

Heart for Students, Gift for Teaching

Shelley Green – GT Teacher of the Year

by Reggie Foster

Custer County School District’s Gifted and Talented Education teacher, Shelley Green, has just been named the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Education’s Teacher of the Year. Green’s recognition shines the light on one of the many good things happening in Custer County’s schools.

Green was thrilled when she learned of the recognition. Anyone who has been in her classroom or even in her presence understands the excitement and passion she exudes. Her energy is palpable and infectious. Green puts her heart into her work. She loves her students and they feel it - one of the many reasons they love her back. In Shelley’s words, “I need you to know that this is my life’s work; to see my students...with eyes that illuminate strengths, passions, curiosities... and to elevate and support them into achievement.”

Green is very, very good at her life’s work. Awards are nice but the very best metric of success

is feedback from parents and students. Michelle Bennett, a parent of two children in Custer County’s Gifted and Talented (GT) program said, “Shelley is amazing. And she deserves to be spotlighted, recognized and awarded. Both of

my boys love her, as do I. Shelley is the reason my youngest doesn’t hate school anymore.”

Custer County parents and students knocked incessantly on the GT door, eventually opening the oppor-



Shelley Green with her HS GT class in Anaheim, California. L to R: Shelley, Alyssa, Kenna, Mason, Robert, Sierra, Wesley, Creed and Bridger.



Shelley Green, GT Teacher
tunity for Green. Parents of Custer County’s gifted and talented students advocated, asked and pleaded for the program to be properly implemented in the school district for nearly two years. Thanks to luck and timing, in October of 2023, Green was hired into the position and Custer County’s GT

TEACHER of the YEAR
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Unpacking WMVO:

The Origins of this Outdoor Initiative

by Sentinel Staff

It has been said that the first rule of public speaking is to know your audience. A clear windshield view of the Custer County crowd may have helped avoid some of the bumps in the road when the Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors (WMVO) was introduced. The Custer County community is busy every minute of every day doing the real and personal work that it takes to sustain our Valley; plus, they’d like to get home in time for supper. Talk short and talk straight.

Custer County showed up about 60 residents strong for The WMVO meeting on Monday, September 8th at All Aboard Westcliffe. This was the second of four scheduled meetings where community members can give input on the future projects of the WMVO. The crowd seemed restless.

Following through on our commitment to unpack all that makes up the WMVO and its end game, let’s dig in. Think of this unpacking task like the end of a family vacation or a long rodeo weekend - lots of different bags, each stuffed with a jumble of things that need sortin’.

From the beginning: Sometime last year, a member of Trails for All who was familiar with the Colorado Regional Partnership Initiative (RPI) thought creating Custer County’s own RPI might be a good thing. The idea developed to form Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors as a way to get some of the state money available to do things that might need doin’ around here.

What is the RPI? The RPI began as a way to regionally join partner organizations to help plan and implement Colorado’s outdoor strategy. Custer County’s WMVO non-profit is the 21st and most recent partner in the network which now spans 80 percent of the state.

Is an RPI good or bad? Well, that depends on who you ask. Some counties are pleased, while others are displeased. The fact is that Custer County now has an RPI. What can each of us do to ensure that we end up as a county that is pleased?

Where does the money come from? Funding for the RPI comes from Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the state’s lottery fund.

When did this all begin? WMVO

was registered with the Colorado Department of State (CDOS) and formed as a non-profit on September 13, 2024. The registered agent is Trails for All.

Once WMVO became a registered organization a grant was applied for and then awarded. With \$126,800 to spend on community outreach to help the local community create a long-term plan for restoration, conservation, and outdoor recreation, WMVO launched a survey which was completed by just over 250 residents. A portion of the grant money was used to hire local marketing firm Jo Studio for public relations and communications. Finally, WMVO hired Civic Canopy to host and facilitate four meetings of the WMVO core team, giving residents and stakeholders the chance to shape proposals for how to use the \$50 million dollars that GOCO has committed over the next five years.

Two meetings are complete and all involved to date are still working on the goal statement(s). The WMVO has “North Star” goals, what are those and what do they mean? Who makes up the WMVO Core and Support Teams? The unpacking continues in the next edition of *The Sentinel*.

Remember



by Michael Foster

Tuesday, September 11, 2001. That day, far more than any other, changed the trajectory of my life and the lives of the overwhelming majority of my friends. It changed us and our families in ways that we could never have imagined on September 10th, 2001.

In many ways, we are all still moving along those trajectories and even in hindsight, the experiences we’ve had and the paths we have walked still seem unbelievable.

I feel incredibly proud of having been part of a team that showed the United States would never bow to hatred and fear, and I will always remember.

Send me!

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PATRIOT ALERT!

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Gracious is the LORD,
and righteous; yea, our
God is merciful.
Psalm 116:5 KJV

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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.

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

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

Subscription Rates:

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

How to contact us:

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P.O. Box 179
601 Main Street
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"We the People" Speak



Colorado's Outdoor Regional Partnerships and Rewilding: The Push for an American Serengeti and the Fight Over Private Land Part I

by Jean Canterbury,
Concerned Citizen, Research
and Opinion

Colorado's Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative (RPI), launched in October 2020 by Governor Jared Polis's Executive Order B 2020 008, is a state-driven effort to get conservation projects off the ground by appearing to unite local groups—think ranchers, wildlife advocates and local governments. It's tied to the rewilding movement, in particular the Southern Plains Land Trust's (SPLT) plan to turn parts of south Colorado east of the Continental Divide into an "American Serengeti"—a sprawling area teeming with bison, wolves, prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets. But this government funded push is stirring up trouble, especially over private land purchases, and it's worth asking how it all fits with fixing our national forests, which are in rough shape thanks to decades of federal neglect. Here is a rundown on the RPI, its link to rewilding, the land grab debate. Part II will examine and share a no-nonsense look at saving our forests.

What's the RPI and What's It Doing?

The RPI, run by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), pulls together 21 regional coalitions of mostly anti-agriculture, anti-hunting, anti-private land urban activists covering 77% of the state as of 2024. Now it has added the Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors to this growing number. (Custer County is currently listed as its own region) These groups, ostensibly made up of locals, farmers, ranchers and outdoorsmen who believe they are there to hash out plans with state-employed activists to protect land, water and wildlife while opening up trails and parks. Local stakeholders are often used as frontmen but have no input into any policies or practices of the groups they have joined. The state's got cash to back it: \$4.9 million in grants for things like habitat restoration, forest health projects, and youth programs. Examples include the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust fixing up private forests and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers replanting grasslands with kids. The state's

Outdoors Strategy, which rolled out in April 2025, ties it all together. This needs close monitoring by everyone who is interested in true conservation as these activists use double-speak to make the most egregious actions palatable to the general public. One of their sleights of hand, I feel, is that when discussing these types of boards, say farmers, ranchers and locals as the indigenous groups, they use the term "conservationists" but also use the same description when referring to the paid political activists who are running the boards.

Rewilding and the American Serengeti

Rewilding is about bringing back ecosystems to how they were before settlers mowed them down. In Colorado, SPLT is driving this by buying private land in the southeast to create massive wildlife preserves—think 60,000 acres so far, with bison roaming and fences torn down. They're chasing a vision of an "American Serengeti," inspired by Dan Flores's book, where the plains look like they did when Lewis and Clark passed through. SPLT's preserves, like Heartland Ranch (11,000 acres),

prioritize native species over cattle. This ties to the RPI through shared goals: both push habitat restoration and wildlife corridors. The state's wolf reintroduction, approved in 2020 and started in 2023, is another part of the effort. What could possibly go wrong, right?

The Private Land Fight

Here's where it gets messy. SPLT buys land from willing sellers, not by force, but ranchers and farmers are furious. We see rewilding as a threat to our livelihood, especially if grazing land gets turned into bison playgrounds. Some recent X posts prove Colorado Democrats want to use eminent domain to seize land for this "Serengeti" project, pointing to Initiative 82, that would let a commission of unelected political activists override landowners. When Nicole Rosmarino, SPLT's head, was a finalist for State Land Board director in May 2025, ranchers fought back, worried her rewilding agenda would disenfranchise ranchers of grazing rights on state trust lands, which fund schools,

RPI & REWILDING
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Valley Strong Community Dinner *Visit With Us!*

The biggest family style dinner in Colorado hits Main Street Thursday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m. The Sangre De Cristo Mountains provide the backdrop for dinner with friends, neighbors, and family. Thanks to local neighbors and businesses who contribute to the Valley Strong Fund this event is free. The sponsors provide tables and chairs and line them down the middle of Main Street. Table hosts provide the food or have friends bring dishes potluck style.

The Valley Strong Fund writes on its webpage, “We’re a community that’s diverse in our opinions and ideas. On this night, we focus on all we have in common as we eat together on Main Street...All are welcome, and there’s a seat for everyone at our table. Our beautiful views are surpassed only by the beautiful people that call the Wet Mountain Valley home.”

The Sentinel family will be enjoying the evening, so please stop by and fellowship with the team that shares your voice each week. We’d love to meet you!



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"We the People" Speak

Letters to the Editor



Please send your submissions to us at sdc.sentinel@gmail.com, mail them or bring them in to the office at 601 Main St., Westcliffe CO 81252.
Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 500 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name and give us the general location of your residence. Also please provide your phone number or email - for confirmation only. *The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.*

Valley View Park Home Community Statement Regarding Property Listing

Dear Editor;

Westcliffe/Silver Cliff, Colorado – a truly special place! The beauty; the slower, simpler lifestyle; the quality people. Quality doesn't mean wealth. Kind, considerate people who have compassion for each other, who help each other out -- that's who we have here. We come here for the serene, affordable lifestyle we love so much. The Valley View Park Home Community ("Valley View") has been for sale a little over a year, and looks like a new owner is on the horizon. Members of this community have valued the current owner(s) and hope the successor is just as wonderful and compassionate. However, the listing promoting the sale has stirred the Valley View residents. Verbiage implying Valley View has a high-income potential to a buyer through the tenants (i.e., increasing lot rents substantially) and that the residents are high earning tenants who would welcome increased lot rates. The residents in Valley View are varied: retirees, people on fixed incomes, part-time residents, and full-time residents; some still working to bring income into their home. Working at local establishments, contributing directly to the local economy

and community. However, the listing refers to residents as "high-income tenants with a tenant profile that supports immediate rent increases on day one with little resistance." This statement was made without any consultation with the community. While we understand the need to market the property, we'd like to express that we are more than tenants—we're *residents*—invested members of a neighborhood we care about and love. It's concerning that the listing encourages rent increases and implies resident support, which misrepresents our position and undermines trust. This does not reflect the values or voices of our community.

The ability to acquire a park of this caliber—with modern systems, zero deferred maintenance, and a tenant profile that supports immediate rent increases—positions Valley View as a standout investment. A move to market rents alone can reward new ownership with near double digit cash on cash returns, with strong long-term appreciation potential in a supply- constrained, lifestyle-driven market. This is not just a mobile home park—it's a generational- quality asset in one of Colorado's most naturally stunning and stable regions.

See below link:
<https://www.crex.com/properties/1961763/colorado-valley-view-park-home-community>

Sincerely,

*The Residents of Valley View
Silver Cliff, Colorado*

REWILDING & RPI from page 2

not to mention entire communities and the very economy of Colorado. The Colorado Cattlemen's Association says these lands need to stay productive, not become wildlife parks.

Timeline

- **1998**:** SPLT starts, buys its first chunk of land (Fresh Tracks, 1,280 acres).
- **2013-2015**:** SPLT grabs Raven's Nest (4,800 acres) and Heartland Ranch (11,000 acres).
- **2020**:** Polis kicks off RPI; voters greenlight wolf reintroduction.
- **2023-2024**:** RPI grows to 21 partnerships, funds \$4.9 million in projects.
- **April 2025**:** Colorado's Outdoors Strategy launches, tying RPI to statewide goals.
- **May 2025**:** Rosmarino's State Land Board bid sparks backlash from ranchers.
- **Ongoing**:** SPLT plans to expand across five states; RPI aims for 100% state coverage.

Fixing Our National Forests: The Real Problem

The feds have botched forest management. National forests in Colorado and beyond are a mess: overgrown, beetle-ravaged, and primed for catastrophic wildfires. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has been

hamstrung by bureaucracy, underfunding, and conflicting priorities.

The Bottom Line

The RPI and rewilding are moves to remove the public's right to use public lands. Ranchers aren't wrong to worry about their land and way of life, and government plans to take by eminent domain don't help. Meanwhile, our national forests are a disaster—overgrown, burning, and neglected by a federal government that's dropped the ball. Fixing them means thinning, burning, logging, grazing and giving locals more say, backed by specific funding allocations and less red tape. Effective forest conservation needs to be addressed.

A Local Hub

Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors (VMVO) is the designated hub for Colorado's RPI and Custer County is now one of the 21 regions. The group just held its second meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025. This is the first of many inquiries into who and what is shaping the future of our valley's private as well as public lands. Stay informed, get involved, and protect our way of life.

Editor's note: *Opinions expressed in commentary pieces are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the management of the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel, even so, we support the constitutional right of the author to express those opinions.*

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larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com

Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.
1st Monday of the Month
10 - 11 a.m. Women’s Veteran Coffee Social
West Custer County Library Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary mo. mtg (year-round) Cliffe Lanes
2nd and 4th Monday
6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

Tuesdays
12 noon – 1 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLDS)
“As Bill Sees It” St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita in W/C.
Call Martha at 719-371-1853.
1st Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort Quilters @Valley Bible
6:00 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM
2nd Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Mtg @Valley Bible

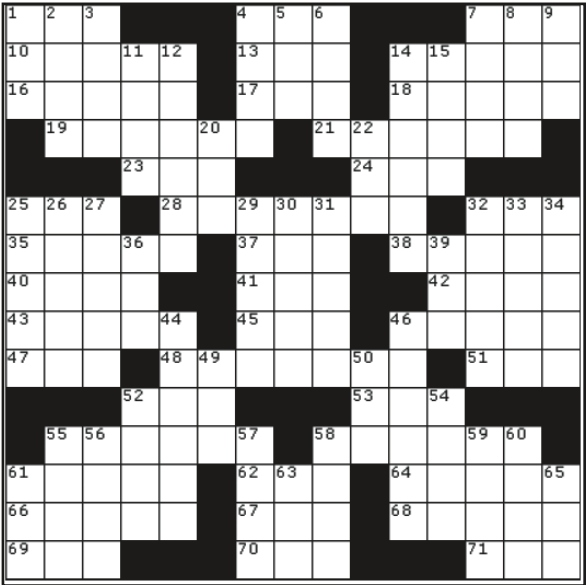
3rd Tuesday of the Month
Liberty Rocks TUESDAY Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m. Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.
Wednesdays
8-9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm., 209 Main St. Westcliffe
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.
9:45-11:45 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study SUMMER August 20 [@305 County Road 159](#), Holly 703-338-4100 or Rene at 719-371-7076

10 a.m. Pickle Ball (SCMP) info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.
6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

First Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters, FBC (log bldg next to the church) 417 S. 6th St. Contact Delores at 719-371-1451.
2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee meeting. Ranchers Roost. The public is welcome See www.CusterGOP.com or Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/custergop>

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



Rallying the Troops for Our Veterans – Wood Splitting Work Day & Barbecue

Saturday, September 20, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Veterans Rescue Ranch

The Veterans Rescue Ranch and the all volunteer Custer County Mitigation Team (CCMT) invite you to join in for a day of wood splitting, fellowship, and support for our veterans.

For the past year, CCMT has partnered with the Green Alliance funded Veterans Rescue Ranch firewood bank. According to Custer County

OEM Director Robyn Knappe, “When homeowners didn’t need their cut wood, our team hauled it to the ranch.” That wood is split and distributed to veterans and others in need of firewood to heat their homes through the winter, in a large part due to the generosity of Veterans Rescue Ranch and Geoffrey and Christy Schram.

On Friday, September 19th, two veteran members of Team Rubicon’s southern sawyers will be bucking the logs into 12-inch rounds. The following day, Saturday, September

20th, the project could use your help to split and stack the wood before the cold sets in.

If you can help, work gloves and sturdy shoes or boots are required. Safety glasses, safety vests, refreshments, and lunch will be provided. Wheelbarrows and tarps to cover the stacked wood are still needed. If you are able to volunteer, email Robyn@custercounty-co.gov with your name, phone number, and hours you can help. Thank you for working to keep our community warm this winter.



Custer County SO Activity

Fire Mitigation Workshop — Saturday

by Sentinel Staff

What makes your home a winner or loser in the face of a wildfire? You can find out at the Custer County Sheriff and



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Posse Fire Mitigation workshop, Saturday, September 13. The workshop is from 10am - Noon at Ranchers Roost. FireWise Standards will be presented along with information on fire mitigation. Those who attend will also have the advantage of signing

up for a scheduled assessment of their property as it relates to fire mitigation. Reservations are not required to attend. Bring a neighbor and spend your Saturday morning becoming FireWise and making your home a winner.

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, September 15	Tuesday, September 16	Thursday, September 18
#63 Pasta Primavera	#32 Chili con Carne	#5 Smothered Pork Chop w/Gravy
Spinach Salad w/Egg & Lite Italian Dressing	Steamed Broccoli	Mashed Red Potatoes
Apple/Pear Salad w/Almonds	Cornbread	Cooked Collard Greens
Plum, Garlic Bread	Trail Mix w/Nuts & Raisins	Apple
	Apple	Bran Muffin

Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)

The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.

Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations

A \$4 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe	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	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	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
Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601	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	Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491	Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589	Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053	Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. 215 N Pikes Peak Ave. , Florence 719/784-1184	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822
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	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	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	Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572
Community United Methodist Church 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511	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	St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500	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
Cotopaxi Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com 20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi		Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037	Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596

Send Church updates to sdcsentinel@gmail.com
(719) 783-3360

Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
Psalm 106:1 KJV



OKTOBERFEST!

Do you have a little German in you? Did you or the generations before you come from Germany? Did you serve in the military and fall in love with the culture and country? Maybe you’re simply interested in having a good time!

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Oktoberfest hosted by
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Saturday September 20
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All proceeds go to Wreaths Across America program.

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Events

Friday, September 12, 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. (Reception/Gala 5-7 p.m. Awards Ceremony at 6 p.m. Sangre Art Guild’s Alla Prima Show @ Lange Hall. (Aterward, The Show will relocate art displayed to 3rd Street Gallery, 59000 N. Hwy 69. See SangreArtGuild.org

Saturday, September 13,
Beckwith Flea Market, 64159 Highway 69 N, Westcliffe

Saturday, September 13 @ 10 – 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

Saturday, September 13, 8:15- 10:15 p.m.
SJO Star Party , 100 S. Adams Blvd.

Thursday, September 18 @ 4 p.m. set up & 5:30 Dinner
Valley Strong Community Dinner on Main St., Westcliffe to register a table go to ValleyStrong.us.

Saturday, September 20 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Oktoberfest sponsored by The American Legion Post 170 Proceeds benefit Wreaths Across American program. Event at WMV Saddle Club, 90 County Road 241, Westcliffe

Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness
(719) 783-0750

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

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Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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VETERANS SERVICE Office (VSO)
Dominic Edginton new VSO
(719) 618-8266 vso@custercounty.co.gov
Courthouse Bldg. (Rosita Rd. Entrance)

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

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Classifieds

Announcement

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**

Help Wanted

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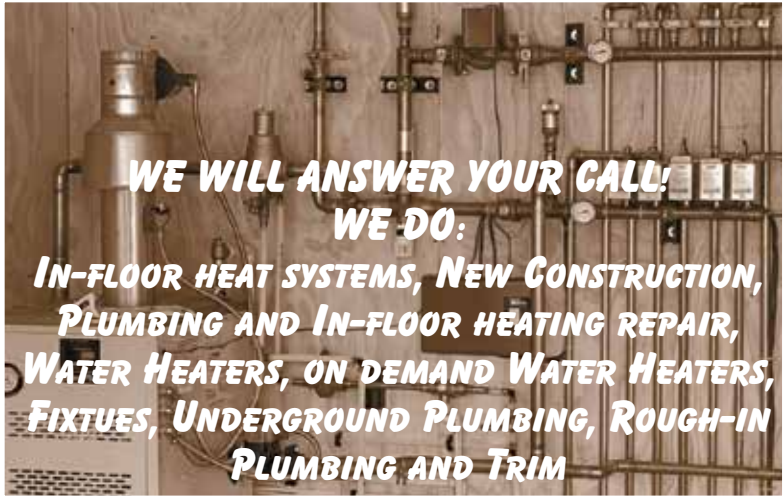
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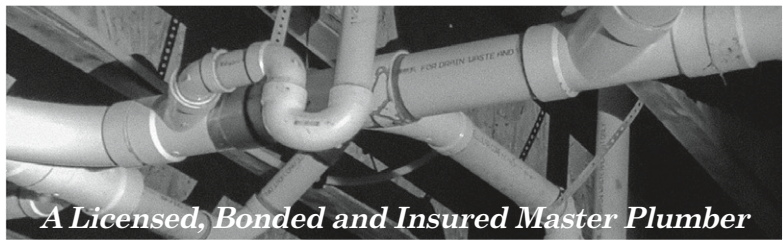
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Big News for Custer County Youth!

by Sentinel Staff

For several years, community members have been advocating for and working to find funding for programs to better engage our youth when they are not in school. Folks like Stacy Terrill with the Custer County Kids Council, Custer County 4-H and Trent Stafford as liason for The El Pomar Foundation have been working to bring out of school hours programs to Custer County. Their work has finally paid off as El Pomar has awarded a \$135,000 grant to launch the Mountain Valley Youth Wellness Fund. This new fund will support after school, arts, sports, and wellness programs that strengthen youth mental health in our community.

We all know youth who struggle with anxiety or depression and social pressures. El Pomar’s invest-



ment in Custer County’s youth will provide our young people with new opportunities, caring mentors and opportunities for growth. Decreasing down time for our youth and providing activities for engagement.

Custer County 4-H, the Custer County Kids Council, and Custer County Schools are dedicated to expanding after-school and enrichment programs that address the growing mental health needs of local youth. These programs will focus on mentorship, the arts, athletics, and healthy lifestyle education.

Custer County’s youth will soon have new things to do during off school hours. Custer County 4-H programs and Custer County Kids Council activities will be first out of the gate for youth engagement. Lego club and the Custer County Clay Buster Shooting Team are two of the programs that will continue under this fund. Whole family programs and mentorships will provide additional support for our youth and families.

The El Pomar Foundation is one of Colorado’s leading philanthropic institutions and this grant reflects its commitment to helping rural communities thrive. Additional support comes from Kirkpatrick Bank with opportunities for matching donations from the community through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation. To learn more or to donate visit wmvcf.org.

KIDS

Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

The Glass Armonica

We probably all have heard of a harmonica but have you heard of an armonica. Well, today we will learn about armonica. We all know of Benjamin Franklin as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but even I have never heard of his invention of the glass armonica.



In 1761, Benjamin Franklin invented what he called the Armonica. The glass harmonica is a type of musical instrument that uses a series of glass bowls or goblets graduated in size to produce musical tones by means of friction. Benjamin invented his radically new arrangement of the glasses in 1761 after seeing water-filled wine glasses played by Edward Delaval at Cambridge in England in May 1761. He worked with London glassblower Charles James to build one, and it had its world premiere in early 1762, played by Marianne Davies. Franklin wrote to his friend Giambattista Beccaria, concerning his invention; “The advantages of this instrument are, that its tones are incomparably sweet beyond those of any other; that they may be swelled and softened at pleasure by stronger or weaker pressures of the finger, and continued to any length; and that the instrument, being well tuned, never again wants tuning. In honor of your musical language, I have borrowed from it the name of this instrument, calling it the Armonica.”

Franklin had a few dozen glass bowls made and tuned them to notes by their various size and fixed them one inside each other with cork. This gave each bowl the desired pitch without being filled with water. He color-coded each bowl to a different note. A hole was then cut through the center of each bowl and an iron rod ran through the holes and the rod was attached to a wheel which was turned by a foot pedal. Moistened fingers touched the edge of the spinning glasses producing the musical sounds.

Unfortunately, the glass armonica faced many controversies and superstitions that ultimately led to its decline. Reports emerged of musicians and audience members experiencing adverse effects while being exposed to the instrument’s sound. Others believed the lead-based paint used to color-code the glass bowls could be absorbed into the fingers of musicians, leading to lead poisoning. However, no evidence was ever found to support these claims.

Recently, there has been a renewed interest in the glass armonica. Musicians like Dennis James have dedicated themselves to reviving this forgotten instrument.

Until next week, take care and give God the Reins.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass_harmonica, <https://fi.edu/en/science-and-education/collection/benjamin-franklins-glass-armonica>, <https://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/inventions/glass-armonica.htm>. Photo: Wikicommons.

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: 1 NIV

BOBCAT CORNER

- Friday, September 12:**
10 am: MS Volleyball vs Cotopaxi
- Saturday, September 13: HOMECOMING!**
10 am: Cross Country: Trojan Invite @ Fountain-Ft. Carson
1 pm: MS Football @ HOME vs South Park (6-man)
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)
- Friday, September 19:**
4 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ Primero (away)
5 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Primero (away)
7 pm: HS Football @ HOME vs Sargent
- Saturday, September 20:**
9 am: Cross Country: Coronado Cougar Classic in Co. Springs
- Tuesday, September 23:**
4:30 pm: MS Football vs Edison @ Hanover (6-man) (away)
- Thursday, September 25:**
5 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Cotopaxi (away)
- Friday, September 26:**
1 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ Center (away)
2 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Center (away)
7 pm: MS Football @ Sanford (away)
- Tuesday, September 30:**
4:30 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ HOME vs Buena Vista
5:30 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ HOME vs Buena Vista

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR CUSTER COUNTY BOBCATS!
All games and dates are subject to change without notice.



Custer County School District C-1 MENU for the week September 15 thru Sept. 18 2025

	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Cereal or Oatmeal Yogurt Fresh Fruit	Chicken and Rice Capri Blend Veg. Roll, Fruit
Tuesday	Cheese Omelet Sausage Fruit, Milk	Beef n Bean Burrito Corn, Rice Fruit, Milk
Wednesday	Pancakes Sausage Fruit, Milk	Pizza Muffins Fresh Salad Fruit Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Sausage Yogurt, Oatmeal Fruit, Milk	Beef Stroganoff Green Beans Fruit Milk

ELEMENTARY - MAIN DISH, GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT & MILK. MIDDLE & HIGH - MAIN DISH (OR SALAD BAR), GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT & MILK
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcat Football's Way Away Game



The Custer County High School Football team took to the road last Saturday. The team journeyed to Collbran near Grand Junction to take on Plateau Valley. Superintendent Kyle Hebberd stepped in as Head Coach for the game. The Bobcats fought hard, scoring 28 points to Plateau Valley's 42. The Bobcats are looking ahead to this week's homecoming game on Saturday, September 13th.

Photos courtesy of Tara Simmons



BOBCAT ATHLETE OF THE WEEK!

Cross Country Emma Stover!

Emma is a freshman this year, and has demonstrated great resilience throughout the season so far. She has battled through running pains and tough competition, but this weekend Emma ran her best race in Alamosa, shaving FIVE minutes off of her personal best time. Emma is a great teammate, she's a pleasure to coach, she always shows up, and she's a lot of fun. We've been fortunate to have her represent Custer County Cross Country for many years, and we are so excited to watch her continue to improve. Congrats, Emma!

Volleyball Stephanie Lewis for Varsity Lily Riding for JV

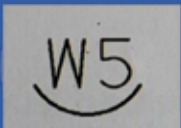
Football Offensive: Stone Everhart Defensive: Justus Simmons

BOBCAT PRIDE HOMECOMING WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

- Friday, Sept. 12:
- @ 4:30 pm: Homecoming Parade on Main St
 - @ 8:30 pm: Bonfire (Custer County HS Students Only)
- Saturday, Sept. 13:
- @ 9 am: Mini Bobcats Cheer Camp
 - @ 1 pm: HS Volleyball
 - @ 1 pm: MS Football
 - @ 3:30 pm: MS Volleyball
 - @ 4 pm: HS Football
 - @ 9:30 pm: Homecoming Dance (Custer County HS Students Only)



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A collage of various colorful and intricate quilts, including geometric patterns, floral designs, and abstract motifs, displayed in a gallery setting. The quilts are arranged in a grid-like fashion, showcasing a wide variety of styles and techniques. Some quilts feature bold geometric shapes like stars and squares, while others have delicate floral patterns or abstract, flowing designs. The colors range from vibrant reds and blues to soft pastels and earthy tones. The quilts are displayed on a light-colored surface, possibly a table or a wall, and are surrounded by other quilting-related items like a sign that reads "Old Schoolhouse Quilters" and a small quilted bag with a black silhouette of a person. The overall composition is a rich and diverse representation of the art of quilting.

[illegible]



Colorado State News

Ballot Measures Aimed at Protecting Kids Cleared for Circulation

Three Ballot Measure to Protect Kids Begin the Petition Process
by Laura Vass

It's been a long haul for the Colorado Protect Kids Council to get Petition language approved on its three proposed 2026 ballot initiatives. In order for these to be on the 2026 November ballot for a statewide vote, sufficient signatures must be gathered statewide.

That time is now. The CPK had a meeting on September 6th to organize ballot signing events and has already held one signing event on September 5th. Currently there are about 1,000 petitions assigned to petition carriers.

We'll keep you posted if we find that there are petition carriers in Custer County.

CPK is headquartered in Colorado Springs. Their web site to get involved or to be a petition carrier is <https://www.protectkidscolorado.org/>.

Any registered voter in the state of Colorado can sign the petition. You can sign a petition in another county. The Petition holder is to make the ballot summary available to you. (attached and part of the Petition.) You should not sign more than one time for each petition.

Sherrie Peif, CompleteColorado.com

DENVER – A trio of citizen-initiated ballot measures focused on sex crimes against children and transgender issues involving minors have been okayed by the Colorado Title Board and approved for signature gathering, with proponents aiming to put the measures in front of voters on the 2026 ballot.

Initiatives 108 (known as the Children Are Not For Sale Act), 109 (known as the Protect Women and Girls Sports Act), and 110 (known as the Protect Children From Irreversible Sex Change Surgery Act) would, respectively, increase the penalty for trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude to life in prison without parole, create distinct categories for school athletics in Colorado, stipulating that participants must participate in the category based on their sex assigned at birth, and prohibit any medical professional from performing a sex change surgery on a minor, with a few exceptions.

All three would appear on the ballot in the November 2026 statewide election and take effect

January 1, 2027. The measures are all statutory changes, meaning they can be amended or undone by the Colorado Legislature, as with any other statute.

The three initiatives were all brought by Wellington resident Erin Lee, who has become well-known across the state for her activism around parental rights after an employee in the Poudre School District convinced her daughter that she was actually a transgender male. She is the executive director of Protect Kids Colorado.

Lee's co-proponent on the initiatives is political strategist Michele Austin, of Englewood.

Second time's a charm

Two of the three measures were rejected by the title board during the last election cycle after being deemed too vague and in violation of the state's single subject rule.

Lee said the game changer this year was simply having former Secretary of State Scott Gessler represent them in front of the title board.

"Last year, they said it didn't meet single subject because the term

'parent' was too vague," Lee said. "We represented ourselves, so we didn't know how to respond. This year, Scott wasn't letting them get away with that. Having him up there made all the difference."

Much work still to be done

Proponents have 180 days as of August 6th to gather approximately 125,000 valid signatures of Colorado voters per initiative to get them on the ballot, but they say they are shooting for more than 200,000 and want to wrap it up by January 1, 2026.

Lee said there are a lot of differences this time around, including a partnership with the Protect our Children Issue Committee, which will help raise the funding needed to not only get it on the ballot but to also run a campaign around the initiatives.

Although Lee reports an impressive 1,000 volunteers with petitions, spread across 60 counties in Colorado, she knows at some point she will need to pay petition circulators to get the group across the finish line. Having heavy hitters like former Senator Kevin Lundberg, the Catholic church — which has

put out the directive to have "mandatory signing weekends" at churches in September, October and November — and many others behind the effort gives it the boost it needs to get before the voters this time, she said.

"We are hoping to triple that," she said, adding anyone wishing to help can find information on the organization's website protectkidscolorado.org. "We have been working for a year to build this infrastructure of leadership and logistically getting everything together when we pull the trigger," she said. "We want this to be a cultural movement. And it starts with having conversations with these people, just making sure people understand, 'yes this is happening in Colorado.'"

According to Lee, one of the areas they worked hard at finding middle ground on was the transgender surgery bill, which will not prohibit the use of hormone blockers, only surgeries.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/09/05/ballot-measures-protecting-kids-signature-gathering/A>

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Colorado State News



Uncompensated Care Meets 340b: Colorado's Numbers Force A Reckoning

by Jen Schumann,
Rocky Mountain Voice

Colorado's uncompensated care surge

UCHealth says it is drowning under the weight of migrant care, reporting \$17 million in uncompensated costs in just three months last year. Denver Health added another \$10 million in the same surge, and a Common Sense Institute analysis put the metro total for emergency care at \$48 million by late 2024, averaging \$2,931 per encounter.

Colorado's own ledger underscores the scale. In 2023, uncompensated care statewide totaled \$544.9 million—2.3 percent of hospital operating costs. Most of it sits in self-pay (\$310.3 million) and CICP/Other (\$132.5 million), categories that don't capture immigration status but almost certainly include many new arrivals.

More than a quarter of that total landed at Denver Health, piling the weight on the same region that has absorbed most of the migrant surge.

Separate budget documents confirm the pressure. The Joint Budget Committee's FY2025-26 budget report includes projections for the Cover All Coloradans program. Launched in 2022, it extends Medicaid-style benefits to undocumented immigrants under 19 and pregnant women. What began as a \$2 million program is now expected to cost \$32 million by FY2025-26.

Enrollment has surged from about 3,600 to 14,000 with expectations of 15,000 in the next fiscal year. In four years, the program's price tag has jumped sixteen-fold. And it comes on top of the uncompensated care hospitals already report.

The difference matters. Cover All Coloradans is a state-funded benefit, but hospitals also report separate uncompensated care costs that topped \$544.9 million in 2023.

UCHealth is calling migrant care "unsustainable," it has faced its own scrutiny. In November 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice announced UCHealth would pay \$23 million to settle allegations it fraudulently billed Medicare

and TRICARE by upcoding emergency visits. Federal officials said the case showed how health systems can misuse public programs while pleading hardship on uncompensated care.

UCHealth acknowledged that 340B savings are part of how it manages uncompensated care. "Not only do some of our hospitals qualify for 340B because of the amount of uncompensated care that they provide, but 340B makes that uncompensated care possible... It certainly doesn't completely cover the cost... but it makes that much more possible," spokesperson Dan Weaver told the *Denver Business Journal* in December 2024.

National pattern of abuse

The problems aren't limited to Colorado. In Virginia, lawmakers advanced a 340B expansion bill only to see Gov. Glenn Youngkin veto it, warning that hospitals were exploiting loopholes.

One Virginia hospital was caught buying a cancer drug for about \$3,400 and charging insurers more than \$25,000 for the same treatment, seven times the

purchase price, as reported by the *Washington Examiner*.

The uproar isn't just about balance sheets. Critics say 340B has been twisted into funding social agendas that have nothing to do with indigent care.

In Michigan, Henry Ford Health faced allegations of egregious markups and was spotlighted by President Trump as proof the program had morphed into corporate greed. In North Carolina, a state audit showed hospitals billing the state health plan nearly 85 percent more for cancer drugs than non-340B hospitals.

And in Illinois, Chicago's Howard Brown Health has advertised that 340B funds support gender-affirming care and LGBTQ services—far from the program's original mission of serving indigent patients.

Voices of frustration

Ask healthcare entrepreneur Dutch Rojas, what he thinks of 340B and he'll give you the unvarnished version. His complaint is simple: hospitals take the discounts, then turn

around and bill Medicare, insurers and patients at the higher rate.

"They buy drugs at steep discounts... but still bill Medicare and commercial insurance for the full price, so the savings never reach the patient," Rojas said in a recent video. He went further, calling the entire system "the world's greatest gift ever of all time."

Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio, a neurosurgeon and policy voice, has called the American Hospital Association's defense of 340B "a masterclass in gaslighting," as he wrote in a post on X.

The Alliance for Integrity and Reform of 340B has been just as blunt. "There are no requirements to track whether 340B discounts are passed on to the patients... rural communities, seniors, Medicaid patients, and the uninsured are left with little to no benefit," the group posted in August.

A new Health Affairs analysis adds an uncomfortable wrinkle:

UNCOMPENSATED CARE
see page 22



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Colorado State News

A Look At The Regulatory Burden On Colorado Childcare Providers

by Cory Gaines,
News and Commentary,
CompleteColorado.com

Colorado has a shortage of day care and preschool facilities. This is particularly the case for infant and toddler care, along with (due to Biden-era rule changes) childcare assistance programs for low-income parents. This is a problem that needs fixing. Without childcare options, many parents simply cannot work. We want people working.

In researching this issue, I've spoken with people on both the regulatory and business side of the industry. Interestingly, there was a recurring theme I heard from both. First, that there are problems with how we check providers for regulatory compliance, and second, that these problems predate the current state agency regulating providers, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC).

Something to be aware of in reading the below, but which I won't go into depth on here, is that multiple state entities have a say in Colorado's childcare regulatory regime. The same school might be subject to regulations and inspections by CDEC but also fall under the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) purview (as well as possibly others).

Take what you read below and

compound accordingly. What you see will be an example of a larger problem, not its entirety. Top that off, too by remembering that sometimes regulations from one agency conflict with regulations from another.

The regulatory regime

While the problem childcare operators face might not be new, I can tell you something that is: regulatory bloat. Since CDEC officially began in 2022, the agency added 27 new rules and regulations to the state's already voluminous rulebook. By this point, the page count is up in the 500's. From a purely pragmatic point of view, who can manage this complexity? How on earth are they supposed to do so fairly?

As things stand now, CDEC contracts with several agencies and nonprofits around the state to do their regulatory compliance and licensing checks. Per a CDEC spokesperson, this list has included Goodwill of Colorado, The Institute for Racial Equity and Excellence, Mesa County Public Health, and Red Rocks Community College.

Dawn Alexander of the Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado, a trade group, used to work for Red Rocks Community College as one of their inspectors. She told me that her training was partially done by the state, but Red Rocks did

the bulk of it, with a few months of job shadowing (with her first following, then leading). Another contractor, who didn't want to go on record, told me of a similar process; the state providing some training, with additional in-house training/mentoring prior to hitting the field alone.

Ms. Alexander, as well as the other contractor, also told me about meetings designed to make sure rules were consistently applied across the state and within an organization. This varied from a monthly in-house meeting in one case to a giant, virtual free for all in another.

In the grand tradition of rule-making bodies, CDEC also puts out what they term administrative guides which don't hold the legal force of rules, but they are intended to help inspectors and providers to understand and apply the rules in a consistent manner. I pawed through them too quickly to count pages, but I doubt they'd be much less than the rules themselves.

Set up for failure

After multiple discussions, it is clear that there is a concerted effort by contractors and inspectors to fairly and consistently apply the rules. I get the sense from everyone I spoke to on that side of the fence that they genuinely want to be fair and have the children's safety in mind.

Still, none of that seems to fix the problem providers are having with the rules. Despite providers saying they liked the individuals that came to do compliance, their frustration at the process was easy to pick up on.

I spoke with a provider who didn't want to go on record (but who did share documentation of her claims with me) who runs a series of childcare facilities in Colorado. From her I got story after story of inspection problems.

One instance that stood out was a report noting that a particular piece of playground equipment had bolts where more than 3 threads were showing on the hardware. Besides the [impracticality] of counting threads on every fence bolt, a natural question about how rules mentioning sturdiness and safety can be narrowed down by an inspector to "showing 3 threads" arises. Whose rule is this? Is it this particular inspector or the state?

From the inspection contractor who didn't want to be quoted, I heard a story of a banister out of compliance for years, but which had gone unnoticed by any previous inspector. Unnoticed, that is, until a new inspector caught it. The provider, understandably frustrated at the problem, suddenly had a big (and expensive) safety violation in need of repair in order to stay open.

Any game where the players all operate in good faith, yet everyone loses, is a poorly designed one. That is what is going on with Colorado's regulatory apparatus for childcare: despite good intentions and actions by all, problems are coming up. These problems are making things so difficult for providers that they don't expand despite a built-in demand for their services.

I heard many solutions and attempted patches in my conversations, but I didn't hear the one that may ultimately work best: scaling back the number of rules and regulations to human size. It's a stretch to say that 500 pages of rules, with an inspection "guide" that's probably about as long, is actually helping us be any safer. I believe we could lighten that load and encourage more entrants into the market to solve our childcare supply problem.

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

Please see: <https://complete-colorado.com/2025/09/04/regulatory-burden-colorado-childcare-providers/>



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Colorado State News

Costs Unclear As State Recycling Mandate Prepares For Roll Out

by Sherrie Peif,
CompleteColorado.com

DENVER — When House Bill 22-1355 “Producer Responsibility Program for Recycling,” was passed in 2022, those against the bill warned that the costs for the state-wide recycling mandate would eventually be pushed onto Colorado consumers.

Three years later, as the law is preparing to go into effect, the roll out of the program is indeed looking like an expensive and expansive new mandate, one with a highly questionable membership “dues” cost structure, paid to a private non-profit.

HB 1355 requires “producers of products that are ... packaging materials and paper products sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the state” to pay annual “producer responsibility dues.” An amendment to the bill exempted: “packaging material used for Colorado agricultural products sold under the name of the farmer, grower or grower cooperative.” Newspapers were also originally included among the industries required to pay the annual fee, but were removed from the final version.

Paying your ‘dues’

The “dues” fund a program to “implement and manage a state-wide program (program) that provides recycling services to covered entities in the state, which are defined as residences, businesses, schools, government buildings and public places,” putting the cost of such program on those who manufacture recyclable material.

Producers who are mandated to take part in the program were re-

quired to sign a participant agreement and make their first report by July 31st. Currently there are 2,279 producers who have registered.

According to the *Sum & Substance*, an online publication of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce, the program aims to raise between \$215 million and \$267 million by charging between 2 cents and 90 cents-per-pound to producers of packaging materials used in Colorado.

Former Republican-turned-Democrat Sen. Kevin Priola, who by default of redistricting represented Weld County for the last two years of his term, sponsored the bill. Priola was replaced in the Senate by Scott Bright, R-Greeley.

Juri Freeman, executive director of Circular Action Alliance (CAA), the private, non-profit “producer responsibility organization” (PRO) contracted by the state with implementing the program, told the Chamber in its story that the goal is to “more than double” the state’s recycling rate by 2035.

CAA will use the money collected as dues to contract with other providers to pick up recycling at homes around the state. Colorado Consumer Coalition Executive Director Jaime Gardner, told the Chamber, she expects the new fee will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars each to fund the scheme.

Paper products and glass dues average between two and six cents-per-pound, aluminum is four and five cents-per-pound, and paper/fiber packaging ranges from seven to 10 cents-per-pound. Rigid plastic, which is plastic that does not easily bend such as re-

usable water bottles or window frames, are estimated between 66 to 90 cents-per-pound because they are not currently something collected for recycling. Flexible and film plastics will average between 62 and 86 cents-per-pound, and wood is likely to cost between 43 and 55 cents-per-pound.

A fee by any other name

Gardner told the Chamber she and others remain skeptical this new fee is even constitutional.

“There are significant legal questions when you’re talking about what is a tax on business. And these are not small taxes,” Gardner told *The Sum & Substance*. “I tend to think that a six-figure tax is a big number.”

In fact, just last week, The National Association of Wholesale Distributors filed a suit in district court in Portland against a similar new law in Oregon — just weeks after it took effect.

According to the *Oregon Capitol Chronical*, the wholesale distributors claim the law is unconstitutional “because, as it’s structured, it gives regulatory authority over the fee schedule and collection, not to the state’s environmental quality department but to a private entity,” which happens to be the same non-profit Colorado has contracted with—the Circular Action Alliance.

“Rather than encourage sustainability through a uniform and transparent system where compliance burdens are shared across industries, Oregon chose to shift the burden to the parts of the supply chain that have little to no control over decisions to design, reduce, reuse or recycle

a product,” Eric Hoplin, the wholesaler association president and CEO, told the *Chronical*.

The group says Oregon’s law discriminates against out-of-state producers and violates state and federal due process laws.

At the time of the bill’s passage, inflation in Colorado was already at one of its highest rates ever (7.5 percent), and higher than the national average. While inflation has fallen to 3.5 percent, it still remains above the national average, according to the Common Sense Institute.

Another unelected board

Those close to the situation say the biggest issue right now is yet another appointed bureaucracy that was created by the bill known as the “statewide recycling advisory board. The terms are staggered. Members serve three years. Members are supposed to have “relevant knowledge and expertise in recycling programs or the impacts of covered materials on the state and environment.”

Current members are:

- Angela French, Recycling and Waste Reduction Supervisor for Grand Junction
- Liza Marron, Saguache County Commissioner
- Gail Garey, Steamboat Springs City Council
- Richard Kattar, former VP of Safety and Maintenance for Greenstar Recycling
- Mark Petrovich, Republic Services
- Clinton Sander, worked in “natural foods” industry
- Elizabeth Chapman, served on

various volunteer boards

- Scott Saunders, General Manager of KW Plastics, recycling division
- Michael Pratt, packaging industry
- Scott DeFife, former president of the Glass Packaging Institute
- Brian Loma, Hazardous Materials and Waste Diversion Advocate for GreenLatinos
- Barrett Jensen, Government Affairs Manager at Waste Connections of Colorado

At the time of the bill’s passage, officials in Weld County pushed back hard as that county is a major food producing region, with a fast-growing plastics manufacturing sector as well.

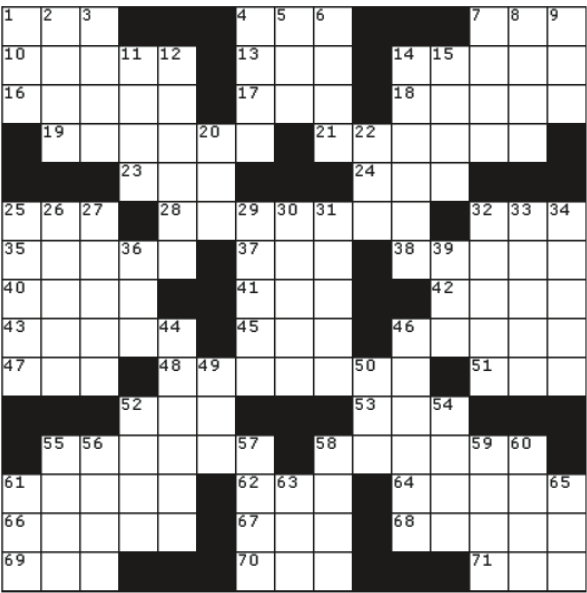
Weld County Commissioner Scott James, who was opposed to the plan in the beginning said nothing has changed his mind.

“We don’t need it,” James said. “It’s just more grist for the green-grift mill. We are creating economies where no economies exist in the name of environmental absolution. People are done with it. It’s going to cost producers more, and companies will not absorb that cost. If we really want to make things more affordable, then we need to stop doing things like this.”

Another meeting to “finalize” the plan [was] held virtually on August 13th. The public was invited to attend and provide comment.

Please see <https://completecolorado.com/2025/08/08/costs-unclear-colorado-statewide-recycling-mandate/>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Compass point
- 4 First lady
- 7 Serving of corn
- 10 Droop
- 13 Laundry detergent brand
- 14 Bring together
- 16 Mush up
- 17 Forbid
- 18 Abhorrence
- 19 Book near Acts

21 Where Egypt is located

- 23 Sphere
- 24 Allow
- 25 Discs
- 28 Brother of Mary and Martha
- 32 Lard
- 35 Tends
- 37 Wrath
- 38 Ms. Winfrey
- 40 Singing voice
- 41 Caustic substance

DOWN

- 1 Sixth sense
- 2 Speak indistinctly
- 3 European monetary unit
- 4 Tides
- 5 By way of
- 6 OT book of history
- 7 Little Mermaid’s love
- 8 Mexican water
- 9 Rock group
- 11 Reminder

- 12 ... your ___ before swine
 - 14 Overly (2 wds.)
 - 15 Rewrite
 - 20 BB association
 - 22 Winter malady
 - 25 Animal’s talons
 - 26 Headquarters of British India
 - 27 The devil
 - 29 Zero
 - 30 White
 - 31 Brings in a fish
 - 32 Supporting structure
 - 33 Brother of Moses
 - 34 KJV possessive pronoun
 - 36 Neither’s partner
 - 39 Pressure unit
 - 44 Waters between cliffs
 - 46 Winds around
 - 49 Hold
 - 50 Lubricate
 - 52 Place for the wicked
 - 54 A Gospel
 - 55 Soft drink
 - 56 Helen of ___
 - 57 Word meaning father
 - 58 Father of Abel
 - 59 Exalt
 - 60 Island
 - 61 Defeat
 - 63 Goof
 - 65 Annex
- Key on page 8

William A Good
Manager

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

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

It's About Time

President Trump is demanding drug company accountability. The FDA has pulled the rug on the Emergency Use Authorization of the COVID vaccines, but people can still choose to get it. That means that the drug companies can still push it on an unsuspecting public. It's about time the truth is acknowledged about the COVID shot. In the rush of 2020 and 2021, public health officials green-lighted a shot that had nowhere near the level of testing required for long-term use. Emergency Use Authorization became the magic wand that bypassed caution and silenced dissent. Now, President Trump and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. have announced plans to phase out and ultimately ban the vaccine, tacitly admitting what millions already know: this so-called cure never lived up to its billing.

Government officials and Big Pharma pushed the vaccine as "safe and effective," a phrase repeated so often it became a slogan instead of a scientific conclusion. The promise was that it would prevent infection and stop the spread. Both proved untrue. Even before variants arrived, vaccinated individuals were contracting and transmitting COVID, undermining the entire justification for mandates. Yet those who questioned the narrative were labeled "anti-science" or worse. Meanwhile, Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson reaped record profits, aided by media campaigns that elevated pharmaceutical press releases to the level of gospel. What was billed as salvation turned into a pathway to harm for countless unsuspecting citizens.

Independent studies—not funded by Pfizer, Moderna, or their allies—paint a far darker picture of the COVID vax. Analyses confirm heightened risks of myocarditis and pericarditis, particularly among young men. Reports link the shot to pregnancy complications and menstrual disruptions, long dismissed until data became impossible to ignore. Confidential documents Pfizer submitted to the FDA in April 2021 acknowledged adverse events that were kept from public. A recent CDC analysis says the risks far outweighed any real return. In fact, a forensic review of Pfizer's own six-month trial data found a 3.7-fold increase in cardiovascular deaths among vaccinated participants compared to placebo, raising red-flag concerns that were never shared with the public. The supposed "protection" vanished quickly, while side effects lingered.

What the government and pharmaceutical giants conducted was essentially a forced human experiment. Millions were pressured, even coerced, into compliance without full disclosure of the risks. Americans were told the science was settled when it was anything but. Many who research whether to take the shot were misled with manipulated information hiding the effectiveness and side effects. The Apostle Paul warned in Ephesians 5:11: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." That's the call today. Expose the darkness of profit-driven medicine dressed up as public health. With Trump and Kennedy now pledging to end the COVID vaccine era, the tide is finally turning. It's about time.

Sources

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Preprint Study –Forensic Analysis of Pfizer Trial Deaths & Cardiovascular Risk

Bill Wilson Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Significant 2nd Amendment Developments

Move Forward in Federal Courts

by Sentinel Staff

This week, two major developments recoiled the legal scene for gun owners. One ruling in the 10th Circuit and another in the Seventh, each with serious implications for those who value firearm rights.

In *United States v. Morgan* (10th Cir. No. 24-3141), a three-judge panel based in Denver unanimously reversed a lower court decision. The district court had dismissed charges against Tamori Morgan, a Kansas resident accused of possessing a machine gun and a "Glock switch." Relying on *Bruen* (2022), the judge found the federal ban unconstitutional. But the appellate court disagreed.

The 10th Circuit held Morgan failed to show that machine guns are "arms" in "common use" for self-defense, as required by *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008). Judges pointed out that *Bruen* did not alter the "common use" standard. Instead, Reuters indicated, they emphasized that machine guns are historically and predominantly associated with unlawful behavior, not self-defense, and upheld the long-standing prohibition.

For Colorado (and the other 10th Circuit states—Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming), the ruling reinforces the National Firearms Act prohibition on fully automatic weapons and conversion devices. Those seeking expanded Second Amendment protections face continued legal hurdles. Citizens charged under this law are unlikely to find relief under *Morgan*.

On June 13, 2025, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division filed an amicus brief in the Seventh Circuit in support of the challenge to Illinois's Protect Illinois Communities Act (PICA). PICA bans AR-15s, AK-47s, and high-capacity magazines for long guns (over 10 rounds) and handguns (over 15 rounds)

The DOJ argues that PICA violates the Second Amendment by forbidding firearms and magazines "commonly possessed" for lawful purposes. The department contends that such weapons remain protected under *Bruen* and *Heller* precedents. In a bold message, Assistant Attorney General Harmet Dhillon wrote, "The Second Amendment is not a second-class right. See you in court, Illinois." The filing is backed by key gun-rights groups, including the Illinois State Rifle Association.

A federal judge in East St. Louis previously ruled PICA unconstitutional and issued an injunction. The Seventh Circuit stayed that order, which keeps the law in force during the appeals. The DOJ's brief could tip the scales toward lifting the ban and restoring rights for law abiding gun owners. A favorable ruling might inspire similar challenges in other states with assault-weapon bans.

What Lies Ahead: Legal Shifts on the Horizon ?

These cases hint at a potential turning point in Second Amendment law.

- The 10th Circuit's ruling in *Morgan* sharpens the burden on challengers: individuals must

prove that disputed weapons are in common use for self-defense not the government. That could make defending lesser-used arms more difficult under *Bruen*'s framework.

- In contrast, the DOJ's intervention in Illinois affirms the protection of commonly owned firearms and magazines which could potentially set up a resurgence in constitutional challenges across the nation.

- If a split emerges between conservative circuits like the 10th and Seventh, it could force the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit these issues—possibly by 2026 or 2027.

Why This Matters

For many, responsible gun ownership is a part of life; whether for defense, work, or tradition. These court rulings and federal actions matter because they shape what arms are considered protected under the Constitution. From Colorado ranchers to Illinois farmers and hunters, the outcomes of *Morgan* and the Illinois case could redefine access to commonly used, modern firearms.

As legal battles continue, communities grounded in constitutional liberty will watch closely. Court rulings, and federal stances like that of the DOJ, may determine whether future generations can enjoy full Second Amendment protections and even for weapons considered controversial by some.

LMT Defense Lands \$92 Million

Contract with U.S. Special

Operations Command

by Ammoland
Editors & Staff

ELDRIDGE, Iowa — A homegrown Iowa firearms manufacturer just secured one of the biggest wins in its 45-year history. LMT Defense, based in Eldridge, has landed a decade-long contract worth up to \$92 million with the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM).

"This was certainly larger than we had anticipated, but like everything else, you don't give back your Christmas presents either," said Karl Lewis, president of LMT Defense, describing the milestone with an upbeat smile.

Beating the Competition

The Eldridge company beat out nearly 10 other competitors for the deal, which will run over the next 10 years. The agreement covers

rifles, spare parts, accessories, and training for SOCOM units — some of the most elite warfighters in the world.

"It takes a lot to put together a system that is at this level," Lewis explained, noting the company's long history of building firearms designed for precision and reliability.

From One Employee to Hundreds

LMT Defense began in 1980 with Lewis as its only employee. In the early days, he handled everything himself. "In the early years it was me," he recalled. "And then I was fortunate enough to have some success in the first six to eight months... we now have over 200 people."

That workforce continues to grow. Operations Vice



LMT Modular Ambidextrous Rifle System MARS

President Michael Neff said the company currently has between 20 and 30 open positions ranging from machinists to engineers.

Global Reach from Iowa

While rooted in the Quad Cities, LMT has built a strong global footprint. Its rifles, grenade launchers, and suppressors are used by militaries worldwide, including the UK, New

Zealand, Estonia, and most recently Switzerland.

"We've had a number of very good international successes," Lewis said. "The UK, New Zealand, Estonia, recently with the Swiss companies — and we're doing it here in Iowa."

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/09/lmt-defense-lands-92-million-contract-with-u-s-special-operations-command/>

Protecting Senior Citizens from Asset Theft by Collusion of Doctors and Judges, Part 2

—August 16, 2025

by Pam Long
KimMonsonShow.com

In 2022, I wrote Protecting Senior Citizens from Asset Theft by Collusion of Doctors and Judges and this is Part Two. This theft occurs when a doctor declares that a person does not have the mental capacity to make medical decisions and then colludes with a judge to appoint a court ordered guardian. The guardian then takes control of all assets of the victim who is placed in a conspiring facility, and the victim is usually heavily sedated and disconnected from contact with family members. I was contacted by a woman who read my original article, and she provided a 90-minute interview about how this asset theft was orchestrated in the life of her 93-year-old father in 2024.

From Independence to a Medical Facility Overnight

Gary (pseudonym) and his wife were living independently in their home, and both were in good health at the age of 90. Gary's wife had power of attorney for medical decision making for her husband. Gary went to a hospital to have a sore on his foot evaluated. The hospital doctors told the family that Gary had a terminal diagnosis of osteomyelitis with weeks to live, needed surgery for amputation, would need a prosthetic, and eventually hospice. The family was also told that Gary was an infectious risk to his wife. He was immediately transferred



to a facility. The family was in disbelief but initially allowed for the facility to care for Gary while they tried to cope with Gary's diagnosis and the emotional trauma to Gary's wife.

This initial placement in the facility started a nightmare scenario involving doctors, hospital lawyers, judges, and appointed guardians: that is organized crime. The family would learn months later after losing control of Gary's medical decision making, that he never had osteomyelitis. He had a simple fungal infection.

The Facility Requested a Court Appointed Guardian

The family questioned the diagnosis and the care that Gary was getting in the facility. Gary was heavily sedated and looked neglected. The facility was hostile to the family visiting and to the wife calling to check on Gary. The facility petitioned the court for a guardian, alleging that Gary's wife could not take care of him. The family initially paid \$12,000 in legal fees for one day in court, and a judge appointed a guardian for Gary.

This guardian now controlled all medical decisions and even visitation by family members. The guardian gave preference to Gary's estranged son, whom the family had a restraining order against for prior violence.

The hospital lawyer used several tactics to hinder the family in the legal process. He would use the wrong address or incorrect postage so the family would not get notifications on the legal process.

Medical Abduction

Once the guardian was in control, she transferred Gary to another facility without updating the family. At one point, Gary was in a facility that charged up to \$4,000 per day that was billed to the family. The family found Gary and reported that he had signs of neglect, with a urinary tract infection and pneumonia, showing signs of decline, and had lost the ability to speak. The guardian attempted to impose a no-trespass order on the family, but police helped the family get Gary to a hospital for treatment.

After treatment, the guardian transferred Gary to another facility. Gary went into renal failure, and the guardian opted not to treat it. Instead, he was intubated and asphyxiated. Under the guardian's Do Not Resuscitate order (DNR), Gary died by choking. However, his death certificate reported that he died of cardiac arrest.

Gary's death occurred eight months after the court appointed guardian took control of his care. During this time, the guardian incurred \$250,000 in medical bills for the family, and \$22,000 in legal bills.

Murder for Money

The family learned the hospital attorney involved with the transfer of Gary to the first facility with the fraudulent diagnosis, while disregarding the wife's power of attorney, is married to an estate planner. The family believes that estate planners are colluding with hospital lawyers, doctors, and facilities to target people. The family even noticed an estate planning office in the hospital. Their advice is to be extremely careful with estate planners who might be involved in this. Estate planners and lawyers are using Medicare lists to offer consultations to targeted people. The family also advises not to share too much in medical appointments about any indications of asset valuation in small talk.

The family said it was very difficult to find an attorney

because so many attorneys are involved in this organized crime and have ties to the hospitals and facilities. The family said that once the petition for a hospital guardian goes to court, it is likely too late for the family to retain decision making because the judges are conspiring in favor of hospital guardians. Everyone involved is getting kickbacks.

The family also advises taking strong legal actions against any untrusted family members, so they are not involved later in life and colluding in this asset theft scenario. Any profiteering family member could be recruited by this organized crime.

In conclusion, the family has formally complained to every oversight agency with no response. They did think that the Senior Medicare Patrol was somewhat helpful, but overall people must take action to prevent the abduction in medical facilities that leads to a court appointed guardian and asset theft.

Pam Long is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, a U.S. Army Veteran, and a former Medical Intelligence Officer.

To read Part 1 go to: https://kimmonson.com/featured_articles/protecting-senior-citizens-from-asset-theft-by-collusion-of-doctors-and-judges/

Please see: https://kimmonson.com/featured_articles/protecting-senior-citizens-from-asset-theft-by-collusion-of-doctors-and-judges-part-two/

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



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

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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
Friday, Oct. 3, 4-6:30pm: New Shooter Friday
Saturday, Oct. 4, 7:45-4pm: CCW
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On September 9, 1775

On this day, the Continental Congress officially adopted the name "United States of America."

The name replaced the prior descriptor of "United Colonies," and it carried the weight of sovereignty – no longer colonies, but sovereign, self-governed states.

"That in all continental commissions, and other instruments, where, heretofore, the words 'United Colonies' have been used, the stile be altered for the future to the "United States."

— Journals of the Continental Congress, September 9, 1776.

Coffee and Friday Morning's Paper

Plus Back Issues





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The Voice of Conservative Colorado!



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Springfield Armory SA-35: High Praise For The High Power

by Mike Hardesty,
AmmoLand.com

The Browning High Power is an iconic pistol. Developed in the 1920s and 1930s, first by John M. Browning and then later by Dieudonné Saive at FN Herstal, the gun has a legend of historic proportions. It was finalized in 1934 and released in 1935 as the P-35 and was used by various militaries. The Springfield Armory SA-35 is a direct descendant of the original High Power. Let's look at a bit of history before looking at the gun itself.

The Backstory

Many of my gun reviews are about modern firearms without much history, but since the High Power is such a storied pistol, I'll break with my usual form and discuss some history.

It all began in the mid-1920s. The French military wanted a new service pistol. That pistol had to meet several requirements:

- The gun must be compact.
- The magazine must have a capacity of at least 10 rounds.
- The gun must have a magazine disconnect device, an external hammer, and a positive safety.
- The gun must be robust and simple to disassemble and reassemble.
- The gun must be capable of killing a man at 50 m (55 yd).

The last criterion dictated a bullet of at least 35 caliber, a bullet mass of around 120 grains, and a velocity of 1,100 f.p.s. All of these pointed to 9mm being the caliber of choice, especially since it was for the French military. The 9mm was popular in Europe. It was with these requirements in mind that FN commissioned John Browning to come up with a new pistol.

One problem was that he had to start over, as he had sold his 1911 design to Colt and therefore could not just duplicate that design for this pistol. He built two prototypes, one blowback-operated and the other a locked breech design. He duly applied for patents for these two guns in 1923. It was granted in 1927. Both pistols used the new staggered magazine arrangement invented by Saive... we call it double-stack. (Coincidentally, that's where the High Power gets its name – its magazine held 13 rounds, an unheard of capacity at that time. Truly High Power!).

The story gets more involved. John Browning died in November of 1926, so Messr. Saive took over development of the pistol. The military had expressed interest in the locked-breech model, so that was the one chosen for further development. The Colt patents expired in 1928, so Saive incorporated some 1911 traits into this new pistol, such as similar take-down and a barrel bushing.



In 1929, FN decided to cut to the chase and release a pistol that would stand on its own merits and hopefully be picked up by a military organization. The French were still deliberating on pistols, after all these years. FN settled on pursuing the locked-breech variation. They came out with the "Grand Rendement" – High Resource, evidently because of the 13-round capacity. By 1931, the gun had that capacity, a curved backstrap, and a barrel bushing integrated into the slide, after ditching the 1911 holdover parts. The Belgian military ordered 1000 of them for field tests, a good start.

By 1934, the pistol was basically in the form we know today and had been adopted by Belgium and other nations. Funny... France went with a different pistol, but by then, FN didn't care because they were selling them elsewhere. It was officially released as the "Grand Puissance" (High Power) in 1935 and was given the model number P-35.

This was one of the few pistols to have fought on both sides during WWII, as the Germans took over the FN factory and had the guns produced for their Wehrmacht. But, FN had been cagey earlier when they could see the writing on the wall and had plans and designs sent to the John Inglis company in Canada, where the gun was also produced for the Allies.

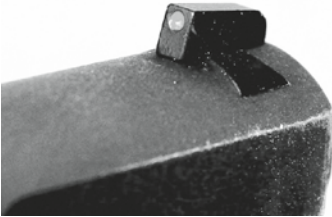
That's enough history. Now, let's look at the Springfield Armory (SA) pistol before us...

Features

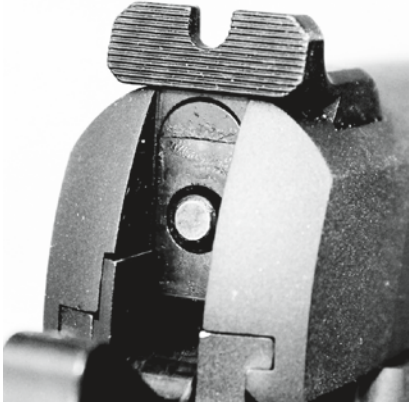
The SA-35 is a faithful reproduction of the original High Power, but with a few differences. It is important to note that parts are interchangeable, and that the original High Power magazine will work in the SA-35. The safety lever is different – it's extended, and only on the left side of the gun. Also, the sights are different... they are larger and easier to acquire than those on the original.

Sights

Speaking of sights, here's what we have on the SA-35. A front post with a white dot, and U-notch, Tactical-rack rear. These are definite upgrades over the original "bumps".



My front white dot has morphed into an orangey-red one, better for my eyes.



SA-35 rear sight.

The grip panels are definitely old-school walnut with some well-defined checkering. I like the way they feel. Two coats of Tru-Oil on them bring out the grain and protect them.

No, it's not Parkerized, but it is a matte blue finish that should withstand bumps and bruises well.

Here's something I discovered by accident. The SA-35 spring is longer than that of the original gun and those of other clones being made today. This provides sure operation of the slide and practically guarantees good functioning. The original High Power spring is about an inch shorter than this one, as are most of today's other clone springs. Please notice which direction the guide rod "loop" is pointing when you take it out, and replace it the same way. There's a spring-loaded detent ball in the guide rod that grabs the slide release rod and needs to be oriented correctly. It usually will work the other way, but doing it right is best.

SA-35
see page 21

DC Appeals Court: Adults Under 21 Are Covered by Second Amendment, But Can't Have Guns

by Tom Knighton,
BearingArms.com

Do adults under the age of 21 have the right to keep and bear arms?

Since they're adults, they should. After all, it's one thing to say children can't buy firearms, but people who are responsible for themselves in pretty much every other aspect of their lives are a different matter.

Yet many places restrict those under 21 from actually enjoying the full benefits of their Second Amendment rights.

In the District of Columbia, which is a microcosm of how little gun control actually does to stop crime, they have a total gun ban for those under 21. That ban has been challenged and was recently ruled constitutional. The local DC appeals court--not the federal appeals court in DC, just for clarification--just upheld the ruling with an...interesting argument.

So, by operating under the assumption that adults under 21 are, in fact, part of "the people" covered by the Second Amendment, they still find a gun ban constitutional?

How does that make sense?

As the FPC put it later:

On X: Firearms Policy Coalition @gunpolicy

The DC Court of Appeals today upheld the district's under-21 gun ban, saying that "assum[ing] without deciding that eighteen-to-twenty-one-year-olds with no criminal history are part of 'the people' that the Second Amendment protects," they do not have the right to purchase, possess, or carry guns: <https://dccourts.gov/sites/default/>

Right?

The sad part is that I see the so-called logic being employed. If the right to own guns implies the right to purchase them, which many of us have argued more

than once, as have the courts, then the inverse would seem to be true. If you don't have a right to buy them, as was ruled previously, then the implication is that you don't have a right to own them.

Hence, the DC restrictions being upheld.

But *NRA v Bondi*, which is the case cited, was an 11th Circuit decision, not a Supreme Court decision, so I'm not sure about the wisdom of basing everything on that, especially as the DC Circuit Court of Appeals covers the DC area. Of course, it's not like that court would rule differently.

Personally, I think the 11th Circuit blew it.

While there is a legitimate case for the constitutionality of age limits, the argument that people who are old enough to enlist, sign contracts, and vote in our nation's elections is bizarre to me. Especially as some want to lower the voting age still further, all while saying younger people are too reckless and irrespons-

ible to exercise a fundamental, constitutionally protected right.

And then to extrapolate it out to justifying a ban on even the possession of firearms by people in that age group is absolutely horrifying to me. Especially as the age limits are often defended as saying these folks still have their Second Amendment rights, they just can't buy a gun. This, however, makes it very clear where that argument can and will lead.

Here's hoping someone steps in and lowers a much needed smackdown on this absolute BS.

Editor/llv Note: Colorado passed a similar law. In Colorado, the minimum age to legally purchase any firearm, including both handguns and long guns like rifles and shotguns, is 21. This standard was established by Senate Bill 23-169. Shortly after the law was signed, it was temporarily blocked by a court injunction. A Federal Appeals Court ruled in late 2024 that law could be enforced and it

is now in effect. This law raised the previous minimum age of 18 for long guns, creating a single age requirement for all firearm purchases. The only exceptions are for POST certified peace officers and active-duty military.

Florida passed a similar law. The U.S. Supreme Court could decide late this month whether to take up a battle about the constitutionality of a 2018 Florida law that prevents people under age 21 from buying rifles and other long guns. This case is one to watch for two reasons; 1) The case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court by the National Rifle Association and 2) Florida's AG, is refusing to defend the law at the Supreme Court. Florida AG James Uthmeier believes that the law violates the Second Amendment.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/tomknighton/2025/09/05/dc-appeals-court-adults-under-21-are-covered-by-second-amendment-but-cant-have-guns-n1229809>

SA-35 from page 20

Specifications

- Caliber 9mm
- Color Black
- Barrel 4.7" Cold Hammer Forged, 1:10
- Slide Forged Carbon Steel, Blued
- Frame Forged Carbon Steel, Blued
- Sights White Dot Front, Serrated Tactical Rack Rear
- Recoil System SA-35™ Recoil Spring & Guide Rod
- Grips Checkered Walnut
- Magazines (1) 15-Round
- Trigger Pull 4 lbs., 5 oz. (measured)
- Weight 31.5 oz
- Length 7.8"
- Height 4.8"
- MSRP \$799
- Variations: Tactical Gray, Coyote Brown (either, \$859)

Quibbles

I don't have enough quibbles to constitute a "con" listing, but there are a couple. The gun ships with one magazine. That's it. Every other pistol SA sells (as far as I know or have had experience with) comes with at least two mags. One is all you get here. The pistol is solid, accurate, and reliable; I just wish it had a spare mag with it. You can order a [SA-35 mag](#) for about \$30. Other 15-rounders are out there, as well.

The other quibble has to do with the safety lever. On the other hand, High Power clones are out now, and the safety is on both sides of the gun. The original wasn't ambidextrous, but beginning with the FN MkII, it was. I wish it and the slide release were replicated on the right side of

the gun. That would allow this lefty to carry it when needed without resorting to gyrations to disengage the safety or to drop the slide. Because of that, I doubt if this gun will be carried much outside of my property.

Thoughts

I wasn't quite sure what to call this section, so we'll go with thoughts. I have some thoughts and opinions about this pistol that don't fit elsewhere, so here goes.

First, I had always wanted to shoot a High Power, but since I didn't know anyone who owned one, that didn't happen. I remember when SA brought the SA-35 out and how I thought I'd love to try one. Again, I didn't know anyone with one. So, when the chance to get one for review popped up, I grabbed it. I really like this pistol.

Why?

Because it fits. It fits my hand. It's almost like a 1911 but a bit different. The grip angle is pretty much the same, and the grip is familiar... minus the grip safety. Takedown is way easier with no barrel bushing to mess with and no swinging link under the barrel.

What else does it fit? It fits my old-timey idea of a full-size duty pistol.

I cut my shooting teeth about 50 years ago, before polymer was ever a gleam in its daddy's eye, to use the old saying. I grew up shooting chunks of blued, hardened steel with real walnut grip panels attached. That was the standard. Do I like "modern" pistols? Of course. I own a bunch. It's just that, when I first saw and then picked up the SA-35, I knew it had to come live with me -- it reminded me of times gone by, a different era. Sometimes, that's not a bad thing.

The grip panels are truly comfortable -- checkered walnut is hard to beat. Again, the gun just fits. I knew when I picked it up for the first time, fresh out of

the box, that I would sell a rifle or whatever so I could buy it, which I did. I don't get that feeling with too many pistols. Recently, that feeling has crept up when I handled two other SA guns... their Echelon compact and their XDM Elite 10mm 4.5". Both of those pistols now live with me.

Once you find a well-fitting pistol that is accurate and reliable, you run with it. So it goes with this SA-35.

Another reason the gun didn't go back is its trigger. That under-5-pound single-action trigger is great... hardly any take-up and minimal creep, a clean break. It pretty much lets you put bullets where you're looking -- at least it will for a better shot than I am. Add in the very useful sights and you have a winner.

Take-Down

It's easy. Remove the mag and make sure the chamber's empty. Pull the slide back and lock the

It goes back together easily. For shooters who may not be familiar with uncaptured (free) recoil springs, you just need to show it who's boss and shove it into the channel. Line it up straight after it's in and you're good to go.

Target Time

I waited for the wind to calm down -- it was going at a good 35 mph clip -- and then set a large "shoot and see" target up at 25 yards at my backyard range. I gathered a small assortment of 9mm ammo and proceeded to "shoot for record" 10-round groups. Ten-round groups are my preference. You get more info than with 3- or 5-shot groups.

Here are a few shots of the target corners... (Photos using the following ammo are not included here due to space restraints.)

Winchester "White Box" 115-gr FMJ, Armscor 115-gr FMJ, Fiocchi Range Dynamics 115-grFMJ and Monarch 115-gr



SA-35 Stripped

safety into the second notch. Push up on the slide release and press it out the left side. Release the safety and remove the slide. Separate the barrel and spring. When putting things back, make sure the spring guide rod is in the correct orientation, as I mentioned above.

FMJ.

Any of these loads would work for practice. Although not tack-drivers, they are all mostly shooting fairly close to the point of aim. The Armscor and the Winchester are closest to P.O.A.

photos by Mike Hardesty

It's worth mentioning that some reviewers complain about the SA-35's "beavertail" digging into their hand due to sharp corners, but I had no such experience. I have medium-sized hands; maybe that's why I came away blood-free. No hammer bite, either -- the hammer used is a round one, not a spur variety. That helps.

Conclusion

The Browning High Power has been around for 90 years. It has been used by many military organizations and thousands of civilian shooters since its introduction in 1935. Although it's undergone some minor upgrades, the current High Power is still recognizable as such. Springfield Armory's SA-35 is one of the more refined clones on the market. They upgraded the sights and the trigger, put a nice matte finish on it, and extended the safety lever. They also added some spiffy walnut grip panels. The gun is handsome and is a shooter. I know I'm glad I finally own a well-made tribute to the venerable High Power, I believe I'll keep this one and NOT sell it to buy something else!

About Mike Hardesty

With experience spanning over 45 years, Mike Hardesty has long enjoyed shooting and reloading. An inveterate reloader, he casts bullets and reloads for a diverse array of firearms, each handled with long-practiced precision. Living in rural Indiana, his homestead boasts a personal 100-yard range where he shares his love for guns to his four sons, their wives, and eleven grandchildren. As a recognized author, his writings have been featured in notable platforms like Sniper Country, Bear Creek Arsenal Blog, Pew Pew Tactical, TTAG, Dillon Precision's Blue Press, and Gun Made, revealing his ongoing passion for firearms at the age of 72.

See <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/08/springfield-armory-sa-35-high-praise-for-the-high-power/>

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UNCOMPENSATED
CARE
from page 15

more than 80 percent of so-called “rural” 340B beds are actually in urban facilities making billions.

Federal reform push

President Trump has signed a string of executive orders aimed at pulling hidden costs into daylight and cutting off backdoor subsidies.

One directs HHS to survey what hospitals actually pay for outpatient drugs and adjust Medicare payments to acquisition cost — cutting off the spread hospitals pocket through programs like 340B.

Another ties U.S. prescription drug prices to the lowest rate paid by peer nations, forcing manufacturers to give Americans the same deal they give Europe and Canada.

The White House also ordered Treasury, Labor and HHS to enforce hospital price posting rules that were ignored under the last administration, with analysts projecting up to \$80 billion in savings if transparency is fully implemented.

And in February, Trump signed an order barring federal programs from acting as a backdoor subsidy for illegal immigration, instructing agencies to block taxpayer-funded benefits from flowing to migrants here unlawfully.

In testimony before Congress, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. admitted what critics have argued for years: “The 340B program is not straightforward... It was originally intended for 100 institutions serving very poor communities. It’s now grown to 27,000 institutions... The patients themselves seldom get the benefits of the drug reduction.”

Trump’s allies point to numbers that should make anyone pause.

In 2022, hospitals reported \$44.1 billion in 340B revenue while spending only \$18.5 billion on discounted drugs. By comparison, 340B purchases in 2009 totaled just \$4 billion. Today they exceed \$66 billion, as reported by the *Washington Examiner*.

Colorado’s transparency test

In 2023, Colorado lawmakers tried to get ahead of the debate by passing HB23-1226, a sweeping hospital transparency law that is already in effect. The law requires hospitals to disclose audited financials, cash transfers in and out of Colorado, executive incentive metrics, significant “other revenue” that normally only shows up in Medicare cost reports—and quarterly income statements and balance sheets.

The law does not require hospitals to track or report uncompensated care specifically tied to migrants, but the new disclosures give policymakers and the public better tools to test whether programs

like 340B are truly offsetting charity and self-pay care or simply padding reserves and expansions.

But less than half of Colorado hospitals earned a Good rating for price transparency in CDPHE’s Spring 2025 review, and nearly one in five were rated Poor. Just over three-quarters of hospitals met the machine-readable rule, and fewer than half earned a Good rating—a sign of how difficult it still is for patients and lawmakers to verify uncompensated care claims.

What the numbers really show

Hospitals insist migrant care is “unsustainable.” The state’s own data says the burden is real—\$544.9 million in unpaid care—yet most of it sits in self-pay lines that blur who is being helped and how. Add UCHealth’s \$17 million, Denver Health’s \$10 million and the Common Sense Institute’s \$49 million estimate—and the trend line is undeniable.

The state’s reporting shows the scale of uncompensated care, but it does not separate out how much is tied to migrants. That gap leaves both policymakers and the public without a full picture. Reform advocates say the way forward is transparency that defines the patient, discloses the spread and requires hospitals to show that 340B savings directly reduce patient costs.

President Trump has also moved on that front, signing an executive order that bars federal programs from acting as a backdoor subsidy for people in the country unlawfully. Taken together, Colorado’s state data and recent federal actions mark a shift from partial reporting to accountability.

Please see: <https://rockymountaininvoice.com/2025/09/02/uncompensated-care-meets-340b-colorados-numbers-force-a-reckoning/>

Farmers Markets

TUESDAY 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
CAÑON CITY Farmers Market
211 South 3rd St. Cañon City

TUESDAYS & SUNDAYS 9 a.m to ?
SILVER CLIFF Sammy’s Market
Parking lot next to Conoco

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

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

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

FREMONT COUNTY COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 2025-2026 SEASON

The Fremont County Community Concert Association is excited to announce its 2025 – 2026 musical season. The Association has been bringing a variety of world-class music to the area for close to 80 years. This season features nationally and internationally known artists for your entertainment and enjoyment.

The season kicks off on **Tuesday, October 7th at 7 PM** in the Canon City H.S. Auditorium with “**The Suits**”, featuring four dynamic gentlemen performing four genres of hit music from the ‘50s through the ‘80s: Doo Wop, Motown, Pop and Rock. Fusing smooth choreography and tight harmonies with exciting showmanship and fun audience interaction, this production will give you a night to remember!

The season continues **Tuesday, November 11th at 7 PM** with an encore performance from **Cahal Dunne, “Ireland’s Happy Man”**. Cahal is a composer, classically trained concert pianist, story teller, comedian and television personality. His style is rich

and deep, reflecting the many strands in his distinguished career. So, with his Irish to Broadway to Country repertoire, a great show is guaranteed.

Diego Figueiredo, Brazilian guitar sensation, performs **Tuesday February 17th at 7 PM**. He is a virtuoso with an infectious, joyful feeling that will leave you amazed and happy. His superb technique, timing and imagination have made him one of the hottest international guitarists. He creates a fusion of Jazz, Bossa Nova and Classical music.

Next to perform is “**Raised on Radio – Gilly and the Girl**” appearing Friday, March 20th 7 PM. They offer a heartfelt and enchanting musical experience. The acoustic duo features seamless harmonies with a repertoire that spans genres and eras. They bring a unique blend of timeless classics and contemporary hits, ensuring there’s something for everyone.

The season concludes on **Friday, April 17th at 7 PM** with “**Young**

Original”, a vibrant and dynamic musical act that breathes fresh life into every venue they perform. The band features a striking combination of instrumental mastery of the piano, guitar, mandolin, dobro, accordion and cello, and equally stunning vocal harmonies. Their unique fusion of jazz, classical, folk and pop captivate audiences of all ages.

Enjoy this exciting season by becoming a member of the Fremont County Community Concert Association for the amazing price of \$75., which includes all five concerts. Students 19 and under receive complimentary admission when accompanied by a member. Tickets are not exclusive to the purchaser but may be lent to family or friends if the member is unable to attend any concert. Three of the concerts will be held in the Canon City High School Auditorium. The other two will be at the Steeple Event Center. For more information and to access a printable membership form, a flyer program and videos, visit www.fremontcountconcerts.com or our Facebook page.



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.



SPACECOM Will Leave Colorado for Alabama's Rocket City

by Alan Wooten,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – U.S. Space Command Headquarters will move to Alabama from Colorado.

Calling Huntsville by its beloved “Rocket City” nickname, second-term Republican President Donald Trump reversed yet another Biden-era action and credited the city for fighting harder “than anybody else.” Known colloquially as SPACECOM, the agency “plans, executes and integrates military space power into multi-domain global operations in order to deter aggression, defend national interests, and when necessary, defeat threats,” says its military website.

Huntsville is home to the Redstone Army Airfield and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. The Space and Missile Defense Command of the Army is also in Huntsville and is the source of the community moniker.

Gen. Stephen Whiting leads headquarters at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado. The installation sought to retain its position. As Trump’s first term wound down, the Air Force on Nov. 19, 2020, named Peterson and Redstone among six finalists. The others were Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico; Port San Antonio in Texas; Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska; and Patrick Air Force Base in Florida.

Two dozen locations were in the self-nominated category of wanting to be host. That included then-Sen. J.D. Vance – now Vice President Vance – helping lead an Ohio charge for NASA John H. Glenn Research Center’s Neil Armstrong Test Facility in Sandusky. California also made a pitch in its role as home to two Air Force bases

(Edwards, Travis), two Marine Corps installations (Pendleton, Twentynine Palms), multiple Navy bases and the Army’s sprawling Fort Irwin training center.

In 2023, then-President Joe Biden said temporary headquarters in Colorado Springs would become permanent. That bucked Trump’s first-term plan, a move he said “wrongly obstructed.”

In a release, Republican Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said, “The Redstone Arsenal region was ready to welcome Space Command Headquarters when I made the official pitch to the Defense secretary in June 2019, and it remains ready today to not only welcome headquarters, but to welcome all of the military personnel and their families.

“I commend Redstone and city of Huntsville leaders for their diligence in maintaining a mission-ready stance. I also applaud our entire congressional



U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala.
MikeRogers.House.gov

delegation – Republicans and Democrats – especially Congressman Mike Rogers as chairman of the House Armed Service Committee.”

Ivey has been governor since 2017, when former Gov. Robert Bentley resigned. She won election in 2018 and 2022 with 59.5% and 66.9% of the votes, respectively.

U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., said, “Alabama was chosen in 2021 because it was the absolute best location for the Space Command headquarters. Today, in 2025, it remains the best location for our national security and for the taxpayer. This basing decision has been affirmed and reaffirmed by multiple agencies and multiple officials throughout both the Trump and Biden administrations. Biden was content to have Space Command located in the fourth best location because it served him politically. The differences between him and President Trump have never been clearer.

“On this historic day, I am extremely proud to be an American, proud to be an Alabamian, and proud to support the administration who made this possible.”

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle estimated 1,400 jobs will come over the next five years.

"Uprooting Space Command will weaken national security and readiness, waste taxpayer dollars, and inconvenience military families," said second-term Democratic Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado. "Coloradans and Americans should all be provided full transparency and the full details of this poor decision."

https://www.thecentersquare.com/alabama/article_90017a67-323b-4c43-8a4c-5fb88af3c955.html

Charlie Kirk, Turning Point Founder Shot and Killed in Utah



by Sentinel Staff

In news from *The Center Square*, Charlie Kirk, founder and executive director of the conservative youth organization Turning Point USA, and close ally of President Donald Trump, died from a shot in the neck on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Kirk was speaking at Utah Valley University as part of his “The American Comeback Tour.”

“Say a prayer for Charlie Kirk, a genuinely good guy and a young father,” Vice President JD Vance posted to X immediately following news of the shooting.

A university spokeswoman, Ellen Treanor, said that Mr. Kirk was struck about 20 minutes after he began speaking on campus. She said a suspect had fired at Mr. Kirk from the Losee Center, a building about 200 yards away.

Founded by Kirk in 2012, Turning Point USA advocates for conservative politics on college and university campuses and at high schools. It has chapters on more than 300 campuses nationwide. Kirk began the organization when he was 18 years old.

According to AP, an online petition calling for Utah Valley university administrators to bar Kirk from appearing received nearly 1,000 signatures. But last week, the university issued a statement citing First Amendment rights and affirming its “commitment to free speech” and “constructive dialogue.”

Bipartisan support for Kirk immediately rang out on social media and national news outlets.

Rep. Ro Khanna of California: “The shooting of Charlie Kirk at a university is chilling & horrific. Political violence has no place in America. We all must reflect on how we can tone down the anger & hate that has poisoned our politics and be better citizens in a divided and aching nation.”

Republican Senate Leader John Thune of South Dakota: “There is no place in our country for political violence. Period, full stop.

At this writing, there is no suspect in custody. Kirk was scheduled to speak at Colorado State University in Fort Collins on September 18th as part of his “American Comeback Tour”. We will join Americans in praying for Charlie Kirk’s family and all of America.



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Custer County Clay Busters Aim for Success



Clay Buster Team with their awards and letters. Coaches are in the back row.

by Sentinel Staff

For the first time ever, the Custer County High School Clay Busters team has set their sights on a fall season. Traditionally, the Clay Busters as part of the USA Clay Target League compete in the spring and summer, but this year the fall season is offering student shooters another chance to compete.

The Clay Busters team, made up of Matthew Burgdorff, Lincoln Wingfield, McKenna Marietta and Kaleigh Mintz, practice Thursday's after school at the Custer County Sheriff's Range. The team is led by volunteer coaches Doug Burgdorff, Jerry Tracewell, Alan Prudic, Russ Benson and Steve Betton.

For Coach Doug Burgdorff, the program started as a way to spend time with his son. "Matthew likes to shoot, and unlike other sports, trap and sporting clays practice is just one day a week, so I have the ability to help coach," Burgdorff explained. He continued, "The best part of coaching the Clay Busters is seeing the kids' confidence increase. Once they learn the basics and start hitting targets,

their desire to get better just grows. It's an outlet for them to be individually successful."

Safety is at the heart of every practice and competition. According to the USA Clay Target League, which has grown into the largest youth clay target program in the country, student athletes have recorded millions of shots fired nationwide with a perfect safety record. That record has held true for 4-H shooting sports as well,



Clay Busters practice at the range.

which trains thousands of youth annually in archery, rifle, shotgun, and muzzleloader programs. Both organizations emphasize safety, responsibility, and respect above all else.

The benefits of shooting sports go well beyond the range. Studies and surveys from 4-H and other youth programs show that students who participate build stronger focus, responsibility, and self-confidence. Shooting sports require concentration, breathing control, and focus which are all skills that parallel stress management techniques. The sport also opens the door for college scholarships, particularly for trap and skeet shooters, which are among the fastest-growing collegiate sports in the U.S.

The Custer County Clay Busters offer a unique opportunity for students who may not be drawn to traditional team sports. Each year millions of student athletes are injured playing high school sports. Not so with shooting sports. Zero injuries to date according to the USA Clay Target League. Shooting clays allows athletes to compete against themselves, track their personal improvement, and take pride in steady progress.

As the fall season unfolds, the Clay Busters are proud to represent Custer County with steady hands, sharp eyes, and a commitment to safe, responsible sportsmanship.

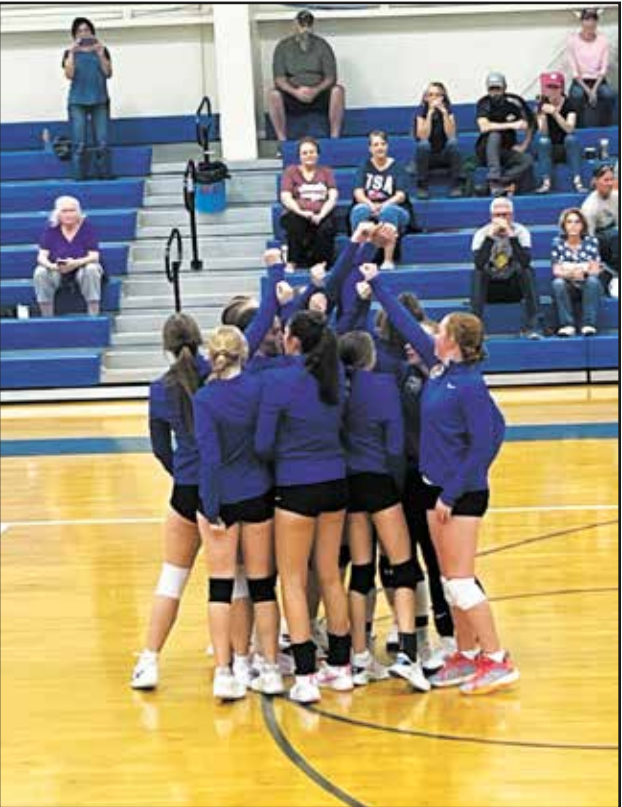
Bobcat Girls at Home



Top: Stephanie Lewis is set to return a volley.

Bottom: Custer County Bobcat Girls prepare to take on Evangel Christian Academy.

Sentinel Photos



TEACHER of the YEAR from page 1

students began to receive the services that the Colorado Department of Education says they are due. However, Green took the requirements to the next level by embracing both standard and nonstandard methods of teaching.

Beginning her third year as the lead of the GT program, Green's students are thriving through her experiential model of learning. Green strives to mirror what is good in her students (and all people) and show them what they don't see. She doesn't focus on state scores and assumptions. Green noticed that one student wasn't afraid of failure. She equated this strength to the heart of an engineer. Green is now working alongside that student as he carves a path to MIT.

Green believes that GT needs to go beyond the "standards". She tries to see the spark in every child and meet them where they are. She says, "When I teach we get messy. We are doing." She is looking to support and fortify each student's gifts in order to elevate them in their life. Green also uses these methods in her middle school STEM classes.

Green explained, "Elementary kids are easier in that they have a hunger and curiosity to do it all. By the time students get to high school, that hunger can be deeply hidden. I expose them to things without them realizing it." She likens her method to mousetraps. She keeps putting things out there, rockets, games, experiments, secret Santas, and on and on until something catches them. The kids in her classes stay engaged and choose to be together when they can. She sees this as the true

measure of success.

Green is so focused on dialing into each student's passions and learning that she worked hundreds of extra hours to plan a learning trip to California. She applied for the High Mountain Hay Fever Children's Health Fund grant and shared her vision with other charitable organizations in the valley in order to make this educational adventure a reality for her students. Green was successful in her fund raising endeavor. Eight middle and high school students journeyed to JPL, the Santa Barbara Zoo, the Page Museum, La Brea Tar pits, The National History Museum in LA, The Santa Barbara Mission, I Modanari Art Festival and the REEF. Every engagement on the itinerary was geared to an educational strength or interest of a student. These students volunteered

their time for additional fundraisers to fund a "rest day" at Disneyland.



CCHS GT Students Collaborate during a spring 2025 classroom session. Courtesy photo

Green has been extraordinarily successful in her short tenure at Custer

County Schools. She wasn't licensed to teach gifted and talented students until the age of 52. When it comes to her recognition and achievements, Green points to her personal choices. "Beginning at the age of 11, I chose to babysit and care for children. In every stage of my life, I have cared for, nurtured, volunteered, and taught children."

Speaking of both herself and her colleagues Green said, "We are working very hard to illuminate the strengths of the Custer County School District. We are fighting for our students; to keep them, to engage them and to grow them to their greatest potential. I am fully committed to this community and especially to these students."

Green will receive the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented Education's Teacher of the Year award at an October ceremony in Loveland.