

15 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE FOURTH OF JULY

by Tim Brunicardi,
Hocking College

1. We Didn’t Actually Declare Independence on the 4th of July

One of the greatest misconceptions of the 4th of July lies in the name and date. It is widely believed that America declared their independence from Britain on July 4, 1776. However, the official vote actually took place two days before and the “Declaration” was published in papers on July 4th.

2. The Designer of the 50-Star Flag Lived in Lancaster, Ohio

In 1958, a history teacher assigned a class assignment to redesign the national flag as both Alaska and Hawaii neared statehood.

Robert G. Heft, who was 16 at the time, designed a new flag using the old 48-star flag and \$2.87 worth

of blue cloth and white iron-on material. His design earned him a B-minus to which he challenged by sending it to Washington D.C. to be considered by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

According to his obituary, Heft was one of thousands to submit a flag design but he was the only person who actually stitched together a flag and shipped it to D.C.

Once the flag was selected, Heft’s grade was rightfully changed to an A. His design became the official flag in 1960.

3. Americans Will Enjoy 150 Million Hot Dogs During the 4th

According to the National Sausage and Hot Dog Council (NHDSC), Americans are expected to eat 150 million hot dogs over the July 4th holiday. This is part of an estimated

7 billion that are expected to be eaten during the summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

4. Only Two Men Signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776

Charles Thompson and the infamous John Hancock were the only two men who actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The other 54 delegates signed over the course of the next month.

5. There is Something Written on the Back of the Declaration of Independence

... and no, it isn’t a treasure map written in invisible ink.

According to the *History Channel*, a simple message is written upside-down across the bottom of the signed document that

reads, “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776.”

According to the same article, no one knows who wrote this or when, but it was believed to have been added as a label during the years of the Revolutionary War when parchment was frequently rolled up for transport.

6. One Signed Later Recanted the Declaration of Independence

Richard Stockton, a lawyer from New Jersey, became the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to recant his support of the revolution after being captured by the British in November 1776 and thrown in jail. After years of abusive treatment, and his recanting of loyalties, Stockton was released to

FUN FACTS
see page 5

Holiday Events



July 03 -26, Sangres Art Guild ~
“Shadows and Light” Art Show,
July 5th Reception 1- 4 p.m. 3rd
Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69

July 4 @ 7 - 10 a.m. \$
AAW Pancake Breakfast
All Aboard Westcliffe Depot
102 Main St., Westcliffe

July 4 & 5 @ 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
AAW Flea Market, Craft Fair and
Yard Sale,
110 Rosita Ave., Westcliffe

July 4 @ 10 - 11 a.m.
Independence Day Parade on
Westcliffe & Silver Cliff, Main
Streets Sponsored by the American
Legion Post 170. To participate
sign up the morning of the event.
Show up early! (set up west of Conoco
off Hermit Lane with the American
Legion folks. \$20 entry.

July 4 @ 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Custer County CattleWomen 4th
of July Burger Bash @Salty Pine
Pavilion

July 4 @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. FREE
Beckwith Ranch July 4th Festivities

July 4 after dusk
Fireworks Display by “The Mortar
Men” Location (from the Silver
Cliff Water Towers

Saturday, July 5, . FREE
11 a.m. to Noon Sun observance &
Evening Star Party 8:45 - 11:45
p.m on the Bluff in Westcliffe@
Smokey Jack Observatory.

2nd Amendment March on July 4th

Join us in the Patriots Section
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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.

Radio Club
Field Day
Photo Feature
pages 12-13

4-H Club
Petting Zoo
page 10

CCSO Annual
Report
page 14

Blast from
the Past
page 2

BOCC Mtg.
page 3

Bluegrass
Festival
page 5

Christian Camp
Legal Win
page 15

New SIG
P211-GTO
page 22

MIRA CM -8M
Gas Mask
page 21

PATRIOT
ALERT!

The New
Slavery
page 18



And, behold, I come
quickly; and My reward
is with Me, to give
every man according
as his work shall be.
Revelation 22:12 KJV

SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

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of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

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

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Business Directory	page	6-7
Classifieds	page	9
Churches	page	8
Crossword Puzzle	page	17
Events	page	8-9
Legals	page	17
Obituaries	page	11
Business Directory QR (Scan to download)		
website	https://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com	

Blast from the Past

by Sentinel Staff

The first Independence Day Parade sponsored by the *Sentinel* and the So. Colorado Patriots Club was in 2013. That day also marked the first issue of the newly formed conservative newspaper, *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel*. That year was likely the largest Patriot section to date. And the tradition has carried on, every year since then.

The *Sentinel* crew thought it would be fun to share some photos and editor comments from a few more recent parades. Founding Editors Mike Hess and George Gramlich put out requests and made arrangements for Ft. Carson's mounted color guard, marching band, and/or other troops to join us. George continued the tradition for many years.

The parade that was not officially a parade, but one big rally, was in 2020. Enjoy!

This year's parade marked the fourth time that citizens from all over the state came to march in this local parade and exercise their First and Second Amendment rights. Approximately 200 law-abiding, patriotic citizens marched with the Southern Colorado Patriots Club in an open carry entry to help promote and preserve our Second Amendment constitutional rights. The support down the parade route for the open carry marchers was overwhelming.

The crowd cheered and clapped as the marchers proclaimed their love and support for our liberties and freedoms. The crowd agreed. We believe it is important to honor and exercise these Amendments if Americans want to keep these rights. There are many efforts to infringe on our "right to bear arms" and we must be vigilant and active.



2016 - Fort Carson's Mounted Color Guard.

Photo by Barb Napolitan

July 4, 2016

Snippets from George Gramlich

On Monday, the 4th of July 2016, America celebrated her 240th birthday.

All over America there were celebrations, parades and fireworks. We are thankful that there were no reported incidents of terrorism that we had been warned about. Overall it was a safe and meaningful day of celebration for us all.

Thirty seven entries participated and made it a wonderful and patriotic event. We thank Fort Carson for two color guards (a mounted one and a marching unit).

Our local American Legion Post and the Sheriff's Posse also proudly displayed our American Flag. We thank all the participants that made this a great event.

BLAST FROM THE PAST
see page 23



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Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC: County Phone System to be Replaced, New Recording Fee Schedule, Little Lots to Be Sold

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The June 25, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting started at 9 a.m. at the All Aboard Westcliffe meeting room. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogelsong.

In Commissioner Items, Lucas said he was looking over responses to RFP on IT Services. He wants a workshop on it. Canda has been working the Fremont VSO and Custer County’s VSO to coordinate services and will be having a meeting soon. He is also arranging to have Upper Ark Water Conservation give a presentation here on their plans.

In New Business Accounts Payable was first. The total two week amount of \$125k was ok’d.

Next up was the VSO report. Canda reviewed the report. It was approved.

The next topic was the Rusk Conservation Easement Letter of Support. This concerns the land around the old Beckwith ranch which the owners want to conserve. The letter just supports the effort. It was approved.

Next was a request for proposals for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Vernon Roth, Finance Director the county needs to consolidate all of our phone systems into a “cohesive ball” which would save the county several thousand dollars a month. This would also enable different departments to forward calls to other departments. Vernon noted that the new VoIP system would “customizable “.Our current set up (with Century Link) is costing \$5k to 7k per month. In terms of reliability, the new system would depend on internet connectivity.

County Clerk and Recorder, Kelley Camper, was up next: She said the new Recording Fee Schedule is starting in July. She needed the Commissioners to approve Resolution 25-31 to approve adopting the fees. The new flat fee for all recordings is \$43.

Four Golden Arrow Valley subdivision lots the county owns was the next subject. (These are off of Oak Creek Grade just after the pavement ends. This area was originally intended to be an RV park and was cut up into tiny 50 x 100 lots.) A citizen wants to buy the four that the county owns. After a discussion, it was decided to put them out for bid at \$2k a lot.

The last item was the West Custer County Library District’s request to approve a new Trustee member: Laurie Yarger. This was approved.

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Sangre Shooting Sports Club Road Cleanup



The Sangre Shooting Sports Club (SSSC) conducted its first road cleanup of 2025 on CO Hwy 69 between MP 53-55 on Saturday, 6/28 (prior to the July 4th weekend). This amounted to approximately 70 volunteer hours contributed to our community.

Pictured above (L to R): Cole Collins (BoD member), Steve Konegni (BoD member, Chief Range Safety Officer), Beth Garret (Club member), Bill Garrett (BoD member, Treasurer), John Noard (BoD member, VP), Alan Prudic (Club member).

Courtesy photo

Luke 18:16:
*Jesus called them to Him and said,
“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them;
for of such is the kingdom of God.”*

**Sangre de Cristo Christian School
Has class openings for 2025/2026 K-8**

If interested, please contact Shannon Palmer at 719-641-1701

Cousins Club 2025



For a service project, a local couple worked with their grandkids to pick up trash along part of the road to Lake DeWeese (S end, E side), ahead of the big 4th of July weekend. Lots of liquor and soda cans/bottles along with all kinds of whatnot. Good job!

Courtesy Photo

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Local Mountain News & Notices

High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival, July 10-13, 2025, Is Here!

Press Release

The High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival: Great Music, Great Place, Great Cause! Music will ring out across the Wet Mountain Valley at the 22nd annual High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival in July in the heart of the Rockies. Come enjoy stunning views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the youth music program, the camaraderie of on-site camping and pickin’ in addition to a full roster of exciting bluegrass performers. Festival dates are Thursday through Sunday, July 10 – 13, 2025, at The Bluff Park in Westcliffe, Colorado.

The 2025 line-up features our festival host, the always entertaining Dry Branch Fire Squad led by the valley’s own Ron Thomason. We are pleased to have Rhonda Vincent and the Rage as our featured act this year! Other acts scheduled to appear are Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, Missy Raines and Allegheny, Becky Buller Band, Mike Compton and Joe Newberry, Ismay, Fog Holler, The Baker Family, My Brother’s Keeper, Dayton, Heidi Clare and Ron Thomason and the High Mountain

Hayseeds. Many of these performers will also conduct workshops throughout the weekend which will afford festival-goers the opportunity to experience the performers in a more intimate setting. Dancers are welcome Friday and Saturday nights at the Sibbald-Brown stage, formerly the workshop stage, for a dance hosted by the Eagle Peaks Dance Band with square dance caller Hal Barnes on Saturday night. And don’t forget the always popular High Mountain Hay Seeds children’s program - bring the kids and their instruments!

High Mountain Hay Fever is also the best deal in bluegrass. Four-Day Passes are \$130 at the gate. Single day ticket prices are \$25 for Thursday evening, \$60 for Friday, \$60 for Saturday, and \$40 for Sunday. Students 13-18 with ID are \$10 and children 12 and under are free. Tickets are on sale on our website: www.highmountainhayfever.org and at the gate during the festival. On Thursday of the festival, tickets will be available at the gate at 1:00 with gates opening at 3:30 and music beginning at 5:00.

Dry camping and RV parking are

available adjacent to the performance grounds and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. A reminder to local folks that South Adams Blvd will be closed between Main St and Rosita Ave. during the festival.

The festival is a 501(c)3 nonprofit formed to enhance the Wet Mountain Valley as a quality event destination that benefits the entire community. The festival has raised over \$900,000 for Wet Mountain Valley charitable organizations over the years of its existence, with a strong focus on children’s health. The High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association is run by a great group of volunteers who work year-round to make the event happen. We were honored that the festival was nominated in 2024 for “Event of the Year” by the International Bluegrass Music Association. The festival remains an intimate event, avoiding the sprawl and congestion of large festivals while offering nationally recognized bluegrass talent, remaining true to its motto: “Small Scale, Big Time”.

For more information contact us at www.highmountainhayfever.org.

Veteran Educator John Tillotson Fills School Board Vacancy

Press Release
Custer County Schools

John Tillotson extends his 27 years of service to the Custer County School District (CCSD). Tillotson retired from teaching at the end of this school year and then applied for the baton of School Board service. The Custer County School Board voted unanimously on June 18, 2025, for John Tillotson to fill the vacancy of former Director Brad Davis.

Tillotson has been a teacher in the CCSD for the past 27 years. For almost three decades Tillotson has watched the District both strive and struggle.

Tillotson wrote in his letter of interest, “ I may not have all the answers, but I certainly know our community, district, and most of all, our students and will do my best to



accommodate them....Our district is unique and should run with our students’ needs as the priority!”

Tillotson is also a Volunteer Firefighter for the Wet Mountain Valley Fire Protection District as well as a Fire Instructor. He has previously served on the board of the WMVFPD.

Cameron Fore was unanimously elected to fill the role of Vice President.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 1 p.m. in the school library.

FUN FACTS from page 1

find all of his property destroyed or stolen by the British. His library, one of the finest in the colonies, was burned to the ground.

7. The Average Age of The Signers Was 45 Years

Of the 56 signers, the youngest signers, Thomas Lynch Jr. and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, were only 26. However, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania was the oldest signer at 70 years old.

8. The Declaration of Independence Was Written on a Laptop

... Okay, not a modern laptop, but still. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on a writing desk that could fit over one’s lap. This device was referred to at the time as a “laptop.”

9. Men Love Fireworks... \$1 Billion

According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, Americans spend more than \$1 billion on fireworks each year. Out of this, only 10% of firework displays are set off professionally, which probably accounts for the estimated 12,900 firework-related emergency room visits across the country.

According to *Fortune Magazine*, of those injuries occurring between June and July, almost 70% were experienced by men.

10. Bottoms Up With 2x the Rum

On the 2nd anniversary of Independence Day in 1778, American troops were fighting the American Revolutionary War. During this time, George Washington ordered a double ration of rum for American soldiers to celebrate the holiday with.

11. Fireworks = An American Tradition Dating Back to 1777

Fireworks date back as a tradition of Independence Day as early as the first anniversary in 1777.

John Adams wrote in a letter to his wife, Abigail, that he wanted Independence Day

to be celebrated with pomp, parade, shows, and “Illuminations.” This original letter was written when Adams presumed that Independence Day would be celebrated on July 2nd.

12. A Much Smaller Start

Although an official national census was not completed until 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there were only about 2.5 million people living in America in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed.

As of 2017, it has grown to become home to 325.7 million people.

13. Wearing Old Glory Violates The U.S. Flag Code

How many of you own a flag t-shirt, beach towel, shorts, headband, or any other item that is representative of the U.S. flag? Turns out that you’re in violation of the U.S. Flag Code.

The U.S. Flag Code states that you are in violation if you sell or display any “article of merchandise ... upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of [the flag... in order to] advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or distinguish the article or substance on which so placed.”

That being said, in this instance, the Flag Code is not enforced or even enforceable, so don’t worry - you won’t get arrested by the Flag Police.

14. Bizarre 50th Anniversary

Thomas Jefferson, 82, and John Adams, 90, both died on July 4, 1826 within five hours of each other on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

15. A Little Late to the Parade

July 4th was not deemed a federal holiday until 1870, nearly 100 years after the nation was founded.

Please see: <https://blog.hocking.edu/15-fun-facts-about-the-fourth-of-july>

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randolf.schiro@icloud.com

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

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206 Main St. Westcliffe | 719-659-8743
Open Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm
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411 Main St, Westcliffe
719-783-9393
www.westcliffeflowershop.com

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57965 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
Home & Patio Furniture, Footwear, Outdoor Wear
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Construction Services

Beach Redi-Mix & Concrete Pumping
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719-783-3558 | info@SBCompanies.com

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Lisa Kidwell, Owner/Contractor
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720.309.4262 sapiahwoodworks@gmail.com

Seifert Enterprises
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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

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Matt Troyer: 719-221-8940

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719-275-0661
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719-783-9393
www.westcliffeflowershop.com

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

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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

Sunflower Natural Foods
405 Main St., Westcliffe
719-783-9266
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salidagunshop.com | 719-207-4285
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Lincolnparkpawn@hotmail.com
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http://sangreshooting.com

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Sunday 10 -8, closed Mon-Tues

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https://www.zitasmtnbistro.com/

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719-275-9525
larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com

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

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

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Wet Mountain Storage
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719-783-9321
www.westcliffecoloradoselfstorage.com

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

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719-783-0648

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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
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

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

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

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

2nd Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Mtg @Valley Bible
3rd Tuesday of the Month
Liberty Rocks TUESDAY Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m. Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.

Wednesdays
8 -9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.
9:45-11:45 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study SUMMER August 20 @305 County Road 159, Holly 703-338-4100 or Rene at 719-371-7076
10 a.m. Pickle Ball (SCMP) info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.
6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

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

2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee meeting. Ranchers Roost. The public is welcome See www.CusterGOP.com or Facebook page at https://m.facebook.com/custergop **NO MEETING in JULY**

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

Fridays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853

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

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

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

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



by Robin L. Schwarz

Each year when I celebrate July Fourth, I always make sure I eat “Corn on the Cob”. It keeps me close to a true story and a valuable lesson I learned as a child.

We jumped out of our beds, we had been instructed to wear our work clothes today. It was the weekend and we were going to help Dad plant the field.

Dad had our little empty tin cans full of corn seeds. My twin sisters, little brother and I plowed up the dampened earth and made several rows. Dad exclaimed he had to go to the ranch house but to continue our planting.

We squealed with delight as we carefully placed each seed in a two-inch hole. I remember him being very specific. Well as luck would have it, I knocked over my entire can of seeds. A sudden redness came to my little sun-burnt face and I thought the world had come to an end. My little brother Rocky said, “Here comes Dad!!”

My first and only thought was to hide the evidence, so I quickly covered up hundreds of corn seeds that lay exposed to the sun and soon to be in Dad’s view. As he walked up and saw that my shinny can was empty he asked in a questionable tone, “How is the seed planting going”? With my head bowed down and in a low tone I answered, “Ahaah . . . good Dad”. There it was! I did it! My first real lie! I still remember waiting for God to strike me dead.

I was so ashamed, my only thoughts

were that I finally had something bad to tell Father Garcia at confession. As the days passed, I began to feel better about my first lie. We went on with other daily chores and practicing our riding skills on horseback so we could all join the circus as trick-riders and display our talents in a large tent and receive free popcorn.

The big day came, “Time to check the corn!” Dad said.

We were all excited. Marching in a single line, we started our journey to the end of the field. As we approached the selected area we could see the little green sprouts were exposed in an upward position gobbling up the sunlight. Dad bent over and said, “What a nice little corn, and a nice little corn”, and as he proceeded slowly down the row he seemed very pleased of his children’s deed. With proud little gloating attitudes we were quite taken with ourselves until all of a sudden, we came upon hundreds of little sprouts all in the same area. I will never forget the chill that ran up my spine when Dad said, “Oh my, so many corns, what happened here”?

With my head bowed down I tried to blunder out the words, but it became too difficult and the tears came out uncontrollably. “I’m – I’m sorry Dad”, I exclaimed. “I tried to be careful, but -- but I dropped the can and covered all the seeds with dirt”. The tears were now clouding my vision, and I was unable to see his tall structure. I continued, “I’m sorry, I won’t ever do it again.” Dad had never struck any of the children, but his silence

now seemed worse than a beating. At the time it seemed like the end of the world for a child, but now when I look back, I think he got a big kick out of it. I don’t remember him being mad. He probably thought to himself, “What a valuable lesson this child has learned.”

The corn was separated and in the weeks to follow, the stalks grew taller than Dad. I still remember him peeling back the green layers and carefully handed each child their yellow trophy. As a family we all stood there under a clear blue sky and crunched away as the raw sweetness exploded in our mouths. Even without hot butter or a shake of salt, our reward tasted like dessert.

Every year on July 4th I still tell some of my friends this childhood adventure. . . . It’s just another one of my “Corny” stories.

Robin Schwarz has been writing poetry since she was young. Two of her songs were recorded and released by Hilltop Records in Hollywood, “*Eight Second Ride*” and “*Doc Johnson*”. Robin then became serious and enrolled in several writing classes. She later became the editor and writer of the *Mojave Star Journal* where she tried to focus on positive stories that came from her hometown.

She also had a newspaper column for years and is the co-author of the children’s book “*Little Rodeo Ronnie*”.

In her spare time Robin has enjoyed riding her horse “Rooster Cogburn” in a new sport called Mounted Shooting. She has ridden in the local 4th of July parade here in Westcliffe for many years.

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, July 7
#58 Lentil Soup
Egg Salad Sandwich
Lettuce & Tomato Slices
Banana

Tuesday, July 8
#30 Chicken Salad Sandwich
Lettuce & Tomato
Confetti Salad
Beef Barley Soup
Orange Juice

Thursday, July 10
#35 Chili Relleno Casserole
Corn & Zucchini Mexicana
WW Tortilla w/Salsa
Salad w/Lemon Wedge
Plums

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

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

Come and Worship

Christian Science
9:30 a.m. Worship
8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff
719/783-4601

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe
Pres: 719/214-4589

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
? 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg
Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study
0157 County Rd. 27A
Cotopaxi 719/942-3526
(719) 942-3462

Community United Methodist Church
10 a.m. Worship
202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-2511

Cotopaxi Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study
Pastor Steve Holcomb@gmail.com
20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Worship
410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
Pastor Josh Olsteen
719/783-2498

High Country Mennonite Church
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
103 N.Adams St, Westcliffe
719/783-9045
Call Pastor Err @ 719.429.0556
or Pastor Davie @ 719.371.3861

Huerfano Community Bible Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study
603 Leon Street, Walsenburg
(719) 251-9053

Hope Lutheran Church
2 p.m. Worship
3:15 p.m. Bible Study
3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe
Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323
Lange Hall 719/783-2561

Living Stone Calvary Chapel
Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings: 9:30 a.m. Outdoors
Bring a lawn chair!
830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO
Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863

Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass
5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass
109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-3507

Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church
11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month
210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe
719/783-2491

Praise Community Church
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m.
215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence
719/784-1184

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays
3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe
719/783-2477

St. Patrick’s Anglican Church
11 a.m. Worship
403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe
925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m.
Highway 69, Gardner
Bldg. Mickey. 719/746-2037

Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church
Pastor: Mike Shields
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
Last Sunday of Month:
Potluck at Noon
sangredccristocowboychurch.com
also on Facebook
60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
719/232-5372

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
9 a.m. Meet & Greet
9:30 a.m. Service
120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe
719/783-0903

Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel
10 a.m. Worship
6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe
719/ 371-1822

Valley Bible Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship
116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
719/581-7572

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
1 p.m. Worship
Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore
719/371-1230

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

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins” I Peter 4:8 NKJV



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Events

- July 03 -26, Sangres Art Guild ~ “Shadows and Light” Art Show, July 5th Reception 1- 4 p.m.**
3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69
- July 4 @ 7 - 10 a.m.**
AAW Pancake Breakfast, All Aboard Westcliffe Depot
102 Main St., Westcliffe
- July 4 &5 @ 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
AAW Flea Market, Craft Fair and Yard Sale,
110 Rosita Ave., Westcliffe
- July 4 @ 10 - 11 a.m. Entry fee \$20
Independence Day Parade on Westcliffe & Silver Cliff, Main Streets** Sponsored by the American Legion Post 170.
- July 4 @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**
Beckwith Ranch July 4th Festivities
- July 4 after dusk Fireworks Display**
by “The Mortar Men” Location (from the Silver Cliff Water Tower
- Saturday, July 5 @ 11 a.m. to Noon Sun observance &Star Party 8:45 - 11:45 p.m.**
FREE on the Bluff in Westcliffe, Smokey Jack Observatory.
- July 10-13 \$\$
High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival**
Bluff Park, 110 S Adams Blvd., Westcliffe, CO
- July 11 - July 19 Custer County Fair**
Custer County Fair Grounds--Westcliffe

Community Services

- Altitude Community Fitness**
(719) 783-0750
- American Legion Post #170**
PO Box 424, Westcliffe, CO 81252
talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com
(719) 783-2462 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.
Everyday Eats boxes are available during any regular distribution from 11-2
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(719) 275-2429 FamilyCrisisOnline.org
- Front Range Clinic**
Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)
1-866-MAT-STAT
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
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**
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For Sale:
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Rare opportunity. 2001 VW Jetta Diesel. Black. ONLY 86k original miles. Stored outside for 9 years and not run. Put a new battery in it and it fired up immediately. Motor purrs. Super nice 5 speed tranny. Well cared for.Needs a glow plug and possibly a turbo mass air valve. NO Blue juice for this baby, just straight diesel. Was getting 50+ MPG highway, Insane cruising range. Call The Sentinel for details. 719 783 3360. Price \$10k.

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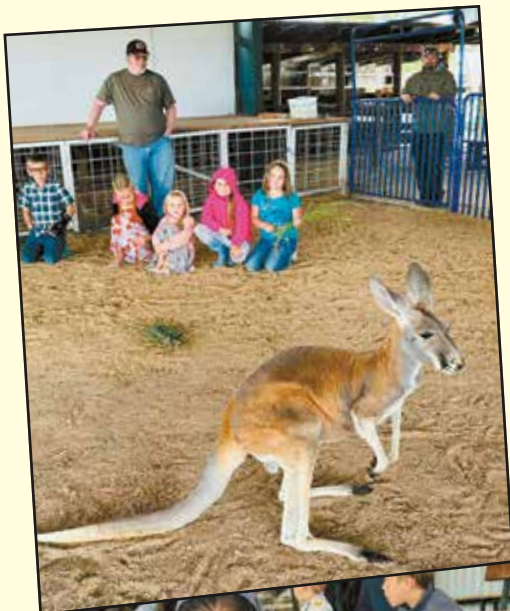
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Wet Mountain Hermits 4-H Club's Petting Zoo!



by Megan Kardatzke

Our club partnered with the West Custer County Library for a Petting Zoo that was held [June 21] at the CC Fairgrounds. The club members brought their own animals to the fairgrounds to allow the community to interact with and ask questions about them. Our members brought rabbits, a bearded dragon, a hedgehog, llamas, and a puppy. Wee Pocket Sanctuary graciously brought their kangaroo, as well.



KIDS

Friday, July 4, 2025

Independence Day

Well, here we are the biggest holiday of the summer, Independence Day or 4th of July. When we think of Independence Day we think of parades, fairs, fireworks, picnics and family reunions. Well, at least that is what I think of. Let's review what we know about this holiday.

Independence Day is a national holiday and also a federal holiday so all non-essential federal institutions are closed on that day. Decorations of red, white and blue can be seen on clothing, in parades, on businesses and many people decorate their homes and lawns with mini flags.

The Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from Great Britain on July 2nd but did not actually complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence until two days later. Historians believe it may have been August 2, 1776, however, before the Declaration was officially signed.

The first organized Independence Day celebrations were held in Philadelphia and Boston in 1777. The festivities in Philadelphia consisted of fireworks and bell ringing and a fleet of ships fired 13 cannon salutes, in honor of the 13 colonies.

Alameda, California, is believed to have the longest Independence Day parade route in the country, at 3.3 miles long. Fireworks have been part of the celebrations since the beginning.

On July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife the way he hoped future Americans would celebrate their independence.

“Yesterday the greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men. A Resolution was passed without one dissenting Colony ‘that these united Colonies, are, and of right ought to be free and independent States, and as such, they have, and of Right ought to have full Power to make War, conclude Peace, establish Commerce, and to do all the other Acts and Things, which other States might rightfully do...’ The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival... It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shew of Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

Have a Happy and safe Independence Day 2025.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States)), <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Independence-Day-United-States-holiday>, <https://www.almanac.com/content/independence-day-fourth-of-july>

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Obituary

Alfred Earl Nelson

Alfred Earl Nelson, age 86, beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend, passed away June 20, 2025, in Cañon City, CO, with his family by his side.

He was born on a Homestead near Mosca, Colorado. He served in the Navy after leaving High School at the age of 17. He then went on to attend college at Adams State CO, where he played two years of college football and graduated with a BS degree in Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics. During his life he was a math and physics teacher, rancher, owned his own construction company, and worked in the heavy equipment industry.

Alfred loved God, his family and the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing with his son, Darryl. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, his work ethic and his ability to leave a great impression on everyone he met during his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dolores Farnham and George Nelson; sister Betty Gohr and nephew Timothy Allnutt.

Alfred is survived by his daughter Dolores Reuland and husband Michael, son Darryl



Nelson and wife Christine; grandchildren Abigail Reuland, Joshua Reuland, Katelyn Gray, and Grace Nelson; great grandchildren Everly and Lainey Gray; nephew Ted Allnutt.

A memorial service will be held at Evangelical Free Church 3000 E. Main St., Cañon City CO, on July 19th at 10:30 a.m. Followed by a celebration of life at the Quality Inn & Suites 3075 East US 50, Cañon City CO, starting at 12 p.m.



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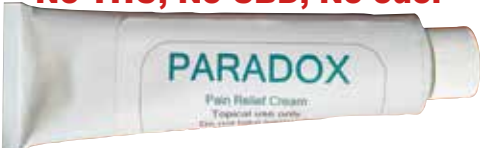


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Sangre de Cristo Am Field Day & C

Press Release

The Sangre de Cristo Amateur Radio Club held its annual Field Day and Open House on June 28th at Hermit Park. Field Day is a nation-wide event that takes place at the end of June each year, and it typically involves nearly 40,000 ham radio operators throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Although it is technically not a contest, the primary objective of Field Day is for ham radio operators to set up portable radio stations and operate off the grid, while attempting to make as many radio contacts as possible during the allotted time period, using Morse Code, voice, and digital methods.

But, according to club president Clint Harper, this club event was about much more than radio contacts. He explained, “Field Day 2025 marked two years for us as a club. We celebrated by enjoying a BBQ and social in conjunction with Field Day. And, more importantly, Field Day is our opportunity to present the the world of ham radio to the community.”

He said that Field Day 2025 was a great success for the Sangre de Cristo Amateur Radio Club. “Not only did we make hundreds of radio contacts, but we were also able to showcase the club to some visitors, and of course, we were able to share a wonderful meal together.”

The Sangre de Cristo Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6 pm at the First Baptist Church in Westcliffe. *All are welcome!*



Amateur Radio Club: Open House!



Sentinel Photos by Karen Kahn; Layout by Katherine Brenchley

Custer County Sheriff Office's 2024 Annual Report

Annual Report for 2024 -Part 1 of 2 Custer County Sheriff's Office

The Custer County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) provides all law enforcement services in Custer County Colorado. The CCSO also provides law enforcement services for the town of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe under a contract. The CCSO is staffed with eight sworn deputies, one sworn school resource officer, two sergeants, an investigations sergeant, a undersheriff and sheriff. These 14 sworn deputies are supported by three non-sworn volunteer special deputies. The special deputies help with technology crimes, crime analysis, and civil service. While we outsource our jail operations to Fremont County, we have one detentions deputy and a detentions sergeant. They often book in arrestees who are being released on a personal recognizance (PR) bond.

response to service requests related to mental health issues. After deputies ensure the safety of the environment, these mental health professionals can engage with individuals experiencing a crisis. The collaboration between deputies and mental health clinicians offers numerous advantages to all stakeholders involved. These benefits encompass, but are not limited to, the expedited de-escalation of situations, enhanced safety for all individuals present, immediate access to behavioral health care facilities as required, and a reduction in the time during which deputies are unavailable for patrol duties due to the necessity of transporting and overseeing individuals in protective custody at medical facilities while awaiting admission.

In addition to the significant contributions to community safety, security, and utility, the

as at risk.

·Mental Health Emergency Call-Outs Total: 17*

*(Includes Non-Suicidal Mental Health Evaluations, Suicidal Evaluations/Interventions, Critical Incident Responses)

·Total Suicidal Evaluations/Interventions: 9

·Adolescent Suicidal Evaluations/Interventions: 3

·Adult Suicidal Evaluations/Interventions: 5*

·Surviving Spousal Support: 1

*(Adult category includes three suicidal Veterans)

·Direct Behavioral Healthcare Admissions: 3

·Critical Incident Debriefings, both Individual/Group: 3

·Staff Counseling Sessions: 1

·Employment/Fit For Duty Psych-Social Evaluations: 2

·Phone Consultations (Deputies & Civilians): 4

·Veterans Group Book Review: 3 Groups Facilitated/8 Participants per Group

·Co-Responder Coffee: 1

·Monthly "Co-Responder Corner" Articles in the newspaper

·CCSO Continuing Education Trainings: 2

Coming in 2025:

·Quarterly Community Lunch Discussion Meetings on Mental Health Topics

·Quarterly Veterans Group Book Review Meetings

CCSO Continuing Education Training

Proposed:

Custer County School-Based Early Intervention Team (Co-Responder Facilitated)

Transforming Hiring

Custer County Sheriff's Office has maintained full staffing and been able to reduce turn over by hiring experienced and retired deputies. The average person on our staff now has 15 years of experience. The highest years of experience is 49. Custer Deputies have retired from the U.S. Army as military police in fact 70% of our staff have served as veterans.

Living in the community that we serve is important. 74% of our staff own homes in Custer County. Two team members are looking to move to Custer when their current leases expire. Three staff live within five miles of the Custer County Line and are available to respond for emergencies.

The State of Colorado requires a mental health evaluation of newly hired deputies. Using our in-house professional, we are able to go above the minimum requirements and look for important characteristics such as emotional health and anger management which are exceedingly important in law enforcement.

Six Character Qualities

Integrity, Initiative, Courage, Compassion, Creativity, Loyalty

Medical Emergencies

In 2024 Custer Deputies were first on scene to over 40 medical emergency calls. In 2024 deputies used an automated external defibrillator on six patients. Deputies also performed CPR on those six patients. In addition to basic first aid and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), deputies are also trained to use an automated external defibrillator and provide trauma care for injuries such as gunshot wounds and traumatic car crash injuries. Each deputy's vehicle is equipped with a trauma kit and we are working on equipping every vehicle with an AED. We are actively seeking grants to provide the additional AEDs.

Crime Statistics

We are required to report our crime statistics in April for the prior year to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS stats are divided into two groups. Group A crimes include; murder, rape, motor vehicle theft, robbery and other crimes. Group B crimes include crimes like; fraud, disorderly conduct, trespassing and other non-violent crimes.

Our Group A crimes decreased 8% in 2024

Our Group B crimes decreased 23% in 2023

Traffic Enforcement

In 2024 we had a total of 41 traffic crashes. This is a decline of 58% from the previous year. Two traffic crashes had serious injuries. One traffic crash was a fatality. There were three crashes caused by a drunk driver. One crash caused by a drug impaired driver. All three alcohol crashes were caused by the same driver on different days in different vehicles.

The most frequent cause of traffic crashes is collision with a wild animal. The second most frequent cause in overturning followed by collision with an embankment.

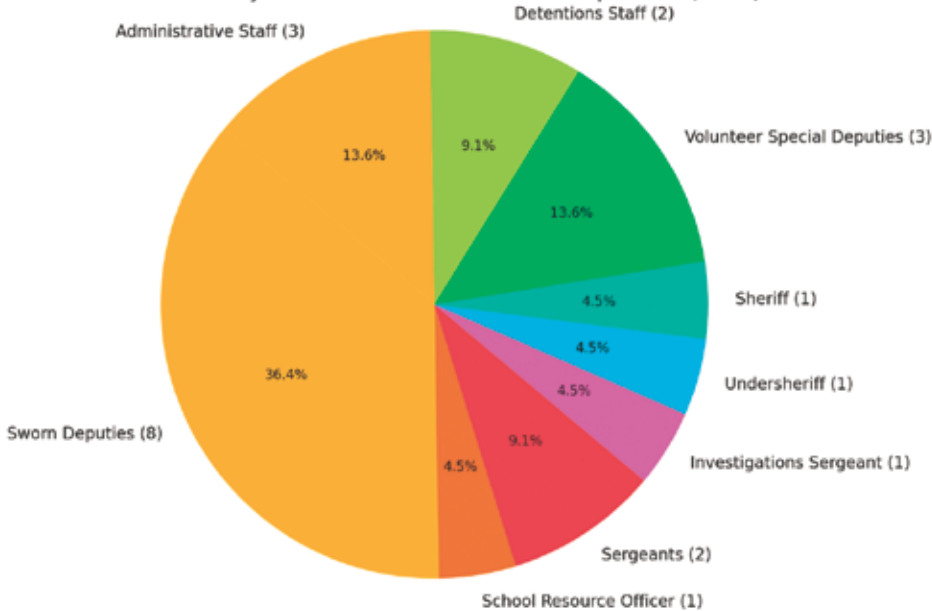
We made 966 total traffic stops. Of those 142 drivers were issued tickets. The other drivers received warnings.

Posse

Custer County is blessed to have a large group of special volunteers that make up the Sheriff's Posse. The Sheriff's Posse has twenty volunteers. The mounted patrol and scuba diving team also made up of posse members. We added a new service of using the posse to perform VIN verifications for vehicle coming to Colorado from out of state as well as certified VIN inspections for vehicles with paperwork issues. In addition to undergoing a background check and panel interview, they also receive training in; conflict resolution, community relations, driving, shooting, defensive tactics, and wildfires. In 2024 they donated 5,663 hours to the community. These hours include:

- 633 School patrol
- 149 School athletic events
- 485 Crime Prevention County Road patrol
- 404 Prisoner transfers
- 688 Special event security.

Custer County Sheriff's Office Personnel Composition (2024)



They also schedule detainees from other jails to return to Custer County for court proceedings. Finally, we have a part-time chief of staff, an office manager and an evidence/crime scene technician.

4 Strategic Goals

1. Protect Life and property and preserve our small-town values.
2. Recruit, retain, and develop the best team members.
3. Creatively work with the community to solve problems and prevent crime.
4. Build and nurture new partnerships with new stakeholders to achieve our mission.

Transforming Crisis Response

In 2024, the CCSO established the Co-Responders Team, which comprises licensed and registered mental health professionals at both the Master's and Doctorate levels. Per advanced eligibility criteria for team membership, one mental health professional is also a sworn, certified, and commissioned law enforcement officer who holds a dual role as a reserve deputy. The extensive qualifications of this team position it among the most elite, if not the foremost, of law enforcement specialty units within the state. Co-responders accompany deputies in

co-responders team effectively enhances the operational efficiency of the Sheriff's Office by saving both time and resources. This allows deputies to remain adaptable and available for immediate response to calls when required. The co-responders team has established collaborative efforts with other first responders and the Custer County Department of Human Services, ensuring the delivery of cohesive services during critical situations. Furthermore, when not actively engaged in service, the team has dedicated its efforts to improving the lives of veterans in the community through structured group facilitation.

The team is tasked with the responsibility of publishing a monthly informational news article titled "CCSO Co-Responders Corner" in *The Sentinel*. Additionally, the team organizes quarterly community lunch discussions that focus on pertinent mental health topics, which align with the themes of the publications. Team members also participate in periodic "Coffee with the Sheriff" gatherings. Furthermore, individuals from the team hold officer positions within the newly established public safety C4 Advisory Foundation. Strategic members are in the process of developing the CCSO Behavioral Threat Assessment Unit (BTAU), aimed at providing threat assessment and early intervention for individuals identified



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Colorado State News



Christian Camp Wins Exemption from State's Gender Identity Rules

by Savana Kascak, Complete Colorado

DENVER, Colorado

A Colorado state agency has settled a lawsuit brought by a Christian children's summer camp over regulations demanding campers be allowed to use the private bathing, dressing, and sleeping facilities of the opposite sex.

As previously reported by Complete Colorado, Camp IdRaHaJe (derived from the hymn "I'd Rather Have Jesus") in May sued when the Colorado Department of Early Childhood amended its regulations requiring state-licensed camps to allow children to use private bathing, dressing, and sleeping facilities according to their "gender-identity."

The 75-year-old camp, located east of Breckenridge, previously requested a waiver from the regulations based on religious belief, but was denied.

The lawsuit named executive director of Colorado Department of Early Childhood, Lisa Roy, and director of the Department's division of early learning licensing and administration, Carin Rosa, as defendants.

Lawyers for the camp last Wednesday announced a settlement favorable to IdRaHaJe.

According to a release from Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) the settlement exempts IdRaHaJe from the state's gender identity rules and "allows the camp to operate without compromising its religious commonsense beliefs about biological sex."

ADF is a public interest law firm specializing in defending First Amendment protections and parental rights. It is perhaps best known for its successful defense of Colorado cake decorator Jack Phillips, who refused to make a wedding cake for two gay men. Phillips eventually won his case before the U.S. Supreme Court. ADF also is currently before the US Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors on behalf of a state-licensed counselor.

"Government officials should never put a dangerous ideology ahead of kids," said ADF Legal Counsel Andrea Dill. "State official must respect religious ministries and their beliefs about human sexuality; they

can't force a Christian summer camp to violate its convictions."

Additionally, the Department is putting a clarification memo up on their website stating "churches, synagogues, mosques, or any other place that is principally used for religious purposes" are exempt from the requirements.

Camp IdRaHaJe agreed to dismiss any further legal action as part of the settlement.

"We're pleased that Camp IdRaHaJe is again free to operate as it has for more than 75 years; as a Christian summer camp that accepts all campers without fear of being punished for its beliefs," concluded Dill.

Savana Kascak is a General Assignment Reporter for Complete Colorado. She is a Colorado native and a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Hastings College in Nebraska where she obtained a degree in Political Science and Communications.

Savana's writing has previously been featured in Campus Reform and the Hastings Tribune.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/author/savana-kascak/>

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Democrats walking through their congressional districts





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Denver City Council Ends Car Theft Tracking System to Protect Illegals

by Jonathan Turley,
JonathanTurley.Org

The Denver City Council has voted unanimously to shutter a highly successful anti-theft auto license plate tracking system. The system was not closed due to concerns about privacy or finances. It was shut down because Democratic members believed that ICE could use the data to deport illegals.

In May, the council refused to renew the \$666,000 contract with Flock for camera monitors around 70 Denver intersections to screen for car theft. That system resulted in the recovery of 170 stolen cars and 300 arrests. It is also credited with key evidence in the investigation of hit-and-run and murder cases.

However, it could also be used to assist ICE, and that is all that matters. Councilman Kevin Flynn explained it is all about Trump’s election: “We know that it can help solve crime. But I think since maybe January 20th of this year, those concerns are greatly heightened and have a new reality about them.”

Council member Sarah Parady added:

“We’re living in an era where just this last week, actually, an executive order came out instructing the Department of Justice and the FBI to look for reasons to prosecute local elected officials and activists who they believe are, quote, unquote, obstructing ICE enforcement. This kind of surveillance technology is a gift if you have that kind

of ill intent, and the federal government has that ill intent right now.”

Mayor Mike Johnston also stated that they need to halt these arrests because “today’s environment is much different than when the pilot began in early 2024, and there are new community concerns surrounding this technology.”

The police are obviously not happy but car thieves are thrilled. If this seems utterly insane, keep in mind that this was a unanimous vote of the city council.

(Editor/GG: Illegals before citizens. Remember our local loony lefties are just as crazy.)

Please see: <https://jonathan-turley.org/2025/06/27/ice-ice-baby-denver-city-council-ends-car-theft-tracking-system-to-protect-illegal-immigrants/#more-233209>

Attacks on Colorado Taxpayer Protections Show No Sign of Slowing

by Brittany Trujillo,
CompleteColorado.com

Coloradans believe in the simple but powerful idea that government should live within its means and ask permission before taking more of our hard-earned money. That’s the promise of the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR). And it’s a promise worth defending.

House Joint Resolution (HJR) 25-1023 was an attempt to repeal this promise. Forty-three Democrats sponsored the resolution in this year’s legislative session, including Senator Kyle Mullica, and Representatives Lorena Garcia and Manny Rutinel.

Their resolution sought to strip away TABOR’s core protections, taking decision-making power out of the hands of voters and handing it over to politicians. Thankfully, their effort was stopped—largely due to the outcry of Coloradans who stood up for fiscal responsibility and voter consent.

Let’s be clear: this was about eliminating TABOR. These lawmakers were advancing a full repeal of the voter approval requirement for tax increases. In doing so, they made it perfectly clear they don’t trust Coloradans to make decisions about their own money.

Colorado doesn’t have a revenue problem. It has a prioritization problem. TABOR doesn’t prevent lawmakers from funding essential services. Lawmakers decide where the money goes. Their desire to fund pet projects just outweighs their desire to fund essential services.

When the supporters of HJR 1023 talk

about “flexibility,” they really mean wanting to remove the inconvenience of asking voters for approval of their tax packages. Without TABOR, there would be nothing stopping politicians from raising taxes or growing government without your consent. That’s not flexibility—that’s unchecked power.

For decades, TABOR has returned billions of dollars to taxpayers—helping families, small businesses, and seniors keep more of what they earn. Over seventy percent of voters support it, because they know it protects their voice and their wallet.

We should remember the names of those who tried to take that away: Mullica, Garcia, and Rutinel. Their attempt to dismantle TABOR wasn’t just misguided—it was deeply out of step with the values and priorities of the people they represent.

The failure of HJR 1023 is a victory for Colorado taxpayers, but it’s also a warning. This fight isn’t over. This is why Americans for Prosperity-Colorado is launching a grassroots effort to educate Coloradans on who is responsible for trying to take away their right to vote on tax increases and what they can do about it.

It is critical that we all remain vigilant, educate our communities, and hold lawmakers accountable. Because in Colorado, power belongs with the people—not the political class.

Brittany Trujillo is deputy state director of Americans for Prosperity-Colorado.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/06/24/attacks-colorado-taxpayer-protections-not-slowing/>



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—Condoleezza Rice



Colorado State News



Girls Sports Off Limits to Boys in Another School District — Montezuma-Cortez

by Savana Kascak,
CompleteColorado.com

CORTEZ Colorado

The Montezuma-Cortez School District Board of Education on Tuesday unanimously passed a policy recognizing inherent differences between males and females, requiring students to participate in school sports based on their biological sex. The board also signed the district onto a lawsuit proactively challenging the state over their ability to enact such policies.

The new policy, titled Preserving Fairness and Safety in Sports, bars boys from competing in girls’ sports, as well as prohibiting male students from entering female locker rooms and being lodged together in hotel rooms for athletic team travel, among other things.

The policy reads, in part, that allowing biological males to compete against females “denies women and girls the equal opportunity to participate and excel in competitive sports.”

Montezuma-Cortez is at least the third Colorado school district to address the issue of transgender athletes in school sports. As previously reported by *Complete Colorado*, two El Paso County districts—Colorado Springs D-11 and Falcon 49—have enacted similar policies.

Board member Mike Lynch told *Complete Colorado* that even if opponent of the policy cannot get on board, he will stand with girls and their parents.

“I believe the subject is important enough that I should personally advocate for change on behalf of our (and all) female sports students,” said Lynch. “Even if our opponents cannot agree with our constitutional or moral or fairness objections, I have to believe they would give consideration to the basics of safety for all female students, in competition, in locker rooms, in bathrooms, and in overnight accommodations.”

Challenging the state

The board on Tuesday also unanimously signed the district onto an ongoing lawsuit challenging Colorado’s Anti-Discrimination Act, as well as the bylaws of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), both of which require allowing students to participate in school sports based on their gender identity.

Falcon 49 was the first to sue, filing on May 9th. Since then, D-11 has joined as well as various public-charter schools. Defendants include Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, the Colorado Civil Rights Division, as well as CHSAA.

“Compliance with these state requirements would force the District to violate students’ constitutional rights and risk federal funding loss, while adherence to federal obligations exposes the District to state penalties including fines and athletic-program suspension,” the lawsuit reads, in part.

The suit was brought after CHSAA

remained neutral to a letter signed by numerous officials from Colorado school districts urging them to change their bylaws around transgender athletes to comply with the Trump administrations recent de-funding threats.

President Trump announced in Executive Order 14201 (February 5, 2025) that “it is the policy of the United States to rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities, which results in the endangerment, humiliation, and silencing of women and girls and deprives them of privacy.”

Additionally, the Montezuma-Cortez board will be voting to adopt changes to their own non-discrimination policy in the upcoming month.

“It is possible that some parents might withdraw their kids because they think we do not support them,” continued Lynch. ”It is also possible that conservative parents from neighboring districts might enroll their kids in our district.”

Montezuma-Cortez school district sits in the Four Corners area of Colorado, encompassing the town of Cortez, the farm and ranch communities of Lewis, Arriola and Pleasant View, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute tribal reservation. The district website reports serving over 2,550 students.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/06/26/girls-sports-off-limits-boys-montezuma-cortez-school-district/>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer County seeks sealed bids for Lot 11 Blk 1, Lot 13 Blk 1, Lot 1 Blk 2, Lot 1B Blk 9, Golden Arrow Valley, conveyed by quitclaim deed. Please submit your sealed bid to the County Clerk, Kelley Camper, located at 205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO, no later than close of business on July 15, 2025. All bids will be opened by the Board of County Commissioners on July 16, 2025. Sealed bids must include:

Legal description – Lot 11 Blk 1, Lot 13 Blk 1, Lot 1 Blk 2, Lot 1B Blk 9, Golden Arrow Valley
Amount offered for lot, minimum \$2,000.00 each
Bidder name, address, phone number, and email address

On the outside of sealed envelope, please reference “sealed bid for Golden Arrow Valley lots”

Custer County reserves the right to accept or reject the highest bidder.

First published: July 4, 2025
Last published: July 11, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE OF FINAL PAYMENT

Notice is hereby given that final payment will be made on or after the 1st day of August 2025 on a contract dated January 21, 2021 between Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District (Owner) and Iconergy, Inc. (Contractor), for the Meter Replacement Project and Smith Well Replacement Project.

All persons, companies or corporations that have furnished labor, materials or other supplies used by Contractor under and in connection with said contract and whose claims have not been paid by the Contractor shall file with the Owner a verified statement of the amount due and unpaid on account of such a claim on or before the date of final payment stated above. Failure on the part of the claimant to file such settlement will relieve the Owner

from any or all liability for such claim.
Owner: Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District

/s/ _____ Dave Schneider,
General Manager

Published on July 4, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Custer County District Court,
Colorado
205 S. 6th St.
Westcliffe, CO 81252

In the Matter of the Estate of David Andrew Roscoe aka David Roscoe, David A Roscoe, Deceased

Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
Robert Roscoe
PO Bo 1435
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Case Number: 25PR10
Division 1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of David Andrew Roscoe, Deceased
Case Number 25PR10

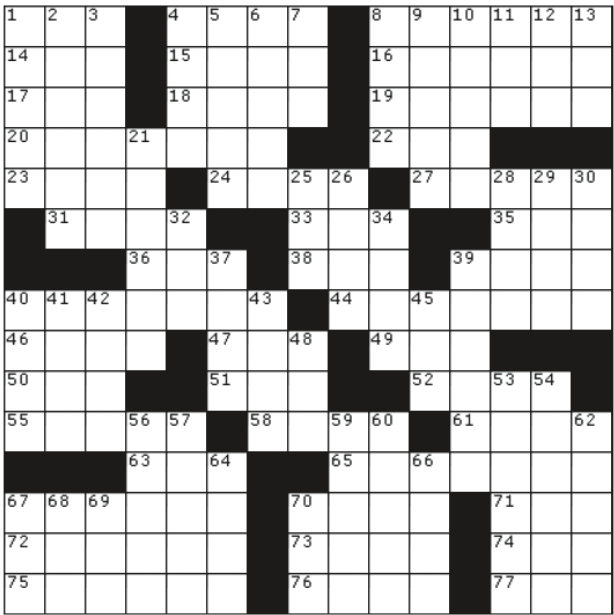
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to

District Court of Custer County, Colorado
On or before October 29, 2025
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to

Robert Roscoe
PO Box 1435
Westcliffe CO 81252

Published June 27, July 4, and July, 11, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Wet dirt
- 4 Due
- 8 Catholic worship services
- 14 Vane direction
- 15 Merry
- 16 Stick to
- 17 BB association
- 18 Baseball's Nolan
- 19 Felix (2 wds.)
- 20 Eden tempter
- 22 Also
- 23 Stake

DOWN

- 24 Snaky fish
- 27 Holding device
- 31 Siamese
- 33 Bro. or sis.
- 35 Status ____
- 36 ____ de Janeiro
- 38 Genetic code
- 39 Motor vehicle
- 40 Aggressive, confrontational
- 44 Day of rest
- 46 Colors
- 47 Noah's ____

- 49 Liberal (abbr.)
- 50 Anger
- 51 Fido's remark
- 52 Penal institution
- 55 Blunder
- 58 Go to the mall
- 61 Rewrite
- 63 Beg
- 65 Maxim
- 67 ____ Rico
- 70 Baby bed
- 71 Hoopla
- 72 Nation of Jews
- 73 Pedestal part
- 74 X
- 75 ____ of Eden
- 76 KJV pronoun
- 77 Before, poetically
- 1 Elite intellectuals' society
- 2 Straight
- 3 Shortage
- 4 Giant
- 5 Cowboy John
- 6 Thrill
- 7 Tribe of Israel
- 8 Dull
- 9 Special case only (2 wds.)
- 10 OT abode of the dead
- 11 Part of a min.
- 12 Epoch
- 13 Primed

- 21 Do not throw your ____ before swine
 - 25 Lysergic acid diethylamide
 - 26 Transgressions
 - 28 Peacock blue
 - 29 Mongrel
 - 30 Winnie the ____
 - 32 Roman three
 - 34 Phoenician god
 - 37 Yes
 - 39 Abbreviate (abbr.)
 - 40 patriotic party
 - 41 Halo
 - 42 Coral ____
 - 43 Epochs
 - 45 Baby eating apparel
 - 48 Kilometers per hour
 - 53 Have an idea
 - 54 Supporting beam
 - 56 Unit of electric capacitance
 - 57 Sugar-free brand
 - 59 Ms. Winfrey
 - 60 ____ goes before destruction
 - 62 Cut of beef
 - 64 German city
 - 66 Double-reed instrument
 - 67 Swine
 - 68 United States of America
 - 69 Make a mistake
 - 70 Central dayligh time
- Key on page 8

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

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

Some Straight Talk

About Iran

As a journalist for a major newswire service in 1979, I began covering Iran as part of my coverage on the Carter Administration and 1980 Presidential election. In the 1980s, my Iranian education continued as a staffer for two Congressmen on the Foreign Affairs Middle East Subcommittee. In the past two decades, I have written over 1,000 stories and commentaries about Iran, its nuclear weapons program, its place in prophecy and how its actions move the prophecy clock forward. Since 2006, I have been sounding the alarm about Iran's nuclear ambitions and how the UN International Atomic Energy Agency was inept in preventing them. Israel is now doing what should have been done a decade ago.

All along there have been bad actors aiding abetting Iran in its quest for a nuclear bomb. As early as January 2006, Russian, Iranian and Chinese scientists were working in underground labs to build a missile capable of reaching Europe and carrying a nuclear-sized payload. At the time, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad met in Syria with Palestinian terrorist groups Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Hezbollah, said that it was his uncompromising support for the Palestinian resistance that has caused western nations to come against, what he called, Iran's undeniable right to peaceful nuclear technology. This prompted the U.S. to call for Iran to be referred to the UN Security Council, and support Russia's efforts to control Iranian uranium enrichment as a diplomatic solution. Trusting Russia was a big misstep by George W. Bush.

The cat and mouse game with Iran and its nuclear program went on for years with the IAEA, under the supervision of Mohamed ElBaradei, an Egyptian Islamist who was either inept or complicit in Iran's quest. Summing up his sentiment with a December 2008 statement to the *LA Times* that the UN Policy toward preventing Iran from a nuclear arms program "has been a failure." He also reiterated on several occasions, "I am not ready to jump to the conclusion and say this is a weapons program, unless I see clear cut proof that this is a weapons program. And we are not there yet." ElBaradei would win a Nobel Peace Prize and remain as the "nuclear watchdog" through 2009. Enter Barack Obama, who destabilized the Middle East with his ill-fated Arab Spring initiative and in September 2016 sent Iran \$1.7 BILLION in cash.

Donald Trump, in his first term, froze Iranian assets. Then Joe Biden unfroze them and sent another \$30+ Billion, which was used to fund terrorism like the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel. Bush and Democrats Carter, Clinton, Obama and Biden appeased Iran resulting in today's situation. This evil, pure evil, launching missiles on Israeli citizens and Israel having to militarily try to end Iran's nuclear program in order to survive. All through the years, Iran has been saying death to Israel, coordinating and sponsoring terrorism, while saying it wants nuclear for peaceful purposes. Enough. This evil must be destroyed just like its children Hamas and Hezbollah. 2 Timothy 3:13 says, "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." Ending Iran's evil and deception is long overdue. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Bill Wilson
Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

The New Slavery– Same As the Old

by T.L. Davis,
Opinion & Commentary
TLDavis.Substack.com

I study the civil war/war of Northern aggression quite a bit, not as a scholar would, surely, but from all different sources and perspectives as it, and things like it, have developed over the centuries in almost every nation on earth. Initially, I studied it to write "Shadow Soldier". I find the political conditions between British and Colonists to be very much like those between North and South.

To the degree that it exists here and now is not the same. While any given event might spur things along at a rapid pace, to make the comparison to our times, one has to go to the mid 1750s or the late 1840s. Then, all emotions were in place, anger, resentment, some injustices and killings, the sense that America was no longer British in sentiment, nor the South no longer Unionist in sentiment are the same, but it would be a decade or more before actual hostilities.

The North is being colonized by Islamists and the South is being colonized by criminal aliens and one might wonder whether the actual war to come is between Catholic/Christian versus Islamist states. In Texas, that division and antipathy is largely diffused, but might encounter consolidation as Islamic centers around Northern Texas rub up against the more Catholic/Christian centers further West and South.

The point being made is that due to decades long indoctrination in schools dating back to perhaps WWII and the horrific wars that took place in Europe, brought into teaching a passivity and a belief, somehow, that if one side demurs, the other side will also demur when it is proved throughout all of history that the side that demurs is simply taken over and destroyed.

I remember a missionary passing through my neighborhood sometime in the mid 1990s who asked me the very general question: "Wouldn't you like to see world peace?" To which I answered: "no." "No?" he asked, somewhat confounded, because the narrative suggested I would agree with him, as we had all been taught from kindergarten on, and provide for him the basis of his coming lecture on the needs of sacrifice for peace.

"No, I wouldn't," I replied. "In

freedom, you have conflict, because people are different. What world peace suggests is the absolute suppression of free speech and freedom of thought and expression, because if everyone has these freedoms, there will be war."

This is the process the U.S. is currently undergoing, to silence freedom of speech, thought and expression. It's the forced capitulation of European ideals of freedom, beginning with speech, which allows for targeted imprisonment of those who voice opposition. Nothing is more dangerous to peace than this. This is how the government is able to come into one's home, electronically, and discover dissidents speaking of rights and laws and the corruption of government. In previous administrations, the FBI sought out and punished those who expressed those banned thoughts, relabeling patrots as domestic terrorists. Peace at all costs.

The United States has been softened up, over time, by the accusations against the South. "The South" means anything not of government domination, of government control, but linked conveniently with slavery as if slavery were the worst of mortal sins while they blithely tolerate it everywhere in the Islamic world, which means everywhere in America where Islam has wide support.

The new electronic slavery is heralded and promoted by almost all governments worldwide. So, the caustic charge of slavery, or white supremacy, or Nazism carry less and less weight when viewed through their own complicity with slavery of every form. One of the largest illicit industries in the world is human trafficking, but what is that, if not slavery? Just as in older times, the slaves are first abducted, then sold. Yet, the communists support those already found to have participated in -let's call it for what it is- slavery. The hypocrisy is classic "accuse your enemy of what you yourself are doing."

There is an intentional misunderstanding of what slavery looks like and feels like. Because it was based on race in America doesn't mean that it was not based on race or ethnicity worldwide. No one remembers the reason "the shores of Tripoli" is in the Marine hymn, but it was because white sailors were being taken prisoner and forced into slavery by Lib-

yan pirates. Thomas Jefferson sent the Marines to free them. Christians worldwide have been forced into slavery, then and now. No one seems to care, because more than a hundred years ago, whites stopped employing slaves and that provides the basis for anti-white racism to be used as justification for their annihilation by those currently committing or abetting, and profiting from, the slavery of human trafficking.

It's not slavery any of these people oppose, it is the white, European ideal of freedom and individual rights that so annoy them, because it impinges on the power of the state. There is no better explanation for why all of Islam can be lumped together with communists and it shows that communism is wholly compatible with Islam. If Islam, like communism, were not a parasitic governmental structure, it would remain where it was and not seek out the Christian lands to destroy, take over and remake in their own image. Yes, I know it is in their religion to do so, but that does not explain why so many white Europeans/Americans enable it and why the corrupt government of the United States turns a blind eye to it and even get political contributions to accommodate it.

To call this treason is an ineffective charge when the whole of government is treasonous and knows it. Without proof or some enforcing mechanism to prosecute treason, and we have seen that there is no backbone for it even now, when there are such glaring cases of it as Mark Milley, there simply is not the will.

The only solutions I can see that should be tried are constitutional committees made up of six or so citizens who make the case from actual evidence, citing the laws broken and willing to publish those charges.

When a government is as broken and treasonous as ours, and many in Europe suffer the same treason, working through those traditionally peaceful and somewhat responsive venues being blockaded by other treasonous officials, leads to only one source of justice: the people being oppressed and robbed to maintain the oppression. Still, it's a matter of will and I fear that the words of Solzhenitsyn will reverberate through the camps: "We did not love freedom enough."

Please see: <https://tldavis.substack.com/>

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Leftist Protest Culture and the Rise of Lawlessness

by Joshua Arnold,
The Washington Stand

Federal law enforcement officers in Portland, OR. are once again under constant attack. Since earlier this month, left-wing activists have held almost daily demonstrations outside the building that houses the local Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) branch. Two weeks ago, demonstrations on Wednesday and Thursday led to arrests, but both proved to be dress rehearsals for the greater violence on Saturday which was declared a riot. Again this week, agitators were arrested for launching fireworks and knives at law enforcement.

The clashes evoke the Portland riots from the long, hot summer of 2020, where hundreds of agitators gathered nightly to assault officers guarding the federal courthouse, and where the term “Antifa” entered the popular lexicon.

The cause is slightly different — protesting immigration enforcement instead of police brutality — but the storyline appears to be the same.

In fact, every left-wing protest looks remarkably similar. Always an element seeks confrontation with police — throwing bottles, spraying graffiti, and other minor mayhem. Often the protestors are clad in black with their faces concealed. Often they are united in their object, supplied with identical gear, and organized into platoons.

The left-wing agitators contingent almost looks like an army. Thus,

a local news outlet, Oregon Live, described the June 14 riot, “an impromptu shield wall was formed around 5 p.m. near the main gates to the ICE facility. ... Later, several people could be seen using a stop sign as a makeshift battering ram.”

The locations change, the tactics vary, but the character of these left-wing disturbances remain the same regardless of the ostensible cause. It could be about immigration,

be an essential feature of the phenomenon because many of the participants have adopted street agitation as a lifestyle.

Have you ever stopped to wonder how protests can run on for days and days? Normal people with jobs, families, and other responsibilities cannot afford to simply camp out by a government building for a week. For the left-wing protestors who gather day after day, such protests are at

“Normal people with jobs, families, and other responsibilities cannot afford to simply camp out by a government building for a week. “

or police, or Palestine, or the environment, or abortion, or the LGBT agenda — whatever meets the controversy of the moment. The protests all have the same character — enough to make one suspect they are carried out by all the same characters — to the point of creating an independent phenomenon some have called “Omnicause Leftism.”

Because these protests adapt to the controversy of the moment, and because there is more or less always a political controversy, these protests are more or less constant. One might even call it one perpetual protest, one which tours from city to city, exchanging causes like soiled t-shirts at every stop. In fact, the perpetual nature of the protest seems to

best an intensive hobby and at worst their whole life — perhaps even their livelihood, if someone sponsors their activities.

Recognizing that the protest events are perpetual helps to explain other facets. For example, the protests are well-organized, with innovative and constantly evolving tactics, because the participants are well-practiced.

The perpetual nature of the protests also explains the violent confrontations that occur. News media often report individual protests gathering as discrete events, which they try to contextualize by connecting their rhetoric to the related political cause. But only the most dramatic protests — those which involve

arrest and confrontation — catch such attention. Thus, the protestors must engineer ever-increasing drama to gain attention.

As to what gave rise to the leftist protest culture, that question can be answered on multiple levels. On the surface, this is a strategy of Marxist ideologues to achieve political and social change. Above all else, Marxists desire power and revere oppressed categories of people. They therefore admire the civil rights activism of the 1950s and 60s, which brought an end to segregation, but they also eschew the standard democratic methods of seeking political change — persuasion, elections, and legislation — that made that movement successful.

Left-wing agitators are LARPing (“live action role playing”) their own civil rights movement — or, at least, the way they fantasize it in their heads. The civil rights movement succeeded in drawing attention to unjust, legal segregation by mass protest and peaceful civil disobedience. It took an issue of deep, abiding injustice to draw out so many mothers, fathers, and children — most of them poor, blue-collar workers — for extended protest. This, along with the brutal repression they faced, caught the nation’s attention.

But left-wing agitators try to cheapen the civil rights movement into a set of political tactics they can cut-and-paste onto any political issue. And their insincerity is the reason they won’t succeed. First and foremost, left-wing agitators lack a cause of

sufficient rightness to justify the tactics they employ. They also don’t have to face the same level of personal sacrifice that made the civil rights movement so remarkable. Nor do they commit themselves to the same degree of non-violence.

This points to another essential point: while the civil rights movement was largely produced by black Christians appealing to Christian values and the fundamental moral law, today’s left-wing **agitators fundamentally reject all authority.** They participate in “the mystery of lawlessness” that “is already at work” (2 Thessalonians 2:7), which seeks to “cast off restraint” (Proverbs 29:18).

Left-wing agitators oppose not only God, but every institution he has established, from the family to the church to the state. This is not only for a single day or single issue, but it has become a pattern, a habit, a lifestyle, a culture.

(Editor/GG: Look at the rabble that wallowed up and down Main Street a few weeks ago. Must be the “B” team of protestors. lilly white, angry Gen Z’ers, old burnt out local hippies, anorexic, neurotic city libtards and other flotsam. Yeah, they aren’t the Portland/Seattle losers. Wonder why they didn’t try to riot here, break store windows, attack our LEO or our citizens? I know why....)

Please see: <https://washingtonstand.com/commentary/leftist-protest-culture-and-the-rise-of-lawlessness>

Attempted Attack on Michigan Church Highlights Need for Concealed Carry

by Cam Edwards,
BearingArms.com

When blue states responded to the *Bruen* decision by coming up with a plethora of places that were suddenly deemed “sensitive” and off-limits to lawful concealed carry, houses of worship were popular targets for anti-gun lawmakers. New York, for instance, tried to prohibit lawful carry at every religious site in the state, regardless of what the worship leaders wanted. Thankfully, that particular provision was modified after litigation to allow for property owners to decide whether or not to allow concealed carry, but if gun control activists had their way every church, synagogue, temple, and other house of worship in the country would be a “gun-free zone.”

[The June] incident in Wayne, Michigan, underscores why that’s not only unconstitutional, but

downright dangerous. Authorities say a man armed with two firearms was shot and killed by “church staff” on Sunday, averting what appears to be an attempted mass shooting.

“Chief Ryan Strong said parishioners at CrossPointe Community Church in Wayne spotted the gunman driving recklessly and then saw him exit his vehicle wearing a tactical vest and carrying weapons. The man began firing as he approached the building and was confronted, Strong said at an evening news conference.

A parishioner struck the gunman with his vehicle as the gunman shot the vehicle repeatedly,” Strong said. “At least two staff members shot the gunman, causing the fatal wounds.”

Strong said the gunman’s motive remains unclear, but it

appears he was suffering from a mental health crisis.

The shooting happened around 11 a.m. at CrossPointe Community Church in Wayne, a city of about 17,000 people some 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Detroit, the church’s pastor, Bobby Kelly Jr., told the Detroit News.

It’s not clear at this point whether the “church staff” who shot the would-be attacker were licensed security guards or merely exercising their right to carry, but that doesn’t really matter. There are plenty of churches that can’t afford to hire outside security. Instead, they depend on parishioners or staff members to serve as armed protection during services.

The defensive gun use at CrossPointe Community Church on Sunday is just the latest example of why these practices are so important. The media actually

covered armed parishioners thwarting attacks in Texas and Colorado, though in many cases they presented the armed parishioners as official guards and not simply armed citizens who were carrying as part of their church’s security measures.

For what it’s worth, Michigan law declares that “any property or facility owned or operated by a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, or other place of worship” is considered a “sensitive place” by default, “unless the presiding official or officials allow concealed weapons.” While gun control activists in the state have been able to enact several new restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms over the past several years, including a ban on *open* carry at polling locations, they thankfully haven’t managed to turn every place of worship into a “gun-free zone”. If they had, the attempted mass murderer who

targeted CrossPointe Community Church might very well have been able to carry out his attack instead of being stopped outside.

The parishioner who saw the shooter and tried to take him out with their vehicle should be praised as well. They gave the church staff time to engage the attacker, and at great risk to their own life and limb. Ultimately, though, it was a couple of good folks with guns of their own who put a stop to the man’s nefarious plans, and their actions should serve as a reminder not only of the ineffectiveness of “gun-free zones”, but the importance of ensuring that if someone decides to engage in mass murder there’s more than one target willing and able to fight back.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2025/06/23/attempted-attack-on-michigan-church-highlights-need-for-concealed-carry-n1229028>

“The fate of America cannot depend on any one man. The greatness of America is grounded in principles and not on any single personality.” —Franklin Roosevelt



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1776

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2025



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4:30pm: Ruck with us SGS-Hunt Club
Friday, July 11, 9am-12pm: PEW PEW Rifle
Saturday, July 12, 9am-1pm: Steel Challenge
Friday, July 18, 8:45-11am: CCW Refresher
Saturday, July 19, 9am-2pm: Steel Challenge
Fundamentals
4:30pm: Ruck with us SGS-Hunt Club
Friday, July 25, 9am-12pm: PEW PEW Pistol
4-8pm: Ladies Night
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The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the bowling alley.



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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



3-PHASES OF MUSLIM IMMIGRATION

Phase 1 - Few in Number - Oppressed Islam
Play the Victim
Claim Islamophobia
More Tolerant of Others
Phase 2 - Large Minority- Indignant Islam
Threatening
Demand Sharia Law
Intolerant of Infidels
Phase 3 - Clear Majority- Dominant Islam
Militant
Strict Sharia Law
Kill / Subdue All infidels
For 1400 Years This Pattern Hasn't Changed.
Moderates Are Irrelevant.

Armed Intervention: 'You Are Your Own First Responder', Says Michigan Church Volunteer

by Dave Workman,
Ammoland.com

An armed private citizen and member of a volunteer security team at the **CrossPointe Community Church** in Wayne, Michigan., is credited with fatally shooting a would-be mass killer Sunday, telling a local television reporter, “You are your own first responder. You are the first person on scene. It doesn’t matter if it’s someone trying to hurt you, an injury, something- you are your first responder.”

In an interview with WXYZ News, church member Jay Trombley reflected on the events of Sunday morning. He is on a safety team consisting of “average citizens with no police or military experience, have undergone extensive training in the event they encounter an active shooter,” according to the report.

The gunman was first deliberately struck by another church member, using his truck to knock down the suspect. This apparently gave Trombley time to engage.

Murray was shot by Jeanne Assam, a member of the **New Life Church** and, coincidentally, a former police officer from Minneapolis. Murray was being sought after gunning down two people and wounding two others at the **Youth With A Mission** training center in Arvada,

federal counts and sentenced to death by lethal injection.

There apparently were no armed security people at the **First Baptist Church** in Sutherland Springs, Texas, on November. 5, 2017, which allowed a man identified as Devin Kelley,

“...legally-armed citizens can provide a first line of defense against an attack,”

just northwest from Denver.

Twelve hours later, at about 1 p.m., according to published accounts, Murray showed up at the church in Colorado Springs, a distance of about 80 miles. There, he opened fire in the church parking lot, killing two teenage sisters and wounding their father. He then moved into the church where he encountered Assam, who promptly shot him twice. Murray then took his own life with a pistol.

In February 2024, the **Lakewood Church** in Houston, Texas, was

using guns he was able to buy despite his military conviction of domestic violence while serving in the U.S. Air Force. The USAF didn’t report the conviction so it could be logged with the National Instant Check System (NICS).

Kelley entered the Texas church with a semi-auto rifle and opened fire, “methodically shooting the victims, pausing only to reload,” according to the Wikipedia account. He killed 26 people and wounded 22 others.

Had there been an armed citizen inside the church, it might have turned out differently. It was not until Kelley went outside that he was confronted and shot twice by a neighbor, Stephen Willeford, who used an AR15 in the exchange.

Kelley was hit twice, once in the leg and once in the upper chest. He fled with Willeford and another man in pursuit, crashing his vehicle into a field, where he committed suicide.

Not surprisingly, although Willeford was hailed for his actions, the media seemed to bury the fact he used a modern semi-auto rifle to engage the killer.

Having an armed volunteer team that trains regularly and has a plan to follow in the event of a shooting is a phenomenon many churches seem to avoid while others, as is the case in Michigan, have reluctantly embraced the notion. Churches which form such teams do not make a habit of making it public knowledge for any number of reasons.

But as the incident in Wayne, Michigan, demonstrated, legally-armed citizens can provide a first line of defense against an attack, whether the perpetrator(s) happen to be deranged or domestic terrorists, or a little of both.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/06/armed-intervention-you-are-your-own-first-responder-says-mi-church-volunteer/>

RE: FBC Sutherland Springs, TX
“Had there been an armed citizen inside the church, it might have turned out differently.

Trombley’s intervention saved lives, and is reminiscent of the December 29, 2019 shooting at the **West Freeway Church of Christ** in White Settlement, Texas. In that incident, a lone gunman opened fire during a service which was being live-streamed, fatally shooting Anton Wallace, 64, and Richard White, 67, before another legally-armed citizen, Jack Wilson, who headed that church’s security team, fired a shot across the church sanctuary, striking 43-year-old Keith Thomas Kinnunen, killing him.

Armed volunteer security teams are not new to American places of worship. While they are seldom discussed in proverbial “polite company,” such teams are apparently becoming something of a necessity in response to violent criminal acts which might qualify as domestic terrorism.

As far back as 2007, armed private citizens have intervened when seconds count and police are minutes away, as the saying goes. On December 9, 2007, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a lone gunman identified as Matthew John

the scene of another shooting. This time, according to Wikipedia, the perpetrator—36-year-old Genesse Moreno—reportedly claimed to have a bomb in her backpack, though it was later discovered no such device existed. She did have a gun, however, with which she shot one man in the leg, and then fired multiple rounds.

Moreno, who had brought her 7-year-old son to the rampage, then made the fatal mistake of aiming her gun at two other people who happened to be off-duty police officers, also serving as church security. They shot her dead, and the child was wounded in the exchange.

People attending the **Tree of Life synagogue** in Pittsburgh, PA, on Octotober 27, 2018, were not so lucky. A gunman identi-fied as Robert Gregory Bowers entered the synagogue during morn-ing Shabbat services and opened fire. He killed 11 people and wounded six others. Nobody was there to stop Bowers, but he was apprehended and later convicted in 2023 on 63 different

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MIRA Safety CM-8M Gas Mask: Why Every Go Bag Needs One

by Scott Witner,
ammoland.com

When trains derail, wildfires rage, and protestors shut down highways, the air can turn hostile fast. Chemical spills, CS gas, toxic smoke—these aren’t fictional threats. They’re real, recent, and happening more often than anyone likes to admit.

And yet... most people still skip the gas mask.

They’ll pack a trauma kit, water filter, maybe even night vision—but no respiratory protection. That’s like heading into a firefight with no ear pro.

If you’re serious about disaster prep or personal security, a high-quality, full-face respirator isn’t optional—it’s essential.

Enter the Mira Safety CM-8M.

This Isn’t Just a Gas Mask. It’s Life Insurance.

- CBRN-rated and tested for mustard gas
- Works with red dots, NVGs, and scopes—shoot with both eyes open
- 92.5% field of view—see more, react faster
- Built-in hydration system—stay hydrated without breaking the seal
- Comms ready—upgrade with MIRA mic
- 20-year shelf life—set it and forget it until you need it most
- Trusted by pros, built for chaos—riots, chemical spills, grid-down? You’re covered

If the air turns toxic, this mask buys you time, safety, and options. And that might be the difference between making it out or not.

Not a Surplus Relic. A

Modern CBRN Powerhouse

Let’s get one thing straight—this isn’t some crusty Cold War surplus mask. The CM-8M is a next-gen, tactical, full-face respirator built for today’s threats, from industrial



The gas mask can be configured for left or right-handed shooters.



The dust cover is installed on the right side

disasters and riots to chemical and biological warfare.

Made in the Czech Republic to military-grade specs, it’s CBRN-compliant, tested for 30 hours of mustard gas exposure, and compatible with widely available NATO-standard 40mm filters. Whether you’re moving through toxic smoke or shielding your family from a chemical threat, this is the real deal..

The dust cover is installed on the right side

Why a Gas Mask Belongs in Your Go Bag

Retired Army SGM John “Shrek” McPhee keeps a gas mask in his go bag for one reason: crowd dispersal and self-preservation. And his approach isn’t theoretical—it’s a response to how society has evolved in just the last few years.

When protests block highways and angry mobs surround vehicles, your options get very real, very fast. Shrek’s plan is simple:

- Don the gas mask
- Deploy orange smoke grenades to create a visual screen and disorient the crowd
- Use bear spray under the cover of smoke to create distance and force movement

All of it is non-lethal. All of it is legal. And none of it is possible without a reliable gas mask.

“I don’t want to hurt anybody... but I also don’t have time to play games when I’ve got my family in the car.”

– John “Shrek” McPhee



Mira Gas Mask Hydration hook-up

What Sets the CM-8M Apart

1. Optics Compatibility You Can Actually Use

The CM-8M is designed with a low-profile lens system that’s ideal for rifle use. Unlike most full-face respirators with bubble-style visors that destroy your cheek weld, the CM-8M allows for a natural shooting position. Whether you’re running an AR with irons or an LPVO, this mask works with your kit, not against it.

2. Wide Field of View

With a 92.5% field of vision, you maintain full situational awareness. That’s critical whether you’re moving through tight urban spaces during civil unrest or scanning a treeline on a patrol. It doesn’t tunnel your vision like many surplus masks.

3. CBRN-Rated Protection

This isn’t a painter’s mask. The CM-8M is built to meet the highest standards for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear protection. It has been tested to withstand expo-

sure to mustard gas for 30 hours and pairs with any standard 40mm NATO filter, including NBC and P3-rated options.

For those tracking real-world events—train de-

railments, chemical plant explosions, or even riots where CS gas is used—you’re covered.

4. Hydration System Built-In

During extended operations or bug-out scenarios, hydration matters. The integrated drinking system connects to an included canteen or can be adapted to hydration bladders. That’s something most surplus or entry-level civilian masks don’t offer.

5. Built for Longevity

With a 20-year shelf life and rugged construction from bromobutyl rubber, this isn’t gear you’ll be replacing anytime soon. It’s stable, dependable, and designed to ride in your kit for the long haul.

Practical Applications

Here’s where the CM-8M earns its place in your preparedness plan:

- Get-Home Bag: Civil unrest or environmental contamination could force you to travel on foot through compro-

mised areas. Having a full-face respirator that works with your rifle setup could mean the difference between getting home or not.

- Vehicle Kit: If you’re storing water, a first aid kit, and a trauma pack in your vehicle, a quality gas mask rounds out the kit for industrial accidents, wildfires, or violent protests.

- Bug-Out Loadout: Every prepper has a plan. Whether you’re bugging out to a family farm or a forested retreat, the CM-8M gives you a fighting chance when threats go airborne.

- Home Readiness: Think shelter-in-place protocols during chemical emergencies or pandemics. Pair the CM-8M with Mira’s PAPR system for enhanced airflow in a home defense scenario where you may need to wear a mask for hours.

Final Thoughts: Is the CM-8M Worth It?

If you’re serious about preparedness, the Mira CM-8M is one of the most capable, civilian-available full-face respirators on the market today. It’s not cheap, but it’s not a throwaway item either. This is a professional-grade piece of life-saving equipment built to function when everything else fails.

In a world where railcars derail, cities erupt, and threats continue to evolve, having gear that’s modern, tested, and reliable isn’t overkill—it’s common sense.

Your lungs are irreplaceable. Protect them as you would your own life.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/06/mira-safety-cm-8m-gas-mask-why-every-go-bag-needs-one/>

1972 Vietnam: Navy SEAL Rescues MOH Recipient

The Giant Killer,
via Facebook

How One Navy SEAL Received the Medal of Honor for Saving Another Medal of Honor Recipient:

On April 2, 1972, while Lt. Thomas Norris was serving his second tour in Vietnam and as the Easter Offensive rolled into its third day, news came that an EB-66 plane had been shot down behind North Vietnamese lines. The area where the plane crashed was heavily fortified with over 30,000 enemy soldiers.

U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Iceal Hambleton was the lone survivor of the crash. He had firsthand knowledge of classified information from Strategic Air Command operations and also had expertise in ground-to-air missile countermeasures, so the Air Force was especially anxious that he not be captured by the enemy.

A rescue mission was quickly underway, but one of the rescuing planes was gunned down behind enemy lines, and only Lieutenant

Mark Clark managed to escape capture after it crashed. This complicated matters for the Air Force, which now launched an effort to rescue both Clark and Hambleton.

Thus, the largest and most intense search-and-rescue operation of the Vietnam War ensued.

During the 5-day mission, 14 people were killed, 8 planes were destroyed, 2 rescuers were captured, and another 2 rescuers got stranded in enemy territory.

The entire time, communications were ongoing between the 7th Air Force and Clark and Hambleton, in order to help them evade capture. With losses mounting and no success from their efforts thus far, the Air Force finally ruled out a rescue by air.

On April 8, a covert, land-based rescue operation was sanctioned, and Norris and 5 soldiers from the South Vietnamese Army were chosen for the op. On April 10, Norris led the group nearly one and quarter miles into fortified enemy territory. As the 11th dawned, they found Mark Clark.



They successfully maneuvered him back across the North Vietnamese territory and returned to their Forward Operating Base.

They cleaned up and geared up for the next mission which would be Hambleton’s rescue, but a cataclysmic North Vietnamese rocket and mortar attack was launched on their small outpost. In that very short moment, Norris lost two men from his team.

Picking themselves up, the next day the remaining team members proceeded into enemy territory on their mission to locate and rescue Hambleton. They could not succeed.

The magnitude of enemy emplacements and patrol units around this zone was such that two out of the three remaining South Vietnamese soldiers withdrew, leaving Norris with only one man, Petty Officer Third Class Nguyen Van Kiet.

Together, they pressed on with the mission, and on April 13 Norris received details on Hambleton’s location from a Forward Air Controller.

For their next attempt, Norris and Kiet disguised themselves as fishermen and set out up a river on a sampan. On getting to the location, they had a stroke of luck: Hambleton was right there, injured, but alive.

Sig Sauer Introduces the P211-GTO

by Duncan Johnson,
Editor, ammoland.com

SIG SAUER, industry leading manufacturer of cutting-edge firearms, optics and ammunition, introduces the P211-GTO. Building upon a distinguished lineage of hammer-fired pistols renowned for precision machining and reliability, the P211-GTO incorporates the timeless appeal and superior performance of double-stack 1911 pistols – symbols of enduring speed, accuracy and craftsmanship with a modern twist.

At its core, the P211 embodies the spirit of enthusiasts who live for performance and precision—on the range and in the automotive world. Inspired by advanced manufacturing techniques, this premium pistol re-

flects a shared dedication to meticulous quality, exhilarating speed, and a lifestyle deeply rooted in excellence.

“Engineered for unmatched speed and flawless reliability, the SIG SAUER P211-GTO elevates the shooting experience, setting a new benchmark for shooters who demand nothing short of exceptional,” said Robby Johnson, Chief Marketing Officer. “The P211-GTO combines ground-breaking innovation with the iconic, purpose-driven design at the heart of SIG SAUER’s legendary heritage.”

The P211-GTO pairs a precision-crafted 4.4” bull barrel seamlessly with the cutting-edge MACH3D compensator. This revolutionary, 3D-manufactured compensator dramatically

reduces muzzle rise and felt recoil, allowing for faster, more accurate follow-up shots—even during the most intense rapid-fire sessions.

A sleek, full-length dust cover adds essential balance and improves weight distribution while providing ample rail space for accessories. The pistol’s robust design ensures enhanced rigidity and a striking tactical aesthetic. The P211’s innovative straight-pull trigger provides a consistently smooth, clean pull—delivering comfort and pinpoint accuracy every time.

The comprehensive safety features of the P211, include a grip safety, ambidextrous thumb safeties, and a reliable firing pin safety. Each P211 comes equipped with durable, proven 23-round



SIG SAUER P211-GTO

magazines fully compatible with the widely popular SIG P320 platform, ensuring dependable reliability with every round fired.

Product Details:

- 4.4” Bull Barrel paired with a precision-mounted Mach3D compensator
- Steel frame with 3-slot

accessory rail and full-length dust cover

- Compatible with picatinny rail mounted accessories
- Straight-pull trigger for a clean and consistent pull
- Precision-engineered alloy grip module
- Grip Safety,

- Ambidextrous Thumb Safeties and Firing Pin Safety mechanism
- Equipped with (1) 23-round and (2) 21-round P320-compatible steel magazines

The P211-GTO was pre-viewed at SIG NEXT 2025, a one-of-a-kind innovation showcase and immersive product and brand experience that can only come from SIG SAUER, the defense contractor of the future.

To learn more about the P211-GTO and all of SIG SAUER’s innovative and battle-tested products, visit sigsauger.com.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/06/sig-sauer-introduces-the-p211-gto/>

FBI Reportedly Probing Three Hospitals Allegedly Mutilating Kids in Medical Procedures

by Emily Kopp

THE DAILY CALLER
NEWS FOUNDATION

The FBI is investigating a trio of children’s hospitals for allegedly and potentially violating a federal law against genital mutilation through the provision of pediatric sex change surgeries, according to a Fox News report.

The hospitals reportedly under FBI scrutiny for providing sex change surgeries and hormone replacement therapy include Boston Children’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital Colorado and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Attorney General Pam Bondi instructed attorneys general in an April 22 memo to pursue cases against health providers

under 18 U.S.C. § 116, a federal statute outlawing female genital mutilation on any person under the age of 18. The crime carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years per count.

The memo also instructed the FBI to investigate violations of the False Claims Act connected to providers conducting transgender surgeries but billing Medicaid for another procedure.

Bondi also announced a Coalition Against Child Mutilation to coordinate with state attorneys general to build cases against hospitals and providers violating these laws.

Bondi’s memo followed an executive order signed by President Donald Trump on January 28th that instructed the attorney general to prioritize such cases.

“We applaud Attorney General Pam Bondi and the FBI for launching criminal investigations into these hospitals. Children’s hospitals should be places where sick children can receive high-quality and evidence-based care, not laboratories where activist doctors experiment on kids,” said Do No Harm Chair Stanley Goldfarb in a statement.

Do No Harm, a health care watchdog, identified the trio of hospitals reportedly under FBI scrutiny as among the dozen American hospitals with the highest volume of sex change-related treatments, surgeries and hormone and puberty blocker prescriptions in children. The group’s analysis found \$119 million flowing to hospitals for sex change treatments for minors from 2019 to 2023.

When Children’s Hospital Los Angeles announced in February that it would cease transgender treatments, the move was challenged by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who warned that the move could violate the state’s nondiscrimination laws.

Nonetheless, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles will permanently shutter the Center for Transyouth Health and Development in July.

Children’s Hospital Colorado continues to provide puberty blockers and hormone treatments to minors but insists that the hospital “never” provided transgender surgeries for those under 18, instead making referrals to other providers, according to the Fox report.

Boston Children’s Hospital continues to operate its Gender

Multispecialty Service program, according to its website. The hospital restricts surgeries to patients over 18 but offers minors hormone therapy, puberty blockers and external referrals for surgery, Fox reported.

The FBI declined to comment. Three FBI field offices and the DOJ did not respond to requests for comment. Boston Children’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital Colorado, and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles also did not respond to requests for comment.

Please see: <https://dailycaller.com/2025/06/24/fbi-reportedly-probing-3-hospitals-for-allegedly-mutilating-kids-in-trans-medical-procedures/>

NAVY SEAL from page 21

They hid him on the sampan, covering him with banana leaves, and headed back down the river.

As they made for the FOB, they soon came under intense enemy fire. Norris called in air strikes which enabled them to shake off the onslaught and reach their base.

Owing to Norris and Kiet’s courage and commitment, both Clark and Hambleton were later successfully evacuated from the area.

For his “outstanding display of decisive leadership, undaunted courage, and selfless dedication in the face of extreme danger” during the whole rescue operation, LT Thomas Norris was awarded the Medal of Honor on March 6, 1976.

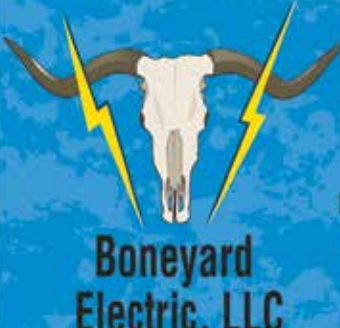
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BLAST FROM THE PAST
from page 2

We were especially glad to see the “open carry” Guitar Band entry as we fully support everyone’s right to carry. That’s what makes America great. If a guitar makes you feel safe then go for it. And of course no parade would be complete without our Search and Rescue, EMTs and Fire Trucks. Last, but not least, we thank Lisa Frank and Mary Seifert for “cleaning up” after the four-legged participants. They made it look fun. Thanks to you all.

July 4, 2020

A Wild Independence Day

We the People!

Freedom & Liberty Rally/March/
Celebration Rocks Main St.

by George Gramlich,
Commentary

When the two ladies trying to do the Independence Day Parade for our county were stymied and road blocked [for] six weeks by two-mask worshipping BOCC and the Board of Health, they finally announced that they were withdrawing their application.

One applicant mentioned that perhaps there might be a protest march instead Oh my, civil disobedience amongst the Custer County sheep herd! Baa, baa, baaaaaah. Little did they know.

Word started to spread via email, social platforms, the *Sentinel* and word of mouth.

And there it was!

....July 4th, 2020, the patriots started rolling in. Since there was virtually no organizational control, the participants self-organized into lines of people, cars, trucks, motorcycles, huge semi-trucks, horses and ATVs all along Hermit Lane and every available space



2020 Rally - Patriots as far as you can see. Below- our first non-military or American Legion color guard.

Photos by Jordan Benson

within hundreds of yards. The line went all the way to Highway 69. Every inch of ground was covered with parked vehicles and trailers.

The participants gathered and connected with old friends and met new ones... veterans networked with each other People came from all over Colorado....

Local army veteran, Pastor Andrew Zeller....delivered a stirring speech and a patriot-driven prayer that was extremely well received by the attendees. He then led the parade down Main Street with a lovely young local lady, Madeline Ballard, next to him expertly handling a snare drum. Directly behind them was another local Pastor, Adrian Washington and his wife, Linda Pollack. A citizens’ color guard if you will. Then, off they went, by themselves, leading the joyous celebration of our nation’s independence. Ra ta ta, ra ta tat leading the march, the patriots proudly displaying our American flag. Beautiful.



Behind them were four beautiful semi-trucks who followed them, about 50 yards behind. Right after that, a whole army of patriots started the mile-long walk down Main Street. Following the initial section, came a variety of participants with all kinds of

vehicles plus a bunch of horseback riders. It just didn’t stop. We estimate the parade was around two miles long with approximately 800 to 1,000 marchers. It took almost an hour to finish. Easily the biggest marching event to ever happen on Main Street. Local businesses did well before, during and afterward. They needed the boost after months of unneeded lockdown. A big win for all.

Various national patriot news sites/blogs ran stories on the big pro-liberty protest march in little Westcliffe/Silver Cliff in the days afterward. It is the little county that still loves our country. As expected, Colorado MSM ignored the biggest July 4th event in southern Colorado.

God Bless America and God Bless the patriots who made this event happen.

Freedom and Liberty first.



George Gramlich and Yvonne Phillips. Sentinel Photo



Pastor Andrew Zeller Leads the 2020 Rally.

Photo by Jordan Benson

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CCRCC meets monthly on the second Thursday at 6pm at Rancher's Roost