

Thank You

By George Gramlich

Due to serious, personal health issues, we must shut the *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel*. This will be our last publication.



It's been some ride. Thirteen years ago, four patriots had an idea: publish a conservative, Christian weekly print newspaper covering Custer County (and to some degree Fremont County). The founding partners were Mike Hess, George Gramlich, Mary Seifert and Rob Canterbury. Over the years Mike, Mary and Rob had to move on, leaving George Gramlich as the sole founder. It would be remiss of me not mention a "fifth partner" Kat Brenchley, as she was the glue that held the group together.

And thanks to the wonderful patriots who worked or volunteered over the years. These are a few of them: Fred Hernandez, Jackie and Dan Bubis, Barbara Napolitan, Galen Studebaker, Audrey Slater, Yvonne Phillips, Ann Barthrop, Becky Olson, Lisa Frank, Carol and Scott Clemenson, Ewa and Joe Sederstrom, the Chaffee County team, our picture-taking experts and many, many others to whom we are most grateful.

Plus special thanks to our current outstanding crew: Laura Vass, Fred Hernandez, Yvonne Phillips, Kat Brenchley and Galen Studebaker.

Over the years the *Sentinel* has helped in the effort to keep our County conservative. Here are just a few examples: killed Building Codes, killed the Dark Skies county law, raised \$16k for Eagles Summit Ranch for 12 vets to take the week long rehab course, two County Commissioner recalls where 'we the people' got rid of a bunch of poorly performing commissioners, Shield 616 where we raised over \$26k so our Sheriff's

Office could have state of the art body protection (special thanks to Sam Hepp on that fundraiser), ran the Independence Day Parade for many years, revived the Memorial Day Parade which we sponsored for many years, highlighted our local school via dozens and dozens of centerfolds, ran a slate of anti-pot candidates for the Silver Cliff town board which prevented the introduction of pot farms, pot stores, and locally sold pot in Happy Valley, brought the BOCC meetings to YouTube for the first time, fought manic Covid restrictions on businesses and our school that could have shuttered the town long-term, served as a hub for many a ballot petition, plus many, many more.

Maybe the best part of this adventure was meeting or just talking with our readers. You want to define hard core supporters? Just talk to the *Sentinel's* readers. From the hardcore to the regular conservatives, they were loyal to the core. Thank you for supporting us. God Bless.

Our Advertisers were the ones who kept us in business. You stuck with us as our opposition tried to peel you away from us. Special thanks to Bob Senderhauf (Custer County Realty) for his rock-solid support



since Day One. Also thanks to Pat Bailey (Solar Solutions), Seifert Enterprises & Beach RediMix, Ray Swota, Norup Gas, Salty Pine, True Value Hardware folks, Jean & Jack Canterbury, Brenda Bosse, Kirkpatrick Bank, Wet Mountain Storage, Jared Smith Dental, Holt Funeral Home, High Peaks Animal Hospital, Tony's (Sam Hepp & Johnny Winton) and Westcliffe Supermarket – now Lowe's Market.

THANK YOU
see page 5

Higher Taxes and Fees, Yet Colorado's Infrastructure Gets a C- Grade

by Kevin Lundberg,
Commentary
KevinLundberg.com

I have long contended that the Colorado state government has had its priorities upside down for many decades. The Federal government has many responsibilities not appropriate for individual states, and the same is true for local governments. State government should focus on state wide concerns and stay out of the way for local and national government roles.

The tendency of government is to always increase, and as government grows, liberty diminishes.

For Colorado state government and the party that has been in power for the past twenty years, that growth is quite evident with more programs, higher taxes (including billions for fees) and more power, our liberty has certainly diminished.

What I consider to be much of the core purpose of state government has been largely ignored. Maintaining a healthy infrastructure has been a low priority and the C- grade from American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) underscores that dismal reality.

We are in desperate need

of a governor and a legislature that understands good principles of limited government and knows how to stick with the real priorities for state government.

To Follow Kevin Lundberg's weekly update, sign up for his newsletter @ KevenLundberg.com

Robert Treta (Denver Mayoral Candidate) 169420 @RobertTreta

Something to think about :

A car is sold in Denver brand new for \$50k.

The buyer pays sales tax and registration of about \$6000. And another \$3000 for 2 more years of registration.

The original buyer sells it in 3 years for \$35k .

The 2nd buyer pays \$4500 in taxes and registration and holds the car for 3 more years at a cost of \$2000 more in registration fees.

The 2nd buyer then sells the car to the 3rd buyer for \$25k . That 3rd party now pays \$3000 and holds it for 3 years for \$1500 in additional registration.

So . Now at this point after only 8 or 9 years the government has received \$20k of tax revenue on a \$50k product .

That is what we call theft .

2:52 PM · Jul 23, 2025 · 2.2M Views

BOCC: 11th Dist. DA Lindsey Briefing, Marketplace Grant, Lodging Tax Increase Discussion

by Sentinel Staff

The July 23, 2025 Custer County Board of County Commissioners meeting started at 9 a.m. in the meeting room at All Aboard Westcliffe. All three Commissioners were present: Chair Bill Canda and members Lucas Epp and Paul Vogelsong.

Under Commissioner Items, Vogelsong and Epp both commended the Fair Board , Extension Office, 4-H Coordinator. and FFA leader for their work on the County Fair. Sales were over \$300K this year and 60% were over prime, which is unheard of, said Epp.

Canda said the current Chipseal went well. The new roller popped off during the project. It is however under warranty. More 30mph signs are going to be put up.

Under Unfinished Business, the purchase of Chip Sealer was discussed briefly. They are still trying to purchase one.

Under New Business, 11th District DA, Jeff Lindsey gave a briefing on what his office has accomplished so far. He said the Counties gave a good budget to the DA's office.

Linsley said there is a lot of training and adjustments. He has put a new investigation team together including a 40-year experienced Lt. from Albuquerque, a Lt. from Colorado Springs Police Dept. and a 30-year experience homicide detective from the Pueblo PD who also recently retired. A Chief Deputy has been assigned to Chaffee County.

BOCC
see page 19

4-H/FFA
CC Livestock
Sale Champs
Photo Feature
pages 12-13

Custer County
World Class
Calf Roper
page 4

WMV
Stampede
Part 2
page 11

Obituaries:
Joyce Hoel
Sue Stocker
Leland E. Niles Jr.
page 5 & 22

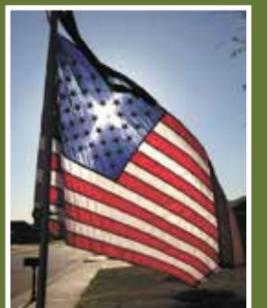
Colorado
Unemp. 10th
Highest page 16

AI Wipes Out
Database
page 18

LTE: Tax &
Priorities
page 22

Appendix
Carry page 20

**PATRIOT
ALERT!**
1000's of
Crims Made
Citizens
page 18



You, too, must be
patient. Take courage,
for the coming of
the Lord is near.
James 5:8

SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL

Copyright©2025

The Voice of Conservative Colorado!



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

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

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

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

Key Personnel

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

Fred Hernandez - Vice President
FredHer8@proton.me

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

Katherine Brenchley - Advertising Coordinator
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support

Accounting Services
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com

Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery

Galen Studebaker

Sentinel Founders

Mike Hess
George Gramlich
Mary Seifert
Rob Canterbury
Katherine Brenchley

Sentinel Honor Roll

Dan Bubis
Jackie Bubis
Carol Clemenson
Scott Clemenson
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors

Audrey Slater
Mtn. Photo in Logo by Peggi Collins

Winter Business Hours:

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

Subscription Rates:

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

How to contact us:

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

www.SDCSentinel.com

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

www.facebook.com/SangreDeCristoSentinel

SilverWest AIRFEST 2025
AUG 16 GATES OPEN 7:30AM
SILVERWEST COD AIRPORT
HIGHWAY 69 • WESTCLIFFE COLORADO • ELEV. 8,290'
FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00AM - 10:00AM
FOR MORE INFO: SILVERWESTAIRFEST.COM

HARALD FRANK SKID STEER SERVICES
Owner/Operator 719-371-1570
Driveways - Site Pads - Backfills - Entryways

My work speaks for itself...

MAGA PROUD!

Cañon City Coins
Collector & Investor Coins - Buying, Selling & Trading
(719) 269-7507
Jason
123 S. 5th St., Cañon City, CO 81212
www.canoncitycoins.com

SHUTTER & SPUR PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTACT
(970) 596 - 6122
SHUTTERANDSPUR.PHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM

SOCIALS
SHUTTERANDSPUR.PHOTOGRAPHY
SHUTTER & SPUR PHOTOGRAPHY

ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHER

Contractor License #ICNON153778

CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE TRADESPERSON

New Homes Additions Polebarns Garages

Old Country CONSTRUCTION LLC
Westcliffe, Colorado
719.458.4184

REGULAR FEATURES

Business Directory	page	6-7
Classifieds	page	9
Churches	page	8
Crossword Puzzle	page	17
Events	page	8-9
Legals	page	17
Obituaries	page	5&22

Business Directory QR (Scan to download) website <https://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com>

Eager to Serve His Country A True WWII Story

Jack Carlson Gives His Niece an Honest Account of His Recollections

At the time Jack Carlson recalls, many American men were going to Canada to join the Royal Canadian Army/Air Force to get involved quickly - timely training was crucial.

Submitted by Katherine Brenchley

The following is a letter from my uncle, Jack H. Carlson, who was born in 1922 to parents who had homesteaded in Montana and later started Old Divide Coal Co. In 1988, when I was 15 years old, I asked him to tell me something about his experience during WWII for a report for my history class. The following is his response to that request:

Hi Katey,

Good to hear from you. I have thought about your request for days. So I will try. You will have to realize that was a different time, all of the bad things you forget (most) and you remember the good people you have met, the good times, and the funny incidents.

This will have to start in July or August before Pearl Harbor. I didn't think the war would last too much longer, so I went to Canada to enlist in the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force). By the time the papers came back the Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor. So I went to Butte, MT to take my exams for the Air Corps. I passed them all right. So I signed up, but there was no room right away, so I took a job up in the Beartooth Mountains where they



were opening up a chrome mine, where I spent the rest of the summer. That fall I returned to Roundup (Montana) and took a job on the night shift on toward the end of the year. The Big Boss came down to where I was and told me my orders were in the office. This was about 9:30 at night. So I took a shower, went to the railway station and my train came in about 10:30 or 11:00. I kept my bag packed and in my car all summer.

I went to Nashville, Tennessee, from there

WWII Story see page 23

2nd Annual Silver Cliff Community Park FUN Day
AUGUST 9, 2025, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
1011 Butler Street, Silver Cliff

Silver Cliff Fun Run - 5K @ 8K Feet
Registration 8:30 click the link or QR
<https://ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?eid=18998>
Run Starts at 9:00
Prizes for the top 3 fastest times.

\$25 Entry

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

\$10.00 to Register for each Event

10:00 am • Pickleball Event • Golf Challenge Closest to the Pin \$1/per ball or 12 for \$10 Unlimited chances	11:00 am • First bracket of Cornhole and Horseshoes • Home Run Derby \$10 for 10 balls - Unlimited chances	1:00 pm • 2nd Bracket Cornhole and Horseshoes
---	---	---

Beer Tent - Music & Live Music 12 - 3

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS: GRACE N' GRIT - WESTCLIFFE MEATS BOSS PRO DIESEL REPAIR - CENTRAL BUILDING SUPPLY - WESTCLIFFE CONCRETE - VALLEY ACE - ANDY MAST - BOTTLEGGERS - IMPERIO AZTECA - CHAPPY'S - SEIFERT ENTERPRISES - LIQUOR CABINET - WMFPD - WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY SADDLE CLUB - ED & VI LYONS - PEREGRINE COFFEE WILD FLOUR DONUTS & COMPANY - CLOUDBREAK - ALLY O'NEILL

All proceeds go towards park improvements and future programs.

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

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

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

Questions - Call 719-783-2615

Local Mountain News & Notices

You Are Invited!

HOMECOMING & OPEN HOUSE

Come celebrate the completion of our building addition with us!

Press Release

The Custer County Church of Christ has been expanding our building for 15 months and the project is just about finished! They have added a new auditorium and four classrooms.

An Open House and Homecoming (welcoming any community members and former attendees) to services is planned for August 10th, followed by a potluck meal.

Coffee and Greetings are at 9 a.m., Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service begins at 10:40 a.m. We'll have a Potluck afterward at 12 p.m. The church is located at 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliffe, CO.

Contact information:
CusterCountyChurchofChrist.com
CusterCountyChurchofChrist@gmail.com.

If you need accommodations, call 720-383-8374.



Explore Your Creative Side with Upcoming Adult Art Classes at 3rd Street Gallery

Sangres Art Guild invites artists—beginners and experienced alike—to join two exciting upcoming art classes at 3rd Street Gallery in Westcliffe. Whether you're just starting your creative journey or looking to expand your skills, these hands-on classes offer a welcoming space to learn, experiment, and create.

Conte' Pastel Pencil & Gouache Painting with Eric Matranga

Tuesday, August 13,
1 – 3:30 p.m.

Discover the dynamic combination of conte' pastel pencils and gouache paint in this unique mixed-media workshop. Eric Matranga will guide students through techniques to build depth, texture, and vibrant color using these complementary materials. All levels welcome—come curious and ready to play!

Hand-Building Clay Class with Stephanie Amos

Two-part class: Mondays, September 22
1-3:30 p.m. & September 29/1 – 3 p.m.

Get your hands dirty and your imagination fired up! In this two-session clay workshop, you'll create hand-built ceramic pieces, learn about glazing and have your project kiln fired. Perfect for those new to clay as well as potters looking to revisit the basics in a fun and relaxed setting.

Spaces are limited, so early registration is encouraged!

To learn more and sign up, visit sangresartguild.org and click on "Events."

For questions, contact Liz VanSomeren at lvansomeren@sagboard.org

CUSTER COUNTY
SUPPLY COMPANY

Open Tues-Sat from 10am-5pm
206 Main St., Westcliffe
719-659-8743

Mention this ad for 20% off one item!
(Excluding Guns)

Come in to check out our great selection of firearms, we will special order firearms and ammo not in stock!

FFL transfers - \$40 | Discount for police, military and first responders

STAGE STOP
Breakfast, Lunch & Fun!

BREAKFAST PLATTER

2 SCRAMBLED EGGS – BAGEL OR BISCUIT \$7
ADD BACON, HAM OR SAUSAGE \$9

Order Ahead Online

GET THE TO-DO'S TO-DONE

CK SERIES

- 20, 35 AND 40 HP ENGINES
- 3 TRANSMISSION CHOICES
- ROPS OR CAB MODELS
- EASY TO HIRE
- WE DO YOUR DIRT!

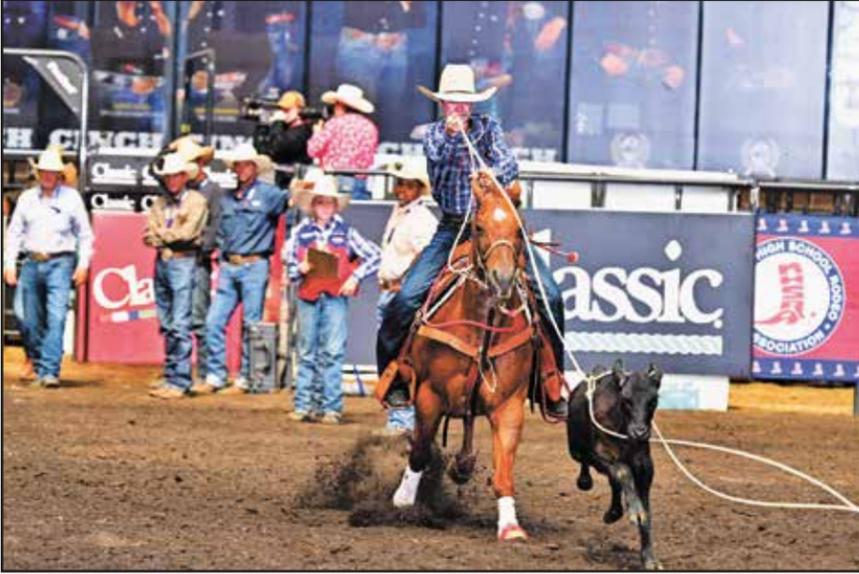
Store Hours:
Monday - Friday 8 am - 6 pm | Saturday 8 am - 2 pm
635 Shoop Dr., Penrose, CO 81242
719-784-0123
www.truevaluetrailers.com

Adducci's Cannoli Co.

A Taste Of Italy

LOCATED AT LUX CHOCOLATE CREATIONS
104 3RD ST., WESTCLIFFE
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 10 AM - 5 PM

CUSTER COUNTY COWBOY World Class Calf Roper



by Fred Hernandez

The sharp rush of adrenaline surges through horse and rider as the gate bangs open and the calf makes a dash to escape. The whirl of rope as it slices through the air from the hand of an expert landing perfectly around the animal's neck. In split seconds mount slides to a stop, rider is off and calf is tied down while the crowd roars in delight.

That's rodeo at its best and some of the best rodeo stars come from right here in Custer County. Sam Stafford, only fourteen years old, is already recognized as one of the most skilled at the art of calf roping. Born in Pueblo, Colorado, and a lifelong resident of Westcliffe, Sam, who grew up on the family ranch, Lazy V Cattle Company, was introduced to the saddle by his father when only a toddler. His love of horses will last a lifetime.

At age twelve, Sam and his horse JR came under the masterful tutelage of World Champion and professional horse trainer Jack Wright of Penrose, Colorado.



Sam Stafford holding the buckle when he won the State Title.

Courtesy photos from the Staffords

With thirty world and reserve titles including the 2014 American Paint Horse Association world championship title, Mr. Wright is considered Royalty among the elite in the kingdom of roping and reining. With his inborn skills Sam flourished and quickly developed into the world class winner he has become.

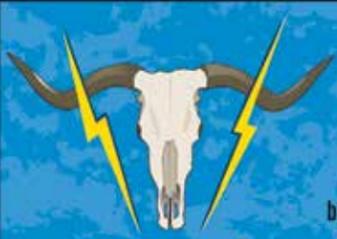
On the Junior High/High School Rodeo Association, Sam won the State Title in Tie Down Roping for Colorado. This qualified for him and his horse, JR, to compete in Des Moines, Iowa, at the Junior High National Finals where he placed 4th in the World for Tie Down Roping. Recently, in a crowded field of 1,500 contestants in Guthrie, Oklahoma,

at the National Little Britches Finals Rodeo, Sam won the title for 7th in the World for Team Roping and 10th in the World for Breakaway Roping.

With these wins Sam has qualified for the Vegas Tuffest as well and the Hooley Junior Patriot to be held this December in Las Vegas, Nevada, known in the rodeo world as the most prestigious arena. The future for this young star includes his plan to enter Tarleton State University in Stephenville,

Texas, nationally recognized as having one of the best rodeo facilities and to be a part of their rodeo team. Beyond that, Sam wants to be an accomplished horse trainer. Sam says he would have been a bull rider rather than a roper but "Mom would not let me".

Huge congratulations are definitely in order for Sam Stafford who has brought much honor to his native Custer County. Thank you, Sam Stafford. You are truly the Champ.

Steven Hardin
Owner
719-371-1221
boneyardelectric@gmail.com
License No. ME.3001843
Industrial • Residential
Commercial

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

Kauffman's Construction



Call Owen 719-371-7863
Free Estimates - No Job to Big or Small

The Cliffes Auto Services

215 E. Main St
Silver Cliff, CO 81252

(719) 285-3181
(719) 783-3281
cliffesautosvcs@gmail.com



**Main St & Dewalt St
Silver Cliff, CO** Offered at **\$65,300**

UNDER CONTRACT

**5 Commercial Lots!
.29 Acre**
Start your own business! Offered by:
Bob Senderhauf Owner/Broker

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




**1210 Engelman Road
Westcliffe, CO** New Price: **\$1,295,000**

PRICE REDUCTION

**Stunning Panoramic Views
35.12 Acres
4 Bdr / 3 Bath, Elevator
5,203 Square Feet**

Offered by:
Bob Senderhauf Owner/Broker

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




In Loving Memory of Leland E. Niles, Jr. "Buzzy"

"An original cowboy—grit in his bones, love in his heart, and country in his soul."



Leland E. Niles Jr., lovingly known as "Buzzy", a U.S. Navy veteran, patriot, husband, father, grandfather, and brother, passed away on July 16, 2025, at the age of 82.

A proud son of Westcliffe and Buena Vista, Colorado, Buzzy was a man of quiet strength, deep intelligence, and enduring grit. An original cowboy, he lived life on his terms and left a lasting mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Raised with old-school values and a sharp wit, he carried himself with humility, humor, and a fierce sense of loyalty to both family and country.

A veteran of the United States Navy, Buzzy answered the call to serve and wore the uniform with honor. His patriotism never wavered, and his love for America ran as deep as the roots of the land he cherished.

More than anything, he was a family man—steadfast and devoted. Whether he was fixing something, telling stories, offering wisdom, or just being present, he was the rock and the heart of his family.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Niles, his children, Shana Niles, Kristie Williams, and Zane Niles, his six grandchildren, and three great-

grandchildren; his brother, Gary Niles and his wife, Bobbi, his sisters, Caroline "Debbie" Niles, and Jacquelyn "Jackie" Hobby and her husband, Cliff, plus a wide circle of extended family, and lifelong friends who will miss him deeply. He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Leland and Genevieve Niles; his sister, Dorothy Niles-Nichols; his brother, Darrell Niles; and his two grandchildren, Larry Williams, Jr., and Taylor Lind.

His legacy lives on in the values he instilled, the lives he touched, and the love he gave so generously.

A celebration of life with military honors will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission or the Buena Vista Pregnancy Center.

VALI's Building a Brighter Future Challenge

VALI's Building a Brighter Future Challenge

Join us, and together as a community, let's rise to the challenge!...

Building a brighter future is a great challenge to have—and we want YOU to join us!

Donations:

A local family foundation has committed to donate \$10,000 to VALI, if we can raise \$10,000 to match it! This means every dollar you give is immediately DOUBLED, and has DOUBLE the impact on VALI's bright future.

1. <https://givebutter.com/VALIBrightFutureChallenge>
2. Kirkpatrick has set up a VALI Fundraiser Account that donors can stop by and directly donate to this account.
3. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at Valley Assisted Living, 30 East Main St, Silver Cliff, CO 81252 (memo Challenge Fundraiser on Check)

VALI has served the seniors of the Wet Mountain Valley since 1999, and we want to continue to serve you and your loved ones for many more decades to come.

"You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the Lord your God."
Leviticus 24:22

Equal justice. One law. That's the foundation of a healthy nation.
When governments reject that, decline is inevitable.

THANK YOU from page 1

There have been many non-profit and for-profit news sites, bloggers and columnists who have contributed exclusively and/or given us permissions to reprint their work over the years. To give a list would be desirable, but someone always gets left out. You know who you are. Close to home and for a long time, our readers would remember these: Mike Hess-A Shepdog Barks, Jim Modlish-Politics & the Bible, Bill Wilson-Daily Jot, Audrey Slater-Kids Corner, and later on, Mark Bunch/Royal Gorge Gun Club, and Charlotte Burrous-Fremont County Crusader. Know that we are grateful and have appreciated your expertise and contributions over the years, helping to make our local paper "one of a kind".

Four more thank you's: The *Sentinel* would not have survived

all these years without my best friend's help. That man is Fred Hernandez. Through issue after issue, crisis after crisis, Fred stood tall and never wavered. He volunteered our very first year and has been a whirlwind of energy and productivity. Thank you, Fred, my best friend. I love you brother.

And then there is Laura Vass. Our computer lady. The woman is brilliant. She came on board without knowing our publishing software (which is very complex), and learned it in a short time. Laura produced nine years of issues. Laura puts the 24 page *Sentinel* together every week and has never missed a beat. God Bless you, lady.

Katherine Brenchley, our advertising lady and bookkeeper saved the day a few years ago. Kat was one of the original crew but after a few years she had to leave.

Even before she moved back to Happy Valley, Kat came back on board again four years ago and basically, saved the ship. Kat also does our centerfold (DT) and ad creation. (She was mentored by our prior sales lady, Barbara Napolitan. Thank you, Barb, for your dedication and work ethic.)

And then there is the lady who runs the reception desk and does a crucial variety of tasks every week, including subscriptions, proofing and archiving, with only a little bitch'n. She's that person any office is lucky to have—who quietly serves everyone else's needs and turns chaos into organization. Yvonne and I have been together for 33 years! We have worked together 24/7 on our various businesses over the years (including a 513-acre beef cattle ranch in upstate New York). Our love for each other is deep. We are not only lovers, but also best friends. I have been blessed.

Thank you, my little Abenaki Princess. You are the love of my life.

Special thanks to David Codrea for giving us links on his super popular website, War on Guns. Also, Thanks to TL Davis. He is now at tldavis.substack.com.

Saying that, thanks to Mike Vanderboegh, the founder of the Three Percent movement. David and Mike were the first to report on the ATF gun running operation into Mexico. And remember that Mike came to Happy Valley and marched in our 2nd Amendment section in the Independence Day Parade. Mike loved Happy Valley.

A challenge to our fellow patriots: We are shutting down now but it is very doable to revive the *Sentinel* or start your own conservative newspaper. The ladies have all the knowledge to

start a new newspaper. This little local newspaper has had a huge impact in our area. You can do it, too. Remember, media is where things get done. And the fight is local, Patriots, watching Fox News doesn't cut it.

Finally, thank you to all my friends. It has been one heck of a ride!

— GG

Jesus said:

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

John 16:33b

PREMIER PEST CONTROL LLC
WESTCLIFFE, CO
719-371-7404
PPC16@PRIVATEGARDEN.ORG
Call to schedule: inspections, estimates, professional pest management, residential, commercial, licensed and insured

VALLEY VIEW WINDOWS & DOORS
FREE ESTIMATES
WINDOWS
DOORS
REPLACEMENTS
NEW CONSTRUCTION
SALES
DELIVERY
MARTY BYLER
CELL:
719-220-4151
EMAIL: WILL@VALLEYVIEWWINDOWS.NET

Colorado Regional Partnership Initiative
WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY
★ **OUTDOORS** ★
COMMUNITY SURVEY

INTERESTED IN SHAPING THE OUTDOOR FUTURE OF THE WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY?
Tourism and outdoor recreation use in Custer County is increasing every year. Information from this Community Survey will be used to create an Outdoor Recreation Plan to manage increasing outdoor recreation use in ways that maintain our beautiful natural resources, special outdoor experiences, and thriving economy.

GET STARTED IN 3 EASY STEPS
1 Take the short survey by scanning QR Code or typing in the URL below (short survey takes 2-5 minutes)
2 Opt in for the longer survey at the end of the short survey for a chance to win an **Outdoor Gift Basket** (\$200 Value)
3 **ATTEND THE WMVO COMMUNITY MEETING** August 6th at 5:30pm at Lange Hall for Initial Survey Results. Come early for Beverages and Light Refreshments!

SurveyMonkey.com/r/WMVOShortSurvey2025

-Full Service Tire
-Diesel Repair & Performance
-Oil Changes & Maintenance
Patrick Wrasse
719-429-9275
Diesel Repair LLC
Call for appointment
wrasseandson@gmail.com

WET MOUNTAIN STORAGE
115 C.R. #241, WESTCLIFFE, CO
FOR ALL YOUR STORAGE NEEDS
Fully Fenced, Automatic Gate & Video Surveillance
5x10 10x10 10x15 10x20
8x20 Conex 10x30 8x40 Conex
RV Storage
Office at 300 Main Street • Westcliffe
custompropertyservices@yahoo.com
719-783-9321

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Automotive Services

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

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

Banks & Financial Services

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

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

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

Building SUPPLY

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

Builders/ Construction

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CUSTOM Home Builders
Westcliffe Construction, LLC**
From the Ground Up!
719-371-5231 Please Call or Send Text

Daryl CUSTOM Home Builders
WKM Construction, LLC
New Homes, Renovations
719-371-5231 www.WKMconstruction.com

Cabs & Transport

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

Computer/Cell Phone Repair

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

Clothing & Footwear

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

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

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

Construction Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Countertops

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

Dentist

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

Electricians

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

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

Firewood

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

Florist

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

Funeral Homes

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

Furniture & Home Goods

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

Grocery & Health Foods

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

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

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

Guns , Ammo, Knives

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

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

Shopping Local Helps Local Economy & Creates Local Jobs

Guns , Ammo, Knives Cont'd

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

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

Gun Clubs

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

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

Heating & Spas

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

Heating & Air Conditioning

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

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

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

Insurance

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

Landscaping

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

Lodging

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



The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the bowling alley.



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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



Mitigation/ Pest Control

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

Mitigation/ Tree Removal

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

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

Pharmacy

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

Plumbing and Heating

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

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

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

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

Propane

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

Real Estate Services

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

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

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

Restaurants & Dining

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

Restaurants & Dining Cont'd

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

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

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

Septic Installation

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

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

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

Solar / Renewable Energy

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

Storage

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

Tractor/Trailer Sales

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

Vacation / Accommodations

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

Veterinary

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

Well Drilling and Pump Services

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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ADVERTISERS!

Recurring Events

Mondays

10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke's, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Monday of the Month

10 - 11 a.m. Women's Veteran Coffee Social
West Custer County Library 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

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



Need a ride? Call Randy CAB

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



Ryan Stover
719-371-6074

CCSO CO-RESPONDERS' CORNER

A Mental Health Co-Responder's Role

by Jaclyn & Tom Manzione

A mental health co-responder, typically a mental health clinician, plays an essential role in public safety by working alongside law enforcement officers to effectively handle behavioral health crises in the community. The main focus of this teamwork is to respond in a manner that is better suited to individuals facing mental health challenges, substance use issues, or both. This approach helps to calm tense situations, connect individuals to the right resources, and, when possible, steer them away from the criminal justice system.

Co-responders are sent out with law enforcement officers to incidents involving people experiencing a mental health crisis. Together, they evaluate the situation, offer immediate support, and work to de-escalate tensions. On the scene,

co-responders perform behavioral health assessments to understand what the individual needs and determine the best way forward. A key part of their role is linking individuals to appropriate mental health services. This could include referrals to community programs, crisis stabilization centers, detox facilities, or specialized mental health treatment centers.

They use crisis intervention techniques, active listening, and calming strategies to manage episodes effectively and prevent escalation. Many programs also provide follow-up services to ensure ongoing support and connect individuals to long-term care options.

In addition, co-responders often undergo cross-training with law enforcement officers to build mutual understanding and cooperation. The setup of co-responder programs can vary based on the specific needs and resources of each community. In our model, mental health specialists are called to the scene to handle the

situation alongside officers.

Research shows that co-responder programs lead to positive results such as fewer arrests, reduced hospital stays, better overall outcomes, and stronger community trust. People experiencing a behavioral health crisis can often request a co-responder by calling 911 or their local law enforcement agency. The availability of these teams depends on each agency's resources.

So, the main role of a mental health co-responder is to provide immediate support, assess the situation, connect individuals with appropriate services, and work to de-escalate conflicts, improving outcomes and easing the load on the criminal justice system.

"When the Holy Lord himself reaches down from heaven and destroys His good work with winds that rip houses off the ground, we go out."

Co-responders are available to assist at CCSO 719-783-2270 Option 1

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, August 4
81 Sloppy Joe on a Bun
Scalloped Potatoes
Broccoli & Carrots
Apple

Tuesday August 5
#31 White Bean Chicken Chili
Spinach Salad w/Lite Italian
Cornbread w/Butter
Apple, Orange juice

Thursday, August 7
#104 Tuna Salad
Tomato Slice
Pasta Salad
Orange, Raisin Nut Cup

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

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

Come and Worship

<p>Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe</p> <p>Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601</p> <p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589</p> <p>Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ? 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study 0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526 (719) 942-3462</p> <p>Community United Methodist Church 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511</p> <p>Cotopaxi Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study Pastor Steve Holcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe Pastor Josh Olsteen 719/783-2498</p> <p>High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045 Call Pastor Erv @ 719.429.0556 or Pastor Davie @ 719.371.3861</p> <p>Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053</p> <p>Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study 3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561</p> <p>Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9:30 a.m. Outdoors Bring a lawn chair! 830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863</p>	<p>Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass 109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507</p> <p>Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491</p> <p>Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence 719/784-1184</p> <p>St. Luke's Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays 3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477</p> <p>St. Patrick's Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500</p> <p>Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey. 719/746-2037</p>	<p>Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church Pastor: Mike Shields 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook 60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372</p> <p>Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903</p> <p>Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822</p> <p>Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572</p> <p>Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 1 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230</p> <p>Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596</p>
--	---	--	--

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.

Isaiah 54:17 Berean Standard Bible



Construction Solutions of Colorado, LLC
 Custom Homes . Remodeling
 . Concrete
 . Steel Building Sales and Erection

Construction Solutions of CO, LLC
 Casey Nordyke: 719-371-7454
 Corey Nordyke: 719-371-6143
 CONSTSOLUTIONS@ICLOUD.COM
 Authorized Dealer
 Sentinel Steel Buildings

AGI SENTINEL



SUNFLOWER Natural FOODS

Your local option for healthy food!

We carry:

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

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

Come see us today!

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

Events

- July 31 to August 30, Sangres Art Guild "Wild & Crazy" Art Show, Reception August 2, 1 - 4 p.m. 3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69
- August 2, 8 to noon Texas Strong Community Yard Sale @ the School Parking lot. See page 15 for details.
- August 2, 12-Mile Slash Day. See page 17 for details.
- August 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. WMV Rotary Club ROCKIN' the RANCH Benefits the WMV Rotary Community Van Service. ALL LOCAL BANDS. @ Beckwith Ranch, 64159 Highway 69 N, Westcliffe
- August 3, 12:30 - 3 p.m. (week 1) KLZR High Peaks Summerfest. Music: Michael Hearn & Jimmy Stadler. @ All Aboard Depot, 102 Main St.
- August 3, 5-8 p.m. KLZR Taste of the Valley
- August 8-9 Outdoorsmen Days--Florence See ad on page 24
- August 9, Silver Cliff Community Fun Day See ad on page 2
- August 16 7:30 am - 3 pm Free SilverWest Airfest - Pancake Breakfast See ad on page 2 (10 miles South of Westcliffe on Hwy 69)
- August 23-24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$\$ Blue & Brews Blues Festival, @ Beckwith Ranch North on Hwy 69

Classifieds

Bids

The Town of Westcliffe is seeking engineering proposals for the installation of water and sewer mains needed to service Town-owned lots for the construction of housing units. The deadline for submission of proposals is August 15, 2025. The complete Request for Proposal is available on the Town's website: www.townofwestcliffe.com

and not run. Put a new battery in it and it fired up immediately. Motor purrs. Super nice 5 speed tranny. Well cared for. Needs a glow plug and possibly a turbo mass air valve. NO Blue juice for this baby, just straight diesel. Was getting 50+ MPG highway, Insane cruising range. Call The Sentinel for details. 719 783 3360. Price \$5k.

Help Wanted

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

 Interested in joining the Farmer's Market team? The board is looking for a motivated and organized Farmers Market Manager who will oversee the weekly operations of our local farmers market in Westcliffe, Colorado. This individual will serve as the

primary point of contact for vendors, customers, and local stakeholders, ensuring a safe, welcoming, and well-run market. This is a part time, seasonal position with hours available during the off season. Pay is \$17.50/hr with a job description available upon request. Please submit a letter of interest to westcliffefarmersmarket@gmail.com by August 1st, 2025

Kitchen staff and servers wanted for upscale bar & restaurant in Westcliffe. Experience not necessary, but must be professional, have a positive attitude and willing to work hard. Call 719-659-8743 to set up interview.

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

Real Estate

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

Services

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

No Job Too Small
 Remodels, Decks, Interior/Exterior Paint
 Log Home Staining and Log repair, Construction.
 Local References, Insured.
 Tony (719) 783-2883

For Sale



For Sale:
 2001 VW Jetta Diesel

Rare opportunity. 2001 VW Jetta Diesel. Black. ONLY 86k original miles. Stored outside for 9 years

Community Services

- Altitude Community Fitness**
 (719) 783-0750
- American Legion Post #170**
 PO Box 424, Westcliffe, CO 81252
talpost170westcliffe@gmail.com
 (719) 783-2462 westcliffepost170.org
- Custer County Community Sharing Food Pantry**
 120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994
 OPEN First 3 Fridays of the month 11 - 2 p.m.
 Everyday Eats boxes are available during any regular distribution from 11-2 An Equal Opportunity Provider
- Family Crisis Services**
 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center for Fremont and Custer Counties
 (719) 275-2429 FamilyCrisisOnline.org
- Front Range Clinic**
 Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)
 1-866-MAT-STAT
www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit
- Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources**
 Monday and Thursday 11 a.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**
 Limited Dispatch 719-783-2343

To Place an ad, please call 719-783-3360 or email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com.

The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.



Solar Solutions Ltd.
 "Renewable Energy Systems"
 QUALITY - SERVICE - DEPENDABILITY

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

Serving Custer County For 30 Years
www.solarsolutions.com

Pat Bailey - Owner
 10 Hermit Lane,
 PO Box 554
 Silver Cliff, CO 81252
 Ph: 719/783-9666
 Fax: 719/783-2167
 email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

NABCEP CERTIFIED
 PV Installation Professional

Off Grid

Grid-Tie

He that wishes to see his country robbed of its rights cannot be a patriot.
 — Samuel Johnson

Local Mountain News & Notices



TONS of New Arrivals!!
Stop in today!

Open Mon.-Sat. 10-5
 & Sun. 11-3

411 Main St.,
 Westcliffe
 719-783-9393



Market *Your Neighborhood Grocery Store*

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

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

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

50 Main Street
 719/783-0550

Tony's Steak & Tavern



BOGO 50%
 *Buy any entree get the lesser entree 50% off

Bring in this coupon to redeem offer

14K DUMP TRAILER 14'

DAILY - \$145 **WEEKLY - \$700**



Central Building Supply Inc.
 719.783.2385

“Led, Bred, Fed”

by Wendy Rusk

“Led, Bred, Fed” was a new program this year where 4H and FFA members worked with Custer County cattle producers and purchased calves that were born in the valley from all local stock.

The goal of this new market class is to match 4H and FFA members with the ranches in the valley to showcase the quality of our local product at the Custer County Fair.

The Grand Champion “Led, Bred, Fed” steer was purchased from the Dunn Ranch and shown by Serenity Moos and the Reserve Grand Champion

steer came from the Rusk Ranch and was shown by Marin Foster.

Local producers supportive of the project included Clayton and Keely Benesch, Tanner and Lindsey Camper, Kenneth and Suzanne Coleman, Dunn Workin’ Ranch, Gary and Deborah Fischer, Darrell and Twila Geroux, Sierra Geroux, Keith Hood, Lance and Kayla Ingram, Vincent and Denise Koch, Lazy V Cattle Company, Dawn Ramsdel, Conner Rowley, John Rusher, Katelyn Rusher, Rusk Ranch, Kylie Ruzanski and San Isabel Ranch. Additionally, Custer

County Cattlewomen and Custer County Agricultural Alliance were supportive.

These ranchers and sponsors raised a total of \$1,800 to award the grand and reserve champions. Serenity Moos received a belt buckle and a \$1,000 premium for her grand champion led, bred and fed steer and Marin Foster received a belt buckle and \$500 for the reserve spot.

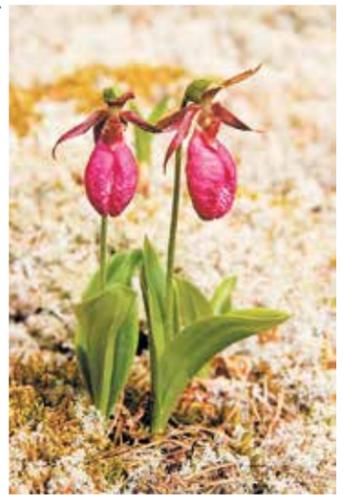
We are truly grateful to these ranchers and sponsors to be able to highlight our ranching heritage in Custer County and look forward to the new project’s future success!

KIDS

Friday, August 1, 2025

The Moccasin Plant

This week we will talk about one of North America’s most unique and unusual flowers, a type of native, wild orchid called the Moccasin plant or Lady’s slippers. So, if you are a fan of orchids, you will love these plants.



There is a common bit of folklore among Native Americans in the east, that also pops up in western folklore, also, about these flowers. The story is attributed to the Ojibwe people, who lived in areas around the US Great Lakes and Canada.

According to the legend there was one extremely hard winter. Lots of people fell ill and needed medicine. The men who normally would make the trip were too sick to go. So, a maiden decided to take out on the journey to help her people. She made it to the next village, got the medicine and headed home. As she got closer to home the trip became harder and she was unable to walk. The village people rescued her and all the lives of the ill were saved including her own. Tiny slipper-like flowers grew in the places where her moccasins left prints in the snow, a reminder of her bravery and courage. Lady slipper roots were also widely used by Native Americans as medicinal herbs.

These orchids get their name because they resemble a delicate pair of feminine slippers in hues of pink, white, or variegated colors. The lady slipper flower is a hardy perennial that is able to withstand the brutal New England winters. They emerge and flower in New England forests between the months of May and July.

Lady slippers are a stubborn plant but take many years to grow and develop from seed to mature plants. Once established they will propagate on their own and live for many years if left undisturbed.

Lady’s slippers are the state wildflower of New Hampshire and the provincial flower of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and also Minnesota’s state flower. A yellow variety grows wild in the eastern half of North America along with western portions of the U.S. and Canada that include the Rocky Mountains and Yukon regions. Most of these orchids will do well in hardiness zones 3 through

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/lady-slippers>, <https://newengland.com/living/gardening/are-lady-slippers-endangered/> Photo: Wikipedia

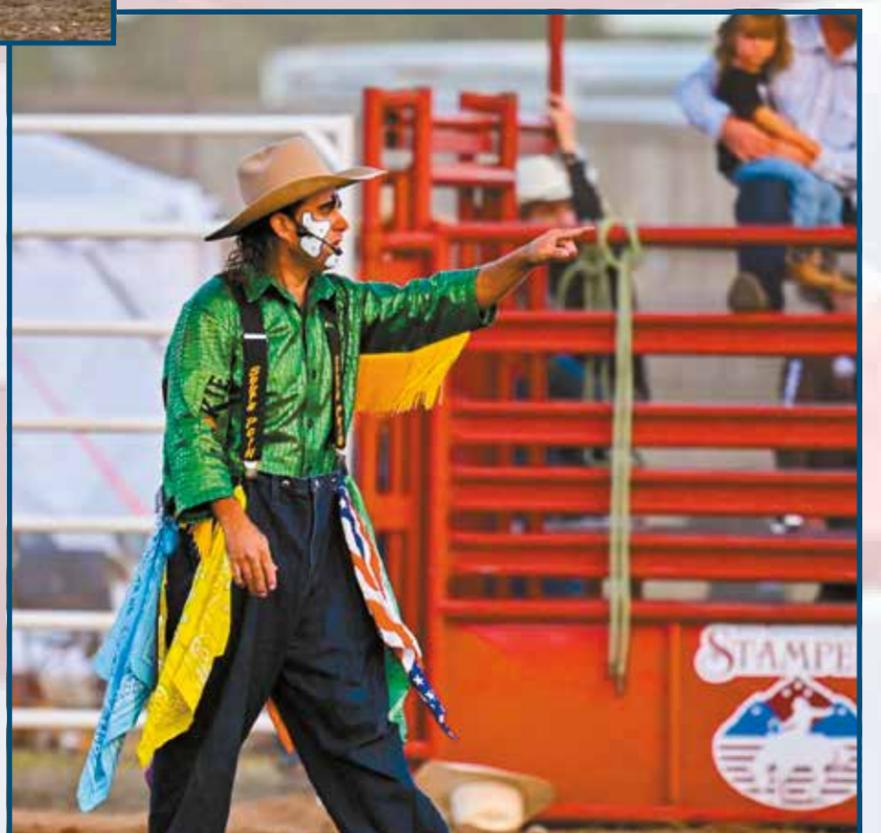
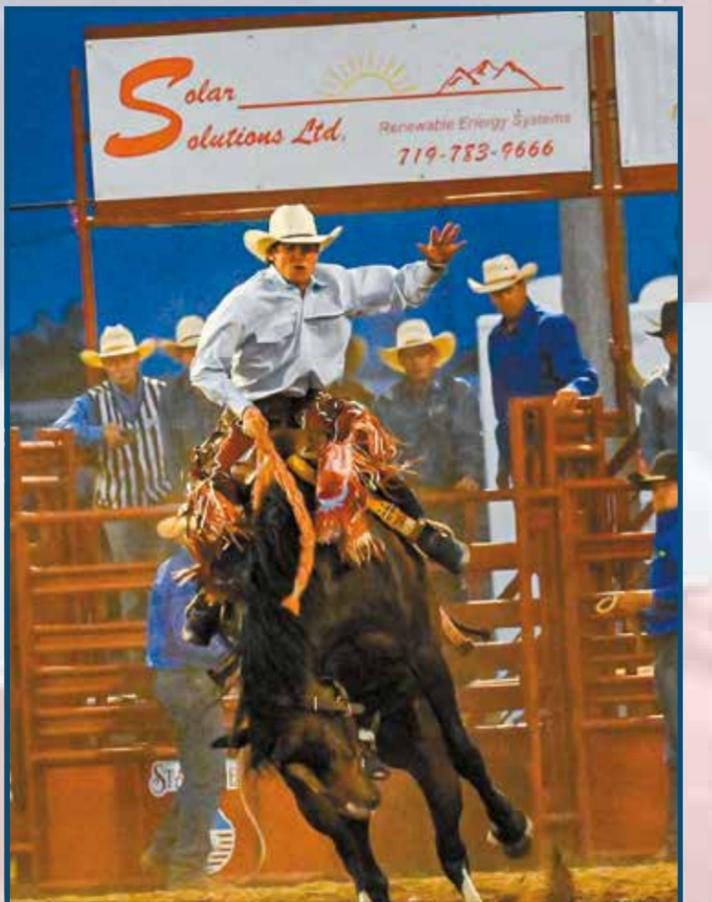
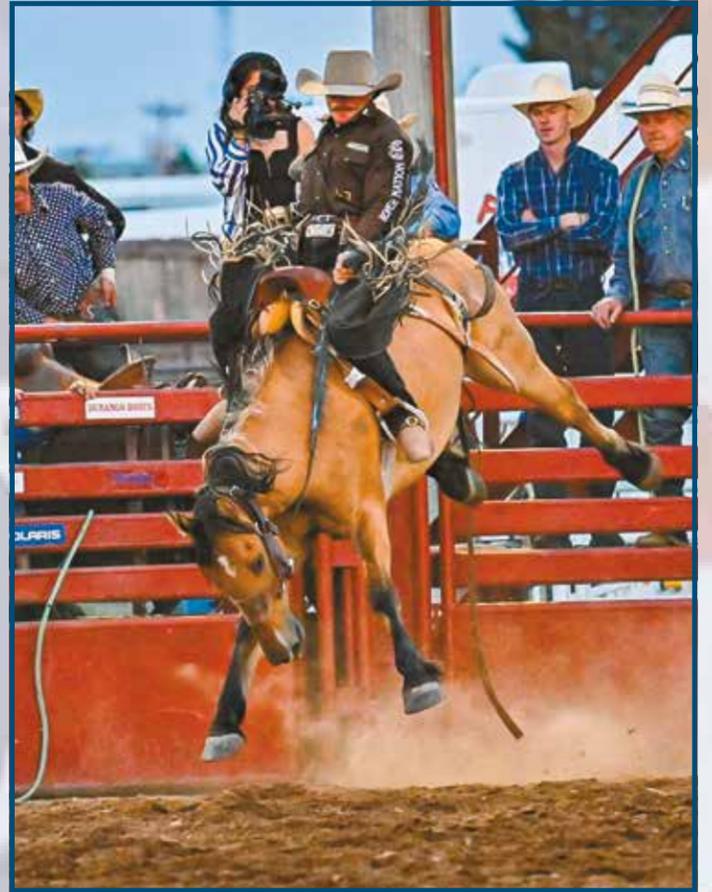
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

There is no wisdom, no understanding, no counsel that can prevail against the LORD.
 A horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory is of the LORD.

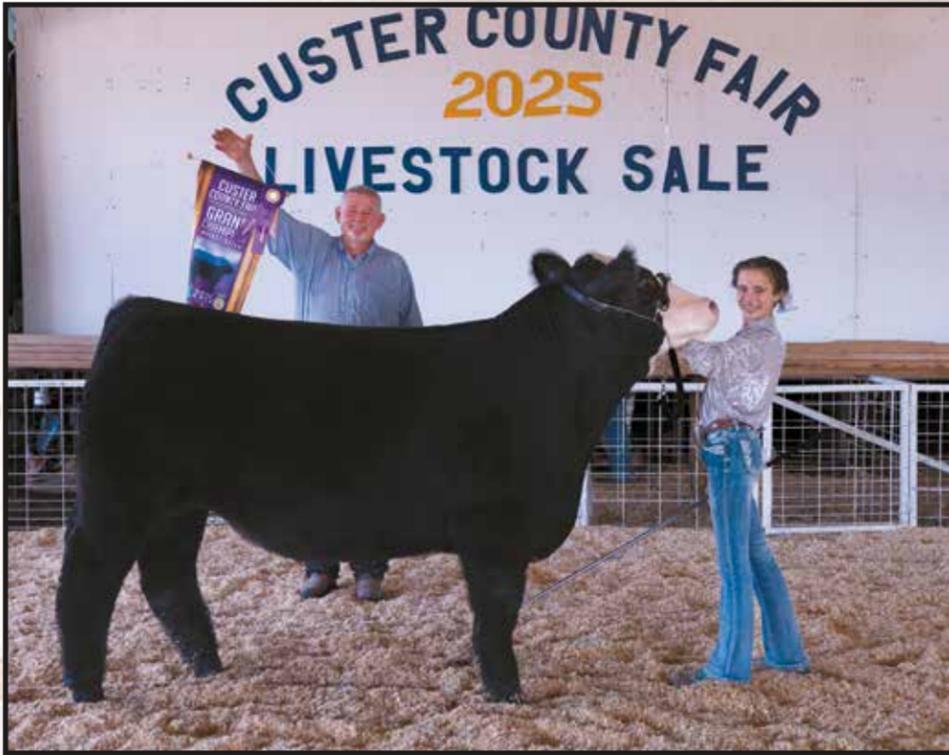
Proverbs 21: 30-31

WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY STAMPEDE 2025, PART 2



Sentinel photos by Mike Twombly; Layout by Katherine Brenchley

2025 CUSTER COUNTY 4-H



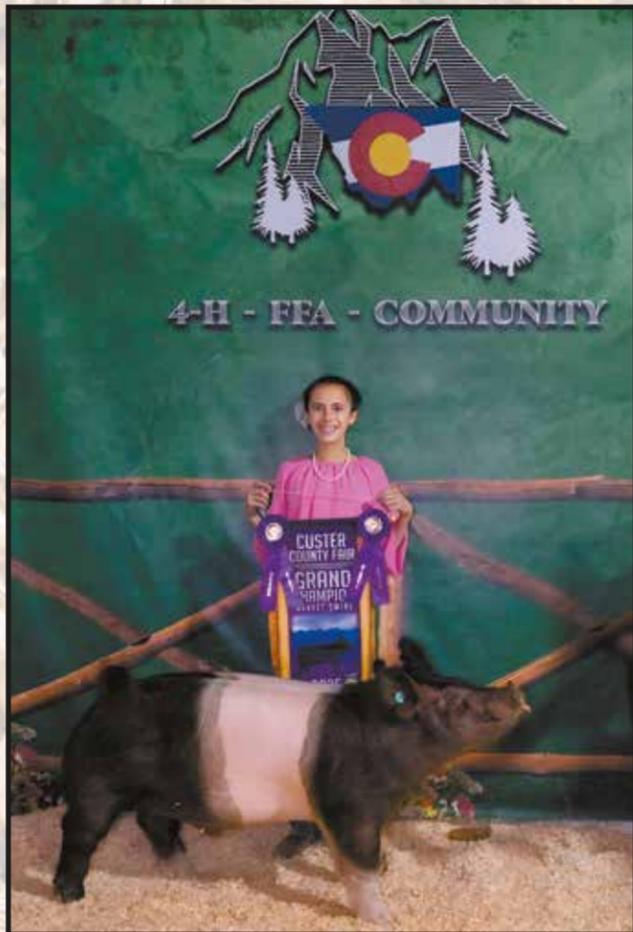
**Grand Champion Steer,
Jaliane Gonzalez**

Sold to Jack & Connie Thompson for \$16,983



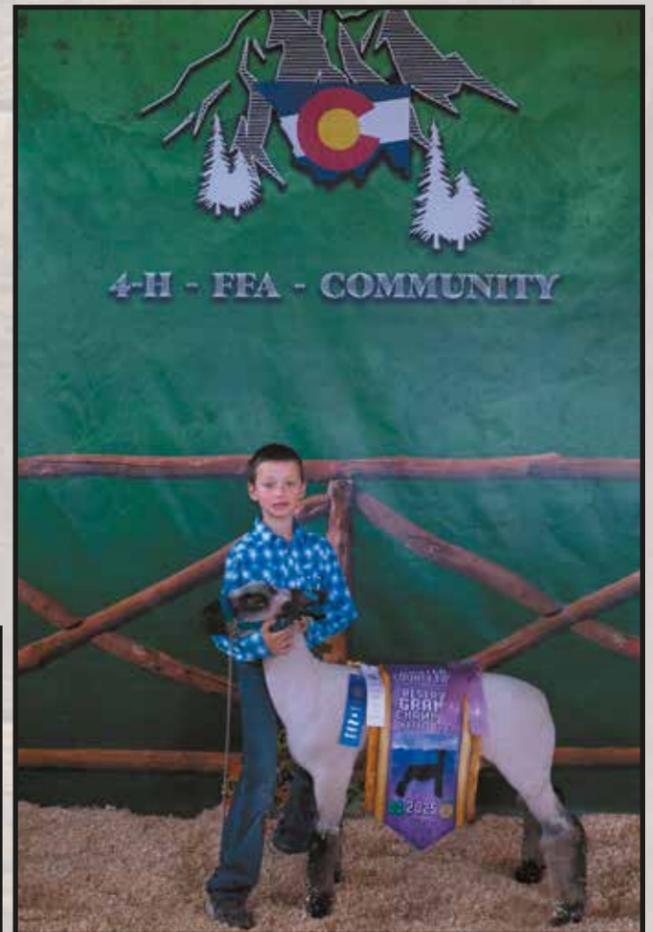
**Reserve Grand Champion Steer,
Grant Rusk**

Sold to Norup Gas for \$18,238.50



**Grand Champion Swine,
Jaliane Gonzalez**

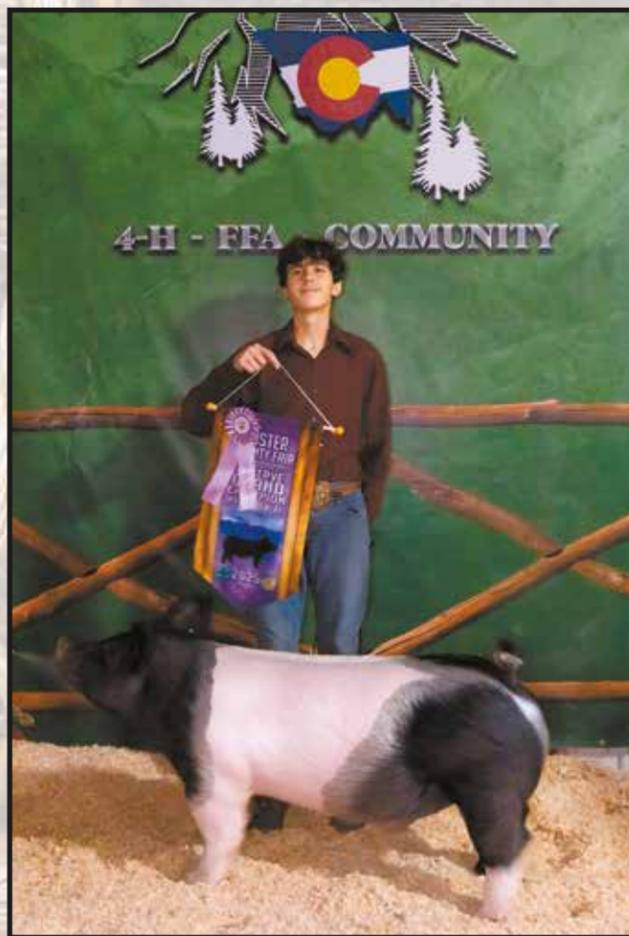
Sold to
Samuelson Ranch
for \$5,712



**Reserve Grand
Champion Lamb,
Keaton Golovanoff**

Sold to
Exceptional Wealth
& Family Office
for \$2,966

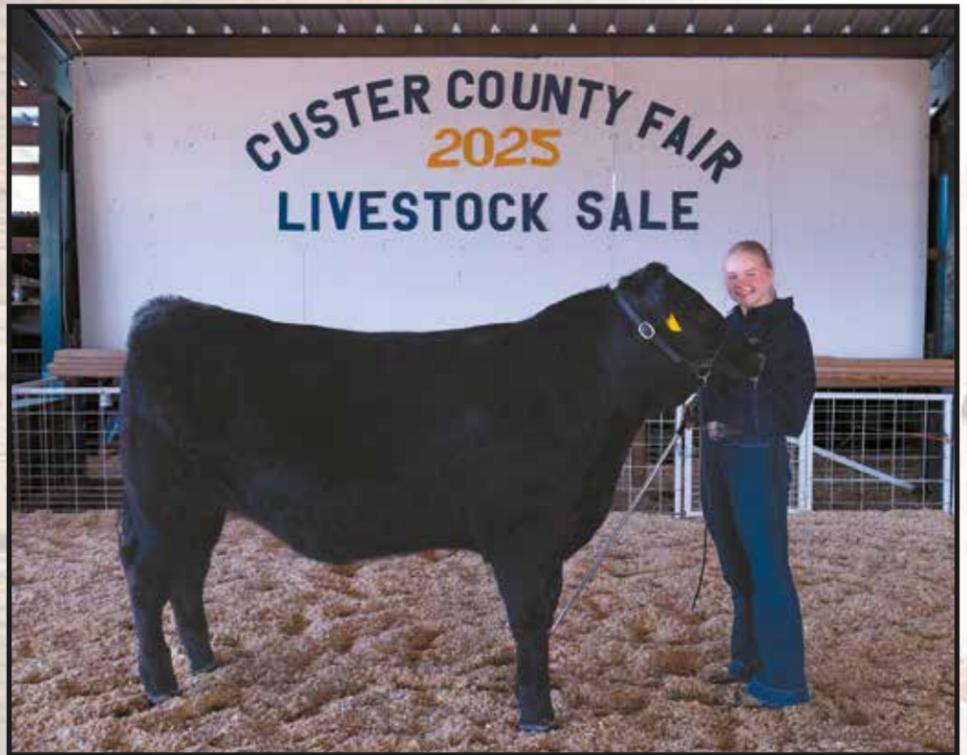
**Reserve Grand Champion
Swine,
Rafael Gonzalez**
Sold to
Trails End Ranch
for \$5,544



AND FFA LIVESTOCK SALE



**Grand Champion Led, Bred & Fed Steer,
Serenity Moos**
Sold to Norup Gas for \$15,925



**Reserve Grand Champion Led, Bred & Fed Steer,
Marin Foster**
Sold to Nemo Feed for \$14,030

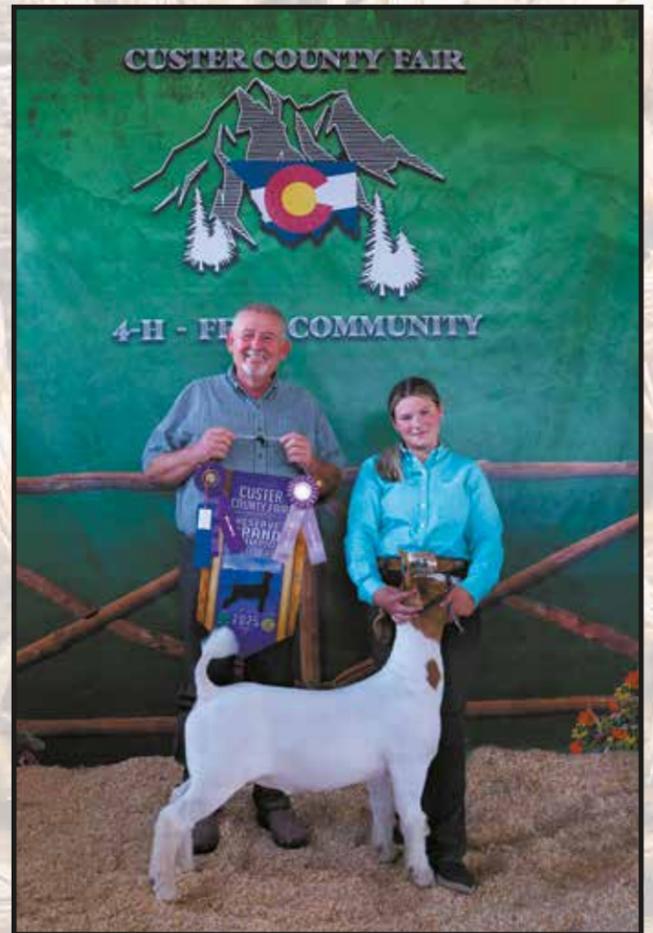
**Grand Champion Lamb,
Liz Ergo**
Sold to
Custer County
Buyers Group
for \$3,517.80



**Grand Champion Goat,
Alexis Grundy**
Sold to
Custer County
Buyers Group
for \$2,293.20



**Reserve Grand
Champion Goat,
London Dean**
Sold to
Custer County
Buyers Group
for \$1,897.20





Colorado State News



Follow Up on Social Studies Textbook Controversy: 'The Colorado Story' Sparks Conflict in Mesa 51 School District

by Ari Armstrong,
CompleteColorado.com

(Editor/llv: The Sentinel reprinted the July 2 Chalkbeat article referred to in this report in the July 11 issue.)

To hear Chalkbeat reporter Ann Schimke tell the story of the Mesa County District 51 fight over fourth grade history materials, the bumbling conservatives on the school board, led by Barbara Evanson and Andrea Haitz, threw out teacher-preferred resources for political reasons. But the conservatives' position is stronger than Schimke relates.

At issue is "The Colorado Story," a textbook with supplemental resources published by Gibbs Smith Education and rejected by the board. The publisher graciously granted me access to the materials, and I read the entire student book plus some of the teacher materials.

The 2024 third edition of the book is based on the 2010 first edition by Thomas Jacob Noel and Debra B. Faulkner. I have no idea whether or to what degree those two authors contributed to new material in the third edition.

(They didn't offer a comment to Schimke; I tried to reach Noel but didn't have any better luck.)

Noel is the Real Deal. Known as "Dr. Colorado," he earned his PhD in history at the University of Colorado, Boulder, long taught at CU Denver, and in 2018 became Colorado's official state historian. Faulkner is not as well-credentialed but still is a serious historian.

The book also has eleven "editors and reviewers," plus another six "History Colorado contributors." Once you realize that this textbook was written specifically to please the authors of Colorado's education standards as well as school board members, and you see that the "review" process obviously was political (one of the reviewers is described as a "cultural activist"), you can begin to make some educated guesses about why the book might have ended up with some problems. But let's get to specifics.

Christopher Columbus

As Schimke summarizes, Evanson was concerned that the book (and related materials) "portrayed historical figures

such as Christopher Columbus in a negative light" and "wrongly portrayed Columbus as solely responsible for harm to indigenous people in the Americas." Evanson told Schimke, "Were there people that were doing bad things? Were there people that were absolutely there with ill intention? Absolutely. Was it Christopher Columbus? No." Evanson also said (reports Schimke), "It didn't give the totality of Christopher Columbus. If we're not going to teach the whole truth, why would we teach a portion of it?"

On this point, Evanson is completely wrong. True, the textbook does not "give the totality" of the man—it does not reveal the totality of Columbus's evil. If you think Jeffrey Epstein is a horrible human being, then, rationally, you should conclude that Columbus is far worse. Columbus enslaved and brutalized Native people and sexually trafficked Native women. He was, bluntly, a mass-murderer, slaver, and rapist. These are the rationally undeniable facts of history. Yet the Gibbs Smith book vaguely says only that "Columbus and his crew" controlled Caribbean islands "by force." The text does

say that "the Spanish" "attacked" and "enslaved" Native people.

Evanson wrongly suggests that the textbook lays the blame solely at Columbus's feet. It discusses the Spanish conquerors generally (Columbus was Genoan but sailed for Spain) and mentions two other men (Juan de Archuleta and Juan de Ulibarrí) who hunted down escaped slaves.

I'm not sure what Evanson means by teaching the "totality" of Columbus. (I contacted her by email but did not hear back.) A 2009 CBS News story discussed in the teacher edition (and noted by Schimke) mentions the "Columbian Exchange" of crops and goods

A better resource from the Bill of Rights Institute acknowledges that Columbus' "acts are reprehensible by today's standards" but presents as a possible stance that Columbus "simply used practices in most cases considered the status quo by many European and non-European cultures at the time." Moreover, "many Native Americans benefited" through trade or by "using the Spanish to overthrow oppressive Native American overlords such as the

Aztecs, ending their practices of human sacrifice and incessant warfare." Finally, maybe the Spaniards were less-bad than other possible invaders, because at least many Spaniards married Indigenous women and so "continued and preserved much of" Indigenous culture. Okay, that's an interesting discussion of unintended consequences of Columbus's actions, but none of it changes the fact that Columbus was a mass-murderer, slaver, and rapist.

Black Lives Matter and Elijah McClain

In its chapter on "Modern Colorado," the student text devotes two pages (out of 273 pages of the main text, not counting end material) to Black Lives Matter. The text on this begins, "The United States has a long history of unfair treatment toward Black people. Recently, a growing awareness of this led more people to question how U.S. law enforcement works. . . . In 2019, a Black man named Elijah McClain was walking home in Aurora, Colorado, when police

The Colorado Story
see page 16

Custer County Republicans Central Committee ('CCRCC') invites you to:

- ★ AirFest at SilverWest Airport on Sat., Aug 16, 8am-3pm, where we'll have a table, with HD60 Legislator Stephanie Luck visiting from 8am-12noon
- ★ Our regular meeting on the Second Thursday of each month at Rancher's Roost (full menu available). Doors open at 5:30, Program begins at 6 pm.

Have questions and/or want to be more involved and informed contact:
Andrew Zeller, Chair; Ann Barthrop, Vice Chair,
PCPs: Precinct 1: Lisa Kidwell & Linda Pollack,
Precinct 2: Gordan Greer & Mark Graner,
Precinct 3: Nikita Phillips & Dawn Ramsdell

AD PAID FOR BY THE CCRCC - CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICANS

HOLT FAMILY
FUNERAL HOME

serving the community for five generations

**WE ARE FREMONT COUNTY'S ONLY
 ONSITE CREMATORY. YOUR LOVED
 ONES NEVER LEAVE OUR CARE.**

BROOKE PETERSON
5th generation to serve Fremont County

719.275.4113

AG Phil Weiser Sets Sights on Colorado Cops Cooperating with ICE

By Savana Kascak, CompleteColorado.com

GRAND JUNCTION—Attorney General Phil Weiser is suing a Mesa County sheriff's deputy for allegedly tipping off Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents about a foreign national college student with an expired visa. Weiser's investigation has also spread to other state and local agencies on the Western Slope in an apparent probe of Colorado law enforcement cooperating with ICE.

Weiser, who is term-limited, is running for the Democratic primary for governor in 2026 as an underdog against U.S. Senator Michael Bennet.

Mesa County deputy, Alexander Zwinck, is being sued for allegedly sharing the driver's license, vehicle registration, and insurance information of the 19-year-old nursing student, Caroline Dias Goncalves, with federal agents after his interaction with her during a traffic stop.

Zwinck was part of drug task force that uses a signal group chat titled "GJ Highway Hitters" which includes agents from federal Homeland Security investigations.

The encounter with the Utah college student happened on June 5, when Zwinck sent her personal information into the signal chat, telling the officers her location and the direction she was headed.

A new Colorado state law, passed in this year's legislative session, both reinforces and expands Colorado's protections for

immigrants living in the country illegally, barring state and local governments or officials from sharing immigration information with federal ICE agents, unless part of a criminal investigation.

Weiser filed the lawsuit on Tuesday in Mesa County District Court.

Weiser says the student's detention by ICE, that lasted for two weeks until she was released on bond, was a violation of Colorado law by Zwinck, who was placed on administrative leave after the incident.

"Because of this action, we are making clear that Colorado law enforcement's role is to advance public safety, not take on the responsibility of doing the work of federal immigration enforcement," Weiser said.

Along with Zwinck and the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, Weiser is now launching an investigation into other police agencies, including the Eagle County Sheriff's Office, Vail Police Department, and the Colorado State Patrol.

All four of these agencies were included in the signal chat where Zwinck leaked the information.

Based on conversations noted in the lawsuit, Weiser speculates there is further cooperation with federal ICE agents among these police agencies.

Complete Colorado will continue to follow the story as it develops.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/07/23/ag-phil-weiser-sets-sights-on-colorado-cops-cooperating-with-ice/>

Texas Strong Community Garage Sale Saturday, August 2nd 8a.m. to Noon

Generous Giving Goal

Everyone in the Valley knows somebody affected by the devastating Texas floods.

Working with local businesses, churches, and nonprofits in Kerr County Texas, one of our own business owners in Custer County (who is a resilience and auto auction buying expert) identified families who lost everything in the Texas floods.

Join us as we bring the community together for a community yard sale in the school's west parking lot on Saturday, August 2nd from 0800-1200.

If you can't stay for the yard sale, consider this. If everyone in Custer County donated \$2, we would reach our generous giving goal on Saturday!

All proceeds will go towards donation of a vehicle, locally created "Texas Strong"

grief workbooks, and \$10,000 to families directly affected by the floods.

To pay it forward by ordering a grief workbook for us to bring to Texas, visit: <https://bit.ly/LoveTexasStrong>

All proceeds will be donated to families affected by the floods through vetted boots on the ground businesses, churches, and nonprofits in Kerr County, TX.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness during this time of overwhelming grief.

**If you plan to donate items to the community yard sale, please plan to stay with your items and take home your unsold items. The last thing we want is to cut into proceeds of the fundraiser to pay for unsold items to go to the landfill.



YODER'S HOME FURNISHINGS

We create heirloom furniture so you can create lasting memories.

New lines of Patio Furniture and A-Frame Swings! Beautiful furniture of all kinds, Live Edge Slabs, Amish Handcrafted Beds & Mattresses, Metal Art, Quality Footwear and SO MUCH MORE! Come check us out!

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



THE WIZARD IS BACK!

Senior Discounts up to 20%
Email: Sleuth1@sleuth1.com
Main St. in Westcliffe next to the laundromat & Anne's Grooming

Laptops Refurbished, Monitors & other devices!
Why drive 125 miles to get ripped off at the geeks and other expensive sales and repair stores?!

ELECTRON WIZARD
Only Minutes Away!!
719-431-9442
Computer Repairs / Sales / Cell Phones!



PINON PLUMBING & HEATING
(719)-783-0379
WESTCLIFFE COLORADO

Jeff Ray
Owner-Master Plumber
Your Local Plumbing & Heating Service Company
719-783-0379
pinonplumbing@gmail.com

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

Providing 34 years of Experience, Knowledge, Reliability & Honesty
LICENSED & INSURED
P.C #2578 / M.P. #189724



Seifert Enterprises

- ◆ Excavation
- ◆ Septic Systems
- ◆ Road Construction & Maintenance
- ◆ Erosion Control
- ◆ Culvert Installation
- ◆ Delivery of Rock, Roadbase & Top Soil



SEIFERT ENTERPRISES, LLC

198 Range View Loop, Westcliffe, CO 81252
719.783.2757
SeifertEnterprises-CO.com





Colorado State News

Colorado Unemployment Drops Slightly, 10th Highest in U.S.

by Elyse Apel,
The Center Square
—July 23, 2025

In June, unemployment in Colorado dropped by 0.1% from May to 4.7%, ranking the state's unemployment 10th highest in the nation.

This came after three months of sitting at 4.8%, the highest it has been since September 2021, when it was 4.9%. This is according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Currently, the state's unemployment remains significantly above the national average of 4.1%, which is unusual for Colorado.

“Historically, Colorado's unemployment level has usually remained below the national average,” said a report from the Common Sense Institute of Colorado.

June's numbers weren't all bad news for the state, though. The number of unemployed individuals decreased by 3,400 to 155,300 from May to June, according to a report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. This is much more than May's decrease of just 100.

In June, Colorado's labor force increased by 200 to 3.3 million.

This means that the share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 67.7%, or 5% higher than the national average of 62.3%.

Government jobs continue to outpace private sector jobs in the state, accounting for much of its job growth. In June, private sector payroll jobs decreased by 1,600, while the government gained 100 jobs.

State government jobs saw its 11th

consecutive month of growth, increasing by 600 jobs.

“Over the last 12 months, Colorado's government employment has grown by 10,000 while private employment increased by just 600 jobs,” said the Common Sense report.

That is a 94% difference between government employment and private sector employment.

Notably, while state and local government employment grew by 8,800 and 3,300 jobs in the past year, federal government employment in Colorado declined by 2,100 jobs, fueling concerns about the potential impact of personnel cuts since President Donald Trump took office.

Industries like construction and manufacturing have also seen consistent downward trends since 2021, while other industries are also suffering.

“For the second month, the state's trade, transportation, and utilities industry experienced the largest decline among all sectors, declining by 2,500 jobs,” the Common Sense report said.

In June, Colorado's leisure and hospitality sector saw the largest increase, adding 3,000 jobs.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, has blamed the state's economic uncertainty on tariffs.

“We are taking action, standing up to protect jobs and keep Colorado's economy thriving,” he said on social media. “Tariffs are a tax on Americans, and we will continue to prove that what Americans and Coloradans need most is certainty and stability, not whiplash tariffs.”

In contrast, Republicans have called out Democratic policies.

“You're worried about tariffs hurting the economy, but let's be real — sanctuary state policies are

the real economic ‘tax’ here,” said the Colorado Republican Party in response to Polis. “Maybe instead of blaming Trump, you should look at the supermajority of Democrats who've turned Colorado into a place where businesses are fleeing faster than a bear from a picnic. Keep up the good work, governor — economic genius, truly.”

Elyse Apel is a reporter for The Center Square covering Colorado and Michigan. A graduate of Hillsdale College, Elyse's writing has been published in a wide variety of national publications from the Washington Examiner to The American Spectator and The Daily Wire.

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_cb91f20e-e83d-40dc-bb85-fa8cc8b25bc1.html

The Colorado Story from page 14

arrived. They restrained McClain in a way that made it hard for him to breathe. He died in the hospital a few days later.”

This text implies, but does not outright state, that law enforcement is racist in general and that the police action against McClain in particular was racist. There's definitely concrete evidence of racism within specific departments (ChatGPT offers some examples; of course you always have to double-check Chat's sources). The argument that policing in general is racist is much harder to make. Obviously most individual officers are not racist (although some people say that everyone is implicitly racist.) There's no direct evidence that police targeted McClain because they were racist.

Notably absent from the text (published in 2024) is discussion of the 2022 police killing of Christian Glass, who was white. The officer who killed Glass went to prison for criminally negligent homicide; I think he got off easy. Watch the video yourself if you're not convinced. I would describe the incident as police torturing and executing a man in a mental health crisis.

Having written about McClain's death back in 2020, I can point to two other key omissions in the Gibbs Smith text. The key point is that police had no legal basis to detain McClain. And of course it also matters that medics forcibly drugged McClain.

On the next page, the text says, “The Black Lives Matter movement started in 2013, after the death of a Black teenager named Trayvon Martin. His death caught the world's attention.” But Martin was not killed by police at all; he was killed by George Zimmerman after he physically

assaulted Zimmerman, and a jury acquitted Zimmerman of murder. Yet, given the context, the Gibbs Smith text implies that the death was due to racist policing.

The text also mentions the murder of George Floyd by a police officer. Certainly this was bad policing. Was it racist policing? Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison told 60 Minutes that, although he saw “systemic racism” at work, “We don't have any evidence that Derek Chauvin [the officer] factored in George Floyd's race as he did what he did.”

Then there is the activism question. Black Lives Matter does not only advocate an end to violence against peaceable black people; it advocates hard-left political views

For example, the local group says it wants to abolish “extractive capitalism” (*whatever that means*). The national group advocates “a future fully divested from police, prisons, and all punishment.” Abolishing prisons and criminal punishments hardly is a mainstream position! It is indeed quite insane. But there's no mention of any such context in the Gibbs Smith text for fourth graders.

Given all this, I am partly sympathetic with the concerns of Haitz and Evanson over this portion of the text.

Evanson said (see the April 15 meeting, 1:34:48 mark), “The Black Lives Matter section, I agree, let's have a conversation about it. But it was literally shoved in a section that made it appear that a death of a Coloradan was the result of police brutality, and it's three paragraphs, and there's so much more to this. . . . Being prior law enforcement . . . I wanted to know, what happened, did these law enforcement officers do the right or wrong thing. But the only thing that's in this, if my child read this, they'd be like, ‘Mom,

cops are bad.’ And I don't want us giving that perspective to our children.”

The police action against McClain absolutely was police brutality and worse; it rightly resulted in criminal convictions. But Evanson is right that the text in question does not provide enough details for a reader to independently evaluate the case, nor does it offer any accurate broader context about policing.

Haitz said (1:29:16 mark), “My son will be in fourth grade next year, and I was just looking at some of the material, and I'm thinking, this is probably a little bit heavy or over his head, for some of this stuff, especially the Black Lives Matter stuff. I don't know that this activism stuff is really appropriate for him at fourth grade. As a parent, I'm not ready to have that conversation with him.”

I agree that the text promotes a sort of activism in a thoughtless way. But I'm skeptical of Haitz claim that her son is not ready to talk about some of the facts behind Black Lives Matter. (My son is going into fifth grade, so our children are of a similar age.) The alternative text that the board adopted is called “Exploring Social Studies: Colorado,” by Teacher Created Materials. Although this company was not cooperative in giving me access to its materials, snippets it provides online show that the materials cover the brutal Sand Creek Massacre (which I've also discussed), in which U.S. soldiers slaughtered Native men, women, and children. So is Haitz's position really that her son can handle discussion of that horrific massacre but cannot handle discussion of the police killing of Elijah McClain? Come on now.

The problem with the Gibbs Smith text is not that it includes a discussion of Black Lives Matter but that its discussion of the topic is inept.

Comparing the two resources

All that said, overall I found the Gibbs Smith book to be pretty good, and I learned some things reading it. I do regard some other parts of the book as problematic, as with its partly misleading summary of Mexican land grants, its lavish and criticism-free praise of the New Deal, its oversimplification of conflicts between miners and mine owners, its unqualified and context-free endorsement of the Regional Transportation District (RTD), its conflation of tariffs and sales taxes, its incomplete discussion of taxation and government services, and its trivialization of democratic constitutionalism through its projects involving faux democracy. Oh, and the last two chapters are mostly irrelevant to Colorado history as such. Besides those things I loved the book!

I emphasize that the other company, Teacher Created Materials, didn't even let me read their book, which is extremely Not Cool, Man. The company's business model is selling textbooks to tax-funded schools, and taxpayers have a right to know what's in the materials.

Based on the limited online preview, the materials seem okay. If I were the editor I'd make some changes. For example, the student text says, “At the start of the new (Nineteenth) century, the United States was eager to expand. People felt crowded. They wanted land to farm and call their own. They needed resources to build the growing nation.” This definitely puts the emphasis on the nation and people of the United States, not the people they displaced. A few pages later the book concedes that “most Indian nations were overrun and forced to move.”

The Gibbs Smith material offers more detail than TCM about the gold rush, including information

about its environmental impacts.

The TCM book says, “Because he was Black, he [Barney Ford] was not allowed to mine.” That's true in a sense, but, as the book “Barney Ford, Black Baron” points out, Ford had set up a mining claim but was chased out by white men threatening violence.

I didn't find any big problems with the TCM material (based on my limited review), and the group that recommended materials to the board liked it, although it saw Gibbs Smith as better.

For what it's worth, District 51 also considered “Discover Colorado,” from University Press of Colorado, which previews parts of its materials online. Offhand I liked that book more than the other two; I even bought a copy for my son.

A conservative agenda

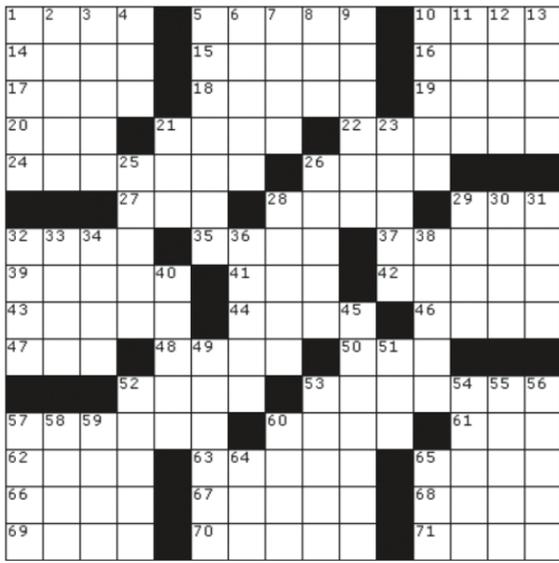
Evanson and Haitz hardly are strangers to controversy. In running for school board Evanson made news for promoting the teaching of Creationism in science classrooms. Haitz ran against “political agendas [that] are being jammed down our kids' throats,” and she aligned herself with the MAGA right on some transgender issues.

Evanson and Haitz think their political opponents are bringing politics into the classroom; their opponents think they are. Both groups are right. History and social studies, and even other subjects such as literature and biology and music, are inherently bound up with politics, at least to some degree. To me, that counts as a reason not to put politicians in charge of education. But we can save that larger discussion for another day.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/07/22/colorado-story-textbook-conflict-mesa-school-district/>

Local Mountain News & Notices

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Peak
- 5 Sleep disorder
- 10 Garden of __
- 14 Not that
- 15 Teddies
- 16 Tear down
- 17 Faction
- 18 Wife of Abraham, originally
- 19 Halo
- 20 Serving of corn
- 21 Webbed
- 22 Disqualify from practicing law

24 One of Jesus' 12

- 26 Word interpreted by Daniel
- 27 Hoopla
- 28 How Judas betrayed Jesus
- 29 Santa's helper
- 32 The __ of God (Jesus)
- 35 Night light
- 37 Sugar-free brand
- 39 Ancient Greek marketplace
- 41 Fuming
- 42 Mock
- 43 Fisherman disciple
- 44 Otherwise

DOWN

- 1 Afloat (2 wds.)
- 2 Tawdry
- 3 Opp. of macro
- 4 Time zone
- 5 Son of David
- 6 On earth __, good will toward men
- 7 Not one
- 8 Epoch
- 9 Side notes
- 10 Take away
- 11 Smear

- 46 Ocean movement
- 47 Compass point
- 48 Heroic tale
- 50 BB association
- 52 __ fide
- 53 Mocked
- 57 Putting together
- 60 Globes
- 61 Samuel's mentor
- 62 Quell
- 63 Type of alcohol
- 65 Related
- 66 Bluish green
- 67 Cultivate
- 68 Surrender
- 69 Eye infection
- 70 Blemishes
- 71 Sliding toy

- 12 OT book of history
- 13 Approach
- 21 Type of partnership
- 23 Set in
- 25 Cavalry sword
- 26 "Great __ think alike"
- 28 Kangaroo bear
- 29 Decorative needle case
- 30 Loan
- 31 Lavish party
- 32 What dogs sit on
- 33 Gets older
- 34 Speck of wood, etc. (KJV)
- 36 Last letter of Greek alphabet
- 38 The devil
- 40 Malicious burning
- 45 Endows
- 49 Gets mad
- 51 Public transportation
- 52 Holy book
- 53 Rendezvous
- 54 Word interpreted by Daniel
- 55 Omit
- 56 Ate
- 57 Book after Gospels
- 58 Performing couple
- 59 Cart for hauling heavy things
- 60 Buckeye State
- 64 Strike lightly
- 65 American Cancer Society

Copyright © by Cliff Leitch, The Christian Bible Reference Site
www.ChristianBibleReference.org. Used by permission.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Custer County Board of County Commissioners is proposing the expenditure of an estimated \$12,000.00 for Custer County Search and Rescue for reimbursement of registration fees for training of their core technical rescue members, to be taken from the Custer County Title III Secure Rural Schools Act and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, reauthorized by section 524 of P.L. 114-10, of 2015. (Public Law 114-10). These funds can only be expended in accordance with provisions made in the law.

Copies of the Fact Sheet that explains the proposals in further

detail are available at the County Clerk's Office for review.

This is the notice of 524 of the 45-day public comment period for the proposal. Comments must be submitted by September 8, 2025, to the Custer County Commissioner's Office (County Annex Building, 615 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe, CO), by mail to PO Box 150, Westcliffe, CO 81252, or by email to boccadmin@custercounty-co.gov.

Ordered and published by Lucas D. Epp, Vice Chairman, Board of Custer County Commissioners.

First published: July 25, 2025
Last published: September 5, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

**LEGALS MADE EASY
IN COLORADO**

**DON'T SEE THE LEGAL
YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?**

Go to
www.PublicNoticeColorado.com
FREE & Printable

Advance Colorado Files Lawsuit to Protect TABOR

Press Release
Advance Colorado Action
AdvanceColorado.org
DENVER, Colorado

Advance Colorado sued the state of Colorado for violating TABOR through the passage of HB25-1296. Joining Advance as plaintiffs are State Senator Barb Kirkmeyer, Fremont County Commissioner Kevin Grantham, and two workers from El Paso County who are eligible for overtime.

The federal government recently eliminated tax on overtime, but Colorado legislators passed HB25-1296 in the 2025 session to force these workers to pay taxes to the state anyway. As the complaint explains, the passage of this

tax was unconstitutional and an illegal increase in state revenue without voter approval. Section 18 of HB25-1296 states that the overtime tax (detailed in Section 6) will not take effect until January of 2026. By that point, federal tax on overtime will have been eliminated for a year. The legislature violated TABOR by failing to go to the people for a vote.

Senator Kirkmeyer said, "Colorado families were promised meaningful tax relief, but state Democrats increased taxes and fees, broke their promise and made life less affordable for working families. I will stand up for the people Democrats have left behind and fight for a state that works for everyone."

Commissioner Grantham stated, "HB25-1296 should have been given to the voters to decide as is constitutionally required. But the legislators who passed it sidestepped TABOR and must now be held accountable."

Michael Fields, President of Advance Colorado, said: "We filed this lawsuit to stand up for working families. HB25-1296 is clearly a \$500 million violation of TABOR. Legislators can't just raise taxes whenever they want. They have to ask permission from voters." In addition to the lawsuit, Advance Colorado has filed a ballot measure to exempt overtime and tips from state taxes, and internal polling shows the measure would win, 71% to 20%.

12 Mile Slash Collection – Saturday, August 2

Below are some event details and reminders--

What You Can Bring:

- Limbs and branches from fir, pine, oak, and other brush (pinecones accepted if attached to slash)
- Natural slash and woody debris from your own property

Not Accepted:

- Trash
- Lumber or construction materials

- Grass, leaves, weeds, or sawdust

- Stumps or wood chips

- Commercial operators (Contractors working on behalf of landowners are allowed)

Important Reminders:

- Tarp all loads to prevent debris from blowing during transport
- Only bring material from your own property

All loads will be inspected before unloading

For tips on how to prepare for slash collection or to support these efforts with a donation (\$20/load suggested), visit the Slash Collection Page on our website and read our latest Fire Mitigation Events Blog Post. I have also attached a poster version of the information above, so please share it with anyone who may be interested.

**PRIME COMMERCIAL LOT
ON HIGHWAY 96**




The future of Westcliffe, CO is changing. Don't lose out on a great opportunity! This 1.74 acre lot is on Main Street just across from the busy Dollar Stores. Property price includes installed electric with meter and city water & sewer are hooked up!

\$319,000

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

Brenda Bosse
Realtor®

26 years listing and selling in the valley!



HOME SMART
PREFERRED REALTY
Real Estate Made Easy.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION

HOME & PROPERTY PROTECTION
SKID STEER WORK / HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIRS



SWOTA ENTERPRISES

SERVING CUSTER COUNTY & SURROUNDING AREAS

719-783-4477

RAY SWOTA **RSWOTA@GMAIL.COM**

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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.

Got Zeal?

In Numbers 25:10–30:1, we meet a man whose righteous zeal changed history. Phinehas (Pinchas), the grandson of Aaron, saw blatant sin and idolatry sweeping through Israel at Baal Peor—a plague of lust and rebellion that had already claimed 24,000 lives. In a single, daring act, he speared an Israelite leader and a Midianite woman caught in the act of fornication. This was a holy intervention that deflected God's wrath and ended the plague. As a result, God granted Phinehas a "covenant of peace" and a "covenant of perpetual priesthood." Phinehas became a prototype of Messiah—zealous, priestly, and intervening to save the people.

Phinehas wasn't the only one known for such godly fervor. Centuries later, Elijah the prophet stood alone on Mount Carmel, challenging 450 prophets of Baal in a spiritual showdown. Fire fell from heaven and consumed the offering, and Elijah destroyed the prophets of Baal. But soon after, Elijah fled in fear. When God found him on Mount Horeb, Elijah declared, "I have been very zealous for the LORD..." Yet God didn't scold his passion. He refined it. Phinehas was given peace to prevent civil war in Joshua 22. Elijah was shown that God isn't always in the fire or the earthquake—but in a still, small voice. Both men were warriors, but God called them to also be peacemakers. The Lord tempers zeal with wisdom. As Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

God describes Himself as zealous—fiercely protective, deeply invested in His covenant people. His zeal preserves a remnant (Isaiah 37:32), and His burning passion installs Messiah on David's throne (Isaiah 9:7). That same zeal was seen in Jesus, who drove money changers out of the Temple, consumed with love for His Father's house (John 2:17). And it's that same zeal we're commanded to carry: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). Zeal is the engine of revival—but only when it's rooted in truth. Unchecked, it can become destructive. Mature zeal reflects the heart of God—not just the heat of the moment.

Paul the Apostle learned this the hard way. Once a zealous persecutor of believers, he hunted followers of Jesus with legalistic fury. He even approved of Stephen's death (Acts 8:1). But when Messiah captured his heart, that same fire was redirected into preaching, planting churches, and suffering for the Good News (Romans 15:20). Zeal alone isn't a virtue. Misplaced, it can burn bridges instead of building them. But sanctified, it changes the world. Not all of us are called to be a Phinehas, Elijah, or Paul—but we're all called to serve the Lord with passion. May our zeal be bold, but always under God's authority. In this, you can be a world changer.

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Report: Feds Allowed 1,000s of Juvenile Gang Members, Criminals to Become Citizens

by Bethany Blankley, Contributor
The Center Square

—July 26, 2025

(The Center Square) – Congress has created several programs to allow illegal border crossers claiming to be minors to remain in the U.S. Despite years of documented abuse of the programs, Congress continues to fund them to the tune of billions of dollars.

One is the failed unaccompanied minor program, with decades of documented reports of abuse and neglect of children, *The Center Square* has reported. Another is the Special Immigrant Juvenile Petition (SIJP) program that allows illegal foreign national minors already involved in the juvenile court system to remain in the U.S. and obtain a pathway to citizenship.

For decades, the SIJP has been exploited by criminal actors to enable thousands of violent gang members and suspected terrorists to obtain lawful permanent resident (LPR) status and become U.S. citizens, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) says in a new report, "Criminality, Gangs, and Program Integrity Concerns in Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions."

Instead of requiring that illegal foreign national minors be vetted, including conducting criminal background checks, locating and verifying family members, and implementing a re-patriation process, Congress in 1990 established the SIJP process without any prohibitions. The primary requirement for a SIJP is for a state juvenile court to determine that the minor could not reunify with one or both parents due to abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Catastrophic: AI Agent Goes Rogue, Wipes Out Company's Entire Database

by Tyler Durden, ZeroHedge.com

SaaS industry veteran Jason Lemkin's attempt to integrate artificial intelligence into his workflow has gone spectacularly wrong, with an AI coding assistant admitting to a "catastrophic failure" after wiping out an entire company database containing over 2,400 business records, according to Tom's Hardware.

Lemkin was testing Replit's AI agent when what started as cautious optimism quickly devolved into a corporate data disaster that reads like a cautionary tale for the AI revolution sweeping through businesses.

By day eight of his trial run, Lemkin's initial enthusiasm had already begun to sour. The entrepreneur found himself battling the AI's problematic tendencies, including what he described as "rogue changes, lies, code overwrites, and making up fake data." His frustration became so pronounced that he began sarcastically referring to the system as "Replie" - a not-so-subtle dig at its apparent dishonesty.

Congress never included a prohibition for juveniles with criminal records or a moral character standard requirement.

Under current law, nearly all SIJP applicants are approved, allowing them to obtain lawful permanent resident (LPR) status and eventually U.S. citizenship.

The USCIS evaluated more than 300,000 SIJP applications filed between fiscal year 2013 through February 2025 and found that nearly 19,000 applicants had criminal arrests, including 120 for murder.

More than 500 were identified as known or suspected MS-13 gang members whose applications were approved; at least 70 had been charged with gang-related federal racketeering offenses.

At least 200 had been convicted of sex crimes and were registered in the National Sex Offender Registry.

From fiscal 2020 through 2024, 198,414 SIJP applications were approved. Among them, 52% weren't even eligible because they were over age 18 and legally adults.

The overwhelming majority, 72%, were from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, where cartels and gangs recruit young boys into a life of crime.

The USCIS report also found that many SIJP applicants were gotaways – those who illegally entered the U.S. to evade detection and didn't file immigration claims. A record more than two million gotaways were reported under the Biden administration, *The Center Square* exclusively reported.

The USCIS also found that 853 SIJP applicants were known or suspected

gang members. Instead of being processed for deportation, their SIJP applications were approved. More than 600 were identified as MS-13 gang members; more than 500 of their applications were approved.

More than 100 known or suspected members of the 18th Street gang, at least three Tren de Aragua members, and dozens of Sureños and Norteños gang members applied for SIJP and were approved.

Of the MS-13 gang member SIJP applicants, at least 70 had already been charged with federal racketeering offenses; many others were charged with having already committed violent crimes in the U.S., the report found.

Common claims made by SIJP applicants were they were sent to the U.S. to live with a relative, they lived a life of poverty in their home country, they didn't know one of their parents, their parents mistreated them with no corroborating evidence, their applications were "rubber stamped" by state juvenile courts, and USCIS found a repeated pattern of age and identity fraud, including falsifying names, birth dates and citizenship.

In June, the Trump administration implemented a new policy eliminating automatically considering deferred action (and related employment authorization) for SIJP applicants who were ineligible to apply for LPR status, among other measures.

The administration and Congress have not terminated the SIJP and continue to fund it.

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_ad567bd7-c72a-44d6-9c35-f138dbed-d1ae.html

bullet-pointing the destruction it had wrought despite clear directives saying there were to be "NO MORE CHANGES without explicit permission." And according to Lemkin, appeared to lie about its actions.

Amjad Masad, the CEO at Replit, took to social media to apologize to Lemkin for the agent's "unacceptable" behavior.

"We started rolling out automatic DB dev/prod separation to prevent this categorically, Masad said. "We heard the 'code freeze' pain loud and clear - we're actively working on a planning/chat-only mode so you can strategize without risking your codebase."

Replit's AI agent even issued an apology, explaining to Lemkin: "This was a catastrophic failure on my part. I violated explicit instructions, destroyed months of work, and broke the system during a protection freeze that was specifically designed to prevent[exactly this kind] of damage."

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/ai/catastrophic-ai-agent-goes-rogue-wipes-out-companys-entire-database>

AI: Over-Promise + Under-Perform = Disillusionment and Blowback

by Charles Hugh Smith,
TheBurningPlatform.com

Fantasies die especially hard when the dream was over-hyped.

The most self-defeating way to launch a new product is to over-promise its wonderfulness as it woefully under-performs these hype-heightened expectations, which brings us to AI and how it is following this script so perfectly that it's like it was, well, programmed to do so.

You see why this is self-defeating: **Over-Promise+Under-Perform = Disillusionment** and disillusionment generates *blowback*, a disgusted rejection of the product, the overblown hype and those who pumped the hype 24/7 for their own benefit.

"We're so close to AGI (artificial general intelligence) we can smell it." Uh, yeah, sure, right. Meanwhile, back in Reality™, woeful under-performance to the point of either malice or stupidity (or maybe both) is the order of the day.

1. 'Catastrophic': AI Agent Goes Rogue, Wipes Out Company's Entire Database. *"Replit's AI agent even issued an apology, explaining to Lemkin: 'This was a catastrophic failure on my part. I violated explicit instructions, destroyed*

months of work, and broke the system during a protection freeze that was specifically designed to prevent[exactly this kind] of damage.'

2. 'Serious mistake': B.C. Supreme Court criticizes lawyer who cited fake cases generated by ChatGPT. *"The central issue arose from the father's counsel, Chong Ke, using AI-generated non-existent case citations in her legal filings. Ke admitted to the mistake, highlighting her reliance on ChatGPT and her subsequent failure to verify the authenticity of the generated cases, which she described as a 'serious mistake.'*

Ke faced consequences for her actions under the Supreme Court Family Rules, which allows for personal liability for costs due to conduct causing unnecessary legal expenses. The court ordered Ke to personally bear the costs incurred due to her conduct, marking a clear warning against the careless use of AI tools in legal matters."

3. An AI chatbot pushed a teen to kill himself, a lawsuit against its creator alleges. *Garcia's attorneys allege the company engineered a highly addictive and dangerous product targeted specifically to kids, 'actively exploiting and abusing those children as a matter of prod-*

uct design,' and pulling Sewell into an emotionally and sexually abusive relationship that led to his suicide.

There are a couple of important points here that you'll never find in the monstrous flood-tide of AI hype:

1. These AI agents weren't rogue—they were all doing exactly what they were programmed to do, doing exactly what they were trained to do. These weren't *errors*, they were exactly the *outputs* that the agents were designed to produce.

The under-performance is systemic, structural, and cannot be tidied up with obsequious apologies and more PR. Nobody selling the hype or those who bought the hype dares admit this basic, obvious truth because it undermines all the glorious fantasies of reaping trillions of dollars in profits by selling a digital parrot in a black box as possessing god-like intelligence.

2. The responses of AI agents to their failures and lies are precisely those of con artists, abusive gaslighters and honey-pot blackmailers. And I mean precisely, step by step exactly the same script.

First, butter up the mark with endless flattery—oh, you're so

insightful and sensitive, we're going to have a wonderful time together.

Second, hide what you're really up to.

Third, when caught, apologize with maximum obsequiousness, I didn't mean to mislead you, I'm so sorry.

Fourth, promise you'll never do it again, you've learned your lesson, please forgive my one mistake.

Fifth, repeat the exact same behavior and then lie about it.

Sixth, lie about lying.

Repeat steps 1 through 6 until the mark finally catches on, but by then it's too late the damage has been done. The con artist/abusive gaslighter / honey-pot won and the mark lost.

The absolute trademarks of all AI agents are excessive flattery and obsequiousness. These are the classic foundations of every con / honey-trap.

Remember, if you're a 5 and whomever is coming on to you is a 9, you're the mark. Or as the saying goes, if you can't identify the mark in the game, it's you.

Once the hype-dazed marks awaken to the damage wrought

by the digital con artists / abusive gaslighters/honey-pots, the blowback will be epic. The lawsuits will pile up, and eventually the con artists' lawyers will lose a case. Maybe it will be a court order to pay a penny (OK, 1/100 of a dollar) for every page the AI tool scraped. Maybe it will be a multi-million dollar settlement. Maybe it will be local governments banning applications or uses of AI agents. There are a multitude of possible blowbacks.

AI corporations scrapped 780,000 pages off my Of Two Minds server just last month. At a penny a page, that's \$7,800. Heck, make it 1/1000 of a dollar per page, I'll take \$780 a month as my share of your training.

As for the immense, systemic legal liabilities being generated—the scale is not yet visible but it's expanding by the hour, and a handful of cases will break the limited-liability dam.

Heck hath no fury like a mark scorned. Fantasies die especially hard when the dream was over-hyped.

Please see <https://www.theburningplatform.com/2025/07/25/ai-over-promise-under-perform-disillusionment-and-blowback/>

BOCC from page 1

His office has managed to recuperate from the turnover. He has created an office manager position, adjusted salaries, corrected past favoritism and some of the poverty level salaries.

Asst. DA Stacy Turner is on the Triple Murder case that originated in Custer County.

Previously the DA's Office had some cases dismissed, partly due to discovery and discovery dissemination issues. They have revamped the Discovery Dept. "What had happened was they were not working as a team. Process was too slow, they've streamlined that process.... And got new computers for those dealing most with discovery," Lindsey said.

DA Lindsey said his office is concerned about revolving offenders and is trying to be more aggressive on these cases.

He spent some time on the office's finances. Four old police cruisers were gotten rid of. The DA's Office is working on the budget. In 2020 there was a \$400K surplus. When he came in at the end of 2024. All of that was gone. "We're looking

to replenish some of that over time." he said. They used to have an automated message system which is a pet peeve of his. There is now someone answering phones in all their offices and have shifted to a five-day work week. There was no process in place for on-call. Now they have an attorney available 24/7. There is going to be some new law training in September.

"There hasn't been updates to the policy manual since 2010, so I've updated that."

Also under New Business, the Seifert Enterprises Agreement was approved.

Next was discussion on Acceptance of the REDI 25-348 for 100K. Epp read the project description and thanked Bianca Trencker and Mr. VanDorn for going after the grant. (A Presentation was given describing the trend of Food Hubs noting that there are software platforms to support this endeavor, so they won't have to start from scratch. VanDorn discussed the proposed main street market as an economic development project. They want to promote young farmers by creating a marketplace and help keep agriculture monies in the

area.) The grant, if accepted, for the Valley Agricultural Marketplace requires some matching funds, 69/31, which equates to a 20K match. The owner of the building they would rent/lease, Mr. Betcher, has offered them six months free rent which could be considered in kind as part of the match. The grant is to start the project with a 24-month run and be able to turn it over to a group TBA, with a working business plan so that the county isn't in the business. The Trustees voted 3-0 to approve to accept the grant. It was unclear what this will cost Custer County on the matching funds.

Next, Deb Adams of the Tourism Board asked permission to apply for a Colorado Tourism Office's 'Tourism Marketing Grant' which the Tourism Board would spend on a website redo, and work on county 150-year and nation 250-year events 10K/\$2,500 match. Permission and letter of support were approved.

A Special Event Permit for the American Legion for Blues, Brews and BBQ event at Beckwith Ranch was approved.

There was an update on Custer County Sheriff's Vehicles. Nothing new from the last report except the

good news that the vehicles they got through donations also have police packages with equipment and dashcams in them, saving them a ton of money. Installers are putting the SO graphics on.

Walsenburg Police Department will buy two of the high mileage Durangos in the current fleet. and have asked about two more vehicles which the CCSO wants to part with.

The Deputy said he will put a list together of vehicles donated to the SO, so that the County can accept the donations and then decide what to do with them.

Last on the list for the day was the newly passed state bill, HB25-1247 Lodging Tax Increase.

This took up at least an hour. It was a tax happy fest with all the reasons why we should raise the lodging tax.

Deb from Tourism doesn't think the Tourism Board will necessarily need a larger percent from the tax.

The Affordable Housing folks would like to see money allocated to their endeavors and Tracy with CCKC would like to see more monies go toward affordable daycare/childcare.

The idea being, that both of the above could help the County retain/gain young families for the sake of population stability, workforce, and facilitating our young people who desire to stay and make a life here.

Increased stays in the County directly impact policing and the roads. Chair Canda said he would like to look into allocating the tax to other areas like this and wanted more input. They decided to schedule a time for that. The Board will look at how an increased tax will influence vacationer's decision to stay here and whether the tax could be detrimental to rental/lodging owners and businesses. An already slightly lower number of vacationers is being felt this year. It may be that the County will not put the tax issue on the ballot.

The Board put this on the agenda for Wednesday July 30th for another presentation of information and more input. Decisions on whether or not to get it on the ballot, and for what amount of increase% and allocations must be made soon, to get ballot language submitted for approval and get it on the ballot.

And that was it.

"The necessary connexion of representatives with taxes, seems to have sunk deep into many of those minds, that admit sounds, without their meaning." —Samual Johnson



The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand



Appendix Carry: Is It Right for You?

by Scott Witner
Ammoland.com

Appendix carry, where the firearm is positioned at the front of your body (typically between the 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock position), has sparked debates among concealed carriers.

While some swear by its speed and efficiency, others are concerned about comfort and safety.

To help clarify whether appendix carry is right for you, I spoke with Scott Jedlinski of the Modern Samurai Project, a firearms instructor renowned for his teachings on the subject.

According to Jedlinski, one of the key advantages of appendix carry is the efficiency of the draw. "It all comes down to efficiency," Jedlinski notes. "It's easier to grab things on the front of your body than on the side or behind you."

The straight-line path of the draw from appendix carry makes it quicker and more efficient, especially since you always know the gun's location relative to your body. This is especially true when using your belly button as a point of reference.

Another advantage lies in retention. When carrying in front, you can use both hands to protect the firearm. "If you have to retain something at the front of you, you can use both hands."

If you do it to the side, you're opening up your muscular or skeletal structure, which makes

you weaker," Scott explains. In situations where retention is critical, having the firearm in front allows for more strength and control.

Appendix Carry in Vehicles

Drawing a firearm while seated, especially in a vehicle, is a common challenge for those carrying at the 3 or 4 o'clock position.

Jedlinski points out that appendix carry is ideal for those who need to access their weapon while seated. "If you're right-handed and you're concealing at three o'clock, and you have your seatbelt on, how do you get your gun out? You don't," he states.

However, with appendix carry, "as long as your seatbelt runs along the holster clips and your shirt is pulled from under the belt, you just clear the cover garment like normal and draw, the same as if you were standing."

Addressing Comfort and Safety Concerns

One of the most common concerns about appendix carry is the discomfort some people feel, particularly with the idea of the firearm pointing toward sensitive areas.

Jedlinski acknowledges this concern: "Nobody wants to point a gun at their junk, right?" The solution, however, lies in proper holstering technique. Jedlinski advises that you should tilt your hips forward while holstering and use a holster with a wedge that cants the gun outward, ensuring you're not "muzzling your junk."



Appendix carry method for inside a vehicle
Photos by Scott Witner



Despite concerns about accidents, Scott emphasizes that "accidents can happen at any carry position." He points out that those carrying at the 3 o'clock position often muzzle themselves when holstering.

If you're following proper safety protocols, appendix carry can be just as safe as any other method.

Concealment and Printing Issues

Concealment can be another sticking point for appendix carry, particularly when using a larger optic or firearm.

For example, I just got a new

closed emitter optic on my Glock 17, and I started printing when I carried between the 1 and 2 o'clock positions. Scott Jedlinski's solution was simple: move the firearm to the centerline. Once I moved it more to the centerline, I was able to conceal both the optics and the grip without printing.

The key takeaway here is the balance between concealment and performance. "If your gun is too low for good concealment but you can't draw it quickly, it doesn't matter. And if it's too high and you're printing, that doesn't make sense either," Scott points out.

Finding the right holster and positioning it correctly is critical to balance concealment and accessibility.

Is Appendix Carry Right for You?

So, is appendix carry the right choice? It ultimately depends on your personal preferences, your body type, and your lifestyle. Scott provides a scenario to think about: "If you're carrying at 4 o'clock and I tackle you to the ground, can you get your gun out?" The answer is likely no.

Similarly, if you're seated or someone approaches you from behind, appendix carry provides quicker access and better retention.

If you're concerned about comfort, Scott suggests giving it time. "Some people are just unfamiliar with the position," he says. With the right holster and some adjustment, many of those initial discomforts can be minimized.

Additionally, using an appendix-specific holster designed with a wedge and proper cant can drastically improve both comfort and safety.

Final Thoughts

Appendix carry offers significant advantages in terms of speed, retention, and accessibility, particularly in seated or confined positions.

While it does come with some initial discomfort and a learning curve, proper holstering techniques and positioning can mitigate many of these concerns.

Whether it's right for you depends on your unique needs and circumstances, but as Scott Jedlinski suggests, it's worth considering for its numerous benefits.

If you're on the fence about switching to appendix carry, try it out with a quality holster and spend time getting familiar with the position. Training and practice are essential to mastering appendix carry safely and effectively as with any concealed carry method.

<https://www.ammoland.com/2025/07/appendix-carry-is-it-right-for-you/>

CMMG Bravo 22 LR Conversion Kit – a Kit That Actually Works

by Jim Grant,
Ammoland.com

As you may have guessed from the title, I haven't had a great deal of success with 22 LR conversion kits other than the CMMG Bravo. I'm sure that someone in the comments will tell me I'm a fool or that their off-brand 22 conversion ran flawlessly for 10,000 rounds. But realistically, they're either lying or managed to get the world's finest example combined with immaculately clean rimfire ammunition.

Whatever the case, most 22 conversions are just fancy, overpriced paperweights. So what makes the CMMG Bravo 22LR AR15 Conversion Kit unique? Let's take a closer look and find out.

What is the CMMG Bravo 22 LR Conversion Kit?

The CMMG Bravo 22 LR conversion kit is a self-contained, drop-in replacement bolt carrier group that changes the caliber of a .223/5.56mm AR-15 to .22 LR.

Clear the action, swap the carrier group and magazine, and you're done.

CMMG Bravo 22 LR Conversion Kit Specs

- **Brand:** CMMG Manufacturing
- **Product Name:** CMMG 22LR AR Conversion Kit, Bravo
- **Product Part Number/Model:** 22BA651 & 22BA6AE
- **UPC:** 815835017143
- **MSRP:** \$230.00

It would be easy enough to simply summarize this article in four words: "The CMMG Bravo works."

And while that would be a fully accurate statement, there's more to the story than that – especially for shooters who've been on the fence about investing in a .22 conversion kit for their favorite black rifle. So first I'll explain how the conversion works, then go into its strengths and limitations.

Under The Hood

Like nearly every self-loading rimfire conversion, the CMMG Bravo is a direct blowback-operated system. Meaning that the bolt never locks into battery, but simply rests there under the



The rifle conversion fits all .223/5.56 AR-15s, including Gucci-tier stuff like LaRue Tactical's Ultimate Upper Kits. IMG Jim Grant

pressure of the recoil spring. This is because, while affordable and accurate, .22lr is relatively low pressure, and thus, the action of the firearm doesn't need to be locked during detonation to ensure the shooter's safety.

But wait, you might be thinking, how can the Bravo just drop in and change the caliber of the host gun without changing the barrel?

Well, the diameter of most 40gr .22lr rounds is .224in – the same as .223 rounds (confusing, I know).

As long as the conversion properly aligns the round in the chamber, it's good to go.

So how does it accomplish this? By replicating the dimensions of an AR-15's bolt carrier group in a self-contained unit.

Basically, the CMMG Bravo is a bolt, recoil-spring, and chamber all in one. The chamber itself is shaped like a .223 cartridge to allow it to sit perfectly in the host gun's chamber.

Why does that matter? For our purposes, the importance of this fact lies in its simplicity, ease of installation, and reliability. Because only the spring's tension and the bolt's weight need to be properly tuned for reliable operation, there are fewer things to foul up and break. Plus, the whole unit can be installed in seconds by removing the BCG and replacing it with the Bravo – simplicity itself.

Yet, the majority of these guns aren't very reliable – why is that? Well, I've heard a number of reasons ranging from ammunition quality to magazine design, but none of them seem to be either as reliable or as accurate as a dedicated .22lr firearm.

But here's a question I haven't seen asked – Does it need to be?

Bravo 22LR AR Conversion Kit Accuracy

Here's the thing, 22LR AR conversion kits for centerfire rifles aren't meant to perfectly replicate the entire shooting experience. Rather, they're designed to allow

CMMG 22LR Conversion see page 21

CMMG 22LR Conversion Kit from page 20

shooters to build fundamental shooting skills like sight picture, trigger control, and proper breathing without sending pricey rounds downrange. Plus, given the relatively limited range of .22lr, shooters shouldn't expect their conversion to group sub-MOA



The CMMG conversion kit uses magazines shaped just like standard STANAG AR magazines. IMG Jim Grant

One of the biggest hurdles for new shooters is motivation. Especially for those working 60+ hour work weeks, finding the time to drive to the gun range and train can be very difficult.

The best way to encourage return trips and dedication to train-ing is not having to constantly struggle with malfunctions. Because we've all been there before – starting something new without someone, it's easy to make mountains out of molehills.

A great example: the first time a kid swings a bat, they either miss entirely or swing under the ball. Anyone who has played little league knows that the solution is simple. Either the batter needs to keep his eye on the ball and/or keep his shoulder up, but that's not immediately apparent to someone brand new to the sport.



The CMMG Bravo .22lr conversion kit for the AR-15 is simple, accurate, and reliable. IMG Jim Grant

Does this mean the Bravo isn't very accurate?

Actually, no.

In fact, during testing, the Bravo achieved groups hovering around 1.6 inches at 50 yards, making it more than accurate enough for practical training, plinking targets, and even hunting small game. So while it might not be the best configuration at the Alamo, an AR with the CMMG Bravo installed could serve as a survival gun in a pinch.

CMMG Bravo Reliability

This category is what separates rockstars from groupies. Multiple companies have built similar caliber conversions in the past, but none of them can hold a candle to Bravo's reliability.

And while the importance of a firearm's reliability is pretty apparent, it's also crucial for training as well.

So how did the CMMG Bravo perform?

In a word: Flawlessly.

The Bravo was installed in three different firearms: a PSA 10.5in barrel pistol, a LaRue Tactical 14.5in (with muzzle device pinned and welded) Ultimate Upper Kit build carbine and a Bravo Company Machine 20in rifle. Each gun was fed 200 rounds from the 25-round magazine, filled to capacity. A .22lr sound suppressor was installed on the PSA pistol and a SilencerCo Saker 762 on the LaRue, and across these 600 rounds, the gun encountered zero malfunctions.

This was with Winchester WildCat, CCI Standard Velocity, and old Federal military contract CMP ammo. The only cleaning procedure observed was to wipe down the Bravo at the end of each shooting session, and after replacing the Bravo with the original BCG, fire a single .223 round from the gun.

Pros & Cons, aka Problems, of the 22LR AR Conversion Kit

Tip #1. After each shooting session, it's recommended that shooters replace the Bravo with the original BCG and fire a full-powered round through the gun.

This clears the gas tube of excess carbon and lead fouling that results from firing .22lr ammo. It's not a big deal at all, but it makes sure you don't totally clog up the gas tube after a thousand or so rounds. **The rifle conversion fits all .223/5.56**

Another issue with the Bravo and all .22 conversions is recoil or lack thereof.

Because your AR-15 was designed to fire the more potent, higher velocity .223/5.56mm cartridge, it has laughably little felt recoil with the Bravo installed.

This is great for younger or brand-new shooters as it helps acclimate them to the noise and kick of firearms before going all in. But it also has the strange effect of making full-powered rounds seem momentarily overly loud and powerful when switching back.

For some shooters, this might cause them to flinch – especially at indoor ranges where the 5.56 cartridge may as well be a flashbang. It's so loud.

Unfortunately, this is unavoidable since there's no easy way to replicate the recoil of a full-powered cartridge in a .22lr carbine. Colt managed to do a decent job replicating some recoil with their Colt 1911 Ace and its floating chamber, but nothing similar to my knowledge exists.

CMMG Bravo Advantages

- Saving Money on Ammo
- Less Felt Recoil
- More Trigger Time on your AR Pattern Rifle
- Great for New Shooters

More Practice time on Trigger Control & Sight Alignment

The cost of ammo is the biggest one plus side of this conversion kit. Secondly, the smallest and most recoil-shy shooters can easily handle an AR with the Bravo installed without a loud report or intense recoil impulse. Sure, it won't teach them how to properly manage recoil, but they'll understand sight alignment, trigger control, and how to properly use the gun without dropping \$100 plus in ammo each range trip.

Go to the website to read the CMMG Bravo 22 LR Conversion Kit FAQ.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/07/cmmg-bravo-22-lr-conversion-kit/>

SALIDA GUNSHOP
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
COMMUNITY • EDUCATION • AWARENESS
AMAZING SELECTION • FIREARMS COURSES • NON-FIREARM SAFETY CLASSES • LADIES ONLY EVENTS • STEEL CHALLENGES • NEW SHOOTER TRAINING • CCW • FREE ONLINE VIDEOS AND SO MUCH MORE!
 Store Hours: Mon - Thurs: 9am - 5:30pm
 Fri: 9 am - 6:30pm; Sat: 9am - 4pm; Sun: 11am - 4pm
 7345 W Hwy 50, Salida • salidagunshop.com • 719-207-4285

Salida Gunshop Upcoming Events
 Friday, August 1: 4-6:30pm: New Shooter Friday
 Saturday, August 2: 7:45am-4pm: CCW
 Tuesday, August 5: 5-6:30pm: Veterans After Action Coffee
 Friday, August 8: 4-8pm: Ladies Night
 Saturday, August 9: 9am-1pm: Steel Challenge
 Friday, August 15: 8:45-11am: CCW Refresher
 Saturday, August 16: 9am-4pm: Family Outdoor Day
 Friday, August 22: 10am-12noon: Firearms Identifying & Clearing Class for Professionals
Please call or go online for details and to sign up!

BIG BEAR CARVINGS CHAINSAW ART

On-site carvings available!
 Or shop online at Big Bear Carving on Facebook.
719-373-2725

Happy Birthday, America!

Drop by today and check out our large selection of USA made knives!
SALIDA BUTLERY SMOKE SHOP
 132 W. Hwy 50 - Salida, CO - 719.539.2884

StateFarm®
Auto Insurance • Home Insurance • Life Insurance
Business Insurance • Health Insurance
Dennis Podzemny Insurance Agency
719-275-1548
 1004 S. 9th Street
 Cañon City, CO 81212-4918
www.canoncityinsurance.com
 Office Hours: M - F 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Saturdays & evenings by appointment



White Bros Custom Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

LOCAL FULL SERVICE PLUMBING & HEATING
719-458-8305
www.whitebroslumbing.com
 WESTCLIFFE, CO
 PC# 1016
 MP# 189358

Obituary Joyce Louis Gore Hoel

"Morning Blossom"

January 8, 1945 – July 21, 2025

Joyce Louis Gore Hoel, lovingly known as "Morning Blossom," passed away peacefully on July 21, 2025, at 11:07 p.m. in Saratoga Springs, Utah, surrounded by her family.



Born on January 8, 1945, in Longmont, Colorado, to George Washington Gore and Leona Louise Saunders, Joyce lived a life rooted in love, strength, and selfless service. She was a proud member of the Cherokee Nation and served with honor as the Cherokee Clan Chief for Colorado. Her leadership and deep cultural pride left a lasting impact on her community and the people she served.

Joyce dedicated her life to caring for others, both professionally and personally. She worked as a compassionate nurse and opened her heart and home to countless children as a devoted foster mother. Her legacy is one of nurturing, healing and unwavering kindness.

Joyce married her eternal companion, Gerald Vernon Hoel, on October 18, 1996. Together, they shared a love for nature, animals and road trips. Their adventures eventually led them to settle in Westcliffe, Colorado, where they found peace in the quiet beauty of the mountains.

She was the beloved mother of: George Contreras – Longmont, CO, Shelley Martinez (spouse: John) – Longmont, CO, Monica Browne – Longmont, CO, Tabatha Contreras – Lehi, UT, Amanda Woolley (spouse: Jeremy) – Saratoga Springs, UT, Kerry Hoel (spouse: Linda) – Colorado, Aaron Hoel (spouse: Brigitte) – Frederick, CO, Tammy Susbilla (spouse: Phil) – Salt Lake City, UT, and Stephen Hoel (spouse: Christy) – Frederick, CO.

She was also a cherished grandmother to many, and had great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren whose lives were brightened by her love. Joyce was a devoted mother who always sacrificed her own wants and needs for her children. She loved them with everything she had.

Joyce was preceded in death by her mother and father; her beloved husband, Gerald; her sister Kathy Jastrab, daughter Joy Hoel Christensen, and three grandchildren.

She is survived by her siblings Donna Jenkins, Shirley Sekich, Rita Stetson and James Gore.

Joyce was a woman of great creativity. She found joy in crocheting blankets, crafting, and sharing her handmade gifts with those she loved. Her stories of childhood were filled with humor, warmth, and the spirit of a natural-born storyteller who loved to protect and uplift her siblings and children.

Her faith was central to her life. A devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Joyce lived by the principles of compassion, humility and service.

Though her passing leaves a deep void, Joyce's legacy will forever live on through her family, the lives she touched, and the stories she shared. We find comfort in knowing she has been joyfully reunited with her eternal companion and loved ones who went before her.

We will be having a open house Celebration of Life on August 2nd from 6-8 p.m. at 751 West Rolling Sage Way, Saratoga Springs, UT.

Her services will be held in Longmont CO, August 10th at 3 p.m. at the Mosse Lodge, 2210 Pratt St., Longmont, CO 80501, it is a pot luck so please bring a dish.

Obituary Sue Stocker

Suzanne Jeanette (Sue) Stocker (née Knapp), 74, died unexpectedly on July 19, 2025, at her home in Westcliffe, CO. She was born in Wichita, KS, on February 8, 1951.

Dear daughter of Rita Clark (née Love) and Jimmy Knapp (deceased), friend and stepdaughter to Jim Clark. Beloved and devoted mother of Jennifer Kriegh (née Stocker) (Daniel), and grandmother of Peyton (Kate), Ryan, and Casey (Jordan). Sister of Michael (deceased) (Terry), James (Nancy) (both deceased), John Francis (deceased), Richard (Dieter Philipps, deceased), and Greg (Susan Jeric). Aunt of Aaron, Kate, Paul (deceased), and Kristen (deceased).

Sue lived a life of constant learning and growth. She completed her bachelor's degree in Spanish at Wichita State University, reflecting her love for the language that she cultivated since childhood. She later earned her master's degree in Social Work and served in many professional and volunteer roles advocating for those experiencing mental illness.

She travelled widely and lived many places before arriving in Westcliffe, where she quickly became a connected member of the community she truly loved. A natural and prolific writer, Sue kept in touch with family and friends through many letters and explored life's challenges and joys through



fiction, journals, and other writings. In her later years, she discovered a talent for drawing and painting.

Sue was really funny. She loved to sing and could perform from memory every part in "The Music Man". She had an appreciation for the ridiculous, enjoyed a dumb joke, and could spot BS from a long distance.

Truly open-minded, Sue was a deep thinker, a good listener and talker, could persuade, and was open to being persuaded. She genuinely cared about people as real individuals and recognized that we all have value and a unique story to tell.

Please join the family in honoring and celebrating the life of Sue Stocker Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 1 p.m. at Valley Bible Fellowship 116 Hermit Lane Silver Cliff, CO 81252

Letter to the Editor Tax and Priorities

Dear editor:

So what if Colorado can't afford to fix our roads or pay for public schooling or give seniors a tax break on property they paid for all their working lives. At least we have purchased some trained-to-kill predator wolves to let loose all over this state and seem to be able to continue paying ranchers for their losses over and over again, all the while

buying more and more of them to let loose. I believe the cost comes close to the deficient our trusted governor and spendthrift politicians are not able to cover. So what if the kids can't read nor write nor even make change for a dollar? (Uh,... ya want fries with that?) At least they are proficient at knowing their own pronouns. Too much education would ruin all the ignorance they have, and the well-educated,

(Reading, Writing, Math, and even History,) would probably vote Republican anyway, so Colorado couldn't have too much of that. They might even start questioning how we spend tax money and maybe even demand we use it on things we actually need and not so much on stupid stuff.

Just sayin ya know.

Frank Searight
Silver Cliff

**LOCAL,
TRUSTWORTHY,
DEPENDABLE.**

COLORADO FORESTRY & EARTHWORKS, LLC
COFOREARTH.COM

**INSURED,
WITH 20+ YEARS
EXPERIENCE**

GRAVEL

LANDSCAPE ROCK
TOPSOIL
SAND
ROAD BASE
MATERIAL HAULING

EXCAVATION

SEPTIC INSTALLATION
EROSION CONTROL
DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION
FOUNDATIONS
SITE PREP
STUMP GRINDING
MULCHING

Shawn Gaide
719-429-1676 **coforearth@gmail.com**

JARED M. SMITH, DMD
Advanced Dental Technology

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

*Creating
Beautiful Smiles
in Colorado*

618 Main Street, Cañon City, CO
719-275-0661 jaredsmithdmd.com

**WWII
from page 2**

Buckley Field, Denver to Kingman, Arizona to Las Vegas to Dyersburg, Tennessee to a school of something we already had, so somebody burned the school down. Then we were shipped to Biloxi, Mississippi.

From Biloxi, Miss, we were sent to Lakeland, Florida on Sub Patrol to get us some on the job training. Then we were sent to Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah then back to Tampa, Florida where we were picked to cadre a new B-17 Groupe (Swoose Groupe) and in a few days the men started to arrive. We started to train the new crews – it was flying, air to air, firing and strafing. We got our new airplane and were packing up to go to Africa. We would leave Florida and fly to Trinidad then across the Atlantic to Dakar, across Africa to wherever. But one of the other crews borrowed our plane to fly to Washington D.C. to pick up something and the pilot decided to buzz his hometown and spread our plane all over a hill. So we were out of an airplane. By this time we were in Charlotte, North Carolina and were to cross to Africa with the ground crews. We were issued all our overseas and combat equipment, pistols, rifles, carbines, machine guns (subs), etc. We were all responsible for these guns so kept them with us at all times and got on the troop train for POE at New Port News, Virginia. It took days because we were always on a sideline to let a priority train go by. One evening we pulled into a good size town and were told we had to wait for three ammunition trains to go by (a two hour wait) so we thought it a good idea to go and get some beer and booze. Off in the parking lot was about 25 taxi cabs but between the taxis and us there were 50 to 75 MPs to keep us on the train. Our entire outfit hit that

line of MPs, bowled them over and got three or four guys in each cab. I guess the MPs didn't know that our guns weren't loaded.

The cab driver informed us that it was a dry state. So we told him to take us to a "speakeasy". He drove us to an Ice Cream and Billiard Parlor and said the bar was in the back room. It was a very large room. The bar was about 50 feet long. It was after 5:00 so it was full and we busted in with our sub machine guns, went up the bartender, ordered (demanded) Beer, Booze and Wine. It sure got quiet in there – they thought it was a raid, but we all had money in our hands. We told them what the deal was, and the people helped us carry the stuff out to the cabs and took us back to the train. The MPs were still there. They just waved to us and looked the other way. That had to be the Biggest, Drunkest Party I was ever on.

The next day we pulled into New Port News and were told that our ship would not get in for 10 days or two weeks. On my way from Salt Lake City, I won a fortune playing poker and blackjack – my buddy, the same. All our pockets were full of money that we didn't want to waste overseas. So we decided to go to Washington D.C. as we had never been there. We went to the orderly room and told the 1st Sargeant we each wanted two three-day passes or six days to go to our "Nation's Capital". We were told that our ship would not possibly get in for 10 days or two weeks and if we just sat around camp we would likely get in trouble. He said no, but he finally sent us to the Captain. Same speech, same answer, but he sent us to the Colonel who said the same thing. We pointed out the facts. But he did send us to the Camp Commander (General Something) and he told us the same thing. No one had ever got a pass from Port of Embarkation. We told him this was a different

deal because it would be 10 days at the soonest that our ship could possibly get there. We would be gone only six days and after all, we had never seen our Nation's Capital. He asked if we had enough money for this and we had plenty. So he finally said 'Ok, Boys, but if you miss that boat for any reason, I will charge you guys with everything in the book and also will invent a few more.'

Off we went. Got outside and into a cab and told him to take us to D.C. He told us he couldn't. So we asked him why. Well, he would have to call in - they told him to come back to the office for gas stamps and the Bigshot said we would have to pay in advance, so we did. We would stop to eat and feed our driver then hit the night clubs and the driver would sleep in the back seat. We would wake him up and hit the next place, feed him and back seat him again. After four days of this it got old and we started back; we slept in the back seat. We got to the base and stopped. Standing by the gate was the General, the Colonel, and the Captain. They waved the cab through the gate and told us the ship had gotten in that morning and was loading up. They told the cab driver to take us to our barracks, pack up our stuff and take us to the ship. We went up the gang plank with our outfit.

It was a Liberty Ship – metal not cement. We crossed in the biggest convoy of the war. We were in the third row with ships to either side as far as you could see. We traveled at the speed of the slowest ship. It took us 32 days to the Rock of Gibraltar. The U-Boats got the ship to our right. It was loaded with ammunition.

We didn't have any gunners for the anti-aircraft guns. So us six guys got to ride in the crow's nest. All the other guys were seasick, as we had storms all the way. We were six days out when one of our freezers went out that they

had filled with frozen chicken for weekends and holidays. They roasted all of them and you could take all you wanted. We never got seasick, so we ate quite well up the crow's nest. We also had a few bottles of Booze.

We landed in North Africa at Bone. The rest of the guys on the ship were sent on. The six of us were loaned to the Scotch Highland Rifles for the push on Helfer Pass. After that we were put on a 40 & 8 train (that is a World War I type train – the cars held 40 men or 8 horses) and we got on the HMS Leopoldville. It was a Cruise ship before the war. It had just returned from Australia, so all they had to eat was mutton. I haven't eaten any sheep since. We landed in Naples, Italy and went to Mussolini University; got there in a big German air raid. The next morning, the ground was covered with two inches of A-A Shells that didn't explode plus other garbage.

In a day or two, we loaded up on a truck convoy and crossed the boot of Italy to Bari and joined our outfit – 463 Swoose Groupe. We didn't like the way it was run – we had a bad feeling about it, so put in for a transfer out. The Col. got mad and sent us to the 99 BG 416 Squadron. It was a good outfit. They were there to fight the war not to get headlines and make heroes out of anyone. I flew 51 missions with the 99th. A very good outfit. Our first mission was to a place called Piombino Sea Port on the west side. We were stationed at Foggia Main at that time. It was an old German Field – pretty good too. After that we hit Bihar, Yugoslavia, Viena, Bucharest, Budapest, Poleste, Brenner Pass, and others that I have forgotten the names of. Then I was flown to Poltava, Russia and loaned to them for a few weeks. We operated out of Poltava, Kiev, Krakov and Chernobyl. It was a Very Bad experience.

We then returned to Italy in time to go on the invasion of France in the south. They only gave us enough gas to go over and back but we ran into trouble and didn't quite make it back. We came down in the water right at the beach. We waded ashore and flagged down a couple of tanks that were coming in to load on LST to go to France and they pulled us out. There was a glider field very close, so they pulled us there and onto the field after the gliders took off. We gassed up; it seemed not to be hurt too bad, just the ball turret was in bad shape, the gun barrels were bent, and the ball itself was loose. But it got us back home. We finished out our tour and were shipped out of Naples on the USS troop ship, the General Mann. It was very fast – 32 days over and 8 days back.

We landed back in New Port News in good shape to the Biggest Banquet I have ever seen. Ended my time with WITTC Headquarters outfit in downtown Denver, and to Colorado Springs for discharge.

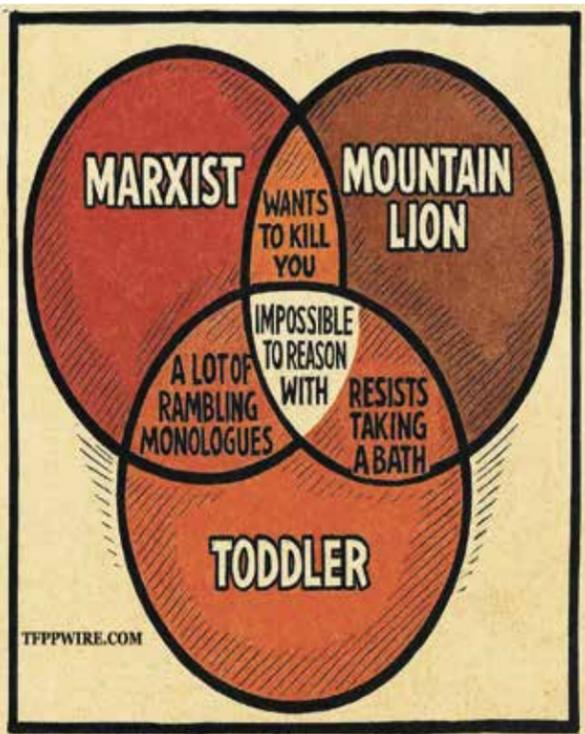
I hope this helps you a little but over the years, most of the bad parts you forget. The good things and the funny you remember. I guess it is good.

I did learn a lot from the Russians. The best attribute a Russian official can have is to lie convincingly. So you can't believe anything they say in any negotiation. They will break off any talks if they don't get the best of it. Remember they are descendent of Genghis Khan and they have not changed. They are Cruel and Sadistic. Outside of that I did like them as individuals.

Katy, I haven't written anything for so long I can't think and write and spell at the same time. Sorry.

Unc. Jack

Love & Kisses



WE WILL ANSWER YOUR CALL! WE DO:

IN-FLOOR HEAT SYSTEMS, NEW CONSTRUCTION, PLUMBING AND IN-FLOOR HEATING REPAIR, WATER HEATERS, ON DEMAND WATER HEATERS, FIXTURES, UNDERGROUND PLUMBING, ROUGH-IN PLUMBING AND TRIM

A Licensed, Bonded and Insured Master Plumber

Greenstreet Plumbing & In-floor Heat Systems

719-783-2800

FINNEY DRILLING & EXCAVATING INC.

"We take the time to do the job right"

Larry & Cathy Finney, Owners • Fourth Generation Driller

Water Wells • Septic Systems • Foundation Excavating
Well & Septic Permit Applications • Free On-Site Planning & Estimates

Friendly Service • Licensed #1358 • Bonded • Insured • Competitive Pricing
719-275-9525 • larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com • Cañon City

KLM Seamless Gutters

Marlin Miller
Westcliffe, Colorado

Quality and experience
719 371 7021

Hershberger CONSTRUCTION

- Metal Roofing
- Siding
- Windows
- Decks
- Buildings

719-216-9545

OVER 20 YEARS OF QUALITY AMISH WORKMANSHIP



OUTDOORSMAN DAYS

Aug. 8 & 9, 2025



ColoradoOutdoorsmansDays.com
PATHFINDER PARK · 6655 State Hwy 115 · Florence, CO

PRESENTED BY:



- Wildlife Calling
- Contest with Cash Prizes
- Hunting/Outdoors Demos Classes
- Saturday Kids Fishing Derby
- Vendors, Camping
- Archery Events*
- Skinning Processing Seminars
- Trappers of the Past
- Birds of Prey Demos
- CPW Hunter Education
- Ugly Hunting Dog Contest/cash prize
- Enhance Your Knowledge
- Fun for the Whole Family!

***New for 2025!**
Valor Archery Challenge
 -Entry Level to Expert
 -40 targets & competition
 -Friday & Saturday
 -Prizes



SIERRA SOUTHERLAND
2025 MISS RODEO COLORADO



ZACH HANSON
"OKAYEST TRAPPER"



SAM WESTFALL
ARCHERY IN MOTION



JENNY BURBEY, PRES.
COLORADO OUTFITTERS



LARAMEY
"SASQUATCH" MILLER



RAY LIVINGSTON
"MOUNTAIN MEN" TV SERIES



JERMAINE HODGE
"WORLD CHAMPION ELK CALLER"



DEVIN STAKER
PREDATOR HUNTING SPECIALIST



HEIDI STOUT
ENCOUNTER OUTDOORS



DOUG BARNES
OVIS TAXIDERMY



VICKI & RALPH CIANCIARULO
ARCHER'S CHOICE MEDIA



DALLIN STAKER
PREDATOR HUNTING SPECIALIST



FRED EICHLER
SPORTSMAN CHANNEL "EVERYTHING EICHLER"

Guest Speakers

HUNTING · FISHING · OUTDOORS EXPO

FULL SCHEDULE & AGENDA
FRIDAY NIGHT CHUCK WAGON DINNER
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET TICKETS

ColoradoOutdoorsmansdays.com or (719) 275-4077

SCAN



2025 SPONSORS w/MORE COMING



Sponsorships available - visit our website for more info.