

Study Finds Colorado Regulations Among Highest in Nation, Costing Jobs

by Ed Sealover, The Sum and Substance, TSSColorado.com

Colorado’s sharp rise in new regulations over the past four years is costing the state tens of thousands of jobs while elevating costs for consumers, and reform is needed, according to a study released Tuesday by the Colorado Chamber of Commerce.

The number of new regulations affecting private industries that went into law between 2020 and 2023 increased 7.1%, or 2.3% annually, according to Maryland-based market-research and regulatory-analysis firm StratACUMEN group, which did the study for the Chamber. Pipeline transportation, personal services (ranging from pet groomers to funeral homes) and chemical manufacturing all saw at least 50% growth in the number of regulations governing those sectors in the four-year period, the report found.

That surge in new rules ranked Colorado as the state with the 12th -highest number of regulations by the end of 2023 but leaves it on pace to rank sixth by the end of this year, with businesses facing more than 200,000 distinct regulations, the study found. Some sectors have more than three times as many regulations as the median U.S. state, including manufacturing of nonmetallic mineral products from glass to cement (7.67 times the median rules), pipeline transportation of natural resources (6.16 times) and ambulatory health-care services (4.02 times).

Costs and benefits to regulations

The sharp increase in regulations corresponds with Democrats taking full control of the state House, Senate and governor’s office at the start of 2019 and then pushing for laws to protect the environment, workers and the state’s unemployment insurance program.

Supporters say new regulations protect residents from air and water pollution, employer exploitation and the impact of new technology (on subjects like data privacy), among other things, and they argue that gains in those areas outshine economic drawbacks.

The StratACUMEN study acknowledges that while most regulations are proposed with good intentions, their overall impact can create unintended consequences, particularly for locally owned businesses dealing with the barrage of rules. Using figures from other studies, it argued that each 10% increase in regulations can lead employers to divert resources from growth to compliance, stopping some 9,000 businesses from moving forward and costing 36,000 jobs.

“The findings indicate that while regulations are essential for ensuring safety, environmental protection and consumer rights, their cumulative burden can pose significant challenges, particularly for small- and medium-sized businesses that are vital for the state’s economy,” the study concluded.

Regulatory reform a Colorado Chamber priority

Colorado business owners have complained increasingly about regulations in recent years and listed the jump in operating rules as by far their biggest impediment to growing jobs locally in a 2023 Chamber survey. Chamber President/CEO Loren Furman identified the reduction of regulatory burden as one of the organization’s key pillars in its Vision 2033 10-year plan released last year.

Since 2019, legislators and regulators added rules to cut greenhouse-gas emissions in sectors from energy to buildings, launched

REGULATIONS COST JOBS
see page 24

How Colorado’s High Court Nullified Consent of the Governed

by David Kopel, CompleteColorado.com

Colorado’s 1876 Constitution is replete with provisions to prohibit corporate welfare, special privileges for government-favored big business, and government debt without voter consent. The protections have been fortified and extended by constitutional amendment, most notably in the 1992 Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights. Yet for the past century, the Colorado Supreme Court, usually in cooperation with the other two branches, has nullified the taxpayer protections of the Colorado Constitution.

This sad story is told in my new article for the Denver University Law Review’s annual Tenth Circuit Symposium, *Negating Democratic Consent: How the Colorado Supreme Court has Nullified Colorado Constitutional Limits on Taxes, Debt, and Corporate Privilege*. (The symposium includes law review articles on 10th Circuit states.)

For example, Colorado Constitution article XI, section 1, forbids government debt on behalf of corporations in the most comprehensive language possible:

Neither the state, nor any county, city, town, township or school district shall lend or pledge the credit or faith thereof, directly or

indirectly, in any manner to, or in aid of, any person, company or corporation, public or private, for any amount, or for any purpose whatever; or become responsible for any debt, contract or liability of any person, company or corporation, public or private, in or out of the state.

The next section of the Constitution, article XI, section 2, also uses the broadest language possible to outlaw government aid to corporations:

Neither the state, nor any county, city, town, township, or school district shall make any donation or grant to, or in aid of, or become a subscriber to, or shareholder in any corporation or company or a joint owner with any person, company, or corporation, public or private, in or out of the state . . .

The statutory text contains certain narrow exceptions. For example, a government might acquire ownership of a corporation by forfeiture or escheat. By constitutional amendment, the people have created other exceptions, allowing for a government student loan programs and for government investment in energy industries.

NULLIFIED
see page 16

Independence Day Parade was HUGE Success!



Josie Canda, age six, running through the fire hose spray at the Independence Day Parade. Photo courtesy of “Grandpa”. More Parade photos on page 12-13 and more next week!

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I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.
2 Samuel 22: 4 KJV

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of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

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

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Business Directory QR
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website <https://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

When the Truth Calls You Back into Formation

by Pastor Drake Hunter,
Devotional, Elevating Life Church
via RockyMountainVoice.com

I remember the day truth found me, normative truth that is, and it wasn't in a church pew or quiet devotional moment. It was on a drill pad, surrounded by hundreds of Airmen at Lackland Air Force Base, standing at attention in full formation.

I was in Basic Military Training, still full of fight, pride, and the need to prove myself.

When the Training Instructors (TIs) clocked out for the day, I'd go looking for a different kind of training, one that involved fists, not formation. I would stir up fights in the dorms, trying to dominate the other guys in our squadron.

In other words, I thought I was all that and a bag of Doritos with a Mountain Dew on the side, so much so—that I thought I was getting away with it.

But truth, with its transformative power, has a way of showing up at just the right time.

One day, with the entire Wing assembled in formation, our lead TI stepped forward. His voice boomed across the drill pad: "There's been a breach in integrity. Someone has been tearing down what we're trying to build. And I know who it is. But I want him to step forward and take ownership of it. So if it's you, take one step forward."

I didn't move!

But the second he finished his sentence, every single Airman behind me took one step back.

There I was. Standing alone. Exposed by a norm I had rejected, and a community I had violated.

That moment on the drill pad reminds me of a man named Ezra, a priest, a scribe, a reformer.

He stepped into a broken world after Israel's exile. Their identity was cracked. Their unity was shattered. Their standards? Forgotten.

Just like me in my rebellious moment on the hot concrete, Israel stood alone, in a humbled position, not by choice, mind you, but by the consequence of their disobedience of the Norm of God.

So what did Ezra do?

He set his heart to study God's law, live it out, and teach it faithfully (Ezra 7:10). He reminded the people not just of who they were, but of how they ought to live.

He didn't create a new truth. He restored the normative truth they had abandoned.

Normative truth is the kind of truth that binds a people together, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. It's not just about what is true—it's about what ought to be true. It shapes community, identity, order, and direction.

Ezra called the people back to that truth.

But Ezra was just the beginning.

Years later, Jesus would walk among us—not just to teach the norms of God, but to embody them.

Where Ezra read the scroll, Jesus became the scroll in motion. He said, "I haven't come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it" (Matt. 5:17). Jesus didn't lower the standard. He fulfilled it in grace and truth.

He didn't just adjust and correct behavior—He transformed hearts. He took the code and made it a covenant of love.

Today, we live in a culture where the idea of "norms" is under attack. People want the truth to be fluid, personal, and optional. But real life doesn't work that way.

We must remember the contrast between cultural norms and Christ's truth, and the importance of aligning with the latter.

Just like in Basic Training, there's always a moment where the standard confronts you. You either align with it or get exposed by it!

But here's the beauty of the Gospel: Jesus doesn't leave us alone on the drill pad. He steps forward with us, offering forgiveness and transformation. He gives us the strength to live by the norm, not as a burden, but as a blessing, reassuring us of his loving presence.

Here are a few things to reflect on this week:

- Have you ever been "out of step" with God's truth? What happened?
- What standards do you live by? Are they shaped more by culture or by Christ?
- How can you recommit today to live by the truth Jesus fulfilled in love?

As always...Stay salty. Shine bright. Suit up.

For more from Pastor Drake, go here for his podcast: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/podcast/just-sayin/>

Please see <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/07/06/devotional-when-the-truth-calls-you-back-into-formation/>

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Letters to the Editor

Please send your submissions to us at sdc.sentinel@gmail.com, mail them or bring them in to the office at 601 Main St., Westcliffe CO 81252.

Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 500 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name and give us the general location of your residence. Also please provide your phone number or email - for confirmation only. *The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.*

German Descendants' Parade Float



Float commemorating Carl Wulstein's 170 German Colony.

Have you heard the old saying "someone needs to say something"? Did you observe the float in the Fourth of July Parade, observing and celebrating and commemorating Carl Wulstein's 1870 German Colony Descendants?

Brad and Marlys Hartbauer have been instrumental in keeping this alive by scheduling meetings with speakers one time a year for many years. Brad is a descendant of Gerhardt Hartbauer (1835-1906) of the German Colony.

This was a great achievement by Brad and Marlys Hartbauer, Dr. Gary Mohr, and all the descendants that participated in this event. Also gratitude to Lutheran Lange Hall.

Signed,
The Rest of the Hartbauers

A Mission That Changed Us All: CCSAR's Journey With Frankie, Three Years Later

from CCSAR

Three years ago, on May 13, 2022, Custer County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) responded to a mission that would forever change the lives of a family—and leave a lasting impact on our CCSAR team.

It was a beautiful day and a Friday afternoon when the call came in. After a thorough briefing, three CCSAR teams were dispatched to Spread Eagle Peak. One of the CCSAR teams, accompanied by a REACH Air Medical Services Flight Paramedic and Flight Nurse and the Colorado National Guard (COANG), was tasked with rescuing a climber who had fallen approximately 200 feet in rocky, difficult and steep terrain.

Meanwhile, another two CCSAR ground teams were sent to locate the remaining three members of the climbing group, who were off trail and lost in unfamiliar terrain. When CCSAR reached them, they were cold, shaken, and in shock after witnessing their friend fall from the ridge. They were given warm clothing, food and support as they were safely guided off the mountain and brought to



the CCSAR facility. Thankfully, all three made a full physical recovery.

The fallen climber—Frankie—was located and stabilized by CCSAR and the REACH medical personnel and ultimately hoisted out of the mountains by the Colorado Hoist Rescue Team. It was touch and go; he was in critical condition. He was flown by COANG to the CCSAR base, where REACH Medical completed a nose-to-nose transfer to the hospital. Despite the severity of his injuries and the eventual loss of a leg, Frankie made a full recovery—a testament to his strength and determination.

Frankie and his family have remained in touch with Custer County SAR ever since. On May 30, 2025,

they returned—this time to finish the hike that changed their lives. Frankie, along with his father, mother and girlfriend, completed the full 10-mile trek in a single day, walking side by side with members of the SAR team. Their journey ended with shared stories and celebration at our annual Memorial Day BBQ.

This full-circle moment was deeply moving for our team. Frankie's resilience, along with the unwavering support of his loved ones, reminds us why we do what we do. Our CCSAR family was forever changed by this rescue—and we are honored to have played a part in his story. We can't wait to see what's next for this courageous young man! Wishing you the best, Frankie!

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Inside a Colorado District's Debate About What Gets Taught in Fourth Grade Social Studies

by Ann Schimke, Chalkbeat Colorado
Published July 2, 2025

(This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at ckbe.at/newsletters.)

A committee of fourth grade teachers in western Colorado spent months this past school year reviewing potential social studies curriculums. The one they chose was written by Colorado historians and is widely used in schools across the state.

But in April, the school board in Mesa County Valley District 51, a 20,000-student district based in Grand Junction, rejected that curriculum, called “*The Colorado Story*.” Some board members felt its mention of the Black Lives Matter movement was not age appropriate and that it portrayed historical figures such as Christopher Columbus in a negative light, among other concerns.

Barb Evanson, the District 51 board member who was most vocal in her opposition, said in an interview that she felt the curriculum wrongly portrayed Columbus as solely responsible for harm to indigenous people in the Americas.

“Were there people that were doing bad things? Were there people that were absolutely there with ill intention? Absolutely,” she said. “Was it Christopher Columbus? No.”

The controversy in District 51 echoes current culture war battles over how American history is taught and whether schoolchildren can grapple with challenging subjects like race, racism, and flawed historical figures. The Trump administration has joined the fray, too — launching an effort in May that asks national parks visitors to report signage that disparages past or living Americans.

Liz Wallace, publisher and president at Gibbs Smith Education, which publishes “*The Colorado Story*,” said what happened in District 51 was a first.

“Prior to this year, I have never had a board reject one of our books,” she said.

Curriculum decision split the community

Instead of “*The Colorado Story*,” the District 51 school board chose a different fourth grade social studies curriculum in May. Called “*Exploring Social Studies: Colorado*,” it got lower marks from the teacher committee. The district will spend about \$116,000 to purchase the second-choice curriculum, including textbooks, teacher guides, activities, and digital access. A district spokesperson couldn’t provide the cost of the first-choice option, because she said district officials never got far enough into the process.

The vote wasn’t unanimous. In a microcosm of national politics, both the board and the community were split over what fourth graders in Grand Junction should learn. The board voted 3-2 in April to reject “*The Colorado Story*.” In May, it voted 4-1 to adopt “*Exploring Social Studies: Colorado*.”

Board Vice President Will Jones, who ultimately voted to adopt the second-

choice curriculum, expressed frustration with the process and said topics like Black Lives Matter are part of history and should be taught.

“Where I get frustrated is the committee that we put together chose the first book overwhelmingly,” he said. “And we’re taking the word of a few of us that may not like something.”

Board President Andrea Haitz said during an April meeting that she felt “*The Colorado Story*” discussion of Black Lives Matter, covered on two pages of the textbook’s 290-page third edition, would be too heavy for her soon-to-be fourth grade son.

“I don’t know that this activism stuff is really appropriate for him at fourth grade,” she said. “As a parent, I’m not ready to have that conversation with him.”

But board member José Luis Chávez, the only board member to vote against the second-choice curriculum, said it’s a fact of life in some communities.

“The activism stuff, my daughter knew that probably in first grade,” he said.

A popular textbook is a victim of ‘time and place’

On April 1, when District 51 administrators recommended “*The Colorado Story*” during a school board presentation, there were no hints of controversy. A curriculum specialist talked about why the seven-member teacher committee thought it was the strongest contender. He described it as “visually stunning” and noted that community members at a public feedback session called it a wonderful curriculum that includes diverse perspectives and aligns well to state standards.

But weeks later, Evanson and other board members said they wanted a different option.

Evanson, who homeschools her two children, said at one meeting that because there is no bibliography in the “*The Colorado Story*” textbook, she considered it opinion-based. In an interview, she acknowledged that 9- and 10-year-olds might not consult a bibliography, but said parents like her would.

Wallace said it’s not typical for fourth grade textbooks to have bibliographies and that the teacher’s guide has links to a variety of sources, including materials from the Colorado Ute tribes and History Colorado, which runs museums and historic sites around the state.

“*The Colorado Story*” textbook is authored by Tom Noel, a former state historian whose nickname is “Dr. Colorado,” and Debra Faulkner, a historian at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. Noel and Faulkner declined to comment for this story. A spokesperson for History Colorado, which includes “*The Colorado Story*” on its list of recommended textbooks, said no one from the organization was available to comment.

FOURTH GRADE TEXT BOOK
see page 8

“One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, One Nation evermore!” —Oliver Wendell Holmes

2025 CUSTER COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE

ALL events are held in the Show Arena unless otherwise stated
Gates open at 7:00 am and close at 10:00 pm each day

*There will be a 15 minute break between the end of an event and the start of the following event,
but events will not start before the stated time

Thursday, July 10th, 2025

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Shooting sports record book due
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Mandatory pre-fair clean up - All 4-H and FFA members

Friday, July 11th, 2025

7:30 am - 8:30 am: Check in for all open projects - Exhibit hall
8:30 am - 9:00 am: Indoor projects judges meeting - Exhibit hall
-Exhibit hall closed to public during judging-
9:00 am - 8:00 pm: 4-H general and FCS project judges' interviews, exhibitors need to check in 15 minutes before their scheduled interview time - Exhibit hall

Saturday, July 12th, 2025

9:00 am - 10:30 am .22 Rifle competition - Sheriff's shooting range
10:30 am - 12:30 pm: Shotgun competition - Sheriff's shooting range
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm: 4-H Llama show
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: 4-H Llama races

Sunday, July 13th, 2025

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm: Public speaking contest

Monday, July 14th, 2025

9:00 am - 10:00 am: 4-H Dog show
10:00 am - 11:00 am: 4-H and FFA rabbit show

Monday Cont'd

1:00 am - 12:00 pm: 4-H Cat show - Lamb barn
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm: Companion animal master showmanship

Tuesday, July 15th, 2025

10:00 am - 3:00 pm: 4-H Horse show - Rodeo arena
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm: 4-H and FFA livestock weigh-in, small animal check-in (*All animals must be checked by the vet before they leave their trailer*)
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Mandatory livestock meeting for all exhibitors and their parents
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm: 4-H and FFA Night Out and Picnic (closed to general public)

Wednesday, July 16th, 2025

9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Archery competition - Cowboy Church archery range
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm: Pulled pork dinner
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: 4-H and FFA swine show

Thursday, July 17th, 2025

9:00 am - 11:00 am: 4-H and FFA sheep show
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm: 4-H and FFA goat show
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Westcliffe Stampede Ranch Rodeo

Friday, July 18th, 2025

8:00 am - 9:00 am: Custer County Cattle Women beef breakfast
9:00 am - 11:00 am: 4-H and FFA beef show
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Livestock master showmanship
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm: PRCA Westcliffe Stampede Rodeo

Saturday, July 19th, 2025

10:00 am - 11:00 am: Rodeo parade - Downtown
11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church steak dinner
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Awards and buckle ceremony
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm: 4-H and FFA livestock auction
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm: PRCA Westcliffe stampede rodeo

Sunday, July 20th, 2025

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm: Mandatory after fair clean up - All 4-H and FFA members
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm: Check out for general 4-H and FCS projects - Exhibit hall
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm: Check out for open class projects



Letters to the Editor
Cont'd

“Cat Ladies” & Anti-MAGA

Dear Editor;

As I watched the Parade, I noticed a small band of, (old,) “cat ladies” and a few “litter box men” had a spot in our parade this year and all protesting our great country. They had signs saying they were “anti-MAGA”. That made me wonder about them as I was thinking about how, when they interview protesters and none seemed to be able to answer any questions about what exactly they are protesting. (Maybe most were paid protesters?) So it comes to mind that perhaps these, (obviously not so bright,) folks did not know what MAGA stands for? FYI for the ignorant: It stands for: Make America

Great Again. “Anti MAGA or NO Maga” people are saying they do NOT want America to be great again? Is that their message? I know they didn’t teach us about how dumb a democrat could be in school way back when I was a child, but.... I really don’t think dems, (my auto-correct says “dims”) were so dumb back then. Public schooling has hit the skids now I know, but still, can’t they understand what they are saying themselves? I am embarrassed for these sad people.

Faithfully for God and for America,

Frank Searight,
Silver Cliff

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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.



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



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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



FOURTH GRADE TEXT BOOK from page 4

Fourth grade is when Colorado students learn state history. In recent years, District 51 hasn’t had a uniform fourth grade social studies curriculum, instead cobbling together old materials.

Schools in about 100 of Colorado’s 179 districts use the second or third edition of “*The Colorado Story*,” Wallace said. The third edition came out a few years ago and aligns with the state’s 2022 social studies standards.

Wallace said those standards are among the most progressive in the country and that some of what board members objected to in “*The Colorado Story*” was included because of the standards.

A social studies teacher in District 51, who asked not to be named so he could speak freely about school board decisions, said he thinks “*The Colorado Story*” was a victim of “time and place.”

Mesa County is a conservative-leaning community where 61% of voters went for Trump in the last presidential election.

The teacher said the prevailing approach to controversial or challenging topics is “no longer just, ‘You have your view and I’ll have my view.’ It’s, ‘I don’t want that in the classroom.’”

Issues like the Black Lives Matter movement can be taught in an age-appropriate way, he said. Educators can be trusted to understand what’s suitable for their classrooms, and students often enjoy contemporary topics like Black Lives Matter because they don’t feel “like ancient history,” he said.

Critics focus on depiction of Columbus, colonizers

In critiques of “*The Colorado Story*,” some District 51 board members repeatedly voiced concerns about

people or groups they felt weren’t depicted fairly, including Christopher Columbus, Spanish “colonizers,” gold prospectors, and modern day police officers.

Evanson said the book contained only “snippets” about Columbus.

“It didn’t give the totality of Christopher Columbus,” she said. “If we’re not going to teach the whole truth, why would we teach a portion of it?”

The textbook devotes a handful of paragraphs to Columbus.

Next to a picture of him, the text says, “When the Spanish arrived in the New World, they claimed the land for Spain. They did not want to be friends with the Native people. Instead, the Spanish attacked their villages, taking whatever they wanted. Indigenous people fought back, but the Spanish had more powerful weapons.”

Wallace noted that the curriculum’s teacher guide includes an activity called “Columbus: Hero or Villain?”

The idea, she said, is that, “students explore this complex person and the complex history associated with him and form their own conclusions.”

Evanson also said “*The Colorado Story*” paints gold prospectors as greedy and environmentally reckless. The book mentions early that they dug tunnels, felled trees, and left “ugly scars” on the land. Later it explains that they wanted to get rich because many prospectors didn’t have jobs, and “gold brought a glimmer of hope.”

Evanson, who previously worked in law enforcement, and Haitz objected to a mention of Elijah McClain in a short section called “Activism Today” that features Black Lives Matter. McClain was a young Black man who died after police restrained him in Aurora in 2019. In addition to McClain, the book briefly mentions George Floyd, a Black man who was killed by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020.

Haitz said, “The book pinpointed specific events that seemed to villainize law enforcement specifically, but did not give full context around the entire case.”

In both cases, police officers who restrained the men were convicted of crimes.

Haitz said she felt the second-choice curriculum handled the activism topic in a more age appropriate way — by highlighting Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, a famous immigrant rights activist from Denver.

But “*The Colorado Story*,” the rejected curriculum, also features Gonzales in a two-page section about the Chicano movement in Colorado.

Three of the five District 51 board members — Jones, Chávez, and Angele Lema — either declined to be interviewed for this story or did not respond to requests for comment. Evanson and Haitz both said their concerns with “*Colorado Story*” were not fueled by conservative political views.

“I really did look at this as an age appropriate context,” said Haitz. “This was not left, right, conservative, liberal.”

She said some district residents upset about the rejected curriculum wrote to the board saying it was trying to whitewash history.

“I never once said I didn’t want kids to learn about Black Lives Matter,” Haitz said. “I totally want kids to learn about that. Just let’s learn about it in its full context, and let’s learn about it a little bit later when we can talk about it more robustly.”

(Chalkbeat (chalkbeat.org) is a non-profit news organization covering public education.)

Please see: <https://www.chalkbeat.org/colorado/2025/07/02/mesa-county-valley-district-51-rejects-teacher-recommended-social-studies-curriculum/>

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719/783-0903

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6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe
719/ 371-1822

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116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
719/581-7572

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Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore
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Psalm 34: 7-8 NKJV

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3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69

July 10-13 \$\$
High Mountain Hay Fever Bluegrass Festival
Bluff Park, 110 S Adams Blvd., Westcliffe, CO
See page 3 for Advertisement

July 11 - July 19 Custer County Fair
Custer County Fair Grounds--Westcliffe
See page 5 for details

WMV Stampede Rodeos \$\$
July 17@ 6:30 p.m. Ranch Rodeo
July 18@ p.m. PRCA/WPRA Rodeo
10 p.m. Concert: Duey & the Unbroken
July 19@ PRCA/WPRA Rodeo
10 p.m. Concert: Bryan Martin

July 17-19 Thursday 2-6 p.m. and Friday & Saturday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friends of the West Custer County Library Arts & Crafts Fair @ Lutheran Lange Hall, 312 South Third Street in Westcliffe

Saturday, July 19 @ 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 26, 2 - 5 p.m.
Christmas in July at Eagles Summit Ranch

July 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Beckwith Ranch Flea Market
64159 Highway 69 N, 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
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Front Range Clinic
Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)
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www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit
Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
Monday and Thursday 11a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(719) 783-4357

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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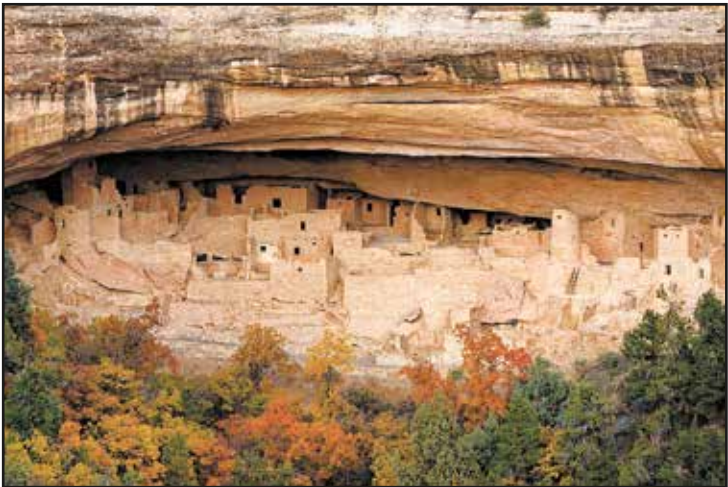
“Where liberty dwells, there is my country.”
—Benjamin Franklin

Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS

Friday, July 11, 2025

Cliff Dwellings



The Mesa Verde National Park can give you a glimpse back into history with its cliff dwellings. Imagine living in a home built into the side of a cliff. The Ancestral Puebloan peoples (formerly known as the Anasazi) did just that in some of the most remarkable structures still in existence today. Located on the Colorado Plateau in the southwest corner of Colorado, Mesa Verde is at an elevation of 7 – 8,000 feet and overlooks the Montezuma Valley.

Here is a little history. In 1881, the Wetherill family began ranching in the rugged southwest canyons of Colorado. Richard and his brothers often searched for Indian ruins along the canyons and mesas. One day Richard was approached by a Ute Indian named Acowitz who told him that there were houses of the old people, the Ancient Ones. One of the houses which was high in the rocks was bigger than the rest. The Utes never went there because that house was considered a sacred place.

It was a cold day on December 18, 1888, when Richard Wetherill and his brother-in-law, Charles Mason, were searching for stray cattle and heavy snow started falling. They came to an overlook and in the distance saw a blurry vision of a magnificent stone city three stories high and perched high up a cliff wall under a massive rock overhang. It was the houses on the high rocks that Acowitz had told Richard about. These were the ruins of the Anasazi (Navajo word for “ancient ones”) people.

Archaeological studies showed that the big house or the Cliff Palace, as it became known, was erected sometime during the 13th century. That was when the Anasazi moved from the top of the Mesa to the caves along the canyon walls to better protect themselves.

President Theodore Roosevelt on June 29, 1906, established the Mesa Verde National Park. Mesa Verde (Spanish for green table) to preserve the culture of the Ancestral Puebloans who inhabited Mesa Verde for more than 700 years.

Today you can still buy Anasazi beans, one of the few crops grown by the Anasazi Indians. You can also visit the Mesa Verde National Park and see the magnificent cliff dwellings. The three cliff dwellings that require a Ranger-led tour are the Cliff Palace, Balcony House and Long House.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.touristsecrets.com/destinations/united-states/colorado/hidden-cliff-dwellings-of-colorado-mesa-verde/>, <https://moderatelyadventurous.com/colorado-mesa-verde-cliff-dwellings/>
Photo: Wikipedia, Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde Nat’l Park

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 4:19 KJV

Farmers Markets

WEDNESDAY 4 p.m to 6 p.m.
COALDALE Schoolhouse Mtn. Market
287 Hayden Creek Rd, Coaldale
County Rd 6 & County Rd 45

THURSDAY 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Florence Farmers Market
Pioneer Park E 3rd & E 4th,
Florence

FRIDAY 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Westcliffe Farmers Market
(at Jess Price Park)
Main Street of Westcliffe

SATURDAY 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(July 5- Oct. 4)
Royal Gorge Farmers Market
9th St & Hwy 50 in Cañon City

4-H Hermits Fundraiser \$1,000 for Widows of Veterans



The Wet Mountain Hermits 4-H Club wants to shout a huge **THANK YOU** to our **AMAZING** community! With your generous donations to their 4th of July Bake Sale, they were able to raise a little over \$1,000 for our local Veteran Service Office! So proud of our Hermits and especially for all of **YOU** who made this possible! (Photos courtesy of Katie Johnson)

CUSTER COUNTY BACKPACK PROJECT

Press Release

It may be summer break, but the busy season is in full swing for the Custer County Backpack Project (CCBP). This non-profit community service supplies requesting parents of Westcliffe public school students with free backpacks and grade-level school supplies. CCBP served 162 students last year with an average cost of \$50 per student. It also provides art sketchbooks and other supplies to teachers.

CCBP operates under the Valley Park, Recreation, and Youth Center, a 501(c)(3) organization, and is overseen by the Custer County Church of Christ. It is entirely funded by generous donations and solicited funds from grants,

organizations, individuals, churches, and events. Special thanks this year to the High Mountain Hay Fever Children’s Health Fund and the Board of County Commissioners.

Parents can request backpacks and supplies from CCBP by :

filling out an online form on the website, ccbackpackproject.org, call/text 720.383.5374, or email ccbackpackproject@gmail.com.

Secure online donations are taken through PayPal, Venmo, or a debit or credit card on the website.

Deadline for backpack and supply requests is August 1! Contact CCBP today to ensure students will be ready for the new school year!

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Obituary

Karen Madden

Karen M Madden, age 81, passed into heaven on May 26, 2025. Karen was born in Indianapolis, IN, on May 8, 1944, to Frederick and Helen Krintz. Her brother Michael, sister Cindy, and parents have preceded her in death.

The remaining family members are her two sons, William Miller of Miami, FL, and Christopher Miller of Columbus, OH. Karen’s husband, Guy Madden, resides in Westcliffe, CO, where their dream of living in the mountains became a reality. There love for each other continued to flourish.

Karen graduated from Ohio State College High School in 1962. She was very active in music and theatre and attained a dance scholarship to Monticello College in Godfrey, IL. She graduated with a certificate in Arts in 1964. She then married William Miller and gave birth to William Jr. and Christopher. They moved to New York City where Karen became a model for a clothing company while

her husband studied finance. The couple later divorced, and Karen moved to Colorado where she obtained her LPN license followed by her RN in 1981.

Karen loved to travel. She visited many countries in Europe, traveled to Egypt and on to Africa. She and several nurses represented the United States while visiting different countries, learning about nursing techniques and local customs concerning patient care. She viewed her nursing career as her vocation because she loved to take care of those who were hurting.

Karen and Guy met at a Christmas Party in 1997. They married on September 15 in Denver, just four days after the 9/11/2001 attack on the Twin Towers in NYC. The couple moved to Westcliffe in 2003.

Karen retired from nursing in 2008. Guy retired in



January of 2024 after seventeen years of service as a school bus driver for Custer County School District.

Karen’s smile would light up a room. Her laughter was contagious. She was warm-hearted and full of joy. She loved a good joke. She embraced life through ups and downs with an attitude of gratitude. Her favorite joy was being baptized into the Christian faith. Those of us who remain here miss her dearly.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

In Loving Memory of

Jerry Marie Strebig

April 5, 1955 – June 15, 2025

Jerry Marie Strebig, a beloved mother, grandmother, friend, and faithful follower of Jesus Christ, passed away peacefully on June 15, 2025, at the age of 70 in Pueblo, Colorado. Her life was a radiant testament to compassion, strength, and grace—a rich legacy woven through the lives she touched and the love she gave freely.

Born on April 5, 1955, Jerry Marie was a proud Colorado native who lived a life rooted in faith, community, and quiet dedication. She graduated from Falcon High School on May 23, 1973, and later earned an Associate of Arts degree from Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado in 1975.

In 1999, Jerry Marie made her home in Westcliffe, Colorado, where she remained until her passing. There, she built her home with her own two hands and embraced a life of simplicity, independence, and creativity. It was a place filled with treasures—items she carefully kept with purpose and plans in mind. Her creativity flourished within those walls, expressed through mirror etching, photography, and the countless books she read that fueled both her imagination and her ever-growing wisdom. Her home and creations were a reflection of her spirit: resourceful, warm, and always ready for whatever might come next.

accomplishments were not measured in status or wealth, but in the people she loved. She spent much of her time driving others—especially the Amish community she cherished—building trust, friendship, and loyalty with every mile. Her work was more than transportation; it was ministry, service, and connection.

She enjoyed spending time at garage sales, collecting unique finds, and working with her hands. She loved utilizing old or discarded items, always seeing beauty and usefulness where others might not. These pastimes reflected her appreciation for history, purpose, and renewal.

Those who knew her described her as gracious, patient, loyal, and fiercely compassionate. She was generous, kind, thankful, and loving. She had a fighting spirit—stubborn, hardy, and deeply knowledgeable—with a twinkle in her eye and a heart full of care. She was a firecracker in all the best ways, and her warmth was matched only by her strength. She often said she was “blessed”—and she truly was, as were all of us who knew and loved her.

Above all, Jerry Marie loved God with every fiber of her being. Her favorite verse, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13), wasn’t just scripture she knew—it was the foundation she lived upon. To her final breath, she praised His name. Her faith shaped every part of



her life and now carries her into eternal peace.

Jerry Marie is survived by her loving daughters, Jocelyn Renee Kibler and Suzanne Marie Moreno ; her grandchildren, Jacob Lane Strebig, Shalisha Marie Moreno, Sasha Mae Moreno, Anjelina Marie Strebig , and Celina Abigail Moreno; her mother, Nancy Marie Manley (Scott); and her siblings, Sharon Mae Baxter and Jerry Lee Manley Jr. She is preceded in death by her father, Jerry Lee Manley.

She will be remembered for her strong will, her unwavering faith, her joyful creativity, her dedication to the people she cared for, and the simple joys she found in everyday life.

The family welcomes all who knew and loved her to come celebrate her life and the countless ways she touched the hearts of others. A memorial service will be held in her honor on Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 3 p.m. Join us at the Roundwood Pavilion in Hermit Park in Westcliffe, Colorado.



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Liberty Rocks - 2025

Tuesday, July 15th

Tony’s Steak & Tavern
Tony’s Mountain Pizza’s Full Menu will be offered
— All are welcome —
Meet & Greet and Dinner begins at 5:30 pm
Presentation begins at 6pm
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2025, WESTCLIFFE, CO - PART 1



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**John Adams,
Founding Father and
Second President of the United States**



Custer County Sheriff Office 2024 Annual Report

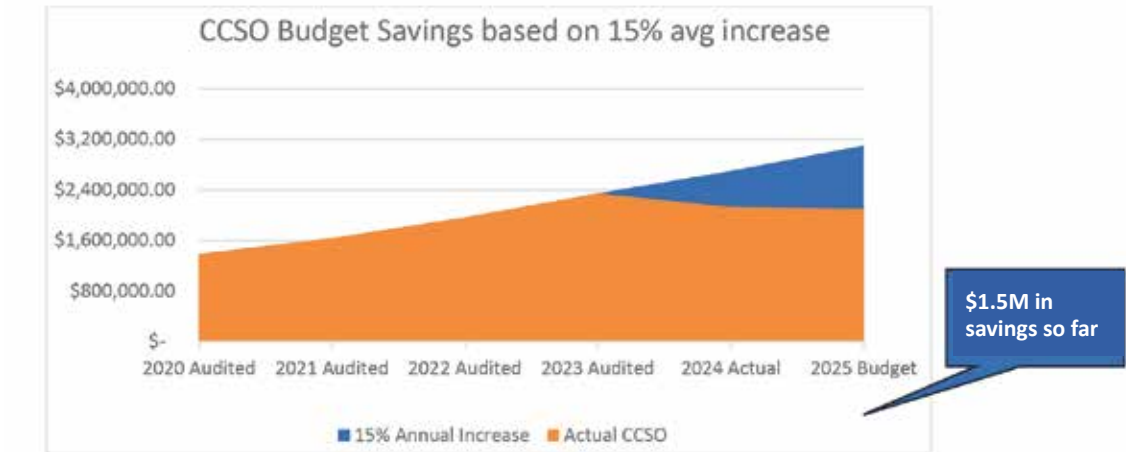
Part 2 of 2

Annual Report for 2024
Custer County Sheriff's Office

Transforming Finances

The Custer County Sheriff's Office received a budget of \$2,297,331 in 2024. We completed the year under budget by 4.6%. In the past the County had been able to absorb budget increases for the Sheriff's Office of approximately 15% per year. An informal survey of other sheriff's office found that their budgets continued to increase 10% year over year. A study by the Fremont County Sheriff found that the cost of law enforcement increased by 34% in 2024 alone.

In 2023 we were able to operate with a reduced budget of \$2,132,551. In 2024 we also operated with a reduced budget of \$2,132,551. Our 2025 budget is further reduced to \$2,112,052. This is down from our all-time high budget of \$2,348,201 in 2022. By outsourcing the jail, absorbing the costs of inflation and tightly controlling costs and spending we were able to save \$567,880 in 2024. We predict a savings of \$993,443 in 2025 compared with an annual increase of 15% each year. This represents a combined savings for the county of \$1,561,323 (shown in blue in the graph) by the end of 2025.



The Custer Sheriff's Office has been able to save the most money by outsourcing the jail operations. We completed our first two-year contract with the Fremont County Sheriff's Office and just signed an additional two-year contract. The money from the jail savings has been rolled into our patrol operations and expanded our investigations capability. The Sheriff's Office has also been able to save significant money on the purchase of patrol vehicles. In the past we could take advantage of the State of Colorado bid for car dealers. For example, a police Tahoe can sell for \$60,000. We then selected the pursuit rated vehicle and invested an additional \$20,000 in upfitting the vehicles with push bumpers, lights, sirens, prisoner cages and etc. The first year we selected the more inexpensive special

service model instead of the high-speed pursuit model to generate savings. In 2025 we were able to save even more money by buying the commercial trim level for a used patrol vehicle helping to save the high cost of the first-year depreciation. In 2024 we also began acquiring used police vehicle equipment from the State Patrol for free. The State Patrol donated; push bumpers, light bars, sirens, and siren control boxes that they were removing from decommissioned or crashed police vehicles.

We also made significant changes to team scheduling to improve effectiveness and lower costs. In the past deputies used a legacy schedule to work four 10-hour shifts. Every deputy worked Sunday through Wednesday or Wednesday through Saturday. Every dep-

uty worked on Wednesday. The old schedule generated around \$100,000 per year in scheduled overtime. We were no longer able to afford this much overtime and switched to a new schedule. We eliminated the double coverage every Wednesday. One team of deputies works five 10-hour days followed by five days off. Each team of deputies works two full weekends and get two full weekends off each month. Each team has one scheduled day per month for training. This new schedule eliminates the need for the \$100,000 in overtime and gives deputies two weekends per month with their families.

Transforming Technology

Custer County Sheriff's Office along with the other public safety agencies in Fremont and Custer County began a massive technol-

ogy upgrade to a company called Tyler approximately three years ago. When a 911 call goes to Fremont County Combined Regional Communication Authority (aka FreCom) it is entered into a computer aided dispatching software package (CAD). The CAD system helps determine which emergency agencies need to respond. The CAD system uses the existing Custer County Assessor's GIS database to locate the call on the map. The CAD system sends the call information and past address history to the deputies work cellular phones and in car computer. It even calculates the quickest route and generates an estimated time of arrival.

Once the deputy arrives on scene, the deputy can write their report on our records management system (RMS). If the deputy collects evidence, it is seamlessly transferred to the evidence room computer. When the report is completed, it transfers to the sergeant's computer for approval. Once the sergeant completes the approval, the report transfers to the office manager. The office manger sends the report and body worn camera recordings to the Statewide District Attorney's electronic discovery software program called e-Discovery. This virtually eliminates complaints with evidence

SO Annual Report
see page 17



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Colorado State News

The \$13 Billion Cost of Fentanyl to Colorado's Families, Budgets and Communities

by Shaina Cole,
Contributing Writer,
Rocky Mountain Voice

Each Colorado taxpayer carries the burden of the fentanyl crisis, and in 2024, that amounted to about \$2,220 per resident. A June report from the Common Sense Institute estimated the total cost for Colorado at \$13.1 billion. This financial burden becomes reality in emergency healthcare services, preventative programs and lost productivity.

But there's also the deep emotional toll on families shattered by addiction and loss.

Despite rising pressure to prevent overdose deaths and target traffickers, a 2024 bill to increase penalties for fentanyl possession and distribution stalled at the Capitol.

The synthetic opioid is often cut into cocaine or fake pills, catching users off guard—many don't know they've taken it until it's too late.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment notes that 73.8% of overdose victims are between 25–54 years old, and are often workers or parents ensnared by addiction or misled by seemingly safe substances.

In Larimer County, a family shared their grief with *CBS News Colorado* after their 15-year-old son died in 2022 from a fentanyl-laced pill sold by dealer Samuel Strait, sentenced to 25 years in 2024 under the “distribution of fentanyl resulting in death” law. The family's pain, laid bare through ICU videos at sentencing, illustrates the human toll.

Meanwhile, Coloradans shouldered \$17 billion in opioid-related costs in 2024, with fentanyl driving 77%, covering emergency services, hospitalizations, and economic losses from a reduced workforce.

Law enforcement continues an uphill battle to curb supply chains driven by transnational cartels.

The DEA's Rocky Mountain Field Division seized 2.7 million fentanyl pills in 2024, while a 2025 Colorado Bureau of Investigation operation in Adams County confiscated 800,000 pills tied to the Sinaloa Cartel.

Denver Police Department's (DPD) dedicated Fentanyl Investigations Team have also been pivotal, making six arrests in 2024 for fentanyl

distribution resulting in death, with two convictions in the past month.

DPD cites challenges like cheap fentanyl pills where costs are down from \$20 in 2020 to under \$1 in some areas in addition to sophisticated trafficking organizations. They note most users knowingly consume fentanyl, with rare instances of it mixed with drugs like cocaine.

The 2022 Fentanyl Accountability and Prevention Act (HB22-1326) introduced new penalties for fentanyl possession between 1-4 grams while providing \$29 million for naloxone distribution and test strip and treatment programs.

The number of fentanyl-related deaths decreased by 32.4% from 1,184 in 2023 to 801 by November 2024, per the CDC's SUDORS Dashboard.

In Boulder County, the Clinica Family Health & Wellness You-CAN Campaign distributed 3,448 naloxone kits and 1,700 test strips in 2024, cutting deaths by 30% from 38 to 27. Yet, the City of Boulder faced a 37% overdose surge in early 2025, possibly due to a tainted strain or new fentanyl variant, per Chief Stephen F. Redfearn.

The Common Sense Institute argues that prior leniency under HB19-1263, which treated small drug amounts as misdemeanors, undermined deterrence, enabling smugglers to exploit softer penalties.

The failed HB24-1306, sponsored by Rep. Mike Lynch and Sen. Byron Pelton, proposed making possession of any amount of fentanyl a Level 4 drug felony and imposing stricter distribution penalties, up to 32 years. Removing the ‘reasonable mistake of fact’ defense was intended to deter possession, curb demand and disrupt trafficking networks responsible for 67.7% of 2023 overdose deaths, according to the CDC.

El Paso County Sheriff Joe Roybal, backing a similar 2025 bill, argued that tougher laws would target cartels exploiting vulnerable users, like the Larimer County teen whose death shattered his family. Such measures could have alleviated the \$13.1 billion economic strain by shrinking the supply chain and preventing tragedies like Boulder's five overdoses in 36 hours in April 2025.

The bill stalled in the House Judiciary Committee over fears it would over-

penalize users, many unaware of fentanyl's presence, and its \$42.7 million five-year prison cost, redirecting funds from prevention. Critics, including the Harm Reduction Action Center, prioritized treatment, warning felony charges could deter help-seeking among the 25–54 age group.

The Common Sense Institute calls for robust penalties for dealers, vigilant monitoring of new synthetic drugs like those fueling Boulder's 2025 spike, and strengthened public health strategies. It endorses education campaigns, such as Aurora's school initiatives, and enhanced law enforcement training.

DPD emphasizes sustained enforcement, federal partnerships, and harm reduction efforts like naloxone vending machines and leave-behind kits to further curb overdoses.

The \$13.1 billion crisis strikes at Colorado's heart with parents grieving lost children and communities torn apart.

Legislative inaction on HB24-1306 underscores the need for policies that rigorously punish dealers while supporting users, easing the public's financial load and sparing families from loss.

For overdose prevention and addiction treatment, visit Clinica Family Health & Wellness You-CAN Campaign, Colorado Crisis Services, and the National 988 Lifeline.

(Editor/GG: You think Biden's (and every dem in the country) open borders might have caused this? And look at Colorado, the Dems won't seriously criminalize it cause it costs too much to put these crims in state prison? While they spend hundred of millions of dollars on bike trails? Us citizens are getting mugged, burglarized, robbed, raped and killed by these drug addicts but that's ok as our dem legislatures waste zillions on lib fantasies. Case in Point: Last year some national publication rated Colorado Springs at the Number 5 best city to live in the U.S. This year? Oh, oh. Down to 154!!!!!! Why? Crime. Thanks Polis and our local bolsbies for destroying this once great state.)

Please see: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/06/27/the-13-billion-cost-of-fentanyl-to-colorados-families-budgets-and-communities/>



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The Voice of Conservative Colorado!



Colorado State News



me watching Covidians who supported mask and jab mandates now posting about 'Resisting Tyranny'



 **Being Libertarian** 
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"We have two parties here, and only two. One is the evil party, and the other is the stupid party. Occasionally, the two parties get together to do something that's both evil and stupid. That's called bipartisanship."

— Everett Dirksen

Want a conversation starter at your next cookout? Arrange the chicken pieces to look like a cat!



NULLIFIED from page 1

The Colorado Supreme Court, however, has usurped for itself the power of constitutional amendment. Today, the Court does not enforce the text of the anti-corporate welfare sections of the Colorado Constitution, with their blanket language such as “directly or indirectly, in any manner to, or in aid of.” Instead, according to the court, all corporate welfare is permissible whenever the legislature rationally believes that the welfare might have some beneficial effects.

The plain text of the Colorado Constitution has in effect been replaced by the court’s lawless imposition of a rational basis test that legalizes precisely what the Colorado Constitution was enacted to forbid.

A similar tale of judicial nullification can be told about the other Colorado Constitution prohibitions against special privileges:

- article V, section 25 (no special legislation),
- article II, section 11 (no laws granting special irrevocable privileges),
- article II, section 28 (no extra compensation to officers, employees, or contractors),
- article II, section 34 (no appropriations to private institutions).

The same is true for all of article XI’s limitations on government debt:

- section 3 (public debt of the state),
- section 4 (debt may be no longer than 15 years),
- section 5 (vote on debt for public buildings), and
- section 6 (local government debt limits).

Likewise, the Colorado Supreme Court has ranged far and wide in nullifying the 1992 Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR), article X, section 20:

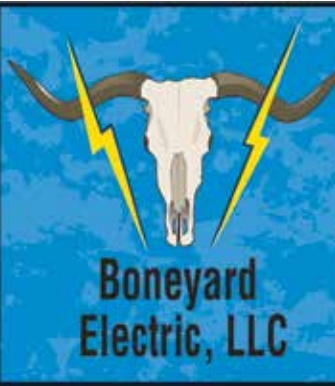
- TABOR’s text provides its own standard of review: the “preferred interpretation shall reasonably restrain most the growth of government.”But the Colorado Supreme Court has replaced the constitutional text with its own test, requiring that a violation of TABOR be proven beyond a reasonable doubt — a standard that means the government always wins.
- While TABOR applies to taxes (such as sales taxes) but not to “fees” (such as towel rental at a recreation center), the Colorado Supreme Court has ruled that the government can call a sales tax or any other tax a “fee” and thereby dispense with the need for voter approval.
- TABOR applies to all government units, except for “enterprises”; enterprises support themselves by selling services, rather than being dependent on tax revenue. For example, if a municipal recreation center does not need taxpayer support because it earns enough to support itself by charging fees to persons who exercise at the recreation center, the center can set its own prices. The Colorado Supreme Court, however, has allowed the “enterprise” exemption to be applied to fictitious entities that receive all of their income from Colorado tax revenue, with no connection between the persons who are taxed to support the “enterprise” and the benefits provided by the enterprise.
- According to TABOR, tax policy changes that increase net government revenue require voter approval. So does repeal of any of the pre-TABOR prior limits on taxes and spending. Yet the courts have nullified both of these

protections by inventing a rule that they do not apply as long as the tax and spending increases do not cause the government to exceed TABOR’s revenue caps.

- TABOR’s main means of enforcement is citizen lawsuits, but these are hampered by the supreme court’s interpretation that attorney fees for victorious plaintiffs are optional, not mandatory.
- While TABOR provides that local governments have the authority to opt out of some state government mandates, the supreme court has held that counties may never opt out.
- Finally, TABOR authorizes voters to allow four-year waivers on tax and spending limits. The courts, though have held that waivers are permanent, even when they were expressly presented to the voters as temporary.
- In fact, ballot measures that expressly promised no increase in mill levies for property taxes have been implausibly construed as voter permission for increases in mill levies, resulting in the largest property tax increase in state history being imposed without a vote of the people.

As enacted by the people, the Colorado Constitution “protected the inarticulate against machinators,” in the words of dissenting Justice Benjamin Hilliard in a 1934 case on government debt. However, the Colorado Supreme Court in fiscal matters protects the machinators against the people.

The full law review article is available here: https://www.denverlawrev.org/_files/ugd/9d4c2a_cf55dbb9c5394494998bb0e1444b791f.pdf
Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/07/04/colorado-supreme-court-consent-of-the-governed/>



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Local Mountain News & Notices

SO Annual Report from page 14

discovery delays which are often question by defense attorneys.

The Undersheriff, Susan Barnes, served as the project manger for the technology upgrade. She met with the vendors and other agencies on a monthly basis to ensure completion of the upgrade meeting our limited time and budget constraints. The Commissioners were able to hire a IT vendor to troubleshoot some pre-existing problems with the county network infrastructure and components.

The new Tyler technology system collects much more data and generates reports to help us use our data more effectively. County residents can access the same data on the sheriff’s public webpage. <https://custersheriff.colorado.gov/blotter>

Prior to 2024, the Sheriff’s Office did not have in car computers. Deputies would need to take manual reports in the field and then later drive to the Sheriff’s Office in Westcliffe to enter the reports into the records computer. A ruggedized laptop computer is required to withstand the rigors of

bouncing around in a patrol vehicle and be removable to take into offices or homes for interviews. The typical price for a new ruggedized laptop can exceed \$5000. A refurbished laptop can still cost as much as \$2,500. The Sheriff’s Office was able to receive a few donated laptops from other law enforcement agencies that were upgrading to the newest models. The Sheriff’s Office also received donated of used ruggedized laptops from another government agency that needed to be refurbished. The County Commissioners and the County IT were able to refurbish the computers in-house for a total cost of only \$300 per laptop. This low cost allowed us to place a computer in each patrol vehicle. The computers access the internet with a hotspot and the deputies’ county owned cell phone. In 2025 we are exploring a StarLink antenna that would give much better coverage.

Community Involvement

The Sheriff’s Office prioritizes community engagement by hosting monthly events like Coffee with a Cop and National Night Out. We collaborate with Search and Rescue, Wet Mountain Fire Department, and Flight for Life for safety activities.

Deputies and posse visit schools daily, attend after-hours athletic events, and serve hamburgers at graduation. Our co-responder team holds quarterly luncheons and veteran book reviews.

We initially formed a citizen’s review panel but replaced it with community-based focus groups to better connect with various segments without political influence. These groups help us understand and address specific needs. The first focus involved ranchers, and the second included clergy. We aim to expand these groups and improve community outreach.

Our deputies have significantly improved crisis mental health response through dedicated efforts.

Next Steps

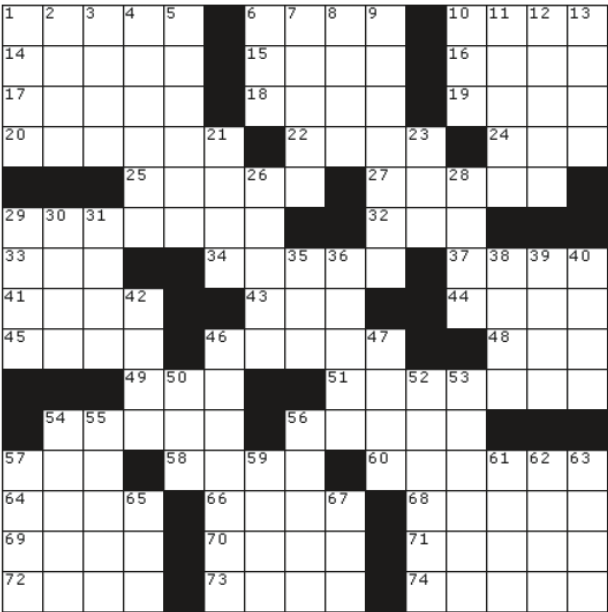
- Continue to seek more opportunities to connect with all members of our community
- Work with other public safety agencies to create a county wide public safety strategic plan.
- Invest in training
- Use data and crime analysis to increase our effectiveness.

Faciens Optimum Est In Civitatem

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, July 14	Tuesday, July 15	Thursday, July 17
#24 Chicken Cacciatore	#66 Pot Roast, Brown Gravy	#38 Corned Beef Sandwich
Seasoned Green Beans	Baby Carrots & New Potatoes	on Rye w/Swiss Cheese
Smashed Red Potatoes	Seasoned Green Beans	Creamy Coleslaw
Banana	Cantaloupe, Raisin Nut Cup	Fresh Banana
WW Bread w/Butter	WW Bread w/Butter	Roasted Unsalted Peanuts
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.		

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Leaky
- 6 Open
- 10 Every
- 14 Athletic field
- 15 Mexican sandwich
- 16 A Roman emperor
- 17 Arrive
- 18 Give off
- 19 Dreary
- 20 Punk hairdo
- 22 Cheese
- 24 The other half of Jima

- 25 Meal listings
- 27 Word written on the wall (Daniel)
- 29 First Christian martyr
- 32 Single
- 33 Bundle
- 34 Author Poe
- 37 Son of Seth
- 41 Region
- 43 Charged particle
- 44 Thy word is a ___ unto my feet
- 45 Heredity component

DOWN

- 1 Injury
- 2 Brand of sandwich cookie
- 3 Sister of Rachel
- 4 Make camp
- 5 OT name of God
- 6 Dined
- 7 King ___ Version
- 8 Bad rain
- 9 Turner
- 10 Cease
- 11 Eagle's nest

- 12 Baby locomotion
 - 13 Tramp
 - 21 Leg joint
 - 23 Males
 - 26 Backtracked
 - 28 Careen
 - 29 Sag
 - 30 Biblical weed
 - 31 Garden of ___
 - 35 The Creator
 - 36 Concerning
 - 38 North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - 39 Sign
 - 40 Baths
 - 42 Air (prefix)
 - 46 First patriarch
 - 47 Train support
 - 50 Internal Revenue Service
 - 52 Plod
 - 53 Nation of Jews
 - 54 Marsupial bear
 - 55 Asian nation
 - 56 Peter's other name
 - 57 President (abbr.)
 - 59 Decree
 - 61 Love is patient, love is ___
 - 62 Canal
 - 63 Colorer
 - 65 Explosive
 - 67 Behold
- Key on page 8

LEGAL NOTICES

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 29, 2025. All bids will be opened by the Board of County Commissioners on July 30, 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 11, 2025
Last published: July 24, 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

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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

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Custer County Board of Commissioners

ELECTED BOARD

District 1 Bill Canda (CHAIR)
Cell 719-431-9979 Bill@custercounty-co.gov

District 2 Paul Vogel song
paul@custercounty-co.gov

District 3 Lucas Epp (VICE CHAIR)
Cell 719-371-9267 Lucas@custercounty-co.gov

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Lawfare & the Rise of Soft Tyranny in U.S.

Americans are waking to the war being waged against those who are critical of the left, in particular, the Democratic Party. It’s not one that is currently fought with bullets, although there have been several recent incidents where radicalized actors have gunned political opponents of the left. More common, however, is lawfare: the deliberate weaponization of the legal system to punish, silence, and eliminate political opposition. It’s not theoretical. It’s here, and it’s deliberate. We’re watching it unfold in real time. President Trump is taking heat for pardoning convicted tax evaders Todd and Julie Chrisley, for example, but they are indicative of a more sinister pattern of soft tyranny by Democrat judges.

Todd and Julie Chrisley—stars of the once-popular “Chrisley Knows Best”—were convicted in 2022 for tax evasion and bank fraud. Their sentences? 12 and 7 years, respectively. Judge Eleanor Ross, appointed by Barack Obama, presided over the case. Many argue the punishment far exceeded the crime. Their daughter Savannah became an outspoken advocate for their release, arguing her parents were targeted for their vocal support of President Trump. Trump has now announced he intends to pardon them, calling their treatment “unjust and politically motivated.” Their story is not isolated. Steve Bannon, Peter Navarro, Allen Weisselberg, and Trump himself were prosecuted aggressively by judges aligned with and appointed by the political left.

These represent a larger trend of law being twisted into a partisan weapon. Meanwhile, the same legal system turns a blind eye to Hunter Biden’s (and Joe Biden’s) international dealings, Hillary Clinton’s private servers, and other left-aligned operatives caught red-handed. No indictments. No FBI raids. No harsh sentences. This isn’t justice. This is lawfare. This is a government and judicial system using “process as punishment.” You don’t have to be guilty—you just have to be inconvenient. This is exactly what French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville foresaw in his 1835 and 1840 volumes of “Democracy in America.” He warned not of overt tyranny, but a “soft tyranny,” a smothering legalism where bureaucratic power slowly chokes liberty while promising order and fairness.

He wrote, “It covers the surface of society with a network of small complicated rules... until the nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd.” That’s the slow creep we’re seeing now. Not jackboots and jail cells—but gag orders, courtroom bias, and selective prosecution. A government that lets its allies walk free and sends its critics to rot in court. A government that targets half the country while shielding the other is not a republic—it’s a regime.

Another warning is found in Proverbs 17:15, “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.” This unjust gavel will not stop at public figures. As we are beginning to see, it will find pastors, parents, patriots—anyone who speaks against the machine. Time to stand.

Source: <https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2025/05/28/trump-plans-pardons-for-reality-stars-todd-and-julie-chrisley-after-fraud-tax-evasion-convictions/>

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

America’s \$16.4 Billion Wake Up Call, The Largest Healthcare Fraud in U.S. History

by C.J. Garbo, Guest Commentary, The Rocky Mountain Voice

This is not a bureaucratic misstep or clerical oversight. It is ideological rot – a moral collapse within a system trusted to care for the sick, the elderly, and the most vulnerable.

Let’s begin with what is encouraging: this takedown required skill, intelligence, courage, and the mobilization of federal and state law enforcement at scale. Agents, prosecutors, analysts, and investigators had to sort through mountains of deceit, track money through shell accounts, decipher telehealth records, and connect criminal intent to documented malpractice.

For that, they deserve our gratitude and our recognition. We must not overlook that such action proves we can root out systemic fraud when the will and talent to do so align.

But this cannot distract us from what this really says about our institutions.

That fraud of this magnitude – \$10.6 billion in fraudulent Medicare claims alone – could occur undetected for so long reveals dangerous levels of vulnerability in the largest health care infrastructure in the world.

The stolen identities of over a million Americans were used to generate false claims.

The scale and sophistication of this crime expose not only individual corruption, but systemic failure.

If a system this vast and expensive is this easily compromised, what makes us think smaller, less complex systems – whether in education, elections, or finance – are secure?

The details are staggering.

Buffalo-based doctor, Joel Durinka, billed Medicare \$5.6 million for phantom telehealth visits – some so

brief they defied the definition of a conversation. He allegedly defrauded the government of an additional \$29.6 million through fake body brace prescriptions.

One man.

One practice.

Over \$35 million stolen. And yet, until now, no one stopped him.

Why?

U.S. Attorney Michael DiGicomo plainly stated, telemedicine changed the playing field. Doctors became central enablers of fraud, signing off on fake prescriptions and billing codes, with little oversight and even less accountability. Without them, these schemes could not function.

The complexity of fraud detection in a digital-first medical environment now far outpaces the traditional safeguards. And while CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz has announced the creation of a “fraud war room” powered by AI, we should ask ourselves why this wasn’t built before \$16 billion went out the door?

The silver lining here is that it appears the system is finally moving.

But let’s be clear – this massive enforcement operation, led under President Donald Trump’s administration and carried forward in contrast to the Biden-era \$2.75 billion in annual discovered fraud, underscores something deeper: when political will and leadership align with competence and boldness, corruption can be stopped.

Yet, this is not only a tale of justice served. It is a warning.

If organized syndicates can steal billions from our most critical health programs undetected, they can just as easily infiltrate our electoral processes, regulatory systems, or defense contracts.

These are not hypotheticals. These are probabilities, unless we treat this as the canary in the coal mine.

The takeaway is twofold.

First, we should commend the law enforcement community and DOJ leadership for their commitment to justice and pursuit of truth in a system that has too often enabled decay.

But second, we must recognize that this incident is proof (not possibility) of systemic weakness, decay, and corruption.

This level of fraud didn’t just happen. It was allowed.

And unless we change how our systems are designed, monitored, and enforced, it will happen again – perhaps not in healthcare next time, but somewhere equally consequential.

Every stolen dollar is a stolen chemotherapy session, a stolen wheelchair, a stolen insulin dose.

Every false claim signed is a betrayal of the Hippocratic Oath. And every institutional failure to detect it sooner is a warning shot across the bow of American governance.

It’s time to stop celebrating minimal accountability as a victory and start rebuilding the integrity of our institutions from the inside out. Because this isn’t just about fraud.

It’s about trust. And trust, once broken, is the hardest currency to restore.

(Editor/GG: The Dems want bigger government. And a single payer (U.S. gov meaning the few people left who can pay taxes) healthcare. What could go wrong?)

Please see: <https://rockymountainvoice.com/2025/07/03/garbo-americas-16-4-billion-wake-up-call-the-largest-healthcare-fraud-in-u-s-history/>

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“Freedom is never granted; it is won.” —A. Philip Randolph

From the Deserts of Mt. Sinai to New York City

by Thorn Nickels,
FrontPageMag.com

The summer of 2025 has seen militant Islam make two large advances on the world stage.

The first advance was the Egyptian state’s takeover of a 1500-year-old Orthodox Christian monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai where [it was believed] Moses received the Ten Commandments, followed by the election of 33-year-old anti-Semitic militant Islamist and failed rapper, Zohran Mamdani, as the Democrat candidate for mayor of New York City.

Militant Islam in the desert of Egypt is one thing, but when it threatens to turn the world’s greatest city into a super-magnified Dearborn, Michigan, it’s time to sound the alarm bells.

Barring an act of God, Mamdani will become that city’s 111th mayor in the fall.

Mamdani campaigned on multiple kitchen-table issues like free transportation, affordable housing, government-run grocery stores, the right of illegal aliens to defy ICE, and the promotion of the transitioning of children. Mamdani’s father is a Marxist scholar at Columbia University; his mother an Indian filmmaker.

Mamdani’s victory can be traced to support from white progressives, not people of color or even Jews, who make up 11% of the city’s population.

Rod Dreher, in a piece entitled “*Big Apple Intifada*,” had this to say about Mamdani’s victory:

“If you look at the NYT map, you’ll see that the parts of the city that voted Mamdani are the whitest, those that voted Cuomo are, for the most part, the most non-white-except Long Island, which is suburban white (and went Cuomo), and the parts of

Staten Island that are closest to Manhattan. Note too that the Upper East Side and the Upper West Side — the wealthiest and, in the case of the West Side, the most Jewish, neighborhoods — also went Cuomo.”

The New York leftists who supported Mamdani were undoubtedly like most progressive revolutionaries: non-religious.

They view Islam through a non-theological lens as if it were on a par with Unitarianism. The left’s predominate agnosticism or atheism prevents its adherents from understanding the differences between Islam, Christianity or Judaism as anything but a superficial element of style.

As one young white female New Yorker responded when asked why she voted for Mamdani, “He was the only candidate completely clean of sexual abuse scandals.”

The complexities — and dangers — of militant Islam apparently never occurred to her as a possible reason not to vote for Mamdani. Like many of her twenty-something peers, she’s obviously clueless when it comes to elementary differences between Islam and Christianity, especially as noted by French Scholar Sylvain Gougueheim when he wrote, “From Christ, who refuses to punish the adulteress woman by stoning, one turns to see Mohammed ordering, in the same circumstances, the putting to death of the unfaithful woman. One cannot follow Jesus and Mohammed.”

“If Islam is not political, it is nothing,” said the Ayatollah Khomeini.

This is certainly true of Islam throughout the Middle East where radical Islamist tendencies may lie dormant for a while

before resurfacing as a violent reminder that Islamists do not call themselves “terrorists” but rather true believers in what Islam formally teaches.

As James V. Schall, S.J. noted in his book, “*On Islam: A Chronological Record, 2002-2018*”:

“They can point to chapter and verse, amidst conflicting chapters and verses. They laugh at us and are delighted that we do not take them seriously. They know the advantage that our ignorance and inability to say what they are gives them... They reject any notion that they are killing just for the sake of killing. No, they are carrying out a ‘mission’ assigned by Allah to all of Islam, backed, in their minds, by Qur’anic passages and a historical tradition of conquest.”

The Egyptian State’s seizure of St. Catherine’s Monastery at Mount Sinai is a good example of Islamists carrying out a mission.

The monastery previously enjoyed broad autonomy within the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Its roots can be traced to 330 AD when the Byzantine empress Helena had a small chapel and a living space built for hermits beside what was thought to be the burning bush from which God spoke to Moses.

In the sixth century, the site was converted to a monastery by Emperor Justinian. The monastery was even visited by Mohammed and over the centuries had the protection of Arab and Turkish leaders. A small mosque was built inside the monastery walls-the Fatimid mosque-for use by Muslim guards as a protection against early jihadist factions who threatened the monastery with armed attacks.

Managed by some twenty monks

at the time of its capture, St. Catherine’s is home to priceless manuscripts, icons, relics, and libraries. Although the Egyptian state still permits the monks to live at the monastery, their tenure is questionable and the Muslim Brotherhood-led government of Egypt could announce further changes at any time.

Archbishop Damianos of Sinai, the Abbot of the Monastery of Saint Catherine, stated that the Egyptian court ruling considers him and the entire Sinai Brotherhood as “squatters,” disregarding their fifteen-century-long presence there.

“The authorities, particularly the Antiquities Service, tell us that yes, you may use them, but they belong to us. And only belatedly did they realize that it is we who have safeguarded these treasures—by our own labor, our own efforts, and our own resources—from the sixth century to the present. Now they say we have no right to manage them.”

Egypt, it must be remembered, is under Sharia law and regards Christians as second-class citizens.

In Egypt, if you have a Christian-sounding name, you are not likely going to get into the best universities. Even simple job postings in Egyptian newspapers often state that Christians need not apply.

While there have been no beheadings of Coptic Christians in Egypt in recent years, in neighboring Libya in 2015 there was the infamous martyrdom of 21 Christian contractors who were murdered because they refused to convert to Islam.

During the Obama presidency when those 21 Martyrs were ordered to kneel on an obscure

stretch of beach along the Mediterranean coast so their blood would easily flow into the sea, the news media reported the victims as Egyptian citizens, not Coptic Christians.

Also at this time Obama was using ‘ISIL’ (The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) for ‘ISIS’ (Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham.)

Obama’s word games seemed to downplay Islam’s connection to terrorism. “ISIL is not ‘Islamic’ ... and ISIL is certainly not a state,” Obama said in a September 2014 speech about the terrorist organization.

Syria, before the civil war in 2011, had a 10% Christian population. Today that number is about 500,000, which can be attributed to continued persecution of Syrian Christians by ISIS.

Recall the June 2025 suicide bombing of a Greek Orthodox Church in Damascus during Sunday services, killing 25 people.

Anywhere you look in the Middle East — except Israel — it’s the same story: persecution of Christians.

Iran provides formal protection to Christians in its Constitution but often what exists on paper in Islamic countries rarely translates to everyday life. Christian churches are regularly raided in Iran and those Christians who have converted from Islam are put into prison.

From Mt. Sinai to New York City, “Islam will and must always seek to expand, to submit everyone to its law,” as James V. Schall notes.

Please see: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/from-the-deserts-of-mt-sinai-to-new-york-city/>



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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand



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

Henry Model X Rifle in .357: The Old Fashioned Lever Gun of the Future

by Jim Grant, ammoland.com

Henry Big Boy X-Model 357 Rifle – The old-fashioned rifle of the future; the only gun that fits my personal bizarre eclectic taste in firearms. But even if you don't like modern takes on classic guns, the Henry Model X is just an all-around bad-ass gun that, despite its archaic roots, is still relevant, versatile, and as potent as ever.

But are the new additions enough to truly bring the lever-gun into the 21st century? Or am I just viewing the gun through rose-tinted Pit-Viper glasses?

Henry Big Boy X Model Rifle

Despite their manual operation, lever-action rifles like the Henry are deceptively complex. This is especially true of the older Winchester rifles with their almost clockwork internals.

But modern Henrys are vastly

more streamlined to make them more affordable to produce without sacrificing quality. But even though the guns are modernized versions of the original Henry rifles from the Wild West, they still incorporate some relatively outdated features. Among all these dated features, none receives more criticism than Henry's use of a forward-loading tube.

If you're not familiar with the guns, all older models of Henry rifles are loaded from the front. This means that shooters have to remove the magazine tube, drop the desired number of cartridges into the mag tube housing before replacing the tube.

The process is by no means difficult, but neither is it terribly fast. However, the most problematic aspect of it is that it requires shooters to both manipulate a potentially loaded firearm less than an inch from



the muzzle and have to take the gun fully out of a potential fight to reload.

Modern Additions

And sure, not everyone who buys a firearm needs it for a life-or-death struggle pinned behind cover, desperately reloading their lever gun while lead pours from

the sky. But it's still an obvious inconvenience.

This is why so many shooters were excited when Henry announced their Model X would incorporate a side loading gate like the Winchester and Marlin rifles that came before it. And not just for hypothetical scenarios involving panicked reloads. But

also because this feature allows shooters to top off the magazine tube between shots. Allowing them to keep the gun filled to capacity without having to pull it down first.

But this isn't the only noteworthy feature incorporated by the new Henry Model X Rifle. The futuristic Henry Big Boy X Model Rifle is a modern-day cowboy gun that utilizes polymer for its furniture to reduce the weapon's overall weight. It does away with the aesthetically pleasing and period-correct buckhorn sights normally found on the gun for brilliantly bright, adjustable fiberoptic post and notches sights.

On the receiver itself, the Henry Model X features an enlarged loop handle, making it easy for shooters of all sizes to use – and if shooters want an even larger

HENRY
see page 21

PSA Sabre AR-10 Review: An M110 for the People

by Scott Witner, ammoland.com

If you're looking for an AR-10 with military-level performance without the hefty price tag, the Palmetto State Armory (PSA) Sabre AR-10 is worth a closer look.

Inspired by the iconic Knights Armament M110, this rifle offers power, precision, and design details that any shooter can appreciate. Whether you're a former service member who enjoys a bit of retro style or a .308 enthusiast seeking reliable accuracy, the Sabre AR-10 delivers on both fronts.

In this article, we'll see how the PSA Sabre AR-10 compares to the legendary M110. You'll learn their common features—from the classic A1 stock and quad rail to its 20" barrel and ambi controls. We'll also dive into the included accessories that make the Sabre AR-10 one of the closest civilian options to the M110 deployment package.

Design and Build Quality

The PSA Sabre AR-10, chambered in .308, impresses

right out of the box with its solid, retro design that calls to mind the reliability and rugged build of classic military rifles. Equipped with an A1 stock and a 12.5" quad rail, the Sabre taps into the nostalgia of an era defined by function and resilience.

For those who served in the '90s, like myself, these design choices are both familiar and confidence-inspiring. The attention to detail in combining the A1 stock and quad rail system isn't just an aesthetic decision—it sets the Sabre apart from many other AR-10s by aligning its design closer to the tried-and-true elements seen in military rifles like the M110.

Constructed with high-quality materials, the PSA Sabre boasts a 20" barrel made from 4150 Chrome Moly Vanadium steel, known for its durability and resistance to wear. With a 1:10 twist rate and a rifle-length gas system, the Sabre is primed for precision, offering ballistics well-suited for the .308 cartridge.

Its FDE Cerakote finish looks sharp and serves as an added layer of protection, mirroring the robust



coating found on the military-issued M110. The M110's renowned battlefield performance is partly due to its durable, corrosion-resistant finish, which PSA has closely emulated with the Sabre's Cerakote layer.

The adjustable gas block also allows shooters to fine-tune their shooting experience based on ammunition type or muzzle device, such as a suppressor. While I didn't run my Sabre with a suppressor, I appreciated the gas block's versatility. This functionality is essential for those looking to closely replicate the M110 experience, as the M110 is revered for its adaptability on the battlefield, especially when paired with a suppressor.

PSA Sabre AR-10 Muzzle and Adjustable Aas Block

The Sabre AR-10's inclusion of ambidextrous controls and an advanced trigger, similar to the M110's deployment kit, rounds out its appeal for civilian shooters who want the closest thing to the military-grade M110 without the substantial \$31,000 price tag. Yeah you heard me right....\$31,000!

Range Performance and Accuracy

Once I mounted my Primary Arms Athena Scope, the Sabre demonstrated its ability to handle high-grade ammunition without a hiccup. During my session, I used HOP Munitions 168-grain HPBT .308 ammo, which the Sabre

cycled smoothly, showcasing its reliable build and well-engineered components.

When it came to accuracy, the Sabre didn't disappoint. Once I dialed in the scope, I found that the rifle easily delivered consistent, combat-effective hits at 100 yards. Its 20-inch barrel and 1:10 twist rate contributed to the accuracy of the .308 ammo I used.

Recoil management was another highlight. The .308 Winchester is known for packing a punch, but the Sabre's muzzle device, adjustable gas block, and rifle-length buffer system help keep recoil surprisingly manageable. While the recoil is noticeable, as expected with any .308 rifle, it's balanced and controlled enough to allow quick follow-up shots.

Features and Included Accessories

One of the standout aspects of the PSA Sabre AR-10 package is the array of high-quality accessories

SABRE AR-10
see page 21



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HENRY from page 20

option, the X can utilize the extra-large lever loops meant for the traditional Henry Big Boy carbines. *(The same is allegedly true for the furniture, but I didn't have a Big Boy on hand to confirm this.)*

A Lever-Gun With Rails?

Speaking of furniture, the polymer forearm on the Henry Model X isn't just futuristic-looking for cosmetic sakes. It also incorporates a Picatinny rail on the bottom and a pair of M-Lok slots on the side. This makes for a perfect mounting system for tactical lights, lasers, or even bipods.

But for me, it's what's at the end of the Henry's 16-inch barrel that truly sells me on the gun – a 5/8×24 threaded muzzle. Because what lever-gun would be complete without a sound suppressor?

Model X Gonna' Give it to Ya

And truth be told, at first, I wasn't terribly impressed by the performance of the little carbine when suppressed. Because it was still pretty loud when paired with full-power .357 Magnum rounds. But Henry Model X really came into its own when I loaded up some 158gr .38 special rounds.

While it's difficult to express just how quiet the Henry was accurately, the impacts on my dirt berm were markedly louder than the shot itself. So much so that I would argue heavy-grain .38 special rounds combined with a quality big-bore can like the SilencerCo Osprey45 (provided by SilencerShop.com) make the Henry was as quiet as, and

possibly quieter than a suppressed .22lr carbine.

To put it another way, the combination resulted in a truly Hollywood-quiet setup.

Model X Performance

Accuracy from the carbine was solid as well. With hits on a six-inch steel gong at 150 yards using a red dot being laughably easy. However, if you're using .38 special rounds instead of .357 Mag, you'll have to add about a five-inch holdover since the rounds aren't exactly 'screaming' out the barrel.

One downside of the Henry I wanted to address is reliability in certain circumstances. I found that occasionally, if I worked the action a little too hard or fast while the carbine was tilted forward or backward at just the right angle, it would occasionally malfunction.

Essentially, the round would bind between the bolt and the elevator and make closing the action neigh impossible without sticking a finger, or pen, or knife inside the action and knocking the round loose.

Overall, with an MSRP of \$1,000, the Henry Big Boy X Model Rifle is by no means the cheapest option on the pistol caliber carbine market. But I truly believe it is among the most versatile – especially when paired with a can. The addition of a suppressor allows shooters to choose between whisper-quiet lead delivery and hard-hitting .357 Magnum power appropriate for deer, smaller bears, and even two-legged animals looking to do harm to you and your loved ones. It's an oddball gun to be sure, but one that definitely has a prominent place in my firearms collection.



Even without all the crazy attachments, the Henry Model X is a very capable firearm. *IMG Jim Grant*



The rear fiber optic notch sights are low-profile but still easy to see. *IMG Jim Grant*



The Model X's green front sight contrasts perfectly against the rear orange. Also, note the threaded barrel – perfect for suppressors. *IMG Jim Grant*

Henry Big Boy X Model 357 Rifle Specs:

SPECIFICATIONS

- Model Name: Henry Big Boy X Model 357 Rifle
- Brand Name: Henry Repeating Arms
- Model MPN: HNR-H012MX
- UPC: 619835200259
- MSRP: \$1500.
- Action Type: Lever Action
- Caliber: .357 Magnum/.38 Spl
- Capacity: 7 Rounds
- Additional Specifications
- Barrel Length: 17.4"
- Barrel Type: Round Blued Steel
- Rate of Twist: 1:16
- Overall Length: 36.3"
- Weight: 7.3 lbs
- Receiver Finish: Blued Steel
- Rear Sight: Fully Adj. Fiber Optic
- Front Sight: Fiber Optic
- Scopeability: Drilled and Tapped
- Scope Mount Type: BB-RSM
- Stock Material: Black Synthetic
- Buttplate/Pad: Black Solid Rubber Recoil Pad
- Length of Pull: 14"
- Safety: Transfer Bar
- Best Uses: Target/Hunting/ Large Game
- Embellishments/Extras: Swivel Studs, Large Loop Lever, M-Lok, Picatinny Rail, 5/8×24 Threaded Barrel, Fiber Optic Sights

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/07/henry-model-x-the-old-fashioned-rifle-of-the-future/>

SABRE AR-10 from page 20

that enhance its functionality and convenience. PSA has clearly thought through what a well-rounded rifle package should entail, and their attention to detail here is impressive.

The Sabre comes with a 46-inch Savior Equipment rifle bag—a thoughtfully designed case that does much more than just store the rifle. This durable case is well-suited for range days and extended outings. With ample storage space and three external pockets, the bag can hold everything from extra magazines to ammo boxes, range cards, and cleaning supplies.

There's also a discreet pocket behind the external pockets, large enough to store a handgun, spare magazines, or other mission-critical gear. The backpack-style carrying option is ideal for those needing an efficient transport solution, making it easy to keep your hands free for other gear or tasks.

Inside, the bag has space for the Saber and a secondary rifle—like an AR-15—allowing you to

carry two firearms in a single, compact setup. This added feature provides similar versatility for users accustomed to the M110's deployment kit, which comes complete with mission-essential accessories. You could hypothetically have the Sabre as your primary long-range firearm while keeping an AR-15 on hand for close-quarters needs, highlighting the multi-purpose approach of a deployment package.

In addition, PSA includes three 20-round Cerakote-finished metal magazines. These magazines match the rifle's aesthetics and provide reliable feeding and durability. The quality of the magazines is a welcome sight, as they're designed to withstand the demands of frequent use without compromising performance.

PSA's choice to bundle all these features together at a reasonable price makes the Sabre AR-10 package one of the most attractive civilian options for anyone looking to approach the capabilities of the M110. It provides everything a shooter might need in the field, from magazine capacity to versatile storage and transport, bringing a military-grade experience within reach.

Final Thoughts

The Palmetto State Armory Sabre AR-10 is a rugged, military-

inspired rifle that brings the M110 experience closer to civilians without the hefty price tag.



The PSA Sabre's FDE Cerakote finish looks sharp and serves as an added layer of protection



PSA Sabre AR-10 Muzzle and adjustable gas block

With its retro A1 stock, quad rail, and .308 Winchester chambering, the Sabre hits the mark on nostalgia and performance. At the range, it shines with reliable accuracy and smooth recoil, making it a solid choice for serious shooters.

PSA's attention to detail extends to the included Savior Equipment bag and three metal mags, giving users a complete, versatile package right out of the box. If I were to tweak anything, I'd swap the grip for a classic A2 and trade the Magpul bipod for Harris. Beyond that, I'd keep everything else the way it is and send it!

The PSA Sabre AR-10 is a winning combination for those who appreciate performance and heritage. It puts an M110 vibe within reach.

I've got some long-range shooting courses lined up in 2025, which means I'm hoping to put this Sabre AR-10 through those courses and push its capability to truly see what it can do

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/07/psa-sabre-ar-10-review-an-m110-for-the-people/>

DHS Shatters Nationwide Border Records, Delivering Most Secure Border in American History

Press Release
DHS

Release Date: July 2, 2025

WASHINGTON – Today, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the lowest nationwide encounters and apprehensions in history—shattering record lows set earlier this year under the Trump Administration.

In June, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) had the lowest number of nationwide encounters in CBP history at 25,243. This is 12% lower than the previous record set by President Trump in February 2025. That is 89% lower than the monthly average for years 2021-2024.

Nationwide U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) apprehensions were at 8,039, breaking the previous record from March 2025. This is a dramatic decrease from last June when there 11,414 apprehensions made in just the first 3 days of the month.

Along the Southwest Border, USBP apprehensions dropped to 6,070, a 15% decline

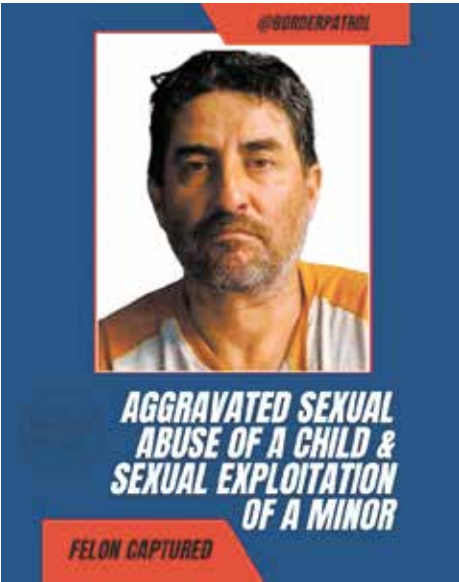
from March 2025. Last year, in just the first two days of June, Border Patrol had more than 7,000 Southwest Border apprehensions.

Notably, on June 28, Border Patrol recorded only 137 apprehensions across the entire Southwest Border—the lowest single-day total in a quarter of a century.

Gotaways fell 90% compared to June 2024. And for the second month in a row, USBP reported zero releases—reinforcing the Administration’s commitment to ending catch-and-release policies.

“The numbers don’t lie—under President Trump’s leadership, DHS and CBP have shattered records and delivered the most secure border in American history. The world is hearing our message: the border is closed to law breakers,” said Secretary Kristi Noem. “Under President Trump, our Border Patrol agents are empowered to do their job once again, secure our border and protect the American people.”

Illegal Alien Sex Offender Arrested



Press Release The U.S. Border Patrol
June 17, 2025

SEX OFFENDER ARRESTED!

6/11- USBP agents in Three Points, AZ, stopped a convicted sexual predator from re-entering the U.S. Mexican national, Jose Montano-Torres, has two convictions for sexual exploitation of a minor and aggravated sexual abuse of a child. He served time in a Utah prison for the horrific crimes and was deported last year. He now faces felony charges for illegal re-entry.

Predators have no place here.

Illegal Child Abuser Caught

Press Release
U.S. Border Patrol

July 6, 2025

On Sunday, a Mexican national was apprehended in Douglas, AZ, while attempting to illegally enter the U.S. Agents ran biometric checks, discovering his true identity- Luis Guerrero-Hernandez, a convicted criminal with a disturbing history.

- Arrested for sexual conduct with a minor
- Convicted of child vulnerable adult abuse
- Prior deport

USBP wasted no time- he was removed from the country in May. He now faces prosecution for felony illegal re-entry (8USC1326).

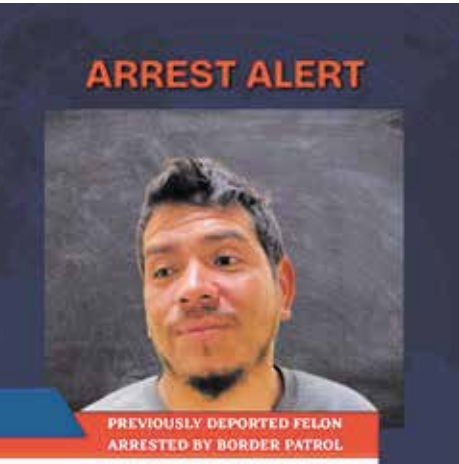
Greeley, Colorado: Mexican Illegal Busted

Press Release
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

July 5, 2025

Hugo Estrada-Rodriguez
Greeley, Colo., conviction | Assault
Greeley, Colo., arrests:
Assault & PPO violation
Mexican national Arrested by ICE Denver

Report suspicious criminal behavior:
866-DHS-2-ICE



You can keep trying to come back- but you will be caught, you will face consequences, and you will be removed.



Wild Ben Raymond: Leadville, Colorado 1879

by Historical Life,
via Facebook

In the hard-edged mining town of Leadville, Colorado, 1879, “Wild” Ben Raymond stood for a portrait that would outlast any headlines he made in life. The photo, taken in one of town’s rough-and-tumble studios, shows Raymond dressed for [battle] his face calm, yet weathered by experience. He holds a .44 Merwin & Hulbert Frontier Army revolver, its polished steel contrasting with the grit of the world around him. At his hip rests a Smith & Wesson No. 3 New Model, a cavalryman’s sidearm of choice. Strapped across his chest is [a] Bowie knife—more symbol than tool by then, but no less lethal. Combination of these weapons is highly unusual and suggests either Raymond’s access to elite gear or his reputation among men who needed to know [the] difference between good iron and mere ornament.

Raymond served as a mine guard during Leadville’s silver boom, a post that required more than just a

strong back—it demanded nerves of steel and fast draw. Guards werethe unsung backbone of mining operations, escorting silver bullion, breaking up fights, and fending off robbers with little more than badge, scowl and six-shooter. Leadville was no place for t[he] timid. the town had exploded in population almost overnight, drawing gamblers, gunslingers, and drifters eager to strike it rich or die trying. In such a place, to carry Merwin & Hulbert—renowned for its break-top design and flawless mechanics meant you weren’t just armed. you were serious. And Smith & Wesson No. 3, famously issued to U.S. cavalry, was a veteran’s choice. Together, they tell us Raymond wasn’t just playing a part—he lived it.

What survives of “Wild” Ben Raymond today is little more than that striking image, yet it lingers in historical imagination because it whispers more than it shouts. Details—weapons, posture, intense calm in his eyes—evoke an era when [the] line between lawman and outlaw was



Wild Ben Raymond posing for his photograph in Leadville, CO, in 1879, holding a First Model open top Merwin Hulbert Frontier Army revolver.

matter of [a] paycheck, not principle. He was one of many anonymous enforcers who helped shape the West, a figure born of dust, danger and opportunity. Though records don’t reveal his fate, his photograph endures as proof that he was there, fully armed and fully alive, when Leadville was furnace forging legends in [the] Rocky Mountains.

Self-Deporting for Honduras & Nicaragua Has Perks

With Improved Conditions, DHS Ends TPS for Honduras

Release Date: July 7, 2025

WASHINGTON – After finding improved country conditions in Honduras, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem today announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), as required by the statute. The termination will be effective 60 days after the publication of the Federal Register notice.

Honduras was designated for TPS in 1999 after the impact of Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The Government of Honduras has made tremendous strides over the years to recover from the hurricane and, as a result of those efforts, it is safe for their nationals to return home.

“Temporary Protected Status was designed to be just that—temporary,” said Secretary Kristi Noem. “It is clear that the Government of Honduras has taken all of the necessary steps to overcome the impacts of Hurricane Mitch, almost 27 years ago. Honduran citizens can safely return home, and DHS is here to help facilitate their voluntary return. Honduras has been a wonderful partner of the Trump Administration, helping us deliver on key promises to the American people. We look forward to continuing our work with them.”

After conferring with interagency partners, Secretary Noem determined that conditions in Honduras no longer meet the TPS statutory requirements. The Secretary's decision was based on a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services review of the conditions in Honduras and in consultation with the Department of State. The Secretary determined that, overall, country conditions have improved to the point where Hondurans can return home in safety. Additionally, under President Castro, Honduras has taken steps

to welcome home their citizens, providing access to economic and food assistance programs, as well as labor integration and job training.

Honduran nationals departing the United States are encouraged to use the U.S. Customs and Border Protection CBP Home app to report their departure from the United States and take advantage of a safe, secure way to leave the United States with a complimentary plane ticket, a \$1,000 exit bonus to help them resettle in Honduras, and preserve future opportunities for legal immigration.

DHS Terminates TPS for Nicaragua: It Was Never Meant to Last 25 Years

Release Date: July 7, 2025

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem today announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status for Nicaragua, which will expire on July 5, 2025. The termination will be effective 60 days after the publication of the Federal Register notice.

“Temporary Protected Status was never meant to last a quarter of a century,” said a DHS Spokesperson. “The impacts of a natural disaster impacting Nicaragua in 1999 no longer exist. The environmental situation has improved enough that it is safe enough for Nicaraguan citizens to return home. This decision restores integrity in our immigration system and ensures that TPS remains temporary.”

(Nicaraguan nationals departing the United States are also encouraged to use the U.S. Customs and Border Protection CBP Home app. Self deporting includes includes a complimentary plane ticket, a \$1,000 exit bonus, and potential future opportunities for legal immigration.)

See <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/media-releases/>

Maryland Federal Judges All Get Hit with DOJ Lawsuit for Violating the Law

by Hans von Spakovdky,
The Daily Signal

On June 24th, the U.S. Department of Justice filed an unprecedented complaint against all 15 of the federal district court judges in Maryland, as well as the clerk of the Maryland district court, for engaging in what Attorney General Pam Bondi calls an “egregious example of unlawful judicial overreach into the Executive Branch’s ability to enforce and administer federal [immigration] law.”

If successful, it may be the first time a judgment against federal judges has been rendered in such a very historic case.

The chief culprit in this innovative lawsuit is Chief Judge George Russell, a Barack Obama appointee who became the chief judge in 2024. He and the other federal judges are accused of violating federal immigration law, the requirements imposed by the Supreme Court before a preliminary injunction can be granted, and the federal law governing the promulgation of the local rules of a federal court.

These violations are tied into a “Standing Order” and an “Amended Standing Order” that Russell issued on May 21st and May 28th that apply to all the judges and all their courts. Apparently, having to work outside of normal business hours and weekends interferes too

much with the leisure time of the judges since the orders are based on Russell complaining about the “recent influx of habeas petitions concerning alien detainees” that are being “filed after normal court hours and on weekends and holidays.”

To save that leisure time, the orders provide for the *automatic* issuance of an injunction the moment a habeas corpus petition is filed by an alien with the court clerk, Catherine Stavlas. That injunction prohibits the federal government from removing such aliens “from the continental United States or altering their legal status.”

Such an injunction will be issued “in every such case upon its filing.” It remains in effect until the end of the “second business day following the filing” unless one of the 15 judges extends it, thus giving them plenty of time to finish their golf games.

Russell claims these orders are intended to “preserve existing conditions and the potential jurisdiction of th[e] Court over pending matters while the Court determines the scope of its authority to grant” relief, as well as to evaluate “in-court testimony that may be offered.” But that is putting the cart before the horse because Russell is authorizing the issuance of injunctions before any evidence has been heard, before the government has been notified

about the case, and before a court even knows if it has jurisdiction over the claim.

The Justice Department asserts three legal violations in the lawsuit against Russell and his judicial collaborators.

The first is that the issuance of an automatic injunction violates the four-factor test set forth by the Supreme Court that *must* be considered before a judge can issue a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction in a specific case. A judge must consider the plaintiff’s likelihood of success on the merits, whether the plaintiff will suffer irreparable harm without an injunction, the balance of the harms to the plaintiff and the other party (here the government), and the public interest.

Obviously, with an automatic injunction, none of that is being done at all. The standing orders “are therefore unlawful,” says the complaint, a position it is hard to argue against. As the Justice Department sardonically asserts, “Inconvenience to the Court is not a basis to enter an injunction, and filings outside normal business hours, scheduling difficulties, and the possibility of hurried and frustrating hearings are not irreparable harm.”

Second, the DOJ points out that federal immigration law “deprives district courts of jurisdiction to issue orders that stay the

execution of removal orders and to hear cases challenging the execution of removal orders.” Other provisions bar judicial review of many “discretionary judgments regarding release and detention of aliens.” For aliens in expedited removal proceedings, federal law limits judicial review of habeas corpus petitions to “just three narrow grounds.” Thus, the standing orders are also “invalid and unlawful” since they violate multiple federal immigration statutes that bar, restrict, or limit the review of federal courts.

Finally, these standing orders are “in function and effect” local rules governing the conduct of the Maryland federal courts, says the Justice Department. Thus, under 28 U.S.C. § 2071, they should have gone through “notice-and-comment rulemaking” before being promulgated.

In other words, they should have been published as proposed new rules with the public given the opportunity to comment on them. That was not done. They also were not “submitted to a rules advisory committee, the judicial council of the Fourth Circuit, or the Judicial Conference.” They are “therefore unlawful and invalid.”

For a lawyer like me, the practical issues brought up by this lawsuit are fascinating. Can you imagine being the staffer who has to make sure all these federal judges, who consider themselves gods in

their courtrooms, are served with the complaint? And what judge will the lawsuit get assigned to and in what district will it end up? The complaint was filed in the Maryland district court, but every single judge in Maryland, as well as the office of the court clerk, has an obvious conflict of interest and will be disqualified from handling the case.

Anyone who thinks this is a frivolous case that has no merit is wrong. The Justice Department raises very serious issues about Russell’s possible violation of federal law and Supreme Court precedent.

In what may be the ultimate irony, what is the Justice Department’s demand for relief?

That this Court issue preliminary and permanent injunctions that prohibit the Defendants ... from implementing or effectuating the Standing Order and Amended Standing Order and from enforcing their terms in any case.

A request for an injunction against an injunction. Sounds like a line out of “My Cousin Vinny.”

(Editor/GG: Finally someone is going against these rogue lib judges who think they are above the law. Finally.)

Please see: <https://www.daily-signal.com/2025/07/01/maryland-federal-judges-all-get-hit-with-doj-lawsuit-for-violating-the-law/>



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**REGULATIONS
COST JOBS**
from page 1

a voter-approved paid-family-leave program, boosted rules around employer hiring and allowed local minimum-wage hikes.

Colorado has a notably higher number of regulations related to the environment (53,550 rules versus a national average of 30,553), health sciences and social assistance (such as the paid-family-leave program), the study said. Much of the environmental push has come as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reclassified the Northern Front Range as a severe nonattainment area for ozone and the state has sought to rein in emissions from drilling rigs, industrial plants and others.

**Are regulations stunting
emissions-reduction
innovations?**

The explosion of regulations also has added more requirements to get air-quality permits and slowed the state’s consideration of permit applications, resulting in backlogs that can stretch for years, said Scott Hutchings, government-affairs director for recycling and disposal firm Waste Management. And that’s led to situations where the company has been stunted in efforts to get permits for new carbon-reduction tools like flaring devices, meaning the onslaught of regulations can work against environmental goals, he said.

Facing the fallout of increasing rules, national companies like his look increasingly to other Western states to pilot their new technologies, knowing they can get quicker approvals and better use of investment, Hutchings said. He thinks leaders should know that states like Arizona, which require one-third as many permit approvals for landfill equipment as Colorado does, can benefit both environmentally and economically when they clear the regulatory path for companies.

“It would speed up the ability for us to reduce emissions,” Hutchings said of any regulatory rollback that could cut the permitting backlog for new equipment and allow more use of new technology. “We feel like the goalposts are being moved every year.”

**Economic impact of regulations
quantified**

To put Colorado’s four-year burst of regulations from 2020-23 into context, the 7.1% increase in rules came even as federal regulations, largely under President Joe Biden’s administration, grew only 1.3% during that time, the study noted. Colorado’s pipeline transportation and personal-services sectors experienced boosts in regulation that exceeded 100%, the study noted.

Increasing regulations also cost jobs by raising the prices of goods produced by businesses in order to cover the rising cost of meeting regulations, which in turn lowers sales volume, the study argued. Transitioning from a lightly regulated economy to a

heavily regulated economy can cut growth between 1% and 2% annually while, at least on the federal level, a 10% increase in regulations can lead to a 1% boost in consumer prices, StratACUMEN leaders wrote.

Impacts of regulating one industry can extend beyond that sector, particularly in the case of environmental regulations that boost energy costs as the state transitions away from coal to natural gas and other fuels, the study argued. If the state were to mimic California’s energy policies and lead to a 90% increase in electricity prices, the reduction in employment, investment and disposable income could cost 65,000 jobs.

State legislators have said that environmental regulations also bring down costs by cleaning up air and water and reducing the public-health costs associated with asthma and other pollution-exacerbated conditions. And Democrats who have supported increased labor regulations — particularly Rep. Javier Mabrey of Denver, appointed Monday as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee — have said economic concerns should not outweigh the need to protect workers.

Unintended consequences?

But Stephen Shepard, chief staff officer for Denver Metro BOMA, said the building-management industry is a poster child for unintended consequences of regulation like rules the state passed last year to lower emissions from

large commercial buildings. At a time when building operators are having a hard time bringing workers back to offices and are looking to raise capital to upgrade their properties, the added costs of meeting the new rules is turning away potential buyers and lenders.

As a result, some buildings are going to foreclosure, and some others are under consideration for demolition and conversion to industrial property — two scenarios that won’t help to bring workers back to urban core areas. Thus, the new regulations are contributing to reverberations that include the closing of nearby restaurant and retail businesses as the density of workers wanes, and the new rules are having negative effects their backers likely didn’t intend, he said.

“The cost to get these buildings to compliance with new regulations does not make a sound investment decision, so potential buyers have backed out,” Shepard said. “If you have vacant space in your building, you’re not going to be able to get loans for the capital needed to upgrade. And if you can’t get capital, you can’t comply.”

Potential reforms listed

To address these issues, the study proposed several potential regulatory reforms. It also argued that with 45% of Colorado’s regulations being duplicative, redundant or “excessive” — beyond the level of most other states — there is room to roll

back regulations without hurting public health or safety.

Colorado could, for example, establish a hard limit on the number of state regulations while simultaneously setting a short-term regulation reduction target, typically around 30% over three to five years, the study suggested. Idaho, which sports one of the country’s fastest-growing economies, has benefitted from a law establishing a “one rule in, two rules out” policy that’s led to removal or simplification of more than 75% of regulations, it said.

Colorado also could mandate periodic reevaluations of older regulations, to examine their effectiveness or continued necessity, it said. The state established a similar policy in which auditors have examined all tax expenditures such as credits or breaks that are available in state law and has recommended changes or repeals of a number of them.

“Ultimately, a more thoughtful regulatory framework, with reductions in the growth of the number of laws, regulations and related business regulations will not only benefit businesses but will also enhance the overall quality of life for Colorado residents, paving the way for sustainable economic growth and a thriving community,” the report said.

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