

Sentinel: Revive, Refresh, Go!

Dear Readers,

As I am sure most of you know, four weeks ago, The *Sentinel* announced that it was closing its doors and had published its final issue. What might have seemed final at the time, has turned out to be a mere pause. I am happy to say that with the printing of this edition, not only is The *Sentinel* back, but back for what I hope is a long, long time.

Less than a month ago, my wife and I were approached with a unique and unexpected opportunity to acquire The *Sentinel* and take over its operation. Though I never had dreams or aspirations of owning a newspaper, I appreciate the value that good local newspapers bring to their communities and that significance resonates deeply with me. After some thoughtful consideration and prayer, we decided to commit to The *Sentinel*'s journey. I am its new owner and publisher.

At their worst, newspapers can be purveyors of misinformation, contain biased reporting and publish sensationalized narratives that negatively impact public understanding and trust. At their best they are informative, uplifting, and help

people to recognize and appreciate the world around them. My goal for The *Sentinel* is the latter. I, along with the rest of our team, am committed to providing a trustworthy paper that is accurate, timely, and relevant. A paper that fosters a sense of community, encourages civic engagement, and supports our local businesses. Some of our future issues will be great, some will be less so. Anywhere we fall short of the mark will be an error that is human and honest. Collectively, we will view those mistakes as opportunities for The *Sentinel* to learn, grow, and get better.

The staff at the *Sentinel* understands that along with the privilege of publishing a newspaper comes great responsibility. When someone selects you as their source of news or when a local business chooses to spend their advertising dollars with you are important decisions that we respect. It is impossible to print a newspaper that appeals to everyone – and we are not going to try to do that. We want to publish a paper that appeals to as many of our citizens as possible. In doing so, we will remain committed to not confusing the majority of our neighbors with

any small, loud minority that might be out there.

When we acquired The *Sentinel* from George, he encouraged my wife and I to make the paper our own and take it the direction we best saw fit. We are grateful for the trust and confidence he placed in us and plan to do just as he hoped. Some things about the future of The *Sentinel* will seem familiar; our publishing schedule, our focus on the school and its students, and highlighting local events of interest. Some things about The *Sentinel* will feel new and we hope, refreshing. We will still provide a platform for holding elected officials and institutions accountable and we will do so in a manner that is transparent and responsible.

There will be some of you who are very pleased to see The *Sentinel* is back and charting a new course. To all of you in that category, we are grateful for your support and backing. There are others who would just as well have seen The *Sentinel* stay closed and some who will actively work to see The *Sentinel* fail, and that's okay too. We respect everyone's right to act in their own best interests and make decisions according to

their beliefs and values – you can expect that we will do the same. So, whether you are a long-time *Sentinel* subscriber and reader, or you have never held a copy of our paper in your hands, we view you as part of the community we wish to serve. We believe that positive influences are contagious and hope the positive impact we produce for our great readers is both far-reaching and meaningful.

I hope that you are as excited as I am to see The *Sentinel* continue. If you are a long-time subscriber or advertiser, we appreciate you and hope you will continue. If you are less familiar with The *Sentinel*, as an advertiser or reader, we hope that you will give us a try. Thanks in advance for your patience in the days and weeks ahead. I have lots to learn about publishing a newspaper. I am committed to our community and am buoyed right now by the enormous outreach and support my family and I have received in making this decision and our excitement about the positive role The *Sentinel* can play in the future of our society.

Sincerely,
Michael Foster
Owner and Publisher

A Labor Day Tribute Calloused Hands, Strong Hearts

Labor Day. The people of Custer County innately know what a hard day's labor really means. It's rising before the sun to tend cattle, flipping the Open sign at the local morning stop, or checking lesson plans one more time before the school bell rings. It's long hours on the tractor, putting on a tool belt, or serving the community in some way. It's the grit of calloused hands, the wrinkles of a furrowed brow and the pride of knowing your work matters to the success of our small community. In our neck of the woods, labor isn't just a job. Labor is our way of life. These values passed down through generations of farmers, ranchers, teachers, clergy and small business owners.

Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894, to honor the American worker's contributions to the nation's strength and success. While many Americans see it as the last long summer weekend vacation opportunity or as a time for parades and picnics; it is worth remembering

that Labor Day began as a way to recognize the contributions of working men and women who built not only this nation but this community.

Work teaches responsibility, instills discipline, and strengthens families. Work is the backbone of freedom and prosperity. When we honor labor, we aren't just celebrating jobs, we're celebrating the values of self-reliance, perseverance and community.

This Labor Day, as we fire up the grill or enjoy a picnic in our beautiful valley, let's also tip our hats to the ranchers, farmers, mechanics, teachers, clergy, first responders, county employees, tradesmen, small business owners and workers whose dedication keeps rural Custer County strong and prosperous.

If you are looking to enjoy the fun and beauty of this last long weekend of summer turn to page 9 for all the stuff to do in Custer County.

Bobcat Admin Team United for '25-'26 School Year



L to R: MS/HS Principal Ren Olson, K-5th Grade Sydney Benesch, and Superintendent Kyle Hebberd.

by Sentinel Staff

Teamwork for 25-26

The 2025-2026 school year is underway and is led by a united administration team. Kyle Hebberd, Superintendent, Ren Olson, Middle School and High School Principal, and Sydney Benesch K-5 principal collectively bring decades of administration experience to the Custer County School District. Hebberd, achieved success and longevity as a Superintendent in both the Walsh

and Swink school districts. With 22 years of administration in small rural school districts Hebberd believes, "Successful small school educators have the mindset that being in a small school is not just a job, it is a way of life." Hebberd has held jobs outside of education as well. He refers to his many hats. He has built hundreds of miles of fence, built bridges, cut wheat and drilled for oil. His education hat seems to be the favorite, it is well

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another and build one
another up.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

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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 be led by truth, facts, logic and common sense.

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SangreDeCristoSentinel

Our Opinion...
Guest Editorial



Still Full Of Hope In Custer County

by Rick Meckstroth

On a very personal level, I was very saddened to read George Gramlich's "Thank You" article a few weeks ago in the August 1st edition of the Sangre de Cristo *Sentinel*. He gave a nice summary of all the great things that the *Sentinel* was involved in over the last 12 years and it's quite impressive. In my humble opinion, George's work left us with a strong sense of hope that we can protect our God-given freedoms in Custer County and find shelter from the havoc the dominant leaders in power have caused in our state. George, the other founders, and the *Sentinel* have worked tirelessly for Custer County, and I believe they have been amazing guardians of our freedom(s). We can all help continue this legacy by staying focused on the freedoms we've taken for granted in the last 250 years in the country, state, and Custer County. Perhaps that's why I have taken great pleasure in learning Michael and Reggie Foster have stepped up to continue their important work.

After the 2024 election, I wrote a short article about "hope" that George published in the *Sentinel* and continue to feel good about the

conservative movement across the country. None of us know the future, but it was reported this week in the *New York Times (NYT)* that between 2020 and 2025, the Democrats lost 2.1 million voters while the Republicans picked up 2.4 million, a trend that I hope continues.

Within 218 days in office President Trump signed 191 Executive Orders that have virtually shut down illegal immigration, ended much of the wasteful projects funded by the State Department, forced our Department of Education to stop catering to other than academic programs, and eliminated the destruction of our oil and gas industry. He is also making progress on serious foreign policy issues involving Iran's quest to go nuclear and his Big Beautiful Bill is a start toward more serious fiscal policy. Perhaps most importantly, the Tufts Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) now shows 46% of young people voted for Trump (up from 36% in 2020) and young men shifted about 15 points during the same timeframe. Again, none of us know the future, but I'm hopeful for the first time in many years that we have real momentum!

There is still a LOT more work to

do in the State and unfortunately, my enthusiasm for progress is waning. Results were just released from a study done by Pulse: The Colorado Health Foundation Poll is showing significant concerns regarding our State's population. The Poll revealed that for the first time, political dysfunction and polarization leads the list of concerns for Coloradans. That is followed by housing costs and affordability. About 38% of Coloradans say they are struggling financially and fewer than a quarter of us report living comfortably. Due to the policies of our current state leadership, we have gone from one of the fastest growing states in the Nation to 21st in growth and consequently leading the country in car thefts. With these negative trends and new concerns amongst the people of Colorado, I am hopeful that the Colorado conservatives will finally get it together by uniting the hearts and minds of the people on these issues in order to effect positive change in both our community and our state. We have to start winning state-wide elections.

We are in our 8th year of residing in Custer County, which is why I appreciate George's passion in supporting freedom. While we

have strong majorities here, we CANNOT sit back; rather, we need to be diligent in protecting the County from those that discount individual rights. If you look at the last three presidential elections, we have gone from 72.1% of the major party votes in 2016 (R's and D's) voting for Trump, to 68.9% in 2020, and 68.5% in 2024. Despite these trends, we still have a strong majority, and I remain full of optimism locally. It is my hope our local policies will be driven by freedom and a strong bias against collective nonsense. We finally have a BOCC that at least appears to be working together to protect the freedoms granted in our Constitution and limiting their work to only the proper role of government.

If you agree with my sentiment, PLEASE continue to support the *Sentinel* under its new leadership and spread the word among family and friends. Our freedom is worth fighting for! Michael Foster fought for us as an Army Ranger Officer and was recently inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame for his combat leadership. If we remain heedful, we can join the Fosters and demonstrate the same passion locally to protect and serve our small freedom-loving community.

Custer County Sheriff's Office Serves Search Warrant
The Sentinel Staff

The CCSO did serve a search warrant at the courthouse on August 27, 2025. Neither the Veteran's Service Office (VSO) nor the County are a target of this investigation and there is no indication of their involvement in this incident. The VSO will continue to operate as normal. The VSO and County want to assure all veterans that the VSO will continue to provide all valuable services to our county's veterans. The case is sealed and there will be no further information available to the public until the investigation is resolved.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County Sheriff's Office Awarded \$25,000 Mental Health Grant

Press Release
Custer County Sheriff's Office

The Custer County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs to support and expand mental health services for our deputies and staff.

Providing mental health support during times of crisis remains a top priority for CCSO. The office partners with two contracted clinician co-responders available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These clinicians respond alongside deputies to assist members of our community in need of urgent mental health intervention. In 2024, CCSO responded to 17 such emergency callouts across Custer County.

Supporting the mental health of deputies and other first responders is equally vital. This new grant provides stable funding over the next two years to ensure deputies have access to confidential, no-cost counseling services following critical incidents, with the flexibility to choose their own licensed provider.

Additionally, CCSO conducts critical incident defusing sessions within 24 hours of a major event for deputies, dispatchers, fire fighters, and paramedics directly involved. These can be followed by more structured critical incident debriefings within a few days, providing vital opportunities for responders to process the challenges they face.

The need for these services is underscored by

national statistics. Each year, an estimated 184 law enforcement officers die by suicide, often linked to repeated exposure to trauma, occupational stress, depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and a stigma about obtaining mental health services. The FBI tracks suicides across a wide range of law enforcement roles, including law enforcement officers, corrections employees, 911 operators, judges and prosecutors.

"We are deeply grateful for this grant, which allows us to better protect the wellbeing of the deputies and first responders who work tirelessly to safeguard our community," said Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith. "By supporting their mental health, we are strengthening our ability to serve the people of Custer County."

Pre-K Program Begins

by Sentinel Staff

It was back to school week for our youngest rosy cheeked and bright-eyed Bobcats who were excitedly greeted by the Bobcat mascot during assembly.

The Custer County Early Childhood Education Center, (CCECEC) which opened in 2023 as a part of the school district, continues to grow. With the roll-out of the Universal Pre-school Program, the Custer County Early Childhood Education Center has been able to offer additional slots for 4-year-olds to be funded at half day as well as full day slots if families qualify. This summer, an additional 6 full day slots were added by moving the classroom into the main school building.

Currently the Center can provide care and early childhood learning opportunities for up to 61 youngsters. The CCECEC has an Infant room with space for five infants, a Toddler room with 8 spaces, and a full day Preschool room that can accommodate 16. The Half Day Preschool classroom offers 16 slots for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Program Director, Laurie Yarger writes, "We aim to



Photo courtesy of CCSD FaceBook page

provide high quality early childhood education to all families in our community as we help prepare the next generation. Last year we were recognized by Colorado's Quality Rating program as a level 4, solidifying the program as high quality."

Anyone with interest in or a need for childcare will be glad to know that the

Custer County Early Education program still has a few spaces available. Four lucky preschoolers still have an opportunity to attend with openings in the morning program. There is room for two more infants and six busy toddlers to grow and develop.

To enroll or for more information, call the school at 719-783-2291 option 6.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

July 30 BOCC: ‘Lodging Tax Increase’ Ballot Language Developed, Chip Sealer Deal, Useful Public Service Outsourced

by Laura Vass

The July 30 Custer County Board of Commissioners meeting began at 9 a.m. with all three commissioners present.

Regarding Commissioner Items, Lucas Epp said he attended an all-county meeting. The group put a list of concerns together so that Colorado Counties Incorporated (CCI) can legislate roughly fifty items. (CCI is a statewide non-profit organization that represents all 64 counties made up of all the county commissioners and mayors. Their mission is to work between the county representatives and the state legislature to improve communication and to be able to all work together better.) Lucas said there was discussion on counties being able to print legal notices in non-periodicals since several rural counties do not have a “print” paper of record. Another hot topic was criminal penalties for sexual exploitation of children. The Commissioners also discussed state funding for emergency management and wildland fire resilience. Unfunded mandates remain a statewide problem. Commissioners statewide are considering informing the state that any new regulations that do not contain funding for their implementation will be considered “optional” by the counties.

Epp expressed concern about new state legislation regulating methane gas capture from landfills that could cost Custer County \$1-3,000,000. The group wants to introduce legislation opposing this regulation.

Epp reported meeting with county finance director Vernon Roth in a workshop for the purpose of moving Public Health into fiscal year budgeting.

Commissioner Paul Vogelsong, who attended the last Planning and Zoning (P&Z) meeting, reported that citizens continue to be concerned about squatters seriously violating every zoning ordinance in the county. The solution is better enforcement, which Vogelsong said will be streamlined by P&Z updating some language about land use.

Commissioner Bill Canda met with our county Office of Emergency Management (OEM). They plan to spend \$15,000 to study Fire/Disaster safety including vehicle use data which will help determine how to avoid bottlenecking in an emergency evacuation of the county.

**July 30 BOCC
see page 8**

Bobcat Admin from page 1

Worn and tattered in the best ways from with more than two decades of service to parents, students, and the rural community.

Ren Olson, is the principal for the middle and high schools. Olson previously served the Roaring Fork School District as an administrator and has more than four decades in public education. Prior to applying for the principal position at Custer County schools, she regularly attended school board and other meetings as an interested resident. She is fully invested in the public education of our kids. She finds the opening of the MS/HS principal position and her subsequent selection as “serendipitous”. Olson’s principal message states, “Our kids thrive - with higher grades, greater engagement, and maintaining a more positive outlook on learning - when we team together to actively support them.” She said she is excited about working with the high-quality staff. When asked about the year ahead, Olson said she is most grateful for the teamwork and collaboration she Benesch and Hebbard share. All agreed that they feel lucky to serve the students at Custer County Schools.

grade at Custer County Elementary School. She rose quickly to serve as a Teacher on Special Assignment as Vice Principal. She weathered the storm of transition serving as the principal of all Custer County Schools and for a few months also served as Interim Superintendent. Benesch is considered by many to be the glue of our district. She has institutional knowledge. She is excited about the year and says she feels “fully supported and is excited to work alongside Kyle and Ren”.

A cohesive leadership team has the greatest potential to positively impact our students and their learning. The benefactors of this new aligned and cohesive administration are the more than 300 students in attendance and the seventy plus staff members. Under the leadership of Hebbard, Olson, and Benesch, CCHS students are taking advantage of college enrollment and STEM classes, extracurricular activities, and the support services available to all students who need a little extra help. The elementary students will be cared for each day by a mostly new teacher lineup shepherded by Benesch. These are considered positive adjustments to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

Hopeful is the feel of this new school year. The hallways are buzzing, and students are already looking forward to Homecoming activities. Whether you are a former Bobcat or a Bobcat supporter you are welcome to attend the volleyball and football games on September 13th. Times and details are available on the Custer County Schools website and on page 10 of the paper. Go Bobcats!!

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Lincolnparkpawn@hotmail.com
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The American Legion Monthly Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the bowling alley.
The American Legion Auxiliary Monthly Meeting is the 1st Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Cliff Lanes meeting room.

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



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Recurring Events

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

1st Monday of the Month
10 - 11 a.m. Women’s Veteran Coffee Social
West Custer County Library 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



Custer County Fire Restriction Ends

Press Release
Custer County Sheriff’s Office

—August 26, 2025

In consultation with the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District Fire Chief and a thorough review of current fire danger conditions and the availability of mutual aid resources, Sheriff and Fire Warden Rich Smith has rescinded fire restrictions in Custer County. This is in accordance with Custer County Resolution 18-17.

JULY 30 BOCC from page 5

Addressing unfinished business, the board had to consider what to do about HB25-1247 Lodging Tax Increase Ballot Initiative which was passed recently. This bill expands how county lodging tax money can be spent and increases the amount counties can charge to 6%.

While formerly, lodging tax could only be spent on promoting tourism, the new bill expands the allowed expenditures to support tourism in the form of money for workers, childcare for tourism’s workforce, housing for them, and other unspecified services for seasonal tourism workforce.

Local businessman Brian Cline spoke up in the meeting saying, “you start with a tax, and then you keep going. We are just adding to the nanny state situation and just keep taxing and taxing.”

Brian Keane, representing Custer County Work Force Housing (CCWFH), argued that we are “aging out,” and need to replenish the workforce. “Low income is an issue,” he emphasized, citing statistics to illustrate the high-low income percentage in Custer County. “There is zero housing in Custer County that fits one third of their MRI.”

Stacy Terrill, representing Custer County Kids Club (CCKC), provided additional data. She said Custer County has the second biggest percent increase in child population of counties in Colorado between 2019 and 2023. (The growth was not necessarily related to local jobs.) Her stats indicate that the county has approximately 814 children between the ages of 0 and 17 which may not

Sheriff's Blotter Activity

Sentinel Staff Summary

Those who serve Custer County through the Sheriff’s Office have been busy this summer. The last two weeks are no exception. From August 17 -23, the SO was engaged 132 times with everything from civil disputes to transport, and code enforcements to VIN checks. Animal control and civil issues were frequent calls. A stolen vehicle, an assault and a burglar alarm were reported.

One thing Custer County residents and visitors have in common is driving fast. Twenty-seven drivers will be a little lighter in the wallet for a variety of speed and traffic violations. Especially now that school is back in session, with buses on routes and children crossing Main Street, the SO reminds us all to follow the traffic laws.

charge the county. The board passed the MOU 3-0.

Purchase of a chip sealer. Road & Bridge found a company that can upgrade the chip sealer and install a new computer in the equipment. The estimated costs for transportation for the chip sealer is \$3900 and the labor is \$52,000 for a total expenditure of \$55,900. After discussion, the commissioners voted to buy the chip sealer they are leasing and then send it out for repair/updates.

The contract for the sale of two Sheriff’s Office vehicles to the City of Walsenburg was approved, as well as the documentation for Acceptance of Sheriff Office Vehicle Donations.

The commissioners addressed sealed bids for the Golden Arrow Valley lot 11 Blk 1, Lot 13 Blk 1, Lot 1 Blk 2, Lot 1B Blk 9. One of the lots is not buildable and at 50’ x 100’, no single lot is buildable alone. The only bid for \$6,000 from Diane Hamden was accepted.

Under New Business, the Board introduced a “Years of Employment Recognition”. Acknowledged by their names with their years of service were J.D. Henrich 36.5, Kevin Day 29.5, Rhonda Post 35.25, Kelley Camper 33 years, Anne Lowatchie 17, Christina Wilson 9, Melvin Vanderhoff, 8.25. Jennifer Papes Ray 8, and Vernon Roth 7.5, Sheri Tovrea 7, Kurt Wilson 6, Patrick Fiore 5.5, Brian Lockhart 5 years, and Paul Vogelsong 5. Additional employee recognition will follow.

Finally, discussion of the expired Mt. Carmel Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and that there is no need to renew. Meeting adjourned.

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589 Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ? 10:30 a.m. Worship Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg. Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study 0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526 (719) 942-3462 Community United Methodist Church 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511 Cotopaxi Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study Pastor Steve Holcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy, 50, Cotopaxi	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe Pastor Josh Olsteen 719/783-2498 High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045 Call Pastor Err @ 719.429.0556 or Pastor Davie @ 719.371.3861 Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053 Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study 3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561 Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9:30 a.m. Outdoors Bring a lawn chair! 830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass 109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507 Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd St., Westcliffe 719/783-2491 Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence 719/784-1184 St. Luke's Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays 3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477 St. Patrick's Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500 Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church Pastor: Mike Shields 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook 60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372 Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903 Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822 Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572 Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 1 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230 Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596
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Send Church updates to sdcsentinel@gmail.com
(719) 783-3360



Events

- Thursday, August 27 @ 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Runs through August 31
Wet Mountain Weavers Fiber Arts Show & Sale Greenstone Artworks,
100 Main St., Westcliffe
- Thursday-Sunday, August 28 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Runs through August 31
Olde Schoolhouse Quilters 26th Annual Quilt Show
Hope Lutheran Lange Hall 312 South 3rd Street, Westcliffe
- Saturday, August 30 @ 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
High Altitude Horsepower Car Show
On Main Street Westcliffe
- Saturday, August 30 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
All Aboard Westcliffe Flea Mart & Sale
@ AAW Heritage Campus, 110 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe
- Saturday, August 30, 12-3 p.m.
Silver Cliff Museum Fundraiser - Music & Games. Brats, Chips, Drink
Lunch \$12. @ 610 Main St., Silver Cliff
- Saturday, August 30 @ 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
SJO Sun Observing Hour
Smokey Jack Observatory (SJO) on the Bluff





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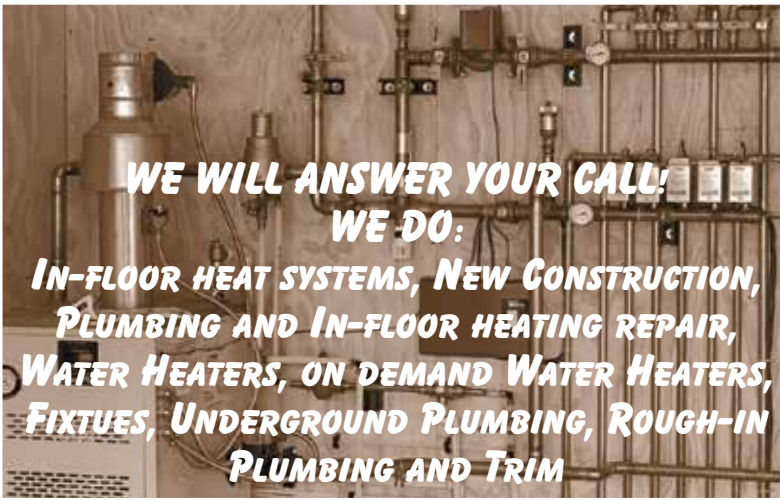
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- September 13, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Runs through September 30. **Sangre Art Guild's Alla Prima Show.** 3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69. See SangreArtGuild.org for workshop costs, registration, and entry fees.
- Saturday, September 13 | 10 a.m.–12 a.m.
“Winners and Losers: Will My Home Survive a Wildfire?” @Ranchers Roost. A vital two-hour course taught by members of the Sheriff's Posse on protecting your home from wildfires and mitigating fire danger
- Thursday, September 18 @ 4–6 p.m.
Valley Strong Community Dinner on Main Street, Westcliffe
- Saturday, September 20
Oktoberfest sponsored by The American Legion Post 170 Proceeds benefit Wreaths Across American program. Event at WMV Saddle Club, 90 County Road 241, Westcliffe
- NO SENIOR CENTER LUNCH in CUSTER COUNTY**
for the WEEK of Sept 1-5 Staff is on Vacation.

KIDS

Friday, August 29, 2025

Colorful Colorado

Colorado is deservedly called Colorful Colorado. From the fire red sunrises on the eastern slope, the red rocks at Garden of the Gods, the golden Aspens in the fall, the Hallmark Christmas scenes in the winter and of course the snow- capped mountain peaks wearing their winter hats, as I like to call them, these are just a few of the reasons we love Colorful Colorado. Let's take a peek at just a few of the wonderful places and things to do.

Salida, Colorado, located about 140 miles south of Denver, is home to the Hot Springs Aquatic Center. There you can experience one of the largest indoor hot springs pools in the nation. This family-friendly oasis boasts two inviting pools filled with pure, mineral-rich spring water. Call 719-539-6738 for more information on hours of operation.

If you are wanting something different, then Bishop's Castle is the place for you. It is located 73 miles south of Colorado Springs and is reasonably close to Westcliffe. It is a three-story actual castle and even has a dragon head at the top. Jim Bishop dedicated his life to building this structure but sadly passed away in November 2024 before he was able to finish. It is still open to the public and free to visit but does take donations. Here is the Address: 12705 state Route 165, Rye, CO 81069.

A trip to Southern Colorado wouldn't be complete without stopping at the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park, located about 60 miles southwest of Colorado Springs. is the highest suspension bridge in the U.S. at 956 feet above the Arkansas River. Crossing the bridge is not for the faint of heart, not to worry – the engineering feat is supported by 4,200 sturdy cables and can hold more than 2 million pounds.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is a national park of the United States that conserves an area of large sand dunes on the eastern edge of the San Luis Valley, and an adjacent national preserve in the Sangre de Cristo Range, in south-central Colorado. Here you will find the tallest dunes in North America and you can enjoy sand sledding, wildlife watching, hiking and even spend the night camping.

This is just a short list of some of the most exquisite scenery in Colorado. Make sure and check with these sites for need of reservations and hours of operations. Enjoy your visit traveling around Colorful Colorado.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.cityofsalida.com/aquaticcenter>, <https://travel.usnews.com/features/top-things-to-do-in-colorado>, <https://www.attractionsofamerica.com/attractions/colorado.php> . <https://www.attractionsofamerica.com/attractions/colorado.php>.
Photo: By Hustvedt - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6306856>



Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12: 2 NIV

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

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Every Wednesday evening at 6:30

Custer County High School Commons

BOBCAT SCOREBOARD

Friday, August 22:
JV Volleyball played three games, losing to Monte Vista but defeating Center and Primero.

Saturday, August 23:
Varsity Volleyball played three games, winning all three and claiming the Custer County Tournament championship by defeating Nucla, Ouray, and Sierra Grande.
The football team participated in a scrimmage in South Park, facing off against Sorocco, Lake County, and South Park.

Custer County Volleyball Victories



The Custer County High School Volleyball teams are cruising down the victory highway. This past weekend's season opening tournament was a sweep for the Varsity Bobcats girls as they went 3-0 in their games. The Junior Varsity girls battled with full effort to win two of their three tournament matches. It appears an exciting season is ahead for volleyball fans and supporters.

Photos courtesy of Custer County Schools

BOBCAT CORNER

Friday, August 29:
11 am: HS Volleyball @ Cripple Creek (away)
7 pm: HS Football @ Sedgwick County in Calhan (away)

Wednesday, September 3:
4:30 pm: MS Football @ HOME vs Craver

Thursday, September 4:
4:30 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ HOME vs Trinidad
5:30 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ HOME vs Trinidad

Friday, September 5:
10 am: HS Volleyball @ HOME vs Cripple Creek
4:30 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ Del Norte (away)
5:30 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Del Norte (away)

Saturday, September 6:
1 pm: MS Volleyball @ HOME vs ECA
1 pm: HS Football @ Plateau Valley (away)
2 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ HOME vs ECA
3 pm: HS Varisty Volleyball @ HOME vs ECA

Friday, September 12:
10 am: MS Volleyball vs Cotopaxi

Saturday, September 13: HOMECOMING!
1 pm: MS Football @ HOME vs South Park
1 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ HOME vs South Park
2 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ HOME vs South Park
4 pm: HS Football @ HOME vs Holly
TBD: MS Volleyball Tournament @ Sierra Grande (away)

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR CUSTER COUNTY BOBCATS!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Bobcats Back to School 2025-2026



Photos Courtesy of Custer County School HS Yearbook Class and CCSD FaceBook for K-5 photos.



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BOBCAT MENU!

Menu for the week of	September 2 through	September 4
Day	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Labor Day - No School	Labor Day - No School
Tuesday	Breakfast Crumble Sausage Fruit, Milk	Chicken Fajitas Spanish Rice Mexi Beans Fruit, Milk
Wednesday	Breakfast Pizza Fruit Milk	Lasagna Salad, Fruit Garlic Breadsticks, Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Sausage Yogurt, Oatmeal, Fruit, Milk	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Green Beans, Fruit, Milk



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Colorado Isn't Creating Jobs: It's Creating Unemployment

by Mike O'Donnell,
Commentary, Rocky
Mountain Voice

January 2023 was a changeover month of sorts in the United States because it marked a division between the taxpayer subsidized COVID economy and the less subsidized post-COVID economy.

According to the latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, the United States added 3,149,000 jobs between January 2023 and June 2025, a 2.0 percent increase for the nation as a whole.

Employment growth so far this century has averaged just under one percent a year, so the 2.0 percent figure is roughly on track (although preliminary July BLS data are less positive and subject to revision).

At the same time, unemployment increased by 1,268,000, a 22.1 percent rise. This is a less positive aspect of the economy that few seem to be talking about, even though more than seven million Americans were unemployed in June 2025.

When the BLS releases data each month, it is natural for the media to unintentionally project that employment and unemployment numbers apply equally across the nation. This is not, nor will it ever be, the case because states and regions within those states are so very different from each other.

For example, although national employment is up 2.0 percent between January 2023 and June 2025, Texas employment rose 5.6 percent while Colorado grew only 0.6 percent.

Forty-one states and the District of Columbia experienced stronger job growth rates than Colorado.

Even within Colorado, some regions perform better than others. The Pueblo MSA hasn't added any net new jobs since January 2023.

Even where jobs were being added in the state, approximately four out of every five were in government, leisure and hospitality (bars and restaurants), or health care and social assistance.

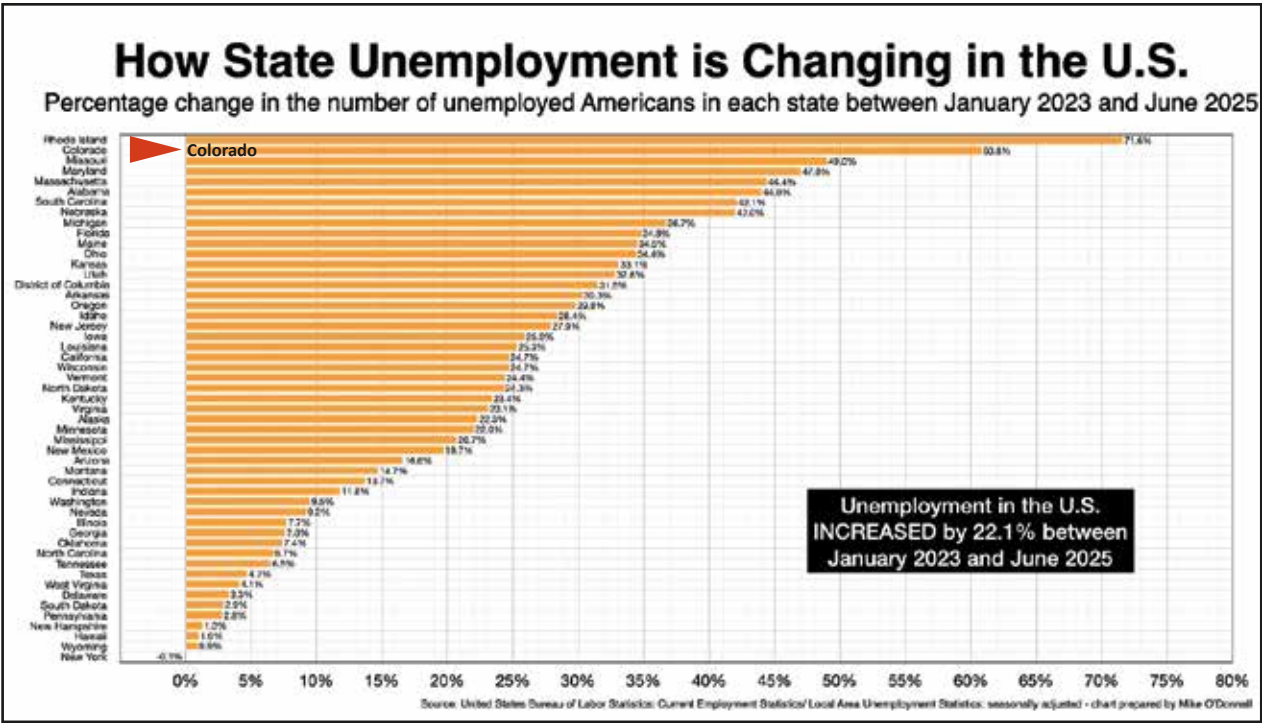
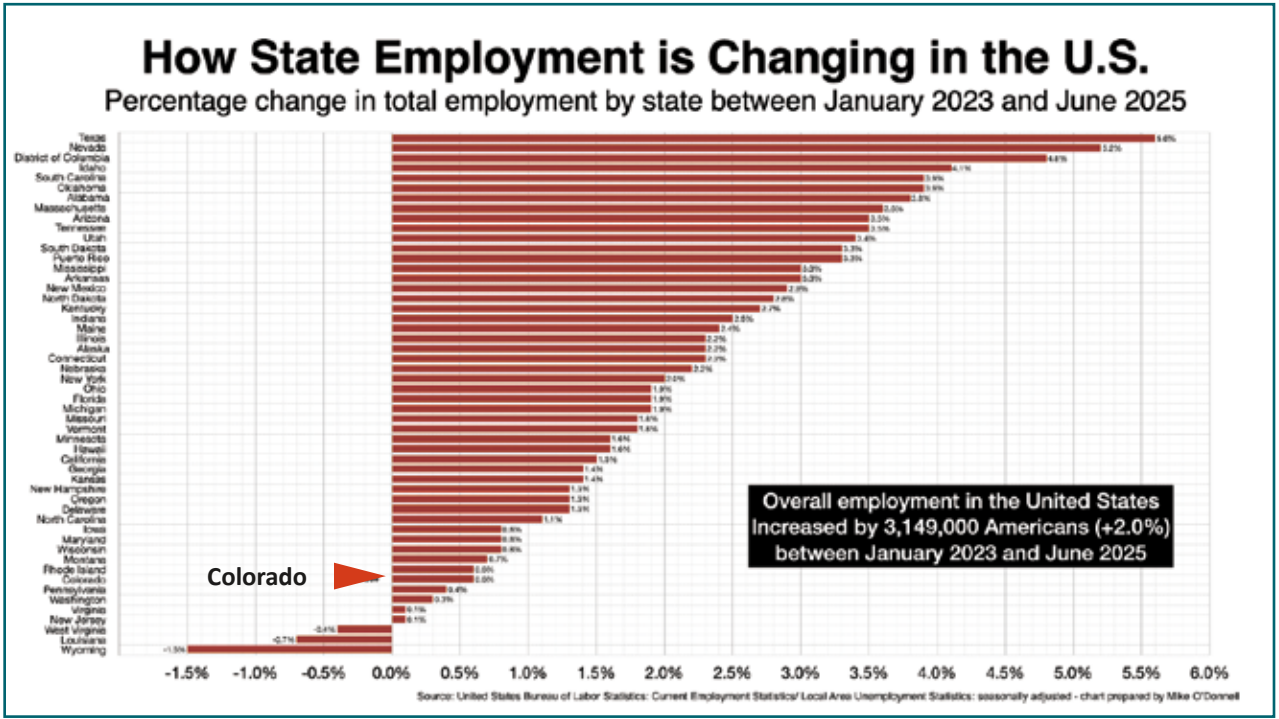
It is unlikely these three sectors will continue to add

jobs as Colorado's population growth has flattened.

On the unemployment side of the ledger, the number of unemployed Coloradans increased by 58,722—or 60.8 percent—between January 2023 and June 2025, the second-highest rate of in-

business-regulated state in the nation, according to the Colorado Chamber of Commerce—is a big reason Colorado is doing so much worse economically than almost every other state.

Mike O'Donnell is a small



crease in the nation and almost three times faster than the national average. By way of comparison, Texas' unemployment increased by just 4.7 percent.

Most states are doing a much better job of creating employment opportunities and keeping unemployment in check.

Here in Colorado, the gross mismanagement of the economy—combined with the regulatory burden now faced by businesses both big and small in the sixth most

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

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Please see: <https://rockymountaininvoice.com/2025/08/11/odonnell-colorado-isnt-creating-jobs-its-creating-unemployment/>

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Custer County Fair 2025 Results

Exhibitor #/Name/Results or place/Award/

Shooting Sports Results
Shooting Sports Contests / .22 Rifle

101: Junior Hunt Class, Place 38 Dean, London, 1st - Grand Reserve .22 Rifle
22 Saathoff , Cason, 3rd
5 Tenaglia, Christopher, 2nd - Grand .22 Rifle

102: Senior Hunt Class
26 Green, Noel, 1st

103: Junior Hunt Scope 43 Agnew, Alexander, 3rd
64 Lanosga-White, Evyn, 1st
78 Reis, Thomas, 3rd
21 Saathoff, Rowan, 2nd

Shooting Sports Contests Archery

103: Junior Limited Compound/11 Amos, Cody,7th
14 Chambers, Evangelyne,10th
48 Cozzetto, Aubrynne, 1st - Champ Shooter
32 Kardatzke, Remington, 6th
29 McKendry, Amos , 4th
30 McKendry, Iris, 2nd - Archery Grand - Res. Champ Shooter
65 Saucedo, Anthony, 8th
66 Saucedo, Isabella, 5th
2 VanDeusen, Hesston, 3rd - Archery Reserve
3 VanDeusen, Kayson, 9th
4 VanDeusen, Mitchell, 7th

104: Senior Limited Compound
77 Compton, Shelby, 1st - Grand Senior Archery

Shooting Sports Contests / Shotgun

Junior Trap
38 Dean, London, 1st

Senior Trap
24 Everhart, Stone, 2nd - Grand Shotgun - Res Champ

Shooter
9 Fore, Ethan, 1st - Reserve Shotgun - Champ
Shooter
10 Smith, Benji, 3rd

4-H Exhibits

4-H Exhibits / Animal Science - Veterinary Science
304: All Systems Go Unit 2 J
4 VanDeusen, Mitchell, Blue, Champion Reserve

4-H Exhibits / Communication Arts and Leisure
801: Intro to Leathercraft and Creative Stamping Jr
3 VanDeusen, Kayson, Blue, Reserve, Reserve Champion
4 VanDeusen, Mitchell Blue, Champion Grand

1108: Drawing Int
27 Nixon, Kymber, Blue,Champion, Grand

4-H Exhibits / Family Consumer Science - Foods

1503: No Bake Cookies Sr
20 Crofford, Serenitey, Blue, Champion

1506: Baked Bar Cookies Sr
20 Crofford, Serenitey, Blue, Champion

1509: Cookies Sr
20 Crofford, Serenitey, ,Blue, Champion

1515: Scones Sr
20 Crofford, Serenitey, Blue, Champion
1518: Muffins Sr
20 Crofford, Serenitey, Blue, Champion

1536: Double Crust Pie Sr
20 Crofford, Serenitey, Blue, Champion Reserve

4-H Exhibits / Family Consumer Science - Home
1808: Home Design and Décor Unit 3 Int

4-H Exhibits / Mechanical Sciences - Metalworking
2105: Metal Fabrication Unit 2 Int 2 VanDeusen, Hesston, Blue, Champion Grand

4-H Exhibits / Mechanical Sciences - Small
2405: Warm It Up Unit 2 Int
5 Tenaglia, Christopher, Blue, Champion, Reserve

4-H Exhibits / Mechanical Sciences -
2501: Measuring Up Unit 1 Jr
80 Carpenter, Jeremiah, Blue, Grand

4-H Exhibits / Natural Resources - Outdoor
2901: Hiking Trails Unit 1 Jr
70 Golovanoff, Evangeline, Blue, Reserve, Reserve Champion
71 Golovanoff, Keaton, Blue,

13 Royal-Ramirez, Theresa, Blue, Champion Grand
22 Saathoff , Cason, Blue,
21 Saathoff, Rowan, Blue

4-H Exhibits / Natural Resources - Shooting
3001: Archery Display Board Jr
65 Saucedo, Anthony, Blue, Reserve Champion
4 VanDeusen, Mitchell, Blue Champion

3011: .22 Rifle Display Board
INT 38 Dean, London, Blue, Champion, Reserve

3012: .22 Rifle Display Board
Senior 26 Green, Noel, Blue

3028: Archery Stand-Alone Jr
11 Amos, Cody, Blue, Champion
14 Chambers, Evangelyne, Blue, Reserve Champion

3029: Archery Stand-Alone In
48 Cozzetto, Aubrynne, Blue, Reserve Champion
2 VanDeusen, Hesston, Blue, Champion

3030: Archery Stand-Alone Sr
77 Compton, Shelby, Blue

3036: Shotgun Stand-Alone Sr
9 Fore, Ethan, Blue, Champion
10 Smith, Benji, Blue

3040: .22 Rifle Stand-Alone Jr
43 Agnew, Alexander, Blue, Reserve Champion
22 Saathoff , Cason, Blue, Champion

3041: .22 Rifle Stand-Alone Int
78 Reis, Thomas, Blue, Reserve Champion
5 Tenaglia, Christopher, Blue, Champion Grand

3055: Shooting Sports Decorative Item Jr
29 McKendry, Amos Blue
21 Saathoff, Rowan, Blue, Reserve Champion
3 VanDeusen, Kayson, Blue, Champion, Reserve Grand

3056: Shooting Sports Decorative Item Int

32 Kardatzke, Remington, Blue
64 Lanosga-White, Evyn, Blue
30 McKendry, Iris, Blue, Champion Grand
66 Saucedo, Isabella, Blue, Reserve Champion

4-H Exhibits / Natural Resources - Sportfishing
3111: Take the Bait Stand-Alone Unit 1 Int
5 Tenaglia, Christopher, Blue, Champion Grand

Cake Decoration
Grundy, Alexis, Blue, Champion Grand

Master Showmanship (Small Animal)

Senior Alexis Grossardt, 273, 1st Grand Champion
Intermediate (INT)
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 288 , 1st Grand Champion
INT Aubrynne Cozzetto, 272, 2nd Reserve

INT Gracie Johnson, 265, 3rd
INT Remie Kardatzke, 263, 4th
INT Scarlett Kardatzke, 240, 5th
Junior Peyton Reno, 222, 6th

Rabbit Showmanship
Senior, Alexis Grossardt, 1st, Champion
Intermediate Gracie Johnson, 1st, Champion

Breeding Rabbit - Intermediate Buck
Senior Alexis Grossardt, 1st, Grand Champion
Intermediate Gracie Johnson, 2nd, Reserve

Dog Showmanship
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 1st
Pre Grad.Novice A
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 1st

Llama Obstacle
Junior Peyton Reno, 1
INT Scarlett Kardatzke. 4
INT Gracie Johnson, 3
INT Aubrynne Cozzetto, 1
INT Remington Kardatzke, 2
Senior Alexis Grossardt, 1

Public Relations
Junior Peyton Reno, 1
Intermediate, Scarlett Kardatzke, 2
Intermediate, Gracie Johnson, 3
INT Aubrynne Cozzetto, 1
INT Remington Kardatzke, 4
Senior Alexis Grossardt, 1

FAIR RESULTS
see page 23

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Colorado Coroners Association Calls for Resignation of Pueblo County Coroner

(Sentinel Staff Note: The original story broke August 20th when CBI discovered 24 decomposing bodies along with containers of bones and what is likely human tissue, behind a ‘hidden’ door at Davis Mortuary, owned by Coroner Brian Cotter and his brother Chris Cotter. It is estimated some of the remains have been there as long as 15 years, while it is believed families were given “fake remains”. If you have taken a loved one to the Davis Mortuary in Pueblo, you are asked to call the dedicated victim assistance line at (719) 257-3359.)

Press Release
Colorado Coroners Association

—August 23, 2025

The Colorado Coroners Association (CCA) and members of the Coroner fraternity extend our deepest condolences and stand united with the victims and their families and the Pueblo County community affected by Davis Mortuary’s incomprehensible conduct.

Brian Cotter, co-owner of Davis Mortuary and Pueblo County Coroner, is an elected official who has sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and the highest ethical standards as a peace officer.

The CCA is an educational association and does not have the oversight of an elected or appointed coroner in the state of Colorado. All coroners in the state of Colorado, whether elected or appointed, are held to the same standard of ethics, including the operation of a private business.

Brian Cotter served as Secretary on the CCA Executive Board of Directors. On Thursday, August 21, 2025, the CCA Board of Directors, by unanimous vote, removed Mr. Cotter from his Secretary position due to unethical practices and harm to the community in which he was sworn to serve. Mr. Cotter’s information on the CCA website has been requested for immediate removal.

In violation of the ethical standards aforementioned and in solidarity with those affected by Davis Mortuary’s egregious act, the Colorado Coroners Association Executive Board of Directors calls on Mr. Brian Cotter to resign his position as Pueblo County Coroner-elect.

Respectfully,

Colorado Coroners Association

Raeann Brown, President and
Douglas County Coroner

Case Filed Against Colorado Secretary of State and Attorney General Special Report: Griswold's Fools Gold

by Kevin Lundberg,
KevinLundberg.com

A case was filed in Federal court that could have far reaching consequences in Colorado’s elections. With very detailed descriptions, the complaint alleges that Federal law demands specific accuracy of election results and Colorado’s elections in 2022 and 2024 failed those accuracy requirements many thousands of times over the accuracy rate required by Federal law.

The remedy recommended is simple to describe but will be difficult (yet essential) to accomplish: follow the law for the 2026 election.

This could have far reaching consequences because if the judge administers true justice, it will give Colorado citizens a fighting chance to once again have elections with integrity and accuracy. However, I also expect the Colorado Secretary of State to deny the facts presented in this case and continue to insist Colorado has the “gold standard” of election systems. Now is her

chance to prove it. If she does not provide valid evidence for her claims she is, in reality, proving her own deceptions.

Below is [the] link to the actual complaint filed on August 4, 2025. It is nearly 50 pages long, filled with the specific details of this shocking expose of Colorado’s corrupted voting system. It will take some effort to digest the details, but for anyone interested in the integrity of our elections I recommend you dig into this significant document.

See <https://www.democracymarket.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/57-2025-08-04-United-Sovereign-Americans-first-amended-complaint.pdf>

This case does not directly deal with the all-mail ballot system in Colorado, which is another component in Colorado’s failed election system. Taken together, cleaning up the voter registrations and eliminating the all-mail ballot system would go long way in making Colorado Colorado again.

See <http://kevinlundberg.com/a/email-update/>

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Colorado State News

Colorado Special Legislative Session in Progress

Special Legislative Session

August 23, 2025

by Kevin Lundberg,
KevinLundberg.com

The special legislative session is in full swing. They say the state is underwater for this year's budget by about **\$1,000,000,000** (with a "B"), give or take a couple hundred million. However, if I understand what is really happening, I think the biggest hole in state revenue is because the federal temporary tax cuts were made permanent and apparently Polis and company was counting on those lower tax rates going away, which would also boost the state share of taxable income. Now they are faced with the reality of Congress actually lowering taxes without a limited timeline. Most of the bills still moving forward in the special session are desperate attempts to maintain government funding of the state programs the legislature and governor have cooked up in the past several years.

These bills do **very little to balance the budget**. Senate bill 001 punts the budget balancing decisions to the governor, which is just kicking the can down the road. All **republican-only sponsored bills have been killed**. Only two bills still standing are okay, in my opinion, and they are the only bills with any Republican sponsors listed (all are dominated by Democrat sponsors) and neither do much with the budget. HB-1008 deals with an artificial intelligence issue created by SB24-205 and the other (SB-005) defunds the wolf introductions for one year, diverting the money to other purposes.

HB-1004 is rather creative, **selling**

future tax credits for payment in this year – at a probable 25% premium. That means the taxpayer buys future tax credits, for example, a tax credit of \$125 for a \$100 payment now. Technically it might not violate TABOR, but it sure looks like a gimmick to borrow from future tax year revenues, and according to TABOR multi-year debt requires a vote from the people. Several other bills moving through the system are other TABOR violations. Remember, **TABOR specifically says** TABOR's "...preferred interpretation shall reasonably restrain most the growth of government. All provisions are self-executing and severable and supersede conflicting state constitutional, state statutory, charter, or other state or local provisions. Other limits on district revenue, spending, and debt may be weakened only by future voter approval."

However, finding more money to fill this funding gap is not the real problem. Much of the real problem is created by **Colorado's state sanctuary policies**. The extra financial burden that hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens in Colorado puts on our public schools, roads, counties, social services, hospitals, police, jails, prisons, courts, etc. is **coming home to roost**. Colorado's governor and his political party have for many years done everything they could to welcome these "newcomers" (their term, not mine). And they have also bent over backwards to slip them into our voting system. Check out these official state programs:

Colorado Office of New Americans see <https://ona.colorado.gov/our-work/benefit-recovery-fund>

[Medicaid Application Requirements](#)

at (any proof or mention of U.S. citizenship is absent from the page.) See <https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/apply-now/what-do-you-need-to-apply>

- [Food and Other State Benefits](#) (any proof or mention of U.S. citizenship is absent from the page.) See https://peak.my.site.com/peak/s/peak-landing-page?language=en_US

- [Specific College Campus Voting Competitions](#) See <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/allInChallenge.html>

- [Ballot interpretation for all languages](#) See <https://www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/FAQs/languageAssist.html>

- [Automatic Voter Registration](#)

Colorado continues to sweeten the attraction for "newcomers" by super-charging Colorado's **benefits programs**. Several years ago they exploded the budget with **Medicaid expansion** because the federal government paid for 90% of the expansion costs. More recently the Colorado legislature used **one-time federal COVID dollars** to ramp up the benefits. Now those dollars are going away and this legislature cannot bring themselves to face this new (and more sustainable) reality.

The governor and his party always blame TABOR for the state's economic woes and this special session is no different, but they fail to figure out that revenue is not the problem, spending is the problem.

To sign up for Kevin's weekly newsletter, go to <http://kevinlundberg.com/a/email-update/email-updates/>

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

In the Matter of the Estate of

Jerry Marie Strebig a/k/a Jerry M. Strebig
Deceased

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Suzanne Marie Moreno
19 S. Dunsmere St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
Telephone: (719) 322-7021
szm Moreno4@gmail.com

Case Number: 25PR 11
Division: 1 Courtroom: 1

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Jerry Marie Strebig, Deceased
Case Number 25PR11

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

District Court of Custer, County, Colorado
on or before January 1, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.

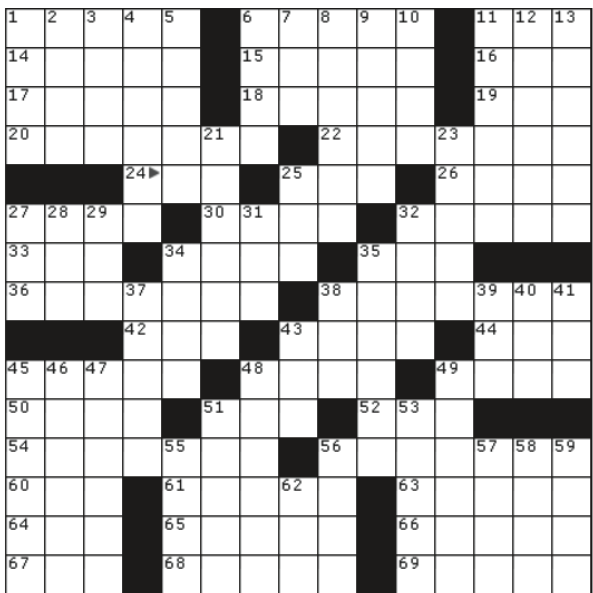
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Published August 29, September 5, September 12, 2025
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
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- 18 Subject
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- Workers of America (abr.)
- 20 Tax
- 22 Moral

- 24 Heat unit
- 25 Single
- 26 Residence hall
- 27 Wife of Joseph
- 30 Very dry wine
- 32 crosses a river
- 33 Samuel's mentor
- 34 Prevaricator
- 35 Buddy
- 36 Spider trap ingredient
- 38 Ammunition chest
- 42 Record
- 43 Exclamation

DOWN

- 1 Plant fiber
- 2 Seaweed substance
- 3 Tribe of Israel
- 4 Nodal
- 5 Prance
- 6 Peter, for short
- 7 Hubbub
- 8 Turn away from sin
- 9 Strike (KJV)
- 10 Every
- 11 Help
- 12 Rising
- 13 Book near Proverbs
- 21 Conduit

- 44 Professional
- 45 Villain in book of Esther
- 48 Biblical weed
- 49 Tinted
- 50 Actor Alda
- 51 Play on words
- 52 Compass point
- 54 Cowman
- 56 Free (2 wds.)
- 60 Carpet
- 61 Root beer brand (3 wds.)
- 63 Nut
- 64 Poem
- 65 Colder
- 66 ___ up (hiding)
- 67 Battle of nations
- 68 Rejoin
- 69 Winter time precipitation

- 23 Objects of false worship
- 25 Possessive pronoun
- 27 Kitten's cry
- 28 Lager
- 29 Cut of beef
- 31 Remnant
- 32 Gladly, willingly (KJV)
- 34 Daniel was thrown into the ___s' den
- 35 Raise
- 37 Mont ___
- 38 Coupe
- 39 Watch secretly
- 40 Lode yield
- 41 Cain fled to this land
- 43 Tribe of Israel
- 45 Plow
- 46 Type genus
- 47 Jesus' crib
- 48 Root vegetable
- 49 Biblical church servant
- 51 ___ be with you
- 53 Boredom
- 55 Secret of Samson's strength
- 56 Lopsided
- 57 Rolled chocolate candy brand
- 58 Planted
- 59 Ceases
- 62 New Jersey's neighbor

Key on page 8

"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.

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District 3 Lucas Epp (VICE CHAIR)
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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 YHWH as God and Yeshua Ha Mashiach as Jesus--the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.

The Hidden War Over Truth in Medicine

Beneath the surface of public health messaging lies a quiet war between truth and corporate interest, most visible in the COVID-19 vaccine saga. Confidential Pfizer reports to the FDA reveal tens of thousands of adverse events—including pregnancy complications, heart conditions, and fatalities—kept from public view while officials repeated the “safe and effective” mantra. Pfizer and the FDA even sought 75 years to fully release the data. This struggle, which continues today in fights over vaccine ingredients and their impact on children, is not merely about health policy. When companies with billions at stake dominate the conversation and pocket government regulators under their influence, the public has no one to trust.

A recent Pfizer-funded study admitted that older COVID-19 vaccines “offered little, if any, additional protection compared to the unvaccinated,” even against hospital admission. Yet the same paper praised the company’s new formula as significantly more effective. This is a recurring pattern in the pharmaceutical industry—when one product nears the end of its patent life or public favor, the next “solution” emerges, backed by glowing studies funded by the very company selling it. Who writes the checks often shapes the conclusions, and dissenting scientists risk career ruin. The integrity of science suffers when research is not an impartial search for truth, but a marketing tool in a lab coat. Without transparency and independent oversight, “follow the science” becomes less about facts and more about following the money.

From the start of the pandemic, dissenting voices—doctors, researchers, even vaccine-injured patients—were censored, de-platformed, or labeled as spreading “misinformation.” Meanwhile, government agencies and pharmaceutical companies coordinated messaging to maintain public confidence, even when internal data raised red flags. This gaslighting destroyed careers, medical licenses were threatened, and public opinion weaponized to ostracize those who questioned the narrative. When a population is told to “trust the experts” while evidence is suppressed, they are being managed at the expense of their health and well being. In such an environment, informed consent becomes an illusion, replaced by compliance born out of fear and coercion.

Recently, there are signs of a shift. State-level leaders like Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo have challenged the FDA on its vaccine safety oversight, exposing that the agency failed to follow its own 2007 guidelines for DNA integration safety checks. The Department of Health and Human Services has canceled dozens of mRNA vaccine development contracts, suggesting a reevaluation of policy priorities. Congressional inquiries, independent journalism, and court-ordered document releases are slowly forcing accountability. **This is the beginning—not the end**—of holding Big Pharma and the government to the same standard of truth they demand from the public. Proverbs 12:19 says, “The lip of truth shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”

In medicine as in life, only the truth can heal.

Sources:

- The Epoch Times — Medical Journal Rejects RFK Jr.’s Call to Retract Paper (Aug. 12, 2025)
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- The Epoch Times — Exclusive: Dr. Marty Makary on Reforming FDA (July 25, 2025)
https://www.theepochtimes.com/epochtv/exclusive-dr-marty-makary-reveals-how-hes-transforming-fda-5888537
- The Epoch Times — 9 Things to Know About Big Pharma in Charts (July 19, 2025)
https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/9-things-to-know-about-big-pharma-in-charts-5883727
- The Epoch Times — HHS Cancels 22 mRNA Vaccine Development Contracts (Aug. 6, 2025)
https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/hhs-cancels-22-mrna-vaccine-development-contracts-5897223
- Bill Wilson
- Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Federal Judge Affirms Second Amendment Rights Across State Lines

by Cam Edwards, Bearingarms.com

We don’t lose our First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, Fifth Amendment, or any other enumerated rights when we visit another state, so why should our Second Amendment rights stop at the border of the state where we live?

A federal judge in New York has reached the obvious conclusion in a case dealing with the inability of non-residents to lawfully bear arms in the state: such a policy baldly violates the right to keep and bear arms.

The case, which features Newsmax host Carl Higbie as the named plaintiff and is supported by Gun Owners of America, was filed last February. Today, U.S. District Judge Mae A. D’Agostino largely sided with Higbie and his co-plaintiffs, concluding that New York must offer lawful gun owners a way to keep and bear arms in the state, no matter where they live.

In this case, there is a lack of historical tradition to support the notion that states can exclude out-of-state applicants and none of the Plaintiffs fall into any of the aforementioned exceptions. There is no dispute that Plaintiffs

are not dangerous felons, nor are they subject to restraining orders. It is also uncontested that Plaintiffs do not seek to carry an uncommon, dangerous firearm, nor do they seek to carry a firearm in an established “sensitive place.” Finally, it is undisputed that Plaintiffs have good moral character. Given the lack of supportive historical tradition for restricting firearm licenses to out-of-state residents and the fact that Plaintiffs are not otherwise exempt from carrying a firearm, the statute is unconstitutional as applied to Plaintiffs, who were denied and prohibited from getting a license in New York.

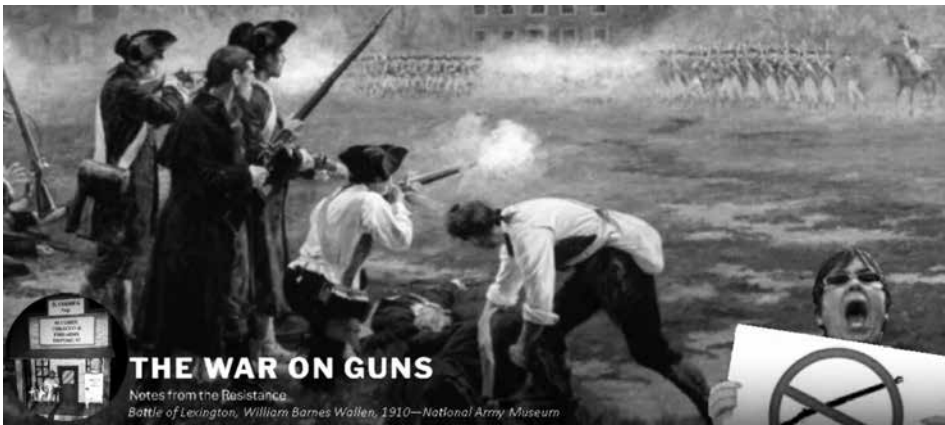
D’Agostino’s opinion is worth reading in full, as she goes into some detail about the lengths that New York went to in its attempt to moot the litigation, including changing the language on the forms applicants must fill out. Despite those attempts, D’Agostino pointed out that those changes could just as easily be undone, and the issue remained a live one regardless of New York’s moves for mootness.

While D’Agostino agreed that the non-residents who sued should be able to apply for a New York carry permit, she declined to reach the conclusion that New York should

recognize valid carry permits issued by other states under the Privileges and Immunities clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because they “fail[ed] to establish that the purpose and effect of the New York firearm statute necessarily involves the economy or protectionism.” According to D’Agostino, the Second Circuit has previously declared that “it is protectionist purpose, and not disparate effects alone, that identifies the sort of discrimination prohibited by the Privileges and Immunities Clause.” That seems like a gross misreading of the Constitution to me, but if it’s Second Circuit precedent it’s up to the Supreme Court to correct the error.

D’Agostino’s decision isn’t perfect, and in some respects it leaves a lot to be desired. Still, the bottom line is that the judge recognizes that our right to bear arms doesn’t become null and void when we cross the boundary of another state, and her decision is one that Second Amendment activists can build on going forward.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2025/08/20/federal-judge-affirms-second-amendment-rights-cross-state-lines-n1229660>



Fond Farewell

From David Codrea Waronguns.com



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

This is very sad news that came as a shock. I’ve been telling WarOnGuns readers about this unique venture in truthful local journalism for years, first on the original blog and then here.

Per editor, publisher, and driving force George Gramlich, who set the example and created a template others can follow:

All it takes is effort, dedication and love of country and our Constitution. Think local patriots. Local is doable. Get off the internet and get your neighbors and friends in gear. Engage. Take the offensive. This should serve as an example for patriots everywhere. Start your local efforts now.

There is no shame in trying and losing, but there is shame in not trying.

I got an email from George a few days back while on vacation telling me he was hospitalized and would be entering hospice. I called him yesterday and let him know what an inspiration he has been to me.

It’s not the first time I’ve felt compelled to do that, and all you can do is share prayers, honest feelings, respect, and love, and hope that in some small way that brings a measure of comfort. And acknowledge that we’ll all be looking at our own last chapter someday.

Indicative of his spirit and character, our conversation was warm and forward-looking. George told me the people who worked there know how to keep The Sentinel operational and what they need is a new general. While no one can take his place as a unique human being, functions are fillable by those with the right skills and mindsets. I’ll [be] reaching out and seeing what encouragement I can offer from afar, and in the meantime, keeping brother George in my prayers.

— David Codrea

Which States Are Best & Worst At Protecting Religious Liberty?

From FaithfulInAction.org

Which states are the best and worst at protecting religious liberty is the subject of a new report titled “Religious Liberty in the States” from the Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy at the First Liberty Institute.

The *Christian Post* reports that the report, which was co-authored by Mark David Hall and Paul D. Mueller, examined the legal protections or “safeguards” for religious freedom enacted by each state.

Researchers analyzed 47 distinct safeguards pertaining to conscience protection on issues like euthanasia refusal, health insurance mandates, ceremonial use of alcohol by minors, foster parent requirements.

Other issues included absentee voting for religious reasons, and clergy nonparticipation in weddings and designating clergy as mandatory reporters.

Florida was ranked the best state for religious freedom, edging out Illinois which held the number one ranking in 2024.

According to the *Christian Post*, Montana ranked second with a score of 70.6%, followed by Illinois at 68.8%, Ohio at 66.9%, Mississippi at 66.4%, Arkansas at 62.9% and South Carolina at 60.8%.

West Virginia was ranked last in religious liberty protections for the third consecutive year with Wyoming coming as the second worst state, followed by Michigan, Nebraska and Vermont.

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis celebrated his state’s number one ranking and touted the efforts his administration has made including laws on school choice, designating churches as essential services in time of emergency and the creation of a school chaplain program.

DeSantis said, “We’re grateful for this recognition from the First Liberty Institute, which has just named Florida the #1 state in the nation for protecting religious liberty. Religious liberty is critical to the foundation and function of America, and I am proud that Florida excels in protecting this right.”

(Editor/Ilv: Colorado came in on the bottom tier at 34 for religious rights.)

To see this year’s report by Liberty Institute, go to https://ReligiouslibertyInTheStates.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/Religious_Liberty_in_the_States_Report-2025.pdf

Please see <https://faithfulinaction.org/which-states-are-the-best-and-worst-at-protecting-religious-liberty/>

TOP FIVE				SCORE	
	1	Florida		74.6%	
	2	Montana		70.6%	
	3	Illinois		68.8%	
	4	Ohio		66.9%	
	5	Mississippi		66.4%	

BOTTOM FIVE				SCORE	
	46	Vermont		29.3%	
	47	Nebraska		29.1%	
	48	Michigan		27.4%	
	49	Wyoming		23.3%	
	50	West Virginia		19.6%	

MOST IMPROVED SINCE 2022			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Montana		30.8%	
	South Carolina		29.6%	
	Florida		16.6%	

MOST DECLINED SINCE 2022			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Mississippi		-15.4%	
	Kansas		-15.0%	
	Pennsylvania		-12.3%	

Ongoing Production for new Film: Deconstruction: The Worldwide Cry For Freedom



Who Will It Be?

by T.L. Davis,
tldavis.substack.com

July 06, 2025

We’re in the middle of producing a documentary, *Deconstruction: The Worldwide Cry For Freedom*, and that takes an extraordinary amount of time.

I am, though, going to be uploading videos of our progress to my channel on Rumble called Adventures in Filmmaking. There are three up now and soon a fourth. They may or may not be of interest, but there they are. Together with Concerned American of WRSA, we are doing a lot with this documentary. While our last film, *Lies of Omission* was impressive for its insight and predictive abilities, it lacked a bit in production value which we intend to correct with this one. It also helps us build a brand for documentaries that we can carry forth and pursue what both of us have pursued for decades, freedom. Your valued subscriptions to this substack aids in all that we do, so thank you.

Adventures in Filmmaking: see <https://rumble.com/c/12RoundProductions>
<https://tldavis.substack.com/p/who-will-it-be>

“The Founders knew that a democracy would lead to some kind of tyranny. The term democracy appears in none of our Founding documents. Their vision for us was a Republic and limited government.”

— Walter E. Williams

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for your information...

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



"The framers gave us the Second Amendment not so we could go deer or duck hunting but to give us a modicum of protection against congressional tyranny." — Walter E. Williams

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Saturday, Sept. 6, 7:45am-4pm: CCW
Friday, Sept. 12, 4-8pm: Ladies Night
Saturday, Sept. 13, 9am-1pm: Steel Challenge
Friday, Sept. 19, 8:45-11am: CCW Refresher
Monday, Sept. 22, 6-8pm: RMGO Event
Friday, Sept. 26, 10am-12pm: Firearm Identifying
& Clearing Class for Professionals
Saturday, Sept. 27, 9am-2pm: Steel Slayer
Please call or go online for details and to sign up!



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"A caged canary is safe but not free."
— Walter E. Williams

10th Circuit Court Panel Says
New Mexico's Waiting Period
'Likely Unconstitutional'

by Dave Workman,
[Ammoland.com](https://ammoland.com)

A three-judge panel of the Tenth U.S. District Court of Appeals has ruled 2-1 that New Mexico's seven-day waiting period "is likely an unconstitutional burden on the Second Amendment rights of its citizens," and has reversed a lower court ruling and remanded the case back to the district court "with instructions to enter injunctive relief consistent with this opinion."

If the ruling stands, it could provide a launchpad for legal actions challenging waiting periods in other states.

The case is known as *Ortega, et al. v. Lujan Grisham*, et al. It was filed on May 15, 2024.

The majority opinion was authored by Circuit Judge Timothy M. Tymkovich, a George W. Bush appointee, and joined by Circuit Judge Allison Hartwell Eid, a Donald Trump appointee. Judge Scott Milne Matheson, Jr., a Barack Obama appointee, dissented.

Writing for the majority, Judge Tymkovich observed, "Cooling-off periods infringe on the Second Amendment by preventing the lawful acquisition of firearms. Cooling off periods do not fit into any historically grounded exceptions to the right to keep and bear arms, and burden conduct within the Second Amendment's scope. In this preliminary posture, we conclude that New Mexico's Waiting Period Act is likely an unconstitutional burden on the Second Amendment rights of its citizens."

According to Tymkovich's 38-page ruling, New Mexico adopted the waiting period last year, imposing the seven-day "cooling off" period on nearly all firearm purchases.

"No matter how urgent the need, or how much physical danger a prospective buyer might be in, buyers must wait seven days before New Mexico deems them safe to carry arms," the judge observed. "Even buyers with previous firearms background checks or security clearances are not eligible for waivers from the prohibition. In short, the law requires no individualized reason to conclude that a prospective consumer is a danger to himself or the community, nor can anyone be excused from the waiting period because of personal danger."

Several states have waiting periods, justified by proponents to allow time for so-called "expanded background checks" and/or also to allow time for prospective gun buyers to "cool off" in order to prevent spur-of-the-moment criminal acts or suicide. But Second Amendment activists have often expressed misgivings about such waiting periods, and point to the inconsistencies in the length of such periods from state-to-state where they are in effect. In one state, the wait might be three days. For another state, it could be seven days. In California and Washington, for example, the wait is ten days.

Waiting periods are a longtime component of the broader gun control agenda, and some critics believe they are merely designed to discourage people from purchasing firearms. Indeed, at least one of the plaintiffs in this case already owns several other firearms.

In his opinion, Judge Tymkovich noted that historically, state legislatures "have the power to prohibit dangerous people from possessing guns. But that power extends only to people who are dangerous."

"New Mexico makes no effort to distinguish the dangerous from the law-abiding," Judge Tymkovich

observed, "instead choosing to 'broadly restrict arms use by the public generally.'"

Ultimately, the judge explained, "We conclude...that Plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction."

Writing in his 12-page dissent, Judge Matheson argued, "In short, the law does not serve abusive ends. It does not 'meaningfully constrain[] the right to keep and bear arms.'... the Act 'neither prohibits anyone from possessing a gun nor prohibits certain non-purchase gun transfers of ownership,' but rather imposes a modest delay on commercial acquisition of arms."

But the majority opinion appears to suggest that what constitutes a "modest delay" to one person may be viewed by another person as a violation of the Second Amendment.

The case was brought last year by New Mexico residents Paul Samuel Ortega, a retired law enforcement officer, and Rebecca Scott. Their case is supported by the Mountain States Legal Foundation and National Rifle Association.

Amicus briefs supporting the waiting period were submitted by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

It is too early to tell whether there will be an appeal, either for an en banc hearing before the full Tenth Circuit in Denver, or to the U.S. Supreme Court.

(The case comment can be viewed on line through Scribs via the below link.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/08/10th-circuit-court-panel-says-new-mexicos-waiting-period-likely-unconstitutional/>

HUGE WIN FOR GUN OWNERS in the 10th Circuit!

Rocky Mountain Gun Owners
- Official Page—FaceBook
August 19, 2025

HUGE WIN FOR GUN OWNERS in the 10th Circuit!

7 Even if we found the Waiting Period Act to be presumptively lawful, we could not end our inquiry there. Because the Plaintiffs also argue that the Waiting Period Act would be put to "abusive ends." See *Bruen*, 597 U.S. at 38, n.9 ("[B]ecause any permitting scheme can be put toward abusive ends, we do not rule out constitutional challenges to shall-issue regimes where, for example, lengthy wait times in processing license applications or exorbitant fees deny ordinary citizens their right to public carry."); *RMGO*, 121 F.4th at 122 ("We read *Bruen*'s 'abusive ends' limitation to mean that any condition or qualification on the sale or purchase of firearms, if found to have such abusive ends, negates the presumption that the law or regulation is lawful."). A supposed condition or qualification that applies as broadly as this one, put toward an end that is justified only by assuming that citizens cannot be trusted with their own rights, is put toward an abusive end. The dissent concludes otherwise only by confusing *who* was burdened by the law in *RMGO* with *how* ordinary citizens are burdened by New Mexico's law. See Dissent Op. at 9, n.6.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit — which covers Colorado — just struck down New Mexico's radical 7-day waiting period.

And they did it by citing *Rocky Mountain Gun Owners v. Polis* — our Colorado case — as binding precedent.

That's massive, because it means our fights here at home don't just protect Colorado gun owners — they shape the law for the entire region.

If New Mexico's 7-day waiting period can't stand, then Colorado's own gun control schemes are on shaky ground too.

This ruling gives us more firepower in our fight to repeal Colorado's unconstitutional waiting period and restore your Second Amendment rights.

23

SIG P220 Legion 10mm Optics-Ready Handgun Review & Range Report

by Jim Grant,
Ammoland.com

The P220 Legion 10mm is a barrel-chested Delta operator with a dad-bod that walks into a mission briefing and immediately puts his feet on the table. The P220 10mm is the old man in the locker room covered in silver hair with the strength of a gorilla who refuses to wear a towel in the sauna.

He doesn't care that it makes you uncomfortable- that's your problem.

Because the P220 10mm is a cannon from a different time, modernized just enough to keep up with the young bucks; A 1971 Plymouth Cuda with the engine of a new Corvette. It's a heavy beast that doesn't care if you're good enough to wield it correctly – it doesn't have a huge magazine, and it scoffs at polymer like a side salad with a 32-ounce steak.

The 10mm Legion remembers a time when shooters had to choose between capacity and power, and it breathlessly grunted, “**Power!**”

10mm too much gun for you? *Eat more red meat!*

44.5 ounces unloaded too heavy for you? *Hit the gym!*

Eight-round magazines not enough for you? *Shoot better!*



What separates the new P220 Legion from the old is the addition of this optics interface. IMG Jim Grant

SIG P220 Legion 10mm Handgun is Optics Ready

When the steel frame of the P220 Legion fills your hand, it transports you back to a time when mustaches were paragons of masculinity. When seat belts were for wimps and understeer was a feature of muscle cars.

But the 10mm Legion isn't just a nostalgia trip/horse steroids made physical. It has the performance to back up its gusto. Utilizing its five-inch barrel, the 200 squeezes a ton of performance out of the already beef 10mm auto round. Making it appropriate not just for home defense but for slaying hogs and bear with proper shot placement.

The new optics-ready P220 Legion is the latest iteration of the P220 that started life as a very large 9mm handgun way back in 1975. In its inception, the P220 was a direct replacement for the prohibitively expensive P210 series of handguns renowned for its accuracy and precision machining. But if you're arming thousands of soldiers and not just a handful of bullseye shooters, some corners need to be cut.

The Legion's G10 grips are as



The P220 Legion 10mm is one badass blaster. IMG Jim Grant

handsome as they are durable. IMG Jim Grant

The biggest difference is how the new P220 pistols no longer needed the slide hand-fitted to the barrel and frame. This act alone dramatically decreased production costs for an unperceivable (at least to 99% of shooters) difference in accuracy. The gun was an instant hit overseas, where its reputation for bomb-proof construction, accuracy, and unstoppable reliability put it in a league of its own.

But the P220's popularity stateside didn't really take off until SIG

ergonomics nearly on par with [that] of a 1911 (I prefer the slimmer profile of a 1911) with an excellent trigger, all-steel construction, and five-inch barrel. This gun might not have been originally designed for 10mm, but it was certainly destined for it. The way the P220 Legion's heft soaks up recoil makes you feel like a roided-out Army from Commando; follow-up shots are laughably easy, even one-handed, with more potent defensive loads like those from Hornady and Winchester.

Prior to filming the review for this gun, I had taken it out to my backyard range and blasted through a few boxes at a time to get a feel for it and had so much fun I ended up having to buy more ammo for the video. What really struck me is how during filming, I blasted through 350 rounds of full-power ammo and never felt fatigued in my hands or arms. The P220 is the M1 Garand of handguns – managing to strike the perfect balance of heft and recoil so that a shooter knows they're firing a serious weapon but not so blasty to leave you exhausted or sore after a few mags. But this makes sense, the gun weighs a whopping 44.5 ounces – nearly three pounds.

The P220 Legion 10mm: if I have to choose between doing curls at the Gym or practicing at the range, I won't.

The P220 10mm is unapologetically powerful, heavy and just freakin' brawny. But that doesn't mean it wants you to be stuck in the past. No, the engineers at SIG modified the design to accept both a tactical light and an optic. One thing to note: the footprint on the Legion is for a Shield Sight but needs an adapter as it's actually built from the ground up for SIG's beefiest micro red dot: the Romeo2. And that's precisely what I recommend that shooters run.

I originally installed a no-name Chinese optic on this handgun to test accuracy, and the P220 Legion 10mm's recoil destroyed the dot in three mags. Don't skimp. Buy something designed for 10mm if you're going to run a red dot on this gun.

SIG P220 Legion Performance

Speaking of which, with the Romeo2 installed, I was punching ragged holes in paper at 25 yards and effortlessly ringing steel at 100. If you can't hit your target with the new P220, you're either a terrible shot, or you managed to fire the wrong caliber ammo through the gun. As far as reliability, after a total sum of 600 rounds of ammo from Winchester, Hornady, Federal, and PPU, I never encountered a single malfunction whatsoever. But

I will say this, one older loading from PPU that I found at a local gun shop didn't want to load past three rounds in the magazine. The rounds seemed to drag inside the magazine body itself.

When I placed the rounds next to ammo that did work, it was plain to see they were slightly longer overall than the good ones. Interestingly enough, these rounds fed and fired fine in the Glock 20 I tested a few weeks ago but were noticeably harder to load in the magazine. So I suspect the issue lies with the rounds, not the gun. Just the same, buy a single box of any ammo not made by Winchester, Federal, or Hornady before committing to a whole case just to be safe.

SIG P220 Legion 10mm Handgun Verdict

So, what's my verdict? I love it.

I love the P220 Legion 10mm like I love classic cars, big-bore revolvers, and driving a stick shift. It is a gun that embraces the experience of shooting rather than trying to make it something for the everyman to enjoy. Anyone can handle the P220 Legion, but most will buy something cheaper and higher capacity – but they're missing out on a tac-driving, hard-hitting, outlast-your-grandkids hand cannon.



SIG P220 Legion 10mm Handgun 44.5oz unloaded – bear-slaying boat-anchor. IMG Jim Grant

Sig Sauer P220 Legion R2 10mm Optics-Ready Handgun Specs:

MODEL: Sig Sauer P220 LEGION R2
BRAND: Sig Sauer
SKU: 220R5-10-LEGION-R2
UPC: 798681663002
MSRP: \$1700.000 (cheaper \$\$ online)
CALIBER: 10mm Auto
MAGS INCLUDED: (3) 8rd Steel Mag
SIGHTS: X-RAY3 Day/Night Sights
THREADED BARREL: NO
PISTOL SIZE: Full-Size
OVERALL LENGTH: 8.8 in [224 mm]
OVERALL WIDTH: 1.3 in [33 mm]
HEIGHT: 5.5 in (140 mm)
BARREL LENGTH: 5.0 in (127 mm)
WEIGHT: 44 oz (1.25 kg)
SIGHT RADIUS: 7 in (178 mm)
ACCESSORY RAIL: SIG Rail
TRIGGER ACTION: DA/SA
TRIGGER TYPE: P-SAIT
GRIP TYPE: Black G10
GRIP COLOR: Black
BARREL MATERIAL: Carbon Steel
FRAME FINISH: Legion Gray
FRAME MATERIAL: Stainless Steel
SLIDE FINISH: Legion Gray
SLIDE MATERIAL: Stainless Steel
OPTIC READY: Yes

Jim Grant is one of the elite editors for AmmoLand.com, who in addition to his mastery of prose, can wield a camera with expert finesse. He loves anything and everything guns but holds firearms from the Cold War in a special place in his heart.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/08/sig-p220-legion-10mm-handgun-review>

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August 13 BOCC: Custer's Share of DA Budget, Citizen Presents Details of Problematic 'Permitted Event'

by Laura Vass

The August 13, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners meeting took place at the Wetmore Community Center and all three commissioners were in attendance.

After a routine meeting, resident concerns and permit issues were voiced during Public Comment.

Longtime citizen of Custer County Dennis Shaydak brought a noise disturbance complaint before the board from events held at the former Trout D Bar Ranch, now owned by Agape Valley LLC, June 2nd of this year and again a few weeks later.

Shaydak and his neighbors complained that the noise from Agape Valley LLC "rave," as he called it, was loud enough to affect a ten square mile area, based on what his neighbors reported. They all confirmed they were unable to get any sleep those two weekends.

Shaydak, a 100% disabled

veteran, owns a ranch adjacent to Agape Valley which has been in his family for 120 years. He shares a property line with Agape Valley LLC on three sides. One neighbor told him he had counted between 200 and 300 cars at the event on June 2, making the car count possibly twice as high as the permit for the event which was for no more than 120 people. In addition, he told the board, there was only a permit for one event, and two took place.

Shaydak also reported that the permit had the wrong address for the event, a problem if there had been an emergency needing first responders.

Commissioner Paul Vogelsong reported that prior to the event, he had gone out to the property and had spoken with event planner Mariah Holguin owner of "Magnify with Mariah Event Planning" concerning emergency vehicle and firetruck access, parking and campfire plans.

After Shaydak's complaint, the

commissioners promised a hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission. They noted there are no noise ordinances in the county, but that special use permits do restrict noise level and have time restrictions. They emphasized that State statutes apply.

The commissioners concluded the hearing, saying they need to figure out how to improve event permit information sharing and access to the BOCC and law enforcement. To be continued...

The rest of the meeting was rather routine. First, they approved the minutes from the July 23 and July 30 regular meetings.

The Board reported that this county's contribution to the Eleventh Judicial District's budget will be \$176,000. The contributions are based on the population of each county. The other district county contributions will be Park County, \$581,000, Chaffee County \$659,000, and Fremont County \$1,600,000.

The Custer County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) is seeking a grant from the Southern Colorado Regional Emergency Trauma Medical Advisory Council (CRETMAC) to cover contracted medical director services rendered by Dr. Jeremy DeWall. The BOCC approved matching funds for half of the doctor's services in the amount of \$4800.

The Board unanimously voted to employ Delenna Crofford for Director of Planning and Zoning. She is a long-time planning and zoning employee who has all of the necessary certifications.

The county is considering selling Parcel Number 0010112500 at the corner of County Road 328 and County Road 329. This is a 33-acre open space that is mostly mountain slope adjacent to seven or eight private properties. One of the adjacent landowners has expressed interest in one corner of the property. Adjacent property owners will be given

the first opportunity for purchase. The matter was referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission which will look into the change in the plat before offering it up for sale.

Custer County is responsible for providing catastrophic inmate insurance for those inmates from our county who are housed in the Fremont County jail. The BOCC unanimously approved the insurance contract for the coming year with a 3% increase. The commissioners would like to rearrange this contract to align with the county fiscal year.

At the very end of the meeting, David Bogel had to leave before his line item came up, but he had come to provide details on procedures for historic brick restoration and repair. County Maintenance will soon begin to repair the historic brick on the courthouse building. The brick repairs must be completed before the re-roofing can begin.

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The Official American Boy Scout Rifle:
Remington 4-S

by Ian McCollum,
ForgottenWeapons.com

The scouting concept exploded into the American culture after 1907, with a multitude of local, regional, and national organizations setting up in the years before World War One. Among these was the American Boy Scouts, founded by William Randolph Hearst. In 1913 they adopted the Remington 4-S as their official rifle, a .22 Short caliber rolling block. It was initially sold directly and exclusively to Scouts for \$5, although it was quickly added to the general Remington catalog.

This rifle was intended to be used for both target shooting and also military style drill. To that end, in hand military style furniture, a stacking swivel, and a bayonet lug with miniature bayonet.

About 1500 of these were made in 1913, which was the only year of production. In 1914, probably having failed to make the hoped-for sales numbers, Remington renamed the gun the "Military Model" to expand its sale beyond just the American Boy Scouts.

Oh, and note that this was not the Boy Scouts of America! The ABS would have a series of legal fights with the BSA over naming rights, which he BSA finally won in the early 1920s. The ABS was never a very large organization, and it faded away entirely in the 1920s. The BSA opted not to have an official rifle, as it was shying away from firearms at the time after a couple well-publicized shooting accidents.

Printed with Permissions.

Ian McCollum also produced a video where he explains the BSA Rifle history and the gun at length.

Please see: <https://www.forgottenweapons.com/the-official-american-boy-scout-rifle-remington-4-s/>



Market

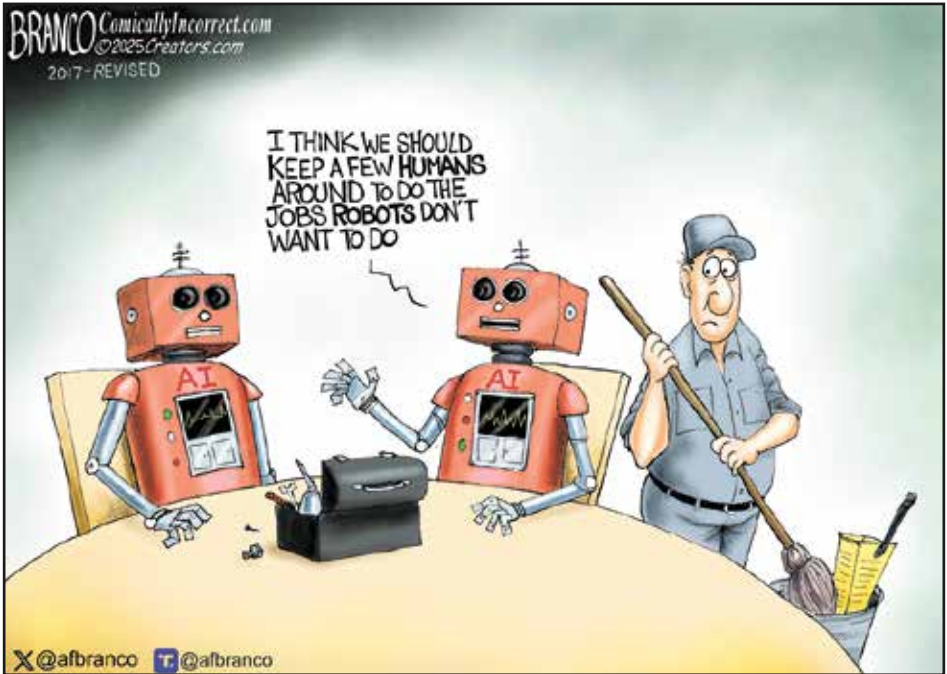
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Special thanks to A.F. Branco for providing top notch syndicated cartoons to the Sentinel for over 12 years.

A Field Where Dreams Return

Another Hometown Story of Revival

by Sentinel Staff

Field of Dreams. A small-town place and the title of an iconic movie. Set in the quiet stretches of Iowa’s countryside, where stalks of corn sway in the breeze, a familiar patch of ground holds a special magic. It is the legendary field made famous by the 1989 movie Field of Dreams, where ghosts of baseball past drift through the rows of golden stalks—and where dreams, indeed, do come true.

Kevin Costner is Ray Kinsella, a small-town America dreamer. Just like in the movie, where Kinsella hears from a mysterious voice, “If you build it, he will come,” so too does MLB promise to come again—to the place where baseball and American spirit intertwine under open skies in Dyersville, Iowa. It is a special stage built of nostalgia and dreams, awaiting its next script.

Major League Baseball took to the “Field of Dreams” in Dyersville, for the very first time in 2021. Reports indicate that the Philadelphia Phillies and Minnesota Twins are slated to face off in the next Field of Dreams Game in August 2026. The exact date for the game has not yet been set.

The 2026 event will revive a tradition that started when the White Sox and Yankees played

on the magic diamond in 2021. The very next year the Cubs and Reda’ played on the field under the dreamy wide-open sky. Red’s greats, Ken Griffey Sr. and Ken Griffey Jr., emerged from that Iowa cornfield before the first pitch to share a moment of “catch” in front of the sold-out crowd. Now, after a hiatus during construction of a new stadium and youth complex nearby, the Field of Dreams Game looks set to return.

Though we do not yet know which August day it will be, you can bank on this much: when those current major leaguers take the field near that corn-lined outfield, another likely sold-out crowd will be watching. Many of us will be watching from afar. Most will be proud of the small-town story unfolding for the people of Dyersville. Pride for their economic benefit, their legacy and the fulfillment of their dreams.

FAIR RESULTS

from page 15

Llama Cont’d Pack

Junior Peyton Reno, 1
INT Scarlett Kardatzke, 4
INT Gracie Johnson, 3
INT Aubrynnne Cozzetto, 1
INT Remington Kardatzke, 2
Senior Alexis Grossardt 1

Showmanship

Junior Peyton Reno, 1
Champion
INT Scarlett Kardatzke, 3
INT Gracie Johnson, 2,
Reserve Champion
INT Aubrynnne Cozzetto, 1,
Champion
INT Remington Kardatzke, 4
Senior Alexis Grossardt, 1,
Champion

Speech Results

Public Speaking Contest / 100:
Prepared
103: Senior
20 Crofford, Serenitey, 1st -
Grand Champion Sr

Public Speaking Contest

201: Junior Impromptu
65 Saucedo, Anthony, 1st
16 Shy, Sage, 2nd

202: Intermediate Impromptu
25 Everhart, Sage, 1st
64 Lanosga-White, Evyn, 2nd
66 Saucedo, Isabella, 3rd

203: Senior Impromptu
24 Everhart, Stone, 2nd
12 Shy, Brylee, 1st

Public Speaking Contest / 300:
Interpretive
301: Junior Interpretive
65 Saucedo, Anthony, 2nd
16 Shy, Sage, 1st

302: Intermediate Interpretive
64, Lanosga-White, Evyn, 2nd
66 Saucedo, Isabella, 3rd
67 Saucedo, Khaylonni, 1st

303: Senior Interpretive
83 Foster, Sierra, 2nd
12 Shy, Brylee, 1st

Public Speaking Contest / 400:
Presentation
401: Junior Presentation
65 Saucedo, Anthony, 1st

Horse Results

Horse / 100: Showmanship
101: Showmanship
26 Green, Noel, 1st
34 Johnson, Gracie, 2nd
41 Schram, Lucas, 3rd

Horse / 200: Written Test
201: Written Test
26 Green, Noel, 3rd
34 Johnson, Gracie, 1st
41 Schram, Lucas, 2nd

Horse / 400: Western Division
401: Horsemanship Place
26 Green, Noel -
34 Johnson, Gracie, 1st
41 Schram, Lucas -

402: Western Pleasure
26 Green, Noel, 2nd
34 Johnson, Gracie, 1st
41 Schram, Lucas, 3rd

403: Western Reining
26 Green, Noel, 2nd
34 Johnson, Gracie, 1st
41 Schram, Lucas -

404: Trail Place
26 Green, Noel -
34 Johnson, Gracie, 1st
41 Schram, Lucas -

405: Bareback: Sit-a-buck
26 Green, Noel, 1st
34 Johnson, Gracie, 2nd
41 Schram, Lucas -

406: Bareback: Egg Balance
26 Green, Noel, 1st
34 Johnson, Gracie, 2nd
41 Schram, Lucas -

Master Showmanship.

(Large Animal)
INT Gracie Johnson, 441, 4th
INT Masha Muzhzhavlev, 453, 3rd
INT London Dean, 480, 1st, Grand
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 477, 2nd, Reserve
Junior Sage Shy, 423, 1st, Grand
Junior Mitchell VanDeusen, 422, 2nd, Reserve
Junior Brentley Curtis , 418, 3rd
Senior Rafael Gonzalez, 482, 1st Grand
Senior Doc McCoy ,458, 2nd, Reserve
Senior Alexis Grundy, 433, 3rd
Senior Noel Green, 425, 5th
Senior Grant Rusk, 430, 4th

Swine

Showmanship Swine
Junior Molly Bayer, 8
Junior Landry Becker, 3
Junior Joseph Mullett, 4
Junior Tyler Patterson, 7
Junior Cason Saathoff, 6
Junior Sage Shy, 2, Reserve Champion
Junior Kayson VanDeusen, 5
Junior Mitchell VanDeusen, 1, Champion
INT Wyatt Bayer, 6
INT London Dean, 2, Reserve Champion
INT Sage Everhart, 5
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 1, Champion
INT Jennica Mullett, 3
INT Haylie Shaffer, 4
INT Hesston VanDeusen, 7
Senior Addie Banning, 8
Senior Stone Everhart, 6
Senior Rafael Gonzalez, 1, Champion
Senior Christopher Mullett, 5
Senior Jesse Mullett, 3
Senior Brylee Shy, 4
Senior Ty Stoltzfus, 7
Senior Agi Thomas, 2, Reserve Champion

Market Swine Award

Intermediate Jaliane Gonzalez, Grand

Senior Rafael Gonzalez, Reserve Grand

Goat

Showmanship Goat
INT London Dean, 1, Champion
INT Kaitlyn Grossardt, 3
INT Masha Muzhzhavlev, 2, Reserve Champion
Senior Sierra Foster, 2, Reserve Champion
Senior Kord Goff, 3
Senior Noel Green, 6
Senior Matthew Grossardt, 5
Senior Alexis Grundy, 1, Champion
Senior Mason Simmons, 4

Market Goat

INT London Dean, Reserve Grand
Senior Alexis Grundy, Grand

Sheep

Showmanship Sheep
Junior Brentley Curtis, 1st, Champion
Junior Evangeline Golovanof, 2nd, Reserve Champion
Junior Keaton Golovanoff, 3rd
INT London Dean, 2nd, Reserve Champion
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 1st, Champion
INT Jennica Mullett, 4th
INT Masha Muzhzhavlev, 3rd
Senior Elizabeth Ergo, 3rd
Senior Marin Foste, 5th
Senior Kord Goff, 6th
Senior Rafael Gonzalez, 2nd, Reserve Champion
Senior Stephanie Lewis, 4th
Senior Docerty McCoy, 1st, Champion
Senior Jesse Mullett, 7th
Senior Benji Smith, 8th

Market Sheep

Junior Keaton Golovanoff, Reserve Grand
Senior Elizabeth Ergo, Grand

Beef

Showmanship Beef Award
Junior Brentley Curtis, 2nd, Reserve Champion
Junior Bryce Johnston, 3rd
Junior Sage Shy, 1st, Champion
INT London Dean, 2nd, Reserve Champion
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 1st, Champion
Senior Addie Banning, 9
Senior Marin Foster, 5
Senior Rafael Gonzalez, 1, Champion
Senior Alexis Grossardt, 8
Senior Stephanie Lewis, 6
Senior Docerty McCoy, 2, Reserve Champion
Senior Serenity Moos, 7
Senior Grant Rusk, 3
Senior Brylee Shy, 4

Market Beef Award

INT Jaliane Gonzalez, Grand
Senior Grant Rusk, Reserve

Carcass

(Large Animal)

Swine

Carcass Swine

Junior Molly Bayer, 2, Reserve Grand
Senior Brylee Shy, 3
Junior Joseph Mullett, 4
INT Wyatt Bayer, 6
Senior Ty Stoltzfus, 9
Senior Addie Banning, 10
Senior Agi Thomas, 11
INT Hesston VanDeuse, 12
INT Jennica Mullett, 14
Senior Rafael Gonzalez, 15
Junior Cason Saathoff, 16
Senior Jesse Mullett, 17
Junior Mitchell VanDeuse, 19
Senior Christopher Mullet, 20
INT Jaliane Gonzalez, 21
Junior Landry Becker, 22
Junior Kayson VanDeusen, 23
INT Sage Everhart, 24
INT Haylie Shaffer, 27
Junior Sage Shy 1 & 26, Grand
Junior Tyler Patterson, 13 & 25
Senior Stone Everhart, 5 & 8
INT London Dean, 7 & 18

Goat

Carcass Goat
INT London Dean, 1, Grand
Senior Mason Simmons, 2, Reserve Grand
INT Masha Muzhzhavl, 3
Senior Alexis Grundy, 5
Senior Sierra Foster, 6
Senior Matthew Grossard, 7
INT Kaitlyn Grossardt, 8
Senior Noel Green, 9
Senior Kord Goff, 4 and 10

Sheep

Carcass Sheep
INT Masha Muzhzhavl, 1, Grand
Senior Kord Goff, 2, Reserve Grand
INT London Dean, 3
Junior Brentley Curtis, 4
Senior Benji Smith, 5
Senior Elizabeth Ergo, 6
Senior Docerty McCoy, 7
Junior Keaton Golovanoff, 8
Junior Evangeline Golova, 9
Senior Stephanie Lewis, 10
INT Jennica Mullett, 11
Senior Jesse Mullett, 12
Senior Marin Foster, 13
Intermediate Jaliane Gonzalez
Senior Rafael Gonzalez

Beef

Carcass Beef
Senior Marin Foster, 1
Senior Docerty McCoy, 2
Senior Serenity Moos, 3
Senior Alexis Grossardt, 4
INT London Dean, 5
Junior Sage Shy, 6
Senior Stephanie Lewis, 7
Senior Brylee Shy, 8
Senior Grant Rusk, 9
Senior Addie Banning, 10
Junior Brentley Curtis, 12
INT Jaliane Gonzalez-
Senior Rafael Gonzalez -
Junior Bryce Johnston, 11, 13



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No, Sir, Thank You!

by T.L. Davis
August 20, 2025

In the whole universe of great, noble and honorable people I have met, most of them have been in what has often been called the “patriot” movement, which, to me, means simply people who put store in ideals such as freedom, self-defense, defense of the nation, self-sufficiency, proper schooling and expecting their government to honor and respect those ideals. That this is even controversial or considered “conservative” is ridiculous.

The patriot movement did not burst upon the scene wholly funded and mobilized like so many fake protest movements. Instead, it grew out of frustration and injustice harbored over generations and brought on by an overactive bureaucracy that stopped working for the people sometime in the 1960s and started threatening them with violence and, on occasion, exerting that deadly force with satisfaction. Of those they didn’t kill, they found insidious ways of stifling their pursuits and burdening their operations. Yes, the people have every right to oppose it with everything they have.

Operating in the “patriot” space, I’ve encountered a lot of great people and could put together an impressive list, some known nationally and some just reliably curating their corner of the universe. At this time, I’d like

to focus on one of those: George Gramlich, who publishes, along with a good deal of help from like-minded folks, the *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel*.

George wrote a headline piece in the *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel* titled “Thank You” and I was compelled to read it. Instead of the usual way in which I devoured the *Sentinel*, i.e., casually, knowing that some important information would be forthcoming and that I could count on a humorous or outraged account of the recent Custer County Commission meeting, I gave this one immediate attention.

His thank you was to the people who have helped to take the small newspaper from a mere counter to the other newspapers that passed as a city newspaper before the age of George, to a noted publication. While it claimed to detest everything about the *Sentinel*, it could not keep from being influenced by it in a number of important ways. They were forced to argue against the “redneck” take of the *Sentinel*, but often could not rely on facts to do so, exposing themselves by the use of platitudes and “accepted science.”

The *Sentinel* is a threat to their hegemonic demand for power over the printed word, the consciousness of American thought, and it sticks in their sides, like a knife, every time an issue is published. It puts front and center the life of the typical American, someone they’ve hated since

the turn of the last century when the state was victorious over the individual. They clearly detest the patriotic, fun-loving, religious folks who make up the bulk of the productive class and George’s readership.

When I first discovered the *Sentinel*, I thought I could help them out a little, spread the word of this uniquely American publication and I went to one of their Fourth of July celebrations that featured a Second Amendment contingent in the parade. At the end of the day, I was chagrined. They didn’t need me, if anything, I needed them.

There were probably 500 people in the contingent, all openly carrying weapons. I’m sure it was a horrifying sight. For me, it was like taking a huge breath of that mountain air filled with all of the things that made the America of my youth a great place to grow up; the place I’d been working to resurrect for most of my adult life.

It wasn’t that there were a bunch of gun-crazy folks in a small town that inspired my thoughts of freedom, it was because that was not unusual in the America I grew up in. Guns were just a part of the day, a tool to be used on the ranch to put down an ailing cow, reduce the size of the predator population or defend oneself from a cleverly disguised rattler. There were rifles in the racks of most pickups in the high school parking lot. It’s irrational to be afraid of a gun, as irrational as

being afraid of a hammer, which is used more often than so-called assault rifles to commit murder.

George is unique; the *Sentinel* is inspiring. I’ve shared many of my copies with locals here in Texas to show them what a paper should be. I can leave it at the local diner and it’s always missing when I come back. I doubt they get a chance to throw it out or would, if they could. The *Sentinel* is all the paper anyone could want and even though it has no relation to anything going on in my town, its values are universal, its point of view runs like a thread through all of “flyover country.” That moniker is the product of coastal elites, describing the unwashed masses for whom they have no respect and give no regard. In other words: us.

I’ve been proud to have the *Sentinel* on my table at all times. Anyone can pick it up and get something useful out of it. It speaks to George’s vision: straight up facts that illuminate the debate and side with raw American common sense. It reminds us of who we were supposed to be and points out the forces aligned against going to work, doing a good job, raising a family in faith, husbanding one’s resources and holding the government accountable. Nationally known writers have been published there, people that never get quoted in legacy newspapers or television shows.

At the forefront of all of this was George Gramlich. That’s not to diminish the Herculean efforts of those who contribute to the weekly publication, but at the front is George. He’s there, because he can take the slings and arrows, fend off the irascible editors of news magazines, answer to charges made by the *Sentinel* on the street, or in the county offices. He is a bulwark against the evil that the paper attacks with a clear, precise indictment of wrongdoing. George sees, with a laser focus, the subterfuge the rest of the media and politicians use to vilify their ideological opponents. I always knew he would bring every argument I could make to the fore and I rely on that to this day.

I know George would have remained at the *Sentinel* if he could, so I know it had to be. That is, perhaps, the only solace a dedicated reader can take from the situation. It’ll be hard to fill those shoes and I doubt that it will be attempted. The new *Sentinel* will be different, but at least it will continue and hopefully redefine what a newspaper can be. I’d like to think it will remain the same, but it really can’t. What it can do and what I hope the new owners will do, is honor its heritage as a strident defender of freedom and the American ideal and to give the good people of Custer County an honest news source.

Follow T.L.Davis on substack at Tldavis.substack.com.