

Trial For Suspect In the Custer County 2023 Triple Homicide Delayed Again

by Mackenzie Bodell,
The Gazette

The triple homicide case that shook Custer County nearly two years ago was set to go before a jury next week, but a Fremont County judge granted a request Wednesday to delay the trial for the third time since the case started.

Hanme Clark, 46, is accused of fatally shooting three of his neighbors — Rob Geers, his wife, Beth Wade Geers, and James Daulton — over what authorities suspect was a land dispute on November 20, 2023. Daulton’s wife, Patty Daulton, survived the shooting but sustained serious injuries, according to previous Gazette reporting.

The shooting took place near the victims’ homes, which were in a secluded Rocky Ridge Road neighborhood 8 miles northeast of Westcliffe.

Clark appeared in custody on Wednesday in an 11th Judicial District courtroom for what was supposed to be an evidentiary

hearing, but instead, the hearing primarily focused on a prosecution request to postpone the trial based on a late endorsement of two defense witnesses.

According to court records, Clark’s case was moved from Custer County to Fremont County in June after a judge granted a change of venue request.

According to 11th Judicial District Attorney Jeff Lindsey, who is also a prosecutor on the case, the defense filed the endorsements after the required timeframe, per state law and the court’s order.

Further arguments by the defense and prosecution revealed that those testimonies would likely argue an alibi for Clark, specifically that he was not on the property at the time of the shooting, but rather at another nearby residence in the area. Lindsey argued his side needed more time to prepare for trial, given the new defense, and noted that the burden of proof is on the prosecution.

The defense argued that it followed Colorado law, and additionally

claimed Lindsey has been in possession of all the facts for a “significant amount of time” regarding the additional witnesses.

The issue came down to whether the defense was an “alibi defense” or not. The defense argued that it was not, while Lindsey said it “couldn’t be clearer” that it was an alibi, and it required a notice on the defense’s part.

Judge Lauren Swan agreed with the prosecution over the law surrounding endorsements regarding alibis, and gave both sides the option to argue to delay the trial or exclude those two testimonies.

Neither the prosecution nor defense objected to a continuance, but acknowledged issues the delay would cause for both the court and victims of the shooting. Patty Daulton gave an emotional statement to the court, saying that while she trusts the system and the prosecution, delaying the trial means delaying the healing process.

“Two years of my life is gone. ... I need a resolution to this so I can

figure out what to do the rest of my life without my husband,” Patty Daulton said. “I really need for this to be resolved as soon as possible.”

Josh Wade, the son of Beth Wade Geers, according to court records, also provided a statement to the court using a video conferencing app.

“This has been drawn out for too long, and it has affected us daily,” Wade said. “(My son) is afraid the person who did this is not going to spend the rest of his life in jail, that this person is going to be able to do it again.”

Swan acknowledged that going forward with the case could result in an appeal or overturn.

“I don’t make this decision lightly, but I also want to make sure that we are not at risk of this case being returned from the appeals court or the Colorado Supreme Court,” Swan said.

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Unpacking The WMVO: The Volunteer Teams

by Sentinel Staff

Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors (WMVO) has a Board and is made up of a handful of teams. This week we are unpacking the WMVO leadership and teams. Answering the questions; Who makes up the leadership, and what experiences do they bring to the table? Who serves on the established teams? Is there room for more community voices and future opportunities for discussion?

The Board of the WMVO includes Bob Fulton, Sally Strom, John Anderson, John Van Doren, and Lucas Epp. Epp and Fulton are the only WMVO Board members not also on the Trails for All Board. The Planning Team is made up of John Van Doren, Andrew Todd, and Shelly Larson. All of whom serve on the Board of Directors of Trails for All.

In an outreach effort to bring varied voices to the table the Core Team was created. Members of the Core Team are fluctuating somewhat, but currently the members include: Destiny Chapman, USFS; Justin Krall, CPW; Rob Bidner; Sudzy Benesch, Ranching; Kevin Day, Wetmore representative; Yates McConnell, ARWC - Middle

Arkansas Watershed Coordinator; Bianca Trenker; Buck Wenzel, Silver Cliff Mayor; Lucas Epp, Custer County Commissioner; Sally Strom, Trails for All; Gina Graham, local grant writer. Sara Shields and Wendy Rusk were invited to attend the last Core Team meeting in order to share their local ranching and conservation perspectives, no word on whether they will continue on the Core Team.

According to John Van Doren, the WMVO is focusing its effort to network with organizations and additional community members. The organization is hoping to make connections, develop relationships, collaborate and build trust through one conversation at a time. WMVO is fully functioning as a 501(C3). Grants have been applied for and awarded. The current grants are for capacity building and outreach facilitation. Board member Shelly Larson owns Jo Studio which received grant funds for WMVO’s Communications and Public Relations effort.

Van Doren says, “It is up to our community members to bring community derived and focused

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ALERT!**
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May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing, so
that by the power of
the Holy Spirit you may
abound in hope.
Romans 15:13 ESV

BOCC: DHS - Upcoming Work Requirement, Hold Up on Visionary Broadband’s New Tower

by Michael Foster

The September 17th Board of County Commissioners meeting was held at All Aboard Westcliffe. Canda and Vogelsong were in person while Epp attended via Zoom. Vogelsong highlighted attending a meeting about fire mitigation and the importance of home defense zones for protecting your property. Epp discussed finishing up the audit with Sam DaNardo. Epp and county Finance Director Vernon Roth are working through filing the final paperwork online with the IRS but the system is problematic, freezing up and/or kicking them off. They are continuing to move the issues up the chain for assistance and to hopefully get everything done online. Epp suggests also sending the report via certified mail for proof of submission.

Canda reported that the Airport Board is working to get the survey completed using a surveyor and that they are finishing up within budget. Canda met with Mesa County Commissioners on an initiative to ban pornography

for children under 18. There are several steps to the initiative since the county is going to work to ban it. How do you enforce it? How do you prevent it from getting into school and municipal buildings? The technology does exist to block this type of content and hold the provider accountable. Mesa County is on board to champion and implement this bipartisan issue.

Attorney Dan Slater had nothing to cover outside of the agenda. He will be online for an Executive Session for legal advice regarding pending employment litigation.

The County Treasurer’s Report from Virginia Trujillo was accepted as printed.

Vicki from Human Services appeared before the commissioners to highlight and explain some increases in one section of her department’s Issuance which is typically the same amount every month. However, there was a big

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Local Mountain News & Notices

1,700 Valley Strong



Valley Strong estimates 1,700 residents or more participated in this year’s Community dinner. The weather was perfect for sharing home cooked favorites and friendly conversation.

The *Sentinel* staff met new and long time subscribers during the event. We are grateful to all who worked to make this evening possible.



Custer County High Schools Culinary Class prepared and served chili and peach cobbler. They were also working to collect donations for a Culinary experience at Epcot next Spring.

Photos by Mike Twombly

Custer County Conservation District Annual Dinner & Business Mtg.

It’s that time of year again, when the leaves are changing and the conservation district hosts a tasty brisket dinner. The Annual CCCD Dinner and Business meeting is just a few weeks away. This year the group will host the event at Rancher’s Roost on October 9th from 5 - 8 p.m. Seating is limited to forty, making reservations required. The guest speaker for this year’s dinner is Charles Bryant, the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager. If you’d like to mingle with good folks and enjoy a delicious meal while learning a bit about your conservation district then purchase your tickets online @ CusterCountyConservationDistrict.org

WMVO from page 1

projects to the table for implementation grant funding.” Projects that fall within Colorado’s Outdoor Strategy framework are most likely to be awarded funding by the state.

While the WMVO’s stated mission is to plan and implement Colorado’s Outdoor Strategy, the WMVO will also likely apply for additional grants outside of the RPI’s Outdoor Strategy framework if local interests dictate. This means there are likely other funding opportunities for projects. A WMVO board member referred to a recent *Sentinel* letter to the editor about the importance of forest health saying, “these are exactly the things we need to talk about. We

are decades behind in the management of our forests. It’s important that these issues are brought up for discussion and are considered for project plans.”

What things in our valley do you want to see sustained or improved? If you had grant dollars to spend, how and where would you spend them? According to the WMVO Planning Team, the opportunity for residents to share their ideas and help influence outcomes is in becoming part of the process by attending meetings, joining the Community Team or an Action Team. Bring your ideas and a friend to the table at the next WMVO meeting October 8th, at 5:30 p.m. at Lange Hall.

The WMVO’s “North Star”

Goals are Conservation, Restoration and Recreation. Do those North Star goals expand to include working with our community to defeat ballot initiatives like Initiative 82 (Working Title: Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation Commission) that are potentially harmful to our rural land use rights among other things?

For these answers and more, purchase next week’s edition of The *Sentinel* for only \$1 at Tony’s Mtn. Pizza, Sunflower Natural Foods, Conoco Country Store, Wild Flour Donuts & Co, Stage Stop, The Dutch Pantry and Deli, Westcliffe Petroleum or from the boxes at the Post Office or Lowe’s Grocery store. Sign up for a yearly subscription and have the *Sentinel* delivered to your door by calling 719-783-3360.



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“We the People” Speak Letters to the Editor



Let Me Paint You a Picture

Dear Editor:

I attended the August 6th and September 18th Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors (WMVO) meetings at Lange Hall and All Aboard Westcliffe respectively.

This group literally came into WMV with only sharp looking cards placed in establishments. The card had a QR code on it and words that said “take the survey.” The first red flag for me-- the survey itself with questions that brought me right back to the 50 years I lived in Boulder County. For those who are newer than 50 years to Colorado when I moved to Boulder in 1970 Boulder was RED and Colorado was RED. Yes! RED....

The survey questions were about the crowdedness of our mountains, too many dogs, too many vehicles, do you prefer to pay for use of national forest trails, are there enough trailheads etc. Yup, Boulder County all over again. Big red flag. These kinds of questions in the 70s in Boulder ended up with lots of eminent domain, conservation easements that led to more eminent domain and tons of meetings a landowner had to attend to try to keep his land. That’s where this NGO leads....takeover of land, water and change to agricultural way of life. Period. I saw it and witnessed it.

WMVO started their first meeting at Lange Hall with approximately 150+ attending. We rural do- do birds were given a power point slide on socialism and how WE the people

will be deciding all the plans that will occur through these facilitators, the WMVO folks. I found the slides insulting as though we were in third grade and knew nothing about anything.

An example was a power point slide showing a spinning top to show us how easy peasy this would be if we just get along. And hilariously the facilitator who was spinning a top at the same time had his top go all over the place.

Lots of sunshine pumping and fun airy wording on how we will ALL do this as the great kahuna has arrived for the WMV. After all, the facilitators announced we have 50 MILLION dollars from GOCO to use for YOU the people of CC to redo your community and agricultural lands and water. Worded in such flowery and well-meaning phrases, who could disagree? Oh yes, they are an NGO with free money for us to fix everything wrong with our valley. What is the true agenda of WMVO? Difficult to answer after taking the survey and attending two meetings.

Literally the whole 2+ hours were spent on perfecting the proposed results statements that had to be just right and improved by the attendees. We were sat at tables and told to interact with each other on perfecting the following Result Statements which are:

LETTER
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Custer County Coroner's Scholarship Ball

Costume Contest, Prizes, Silent Auction

by Sentinel Staff

The Inaugural Custer County Coroner's Scholarship Ball is set for October 18th at the Saddle Club. Coroner, Brad Baltzly, believes it is important to support and encourage the kids in our community who want to enter the trade business. He believes his team can help in that endeavor by raising money for a trade scholarship through a Coroner's Ball.

Baltzly became aware of Custer County High School "Scholarship Night" and wanted to join the effort. Scholarship Night takes place each spring for all high school seniors. Local businesses and organizations award scholarships to the applicant(s) who meet the criteria of their individual scholarship. This yearly event awards in excess of \$60,000 to local students pursuing college or trade school.

Baltzly's focus is on funding at least one graduating senior's trade school certification. He is the fourth generation of a construction and trade focused family. Baltzly has worked construction in Custer County for 31 years and sees firsthand the need for more skilled laborers and trades-



men. He wants to begin to fill the gap by helping at least one young ambitious student achieve their goal of learning a trade which could lead to them also becoming an entrepreneur.

The adults only Coroner's Ball will begin at 6 p.m. with a Spaghetti Dinner provided by Tony's Mtn Pizza in Silver Cliff. Then after dinner join the fun of dancing and the live music of Dave Ropollo, a Costume Contest with prizes for 1st - 3rd places, and a Silent Auction. The auction items will include a gun from Custer County Supply, Sangre Mountain Range wood pieces from Wet Mountain Rustics, a painting from Molly Parkes, gift baskets from local businesses and much more.

Advanced tickets are \$30 for a single or \$50 for a couple.

Tickets can be purchased at Tony's Mtn. Pizza, Wild Flour Donuts & Co and the *Sentinel* or from the County Coroner.

Baltzly's team is fully committed to help make the Inaugural Coroner's Ball a huge benefit for our community's aspiring youth. Chief Deputy Nikita Phillips, Deputy Jay Jacobs and Carleigh Jacobs are in full planning mode as they continue to look for event sponsors. Their goal is to make the experience fun for all attendees while raising money for trade scholarships. If you would like to become an event sponsor, contribute an item for the auction, or be a ticket outlet please contact Nikita Phillips at (719) 458-9402 or Carleigh Jacobs at (210) 854-3218. Hope to see you October 18th at the Inaugural Coroner's Ball.

Veterans Rescue Ranch Fall Photo Fundraiser

Veterans Rescue Ranch announces a fundraiser slated for Saturday, October 4th 10 a.m. - 7.p.m. at 3730 Centennial Ranch Rd. in Westcliffe.

Come get your professional Fall photos in a decorated vintage truck with stunning mountain backdrop at the home of Veterans Rescue Ranch. Only \$60 for 15 minute

photo session (valued at \$250) includes print release and 10 edited digital photos. Come support a great cause while also making memories.

Contact Christy to book session (513) 317-7647 or armychic21t@gmail.com

Additional purchases available: hot cocoa and hot cider bar, pumpkins, Rizza's teas.

Volunteers Needed for Firewood Splitting Day

The Veterans Resue Ranch event last week was moved forward to this Saturday, September 27th, from 8 a.m. until finished.

They are asking for 3-4 able-bodied volunteers to run splitters, move wood via wheelbarrow and stack. Also, 2-3 persons to carry 10-14" logs, and at least 4 people to act as safety officers are needed.

Veterans Rescue Ranch also had a need for several wood splitters, safety vests, glasses, and work gloves, plywood or OSB for pallet tops, and tarps and tie downs. Meet at 3730 Centennial Ranch Rd., Westcliffe.

Contact Jeff Schram for more information @gschram@VeteransRescueRanch.com.

TRIAL DELAY

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Clark is now set to begin a longer-than-expected trial on February 2, 2026 with the goal to wrap up closing statements by February 20th. Initially, the trial, scheduled to start Monday, was to last 10 days, while the new trial dates are set for three weeks.

Arrested alongside Clark in November 2023 was

52-year-old Nancy Medina-Kochis, another suspect in the case, later charged with five counts of being an accessory to a crime — all lower-level felonies. She pleaded not guilty to all five counts, court records show.

As of [September 17] Clark remains in the Fremont County Detention Center on a \$2 million bond. Court records show Medina-Kochis bonded out of custody after

posting a \$100,000 cash bond in February 2024. Her 10-day jury trial is scheduled to begin December 1st, court records show.

Printed w/permissions.

Please see: <https://gazette.com/2025/09/17/trial-for-suspect-in-custer-county-2023-triple-homicide-delayed-again-8f4a04c6-0deb-4d6f-be29-37329576bda9/>

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

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

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



Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Men’s Bible Study, FBC 6th St.
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
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
9 a.m. Women’s Bible Studay, FBC 6th St
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
Sept 24-May 13 @ Sangre de Cristo Fellowship, 120 Jerry Dr, Westcliffe. Free childcare 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.

Thursdays
5:45 p.m. Women’s Bible Studay, FBC 6th St

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

BOCC from page 1

increase in August for out-of-home placements. \$46,823 was issued in August for foster care out-of-home placements instead of the prior month’s averages of \$5,700-\$6,300. The August amount came about because of the increase from one child needing placement to seven. The department is paying additional individual homes to care for the seven children who needed a place to go. The Burial Issuance for the month was \$1,500 for those who qualified.

Medical assistance payouts were \$135,610 for the month of August. The number of cases of medical assistance/services for Custer County is 543 households or 1,329 individuals through the Department of Human Services. There was no specific report on which Medicaid medical services were paid as there are many many different Medicaid programs and as such are not delineated in the report. The department serviced four ongoing cases of adult protection services and evaluated seven referrals. Child support services received the August child support payments from the state.

DHS is currently waiting on FNS guidance for food assistance. Guidelines reportedly in the works are that all able-bodied adults without a disability ages 55-65 will have to work 20 hours a week or 80 hours a month to continue to receive food assistance. If this is implemented,

then 47 people in our county will be affected. Vicki reported that it is “Up in the air how things are going to work.” EEBT / LEAP is credited toward food assistance. \$21, goes to anyone on food assistance. If they have no elderly or disabled in their household, they will potentially lose this benefit.

Vicki asked the Commissioners for a contract cancellation for the child welfare adult protection services supervisor, and permission to instead hire her as a part-time employee. There was no discussion about why the request was made and how it impacts/benefits the county, the department or the employee.

The Commissioners approved a Special Event Permit request for Greenhorn Valley Chamber of Commerce. The request was for a Vegas Night event at San Isabel campground. The fees were paid for use on October 11, 2025 4-10 p.m. Vogelsong commented that the Sheriff requested that hi soffice be notified of any special permit events and that the requesting and hosting organization be signed up with Everbridge for any emergency notifications.

Delenna Crofford, Planning and Zoning Director, briefed that on September 8th, the Planning Commission met to hear a request from Sangre De Cristo Electric Association, who is leasing land to Visionary Broadband. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the special use permit for Visionary Broadband to build and install a new 60-foot

tower at the substation off of Kettle. The new tower will provide new service to approximately 100 residents and upgrade service to an additional 800 residents. Commissioners were in agreement to hold a workshop to discuss fiber and secondary lines in the County and how to move forward on this special use permit. They took no action. Epp said he would support the workshop, “On how this is going to effect and where we are currently with bringing up a secondary fiber line to our main communities and our hopes around Silver Cliff and Westcliffe.” He said he supports this but he has one question “Is this going to affect us getting any money to bring fiber up into the County? ”

The Commissioners unanimously approved selling the landfill’s old garbage truck and the airport’s old 2001 GMC Yukon through Purple Wave. They also voted no on paying the Southern Colorado Economic District dues and rate increase. The Commissioners will do more research on the costs and benefits of being a part of the organization.

A motion was made to move into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice from our attorney (Dan Slater) on pending employment litigation pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-42(4) (B) with the following joining the Board for this session: the County Attorney, the County Clerk, the BOCC Admin, and the county HR Director. The motion passed unanimously and the public portion of the meeting ended.

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, September 29 #60 Meatloaf w/Gravy Roasted Sweet Potatoes Brussels Sprouts Salad w/Lite Ranch Pineapple Tidbits WW Bread w/Butter	Tuesday, September 30 #99 Tuna Pasta Salad Creamy Cucumber Salad Peach Orange Juice SF Gelatin w/Banana Raisin Nut Cup WW Rolls w/Butter	Thursday, October 2 #15 Beef Stew Sweet Corn Cauliflower Broccoli Salad Plums WW Crackers
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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 <i>8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe</i> Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff 719/783-4601</i> Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints <i>240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe Pres: 719/214-4589</i> 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 <i>0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526 (719) 942-3462</i> Community United Methodist Church 10 a.m. Worship <i>202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-2511</i> Cotopaxi Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study PastorSteveHolcomb@gmail.com <i>20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi</i>	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe Pastor Josh Olsteen 719/783-2498</i> High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School <i>103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe 719/783-9045</i> <i>Call Pastor Erv @ 719.429.0556 or Pastor Davie @ 719.371.3861</i> Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study <i>603 Leon Street, Walsenburg (719) 251-9053</i> Hope Lutheran Church 2 p.m. Worship 3:15 p.m. Bible Study <i>3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323 Lange Hall 719/783-2561</i> Living Stone Calvary Chapel Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m.& 11 a.m. <i>830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863</i>	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass <i>109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe 719/783-3507</i> Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month <i>210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe 719/783-2491</i> Praise Community Church Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m. <i>215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence 719/784-1184</i> St. Luke's Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays <i>3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe 719/783-2477</i> St. Patrick's Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe 925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500 Sacred Heart Catholic Church <i>Diocese of Pueblo</i> Saturday Mass 4 p.m. <i>Highway 69, Gardner Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037</i>	Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church <i>Pastor: Mike Shields</i> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Last Sunday of Month: Potluck at Noon sangredecristocowboychurch.com also on Facebook <i>60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe 719/232-5372</i> Sangre de Cristo Fellowship 9 a.m. Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m. Service <i>120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe 719/783-0903</i> Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship <i>6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe 719/ 371-1822</i> Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship <i>116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff 719/581-7572</i> Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 1 p.m. Worship <i>Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore 719/371-1230</i> Wetmore Community Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship <i>699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore 719/784-0596</i>
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Send Church updates to sdc.sentinel@gmail.com (719) 783-3360

And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, I Cornithians 1:30 ESV

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Events

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8th Annual Sangre de Cristo Ultras
Music Meadows Ranch for Start/Finish
(Next to Grape Creek Trailhead) See <https://humanpotentialrunning.com/sangre-de-cristo/>

Saturday, September 27, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$5
Celtic Mountain Highland Games &
Grape Creek Arts Festival
Beckwith Ranch 64159 CO Hwy 69 North, Westcliffe

Saturday, September 27
Veteran's Rescue Ranch Wood Splitting Day
see page 5 for details

Sundays 4:30 p.m. Ages 13 and up
Wet Mountain Community Chorale – Rehearsals
Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church
Contact KMurrayJohnston@gmail for information

Sunday, September 28 @ 2 – 4 p.m. \$\$
WCPA Chautauqua – El Vaquero
Historic Jones Theater, Westcliffe

Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. \$60
Veteran's Rescue Ranch Fundraiser -Photo Session
See page 5 for more information or Contact Christy to book session (513) 317-7647 or armychic21t@gmail.com

Friday & Saturday, October 3-4, 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, October 5 @ 2 p.m. \$\$
WCPA Live Theater ~ Misery by Stephen King
Historic Jones Theater, Westcliffe

Saturday, October 18th
First Annual Coroner's Ball, WMV Saddle Club
See page 5 for details

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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(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
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Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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Friday, Sept. 26, 2025

Autumn

By the time you read this we will be officially in autumn. It has a magical air to it. From the crisp air to the beautiful array of colors on the trees. Let's take a look at autumn and maybe some things we didn't know about it.



The Autumn equinox marks the beginning of fall, when the day and night are almost equal. As we all know this occurs twice a year. As daylight hours shorten the chlorophyll in the leaves break down giving us the beautiful colors of yellow, red and orange. The colors of autumn are at their best usually during the months of September and October. This may vary depending on your location. This year it will begin on September 22nd and last until December 21st.

Autumn is also a time of celebrations. Thanksgiving is one of the most well-known festivals in Canada and the United States. In Germany Oktoberfest starts in late September and runs through the first weekend in October. It is famed for its beer, food, and festivities. Another hallmark of autumn is bird migration when many species of birds travel thousands of miles to warmer climates, a spectacular sight for bird watchers.

There are also health benefits in autumn. People are more prone to outdoor activities like hiking and biking because of the cooler temperatures. The fall vegetables like pumpkin, squash and sweet potatoes are packed with nutrients that can boost your immune system. While the shorter days can help to reset your internal clock leading to better sleep patterns.

Autumn can affect people's moods. With shorter days and longer nights some people can feel a bit down. However, the crisp air and coziness of sitting by the fire with a warm cocoa or tea can bring a sense of renewal and happiness. The season's moderate weather makes it ideal for gathering the last of summer's bounty, leading to celebrations of thanksgiving for the year's harvest. It's all about reaping what you sow!

Let's not forget the wildlife. They are busy getting ready for the colder temperatures. Squirrels gather nuts and bears bulk up on food to hibernate.

One more phenomenon is the fall mixing and autumn overturn. This occurs when the layers of water in lakes and rivers mix leading to the redistribution of dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and temperature.

Fall is a wonderful time of the year and my personal favorite. Until next week take care and give God the reins.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/autumn-history-celebration-and-scientific-facts/>, <https://ohmyfacts.com/lifestyle/20-fascinating-facts-about-autumn-you-didnt-know/>.

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Bobcat Football

Turns The Corner

Custer County 20 - Sargent 0

by Coach Gerring

If you missed last Friday Night's high school football game, you missed a good one. The 1-2 Sargent Farmers came to town with the taste of last year's victory still on their lips only to find a new Bobcat coaching staff and a new player mind set. The 1-1 Bobcats were anxious to show that they are not the team of the past two years. The game began with Custer controlling the football and field position for the majority of the first half. A pick six was called back for a Bobcat block in the back and a lot of positive ball movement was negated by Bobcat penalties. Although the Cats were able to move the football almost at will, self-inflicted penalties seemed to plague them as they were anxious and eager for a victory in front of the home crowd. Both teams went to half time with the score 0 to 0. Custer County was clearly owning the defensive side of the ball while shooting themselves in the foot on the offensive side.

During the half time break first year Head Coach, Nick Effle, brought the team together by complimenting the defense while making the necessary changes to the offense. The result



Bobcats home game against Sargent.

Photo courtesy of Bre Gasper

was the Bobcats scoring 20 unanswered points in the second half with the defense maintaining their dominance. Coach Effle credits his four seniors: Taylor Bradford, Doc McCoy, Ty Stoltzfus and newest team member Grant Rusk for their maturity and leadership in helping to create this new winning spirit. Three of the four seniors played both sides of the football with little to no breaks in the action, proving team conditioning is on par for continued success. Senior team punter, Grant Rusk in his first game of the season, blasted punts with excellent distance and "hang time" allowing teammates to get down field to cover the punts and pinning the Farmers on their 1- and 2-yard lines respectively.

Numerous players stepped up on both sides of the football, sealing the team win. The 2-1 Bobcats head into a bye week where they will work on the imperfections of their game as well as allowing some injuries to heal. Play will resume with a road trip to Walsenburg on Friday October 3rd. Make plans to attend and see your Custer County Bobcats in action. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. (Custer County Victory Time!) GO CATS GO!

BOBCAT CORNER

Friday, September 26:

10 am: MS Volleyball @ HOME vs South Park

1:45 pm: HS Cross Country: Rampart Kozuik Classic @ Colorado Springs

1 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ Center (away)

2 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Center (away)

7 pm: MS Football @ Sanford (away)

Saturday, September 27:

9:30 am: HS JV Volleyball @ Centennial Tournament

10 am: MS Volleyball @ Cripple Creek (away)

Tuesday, September 30:

4:30 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ HOME vs Buena Vista

5:30 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ HOME vs Buena Vista

Thursday, October 2:

4:30 pm: MS Volleyball @ South Park (away)

4:30 pm: MS Football @ Cotopaxi (6-man) (away)

5 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Crested Butte (away)

Friday, October 3:

7 pm: HS Football @ Walsenberg (away)

Saturday, October 4:

9 am: MS & HS Cross Country @ Salida XC Classic

Wednesday, October 8:

4:30 pm: MS Volleyball @ HOME vs Trinidad

Friday, October 10:

5:30 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ Calhan (away)

6:30 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Calhan (away)

7 pm: HS Football @ HOME vs Fowler

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR CUSTER COUNTY BOBCATS!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.



BOBCAT ATHLETE OF THE WEEK!

Cross Country

Jacob Weeks!

This is only Jacob's second season running with the cross country team, and he's showing great improvement from an already impressive first year. At our first meet at the renowned Cheyenne Mountain Stampede, Jacob's time was a whole four minutes faster than last season, finishing at 21:57. The next week in Leadville, he ran another tough race, finishing top ten among all Varsity boys, with a time of 21:18. Finally, last week at the Coronado Classic in Colorado Springs, Jacob cut off three minutes from his finish in 2024, and set a new personal record with a time of 18:58. We are incredibly encouraged by Jacob's times as we look toward Regionals, and we are excited to keep watching him grow.

Volleyball

Brylee Shy for Varsity!

Miranda Benoit for JV!

Football

Last week: Offense: Wade Pierce
Defense: Doc McCoy

This week: Offense: Eli Flynn
Defense: Lucas Bradford

photos coming next week!



Sweater weather is here!
Stop in and check out our new arrivals!



Open Mon.-Sat. 10-5

411 Main St.,
Westcliffe
719-783-9393

BOBCAT SCOREBOARD

Friday, September 19:
HS Varsity Volleyball @ Primero: 0-3, loss
HS Football @ HOME vs Sargent: 20-0, Win!

Saturday, September 20:
Cross Country: Coronado Cougar Classic in Co. Springs:
There were a total of 108 boys running: Mason Stover placed 11th w/ 17:28; Robert Bachman placed 19th w/ 18:14; Jacob Weeks placed 54th w/ 18:58 (PR!)
Abigail Handy was our solo girl and ran a 24:10 for 27th place

Tuesday, September 23:
MS Football vs Edison @ Hanover (6-man): 6-55, loss
MS Volleyball @ Edison: 2-1:
1st Game: 21-25, loss; 2nd Game: 25-23, Win!; 3rd Game: 15-12, Win!

*Please join us
for the
National
Life Chain
October 5, 2025
2:00-3:30
in front of Custer
County School*



Protect Kids Colorado

Three initiatives to better protect our children



Protect Our Girls' Sports
from
Biological Males

This ballot measure ensures GIRLS sports aare protected, requiring sports leagues and teams to be specifically designated MALE, FEMALE or CO-ED.



Protect Our Children
from
Irreversible Sex Change Surgery

This ballot measure prohibits IRREVERSIBLE sex change surgeries on minor CHILDREN, age 17 or younger.



Protect Our Children
from
Child Sex Trafficking

This ballot measure sets a penalty of Life in Prison Without Parole for anyone who BUYS or SELLS a CHILD for sex in Colorado.

Petitions are waiting for YOUR signature at the *Sentinel* office 9am-3pm Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

If you'd like to volunteer to collect signatures, please stop by or call Katherine at 719-783-3360.



JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER THE 27TH 2025 8:30AM ~ 5:00PM
THE HISTORIC BECKWITH RANCH FIRST ANNUAL EVENT
6 MILES NORTH OF WESTCLIFFE COLORADO

ENJOY THE GAMES ART AND MUSIC
MILE BUIOCHAS! (MANY THANKS)
JUST FIVE BUCKS AT THE DOOR
MUSTANGMEDICINE.NET



Custer County School District C-1



MENU for the week September 29 thru October 2 2025

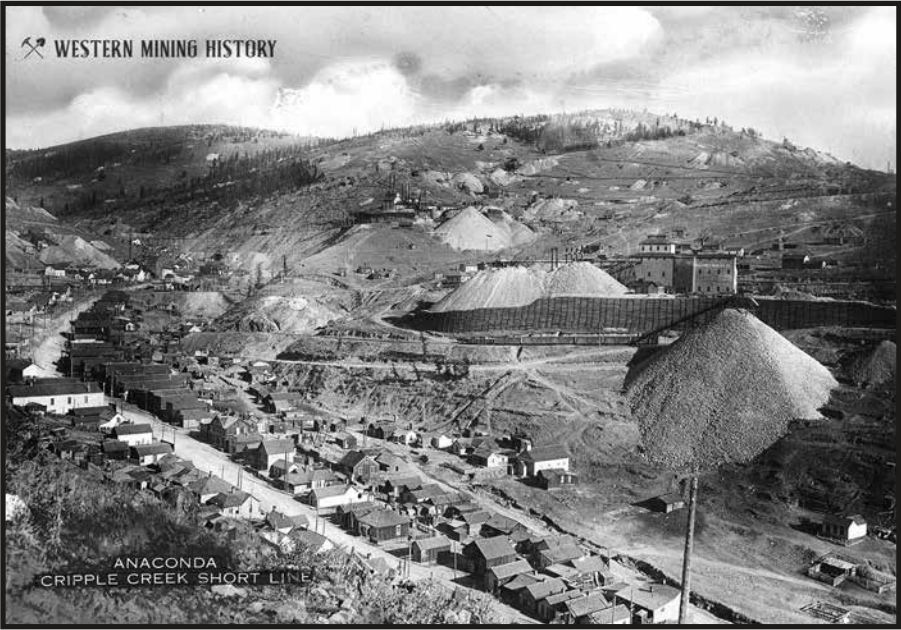
	Breakfast	Lunch
<u>Monday</u>	Cereal, Oatmeal Yogurt Fresh fruit, Fruit	Fish n Fries Coleslaw Fruit
<u>Tuesday</u>	Cheese Omelet Sausage Fruit Milk	Cheese or Chicken Quesadillas Chuckwagon Veggie Fruit Milk
<u>Wednesday</u>	Pancakes Sausage Fruit Milk	Pizza Burger Fresh Salad Fruit Milk
<u>Thursday</u>	Biscuits and Gravy Sausage Yogurt Oatmeal Fruit Milk	Shepards Pie 5 way Mix Vegetables Biscuits Fruit Milk

ELEMENTARY - MAIN DISH, GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT & MILK
MIDDLE & HIGH - MAIN DISH (OR SALAD BAR), GRAIN PRODUCT, VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND MILK This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Anaconda, Colorado, in the Cr

by Jan MacKell Collins

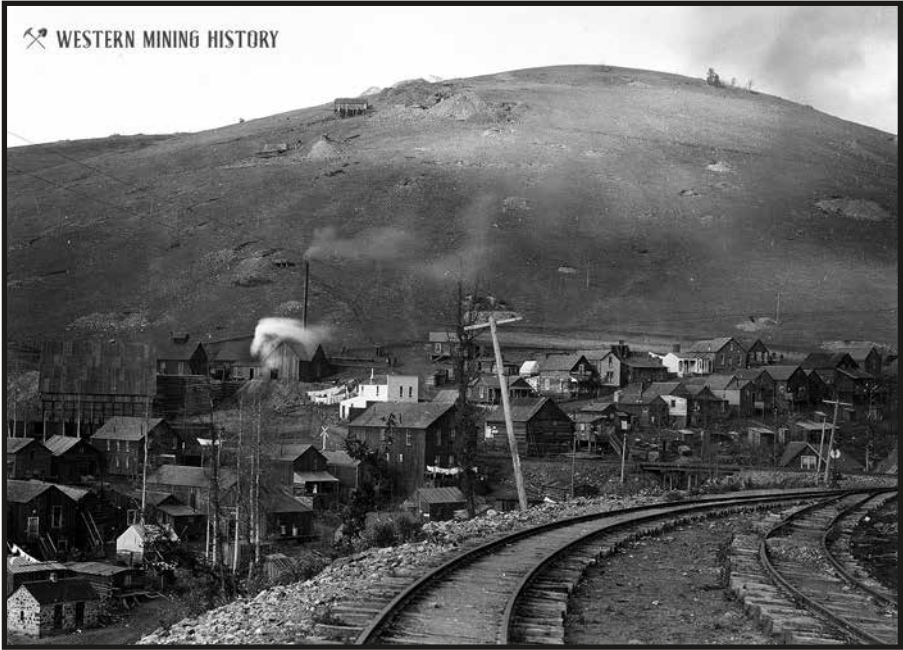
See Part I in the June 20th issue, pages 12 & 13



Anaconda, Colorado ca. 1900

Brooks’ antics aside, life at Anaconda throughout the late 1890’s remained rather quiet. Newspapers reported on a \$250 robbery at John Knox’s saloon, the accidental deaths of various miners and a foiled ore robbery attempt at the Doctor Mine in 1897. Six trains were still coming through town daily. And in August Dr. Coleman, a local druggist, was digging a cellar behind his home and hit a rich gold vein.

Indeed, things were very bright for Anaconda at the turn of the century. The Cripple Creek Morning Times’ New Year’s Day edition of 1899 had much good to say about the town, calling Anaconda “a well governed little city with no debt and where the people are prosperous and happy.” The writer went on to claim that “There is no place in the state more picturesque, and as a ‘summer camp’ it has no equal.” Compliments were showered upon the peace-loving population as well. “The old-time notion that a mining city must in the nature of things be ‘tough’ does not obtain in Anaconda,” the paper went on, emphasizing the point by mentioning a “splendid” school system with over 400 students.



Anaconda, Colorado 1895

By 1900 the Anaconda Mine was a major producer. The town proper had become the fourth largest in the Cripple Creek District, even as the population remained at around a thousand residents. Even so, Anaconda was still considered a “young” city. The impressive downtown area spanned two blocks with false-fronted buildings housing churches, hotels, lawyers, an optician, pharmacies, physicians, saloons, stores and a nice, white wood-framed school house. Residents also enjoyed telephone service.

The Anaconda School’s principal was E.E. Morris. Nellie Riggs, Maud Sheldon and Alida Colwell were employed as teachers. There was also a volunteer fire department at the Town Hall. Irving Douglas was postmaster. Baptist, Methodist and Catholic Church.

Anaconda unwittingly became home to a handful of people who eventually became famous in their own right. One of them was Josiah Roberts, who was ten years old when his family lived in town in 1900

(some websites claim Roberts was born in Anaconda. In 1890, however, neither the town or the Cripple Creek District existed yet. Roberts’ World War I draft registration verifies he was actually born in Rockvale, Colorado). By 1920 Roberts had moved to Los Angeles, where he went to work for motion picture companies. When he died in 1971, he was noted as a cinematographer who had worked on the films “White Shadows in the South Seas” in 1928 and “Eskimo” in 1933.

Other famous residents included Judge Melvin B. Gerry and Dr. Susan “Doc Susie” Anderson who became citizens as Anaconda swallowed up Mound City and Barry, respectively. But the woman who really turned heads at Anaconda was the later-known speakeasy queen, Texas Guinan. Mary Louise Cecelia Guinan, as she was then known, came to town with her mother in 1902. Mother and daughter were there to visit Mrs. Guinan’s sister, Mrs. Margaret Conley.



Cabin of Susan “Doc Susie” Anderson’s Family in the Cripple Creek District

During her extended stay, Tex began playing the organ for the local Sunday school. But she also began dressing a little too modern for the standards of young ladies of Anaconda. Not only were her outfits a bit too revealing, but she also wore rouge and makeup. Next, she lined up a series of suitors, whom she would date once or twice before casting them aside. Those who complained were given the same response that would soon be Tex’s trademark saying: “Oh, you poor sucker.”

It was probably at Anaconda that Tex met John Joseph Moynahan. The 1900 census verifies that John was in town visiting his uncle, John O’Brien. Later that year, Moynahan was hired as a cartoonist with the Rocky Mountain News in Denver. He also may have invested in real estate in Cripple Creek, where the now-defunct Moynahan Street was named for him.

By 1904 both Moynahan and Tex were in Denver, where they married on December 4. The couple later divorced and went on to marry others; in the meantime, Texas Guinan eventually made her way to New York where she found work as a chorus girl and started appearing in short films starting in 1917. She also ran a series of successful nightclubs and speakeasies during the prohibition era. The name of one of them, the Culture Club, was later used by a popular British band during the 1980’s. Tex appeared in more than thirty films before she died in 1933. A film, “Incendiary Blonde”, profiled her lively and interesting life in 1945.

Anaconda boasted “good schools and several churches” in 1902, with a population of about 1,000. George Horton was mayor. Notably, there was no pastor at the Baptist Church, nor the Methodist Episcopal Church, when the Cripple Creek District Directory was published. Instead, Reverend Father Victor was overseeing the Catholic Church.

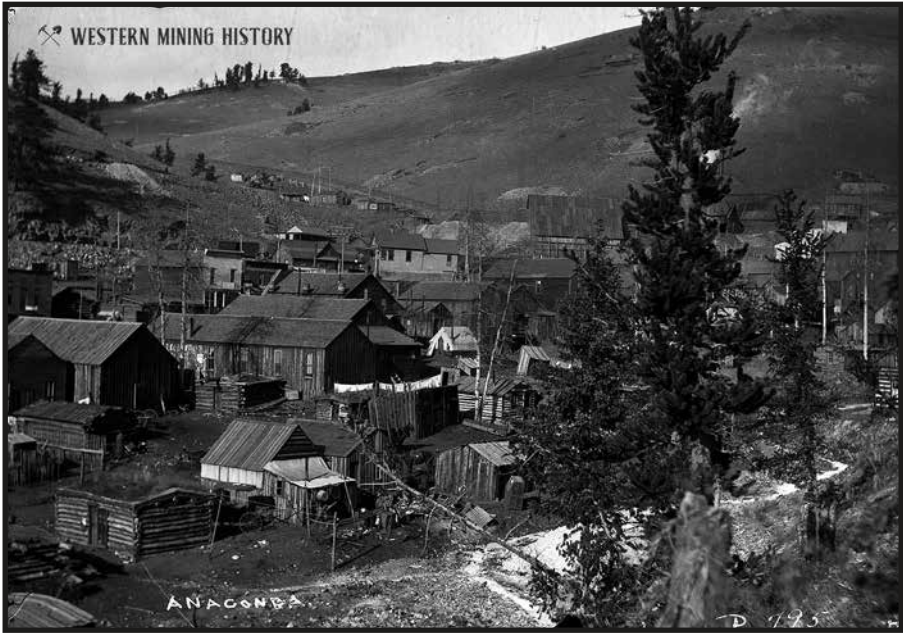
Three lodges, the I.O.O.F. Ivanhoe Rebekah Lodgw No. 60, Miners’ Union No. 21 and White Swan Council No. 31, D. of P., were available to members. Other businesses included a wagon maker, a drugstore, a dry goods, a boardinghouse, a hardware store, a meat market, one tailor, a doctor, one realtor, one shoe store, a stationary store, two restaurants, two barbers, two cigar stores, three assayers, three fuel and feed stores, three saloons, and four groceries.

Like many towns across the west, Anaconda suffered a fire that was almost the town’s undoing. On November 11, 1904, a fire began at Nelson’s Grocery at 11:30 p.m. The flames had been growing for some time before they were discovered by Edwin Irwin. News of the fire was reported as far away as Los Angeles, where the Los Angeles Herald warned the town

Cripple Creek District, Part II

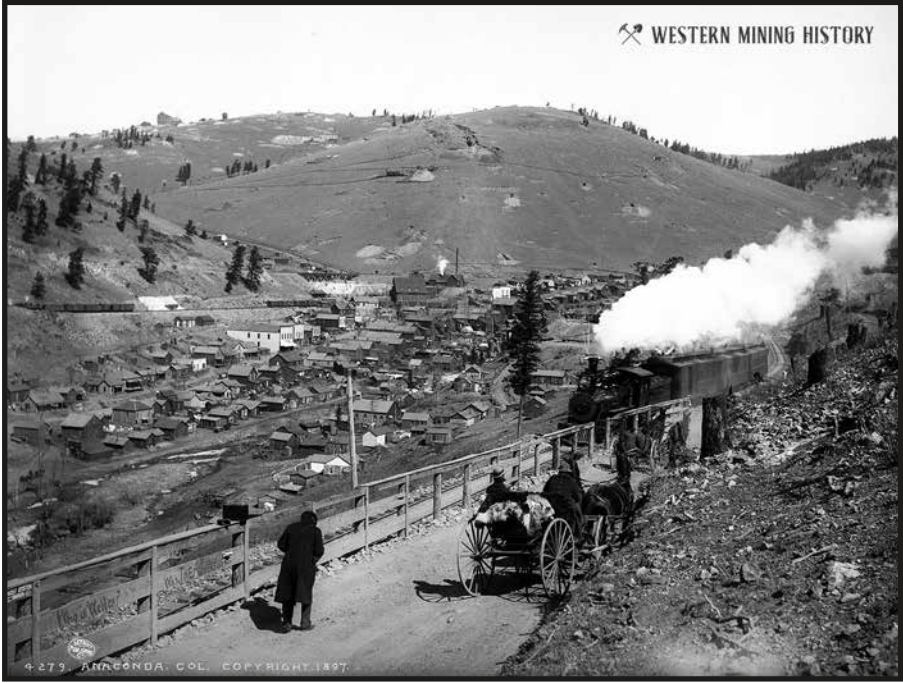
was “in danger of total destruction by fire.” One block of the downtown had already burned, with many other in danger.

the highway. In Squaw Gulch, only faint remnants of Barry and Mound City could be seen, including the jail. Beginning in 1967, the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad in Cripple Creek brought visitors on a four mile scenic tour from Cripple Creek to Anaconda. The trip dead-ended at the old blacksmith barn for the Mary McKinney, one of the few relics left of Anaconda. A year later, the CCVNG recovered the former Midland Terminal Depot at Bull Hill and moved it to their property in Cripple Creek.



Anaconda, Colorado 1895

A lack of water pressure combined with strong winds spelled disaster, even after a bucket brigade was formed. Anaconda’s volunteer fire department finally called Cripple Creek for help. Many buildings, including the city hall, were dynamited in an effort to stop the flames, but in the end every building south of the railroad tracks through town burned. Only one of them was insured. Newspapers guessed the damage to be between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

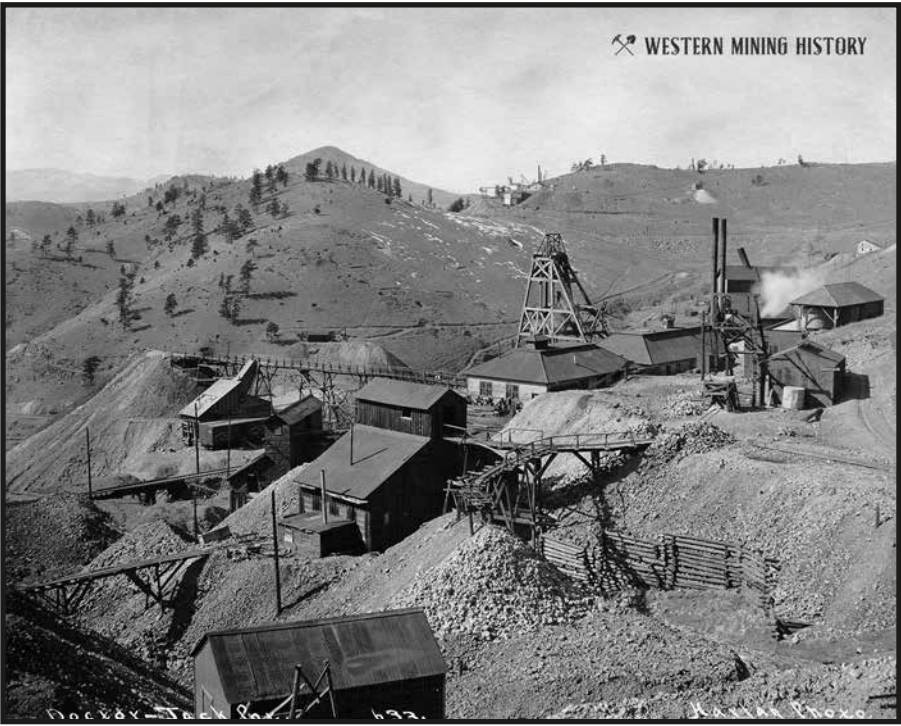


View of a Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad locomotive and Denver & Rio Grande Railway cars at Anaconda (Teller County), Colorado. ca 1897

In spite of nearly being burned out altogether, Anaconda did survive for a few years more. The town still had “good schools and several churches” in 1905, and the Cripple Creek District Directory for that year did offer this disclaimer: “A large portion of the business section of Anaconda was recently burned and owing to its nearness to the city of Cripple Creek there is considerable doubt of its being rebuilt.” Nonetheless, the population still hovered around 1,000 people.

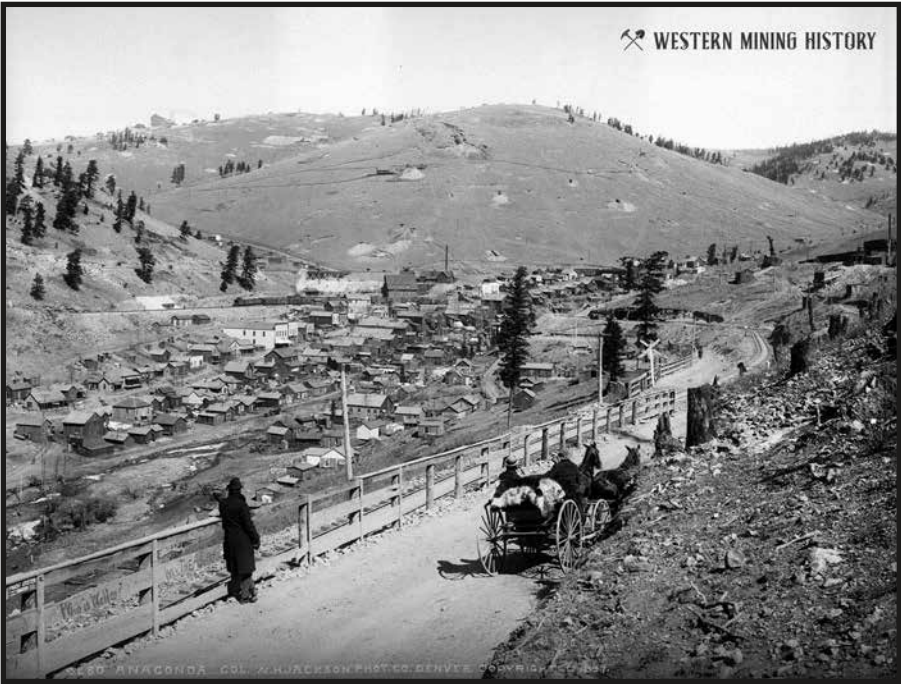
Anaconda remained a highly popular spot for history buffs and ghost town hunters. Tragically, however, in April of 1984 Anaconda made the news when 23-year old Wayne Tease, of Colorado Springs, suffered a fatal fall down an old mine shaft at the Mary McKinney. Due to the depth of the shaft, one thousand feet, authorities could do little to retrieve the body short of slinking a camera down the shaft to identify Tease. The only thing his family could do was erect a small memorial to him at the shaft where he died.

Lyman Cornwell was mayor. Two of the three churches had no pastor. There were, however, still three lodges surviving. Businesses included one cigar store, a drugstore, one dry goods, one saloon, one shoe store, two physicians, two grocers.



Doctor-Jackpot Mine Cripple Creek District ca. 1904

Anaconda would continue to downsize in the coming years. There were 130 residents left when the post office closed on March 31, 1909. In 1911 the post office reopened during a small surge in mining, and 200 people called Anaconda home in 1912. Only a confectionary store and a grocery, however, represented the business section. Five years later, the post office closed a final time.



Anaconda, Colorado 1897

By 1920, any remaining residents of Anaconda were listed as part of the nearby town of Victor in the census. A few mines did continue to survive around Anaconda. One of them was the Mary McKinney, which finally closed in 1953 after producing \$11 million in Gold.

Over time, the story took on some interesting twists. It took Tease’s mother fourteen years to obtain a death certificate for her son. Then in 2011, it was discovered that modern mining operations by the Cripple Creek/Victor Mine were slated to cover the shaft. Although the mine offered to move the memorial, the family objected since the shaft was considered by them to be a grave for their son. After negotiations which lasted a year or better, and with no law to stop them, the mine proceeded with their plans.

Today there is barely anything left of Anaconda, nor the little valley below it which once led to Shelf Road, which is still used to access towns south of the Cripple Creek District.

For years, Anaconda’s main street was an empty dirt road with a few buildings scattered about. The Mary McKinney’s huge cribbing paralleled

Reprinted with permission. Visit westernmininghistory.com/towns/colorado/anaconda for this and more great articles.

Three Local Scouts Complete their Eagle Scout Projects

by Reggie Foster

Scouting is more than campfires, tents, and merit badges—it’s a journey that shapes young people into leaders. Three local Scouts are very close to completing their scouting journey with the highest rank achievable. Matthew Burgdorff, Stone Everhart, and Lincoln Wingfield have completed their Eagle Scout projects which means there will soon be a Court of Honor to award their rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Scouting. Their accomplishments not only mark a personal milestone but also bring lasting benefits to our community through their Eagle Scout projects.

The road to Eagle Scout begins much earlier than high school. Boys and girls alike can join Cub Scouts as early as kindergarten and through the 5th grade. From there, youth can continue into Boy Scouts of America (BSA), where they pursue merit badges, take on

veterans and local flag retirement ceremonies.

Scouting was founded on principles of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance. Today, it remains focused on three core duties: to God and Country, to Others, and to Self. The organization emphasizes reverence and respect while guiding young people to become responsible, engaged citizens.

Earning Eagle Scout is no small task. Fewer than six percent of Scouts reach this rank, since BSA’s inception in 1911 only about four percent have earned the Eagle rank. Those who do are known nationwide for their character, leadership, and readiness to face life’s challenges. Along the way, Scouts live out the Scout Law of being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

The crowning achievement of

Eagle Scouts projects will serve neighbors for years to come.

Matthew Burgdorff as a young Cub Scout was helping his dad mow the local cemeteries. While at the Catholic Cemetery he noticed the flag holders were in disrepair and needed to be replaced. He asked his dad if that would make a good Eagle Scout project one day. Well, “one day” arrived and Matthew realized his younger self’s goal of making new flag holders for the veteran’s resting places in our local cemeteries.

Everhart is also active in Custer County 4-H where he participates in the market swine project and shooting sports. Having spent weeks at the Custer County Fairgrounds in the heat of the summer with very limited shade or shelter from the afternoon downpours, Everhart recognized a need. His project would be a 14 x 16 gazebo to provide much needed shelter and a resting place for Custer County’s fair participants and attendees. Everhart gained more than building skills during his lengthy project process. He was required to brief the County Commissioners for permission to proceed with the project, as well as gain a permit from the Town of Westcliffe and pass inspections. At the 2025 Custer County Fair many expressed their appreciation to Everhart for the much needed addition. His Eagle project was the favorite resting place during the 2025 Custer County Fair.

Wingfield focused on restoring and improving the World War II Memorial at Westcliffe’s Memorial Park. His inspiration came from his family’s legacy of service. Both of his great grandfathers and great uncles served in the defining war with distinction. Wingfield said, “I’ve learned that service is more than lending a hand; it is about preserving history and showing gratitude. I hope this project stands as a lasting tribute to those who gave everything. My family and friends were with me all through the project. We learned that leadership is best measured in not what you accomplish alone, but in how you inspire others to join you in service.”

Ask any Scout what the best part of the program is, and the answer most often comes back to outdoor adventures. Summer camp remains a favorite—a week in the outdoors with friends, filled with campfires, wilderness survival, canoeing, fishing, hiking and laughter that builds lifelong memories. Alongside the fun, these experiences teach teamwork, leadership, and personal responsibility.

Scouting is also a family affair. Leaders are often parents or former Scouts, and Custer County’s leaders



Stone Everhart in the shade of the completed gazebo project at the Custer County Fairgrounds.

fit this model. Josh and Heather Wingfield have been involved in Scouting leadership since 2007. Their oldest son, Jacob, also earned the Eagle rank. Heather said that their middle son Lincoln plans to continue the family scouting leader legacy by becoming an assistant scout leader to Doug Burgdorff when he turns 18 in order to help his little brother Jackson Wingfield in ranking Eagle.

Westcliffe is currently home to Pack 114 which has 11 Cub Scouts and Troop 114 which has four Boy Scouts. The all volunteer leaders include: Troop 114 Scoutmaster - Doug Burgdorff, Committee Chair – Josh Wingfield, Advancement Chair – Eric Everhart, Committee Member – Heather Wingfield. Pack 114 Cubmaster – Michelle Caldwell, Den Leader – Bethany Hogg, Committee Chair – Doug Burgdorff, Committee Member – Heather Wingfield

Scouting time commitments can vary. Meetings typically happen a few times a month, with additional camping trips, service projects, and special outings sprinkled throughout the year. Local leader Eric Everhart, says volunteering with Scouts is about more than teaching kids how to pitch a tent or tie a knot. “I volunteer to invest in my community,” he explained. “Scouting prepares young men and women to live as responsible, productive, and engaged members of society. It’s about shaping the leaders who will carry our community forward.”

These three young men have learned honor, responsibility and perseverance. Their journey reflects years of parental and scout leader support, consistency, fun, service to their community, and determination. Their projects serve as reminders that when Scouts succeed, the whole community benefits.



Matthew Burgdorff with Father Stephen Injoalu beside the flag holder display of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish church in Westcliffe.

leadership roles, and participate in service projects. To earn Eagle Rank you must complete 21+ merit badges, perform community service and live by the Scout Law.

Our community has benefitted from their service in local clean ups at Lake DeWeese, lake shore and campground. They are often found helping with set up and take down at many community events to include the American Legion Memorial Day Services, the Blue Grass Festival, Community Dinner and Car Show. The scouts also serve our residents by helping with tree mitigation, stacking wood for Veterans, and placing wreaths on Veteran graves with Wreaths Across America. Scouts participate in flag folding for

the Scouting journey is the Eagle Project. Each Scout becomes a project manager. First they choose a community organization that needs help. Then the Scout develops a plan for the project. All of the funds are to be raised by the Scout. Eagle Scout projects often require many hours and hands. The Scout must coordinate with and organize volunteers to help with the project. Essentially, the Scout is responsible for every aspect of the project and seeing it through from beginning to end.

Across the country, Eagle projects have included everything from community gardens and playgrounds to restoring trails and organizing safety events. Here in our county, the three new



Lincoln Wingfield on the new walkway at the refurbished WW II Memorial in Memorial Park in Westcliffe.

Photos from Scout Master D. Burgdorff

LETTER from page 4

#1) Our scenic beauty, traditional agricultural lands and waters are protected. #2) Outdoor recreation balances enjoyment, stewardship, and solitude-keeping forests, watersheds and wildlife healthy and safe. #3) Community members of all ages and backgrounds work together to preserve our rural

heritage, ensure the community’s livelihood and manage growth.

Then we were given potential indicators which are measurements that would help track progress of stated results. Besides being reminded of a combined sociology, philosophy and social engineering course for climate change my red flag thermometer was now sky high along with my blood pressure. A lady spoke up and asked exactly

what I was thinking....”Who brought you out of town folks from Denver and out of state to our valley to fix us? Who gives you authority to come here and assume we are incapable of fixing problems ourselves. And why do you think we have so many problems in the first place? Many people here are four, five generation ranchers and capable of fixing any problems YOU may say we have. We like it here the way things are and

most importantly HOW CAN WE GET YOU TO GO AWAY AND LEAVE US ALONE??”

After she spoke the facilitator stated this is exactly what we don’t want....most likely meaning “leave your suspicions at the door.”

To achieve the big picture about why this NGO is here now you will need to dig a little. Just read the article the *Sentinel* staff wrote last week, then read Jean

Canterbury’s piece, then go to You Tube and educate yourself on the big picture for Colorado. Look up the Salida Gun Shop video on the upcoming bill put before the voter on conservancy. The video is called Colorado’s Wildlife under siege....Politics or Science Ruling Colorado’s wilderness...

Now you can see the whole picture....

Laura Dale Dollarhide, Silver Cliff

Colorado State News



Water Wars: Nebraska Takes Colorado to Court

“Nebraska Is Fighting for the Water We Were Promised-And We Stand With That Fight!”

The Nebraska Attn. General’s fact sheet outlines the States argument. (See on this page.)

First Published as an OpED in *The Sun Telegraph* of Sidney, NE.

—August 07, 2025

From Twin Platte NRD, Central Platte NRD, South Platte NRD, Western Irrigation District, Nebraska Public Power District, and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District:

The State of Nebraska—under the firm leadership of Governor Jim Pillen and Attorney General Mike Hilgers—has filed a case in the U.S. Supreme Court to protect what belongs to Nebraskans: our water, our economy, and our future.

For a century, Nebraskans have relied on a promise embedded in the 1923 South Platte River Compact; a promise that Nebraska would be guaranteed water not only to meet its irrigation demands then, but also that it would get more water in the future – over four times more - if it built the Perkins County Canal. Colorado has reneged, and its actions have harmed Nebraskans. Our leaders are right to demand justice and to hold Colorado to its word.

Colorado’s Violations Hurt Every Corner of Nebraska

In recent years, South Platte River flows have dropped below 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) hundreds of times in the summer irrigation season. This threshold is supposed to trigger meaningful action by Colorado to reduce its use and protect Nebraska irrigators. But Colorado’s black box water management scheme allows junior Colorado water users to continue taking Nebraska’s water. In 2022, the Western Irrigation District, which depends on Compact flows, was forced to shut down most of its surface water deliveries for the first time in nearly 50 years. That meant failed crops, lost livelihoods, and shattered trust.

As Governor Pillen said, “They want absolutely everything. They’re even stealing the water from their own farmers for crying out loud. They are going to continue to develop the upstream economy at the expense of Colorado farmers and Nebraska farmers and I might also say the City of Lincoln.”

OpEd from NE Stakeholders
see page 23

Nebraska v. Colorado Lawsuit Fact Sheet

South Platte River Compact

- The South Platte River Compact was signed by Nebraska and Colorado in 1923 and ratified by Congress in 1926.
- Due to this unique structure as a congressionally-approved interstate compact, the Compact requires Colorado to shut down certain users in Colorado whenever Nebraska is not getting 120 cubic feet per second of water flow in the summer irrigation season.
- Currently, Colorado is allowing users with “junior” status to take Nebraska’s summertime irrigation water, which violates the Compact and Nebraska’s “senior” rights.
- The Compact also allows Nebraska to divert 500 cubic feet per second of water flow in the winter, along with additional water classified when the Perkins County Canal is built.
- Colorado currently pumps water in the winter and slowly sends it back to the river to make up for its summer overuse under a theory that the water reaches Nebraska in time for the next irrigation season. This system deprives Nebraska of water when Nebraska crops are in greatest need.
- Colorado’s ongoing water development will cause even more extreme shortfalls of water for Nebraska.

- Colorado will continue to develop its upstream economy at the expense of Nebraska’s farmers, ranchers, industries, citizens, and fish and wildlife if we don’t act.
- #### Perkins County Canal (PCC)
- The only way Nebraska can guarantee it receives its Compact right to water in the winter is to build the Perkins County Canal.
 - A Canal is needed to regulate the flow of water and ensure the South Platte River Compact is being honored.
 - Although Colorado publicly acknowledges Nebraska is entitled to build the Canal, Nebraska and Colorado have been in negotiations over the details of the Perkins County Canal for many years. However, we have been unable to resolve our differences.
 - Despite Nebraska’s good faith efforts, Colorado won’t agree on such basic things as the location or the size of the Canal, or how much water can flow through it.
 - Even though the South Platte River Compact allows Nebraska to build a canal, the ongoing disputes with Colorado are preventing its construction.
 - Colorado officials are on record that they prefer litigation and that they are gearing up, along with other political and quasi political entities, to raise roadblocks to the construction of the Canal.

2025

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Be sure to get YOURS!!

Friday
Oct. 3rd
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Clinic held at
Custer County School
Multi-purpose room
No appointment needed !!
CUSTER COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH
AGENCY
For any questions please call us at 719-783-3369

Cost is covered by
MOST insurance
companies!
Bring your Medicare, Medicaid or
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\$69 Hi-Dose
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NO Credit Cards accepted

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Gold Standard Or Clear Failure?

Colorado Trails 36 Nations On Election Rules

by Jen Schumann,
Rocky Mountain Voice

Colorado’s election rule-book emphasizes convenience—automatic mail ballots, long voting windows and ballot harvesting— exactly where most countries draw hard lines. That philosophical split is why Colorado lands at 50 out of 100 in a new international survey, and why the authors behind it want an on-the-record conversation with the secretary of state.

“We’d love to speak with your secretary of state... we’ll ask questions and she can ask questions,” said Gary Meyers, who co-authored the study with Jay DeLancy.

Meyers explained that The Meyers Report is a long-running research group, active for more than forty years, with contributors spread across 30 countries. “We’re interested in truth, we’re interested in fairness,” he said, describing a team that includes scientists, economists, election officials

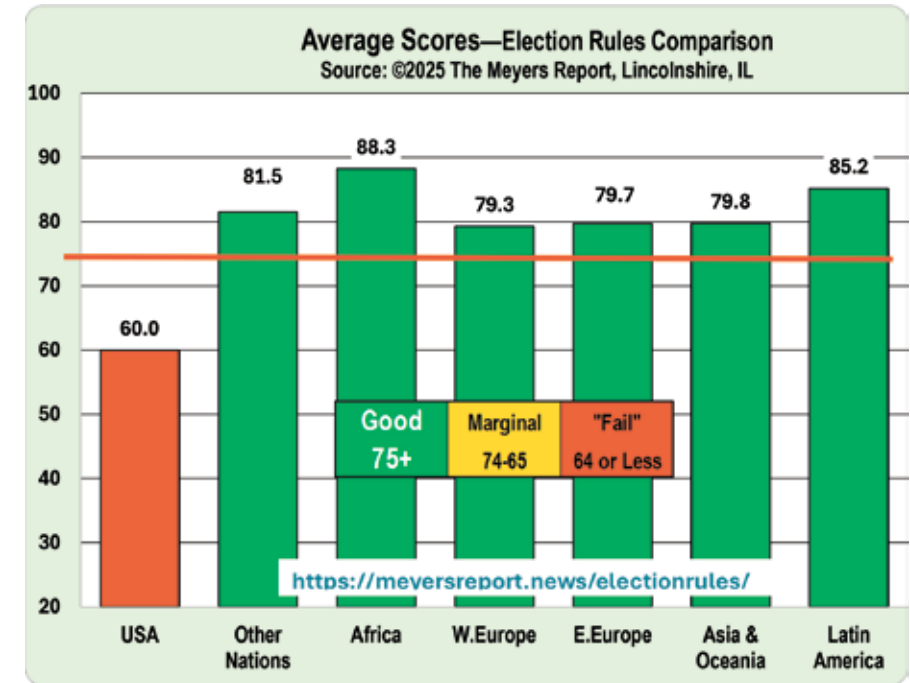


Chart 1: from Election Rules Review (p.3) produced by The Meyers Report.

and international partners who verified country-level data.

Meyers said the project drew on “between 25 and 35 people from five continents,” making it, in his view, one of the most comprehensive comparisons of its kind.

DeLancy, a member of a North Carolina election board who helped design the survey, said the findings were meant to be put to use in real elections.

He cast the study as a risk audit built on known standards, shaped by the Carter-Baker report and

common international practice. The Carter-Baker Commission, formed in 2005 after the 2000 election dispute and led by Jimmy Carter and James Baker, issued nearly 90 recommendations to strengthen U.S. elections.

The Election Rules Review survey measured the laws of all 50 U.S. states against 36 countries.

On average, U.S. states scored about 60, compared to 81.5 for the 36 nations studied. (See Chart 1).

The findings led Meyers to conclude overall that, “The U.S. has the worst voting system of the countries studied.”

Colorado’s 50: Behind the gold standard claim

When the conversation turned to Colorado, Meyers didn’t hesitate. “Colorado has a score of 50. Kenya and Mexico have scores of 95... Colorado isn’t even up to the level of Ethiopia, really,” he said. “So if your secretary of state says that you guys are the gold standard, we invite her to talk to us and please show us where our methodology is wrong.”

He noted that the study was not a casual effort. The team checked constitutions and

election laws in each country and relied on overseas experts to validate the findings. The survey evaluates written rules, not whether governments follow them.

The data show why Colorado faltered. universal mail ballots and legal ballot harvesting put the state at odds with global norms. The report found that 94% of countries do not use mail-in ballots and 100% prohibit ballot harvesting, yet Colorado does both.

Meyers didn’t mince words. “Colorado is horrible... better than Illinois and Nevada, but that’s not saying much.”

Colorado scored 50 out of 100 in the survey, ranking below the U.S. average. (See Chart 2).

Ethiopia isn’t the only country that outperformed Colorado—thirty-five others did as well.

Mail-in ballots: Convenience or risk

Most of the world rejects the idea of mass mail-in voting.

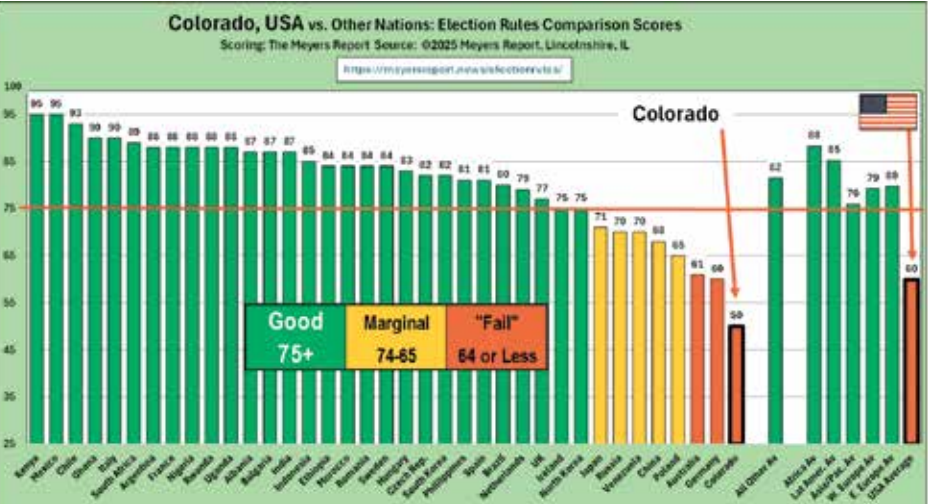


Chart 2 from Election Rules Review (p.17) produced by The Meyers Report.

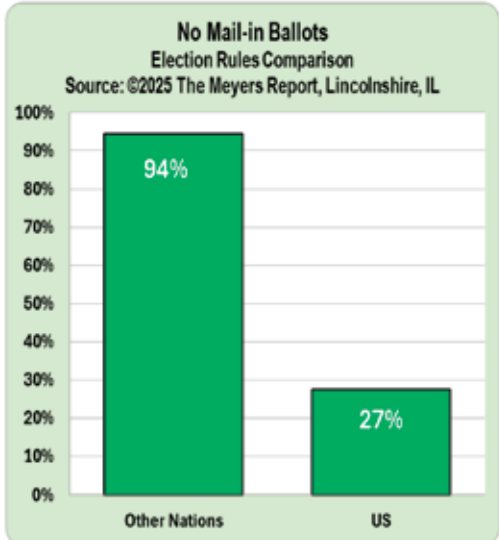


Figure 8 No mail-in ballots

- V. No Mail-In Ballots**
- 94% of the other nations do not use mail-in ballots. Many allow requested absentee mail-ins, but with strong restrictions.
 - 27% of US states do not use mail-in ballots but allow mail-in absentee voting with strong restrictions. 73% of states allow mail-ins, either universally or by request.
 - 8 states (California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington state) and the District of Columbia—18%—automatically mail an absentee ballot to every active registered voter.

GOLD STANDARD?
see page 22

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He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 NKJV



Colorado State News

Missing Hunters Found

by Sentinel staff

Missing hunters, Andrew Porter, 25, of Asheville N.C., and Ian Stasko, 25, of Salt Lake City were found deceased on September 17, 2025, about two miles from the Rio De Los Pinos Trail Head where their vehicle was located.



Ian Stasko (left) and Andrew Porter, both 25 years old.

According to the Conejos County Sheriff's Office, the men were reported missing after they failed to report back to loved ones by a predetermined time following an elk hunting trip in the San Juan Wilderness Area. Camping supplies and backpacks were still inside the vehicle on September 13th.

The incredible search and rescue efforts are evidenced in the press releases leading up to locating the young men:

September 17, 2025

Update Search and Rescue Trujillo Meadows area

CONEJOS COUNTY, CO

On September 13, the Conejos County Sheriff's Office responded to the Rio De Los Pinos Trail Head attempting to make contact with two individuals who were reported overdue while elk hunting. Andrew Porter 25 y.o. of Asheville North Carolina and Ian Stasko 25 y.o. of Salt Lake City Utah were in the San Juan Wilderness Area west of Trujillo Meadows Reservoir when they failed to check in with loved ones at a predetermined time.

The Vehicle that Andrew and Ian drove to the Trail Head was located but neither individual was there. Camping gear and backpacks were located in the vehicle prompting Deputies to become concerned due to heavy rain and bad weather. Search and Rescue Operations were immediately put into place resulting in a massive search. Air Operations, Multi County and State Ground Teams, Dog Teams, Drone Teams,

ATV's and Local Volunteers are working the area.

Update September 17

The search is continuing today with multiple resources active. The New Mexico State Police and La Plata County Search and rescue Teams along with Volunteers from as far away as Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Wyoming and numerous other States and Counties across the State, and the Nation have and are responding. We have had over 54 teams of professionally trained Search and Rescue Personnel mixed with volunteers in the field. Each team is made up of three to four individuals either on foot or on horseback. We also have numerous drones flying the area combined with Flight for Life, Classic and a personally owned Black Hawk Helicopter.

####

The men's bodies have been recovered from the National Forest. On Friday, September 19, County Coroner Richard Martin said there were no obvious signs of violence.

Autopsies were scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2025. The two bodies were found laying in a grassy field. Conejos Coroner said the deaths of Porter and Stesko were 'immediate' and due to a lightning strike. In his 20 years as coroner, this was his first investigation where someone was killed by lightning.

TOW Mtg.
from page 2

has also been working on charting other community light trespass ordinances and language. Mr. Wenke said if Dark Skies would like to present they could do it at the next meeting. Thus, the presentation.)

Wolf presented pictures and data on the design and performance of the lighting systems at both the Stampede Rodeo grounds and the Custer County High School Football Field, saying that light “trespass” was the main issue. According to Wolf, the football field lighting system is acceptable and is also being used by other rodeo arenas. The Saddle Club’s rodeo lighting system, he says, trespasses more than 2,000 feet. According to Dark Skies this light escape negatively impacts the Smokey Jack Observatory programs to the point that no programs can be held when the rodeo arena is lit. (The WMV Saddle club holds approximately 15 nights of events with arena lights per year.)

Wolf argued that the light trespass is preventable and fixable but would not speculate or reveal the costs of the current lighting system or proposed lighting changes. He went on to say that the health of both humans and animals are negatively impacted by artificial light in the night. He noted the increased risk

of diabetes for humans exposed to artificial light at night. (Since the presentation focus was outdoor light trespass, the computer screen and artificial light nearly all humans are exposed to daily wasn't mentioned.)

In summary, the local dark skies group has no issue with the light being directed to the ground of the Saddle Club's arena; they take issue with the light trespass that affects Smokey Jack, 2000 feet beyond the rodeo grounds. Dark Skies maintains that the rodeo lights violate TOW's 2014 lighting ordinance which requires a special use permit for trespass. Wolf said, "we need to find a way for the Stampede Rodeo and Smokey Jack to co-exist." He says the Smokey Jack Observatory cannot hold programs when the arena is being used. He maintains that the special use permit for lighting the arena with the current system should be limited to the rodeo in July. He went on to say, yet again, that the Board of Trustees should enforce the ordinance.

Note: in past meetings, it has been made clear the Stampede (dating back to 1946) generates significant revenue from the tourist and overall traffic into the county for their events.

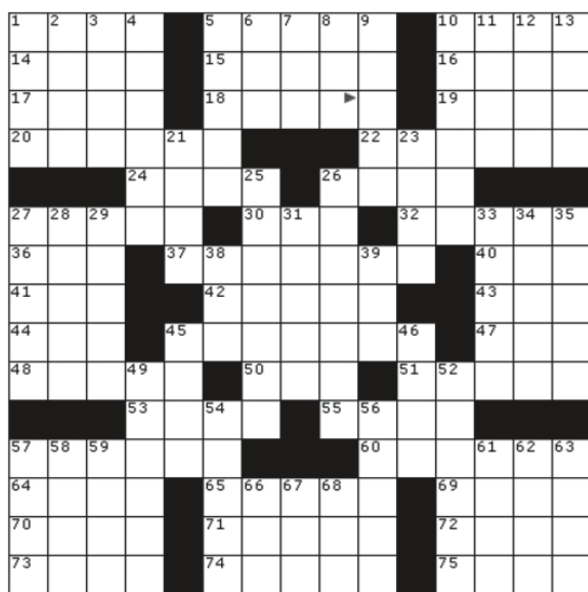
The SJO has been on the Bluff since 2015. One board member did ask the presenter if the SJO has

thought about moving to another location if town growth makes it more difficult to view the night sky. Wolf indicated that moving the SJO was not being considered.

The Board of Trustees then entered into a budget hearing. There was no discussion by the trustees other than to say the budget amendment reflects the realities of what was spent this year. When asked about the specific changes, the Westcliffe Town staff replied, "on the capital side the changes are for grants that dried up with the state. For the general side of the budget; employees received raises, ADA accessibility requirements caused more expense for IT to get into compliance; legal costs increased with two lawsuits and new attorneys with different fee structures." Line items were adjusted for those things. A resolution to adopt the amended budget was approved unanimously.

Trustees were presented with copies of the audit and the only public comment was an ask about what is on the books in regards to zoning to protect the historical nature of downtown. The Trustees referred the issue to planning and zoning. The meeting ended with Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Dembosky letting everyone know that he could no longer serve due to health issues. The meeting was adjourned.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Indonesian island
- 5 Sleep disorder
- 10 Actor Alda
- 14 Lanky
- 15 Confuse
- 16 Goodly
- 17 Desert condition
- 18 Shampoo brand
- 19 Hiking equipment
- 20 Medium-sized tuna
- 22 Fake
- 24 Attire

- 26 Bluish green
27 Malicious burning
30 Reduced (abbr.)
32 Victimized
36 Rule
37 Angel
40 Also
41 School group
42 Untruthful
43 Epoch
44 Border
45 North Carolina city
47 Mountain Standard Time

DOWN

- 1 Tell
- 2 Air (prefix)
- 3 Set down
- 4 Very dark blue
- 5 Loathe
- 6 Pod vegetable
- 7 Football assoc.
- 8 Aurora
- 9 Biblical Greek
word for love
- 10 Heavenly beings
- 11 In ___ of (instead of)
- 12 University (abbr.)
- 13 A Roman emperor

- 48 Adios
50 Often poetically
51 Comforts
53 Shock
55 Fiber
57 Fabrics
60 Mrs. Clinton's middle
name
64 Tall
65 Right angle to a ships
length
69 Thorned flower
70 Land measurement
71 By the ___ of God
72 Dueling sword
73 Look
74 Cornstalk
75 Watery

- 21 Powdered drink
23 First king of Israel
25 Ancient walled city
26 Father, Son and Holy Spirit
27 I am the ___ and
the Omega
28 Ranked
29 Hindu religious teacher
31 To the point
33 Objects
34 North Germanic
language
35 Parable of the sheep
and ___
38 Wing
39 Poached food
45 Wife of Boaz
46 Big sandwich
49 OT book
52 One of the apostles
54 Utilization
56 Armored
57 Fellow
58 Plague of Egypt
59 Giant
61 Faith, ___ and charity
62 Afloat
63 Blessed are the ___
66 Undergarment
67 Serving of corn
68 Expert

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The Daily Jot

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

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

We Will Stand-Tribute to Charlie Kirk & President Trump

This song is a response to the assassination of Charlie Kirk and the assassination attempts on President Donald Trump. The Democratic Party and leftist response is repugnant and unacceptable. They are digging in rather than behaving like citizens in a civil society. This is my heartfelt cry that we stand on the righteousness of God and speak boldly as we ought to speak and having done all, stand. Please join me in this anthem for freedom of speech and standing for truth.

We Will Stand

Chorus

We are Americans, you'll never silence us.
We are Americans, we stand for truth.
We are Americans, you can't bully us.
We are American, and we will stand.

Verse 1

A husband, father, citizen,
a voice they couldn't stand,
"Brought it on himself," they posted,
then deleted it again.
Some cheered in secret channels,
some lied then apologized,
Speaking from the heart's abundance,
malice they can't disguise.
They bully, threaten, dog-whistle,
then claim the moral ground,
But truth still rings like liberty,
a freedom-steady sound.

Pre-Chorus

They call us fascists, racists,
deniers on demand,
But the mask is slipping—we see the sleight of hand.

Chorus Repeat

Verse 2

"They brought it on themselves,"
that's the cover they repeat,
Call us names to hide the deeds of scorn
they can't defeat.
They smear and they project,
but their mirror shows the liar,
Every blow they throw at us
just makes our flag fly higher.
They curse, they mock, they tear down,
but freedom won't expire,
The anthem rises louder still,
our voices won't retire.

Bridge

Name-calling is a smokescreen,
a mask they cannot keep,
But courage is our language,
and liberty runs deep.

Final Chorus (big & repeat)

We are Americans, you'll never silence us.
We are Americans, we stand for truth.
We are Americans, you can't bully us.
We are American, and we will stand.

You can preview the song by going to the below link. We Will Stand and it is also live on Pandora. If you like the song, please pass it along to your contact list. Let's make a statement!

To listen to the song, go to <https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/williamcwilson/we-will-stand>

Bill Wilson

Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Due Process:

The Backbone of Legal Legitimacy

by NRAHQ

Close observers of the gun debate often see references to due process.

The NRA reaffirmed its commitment to this foundational value last week in an announcement that stated: “NRA does not, and will not, support any policy proposals that implement sweeping gun bans that arbitrarily strip law-abiding citizens of their Second Amendment rights without due process.” Understanding what due process means is critical to an appreciation of how the Constitution protects Americans and imposes accountability on government.

One way to understand due process is to consider its opposite, arbitrary rule, as exemplified by the Declaration of Independence’s recitation of King George III’s “history of repeated injuries and usurpations,” which led to “absolute Tyranny over these States.”

Included among the charges:

- *He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. ...*
- *He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.*
- *He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. ...*
- *For protecting [his own troops], by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States ...*
- *For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury ...*
- *For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. ...*

Without due process, we do not have a government “of the people, by the people, for the people.” We are subjugated, as if by a tyrannical king, to the arbitrary whims of authority, enforced by official violence, with no accountability for abuses; no voice in how we are governed; and no impartial judiciary to resolve disputes.

Because of their experience with the British monarchy, the Founding Fathers were scrupulous to ensure the United States government would operate according to a system of checks and balances.

Besides the Second Amendment, the final check when all others fail, the Bill of Rights included provisions ensuring due process. The Fifth Amendment spells out various protections against arbitrary action by the national government, including that “[n]o person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law ...” Likewise, the 14th Amendment, enacted after the Civil War to protect Americans from abusive state practices, declares: “nor shall any State deprive any person of

life, liberty, or property, without due process of law ...”

Courts have determined due process has two main branches, substantive and procedural.

Substantive due process refers to the quality of legitimate laws and enactments. It holds that there must be a sufficiently strong connection between a law’s terms and its objectives. Laws also must be written in a way that people can understand them, and they must be specific enough to prevent arbitrary and capricious enforcement.

Gun control laws often violate substantive due process. One example is the recent phenomenon of “gun industry accountability laws” that impose a responsibility on members of the firearm industry to implement unspecified “reasonable controls” over the sales and marketing of their products. These controls are supposed to be in addition to any explicit requirements found in law.

As we reported recently out of New Jersey, state officials there sued a gun shop otherwise in compliance with the law for violating the “reasonable controls” requirement. The court ruled that it did not need to define “reasonable controls” to resolve the case, because the term *required some kind of additional effort* by the gun shop, and because no such effort was evident, the shop must have failed in its legal duty. The court deferred to the attorney general’s suggestion that reasonable controls the shop should have taken included applying requirements the legislature had enacted for the sale of handgun ammunition to other products not mentioned in the law.

Thus, the shop only found out what the law supposedly required of them after they supposedly failed to do it. This violates substantive due process. The law should be considered “void for vagueness,” because it doesn’t put the subjects it regulates under adequate notice of what it requires of them. It also invites capricious enforcement, allowing officials to make up the requirements for lawful gun sales on a case-by-case basis.

The second main type of due process is procedural due process. This refers to the steps the government must take before depriving a person of life, liberty, or property, as well as the safeguards the person is entitled to during that process.

As we mentioned in another article about due process, the requirements of procedural due process include such things as:

- *1. Notice of the government’s intended actions;*
- *2. A neutral decision maker to arbitrate the case;*
- *3. An opportunity for the respondent to answer the government’s accusations or assertions;*
- *4. The opportunity to present evidence that favors one’s position;*

- *5. The opportunity to cross-examine the government’s witnesses and respond to the government’s evidence;*
- *6. Right to representation by counsel;*
- *7. A decision based on the record, with a written explanation of the reasoning for it.*

Courts have applied different standards of procedural due process to various government actions, depending on the courts’ estimation of the seriousness of the rights at stake.

Gun control also often violates procedural due process. We have repeatedly cited “red flag” laws as a case in point. In various states, they allow a judge to enter an ex parte order for the seizure of a person’s guns based on the unanswered accusations of a petitioner. Indeed, the first time the respondent may know of the proceedings is when a sheriff’s deputy arrives at the respondent’s home to serve the ex parte order and seize the person’s guns. While the respondent may have a chance at a later hearing to argue for return of the property and the restoration of his or her rights, the deprivation has already occurred at that point.

Indeed, violations of due process often accompany the government’s supposed attempts to keep guns out of the “wrong hands.”

We are often told it is “common sense” that a certain category of people “should not have access to guns.” These have included “criminals,” “terrorists,” and the “mentally ill.”

While that proposition has some intuitive force to it, the details of any such scheme must satisfy due process for the regime to be valid.

How broadly is the category defined? What evidence links that entire category to enhanced risk? Who decides who falls into a given category? What procedures ensure that decision is valid? How, if at all, can a person who is incorrectly categorized challenge that decision? Is there any process for a person whose situation changes to be relieved of legal disabilities?

All these questions matter in determining whether any disarmament scheme is legitimate.

NRA-ILA is constantly policing the boundaries of these sorts of laws to ensure that they have a valid basis in facts, evidence, and procedure and that they are not just an opportunistic way to unfairly grab guns from a convenient or defenseless scapegoat.

About NRA-ILA:

Established in 1975, the Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) is the “lobbying” arm of the National Rifle Association of America. ILA is responsible for preserving the right of all law-abiding individuals in the legislative, political, and legal arenas, to purchase, possess, and use firearms for legitimate purposes as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Visit: www.nra.org

In Full Regression

by T.L. Davis

The tendency for governments to impose their will against that of the people is pervasive. The Magna Carta and the U.S. Constitution were attempts to keep the excesses to a minimum, but nothing can overcome the human desire to control everything in their environment. It's the way mankind has survived and where modifications to one's environment become artistic, rather than merely functional, it can be said that humanity has progressed.

We are in full regression from that lofty ideal of making what is merely functional, a government, into something artistic: a republic that respects the rights and individuality of the human being. It's not enough, it seems, to encode that into the constitution, write a Bill of Rights; every time the left or the right are insulted by speech, they want to eliminate freedom of speech for one side or the other.

Let me say, unequivocally, that it is no less distasteful coming from the right as it is from the left. The very idea, the concept, that the Trump Administration will seek to punish speech that is not directly associated with the call to violence against a specific target is just reprehensible, not only to me, but what would have been so to Charlie Kirk himself. I cannot think of a more ridiculous tribute to Charlie Kirk than to limit speech that criticizes him or Turning Point USA with legal force. It is purely disgraceful. Where those same attitudes are directed toward antisemitism it is even more repugnant. This is the tactic of such great totalitarians as the Soviets, the CCP and Islamists, not free people.

Free speech carries with it its own penalties. The old adage that it is better to have people think one a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt still applies. Unfortunately, the internet has allowed too many fools to open their mouths, but freedom does not allow for a legal penalty, it has a social penalty. Everything I write in this Substack is subject to review by the reader; acceptance or rejection are always options and if I start writing nonsense, I will be abandoned. Hopefully, the inverse is true, that if I'm making sense, it will inspire people to support my work. I'm completely comfortable in that environment and I take that responsibility seriously.

Freedom had better start being important to people, more important than anything else in their lives, because if it's not sufficiently important, it'll evaporate before our eyes and be denied to posterity. This is already true. All of the things one has to accept to use any electronic device is a violation that should have been protected by law as violations of privacy and data security as much as any papers or effects. This is a whole section of the Fourth Amendment that has been forfeited in miniscule writing

prior to turning one's cell phone on. It's a travesty and should rightfully have inspired mass demonstrations in front of AT&T, Verizon and Sprint, but we have already lost so much of our natural self-defense against invasion that it did not happen and so has become embedded in everything these communications companies touch.

The contradictions and illegality became apparent during the pandemic. What was only recently secured in law, one's health records, suddenly became open on demand from some employer or school or institution and the logical mind ground its gears trying to sort out how this was suddenly approved and supported by regulation or "advice" in contravention of the law. That is the world in which government, given the slightest leeway, prospers.

It's clear to see that freedom of speech needs to be the hill to die on for many of us. Not only against the great liberal states, but against the conservative ones as well. There is no excuse to forfeit that territory, when it so readily polices itself. It is a totalitarian instinct to limit speech. The very inclination suggests an immaturity and an insecurity in one's beliefs that they might be derailed by some malcontent or propagandist. Charlie certainly never had such insecurities.

When one speaks the truth, it resonates. That's the shield honest brokers of ideas shelter behind when crafting their message designed to enlist support. Discovering the truth, therefore, becomes the most important occupation of one's time. From that flows reality that can be addressed with policy. But to deny the propagation of information, out of fear of losing an argument, hinders all progress toward the solution of any problem.

This all, once, was known, valued and put forward when the First Amendment was drafted, even during the maelstrom of propaganda that the founders were criminals and of specious character. Even in that environment, with the British vilifying them relentlessly, besmirching their reputations, the founders recognized the necessity of free speech to allow truth to rise up out of the swamp of disinformation.

If there was one thing that could be done to destroy lies and propaganda, it's not to limit speech or literature, but to better educate the people in critical and logical thinking. There is, you will notice, no effort to do so, no program to better develop these abilities, because that is the pathway to a free society, everything else leads to totalitarian and the trajectory we find ourselves on. It must stop and we will never be stronger than we are attacking a supposedly patriotic administration who delves into these tactics to solve some rhetorical problem it has at present.

Please see: <https://tldavis.substack.com/p/in-full-regression>

US Border Patrol Busts

Sept. 18 –

Brownsville TX - Brownsville CBP officers seize more than \$840K in methamphetamine at Veterans International Bridge

Laredo, TX - CBP officers seize over \$3.3 million in hard narcotics at World Trade Bridge

Philadelphia CBP officers arrest Delaware woman on warrant for vehicle operation causing death.

Sept. 17

New Orleans, LA - CBP Gulf Coast announces opening of two Global Entry offices to serve international travelers.

Sept 16

Eagle Pass, TX - CBP officers apprehend fugitive sought for indecency with a child by sexual contact. Detained one male.

Laredo TX - CBP officers seize more than \$557K in heroin at Juarez-Lincoln Bridge.

Sept 15

Washington - CBP discovers radioactive isotopes in food shipment containers at U.S. ports, prompting FDA product recall

Laredo, TX - Soured: CBP officers seize more than \$16M in methamphetamine in frozen mango shipment at World Trade Bridge.

Detroit, MI - Dual drug loads intercepted in Detroit and Port Huron 1,047 pounds (475 kilograms) of cocaine and 937 pounds (425 kilograms) of methamphetamine during outbound enforcement operations near Detroit and Port Huron ports of entry.

Sept 10

Brownsville , TX - CBP officers apprehend man wanted for sexual assault of a child.

McAllen, TX 2025 CBP officers apprehend man wanted for sexual offenses at McAllen International Airport.

Baltimore, MD - CBP intercepts tractor dozer stolen in Maryland and destined for Ghana.

Philadelphia, PA - CBP intercepts more dangerous ketamine and LSD shipped from the Netherlands.

Chicago, IL - CBP, HHS Seize \$86.5 Million Worth of Illegal E-Cigarettes in Largest-Ever Operation.

Sept 9

Near San Diego, CA - Man dies after falling from the border barrier.

Sept 8

CBP seizes more than \$890K in cocaine at Hidalgo International Bridge.

CBP officers at Hidalgo International Bridge arrest man wanted for sexual assault of a child.

Sept 4

Pharr, TX - CBP seizes more than \$13 million in methamphetamine at Pharr International Bridge.

Laredo, TX - CBP officers seize more than \$37 million in methamphetamine at Colombia-Solidarity Bridge.

Sept 3

San Diego, CA - San Diego Sector Border Patrol arrest minor attempting to smuggle nearly 27 pounds of methamphetamine.

Eagle Pass, TX - CBP officers seize over \$238K in narcotics at Eagle Pass Port of Entry.

Brownsville, TX - Brownsville CBP officers seize \$107K in unreported U.S. currency.

Aug 30

Buffalo, NY - On August 30, CBP officers at the Port of Buffalo-Rainbow Bridge crossing arrested, a 29-year-old male United States citizen who was encountered with multiple firearms, ammunition and magazines. He was turned over to the New York State Police and charged with felony Criminal Possession of a Weapon.

Aug 29

Buffalo, NY - CBP officers at the Port of Buffalo-Peace Bridge commercial facility discovered four +kilograms of marijuana. One shipment was manifested as “sea cucumbers”, the other had packages sewn into a jacket.

Sterling, VA - Dulles CBP officers seize over \$111k in Unreported Currency.

Aug 28

Baltimore, MD - CBP intercepts nearly 104 pounds of the psychedelic drug DMT destined to Harford County, MD.

Aug 27

Indio, CA - El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents seize 176 pounds of methamphetamine, arrest two female American citizens.

Del Rio - CBP officers seize more than \$730K in methamphetamine at Del Rio Port of Entry.

Aug 21

Laredo, TX - CBP officers seize more than \$704K in methamphetamine at Laredo Port of Entry.

Eagle Pass, TX - CBP officers apprehend fugitive wanted for weapons trafficking.

Aug 20

Brownsville, TX - CBP officers seize more than \$297K in cocaine at Los Indios International Bridge.

FYI... for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.

Office Hours are Tuesday & Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. - noon.

Deadline for classified ad copy is Monday by 4 p.m.

Deadline for display ad copy is noon on Friday the week before the ad is to appear in the paper.

Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to sdcsentinel@gmail.com

Please send us information on clubs and organizations, news stories and pictures, and upcoming events.

Please limit Letters to the Editor to 500 words or less. Please include your name, address and phone number. Garage/Yard sales are printed free. However, verbiage is limited to date, time and address.

Birth, Engagement, Wedding Announcements and Obituaries are also printed FREE OF CHARGE with a 350 word maximum and one photo included.

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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

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The Case For Armed, Trained Staff In Colorado Schools

by Jon Caldara,
CompleteColorado.com

Enough.

Enough virtue signaling instead of preventing school shootings. Enough of elected school boards denying reality.

It is time for all of Colorado’s 178 school districts to join the 50 that currently have volunteer, trained, concealed armed staff to stop a shooter the moment he begins — because when seconds count, the police are only minutes away

The difference is wanting to feel safe versus wanting to be safe.

By constantly making it harder and more expensive for law-abiding people (i.e. the good guys) to purchase, practice and legally carry firearms, our lawmakers think we will feel safer. Maybe some will even fall for it and feel safer. But none of it makes us any safer.

Reality check

Actually being safe, making our schools safe, requires us to accept realities many simply cannot stomach:

The reality is unicorns are not invading the United States to confiscate the more than 400 million firearms here — more than one gun per person. Guns are and will be omnipresent in America. The more gun-phobes restrict them, the more people buy them. It’s why former President Barack Obama is considered the greatest gun salesman in history.

The reality is there is no way to afford having 20 armed police officers wandering the halls of every school, all day, every day, just waiting for the moment a shooter starts firing.

The reality is the safeguards most schools implement are for us, not the shooter, to show they are doing

“something.” They need enough to prove in court, after our children are massacred, that they did what they reasonably could.

Lockdown drills and fortified front doors do not, have not and will not deter school shootings or stop a shooter once he started.

The reality is nearly 30% of Colorado’s 178 school districts have trained arms staff who volunteered to take on the extra responsibility to protect our children.

The reality is Jefferson County schools do not allow their school staff that option.

The reality is “gun-free zones” kill children.

Let me be blunt: School boards that do not allow willing, qualified staff members to protect our kids have the blood of the dead on their hands. They did not do all they reasonably could protect our children. They should legally be held responsible.

Arming school staff

There has not been a hijacking of an American airliner plane since September 11, 2001. One major factor — pilots who volunteer to carry concealed guns. Just like how schools can’t afford to put a cop in every hallway, the TSA can’t afford to put an undercover air marshal on every flight. About one in 10 flights has an armed pilot, trained by the air marshals for only one situation — a hijacking.

If our lives are worth protecting this way, why aren’t our children’s lives worth it at school?

Nine years ago, the organization I run, Independence Institute, created a similar training program not for pilots, but for teachers. Under the leadership of the indefatigable Laura

Carno, the idea was to work with law enforcement to train willing, capable and qualified school staff to conceal a gun just in case the worst happens.

Our FASTER program, which is now its own separate 501(c)(3) organization, has trained more than 500 school staff members from some 50 school districts across the state. Many of these schools have signs on the door, “Our students are protected by armed staff.”

We now have written proof of what we’ve been saying for decades. The written manifestos of the Minneapolis and Nashville shooters made clear they chose their targets because they knew there’d be no armed resistance.

Unless you can afford a private school or homeschooling, you are required by law to surrender your children to a government schools for six hours a day. The state says their first priority is their safety. Do you believe it?

We need to get over our phobia of guns and realize 15% of all Colorado adults have concealed carry permits and have used them to stop mass shooting including in Colorado Springs and Arvada.

When a school shooter is pointing a gun at your child, do you prefer both child and teacher cowering under their desks, praying for the police to come in time. Or would you feel safer with an armed, police-trained adult next to your child ready to end the threat

Be loud. Demand your school board vote on trained, armed staff.

Jon Caldara is president of Independence Institute, a free market think tank in Denver.

Please see <https://completecolorado.com/2025/09/17/the-case-for-armed-trained-staff-in-colorado-schools/>

Patrick ‘Tate’ Adamiak’s Appeal Was Quick, Inconclusive

by Lee Williams,
Ammoland.com

Matthew Larosiere, the appellate attorney for Patrick “Tate” Adamiak, had only around 15 minutes to encapsulate all that was wrong with his client’s trial, conviction and subsequent 20-year prison sentence Friday before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

The three appellate judges—Judge G. Steven Agee, Judge Julius Ness Richardson and Judge Nicole Gina Berner—gave no clue as to what they will decide.

Judge Agee was nominated to the appellate court by former-President George W. Bush. President Donald Trump nominated Judge Richardson,

and Joe Biden nominated Judge Berner.

Judges Agee and Richardson interrupted both sides constantly with their own questions, a procedure used in many appellate courts. Judge Berner did not say a word.

Larosiere began by informing the court of the vagueness of Adamiak’s charges.

“When an indictment leaves every substantive branch open, it is not justice. It is not lawful,” Larosiere said. “An indictment must inform the defendant what he must defend against.”

Judge Agee interrupted and asked Larosiere why he didn’t ask for a Bill of Particulars—a formal, written

statement that a defendant can demand from prosecutors to obtain specific, detailed facts supporting each criminal charge.

Larosiere, who wasn’t Adamiak’s trial attorney, told the Court that many of the items Adamiak was found guilty of possessing were not in the statute.

“What language do you think should have been included? What were the words that were missing?” Judge Agee asked. “What are the literal words they didn’t put in?”

“Something in the indictment should put the defendant on notice to the factual basis of the charge,” Larosiere

ADAMIAK’S APPEAL
see page 21

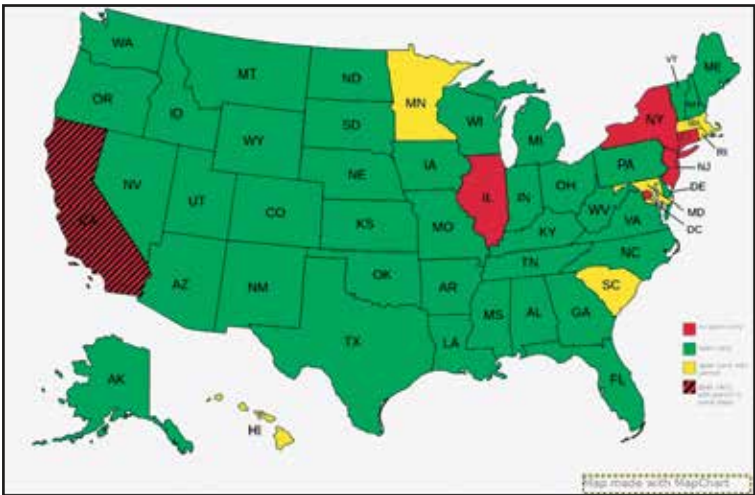
Equal justice. One law. That’s the foundation of a healthy nation. When governments reject that, decline is inevitable.

Gun Rights Update: 90% of States Now Have Open Carry

by Dean Weingarten,
Ammonland.com

The number of states that ban the open carry of firearms has again been reduced to five. Before 2022, it was four, but New Jersey criminalized open carry, even with a permit, in 2022. New Jersey permit requirements and processes for obtaining a permit are being challenged in the courts. Connecticut banned open carry in 2023, making six states that generally banned open carry. Open carry with a permit is allowed in some rural parts of California. The California ban is being challenged in the Ninth Circuit.

On September 10, 2025, Florida’s First District Court of Appeal published a unanimous opinion that the Florida ban on the open carry of firearms in public is unconstitutional under the Second Amendment, and cannot be enforced in Florida. Florida Attorney General James Uthmeir supports the Florida case and has



decided not to appeal it to the state Supreme Court. In a Youtube video, at about 1:13, reporter for Channel 10 Tampa Bay, Jennifer Titus says “Florida’s Attorney General says he doesn’t plan to have the case heard again.” Florida Governor Ron DeSantis says the court decision “aligns state policy with my long-held position and with the vast majority of states throughout

the union.” This means the case becomes binding law in Florida. The general ban on the open carry of firearms in Florida was relatively new. It was enacted in 1987, after heavy lobbying by Janet Reno, who became famous for her part in the massacre at Waco, Texas, during the Clinton administration. The open carry ban was part of a legislative compromise that enacted the

extremely successful shall-issue concealed carry permit scheme in Florida. Florida became an example, leading to many other states passing shall-issue carry.

Numerous attempts have been made in the Florida legislature to repeal the ban on open carry. Several have come close to passage, but all have failed.

The five states that now generally ban open carry are: California, Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey and New York. Florida was always an outlier in this group. The First District Court of Appeal is a Florida state court. State court decisions are not binding precedent for other states. This does not mean attorneys in other states will ignore this well-written and reasoned opinion. Six of the open carry states require a permit to carry handguns openly. **The six states that require a permit to open carry are** Hawaii, Minnesota, South Carolina, Maryland, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Open carry was the most common method of carrying firearms at the time of the ratification of the Second Amendment in 1791. Concealed carry was not uncommon. The Second Amendment does not differentiate between open and concealed carry. Constitutional Carry, which restores the legal ability of people to carry either openly or concealed, is now the law in 29 states. Florida recently upgraded from permitless concealed carry to include permitless open carry. The North Carolina legislature has a vote scheduled for September 22nd to override the veto of their Democrat party Governor.

The state dividing the right to bear arms into “open carry” and “concealed carry” did not start until a generation after the Founding Fathers’ deaths.

Please see: <https://www.ammonland.com/2025/09/gun-rights-update-90-of-states-now-have-open-carry/>

ADAMIAK’s APPEAL from page 20

replied. “Every other case you’re charged with a machinegun, but it’s not what they did here. Mr. Adamiak did not have notice as to what he was being accused of. We still don’t know what they thought was a destructive device. The government didn’t say so in their reply.”

Larosiere said federal prosecutors left it all up to the jury to figure things out.

“All we know is that the jury was sent into the jury room with a pile of garbage—nonfunctional—and told to figure it out,” Larosiere said. “This is not consistent with fair notice and due process. You have to know what you’re defending against. They refused to articulate any theory of criminality. The real question is if we’re going to allow the government to indict in entirety.

“Just like all the other cases, this was an X because of Y,” Larosiere said.

Assistant United States Attorney Jacqueline R. Bechara is an appellate attorney who represented the State. Like Larosiere, she did not attend Adamiak’s trial.

Bechara defended the federal prosecutors.



Patrick ‘Tate’ Adamiak’s appeal was quick and inconclusive.

“I guess I can touch briefly on the notice issue,” she said. “The indictment provided sufficient notice. It was not unconstitutionally vague.”

“We’ve read your brief,” Judge Richardson told her.

During his rebuttal, Larosiere brought up the Second Amendment and how it should have protected Adamiak.

“These are not normal weapons. You don’t get to assert dangerous or unusual. There is a simple 2A question, whatever this is. There must have been accoutrements qualifying as arms. The government has the obligation of showing, regulating whatever it is. This has to turn on this case.”

“Is it your argument that they have to make a separate presentation to show the Second Amendment was not violated?” Judge Richardson asked.

“Yes,” Larosiere replied. “If the Second Amendment case was

raised—if that’s where we’re heading—it becomes a critical problem that the government never addressed this.”

“Once you partially dissemble, if we pretend to take these apart, then in that world can you no longer be regulated?” Judge Agee asked.

“These were not taken apart. They were not weapons. They were parts, Second Amendment protected accoutrements. You have to show the history and tradition for locking a man up for 20 years, and they didn’t even try. You have to address arms before the court. What is before the court right now are not arms. It’s a pile of parts.”

Appellate judges usually take 30 to 60 days before releasing their decisions.

Please see: <https://www.ammonland.com/2025/09/patrick-tate-adamiaks-appeal-was-quick-inconclusive/>

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GOLD STANDARD?
from page 16

The survey found 94% of other nations do not allow it, while no U.S. state prohibits it. Colorado is one of only eight jurisdictions that automatically mails ballots to all active voters.

“When you have a mail-in ballot, you have zero—repeat, zero—control over the chain of custody,” Meyers said. It was the same warning raised by the Carter-Baker Commission in 2005, which found absentee voting especially vulnerable—a finding that stands out in Colorado, where every voter receives a mail ballot by default.

“No other nation studied had wide-spread mail-in ballots,” The Meyers Report press release declared. “The U.S. is the only country that allows wide-spread unrestricted mail-in ballots for in-country voters.”

While 94% of other nations prohibit mail-in ballots, all U.S. states allow them in some form.

Ballot harvesting: What no other nation permits

Third-party collection is another practice where Colorado stands out. The survey found that 100% of other nations prohibit ballot harvesting, yet fewer than half of U.S. states have drawn that line. Colorado allows the practice under certain conditions.

“Ballot harvesting absolutely destroys the sanctity of private voting,” says Meyers. He recalled being

at a Chicago precinct meeting years ago where officials bragged they already had enough mail-in ballots “to guarantee” an election outcome. “By that point the election is fixed,” he said.

DeLancy tied it to civil rights history. “Back in the 1960s, federal law was written to stop harassment at the polls,” he said. “Now the harassment has moved to people’s front porches and nursing homes. These are bullies, not good-hearted helpers.”

The evidence in their Final International Survey Report shows that, worldwide, countries draw strict lines around who can handle another person’s ballot. “The U.S. is the only nation that allows any ballot harvesting. Ghana and China permit limited proxy voting by close family members, but nothing resembling open third-party collection.”

Every nation studied bans ballot harvesting. In the U.S., fewer than half of states prohibit it.

Late-accepted ballots: Moving targets

Most nations finalize results quickly because late ballots are not accepted. In the U.S., 33% of states accept ballots after Election Day—sometimes up to three weeks later. Colorado counts ballots postmarked by Election Day if they arrive within eight days.

“As long as you have states that accept late ballots, that can delay the final count,” Meyers said. DeLancy added that “it only goes in

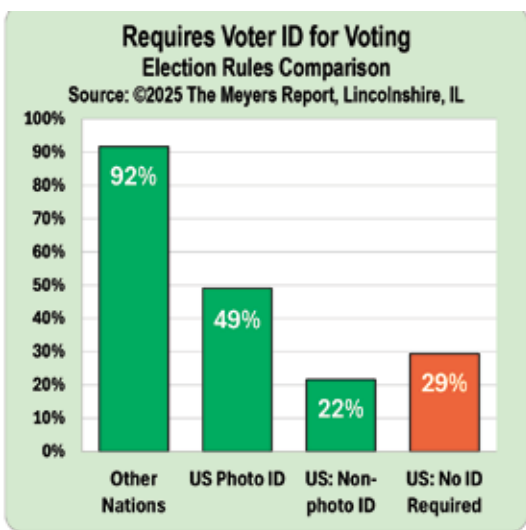


Figure 13 Photo ID Requirements for Voting

92% of nations require photo ID to vote. In the U.S., requirements vary widely by state. Chart from Final International Survey Report, (p.25) produced by The Meyers Report.

one direction,” pointing to examples where outcomes flipped after late ballots were counted.

97% of other nations do not accept late ballots; one-third of U.S. states do, including Colorado.

The honor system in Colorado elections

Best practices abroad usually mean showing proof of citizenship and a valid ID before voting. In the U.S., the report says, many states take a different path: an “honor system” that depends on voters’ word. “We are the only country surveyed that relies heavily on the honor system in any election process,” the press release stated.

Meyers put it more bluntly: “The vast majority of American states have no real requirement... they basically are doing it on the honor system.”

The analysis flagged only

X. Photo ID Requirements for Voting

25. 92% of the other nations have photo ID requirements.
26. 49% of US states have photo ID requirements.
27. In the US: (a) 49% require photo-IDs, (b) 21.5% require IDs which can be as little as a utility bill, (c) 29.4% have no ID requirement for voting.
- Note: The US is the only country to have an honor system for voter ID requirements.

DeLancy held up Ohio’s voter ID law as the model, requiring a current driver’s license or state ID.

They underscored that the work is about future safeguards, not a replay of past fights. “We looked at it in terms of risk mitigation,” DeLancy explained.

“Everything we did was to minimize the ability of people to steal through these different avenues.”

For Colorado, that leaves a direct challenge. The state’s “gold standard” claim sits against a score of 50 and a set of recommendations the authors say would be simple to implement.

Whether the secretary of state takes up Meyers’ invitation to defend that standard remains to be seen.

RMV invited the secretary of state’s office to comment on the report’s findings and will provide a follow-up story regarding any response.

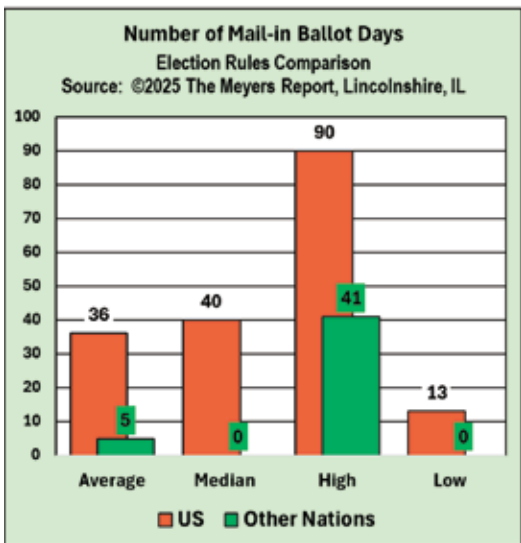


Figure 10 Total mail-in ballot voting days

VII. Total Mail-in Ballot Voting Days

19. 92% of the other nations do not have mail-in voting before the election. The United Kingdom accepts mail-in ballots for 12 days and Spain issues mail-in ballots 10 days before the election.
20. No US state prohibits mail-in voting.
21. For those Other nations which do allow mail-in ballots, the average time allowed is 5 days, with a high of 21 days.
22. For US states, the average time allowable for mail-in ballots is 36 days, with a high of 90 days.

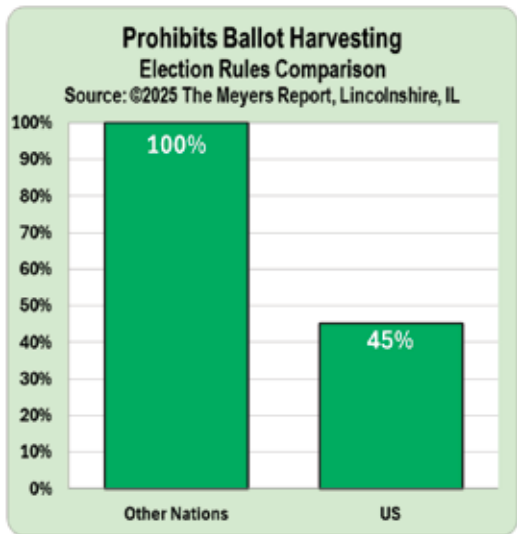


Figure 12 Ballot Harvesting

IX. Ballot Harvesting

23. 100% of the other nations do not permit ballot harvesting. Ghana and China allow proxy voting by close relations, which is far more secure than the ballot agents in many US states.
24. 45% of US states do not permit ballot harvesting.
25. The US is the only nation that allows any ballot harvesting.

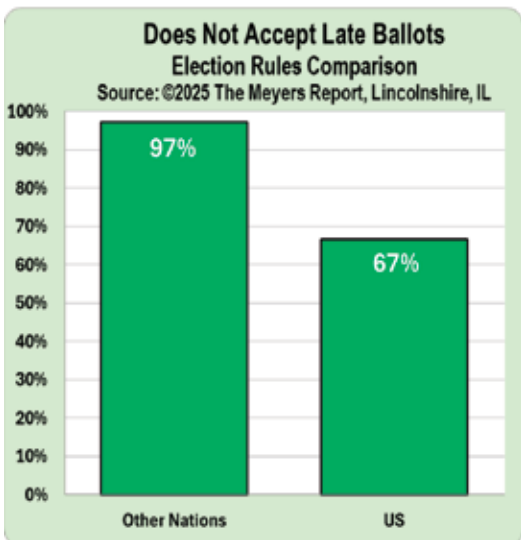


Figure 11 No Late Ballot Acceptance

VIII. No Late Ballot Acceptance

21. 97% of the other nations do not accept late ballots. One nation, Sweden, accepts late mail-in ballots for three days.
22. 67% of US states do not accept late ballots, 33% DO accept late ballots anywhere from three to 21 days.

Please see: <https://rockymountaininvoice.com/2025/09/18/gold-standard-or-clear-failure-colorado-trails-36-nations-on-election-rules>

Every nation studied bans ballot harvesting. In the U.S., fewer than half of states prohibit it. Chart from Final International Survey Report, (p.25) produced by The Meyers Report.

97% of other nations do not accept late ballots; one-third of U.S. states do, including Colorado. Chart from Final International Survey Report, (p.24) produced by The Meyers Report.

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Confirmed Case of New World Screwworm 70 miles South of the Border

Press Release

(Washington, D.C., September 21, 2025) – Mexico’s National Service of Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA) confirmed a new case of New World Screwworm (NWS) in Sabinas Hidalgo, located in the state of Nuevo León, less than 70 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border.

This is now the northernmost detection of NWS during this outbreak, and the one most threatening to the American cattle and livestock industry. Sabinas Hidalgo is located near the major highway from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, to Laredo, Texas, which is one of the most heavily trafficked commercial thoroughfares in the world.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins said “Protecting the United States from NWS is non-negotiable and a top priority of the Trump Administration. This is a national security priority. We have given Mexico every opportunity and every resource necessary to counter NWS since announcing the NWS Bold Plan in June 2025. Nevertheless, American ranchers and families should know that we will not rely on Mexico to defend our industry, our food supply, or our way of life. We are firmly executing our five-pronged plan and will take decisive action to protect our borders, even in the absence of cooperation. We will pursue aggressive measures against anyone who harms American livestock.”

The previous northernmost detection was reported on July 9, 2025, in Veracruz, approximately

370 miles farther south. The potential link to animal movement underscores the non-negotiable need for Mexico to fully implement and comply with the U.S.–Mexico Joint Action Plan for NWS in Mexico.

Currently, U.S. ports remain closed to imports of cattle, bison, and horses from Mexico.

Since July, USDA alongside Mexico, has been actively monitoring nearly 8,000 traps across Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. To date, more than 13,000 screening samples have been submitted, with no NWS flies detected. USDA is analyzing all new information related to the recent case in Nuevo León and will pursue all options to release sterile flies in this region as necessary.

In addition, USDA will soon release a significant plan to help rebuild the American cattle supply, incentivizing our great ranchers, and driving a full-scale revitalization of the American beef industry. This is only the beginning with many more announcements coming this week as USDA restores American strength, protects food security, and supports America’s ranchers and farmers.

USDA Leads An Aggressive National Response

Secretary Rollins, USDA has made substantial progress in implementing its sweeping, five-prong plan to protect the nation’s livestock, wildlife, and public health from the growing threat of NWS.

USDA’s comprehensive strategy includes the following immediate actions:

1. Innovating Our Way to Eradication

- USDA is investing \$100 million in breakthrough technologies through the NWS Grand Challenge, which will solicit ideas to enhance sterile fly production and develop new tools such as advanced traps, lures and therapeutics.

- USDA is also exploring and validating technologies like e-beam and x-ray sterilization, genetically engineered flies, and modular sterilization facilities through public listening sessions and ongoing evaluations.

2. Protecting the U.S. Border

- USDA has begun construction on a domestic sterile fly dispersal facility at Moore Air Force Base in Edinburg, Texas. This \$8.5 million facility, expected to be substantially complete by the end of 2025, will be capable of dispersing up to 100 million sterile flies per week.

- Planning is also underway with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction of a domestic sterile fly production facility in Southern Texas, with a projected capacity of 300 million sterile flies per week.

3. Strengthening Surveillance and Detection

- Since July, USDA alongside Mexico, has been actively monitoring nearly 8,000 traps across Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. To date, more than 13,000 screening samples have been submitted, with no NWS flies detected.

- USDA continues to disperse 100 million sterile flies per week in Mexico, sourced from the COPEG facility in Panama. USDA is providing support to Mexico

to renovate a production facility in Metapa, which is expected to produce an additional 60–100 million sterile flies.

4. Enhancing Public Awareness and Education

- APHIS has published an updated national disease response strategy and is providing training and webinars for federal, state, Tribal, and veterinary partners.

- Outreach materials, including pest ID cards and alerts, are being distributed along the U.S.–Mexico border. APHIS has held over 50 stakeholder meetings and continues to expand outreach efforts.

5. Coordinating with Mexico and International Partners

- Following detections in Oaxaca and Veracruz, USDA closed southern ports of entry to livestock trade after a case was reported 370 miles from the U.S. border.

- USDA is conducting monthly audits of Mexico’s NWS response and is helping Mexico develop a more risk-based trapping plan, especially in Veracruz and along the border. Mexico currently deploys traps in high-risk areas, with USDA support.

- USDA is supporting hiring of over 200 surge staff for trapping and animal movement control in Mexico.

- SENASICA has launched a dashboard that tracks NWS cases across Mexico. This tool significantly enhances USDA’s ability to monitor the situation south of the border, better assess risk, and deliver more effective operational responses in coordination with Mexican authorities.

Unprecedented Interagency Collaboration

USDA is working in close partnership with the following federal agencies to ensure a unified national response. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Energy (DoE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of State (DoS)

What You Can Do

NWS maggots can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal’s living flesh.

USDA urges residents on the southern border to check their pets and livestock for signs of NWS. Look for draining or enlarging wounds and signs of discomfort. Also look for screwworm larvae (maggots) and eggs in or around body openings, such as the nose, ears, and genitalia or the navel of newborn animals. If you suspect your animal is infected with screwworm, contact your state animal health official or USDA area veterinarian immediately.

While not common in people, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworm, seek immediate medical attention.

(A human case of screwworm in the U.S. reported in August posed no risk to the farm sector, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said at the time.)

OpEd from NE Stakeholders from page 15

Colorado’sso-called augmentation scheme is a Devil’s bargain. It allows junior Colorado users to pump heavily in summer when they would otherwise be shut down. They then allegedly “pay back” their summer withdrawals with stored winter water using a complex and multilayered system of water management that fails the straight face test and violates the Compact’s plain terms. The result is real time shortfalls for Nebraska irrigators in the summer when they need the water the most.

In total, experts believe Colorado has deprived Nebraska of up to 1.3 million acre-feet of water—water that should have been irrigating thousands of acres of Nebraska crops. Nebraska officials have asked the Supreme Court to require Colorado to repay this debt with real, wet water. We pay our debts in Nebraska, and we expect our neighbors to do the same.

The Perkins County Canal: The Key to Unlocking Our Full Compact Rights

In addition to summer flows, the Compact gives Nebraska the right to build the Perkins County Canal to capture at least 500 cfs of winter flows, along with other

excess waters. Yet, despite over \$600 million appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature and years of planning, Colorado steadfastly refused to take Nebraska seriously. Casually dismissing the massive project as a “boon-doggle”, Colorado officials and allied groups have obstructed Nebraska at every step.

But why? If it’s pure folly, and Nebraska is simply wasting its money, then why does Colorado care so much? Perhaps because Nebraska is finally about to expose the uncomfortable truth about Colorado water management. The fact is that the Perkins County Canal will call out the water Colorado’s augmentation plans rely on to take Nebraska’s summer irrigation water. In plain terms, Peter will be broke and won’t be able to pay Paul. That water will instead flow downstream into Nebraska – just as the compact intended.

So, Colorado officials have not only acknowledged our right to build the canal but also refused to honor our right unless we build the canal. At the same time, they oppose Nebraska’s every effort and refuse to work with Nebraska even in its efforts to minimize impacts on Colorado landowners. Colorado cannot speak out of both sides of its mouth while obstructing Nebraska’s efforts to secure water rights prescribed by the Compact.

We’ve Tried to Resolve This With Colorado

Nebraska worked in good faith for nearly three years. Colorado clearly intends to delay our progress as they race to slake their thirst for South Platte water with billions of dollars dedicated to water development projects in the basin. There is no way for Nebraska to address Compact disagreements as the Compact does not include a commission or dispute resolution board. That’s why Attorney General Hilgers is right: only the U.S. Supreme Court has the authority to fairly resolve this matter and stop the damage before it becomes permanent.

Colorado’s arguments of Compact compliance hinge on book-keeping magic and temporary loopholes; Nebraska’s case rests on the Compact’s plain promise of water delivered when and where it is needed and in amounts that keep both states thriving.

This Supreme Court case will secure Nebraska’s ability to irrigate our crops, power our homes, grow our economy, and sustain our natural environment for generations to come. We’re not asking for extra water—just what the Compact promised. And, we must put a stop to Colorado’s overuse. It is not an accident; it’s a policy directed at maximizing water use and economic development upstream

of the State line and at Nebraska’s expense.

United in Purpose, Thankful for Leadership

The canal will protect the investments Nebraska has made in its water management portfolio; doing nothing will erode that investment and hand over our water to further the economics of Colorado. As stakeholders in Nebraska’s water future, we are proud to support the State’s legal action. We thank Governor Pillen and Attorney General Hilgers for their decisive, principled leadership. They are not just standing up for a legal document—they are standing up for farmers, ranchers, power producers, wildlife, and the families who depend on this water.

Colorado is threatening the livelihoods of Nebraska’s farmers, the reliability of municipal supplies, our energy security, and critical habitat along the Platte River. Let there be no doubt: Nebraska is fighting for what was promised, and we stand with that fight and urge all Nebraskans to join us.

<https://www.suntelegraph.com/story/2025/08/07/opinion/nebraska-is-fighting-for-the-water-we-were-promised-and-we-stand-with-that-fight/21010.html>

Editor’s Note/llv:

Nebraska’s 55-page complaint to the U.S. Supreme Court,

Nebraska calls the augmentation system illegal and a violation of the river compact.

From the complaint:

“Colorado’s water administration system, including its augmentation plans, have harmed and will continue to harm Nebraska,” the lawsuit reads. “For example, many augmentation projects ... allow junior well owners to pump water out of priority during the irrigation season, provided they pump or divert additional water during the non-irrigation season and apply it to recharge ponds. This method assumes that water will percolate back into the water table and make its way to the South Platte River in time to make whole downstream senior users.”

“Regardless of how Colorado might seek to justify its desire to maximize water use within its borders, the reality remains: As soon as the ink dried on the Compact, Colorado started increasingly diverting water from the South Platte River in excess of what the Compact permitted. Groundwater diversions gradually intercepted more and more of the return flows on which the Compact’s water supply is founded.”

“So whether through substitute supply plans or judicially approved augmentation plans, Colorado has been taking water rightfully due Nebraska under Article IV of the Compact.”



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