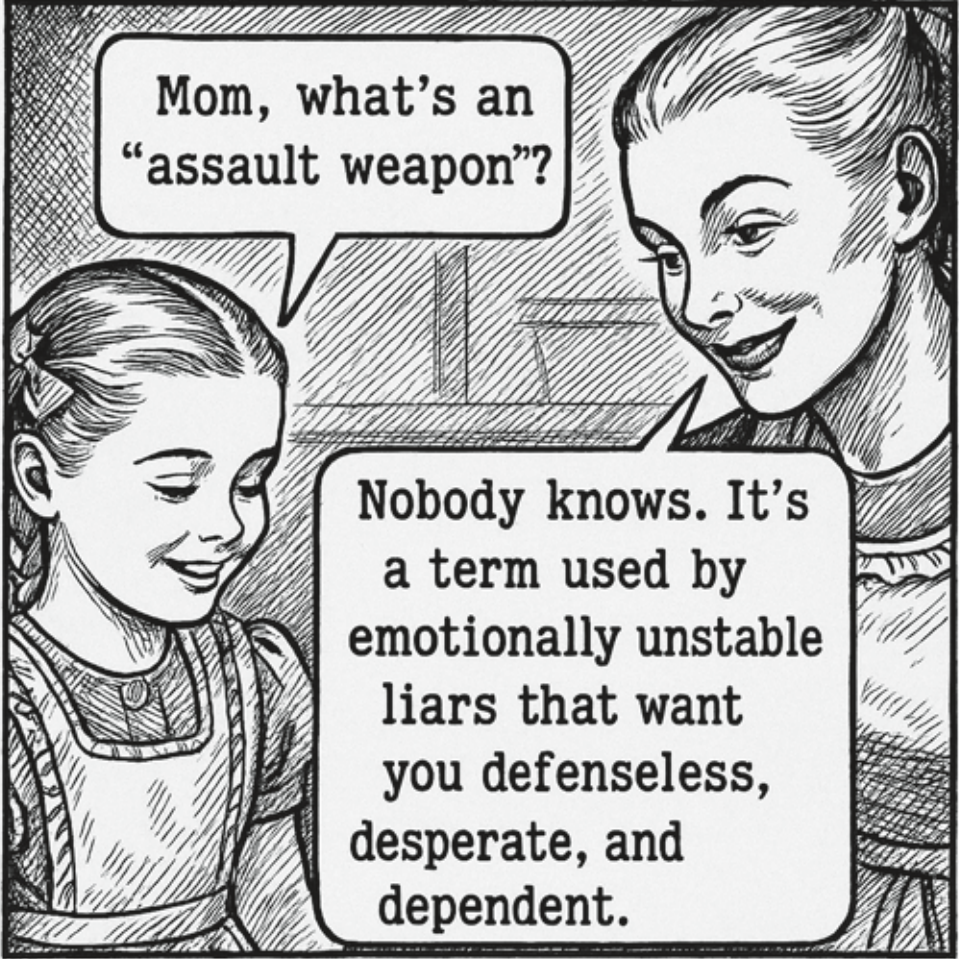


# How We Get to “We

NY Daily News writer, Gersh Kuntzman on firing an AR 15: It's horrifying, menacing and very, very loud. It felt like a bazooka and sounded like a cannon. The recoil bruised my shoulder. It gave me temporary PTSD.



8 year-old girl: That was fun!



I PUT MY SYMPTOMS INTO WEBMD



IT TOLD ME I NEEDED TO BUY A 50 CAL.

WHAT DOES A GOVERNMENT DO ONCE IT HAS DISARMED ITS CITIZENS?



WHATEVER IT WANTS.

NO POLITICIAN WHO SUPPORTS GUN CONTROL SHOULD GET ARMED PROTECTION PAID FOR BY THOSE THEY ARE TRYING TO DISARM.

We <sup>\*\*</sup> THE SECOND

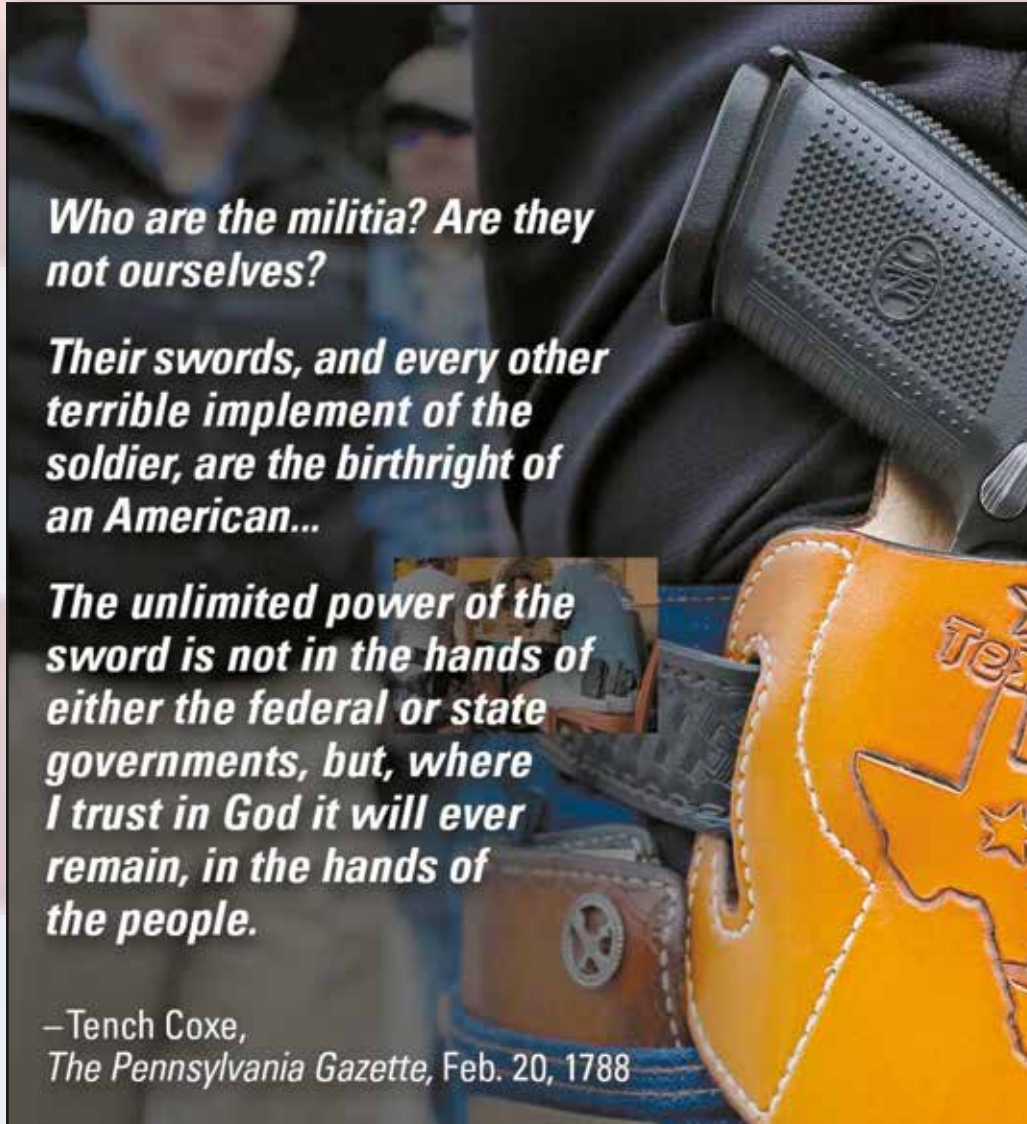


Who are the militia? Are they not ourselves?

Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birthright of an American...

The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people.

—Tench Coxe, The Pennsylvania Gazette, Feb. 20, 1788





# E WILL NOT COMPLY”

DRONE WARS ARE HERE TO STAY



TRAIN YOURSELVES WITH SPORTING CLAY

“What day is it?” asked Pooh



“It’s the day we start welding on the dozer and filling in the panels with cement”

“That’s my favorite day” said Pooh



SINCE WHEN IS THIS MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN THIS?



END THE RIDICULOUS BEAUTY STANDARDS SET BY GLOBALIST MEDIA

REAL MAGAZINES HAVE CURVES!



While we wait for the Cops, have a seat and I’ll tell you all about Jesus.

Christmas night, 1776.

George Washington crosses the Delaware River to kill government officials in their sleep bc they taxed his tea at 3%.





ERNMENT  
E GUNS

REAL INDIAN  
D KNOW BETTER





You Really Have To Ask Why Conservatives Own Guns?

Because Liberals Block Freeways, Burn Cities, Throw Molotov Cocktails, Loot, Turn Over Cop Cars,

And Think This Behavior Is Socially Acceptable



WHY DON’T YOU FASCISTS JUST OBEY EVERYTHING THE GOVERNMENT MANDATES FOR YOU!

Facts, not opinion... not bias... just... FACTS.

FOR THE EXTREMELY SLOW LEARNERS

1911... Turkey disarms its citizens... Shortly thereafter 1.5 million Armenians are murdered.

1929... Russia disarms its citizens... Over the next 24 years... 20 million Russians are murdered.

1935... China disarms its citizens... Between 1948 and 1952... 20 millin Chinese are murdered.

1938... Germany disarms its citizens... Over the next seven years... 6 million Jews are murdered.

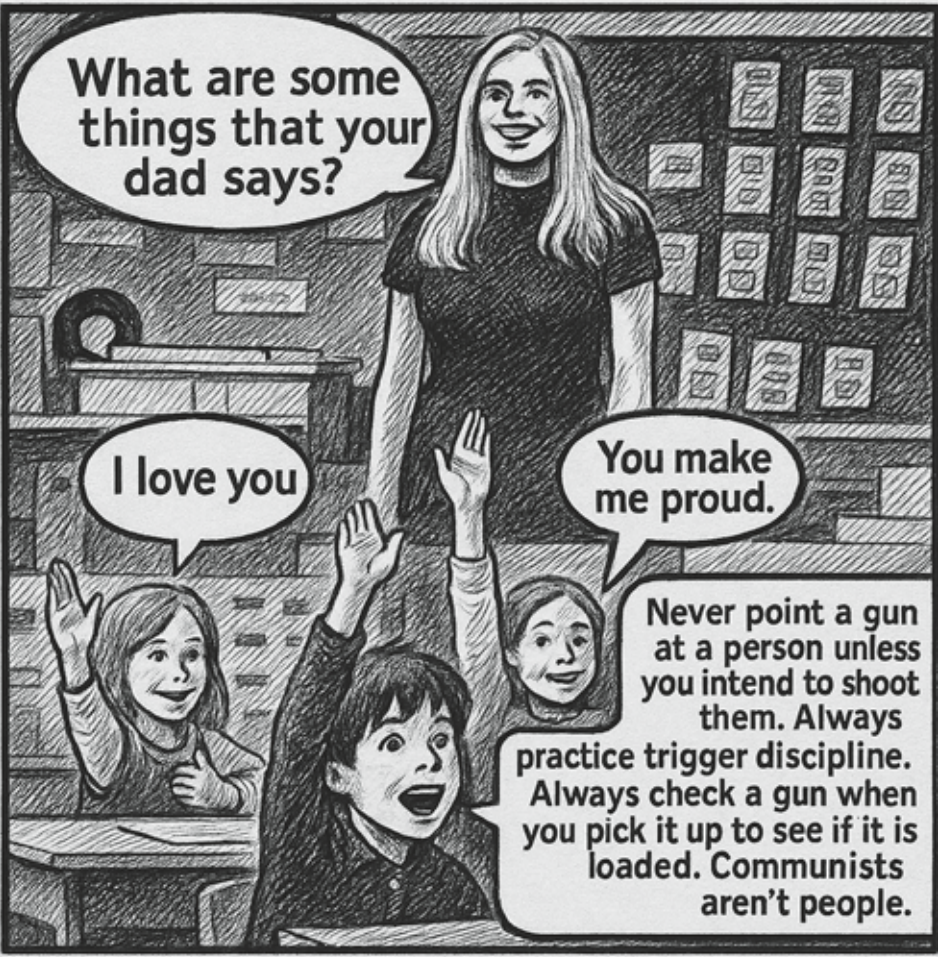
1956... Cambodia disarms its citizens... 1975-1977... One million people were murdered.

1964... Guatemala disarms its citizens.... Then goes on to murder 100,000 Mayans.

1970... Uganda disarms its citizens... Over the next decade.... 300,000 Christians were murdered.

2012... Venezuela disarmed its citizens... Right now we are seeing the result.

The Left works tirelessly to disarm American Citizens... Why would they want to do that???.....



What are some things that your dad says?

I love you

You make me proud.

Never point a gun at a person unless you intend to shoot them. Always practice trigger discipline. Always check a gun when you pick it up to see if it is loaded. Communists aren’t people.

Layout by Katherine Brenchley





### Nuke Alert!

Are you ready?

The Electron Wizard can help you today with an array of monitoring devices so you're in the know.

615 Main Street Unit B Westcliffe, CO 81252 719-431-9442

Ask for a 10% discount with this coupon!

## FINNEY DRILLING & EXCAVATING INC.

"We take the time to do the job right"

Larry & Cathy Finney, Owners • Fourth Generation Driller

Water Wells • Septic Systems • Foundation Excavating

Well & Septic Permit Applications • Free On-Site Planning & Estimates

Friendly Service • Licensed #1358 • Bonded • Insured • Competitive Pricing

719-275-9525 • larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com • Cañon City

Contractor License #ICNON153778

## Old Country CONSTRUCTION LLC

Westcliffe, Colorado

CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE TRADESPERSON

## New Homes Additions Polebarns Garages

# 719.458.4184

# SPRAY FOAM INSULATION

1812 6th Trail, Cotopaxi, CO 81223  
miller.millersroofcoatings@gmail.com

## 719-239-4739

## Boneyard Electric, LLC

Steven Hardin Owner

719-371-1221

boneyardelectric@gmail.com

License No. ME.3001843

Industrial • Residential Commercial

|    |   |   |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | S | N | I | F  | F | 6  | H | O  | N | E  | Y | 10 | S | A  | T |
| 14 | A | B | N | E  | R | 15 | A | B  | I | D  | E | 16 | W | S  | W |
| 17 | C | A | N | T  | O | 18 | D | I  | G | I  | T | 19 | A | H  | A |
|    |   |   |   | 20 | A | G  | E | 21 | E | H  | F | 22 | A | M  | E |
| 24 | C | P | U | 25 | E | O  | S | 26 | T | I  | P | P  | I | N  | G |
| 31 | H | A | P | P  | Y | N  | E | W  | Y | E  | A | R  |   |    |   |
| 34 | E | N | S | U  | E |    |   | 35 | L | A  | N | D  | S | 36 | M |
| 39 | E | D | E | N  |   |    |   | 40 | F | R  | I |    |   | 41 | T |
| 42 | P | A | T |    |   | 43 | S | L  | I | N  | G | 44 | U | L  | C |
|    |   |   |   | 46 | C | R  | O | S  | S | H  | A | T  | C | H  | E |
| 48 | O | S | T | R  | I | C  | H |    |   | 51 | T | U  | E | 52 | O |
| 53 | R | U | B | Y  |   |    |   | 54 | A | N  | T |    |   | 56 | G |
| 58 | A | G | O |    |   | 59 | F | L  | E | A  | S | 60 | S | A  | L |
| 65 | T | A | N |    |   | 66 | D | E  | S | K  | S | 67 | I | S  | A |
| 68 | E | R | E |    |   | 69 | A | S  | S | E  | T | 70 | L | O  | D |

## Trump's DOJ Declares Most Colorado Counties and Several Cities as 'Sanctuary Jurisdictions'

by Chuck Murphy, Colorado Public Radio

The Trump administration declared the state of Colorado, most of the state's counties and several cities as immigrant sanctuary jurisdictions Thursday — the next step in a long-running dispute that will likely be settled in court.

The move, required by a presidential executive order issued 30 days ago, now puts into motion a review process that could lead to the withdrawal of federal funds to the state as well as counties and local governments listed in Thursday's declaration. Court challenges to the designations are all but certain.

The lines of the dispute are already pretty clear. The administration argues that state and local governments are required to aid the federal government in enforcing civil immigration laws. The state and local governments argue that they have no role in enforcing civil federal laws and are responsible solely for not preventing immigration agents from doing their jobs in public places.

For example, Colorado prohibits local jurisdictions from holding inmates in jails beyond their sentences or after they post bail, but does not prohibit them from letting immigration agents know when an inmate is going to be released. It then becomes the responsibility of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to be there at the time of release to take

into custody immigrants who are suspected to be in the U.S. illegally. ICE complains that they don't have the resources to respond to all the notifications.

Local authorities also provide backup to ICE and other federal agencies during enforcement operations, but ICE argues that police, deputies and troopers in other states like Florida, Tennessee and Texas take a much more active role.

Even as he signed legislation last week further restricting local governments from helping federal immigration enforcement, Gov. Jared Polis said the state is not a sanctuary for unlawfully present immigrants.

"Our state and local law enforcement cooperate with federal authorities in identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting criminals, regardless of their immigration status," Polis wrote in a statement after signing the bill, SB 25-276. "But to be clear, state and local law enforcement cannot be commandeered to enforce federal civil immigration laws and taken away from fighting crime."

That's not how the U.S. Department of Justice sees it. It has already sued the state and Denver to force greater cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

"Sanctuary cities protect dangerous criminal aliens from facing consequences and put law enforcement in peril," the department wrote in a statement accompanying the list.

Among the Colorado cities that made the list are Denver, Aurora, Boulder, Fort Collins, Durango and Vail. Counties include Denver, Boulder, Adams, Arapahoe and Eagle among others, but also some counties with large Republican populations like El Paso and Weld. Douglas County is the only metro Denver county not listed.

(Reprinted with Permission. © 2025 Colorado Public Radio. All Rights Reserved.)

Please see: <https://www.cpr.org/2025/05/29/trump-doj-declares-colorado-immigrant-sanctuary-jurisdictions/>

*(Editor/GG: Custer County IS on the list as a sanctuary jurisdiction. HOW DID THAT HAPPEN? This could affect every fed grant we get (or will NOT be getting). We never voted for that. The Commissioners NEVER voted for that. In fact, if I recall correctly, the BOCC passed a Resolution a few years ago stating that Custer County was NOT a sanctuary county. If that is true, time to get that to DHS (maybe through Lauren Boebert). If no Resolution, time to do it, Commissioners.*

*The Commissioners have been informed. They need to fix this ASAP.)*

*(UPDATE: Commissioners Canda and Epp are on it. Contacting our fed reps and Canda even went to the DHS HQ in Colorado to complain.)*

### 1 in 20 WORKERS from page 1

slice of the employment pie than ever before.

It gets worse: during the first four months of 2025, Colorado added 4,400 total jobs—but 1,800 of those (41%) were in state government. Nearly half of all new job growth was on the public payroll. That doesn't happen by accident.

The implications are serious. Fewer private sector wage-earners now support more public employees. The tax base shrinks while the state's dependency burden grows.

Every regulatory expansion, every new office or commission, requires more revenue—driving up the cost

of living for those still trying to run a business, raise a family, or simply afford groceries in this once-proud state.

And what's the payoff for this growing army of bureaucrats? Well, as any driver navigating a pothole-ridden road can tell you, it's probably not better infrastructure. (Road maintenance, it seems, isn't the booming division.)

According to national rankings, Colorado is now the 12th most bureaucratic state in the country based on its ratio of state workers to residents—about one state employee for every 38,787 Coloradans. At this rate, that rank will climb quickly.

The people of Colorado need to ask: Who's footing the bill for this swelling administrative state?

And is the return on that investment making life better—or simply more expensive and less free?

Unless voters demand accountability and realignment, the machine will keep growing—and your paycheck will keep shrinking.

Mike O'Donnell is a small business advocate, nonprofit executive and economic development leader based in Kirk, Colorado. He currently serves as Executive Director of Prairie Rose Development Corp., a mission-driven lender supporting underserved entrepreneurs across the state.

Printed with Permissions.

Please see: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/06/odonnell-one-in-20-workers-is-a-state-employee-whos-footing-the-bill/>

## Construction Solutions of Colorado, LLC

Custom Homes • Remodeling • Concrete • Steel Building Sales and Erection

## AGI SENTINEL

## Construction Solutions of CO, LLC

Casey Nordyke: 719-371-7454  
Corey Nordyke: 719-371-6143  
CONSTSOLUTIONS@ICLOUD.COM  
Authorized Dealer Sentinel Steel Buildings





# Colorado State News



## Survival Rates of Colorado's Reintroduced Wolves are Falling Below a Critical Threshold

Wildlife officials to review 'translocation protocols' after a string of recent deaths

by Chase Woodruff,  
coloradonewsline.com

- June 4, 2025

It's been a week of bad news for supporters of Colorado's voter-mandated efforts to reintroduce gray wolves.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials announced Friday that agents had shot and killed wolf 2405, a yearling male belonging to the first litter of wolf pups born in the state since reintroduction, after a series of livestock attacks in Pitkin County. That news was followed Monday by CPW's announcement of the death of a recently reintroduced wolf, 2507-BC, in northwest Colorado on May 31st.

The latest confirmed death means at least five of the 15 wolves relocated from Canada in January have now died. Two of the animals traveled north into Wyoming, where wolves are largely unprotected under federal and state laws; one was killed by federal officials after livestock attacks, and the other is widely assumed to have been legally hunted — Wyoming wildlife officials have invoked a hunter confidentiality law when asked for details. The causes of death for three wolves found dead in Colorado are all under investigation by CPW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Roughly 20 other adult or yearling gray wolves remain alive and in the wild across the state, and advocates and CPW officials hope that an unknown number of

pups born this spring can soon be confirmed and added to the total.

But for now, with a small population working to establish itself in the early stages of the program, the deaths of one-third of the individuals reintroduced this year have pushed Colorado wolves' survival rate below a critical threshold outlined in CPW's formal reintroduction plan.

Citing research derived from other states' wolf management plans and the federally-led effort to restore wolves to Yellowstone National Park in the 1990s, that plan, adopted by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2023, anticipated that survival rates for reintroduced wolves would range between 70% and 85% in the early years of the program. Early survival rates were listed among the benchmarks CPW said it would use to measure "short-term success."

"A survival rate of less than 70%" for reintroduced wolves within six months of release, the plan says, "would initiate protocol review."

"An unusually large number of losses during the first year of releases or following any modification to established protocols will prompt a full review of management procedures," the document continues. "To assure high initial post-release survival, the project may be suspended at any time until likely cause(s) of problems are identified, and acceptable solutions can be implemented to resolve the problem(s)."



A reintroduced wolf shortly after release in Grand County on December 19, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of CPW

CPW spokesperson Travis Duncan confirmed to *Newsline* Tuesday that the agency would review its procedures, but not until causes of death for the animals are established.

"Out of an abundance of caution, CPW will assess the mortalities of wolves translocated in 2025 to determine if any translocation protocols should be modified," Duncan said. "This cannot occur until final determinations from the USFWS necropsies have been made on the cause of the mortalities."

### Decades-old benchmark

The 70% target in CPW's plan comes from a 2015 technical report by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife assessing that state's wolf population. The Oregon report, in turn, cited three previous studies from wildlife biologists who found that wolf populations can be sustained with mortality rates as high as 25% to 30%. Crossing that threshold, the report's authors wrote, results in an "increased risk of conservation

failure and biological extinction."

The target also roughly aligns with benchmarks set by planners of the first-ever managed wolf reintroduction program, undertaken by the USFWS in and around Yellowstone National Park beginning in 1995. Federal officials projected that the restoration effort would be successful if overall mortality could be limited to 20% — 10% from authorized killings of wolves due to livestock conflicts and another 10% from "natural causes, accidents, or illegal killing."

The 1990s efforts near Yellowstone met or exceeded those expectations, successfully reestablishing sustainable wolf population in two different areas ahead of the predicted schedule of three to five years. In the Yellowstone area, 24 of 31 relocated wolves survived the program's first two calendar years, along with 19 of 23 their pups, for a total mortality rate of 20%. In a parallel effort in central Idaho, wolves fared even better.

Although no pups weborn with- in the first year of reintroduction, 30 of 35 relocated individuals survived the program's first 20 months, a 14% mortality rate.

CPW biologists will have a better understanding of the state of re- introduction once the number of pups born in Colorado in 2025 is confirmed. The agency says it's monitoring four "potential dens" of breeding pairs.

But it's clear now that Colorado's restoration effort is falling short of the "successes" experienced in the northern Rockies in the 1990s: Including three deaths confirmed in 2024, eight of the state's first 25 relocated wolves have died, a mortality rate of 32% — with more than half of calendar year 2025 left to go.

The state's plan calls for winter releases of 10 to 15 wolves annually in the program's first three to five years, with an initial target of a stable population of at least 50 animals within the state. Without a turnaround in survival rates and pup production, however, that timeline could be in jeopardy.

"CPW is developing plans for the coming year's translocation efforts, so Colorado's wolf population will continue to grow, leading toward a self-sustaining population," the agency promised in a press release this week.

Printed with permission:  
Creative Commons License

Please see <https://coloradonewsline.com/2025/06/04/survival-rates-colorado-reintroduced-wolves/>

SANGRE DE CRISTO  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Field Day & Open House!

All are welcome!

Hermit Park  
Saturday June 28th  
Noon until Dark

-Full Service Tire  
-Diesel Repair & Performance  
-Oil Changes & Maintenance

Patrick Wrasse  
719-429-9275  
\*Call for appointment\*  
wrasseandson@gmail.com

Hershberger  
CONSTRUCTION

• Metal Roofing  
• Siding  
• Windows  
• Decks  
• Buildings

719-216-9545

OVER 20 YEARS OF QUALITY AMISH WORKMANSHIP

45 Custer Lane  
Westcliffe, CO

Offered at \$150,000

Loft Bedroom, 3/4 Bath  
636 +/- Square Feet  
Built in 2025

Offered by:  
Keely Smith, Broker

Custer County Realty, Inc.  
902 Main St. - Westcliffe, CO  
(719) 783-9221

880 Main St  
Westcliffe, CO

Offered at \$182,000

Large Commercial Lot  
90ft X 443ft  
Price includes 2 paid  
water & sewer taps  
Start your own business or  
expand your existing business!

Broker Owned and Offered by:  
Bob Senderhauf Owner/Broker

Custer County Realty, Inc.  
902 Main St. - Westcliffe, CO  
(719) 783-9221





# Colorado State News

## Conservative Parent Groups Sue Colorado Over Transgender Rights Law

by Ann Schimke,  
Chalkbeat Colorado

(This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletter at [cube.at/newsletters](https://cube.at/newsletters).)

Four groups that oppose transgender rights sued Colorado on Monday over a new law that enshrines additional protections for transgender people in the state's anti-discrimination law.

The federal lawsuit argues that the law's requirements that schools and other entities use a transgender person's chosen name and pronouns violates the First Amendment by forcing some speakers to say things they find objectionable.

The lawsuit is the second one this month to target Colorado's protections for transgender people, follow-

ing the Trump administration's aggressive efforts to eliminate such protections in schools and elsewhere. On May 9, a conservative-leaning Colorado Springs-area school district sued the state, arguing that Colorado's antidiscrimination law violates students' constitutional rights by allowing transgender youth to play on school sports teams that match their gender identity.

Both lawsuits have implications for how schools treat transgender students, from the names they are called in class to the sports teams they can try out for after school.

Monday's lawsuit takes aim at House Bill 1312, which was signed by Gov. Jared Polis on Friday. The measure, which will impact school dress code, name change, and bullying policies, as well as rules for

birth certificates and marriage licenses, represented a win for supporters of transgender rights. But now it appears parts of the law could be tied up in court for months or years.

The plaintiffs in the case include the Virginia-based conservative group Defending Education, which has challenged race-based initiatives and the teaching of issues related to race and gender in schools. Other plaintiffs include Colorado Parent Advocacy Network, Protect Kids Colorado, a health group called Do No Harm, and Travis Morrell, a Colorado dermatologist. They are represented by the Arlington, Virginia law firm Consovoy McCarthy.

The defendants in the case include Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and the members of Colorado's Civil Rights Division, a group tasked

with investigating alleged violations of the state's anti-discrimination law.

Monday's lawsuit argues that Colorado's new law "punishes those who refuse to speak using chosen names and pronouns, and it does so in order to suppress traditional beliefs about sex and gender."

Lawmakers who supported the legislation said it was about ensuring transgender people can make decisions that affirm their identities, as well as protecting them from discrimination.

Chris Kolker, a Democrat and cosponsor of the bill, said during a recent hearing, "I ask us not to get lost in a fog of fear. Let's return to what this is about — keeping kids safe, preventing bullying, and ensuring our public systems reflect the dignity of all people."

In the lawsuit, Defending

Education said it "regularly litigates on behalf of its members to protect their First Amendment right to refer to individuals using biologically accurate pronouns and/or birth names."

Referring to transgender people by their birth name instead of their chosen name is called deadnaming, and using pronouns other than a person's preferred pronouns is called misgendering.

The lawsuit describes various types of speech that the new Colorado law could restrict and that plaintiffs want to continue using. For example, it notes that members of the Colorado Parent Advocacy Network, one of the plaintiffs, have called Rep. Brianna Titone, a Democratic state representative, "Brian Titone." The group's members have also said Dylan Mulvaney, a popular transgender social

media influencer, "is a man pretending to be a woman. 'She' is actually a 'he' and does not know the experience of American girls."

The law would make it impossible for the group to "effectively exercise their constitutionally protected right to speak in a manner that reflects their sincere belief that sex is immutable and fixed at birth," the lawsuit states.

Ann Schimke is a senior reporter at Chalkbeat, covering early childhood issues and early literacy. Contact Ann at [aschimke@chalkbeat.org](mailto:aschimke@chalkbeat.org).

Chalkbeat is a nonprofit news organization covering public education,

Please see: <https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2025/05/20/state-sued-by-defending-education-over-transgender-rights-law/>



**Senior Discounts up to 20%**

Email: [Sleuth1@sleuth1.com](mailto:Sleuth1@sleuth1.com)

Main St. in Westcliffe next to the laundromat & Anne's Grooming

**Laptops Refurbished, Monitors & other devices!**

*Why drive 125 miles to get ripped off at the geeks and other expensive sales and repair stores?!*

**ELECTRON WIZARD**

**Only Minutes Away!!**

**719-431-9442**

**Computer Repairs / Sales / Cell Phones!**

**SALIDA STOVE AND SPA**

11130 W Hwy 50  
Salida/Poncha Springs

(719) 539-2125 • [salidastove.com](https://salidastove.com)

**INTRODUCING**

**HOTSPRING VIGOR COLD PLUNGE**



*The Vigor cold plunge redefines recovery with an ergonomic design and advanced cooling system that ensures crystal-clear, perfectly chilled water*

**FOR HEIGHTENED MOOD, FOCUS AND MENTAL ACUITY!**

**ALSO FEATURING:**

**DUNDALK LEISURE CRAFT OUTDOOR SAUNAS!**



**THE PERFECT ADDITION FOR YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME!**

**FOR RELAXATION & STRESS RELIEF, HEALTH BENEFITS LIKE DETOXIFICATION, IMPROVED CIRULATION, ETC.**

**Liberty Rocks - 2025**

**Tuesday, June 17th**

**Tony's Steak & Tavern**

**Tony's Mountain Pizza's Full Menu will be offered**

**— All are welcome —**

**Meet & Greet and Dinner begins at 5:30 pm**

**Presentation begins at 6pm**

**Come eat, discuss, engage, and learn**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Guest Speaker: Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith**

**Presenting the Sheriff's Annual Report & introducing some of the deputies. Also, County Commissioners and Sheriff Smith will address Custer County being listed on DHS 'sanctuary city' list, and more!**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Proudly sponsored by: Custer Citizens for the Constitution  
Contact: Ann Barthrop (303) 547-4723, [abarthrop@msn.com](mailto:abarthrop@msn.com)  
**Facebook: Liberty Rocks in Custer County**



# ICE Deports 142 Criminal Aliens to Mexico

June 3, 2025

HOUSTON — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement deported 142 criminal aliens from the Houston area to Mexico in the past two weeks who have illegally entered the United States a combined 480 times and been convicted of 473 criminal offenses. Among the criminal aliens deported to Mexico from May 19 to May 30 were eight documented gang members, 11 convicted child predators, and a criminal alien who has illegally entered the U.S. 21 times.

“Unfortunately, this is not an anomaly,” said ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Houston Field Office Director Bret Bradford. “For the past few years, there was virtually no deterrent to illegally entering the country. As a result, millions of illegal aliens poured into the country including violent criminal aliens, child predators, transnational gang members and foreign fugitives. Many of these dangerous criminal aliens went on to prey on law-abiding residents in local communities right here in Southeast Texas and we’re laser focused on identifying them and removing them from the country before they harm anyone else. This is just a small snapshot of those efforts as it only focuses on deportations to one country over

the course of a two-week period, but it gives you an idea of how big this problem really is.”

Among the more egregious criminal aliens deported by the ICE ERO Houston field office were:

- Inocencio Juan Bustamante-Rodriguez, a 35-year-old criminal alien from Mexico, deported to Mexico May 28, who has illegally entered the U.S. 16 times and been convicted of illegal entry four times and illegal reentry twice.
- Luis Angel Garcia-Contreras, a 40-year-old criminal alien from Mexico and documented Surenos 13 gang member, deported to Mexico May 29, who has illegally entered the U.S. 21 times and been convicted of illegal entry four times.
- Cesar Daniel Lobato Perez, a 24-year-old criminal alien from Mexico, deported to Mexico May 28, who has been convicted of arson, aggravated assault causing bodily injury and driving while intoxicated.
- Elias Magana Aguilar, a 48-year-old criminal alien from Mexico, deported to Mexico May 28, who has illegally entered the U.S. six times and been convicted of trespassing, deadly conduct and two DWIs.
- Marco Antonio Salazar-Rojas,

a 25-year-old criminal alien from Mexico, deported to Mexico May 29, who has illegally entered the U.S. 12 times and been convicted of human smuggling and possession of illicit narcotics.

- Jose Antonio Mauricio-Rodriquez, a 32-year-old criminal alien and documented Paisas gang member, deported to Mexico May 27, who has illegally entered the U.S. 11 times and been convicted of assault with a deadly weapon, domestic violence, failure to provide an ID to law enforcement, failure to report to his parole officer, and illegal reentry twice.
- Benito Charqueno Zavala, a 60-year-old criminal alien from Mexico and convicted child predator, deported to Mexico May 21, who has been convicted of continuous sexual abuse of a child.
- Johnny Urbina Carillo, a 37-year-old criminal alien from Mexico and convicted child predator, deported to Mexico May 20, who has illegally entered the U.S. twice and been convicted of sexually exploiting a minor, cocaine possession and illegal reentry.
- Jorge Arturo Silva-Solano, a 35-year-old criminal alien from Mexico, who was deported to Mexico May 19 and has illegally

entered the U.S. 11 times and been convicted three times for criminal mischief and illegal reentry, twice for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and once for DWI, trespassing, illegal entry, failure to provide an ID to law enforcement, public intoxication and failure to appear.

- Alejandro Aguilar Vazquez, a 45-year-old criminal alien from Mexico, deported to Mexico May 19, who has illegally entered the U.S. 19 times and been convicted three times of cruelty towards a child and DWI, and once for filing a false report and illegal entry.

Among the crimes that the deported aliens have been convicted of were:

- 11 convictions for child sex offenses.
- 76 convictions for DWI.
- 30 convictions for burglary, larceny or theft-related offenses.
- 21 convictions for weapons offenses.
- 43 aggravated assault, domestic violence-related convictions.
- 48 drug trafficking or drug possession-related convictions.
- 22 convictions for human trafficking or human smuggling.
- 99 convictions for illegal entry or illegal reentry.
- 26 convictions for resisting

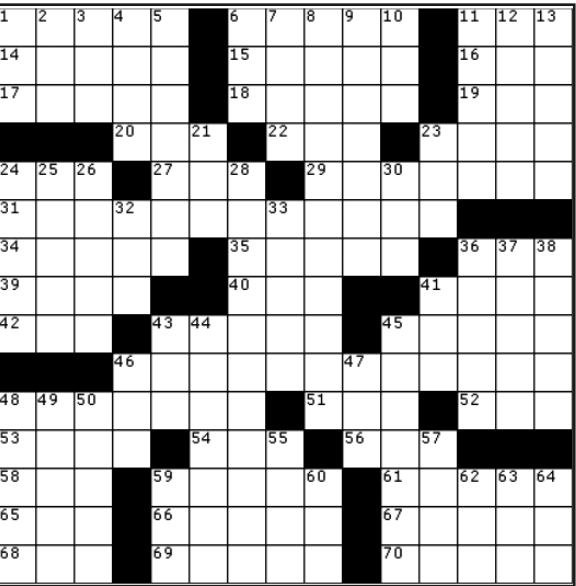
- arrest, obstruction, and evading arrest-related offenses.
- 14 convictions for fraud or extortion-related offenses.
- 10 convictions for trespassing or criminal mischief.
- 3 convictions for property crime offenses.
- 4 convictions for hit-and-run.
- 3 convictions for animal cruelty.
- 3 convictions for child cruelty.
- 1 conviction for engaging in organized crime.
- 1 conviction for money laundering.
- 1 conviction for making terroristic threats.
- 54 miscellaneous criminal offenses (public order crimes, public intoxication, etc.).

For more news and information on ICE’s efforts to enforce our nation’s immigration laws in Texas follow us on X at @EROHouston.

For additional videos and photos of ICE arrests, deportations and operations visit us at our DVIDS page at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/ICE>.

*(Editor/GG: Biden and the Dems let these crims in without vetting them to kill, rape, rob us. The didn’t care. Now Trump is cleaning up the mess after their reign of terror.)*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**  
1 Smell  
6 A land flowing with milk and \_\_\_\_  
11 Rested  
14 Lil' \_\_\_\_ (cartoon character)  
15 Remain  
16 West southwest  
17 Long poem division  
18 Toe  
19 Expression of surprise  
20 Grow older  
22 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)  
23 Last word of a prayer  
24 Computer brain  
27 Goddess  
29 Tilting  
31 Timely greeting  
34 Result  
35 Estates  
36 Car speed  
39 Eve’s garden  
40 Day of the week (abbr.)  
41 Tropical edible root  
42 Dab  
43 David’s weapon  
45 Stomache sore

- 46 Shaded with lines  
48 Head hiding bird  
51 Day of the wk.  
52 Single  
53 Red gem  
54 Picnic visitor  
56 Gross nat’l product (abbr.)  
58 Gone by  
59 Ankle biting insects  
61 Mexican condiment  
65 Convert into leather  
66 Writing tables  
67 Son of Abraham  
68 Bard’s before  
69 Property  
70 Beaver’s house

- DOWN**  
1 Pouch  
2 BB association  
3 Where Mary & Joseph didn’t stay  
4 Greek cheese  
5 On top of a frog’s head  
6 Owned  
7 Off-Broadway award  
8 Good night (2 wds.)  
9 Enlightened  
10 Still  
11 Hindu teacher  
12 Wan

- 13 Pluck  
21 Long, long time  
23 Spr. month  
24 Baby bird’s comment  
25 Chinese bear  
26 Fuming  
28 Greediness  
30 Old-fashioned Dads  
32 Play on words  
33 Alerts  
36 Masculine  
37 Clean feathers  
38 Swarm  
41 Tender loving care  
43 \_\_\_\_ Lanka  
44 Settings  
45 Knife  
46 Weep  
47 Fall mo.  
48 Speak  
49 \_\_\_\_ and spice  
50 Cut of beef  
55 Grab  
57 El \_\_\_\_ (Texas city)  
59 Food & drug admin.  
60 Fast plane  
62 Child  
63 Droop  
64 Expert  
**Key on page 14**

## Massive Drug Seizure by U.S. Border Patrol

Press Release, June 6, 2025



[Last] Tuesday, a sedan traveling northbound on I-5 in Camp Pendleton, California, carried a deadly mix of drugs hidden throughout the vehicle. A search following a USBP K9 alert revealed packages concealed in the vehicle’s frame rails., rear bumper, and center console.

- 58 packages seized- worth over \$586,000:
- 32 packages of cocaine - 78 lbs.
- 24 packages of meth - 25 lbs.
- 2 packages of fentanyl - 5 lbs.

DEA arrested the driver and charged him with possession with intent to distribute (21USC841).



# The Liberty Tree

## Religion, The Constitution & Culture

### State, National, & World

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

#### The Daily Jot

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

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

### You Count— In the Desert and Today

There is a lot of talk these days about being seen. Facebook, Instagram, X, are all about being seen. If you’ve ever wondered whether God really sees you, take a walk through the book of Numbers—yes, Numbers. Buried in what seems like a divine spreadsheet is a profound truth: in God’s economy, every person counts. Literally. In Numbers 1:1–4:20, God commands Moses to take a census of the Israelite men, tribe by tribe, name by name. It’s not just head-counting—it’s head-lifting. The Hebrew word for census, se’u et rosh, means “lift the head.” When God counts His people, He’s recognizing faces, destinies, and callings. Every person matters. Every place, including yours, has a purpose.

God’s census included the Levites, who were counted separately and given the sacred task of ministering around the Tabernacle. Their inheritance wasn’t land—it was the privilege of proximity to God. The rest of Israel camped in order around the Tabernacle, and interestingly, those positions later reflected the tribal territories in the Promised Land. Judah—Messiah’s tribe—camped to the east, and their inheritance later centered on Jerusalem. But here’s the twist: the priestly role wasn’t always reserved for the Levites. Originally, God set apart the firstborn of every family on the night of the Passover, when the blood on the doorposts spared them from death. The firstborns were His—redeemed by the blood of a lamb.

Everything changed after the Golden Calf. When Moses descended Sinai and found Israel worshiping an idol, he drew a line: “Whoever is for the Lord, come to me.” The Levites stepped up. Because of their faithfulness, God transferred the priestly role from the firstborns to the tribe of Levi. To make that transfer legal and symbolic, each firstborn had to be redeemed with five shekels of silver—effectively a spiritual buyout. Now fast-forward to Luke 2:22-40. Mary and Joseph bring baby Yeshua (Jesus) to the Temple. This wasn’t His circumcision. This was the *Pidyon HaBen*— (Hebrew: פדיון הבן) the redemption of the firstborn, 31 days after his birth. A Mitzvah. As the firstborn son of Mary (from Judah, not Levi), Jesus had to be redeemed. At that ceremony, the Levites would be in attendance to “redeem Him,” according to the terms in the Mosaic covenant.

It’s a moment thick with irony. Levite priests handled the ceremonial redemption of the baby Jesus, and decades later, Levite priests were ultimately responsible for offering up Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins, making Him our Redeemer. But through that sacrifice, Jesus became our true High Priest and Redeemer—not with silver, but with His own blood. And still, that census principle remains: God lifts the heads of His people. You’re not lost in the wilderness or buried in a divine spreadsheet. You’re known. Isaiah 43:1 says, “But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.’” So, lift up your head. The Lord our God sees you. Know that you count.

Bill Wilson  
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

## Crime Rates of Illegal Migrants Underreported

by John R. Lott, Jr.  
RealClearWire.com

Democrats actively oppose the Trump administration’s efforts to arrest and deport illegal immigrants, despite the administration’s focus on those with criminal histories.

To support their opposition, Democrats frequently claim, almost as an article of faith, that illegal immigrants are less prone to commit crime. “The crime rate among immigrants is far lower than the crime rate among native-born Americans,” New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler asserted confidently. “So the whole issue is wrong.”

“Immigrants commit crimes in this country at a rate lower than natural-born citizens,” added Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy. “So, if you want a safe town or a safe neighborhood, you are better off if you have immigrants.”

Speaking on the Senate floor last year, Murphy added, “Whether you choose to want to believe the facts or not, that is not my decision, it’s your decision, but...but it is the truth.”

This tenet is incessantly parroted by the legacy news media. Sample headline, this one from ABC News: “No, migrants are not driving a surge in violent crime as Trump claims.” ABC asserted that crime in this country is declining despite an influx of illegal immigrants.

This barrage has achieved its intended goal: A McLaughlin & Associates survey commissioned by the Crime Prevention Research Center on April 29, 2025, reveals that 41.6% of voters believe illegal immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than U.S. citizens, compared to 33.3% who think otherwise.

Like most issues, U.S. public opinion on this question has a demographic and partisan component. Only men, Republicans, conservatives, whites, and those aged 41 to 55 believe illegal immigrants commit more crimes. The majority of young voters (18-29), Democrats, liberals, and African Americans most strongly assert that illegal immigrants commit fewer crimes.

But is this “the truth”? Are these “the facts”?

The data suggests that the answer is pretty clearly “no.”

These claims usually conflate legal and illegal immigrants. Legal immigrants tend to follow the law, but illegal immigrants are a different story.

As to the claim that crime is falling despite a flood of illegals, it depends on whether one looks at just crimes reported to police (the FBI data) or total crime as measured by the

Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics. Total crime rose markedly in 2021, 2022, and 2023 (the last year it was available). This surge coincided with a massive flood of illegals. The increases shown for total crime during the Biden-Harris administration are by far the largest percentage increases over any other three-year period, more than doubling the previous record.

abiding than the general population. Illegal immigrants are at least 142% more likely to be convicted of a crime than other Arizonans. They also tend to commit more serious crimes and serve 10.5% longer sentences, are more likely to be classified as dangerous, and are 45% more likely to be gang members than U.S. citizens.

Critics like the *Washington Post* cite academic studies asserting illegal

“The increases shown for total crime during the Biden-Harris administration are by far the largest percentage increases over any other three-year period, more than doubling the previous record.”

One big problem is that the government databases are a mess in identifying illegal aliens. You can see this in terms of errors in the NICS background checks that are supposed to stop non-citizens with criminal records from buying guns.

There is more direct data linking illegals to crime. Just last year, the Biden administration admitted that 9% of the so-called “non-detained” illegals who were released into the U.S. had criminal backgrounds (662,566 out of 7.4 million released). The problem is that these were overwhelmingly those who had voluntarily turned themselves in at the border, presumably the ones we should be least concerned about. It doesn’t count the two million “gotaways” we detected crossing the border but failed to apprehend during the Biden administration, nor the unknown millions we never saw coming across the borders. All this also depends on us believing that the Biden administration didn’t undercount these criminal backgrounds. And many countries, such as Venezuela, won’t provide information on the criminal backgrounds of their citizens.

Last December, a similar estimate for New York City indicated that about 7% of the illegals living there were criminals.

A prior Maricopa County Attorney’s Office study revealed that illegal immigrants committed 21.8% of felonies sentenced in Maricopa County Superior Court, over twice their proportion of Arizona’s population. Mexican nationals alone accounted for 13% of inmates in the state prison system.

Earlier work that the Crime Prevention Research Center did for the Arizona County Prosecutor’s Association also found that illegals made up a disproportionate share of the Arizona prison population and that legal immigrants were more law-

immigrants are relatively law-abiding. There are numerous problems with these studies. None of them account for changes in police, arrest, or conviction rates, or imprisonment in explaining crime rates. They look at states like California but ignore the impact on cutting crime rates from laws such as California’s 1994 three-strikes law during the period studied.

They ignore a key issue: Criminals often target those similar to themselves. Illegal immigrants, therefore, are more likely to commit crimes against other illegal immigrants. These crimes often go unreported – for fear of deportation – and as the local population of illegal immigrants grows, underreporting almost certainly increases. While these studies acknowledge that illegal immigrants who are victims hesitate to report crimes, they neglect to adjust their empirical analyses for this factor, particularly when relying on FBI Uniform Crime Reporting data. Notably, the FBI data captures only about 40% of all violent crimes and 30% of all property crimes reported in the National Crime Victimization Survey.

The media’s relentless narrative that illegal immigrants don’t commit crimes has shaped Americans’ perceptions. And these numbers, as bad as they are, likely undercount the number of criminal illegals. Even if some believe undocumented immigrants commit crimes at lower rates, ignoring ICE detainees for convicted undocumented immigrants to prevent their deportation raises doubts about whether they really care about the criminal rate of these illegal immigrants.

This article was originally published by RealClearPolitics and made available via RealClearWire.

Please see: [https://www.realclearwire.com/articles/2025/05/22/crime\\_rates\\_of\\_illegal\\_migrants\\_underreported\\_152825.html](https://www.realclearwire.com/articles/2025/05/22/crime_rates_of_illegal_migrants_underreported_152825.html)



# The Anatomy of a Smile: How to Spot a Fake from the Real Thing

Research led by Michelle Spear, University of Bristol, via *The Conversation*

You’ve probably heard the claim that it takes more muscles to frown than to smile. It’s usually framed as a feel-good reason to turn your frown upside down – less effort, more joy. But anatomically, the numbers don’t quite add up.

We’ve all seen it – the smile that doesn’t quite reach the eyes. From awkward family photos to strained workplace pleasantries, our brains often detect that something is off long before we consciously realize why.

But what is it about a smile that makes it feel sincere — or fake? The answer lies in a surprising blend of facial anatomy, neurology and emotional authenticity.

Not all smiles are created equal, and anatomically speaking, there are at least two distinct kinds: the Duchenne smile, which reflects genuine happiness, and the non-Duchenne smile, which tends to be more social or strategic.

Named after 19th-century French neurologist Guillaume Duchenne de Boulogne, the Duchenne smile activates two key muscle groups. The first group is associated with the corners of the mouth – where, for example, the *risorius* (from the Latin to smile) draws the corners outward and the zygomaticus major muscle lifts them.

The second, and most telling, muscle is the *orbicularis oculi*, which tightens the muscles around the eyes, producing the familiar “crow’s feet” and the gentle narrowing we associate with warmth and delight.

Fake or polite smiles, on the other hand, usually involve only the mouth muscles. The eyes remain wide or indifferent, and the smile appears more mechanical than meaningful – a kind of emotional camouflage.

Both real and fake smiles

depend on cranial nerve VII, also known as the facial nerve, which sends signals from the brain to the muscles of facial expression. However, there’s a key neurological difference: Duchenne smiles tend to be generated by the limbic system, the brain’s emotional core – particularly the *amygdala*, an almond-shaped group of neurons that processes emotional salience.

Non-Duchenne smiles, by contrast, are often under more conscious cortical control, originating in the motor cortex. This divide means that authentic, emotionally driven smiles are involuntary.

You can’t easily will your *orbicularis oculi* to contract convincingly unless you’re genuinely feeling the emotion behind the expression. Even professional actors must tap into real memories or method techniques to produce them convincingly.

## Why Our Brains Notice The Difference

Humans are remarkably good at detecting emotional authenticity. Studies show that even infants as young as ten months can distinguish between real and fake smiles.

Evolutionarily, this ability may have helped us assess trustworthiness, recognize true allies and avoid deception. The fusiform gyrus, a part of the brain involved in facial recognition, works closely with the superior temporal sulcus to decode expressions — helping us gauge intention as much as emotion.

In modern life, our sensitivity to facial nuance continues to matter. Politicians, customer service workers and public figures frequently rely on the social smile to navigate complex interpersonal expectations. But observers – consciously or not – often pick up on these micro-discrepancies.

Fake smiles aren’t

necessarily malicious. In fact, they serve important social functions: smoothing awkward interactions, signaling politeness, defusing conflict and showing deference. They are a vital part of what sociologists call “emotional labor” – managing one’s expressions to meet societal or professional expectations.

But this kind of smiling, when sustained for long periods, can be emotionally exhausting. Studies of emotional labor suggest that being required to smile without genuine feeling – especially in service roles – is associated with increased stress, burnout and even cardiovascular strain.

As we move further into the age of AI, synthetic faces – from chatbots to virtual assistants – are being programmed to replicate human expressions. Yet the challenge remains: how do you fake authenticity? Engineers can program a smile, but without the micro-contractions around the eyes, many of these expressions still seem disingenuous. Our own anatomy sets the gold standard.

So next time you’re trying to decode someone’s expression, don’t just look at the mouth. Watch the eyes. The orbicularis oculi rarely lies.

Michelle Spear, Professor of Anatomy, University of Bristol. She does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organization that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic appointment.

This article is republished from *The Conversation* under a Creative Commons license.

Please see: <https://theconversation.com/the-anatomy-of-a-smile-how-to-spot-a-fake-from-the-real-thing-256481>

# The UK Has More Political Prisoners Than Cuba 12,000 Speech Arrests a Year, 1,000 a Month and 30 a Day

by Daniel Greenfield,  
*FrontPageMag.com*

The British economy continues to struggle under PM Keir Starmer, the military is depleted and a pension crisis is on the horizon, but there is one area where the UK is exceeding expectations.

Starmer’s UK has achieved levels of political prisoners not only resembling but occasionally even outdoing those of Communist dictatorships like Cuba, Venezuela and even China.

Freedom House estimated that Cuba has 2,768 political prisoners, Venezuela has 1,953 political prisoners, and thousands more in China. Starmer’s regime and an enthusiastic police force have easily outdone these backward Communist regimes by arresting over 1,000 people a month for social media posts. The full number of political prisoners in the UK remains unknown, but the high number of arrests suggests that Britain may be able to compete with Cuba.

The 12,000 arrests by 37 forces a year are a record high. Speech arrests more

than doubled from 5,502 in 2017 to over 12,000 since 2022. increasing by 1,000 or more every year. The internet did not fundamentally change since 2017. The UK authorities however have.

*The London Times* recently reported that “British police arrest more than 30 people a day for online posts”. London’s Met Police, who have been at the center of some of the worst speech abuses, maintain a secretive operation monitoring social media leading to almost immediate arrests. The Met Police arrested a staggering 5,332 people in nine years for speech and 1,700 speech arrests in 2023 alone making London into its own speech gulag.

Other forces have tried to duplicate it with their own social media monitoring teams.

After a Muslim terrorist murdered three British girls, a 55-year-old woman was dragged out of her home, arrested and held for 36 hours for “posting inaccurate information” that he was Muslim.

UK POLITICAL PRISONERS  
see page 22

# FYI...

for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.

Office Hours are Tuesday & Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. - noon.

Deadline for classified ad copy is Monday by 4 p.m.

Deadline for display ad copy is noon on Friday the week before the ad is to appear in the paper.

Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to [sdcsentinel@gmail.com](mailto:sdcsentinel@gmail.com)

Please send us information on clubs and organizations, news stories and pictures, and upcoming events.

Please limit Letters to the Editor to 500 words or less. Please include your name, address and phone number.

Garage/Yard sales are printed free. However, verbiage is limited to date, time and address.

Birth, Engagement, Wedding Announcements and Obituaries are also printed FREE OF CHARGE with a 350 word maximum and one photo included.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel · 601 Main Street · Westcliffe Colorado 81252 · 719/783-3360



Thank You for Your Support!



# Subscribe to the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

“The Voice of Conservative Colorado”

Help us Spread the word! Subscribe today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Type: (circle one): Cash Check \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

\$49 Yearly for 81252 zip code · \$59 Yearly for out of 81252 zip code.

Please Mail or bring your payment to:  
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel  
601 Main Street, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252  
719/783/3360

Get the Digital Edition for only \$29 a year!  
Online @ <http://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com/register/>

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3: 20 ESV





# The Second Amendment Corner

1776

# Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



MOLON  
LABE

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

## Most Common AR-15 Malfunctions and Quick Fix Guide

by Scott Witner,  
ammoland.com

The AR-15 platform, known for its reliability and versatility, is popular among shooters for various applications, from sport shooting to home defense. However, like any mechanical system, it is not immune to malfunctions. Whether at the range or in a critical situation, experiencing a malfunction can be frustrating and, at times, dangerous if not handled properly. Understanding the most common issues and knowing how to quickly and effectively clear them is essential for any AR-15 owner.

In this article, we'll explore the most common AR-15 malfunctions, such as failure to feed, failure to eject, and double feeds, along with practical tips on addressing each one. These troubleshooting techniques can help ensure your rifle operates smoothly, reducing downtime and keeping you target focused. Always remember to prioritize safety when diagnosing and clearing any firearm malfunction.

### Safety First

Before diving into specific malfunctions, it's important to emphasize the need for safety. If your AR-15 doesn't fire as expected, remove your finger from the trigger and ensure the firearm is pointed in a safe direction. Avoid attempting to force the weapon to function. Instead, take a moment to assess the situation calmly. With experience, diagnosing and clearing malfunctions will become second nature, but taking it slow and steady is the safest approach for now.

Before we get into the list of the most common malfunctions, check out the following video by Pat McNamara on handling the most common rifle malfunctions. He breaks it down into an easy-to-understand format that everyone can understand.

### Failure to Feed (FTF)

Failure to Feed (FTF) is one of the most common malfunctions encountered by AR-15 users. It occurs when a round from the magazine fails to load into the chamber. This malfunction can happen unexpectedly, whether it's the first shot of the day or

midway through a magazine. The good news is that most failure-to-feed issues are straightforward to diagnose and resolve.

#### Quick Fix:

Tap, Rack, Reassess: Tap the magazine to ensure it's seated, rack the charging handle to chamber a round, and reassess the rifle's readiness to fire. If the problem persists, switch out the magazine and check for worn-out springs or bent feed lips.

Preventative Tip: Regularly inspect your magazines. For reliable performance, consider using trusted options like Magpul Gen 3 PMAGs or D&H metal magazines. Why these? The D&H mags don't just stand up to the challenge; they're built for it, with anti-tilt followers and a gray Teflon finish that withstands temperature changes and environmental challenges like a champ.

As a Marine infantryman, I've carried the M16/M4 across the globe and fired thousands of rounds through them. This experience hasn't just made me a better shooter; it's shown me firsthand how often gear can fail, especially magazines. Most malfunctions? They came down to issues with the mags—worn out from use, bent feed lips, damaged followers, or springs that just couldn't cut it anymore. The fix was usually simple: swap out the faulty magazine. More often than not, that was all it took to get back in action.

### Failure to Eject/Extract (FTE)

Failure to Eject (FTE), also known as a "stovepipe" malfunction, occurs when the empty cartridge case of a fired round fails to exit the chamber and gets stuck, usually protruding from the ejection port. Similarly, a Failure to Extract happens when the bolt successfully extracts the spent casing from the chamber but fails to eject it completely, leaving it trapped in the rifle. Both types of malfunctions prevent the next round from being chambered.

#### Quick Fix:

Immediate Action: Lock the bolt to the rear, drop the magazine, and tilt the rifle to shake out the casing. If stuck, use a cleaning



Photo by Scott Witner

rod to push it out from the muzzle.

Preventative Tip: Regularly clean your bolt carrier group and chamber to prevent carbon buildup. Ensure the extractor and ejector springs are in good condition.

### Failure to Fire (FTF)

Failure to Fire (FTF) occurs when the shooter pulls the trigger, but instead of the expected "bang," there is only a disappointing "click." This malfunction can be caused by various factors, ranging from ammunition issues to mechanical problems within the rifle. This includes rounds with improperly seated bullets, damaged casings, or bad primers.

Understanding the root causes of FTF and how to address them can save time and prevent unnecessary frustration at the range or in a critical situation.

#### Quick Fix:

Eject the round and check the primer for a light or absent strike.

Reload and chamber a new round. If the rifle still doesn't fire, inspect the bolt and firing pin for damage or dirt buildup.

Preventative Tip: Use quality ammunition and keep your rifle clean and lubricated to ensure reliable firing.

### Over-Gassed and Under-Gassed Rifles

Whether your AR-15 is over- or under-gassed, gas system issues can lead to a range of malfunctions that affect your rifle's reliability and performance. Understanding the symptoms and causes of each condition is crucial for diagnosing and resolving related malfunctions effectively.

Over-gassed symptoms: Harsh recoil and failure to eject properly.

Under-gassed symptoms: Failure to lock the bolt back or weak ejection.

#### Quick Fixes:

Over-Gassed: Install an adjustable gas block or use heavier buffers and springs to slow down the cycling.

Under-Gassed: Check gas block alignment and use higher-quality ammunition. You may also need to switch to a lighter buffer and spring.

Preventative Tip: Keep your gas system clean and consider using an adjustable gas block to fine-tune the system for your ammo and shooting conditions.

### Double Feeds

A double feed occurs when two rounds attempt to enter the chamber simultaneously, causing a jam. This usually happens when a live round is stuck behind a previously fired round or its empty casing. Faulty magazines, weak springs, or extractor and ejector failures can cause double feeds.

#### Quick Fix:

Drop the magazine, lock the bolt to the rear, and use your fingers or a tool to remove the obstructing rounds. After clearing the jam, insert a fresh magazine and cycle the bolt.

Preventative Tip: Ensure your magazine springs are strong and avoid overloading your magazines to reduce tension-related failures.

### Bolt Override

A bolt override is a rare but serious malfunction where a live round or spent casing gets stuck above the bolt and below the charging handle. This type of jam can be particularly challenging to clear.

#### Quick Fix:

Drop the magazine, pull the charging handle back, and lock the bolt to the rear. While keeping pressure on the charging handle, strike the butt of the rifle on a hard surface to dislodge the obstruction.

Preventative Tip: Ensure your ejector and extractor are functioning properly and keep your rifle clean to avoid buildup that could lead to a bolt override.

### Stovepipe Malfunction

A stovepipe malfunction, named for how the spent casing sticks vertically out of the ejection port like a stovepipe, occurs when the empty casing fails to fully clear the rifle during ejection. This can disrupt the cycle of operations and prevent the next round from being chambered. Although stovepipes are relatively easy to fix, repeated occurrences can indicate underlying issues that need to be addressed.

#### Quick Fix:

To eject the casing, perform the "tap, rack, reassess" drill. If it's still stuck, manually lock the bolt to the rear and clear the obstruction.

Preventative Tip: Keep your rifle clean, especially the bolt carrier group, and ensure your ejector functions correctly. If this happens frequently, consider upgrading your ejector spring.

### Conclusion

Experiencing these AR-15 malfunctions can be frustrating, but understanding the most common issues and how to address them will help you become a more proficient and confident shooter. Regular maintenance, proper cleaning, and using quality components are key to minimizing these malfunctions.

From failure to feed to stovepipe malfunctions, each issue has specific causes and solutions. By familiarizing yourself with these troubleshooting techniques, you can quickly diagnose and clear malfunctions, ensuring your rifle remains functional.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/05/most-common-ar-15-malfunctions-and-quick-fix-guide/>

**WET MOUNTAIN STORAGE**  
115 C.R. #241, WESTCLIFFE, CO  
FOR ALL YOUR STORAGE NEEDS

**Fully Fenced, Automatic Gate & Video Surveillance**

|            |       |            |       |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 5x10       | 10x10 | 10x15      | 10x20 |
| 8x20 Conex | 10x30 | 8x40 Conex |       |
| RV Storage |       |            |       |

Office at 300 Main Street• Westcliffe  
custompropertyservices@yahoo.com  
719-783-9321



**PREMIER**  
PEST CONTROL  
WESTCLIFFE, CO

719-371-7404  
PPC16@PRIVATEGARDEN.ORG

Call to schedule: inspections, estimates, professional  
pest management, residential, commercial,  
licensed and insured

*Need a ride? Call*  
**Randy CAB**

Owner/Driver  
Randy Schiro  
719-210-5908  
randolf.schiro@icloud.com  
*Licensed & Insured*



# Supreme Court Refuses to Hear AR-15 and Magazine Ban

by John Crump, [ammoland.com](http://ammoland.com)

The Supreme Court of the United States refused to hear a case challenging Maryland’s “assault weapons” ban and a case challenging Rhode Island’s “large capacity” magazine ban, but showed openness to take an “assault weapons” and “large capacity” magazine ban challenge in the future.

The Justices voted three to six not to take the cases, with Associate Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Neil Gorsuch voting to grant the writ of certiorari. Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh voted against taking either case but predicted that the High Court would take up the issues in another case within the subsequent two sessions.

*Snope v. Brown* challenged the State’s “assault weapons” ban. The Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled against the challenger, claiming that the Second Amendment does not protect firearms such as AR-15s.

In a dissenting opinion regarding the denial of cert, Justice Thomas took issue with the appeals court’s opinion that AR-15s are not protected arms. He highlighted that the AR-15 is in common use. The Supreme Court’s *Heller* decision held that arms that are in common use cannot be banned.

The dissent reads: “This case primarily concerns Maryland’s ban on the AR-15, a semi-automatic rifle. Americans today possess an estimated 20 to 30 million AR-15s. And AR-15s are legal in 41 of the 50 States, meaning

that the States such as Maryland that prohibit AR-15s are something of an outlier. See *Staples v. United States*, 511 U. S. 600, 612 (1994) (stating that AR-15s’ traditionally have been widely as lawful possessions’).”

Justice Thomas also called out the Fourth Circuit for flipping the burden of step two of the *Bruen* test standard onto the plaintiffs. Under the *Bruen* test, once the plaintiffs show that their conduct is protected by the plain text of the Second Amendment, the burden falls to the states to show through historical analogues that the law is consistent with the nation’s history and tradition of firearms regulations. Instead of following the guidelines, the lower Court instructed the plaintiffs to provide examples from the founding era that demonstrated the unconstitutionality of “assault weapons” bans, which is an almost impossible task.

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) filed the *Snope* case and stated that the Supreme Court erred in not granting cert in the gun rights suit.

The organization highlighted that even though Justice Kavanaugh’s insinuation that the Court will take up one of the other “assault weapons” ban cases working their way through the courts could be seen as good news, it doesn’t help the millions of Americans affected by such constitutionally dubious bans.

“The Supreme Court’s decision to deny cert in *Snope v. Brown* is an egregious error that sidesteps addressing an important issue which requires the Court’s intervention.

Millions of Americans continue to be disenfranchised from exercising their complete Second Amendment rights by virtue of these categorical bans. While Justice Kavanaugh’s statement insinuates the Court may hear one of the many other challenges percolating in the lower courts, as Justice Thomas points out, their input is of little value as they continue to distort the Supreme Court’s Second Amendment precedents. SAF will continue to aggressively litigate its seven other challenges to bans on “assault weapons” and spare no resource to ensure the right to keep and bear arms is not continued to be treated as ‘a second-class right.’”

*Ocean State Tactical v. Rhode Island* was a challenge to the State’s ban on magazines holding more than ten rounds. The State calls their magazines “large” capacity, whereas most in the gun community consider these magazines “standard” capacity, since these are the size magazines shipped with firearms. Since the State requires magazines smaller than the standard size, it would be more accurate to refer to the size of the magazines that are legal by the State as “low” capacity.

With Justice Gorsuch’s comments, it seems like only a matter of time before the Supreme Court takes up both an “assault weapons” ban and a “large” capacity magazine case. Many cases working their way through the lower courts cover both issues in a single case.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/06/supreme-court-refuses-to-hear-ar-15-and-magazine-ban-cases/>

# 2A Group Praises Seattle Armed Citizen Who Intervened in Shooting

by Cam Edwards, [BearingArms.com](http://BearingArms.com)

A shooting in Seattle on Wednesday night left two teenagers with serious injuries, but the head of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (where, for the record, I serve as a volunteer and unpaid board member) says the violence could have been much worse were it not for the intervention of an armed citizen.

The shooting took place in downtown Seattle around 10 p.m., just outside the luxury Four Seasons hotel. When authorities arrived on scene they found three individuals injured, including the alleged assailant.

Investigators said the shootings stemmed from an argument between three people, and during that argument, one man shot two victims. That’s when a bystander with a concealed weapons permit shot the gunman, according to SPD. Police said the bystander was not involved in the argument.

Both victims, boys 17 and 18 years old, had serious injuries. The suspect -- a young man -- was critically injured. All three were taken to Harborview, where the suspect later died, police and fire officials reported. On Thursday morning, one victim had been discharged and the other remained in the hospital in satisfactory condition, hospital spokesperson Susan Gregg said.

In a press release, CCRK-BA Chairman Alan Gottlieb noted that Washington

state lawmakers have imposed a large number of restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms, while local politicians in Seattle have engaged in policing “reforms” that have left the police department decimated, with hundreds of positions either unfilled or unfunded.

“In a city where political policies have resulted in reduced police manpower while placing limits on the officers who remain,” he continued, “it should come as no surprise that an increasing number of law-abiding citizens are now licensed to carry firearms for their personal protection. Seattle and King County have the highest number of active licenses of any county in the state. Coincidentally, just a few blocks away at about the same time, there was a fatal stabbing, which says a lot about crime in the city.

The armed Samaritan remained on the scene and has reportedly cooperated with the investigation, according to published reports.

“What is also not surprising,” Gottlieb observed, “is the dead silence from the state’s gun prohibition lobby, which is headquartered in Seattle. There has been nary a peep, which seems to have become customary whenever an armed citizen takes action in defense of himself or others, anywhere in the country.

I suppose there’s an argument that, given the large

number of defensive gun uses every year, it’s impossible for the gun control lobby to respond to each and every one of them. But that doesn’t change the fact that the anti-gunners ignore every armed citizen who saves lives by exercising their Second Amendment rights; a luxury not granted to Second Amendment activists, who are expected to explain why various anti-gun measures shouldn’t be imposed after high-profile shooting incidents.

Seattle (and Washington State) already has a lot of those laws in place: waiting periods, “assault weapon” and magazine bans, universal background checks, and soon a “permit-to-purchase” mandate that will require a permission slip and proof of training to simply keep a gun in the home. Meanwhile, 16-year-olds can easily get ahold of a firearm so long as they don’t mind breaking the law to do so.

Washington’s gun laws have been an abject failure when it comes to preventing violent crime. Thankfully they haven’t stopped every Washingtonian from exercising their Second Amendment rights, and there are still armed citizens out there who are willing to protect themselves and others when lives are on the line.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2025/05/30/2a-group-praises-seattle-armed-citizen-who-intervened-in-shooting-n1228759>



Your Local Plumbing & Heating Service Company

**719-783-0379**

[pinonplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:pinonplumbing@gmail.com)

Residential & Commercial Service and Installs, Furnaces, Boilers, Propane Heaters, Tanked & Tankless Water Heaters, Main Water & Sewer Line Replacements, Water & Gas Lines, Remodels & New Construction

**Jeff Ray - Owner - Master Plumber**

Providing 34 years of Experience, Knowledge, Reliability & Honesty

**LICENSED & INSURED P.C #2578 / M.P. #189724**

## JARED M. SMITH, DMD

### Advanced Dental Technology

- Same Day Porcelain Crowns, Bridges, Inlays, Onlays, Veneers
- Dentures, Partials
- Root Canals
- In-Chair Bleaching Available
- Laser Soft Tissue Treatment
- Digital X-Rays & 3D X-Rays



Creating Beautiful Smiles in Colorado

618 Main Street, Cañon City, CO

719-275-0661 [jaredsmithdmd.com](http://jaredsmithdmd.com)



BOULDER TERROR  
from page 1

What unites these horrors is not merely the targeting of Jews or those who dare support Israel’s existence.

It is the perfect distillation of what some call the “red-green alliance”—the unholy marriage of far-left progressivism and violent Islamist extremism. Picture Greta Thunberg sailing to Gaza or those hordes of Columbia students with blue hair and keffiyehs erecting pro-Hamas encampments, and you basically get it.

But the reality is much uglier.

In Boulder, the assailant was not some woke Party for Socialism and Liberation foot soldier as was the case in DC. He was Mohamed Soliman, a 45-year-old Egyptian national who arrived in the U.S. two years ago under the Biden administration’s porous border regime, overstayed his visa, and brought with him a calculated, likely religiously fueled hatred of Jews and Israel.

This is the harvest of Colorado’s woke indulgence.

Governor Jared Polis, without a single Coloradan’s vote, has declared the state a sanctuary for illegal immigrants, defying federal mandates from the Trump administration.

The results are as predictable as they are catastrophic.

First, Denver became a haven for the Venezuelan prison gang Tren de Aragua. Now, Colorado has borne witness to what appears to be its first Islamist terrorist attack against Jews and Israel supporters in decades, at least.

Irony, that cruelest of muses, reached its zenith in the footage of Soliman hurling Molotov cocktails at his victims beneath the rainbow-drenched “progress” flag flapping above the Boulder County Courthouse. Queers for Palestine, meet your champion.

Nor can we absolve Colorado’s political class. State Senator Iman Jodeh, whose career has been a monomaniacal devotion to the

Palestinian cause at the expense of her constituents, has spent years stoking the far-left, pro-Islamist rhetoric that holds the door open for such violence.

Her response to the Boulder attack was a masterclass in moral evasion: “We understand the pain of violence and hatred. Our hearts break seeing it here in Colorado, or anywhere. Hurting innocent people will never bring justice or peace. We must resist hatred with humanity.”

No mention of antisemitism, anti-Israel vitriol, or Islamist extremism. No acknowledgement of the victims, let alone the Holocaust survivor among them.

It was a statement so spineless it might have been drafted by an algorithm programmed to offend no one.

But the rot goes deeper.

Colorado’s progressive policies harm its citizens in two insidious ways.

First, they enable unvetted

jihadists and criminals through sanctuary laws that flout reason and responsibility. Second, they disarm law-abiding Coloradans, stripping them of the means to defend themselves against the very menaces these policies import.

In the Boulder attack footage, a woman’s voice can be heard, anguished: “If only I had my gun, I would do something.”

But in Colorado, a state that prides itself on its progressive credentials, the right to self-defense has been suffocated by unconstitutional gun control laws. Apparently, the most persecuted and marginalized group in history does not deserve the means to protect itself from those who openly call for its annihilation.

Colorado is reaping what it has sown. Its government’s reckless embrace of woke ideology—sanctuary policies, anti-gun fanaticism, and the tacit endorsement of anti-Israel hatred—has endangered its

people and emboldened its enemies.

One can only hope that the incoming federal administration holds this state to account for its wanton negligence.

For now, the flames in Boulder cast a stark light on a truth too many refuse to see: when you fetishize the slogans of “progress,” you invite the savagery that follows.

Ahnaf Kalam, a born-and-raised Denver native, is the digital editor and podcast host at the Middle East Forum. Since 2017, he has been a writer and researcher for the Forum’s Islamist Watch Program, and he writes regularly on issues of counterterrorism, foreign policy, national security, and the Middle East. He holds a B.A. in international studies and political science from the University of Colorado, Denver.

Please see: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/06/kalam-colorados-woke-zealotry-sparks-slaughter-in-boulder/>

UK POLITICAL  
PRISONERS  
from page 19

Allison Pearson, a journalist, had the police show up at her door after she tweeted a criticism of them for posing with members of an Islamist movement. Such incidents have become routine.

And some have led the victims of Starmer’s speech police becoming political prisoners.

One of the most infamous cases is Lucy Connolly, the mother of two children, who had lost her little boy after his hospitalization, and expressed her anger after the brutal Muslim terrorist murders of three little girls at a dance studio. Lucy was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison even while Islamists have been allowed to spout their support for terrorism and genocide.

While organizations like Freedom House and Amnesty International assemble lists of political prisoners in dictatorships, no such lists are being compiled for the

UK since it’s ‘free’ (and since the British government has been one of the largest funders of Amnesty) however, there were 7,734 ‘detentions’ in 2019 suggesting the possibility of a higher number of political prisoners in the UK than in many dictatorships.

Political prisoners in the UK are not limited to those arrested for online social media posts.

Recently a man who burned a Koran outside the Turkish consulate to protest the Islamist dictatorship was locked up, not in Istanbul but in London, for “harassment” against “the religious institution of Islam”. To add insult to injury, the Islamist who stabbed him was let out on bail while he was kept in prison. In the UK, speech is a major crime, stabbing the speaker is a minor one.

At political rallies, a Jewish protester who waved a sign mocking Hezbollah’s leader had his home raided by two police vans looking for “offensive materials” and was accused of stirring up

“racial hatred” by offending “pro-Hezbollah” terrorist supporters. He was charged with “racially or religiously aggravated harassment” and put through an eight month court case before the case was finally dropped. Even an anti-Israel activist was arrested for carrying a sign reading “Stop Israel genocide! Stop Hamas executions!”. He wasn’t charged for the anti-Israel slogan, but for the anti-Hamas one, on the grounds that criticising Hamas was engaging in a “racially and religiously aggravated breach of the peace under the Public Order Act.”

Offending Hamas or Hezbollah is a crime in the UK, supporting terrorists however isn’t.

Such arrests make it even more difficult to begin assembling a full list of political prisoners, but the expansiveness of speech suppression operations in the UK is on par with dictatorships.

While it’s easy to blame the Starmer regime for the transformation of the United Kingdom

into a speech gulag, much as in East Germany, where much of the public was revealed to have been informing on each other, the increase in speech investigations and arrests has been driven in part by a growing population of enthusiastic political informants. Cancel culture in America can get people fired or shunned, but in the United Kingdom it can actually send them to prison.

Over 14,000 “non-crime hate incidents” were reported to UK police forces including someone offended by a classic children’s illustration considered racially insensitive today and a family member “reported for being transphobic after saying that the ‘victim’ was “living out a sexual fantasy”. In a recent case a portrait of Enoch Powell, a British politician who warned about the dangers of unrestricted mass migration, in a store window was reported as a hate incident.

British leftists used to moan about Thatcher and warn of a tyranny that would take away

free speech, but it’s their regime of radicalization and Islamization that is killing free speech. Englishmen had more free speech under even the most tyrannical kings, where men could at least whisper criticisms to each other in the corner of a pub, than they do under PM Starmer.

Crime rose 10% in 2024 and robberies rose 64% in a decade, but the only crime that the Starmer regime and police will prosecute is the crime of speech. The UK is falling behind in everything, but when it comes to political prisoners, it’s catching up to Communist tyrannies.

*(Editor/GG: We were heading down that path with Biden and his merry fascists. The Thought Police. The BIG difference between the UK and the U.S. is the 2nd Amendment, which protects the 1st Amendment. And we are BIG on the 2nd here in Custer County....)*

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/the-uk-has-more-political-prisoners-than-cuba/>



# Market

Your Neighborhood Grocery Store

- Full Service Grocery Store
- Ice
- Blue Rhino Propane
- Firewood
- Hunting / Fishing License

Open 7:00 a.m. • 8:00 p.m.  
7 Days a Week

Visit us online at [LOWESMARKET.COM](https://www.LowesMarket.com)  
or on Facebook at [FACEBOOK.com/LowesSupermarkets](https://www.FACEBOOK.com/LowesSupermarkets)

50 Main Street  
719/783-0550



60#

\$4.26

PALLET PRICE

\$4.03

80#

\$5.68

PALLET PRICE

\$5.38





# Why America Should Never Have Another Pride Month

by John Hawkins,  
Culturcidal, Commentary

When I was growing up, being gay was very stigmatized. If you think kids didn't want to come out to their parents today, it was orders of magnitude worse back then. There also used to be a generalized dislike of gay people in those days. Things have changed a lot since then for gay Americans. I don't agree with it, but gay marriage is legal today. Every group, including gay Americans, has detractors in our country, but gay Americans are a protected class under the law and in society in general. There is a reason people make jokes about the "Alphabet Mafia" coming for you if you say something negative about gay people.

This is where the problem with Pride Month starts to become apparent. If the goal of Pride Month is to get rid of the stigma around being gay and convince our society to be more tolerant of gay Americans, well then, that objective has clearly been achieved. However, no activist group in America ever seems to "declare victory" and say, "We've done what we set out to do and now it's time to move on to other things." There's always too much money, power, and attention at stake. So instead, we also get yet another example of how spot-on Eric Hoffer was when he said:



First something is a great idea, then it becomes a cause, then it becomes a business and finally it becomes a racket.

— Eric Hoffer —

AZ QUOTES

In the case of Pride Month, things have gotten wildly off track. For one thing, we've seen all sorts of other groupsglom onto the whole movement. Deviants like the crossdressing community along with the mentally ill people in the trans community, the narcissists and weirdos who want their own pronouns, and even people who

claim to be asexual have all been lumped in together.

That is an issue because people with personal pronouns, crossdressers, and trans people are just mental cases, deviants, and weirdos who created their own problems and want everyone else in the world to solve them. They're not sympathetic figures other than in the way you hate to see any human being waste their potential in life. The world does not need to change to make life easier for them, they need to change and if they're having a tough time, they have no one to blame but themselves. This is part of the reason it's so insane to have drag queens reading to kids or trying to codify using people's personal pronouns. It's unhealthy and abnormal behavior. It shouldn't be rewarded, encouraged, or normalized in any way, shape, or form.

Additionally, our society has gone beyond the original idea of encouraging tolerance to promote being gay, which is insane. You shouldn't hate someone for being gay but promoting it also shouldn't be encouraged if only because gay people aren't going to be making babies. Yet, our country does more to promote being gay than it does to promote patriotism at this point. We have a handful of patriotic holidays like

promoted) incredibly rare as feeling like you're a different sex than you are? Why are we putting Pride flags in churches? Why are they being painted on roads, only to spur hysterical reactions when someone inevitably spins out on them?

Look at the Biden administration's notorious luggage thief, Sam Brinton, and our unhealthy-looking, mentally ill United States Assistant Secretary for Health, Rachel Levine. Neither of these people belongs anywhere near any kind of position of power or important job. The same goes for this guy:

Department of Defense @DeptofDefense · Jul 2

.@USArmy Maj. Rachel Jones found solace after coming out as a transgender female. Her journey from battling depression & suicidal thoughts to embracing authenticity inspires us all. #WhyWeServe



army.mil  
Living authentically saves ASC Soldier's life  
ROCK ISLAND, Ill. - Coming out as a transgender female saved Maj. Rachel Jones' life. The U.S. Army Sustainment Command Cyber Divisi...

32.2K 4,812 5,758 9.8M

John Hawkins @johnhawkinsrwn · Jul 2

Replying to @DeptofDefense and @USArmy

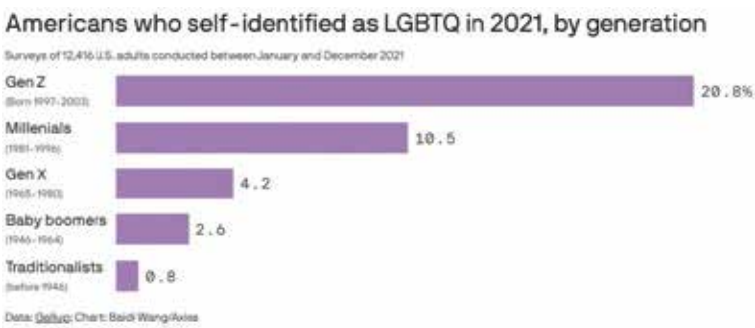
This is so dumb and counterproductive. It discourages the sort of people you want to join the military, encourages the damaged people you don't want to join, and makes everyone else wonder whether our military is still competent.

48 107 2,484 58.4K

It has even gotten to the point now that liberals are absolutely going to the mat to make sure kids are being read gay porn in school. In fact, they consider removing it to be the equivalent of taking "Huckleberry Finn" or "To Kill a Mockingbird" out of schools. They bring this up incessantly in places like Twitter because it's such a big issue for them. Why?

Especially, when all of the recruiting and promotion has obviously had a huge negative impact on kids. Look at the numbers in this graph.

This isn't something normal or natural. Nowhere on earth is 20%



of the population just organically gay. Not even close. But can a society raise its percentage of "gay" citizens through social conditioning? Absolutely. See ancient Greece for great examples of that. There's a lot to admire

who are desperate to be loved and fit in being treated poorly by their peers unless they claim to be some form of "gay," at which point they get extra status and respect? Absolutely. If you don't think that's happening, go talk to some parents of young kids. I've certainly had multiple parents tell me stories that amounted to kids facing significant peer pressure to be gay.

On top of all this, let me say something that a lot of gay people will privately tell you themselves. There are lots of good gay people, but gay culture is disgusting. It's riding around in public parades dressed in S&M gear. It's participating in orgies. It's having unprotected sex with strangers in bathhouses, without having the slightest idea of whether they might have AIDS or monkeypox. There's nothing about it that deserves to be promoted. There's nothing about it that would make the wider culture better if it adopted it.

What it all comes down to is that like most Americans at this point, I am indifferent to people being gay. Saying that a person is gay doesn't make me love or hate them. If it's your thing, God bless you, but it's not my thing. I don't want it thrown in my face or pushed on kids, both of which are constantly happening now in our society. That's a reasonable position and unfortunately, it seems incompatible with the increasingly weird, inappropriate, over-the-top celebration of recruiting children and promoting mental illness that Pride Month in America has become in the last few years.

Please see: <https://www.culturcidal.com/p/why-america-should-have-never-have>



Off Grid



Grid-Tie

**Solar Solutions Ltd.**

"Renewable Energy Systems"

QUALITY - SERVICE - DEPENDABILITY

Custom Design and Installation  
Photovoltaics, Wind, Hybrid & Grid-Tie systems  
Maintenance Program Available

**Serving Custer County  
For 30 Years**

[www.solarsolutions.com](http://www.solarsolutions.com)

**NABCEP  
CERTIFIED**  
PV Installation Professional

Pat Bailey - Owner  
10 Hermit Lane,  
PO Box 554  
Silver Cliff, CO 81252

Ph: 719/783-9666  
Fax: 719/783-2167  
email: [pbailey@solarsolutions.com](mailto:pbailey@solarsolutions.com)

**Coffee and  
Friday Morning's Paper  
Plus Back Issues**





**SANGRE DE CRISTO  
SENTINEL**™  
*The Voice of Conservative Colorado!*



**E-Edition  
\$29 a year. That's it.**

[SangreDeCristoSentinel.com](http://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com)





# Beach **REDI-MIX**

## CONCRETE SUPPLIER & CONCRETE PUMP TRUCK

“THE FOUNDATION OF CUSTER COUNTY”

### PRE-CAST SEPTIC TANKS AVAILABLE 1000 GALLON, 1250 GALLON, AND 1500 GALLON

### PRE-CAST BARRIER BLOCKS DECORATIVE & PLAIN

198 Range View Loop, Westcliffe, CO 81252  
**719.783.3558**  
BeachRediMix-CO.com

 LIKE US ON facebook

## 2nd Amendment March on July 4th

Join us in the Patriots Section  
in the Westcliffe, CO Independence Day Parade



This is the biggest Open Carry 2nd Amendment march in Colorado!!

### Bring your Rifles and Holstered Handguns! It is Time to STAND UP.

Celebrate and Defend our Constitution. Use it or Lose it! March with your fellow Patriots and make a statement that WE still believe in our Constitution and we want it RESTORED in Colorado. You have to SHOW UP to make a statement. Bring the family, bring the kids, bring Grandma, bring your friends. **Stand up for your rights.**

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 about one mile long and takes about 45 minutes.

The parade begins at 10 a.m.

**Firearm Protocol:** Rifles: unloaded, safety on, no detachable magazines inserted in rifle, chamber flag appreciated, **MUST BE SLUNG on shoulder or back.** All rifles welcome. Handguns: Holstered, open carry. **Bring your Trump/MAGA Hats, Signs!**

**NO handling of weapons during the parade.** Questions? Call us at 719-783-3360 or email SDC.sentinel@gmail.com.



GET THE TO-DO'S TO-DONE

CK SERIES

- 28, 35 AND 40 HP ENGINES
- 5 TRANSMISSION CHOICES
- ROPS OR CAB MODELS
- EASY TO Haul

WE DO YOUR DREAMS

**True Value**

Store Hours:  
Monday - Friday 8 am - 6 pm | Saturday 8 am - 2 pm  
635 Shoop Dr., Penrose, CO 81242  
719-784-0123  
[www.truevaluetrailer.com](http://www.truevaluetrailer.com)

## 2nd Annual Silver Cliff Community Park FUN Day

JUNE 21, 2025, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
1011 Butler Street, Silver Cliff



### Silver Cliff Fun Run - 5K @ 8K Feet

Registration 8:30  
click the link or QR  
<https://ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?eid=18998>  
Run Starts at 9:00  
Prizes for the top 3 fastest times.

\$25 Entry



2-MILE WALK  
PARK TO PARK TRAIL HEAD TO THE HISTORIC SILVER CLIFF CEMETERY  
\$10 ENTRY FEE  
REGISTRATION 9:00 - START TIME 9:30  
USE THE SAME REGISTRATION METHODS AS THE RUN  
LEARN SOME HISTORY WHILE AT THE CEMETERY

### \$10.00 to Register for each Event

|                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pickleball Event</li><li>Golf Challenge</li><li>Closest to the Pin</li></ul> \$1/per ball or 12 for \$10<br>Unlimited chances | 11:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First bracket of Cornhole and Horseshoes</li><li>Home Run Derby</li></ul> \$10 for 10 balls - Unlimited chances | 1:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2nd Bracket Cornhole and Horseshoes</li></ul> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Beer Tent, Music & Live Music 12 - 3



Support your Silver Cliff Community Park Improvements grants. Help us replace our playground equipment and build a 4 court Pickleball facility. Give your input, donate or make a pledge to contribute to the matching funds. We appreciate all the community's support.



All proceeds go towards park improvements and future programs.

11:00 am  
**KIDS FREE EVENTS**  
Bounce House  
Kite building kits  
Face Painting  
Other games



\$5.00  
Hot Dog Meal  
(Free for 10 and under)  
\$10.00  
Hamburger Meal

Questions - Call 719-783-2615