

8th Annual Sangres Race

by Reggie Foster

This past weekend proved to be perfect for the Sangre De Cristo Trail Festival. Cool mornings, golden leaves, and crisp mountain air set the stage for one of Westcliffe’s unique annual events.

Now in its eighth year, the festival is part of the Human Potential Running Series, which brings runners from the west to test their grit in the rugged Sangres. Race Director, John Lacroix, said, “We have a deep appreciation for the way of life down here (Westcliffe). It’s a slower pace and it feels like going back in time. We recognize that the community is committed to nature and that is what we connect to. There is a romanticness to it and we love coming here.”

The trail run begins and ends on Elin Ganschow’s place near the USFS



Photo by Reggie Foster

Grape Creek Trailhead off CR 119. Runners, 141 of them, came from Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho and towns across Colorado to include two local participants. The distances included the 100-Mile, 100K, 50-Mile, and 50-K which began at 4 a.m. on Saturday morning. The 27K and 8K runners stepped off at 8 a.m. Sunday morning. The majority of participants chose the 50K.

While competition was real, the spirit of the festival was unmistakably welcoming. Runners encouraged one another, swapped snacks, and even shared gear. “I like your Melly” echoed through the campsite. The youngest competitor was just 13 years old, while the oldest was 66, proving that trail running is as much about heart as it is about legs.

All who were there seemed excited to be some part

of the adventure through the beautiful Sangres. The event’s promotional announcements summed it up best: “Embrace the feeling of the wilderness within, while you run along the literal wilderness boundary the entire way. No race in our country is in a more wild setting. This unique race is about community, traveling together, discovering the hidden treasures in the mountains and those within yourself. This race encapsulates the spirit of adventure and community in an extraordinary outdoor setting.”

The first individual to complete the 100 mile trail run was Izzy Davis from Kellogg, Idaho. She fist bumped the race director and volunteers as she crossed the finish line at 29 hours and 24 minutes.

TRAIL FESTIVAL
see page 24

BOCC: Roads, Rotary, Land Transfers and Insurance

by Sentinel Staff

The Board of County Commissioners covered a wide range of business at their September 17th meeting, from winter readiness and road repairs to insurance changes and community partnerships.

Commissioner Epp reported again on the county’s audit process, noting that financial reporting requirements continue to grow. “Back in 2010 there were only 50–60 Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) rules,” he explained. “Now our finance department faces about 100. It’s a huge challenge for any county.” He reassured the public that the county will continue to file audits on time.

Commissioner Vogelsong reminded residents to prepare their homes and water systems for winter. Commissioner Canda once again urged drivers to slow down in work zones. The Sheriff’s Office has been issuing tickets in an effort to protect Road and Bridge crews, whose work is quickly undone by speeders.

Another Road and Bridge setback was reported by Canda; a water truck. It was sidelined due to a broken spring. The Wetmore truck is being brought up to help, but

road base and mag chloride application will likely pause until spring.

A representative from the Rotary Van Service updated the Board on efforts to secure a handicap accessible vehicle. Attempts with Heart of the Rockies and UAACOG have not panned out, leaving the project on hold. Rotary also asked the commissioners for \$15,000 to cover 2026 insurance costs, up from \$13,733 this year. Commissioner Canda said the Board would consider the request and hinted at alternative funding ideas.

The Board discussed whether to continue paying dues to the Southern Colorado Economic Development District (SCEDD). Commissioners noted the county has received little benefit since the departure of an employee who previously worked with and advocated for Custer County. Canda motioned to withdraw from the organization. The motion was carried unanimously. Canda then suggested that the saved SCEDD funds be used instead to support acquiring an accessible Rotary van. The motion presented later in the meeting was approved.

BOCC
see page 17

Custer County Considered a Childcare Desert



Ella Wommack and friends developing their skills at Custer County Pre-K.
Photo courtesy of CCECEC

by Reggie Foster

On these brisk October mornings, the parking lot outside the Custer County Early Childhood Education Center (CCECEC) fills with the sound of car doors shutting, backpacks rustling, and little feet hurrying to their classroom. For many families, this drop-off is more than a routine; it’s a lifeline.

Just a few years ago, that lifeline didn’t exist. Parents scrambled

for options, often piecing together care between relatives, neighbors, or reduced work hours. At the time, Custer County had only 15 full-day childcare slots for more than 250 children under the age of five. Of those, only four slots served infants and toddlers. That meant fewer than one in ten children had access to care. By every definition, Custer County was and is a “childcare desert.”

Pre-K see page 2

Bobcats Fall Sports
Photo Feature
pages 12-13

Memorial
Mass
page 2

History of
Tourism
& Tax
page 3

Heart Saver
Class
page 4

Tourism
Board
page 4

Letter to
Editor: State
Ballot
page 5

Coats for a
Cause
page 11

Prayer at the
Pole
page 14

PATRIOT
ALERT!
FBI Leaked
Memo
page 18



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

SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

Copyright©2025
Accurate
Timely
Relevant



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

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

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

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

Key Personnel

Michael Foster - President & Managing Editor
editors.sentinel@gmail.com

Fred Hernandez - Vice President
FredHer8@proton.me

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

Katherine Brencchley - Advertising Coordinator
SentinelAds1791@gmail.com

Office Support

Accounting Services
Bookkeeper.sdc@gmail.com

Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Mailing & Delivery

Galen Studebaker

Founding Editor

George Gramlich
2013-2025

Sentinel Founders

Mike Hess
George Gramlich
Mary Seifert
Rob Canterbury
Katherine Brencchley

Sentinel Honor Roll

Dan Bubis
Jackie Bubis
Carol Clemenson
Scott Clemenson
Barbara Napolitan

Contributors

Audrey Slater
Mtn. Photo in Logo
by Peggi Collins

Business Hours:

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

Subscription Rates:

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

How to contact us:

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



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

www.facebook.com/



Eagle Peak View

Commercial Construction
Quality and Experience
at Residential Pricing

All Phases of Construction & Plumbing

Mike Mitzner
719-494-4026
eaglepeakview.com



Cañon City Coins

Collector & Investor Coins - Buying, Selling & Trading



(719) 269-7507

Jason

123 S. 5th St., Cañon City, CO 81212
www.canoncitycoins.com

Colorado Regional Partnership Initiative
WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY
★ OUTDOORS ★

COMMUNITY MEETING #3

OCTOBER 08, 2025 • 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
5:15 PM FOR LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
LANGE HALL
312 S 3rd ST • WESTCLIFFE

Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors' mission is to help plan and implement Colorado's Outdoor Strategy and Framework through a place-based, Custer County lens.

Bringing your state tax dollars and lottery money back to support our local community.



PLEASE RSVP FOR
ACCURATE HEADCOUNT
tingurl.com/wmvocm3

LEARN MORE: WMVO.ORG





719-371-1570

Contractor License
#ICNON153778



Old Country
CONSTRUCTION
LLC

CERTIFIED
PASSIVE HOUSE
TRADESPERSON



New Homes
Additions
Polebarns
Garages

719.458.4184

REGULAR FEATURES

Business Directory

page

6-7

Classifieds

page

9

Churches

page

8

Crossword Puzzle

page

17

Events

page

8-9

Business Directory QR
(Scan to download)



website https://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com

Memorial Mass For
George Gramlich

Everyone is Welcome

There will be a Holy Mass offered by Father Stephen Injoalu, Parish Priest of Our Lady of The Assumption, on Thursday, October 23 at 10 a.m. to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Mr. George Gramlich, the late founding editor of the *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel* who was recently welcomed into the Catholic Faith. Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Church is located on the corner of Rosita and Fifth Street in downtown Westcliffe.

All are invited to attend this memorial Mass.

Pre-K from page 1

When COVID-19 struck in 2020, the two home-based providers, Willene Squire and Robin Gaide, had to close. The impact rippled across the community. Teachers and school staff who relied on childcare suddenly had few to no options. Many had to stay home, leaving the district short-staffed. “That experience made it clear,” said Stacy Terrill, Custer County Kids Council Coordinator. “Even if you think you don’t need childcare, someone you depend on does. When it’s not available, the whole community feels it.”

That crisis sparked action. The Custer County Kids Council, the Custer County School District, and several nonprofit partners came together to open the Custer County Early Childhood Education Center. The center created an infant room (5 slots), a toddler room (8 slots), and a full-day preschool room (16 slots). Combined with the half-day preschool program. (32 slots split between mornings and afternoons.) families finally had some choices.

The center has continued to grow and is today a place of laughter, engaging activities, and first friendships. This past summer, it expanded by moving one classroom into the main school building, adding six more full-day slots. The Center also benefits from Colorado’s Universal Preschool Program, which funds part- and full-day options for four year olds.

According to the Center’s Director Laurie

Yarger, “Last year we (the CCECEC) were recognized by Colorado’s Quality Rating program as a level 4, solidifying our program as a high quality.” A Level 4 ranking is not easily earned in Colorado and everyone on the team appears very proud to have achieved it in such a short time. The CCECEC has also created an earlier connection between families and the school district, helping children transition smoothly into kindergarten.

Still, the need for childcare remains. Willene Squire retired leaving just one home childcare provider for local families. Today, Custer County has an estimated 275 children under five—and still far fewer childcare slots than needed. Fridays remain uncovered, as both the center and certified home care provider Robin Gaide are closed. In the summer, the shortage is even more severe: only nine slots are available for the entire county. Custer County is no longer just a retirement destination. Young families are moving in and they are eager to make a life here. Without enough childcare, many parents face hard choices which trickle down and can leave the entire community to feel the strain.

Childcare, local leaders emphasize, is not a luxury. Childcare is essential infrastructure, as important to the county’s future as roads, water, and safety. “We want to give every child the best start,” says the Early Childhood Education Center team. “But we can’t do it alone. Our community must continue to work together to expand access to childcare so families can thrive in Custer County.”

TRIPLE TAX THREAT!

VOTE NO ON
LODGING TAX
INCREASE



VOTE
NO
NOV. 4

\$1.5 MILLION HIT!

Don't shrink our local economy by \$1,500,000 for \$169,777 childcare & housing subsidies!



Keep Custer County Affordable for Tourists
A 300% tax hike on visitors is a tax on local jobs.

PAID FOR BY: KEEP CUSTER COUNTY AFFORDABLE

The History of Custer County's Tourism Board and Lodging Tax Part I

Collaborated by Laura Vass

In an effort to provide as much information as possible to our readership in Custer County before November 4th elections, the Sentinel editors looked at the history of the county's lodging tax and the economic data sets that might tell us if the lodging tax, which finances the Custer County Tourism board and its efforts, have afforded a measurable benefit. We also interviewed at length, local businessman Charley Ellison, who has served on the tourism board and owns one vacation rental and manages vacation properties for others in the county that are subject to the lodging tax. Most of the data is public knowledge, with some data sets being CORA'd over the years by the *Sentinel* or others.

Here is the first of several reports.

The 2007 Colorado Legislature granted statutory powers to counties to create tourism boards for "marketing and promotion of tourism" funded by a 2% "Lodging Tax" on accommodations at hotels, motels, vacation homes and RV parks, subject to approval by voters in a regular or coordinated election. Rentals longer than 29 nights were exempted. In the case of most vacation rentals, this new tax and the publicity triggered sales tax that had very seldom been collected.

The Custer County Board of Commissioners established a tourism board (CCTB) in June 2007. Citizens for ACUTE (A County Un-Tax Entity) was formed with Charles Bogle as Treasurer to win voter approval for the new tax. Volunteer CCTB members were the driving force behind the campaign.

Ballot question 1B gained voter approval for a 2% Lodging Tax in 2007. A large 6" x 11" color post card was a prominent collateral in the campaign. It stated that "STATE LAW MANDATES: The Revenues from such tax to be used exclusively for advertising and marketing of local tourism." It also emphasized that "BY LAW, IT CANNOT

Receipts grew 50% to \$30,000 over the next four years.

Certification of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff as a Dark Sky Community in 2015 provided the CCTB with a stronger story to sell. Being the *first* Dark Sky Community in Colorado and at the highest elevation in the country added some star power to CCTB's messaging.

Public relations stories starting in late 2016 provided valuable, yet nearly free promotion. Most prominent was NBC's *Today Show* featured report in November 2016 titled "*A Colorado town goes dark to let the Milky Way shine bright,*" featured correspondent Harry Smith who visited the area. CNN's *Great Big Story* ran a segment titled "*The Towns That Embraced Darkness to See Starlight*".

Calendar year 2019 generated \$56,000 in Lodging Taxes. With social media becoming more important for attracting website traffic, the 2020 budget for paid social media advertising was \$30,000 or 53% of the amount collected in the previous year.

Collections were flat in 2020, notwithstanding Colorado's Covid shut down. 2021 revenues jumped to \$91,000 even though the CCTB had ceased investing in paid social media advertising in May 2021 when the CCTB chose to reallocate social media spending to "invest in visitor experience".

Further muddying the CCTB impact on revenues in 2020 was the existence of the local Custer County Chamber of Commerce which business owners paid dues into. Active until mid-2020, with its office located at 107 N. 3rd St, Westcliffe, CO, which was and is the area Visiting Center. The Chamber announced in July 2020 that they "decided to dissolve the organization...in anticipation memberships would not be renewed due to financial issues."

Prior to dissolving, but concurrent with the existence of CCTB, the Chamber provided members with the precursor to the current on-line business directory promoting Custer County and member businesses, maintained and manned a Visitor's Center with member information and tourism brochures from Colorado, and offered an option for a Health Plan exclusive to members. CCTB took on

the staffing and cost of the Visitor's Center in 2021, as part of the pivot to "visitor experience"

In 2022, Lodging tax proceeds dropped 13% to \$79,000. Then in 2023, proceeds jumped to nearly \$105,000, collected on the \$5.2 Million in Custer County lodging revenue. Based on reports published by the Colorado Tourism Office, the economic impact of \$5.2 Million in direct travel expenditure (mostly accommodations) is estimated to be nearly \$30 Million to the local economy.

Lodging tax collections dropped 13.5% in calendar-year 2024. Receipts through September 2025 are trailing 2024 by another 7.5%.

In a future article, the particulars of spending on "visitor experiences" will be explored. As most readers are likely to anticipate, such spending is vague. Draw your own conclusions about parallels to the present round of promises about solving our community's current challenges by taxing travelers.

TIMBERLINE METALCRAFT AND FAB

Custom Farm and Ranch Signs, Balcony Panels, Metal Art, & Gates

719-371-6434





CUSTER COUNTY
SUPPLY COMPANY

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



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





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

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

YES ON 1B - Custer County Lodging Tax

MEET: Citizens for ACUTE: Tourism supports local businesses. Local businesses carry the 'Lions Share' of property taxes. Will help boost the economy without the extra cost of the tax. Tourism supports local businesses.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? STATE LAW MANDATES: "The Revenues from such tax to be used exclusively for advertising and marketing of local tourism." BY LAW, IT CANNOT BE USED FOR ANYTHING ELSE!

HOW MUCH DO MY TAXES INCREASE? TAXES ONLY INCREASE FOR VISITORS WHO ARE STAYING IN CUSTER COUNTY HOTELS. TOURISM SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESS - VOTE YES!

WHO PAYS THE TAX? Only Visitors who are staying overnight in our Lodging facilities. Maximum Tax collected by law is 2%.

Supporting the Lodging Tax is helping to support our businesses.

2007 Pro-1B Postcard Mailer

BE USED FOR ANYTHING ELSE!"

The "Un-Tax" term, coined by Citizens for ACUTE, was apparently intended to emphasize that visitors pay the Lodging Tax. (This emphasis continues to be voiced by individuals promoting the ballot initiative issue for 2025 -- 1A: LODGING TAX REVENUE - INCREASE TAX REVENUE AND AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL ALLOWABLE USES.)

Voters handily passed Ballot Question 1B in November 2007, an off-year election.

During 2008, the state collected and then remitted to the Custer County Treasurer Office about \$17,000. (By statute, treasurer offices retain 5%, about \$1,000, of the lodging tax receipts each month to cover administration costs.)

Receipts grew 17% over four years to \$20,000 for calendar year 2012. That growth rate was more than the Fed's CPI claim of 10.5% inflation. Shadow Government Statistics claim inflation exceeded 30% over the same four-year period, so growth in terms of real dollars is debatable.

Wing Wednesday



6 ct \$7.50 w/fries \$9

10 ct \$12.50 w/fries \$14

Tony's Steak & Tavern

SSSC – Heart Saver Class

Press Release

The Sangre Shooting Sports Club (SSSC), in cooperation with the Custer County Public Health Agency, is sponsoring a Heart Saver (HS) class (CPR, First Aid, Trama first aid). The class will be held at the Custer County Search and Rescue (SAR) building on Saturday,

October 4th, starting at 0800 (8AM MDT) and continuing until approximately 1300 (1 PM MDT). Completion of the class will qualify the participant for a CPR certification from the American Heart Association (AHA). Register with Patrick Fiore at patrick@custercounty-co.gov. Cost is \$25, payable to the instructor.

Wet Mountain Valley Outdoors Community Meeting #3

October 8, 2025

Press Release
WMVO

New Custer County Colorado non-profit WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY OUTDOORS invites all of Custer County to the THIRD WMVO COMMUNITY MEETING on October 8, 2025, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Lange Hall, 312 S. 3rd St., Westcliffe.

The meeting will be professionally facilitated and will focus on strengthening community stakeholder relationships,

discussion of what’s working/what can be improved, and the development of Action Teams to implement projects for the desired future for Custer County. The meeting objectives and the agenda can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/wmvo3agenda>

Light refreshments will be provided starting at 5:15 p.m. – come early to connect with other attendees.

So there is an accurate count for set up, RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/wmvocm3>.

New Senior Fair to Support Aging in Place

The West Custer County Library District and Landing Well are excited to co-host a Senior Fair on Saturday, October 18th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lange Hall, 312 S. 3rd St., Westcliffe.

This free community event is designed to help seniors, their families, and caretakers plan effectively to age in place while staying healthy, safe, and connected in the Wet Mountain Valley.

The Senior Fair will Feature:

- Mini-Sessions on important topics such as:

Medicare Changes for 2026, Protect Yourself from Fraud, Fall Prevention, Downsizing, and Preparing the Way by Jan Booth Hospice Nurse.

- Public Health Flu Shot Clinic
- Visit with a variety of local resources and service providers, approximately 20 vendors
- A free lunch will be served 12 to 1 p.m.

We invite the community to save the date and join us for a day of connection, learning, and support! For more info, visit www.westcusterlibrary.org

Tourism Board on Lodging Tax

Press Release

Custer County Tourism Board (CCTB)

What is a lodging tax, and who pays it? A lodging tax is imposed by local governments (county, city, state) on temporary accommodations such as hotel/motel rooms, AirBnBs, VRBOs, and other short-term rentals. (A short-term rental is anything less than 30 days).

The lodging tax is calculated as a percentage of the cost of the guest’s stay and added to the price of the bill. The guest pays the lodging tax, and the lodging owner/manager is responsible for collecting and paying it to the proper tax authority.

The lodging tax is NOT an income or property tax on local residents. It is a tax paid by guests renting short-term lodging.

How does the Custer County Tourism Board (CCTB) spend the funds? The CCTB is responsible for developing and implementing a plan to market and promote tourism for the benefit of Custer County, Colorado. The revenues generated by the current 2% lodging tax can only be used to promote, advertise and market tourism in Custer County, via a mix of traditional and media advertising, as determined by the CCTB. No lodging tax collected shall be used for any capital expenditure, with the exception of the tourist information Welcome Center located at 107. N. 3rd Street, Westcliffe.

The two main expenses are Third Party Advertising at 40% and Contract Labor at 22%. Tourism contracts with Jo Studio for graphic design and social media; Westcliffe Web Design for website maintenance and publicist Danielle Dascalos for statewide press.

County lodging tax rates are set by the state. In May of this year, Colorado state legislators passed House Bill 25-1247 that authorizes counties to put forth a ballot initiative allowing them to increase the lodging tax imposed on temporary lodging facilities within their jurisdictions from the current rate of 2% to a maximum of 6%. The law states that the revenues collected can only be used for a specific purpose.

Housing and childcare were chosen as the county’s priorities for lodging tax funding, as these have been identified as two of the biggest challenges facing working-age families in the Valley. The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously on July 30th to include an initiative on the November 2025 ballot to increase Custer County’s lodging tax from 2% to 6% with collected revenues to be spent within the County as follows:

- 2% to promote tourism, (which it does currently);
- 2% to support workforce housing; and
- 2% to support childcare services for Custer County’s workforce.

The increase will specifically provide financial support only to workforce housing and childcare services. It will not increase the revenue for tourism, which will stay at the current 2% rate.

Should Custer County voters approve the increase of the County’s lodging tax, the revenue collected can only be used for the purposes as stated above. In other words, the money will come from tourists, but it stays in Custer County for the benefit of Custer County to aid in workforce housing and childcare, two critical needs of our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Blessing of the Animals

Noon
Sunday, October 5

All Pets welcome, horses, livestock
In the church parking lot

All Welcome!

St. Patrick’s Anglican Church
401 S. Second Street
Westcliffe

Holy Communion Service 11 a.m.
Food for people
Treats for pets after the blessing
Bill Canda 719-431-9979





Corner of 3rd & Main
in Westcliffe
719-735-0323

NEW! Breakfast Smoothies

- Fruit w/ Yogurt
- Matcha
- Espresso

add Granola



Protein, Low Sugar

Barb Beckner
Financial Advisor



Barb@peaks-integrity.com



RAYMOND JAMES
Peaks Integrity Wealth Management, LLC
595 Hermit Rd Westcliffe, CO 81252
719-581-(PEAK) 7325
www.peaks-integrity.com

Ron Beckner
Financial Advisor



Ron@peaks-integrity.com

Your Full-Service Investment Office in Custer County and Surrounding Areas

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Peaks Integrity Wealth Management LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services.



“We the People” Speak

Letters to the Editor



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

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

No on Lodging Tax Increase

Editor,

Local businesses value their employees. Employees who show up and work are “keepers” and become like family to most local businesses.

The proposed tax to *triple the lodging rate* (from 2% to 6% sounds good on the surface, until you take a look closer. Common sense reveals another “feel-good” policy that will backfire on Custer County... and its “workforce”, to grudgingly adopt the term used by tax advocates.

Ballot Question 1A claims about \$170,000 will be raised annually. \$85,000 is to be earmarked for housing subsidies and/or a salary for a Housing Czar to manage “Affordable Housing” for the towns and county. The other \$85,000 is to fund subsidies for childcare.

The \$170,00 target assumes the current downward trend, 20% since 2023, does not continue..., or worse yet, accelerate.

Adding another 4% to the cost of vacation rentals, motel accommodations and RV rentals under 30 days creates yet another economic headwind to all who rely on tourism. The “Ripple Effect” of tourism includes local restaurants; retail stores; gas

stations; wrecker services; maintenance and housekeeping services; wedding venues; etc...

1A proponents tout that the “Lodging Tax is paid by tourists, not us”. This is superficially true, ignoring secondary effects. Taxes create drag on the activity being taxed. A 4% tax hike is projected to shrink our local economy by at least 6%, or \$1.5 Million, based on economic impact studies published by Colorado Tourism Office and price-sensitivity studies on discretionary travel decisions to rural markets.

A withering economy means fewer customers, fewer hours, and fewer jobs. The very tax intended to help our workforce will remove private-sector dollars from the hands of local businesses in order to fund another government program.

Local businesses or county government: which route will put more dollars into the hands of our local service workers?

Vote NO on Ballot Question 1A on Nov. 4. Keep Custer County Affordable committee

*Submitted by Charley Ellison,
Darksies Vacations*

State Ballot Initiatives

“For the Children”

Citizens and Friends;

If you really like to read fiction, the State Ballot Information Booklet should give you interesting reading instead of your regular bedtime story books. It seems it’s always “for the children” doesn’t it? After democrats pass the “free meals for all”, it’s unfunded, (of course.) Now after two years they suddenly find they can’t continue that program unless the good taxpayers cough up even more money to fund it? NO problem. We’ll just try to guilt-trip all the people who are foolish enough to actually work a job and pay into the tax-and-spend system so as to bail the “free” program out and keep it going.

Yes, all about the children. The needed (TABOR?) money will fix that. And, as long as ‘we’ want your TABOR money, we also would like to add more taxes onto those who make over \$300,000 per year and not from those earning less. Great plan. Well, great plan if the folks making that much don’t mind. Unfortunately, lots of those higher earners have businesses that

produce some kind of product or services that rely on actual customers to buy whatever they sell. As a small businessman, I do know any added expense, (including regular taxes,) must be simply added to the cost of production. I hope I don’t have to explain who will be paying for that.

I find irony in how suddenly the blue team is wanting to implement “locally and Statewide” produced food to feed Colorado children after doing their very best to rid our State of cattlemen and women and farming folks for so many years now. Seems like most of those folks are taking up space they need for predator wolf populations, not to mention keeping hikers and campers out of Colorado forest areas for the same reasons. George Soros should be happy with them for sure. (You know, too many humans?)

One thing I notice is that any new money we vote for to give to our school systems

LTE : For The Children
see page 17



Norup Gas Inc.
28 Rangeview Loop
(Rangeview Industrial Park)

Located
one mile north of Westcliffe
on Highway 69.

Office hours:
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

719-783-9338

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOMESTEAD



35+ acres of remote land with stunning mountain views. No improvements--just raw, open ground ready for your vision. Build a homestead, cabin, or getaway retreat and enjoy wide-open skies, privacy, and the rugged beauty of Southern Colorado. \$94,900



Brenda Bosse
Realtor®
26 years listing and selling in the valley!



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

Protect Kids Colorado

Three initiatives to better protect our children

- Protect Children from Child Sex Trafficking
- Prevent Irreversible Sex Change Surgeries on Children
- Prohibit Biological Males in Girls’ Sports

Petitions are waiting for YOUR signature at Custer County Supply Co (206 Main St, Westcliffe, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm) or at the **Sentinel** office 9am-3pm Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Automotive Services

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

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

Banks & Financial Services

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

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

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

Building SUPPLY

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

Builders/ Construction

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cabs & Transport

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

Computer/Cell Phone Repair

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

Clothing & Footwear

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

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

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

Construction Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Westcliffe Concrete
Flatwork & Stamped Concrete, ICFs
Lee Hostetler: 719-371-6193
Matt Troyer: 719-221-8940

Countertops

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

Dentist

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

Electricians

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

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

Engineering

AG Engineering Inc.
Structural Engineering and Septic System designs
719-275-4149 719-372-1012
aengineers@bresnan.net

Firewood

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

Flooring

Choice Floors
Jeff Holmberg 719-429-3008
Free Estimates
Local Rep / Nationwide Company

Florist

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

Funeral Homes

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

Furniture & Home Goods

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

Grocery & Health Foods

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

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

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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ADVERTISERS!

Guns , Ammo, Knives

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

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

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

Gun Clubs

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

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

Heating & Spas

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

Heating & Air Conditioning

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

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

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

Insurance

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

Landscaping

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

Lodging

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

Mitigation/ Pest Control

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

Mitigation/ Tree Removal

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

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

Pharmacy

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

Plumbing and Heating

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

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

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

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

Propane

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

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

Real Estate Services

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

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

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

Restaurants & Dining

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

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

Restaurants & Dining Cont'd

Tony's Mountain Pizza
719-783-9300 • tonysmountainpizza.com
Tues-Sat 11am-8pm
Sun 11am-7pm Closed Mon
630 Main Street, Silver Cliff

Tony's Steak & Tavern
719-783-9300 • tonyssteakandtavern.com
Wed-Thurs 4pm-8pm, Fri-Sat 11am-8pm
Sun 11am-7pm Closed Mon, Tues

Septic Installation

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

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

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

Solar / Renewable Energy

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

Storage

Outta Space Storage LLC
860 Airport Rd | SilverWest Airport
outtaspacestoragecolorado.com
303-906-1900

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

Tractor/Trailer Sales

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

Vacation / Accommodations

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

Veterinary

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

Well Drilling and Pump Services

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

Shopping **Local** Helps **Local** Economy & Creates **Local** Jobs

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



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.



Stolen Vehicle, High Speed Chase Ends Quickly

Custer County Sheriff’s Office
Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Press Release 2025-00005055

At approximately 12:22 p.m. on Tuesday, FreCom911 received a report of a red Dodge pickup truck stolen from a residence on Della Fox Lane. The vehicle was also involved in a traffic crash shortly after.

Deputies responded from both Mackenzie Junction and Westcliffe in an effort to locate the stolen vehicle. A deputy soon observed the truck traveling at an estimated 100 mph on Rosita Road toward Highway 69. A second deputy, traveling southbound on Highway 69, confirmed the vehicle’s speed at 101 mph as it headed toward Westcliffe.

With concern for public safety during the busy lunchtime hour, a third deputy was positioned to prevent the suspect from entering the town area. At approximately 12:33 p.m., deputies successfully stopped and pinned the stolen vehicle in front of the Alta Gas Station in Westcliffe.



The driver, and sole occupant of the vehicle was identified as 19-year-old Christopher Colquitt of Colorado Springs, was taken into custody without further incident. He was booked on the following charges:

- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Reckless Driving

- Speeding in Excess of 40 mph Over the Posted Limit

- Failure to Report a Traffic Crash

- Vehicular Eluding

These are arrest-related charges only. Mr. Colquitt is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, October 6
#40 Cream of Potato Soup
Tuna Salad Wrap
Lettuce & Tomato Slices
Creamy Coleslaw
Peaches

Tuesday, October 7
#44 Ham and Beans
Collard Greens
Cornbread
Orange Juice

Thursday, October 9
#95 Taco Salad
Salsa, Tomato, Lettuce Garnish
Strawberry Applesauce
Flan Custard
Cornbread

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 Call Pastor Errv @ 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. (1st Friday of Month) 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>
---	--	--	---

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



Construction Solutions
of Colorado, LLC

Custom Homes . Remodeling
. Concrete
. Steel Building Sales and Erection



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



SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

WHERE TO PURCHASE THE PAPER

SILVER CLIFF

Conoco Country Store
Dutch Pantry & Deli
Tony's Pizza

WESTCLIFFE

Antlers' Liquor Store
Lowes Market (Box outside)
Sunflower Natural Foods
Wescliffe Petroleum

SDC Sentinel Office
Inside or Box outside
USPS (Box outside)



The Voice of Conservative Colorado!

Classifieds

FREE BOOKS

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

For Sale

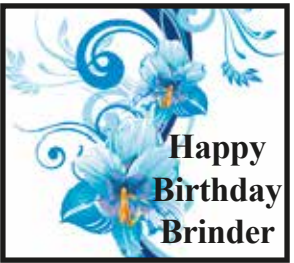


For Sale:
2001 VW Jetta Diesel
Rare opportunity. 2001
VW Jetta Diesel. Black.
ONLY 86k original miles.
Stored outside for 9 years
and not run. Put a new
battery in it and it fired up
immediately. Motor purrs.
Super nice 5 speed tranny.
Well cared for. Needs a
glow plug and possibly a
turbo mass air valve. NO
Blue juice for this baby,
just straight diesel. Was
getting 50+ MPG highway,
Insane cruising range. Call
The Sentinel for details.
719 783 3360. Price \$5k.

Firewood Pine Saw Logs
and Slabs, will load,
located 7 miles S. of
Westcliffe. \$80 / Cord. Call
303-250-5055 Merlin

Garage Sale

Huge Muti- Family
Garage Sale
Friday & Saturday
October 10th & 11th
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Home decor, dishes,
bedding and tools.
Outdoor tools,
antler coat rack.
And much more, including
an
Amish Bake Sale
152 Howe Rd. Westcliffe



Happy
Birthday
Brinder

Get Noticed
with Color

Help Wanted

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

Sangre de Cristo
Sentinel

We are looking for
local writers
to Report on
LOCAL News
Town Meetings,
Events, Projects,
Youth & Sports
Stop in Tues -Wed.
9-3, Fri. 9-12
601 Main St.,
Westcliffe
or email us at editors.
sentinel@gmail.com

Real Estate

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

Services

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

Wanted

Wanted
Wrought Iron fence.
Call 719-783-2448
Please leave a message.

Happy Birthday
James Samuel!



Tune in

The First Tuesday
of the Month
4-6 p.m.
Christian Music on
KLZR 91.7 FM

Events

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

October 4, 1 - 4 p.m.
Sangres Art Guild-3rd Street Gallery Art Reception
October Show- "Autumn's Beauty & Bounty"
Local demo artist, the music of the Beatties, specials,
refreshments and free pumpkin painting. 3rd Street Gallery,
59000 N. Hwy 69. See SangreArtGuild.org

Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. \$60
Veteran's Rescue Ranch Fundraiser -Photo Session
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

October 8, 5:15 p.m.
WMVO Meeting #3 @ All Aboard Westcliffe Mtg Rm.
See ad on page 2

Saturday, October 18th 5 p.m. \$\$ Adults only event
First Annual Coroner's Ball, Spaghetti Dinner,
Live Music, Auction. Fundraising event to
provide trade focused scholarship fund
at the WMV Saddle Club. Tickets available at Tony's Mtn.
Pizza, Wild Flour Donuts & Co and the *Sentinel* or from
the County Coroner.

Community Services

Altitude Community Fitness
(719) 783-0750

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

Custer County
Community Sharing Food Pantry
120 N. 3rd St. Fri. (719) 783-2994
OPEN First 3 Fridays of the month
11 – 2 p.m.
TFAP 12-2 October 10th
Everyday Eats boxes are available during any
regular distribution from 11-2
An Equal Opportunity Provider

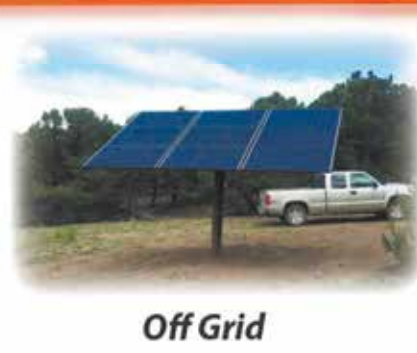
Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
Monday and Thursday 11a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(719) 783-4357

VETERANS SERVICE Office (VSO)
Dominic Edginton VSO
(719) 618-8266 text vso@custercounty.co.gov
Courthouse Bldg. (Rosita Rd. Entrance)

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

Wet Mountain Rotary Van Service
Limited Dispatch 719-783-2343

To Place an ad, please call 719-783-3360 or email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com.
The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.



Off Grid

Grid-Tie

Solar
Solutions Ltd.

"Renewable Energy Systems"
QUALITY - SERVICE - DEPENDABILITY

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

Serving Custer County
For 30 Years
www.solarsolutions.com



PV Installation
Professional

Pat Bailey - Owner
10 Hermit Lane,
PO Box 554
Silver Cliff, CO 81252

Ph: 719/783-9666
Fax: 719/783-2167
email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

Local Mountain News & Notices

KIDS Friday, October 3, 2025

The Washington Monument

The Washington Monument is an obelisk (a tall four-sided shaft of stone) on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., built to commemorate George Washington. If you ever go to tour our nation’s capital this is one of the sights you must see. Let’s look into the history of this national monument.

The Washington Monument was built to commemorate George Washington, a Founding Father of the United States, victorious Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army from 1775 to 1783 in the American Revolutionary War, and the first President of the United States from 1789 to 1797. He passed away in 1799.

James Madison and Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall had an early role in getting the monument project started. At the cornerstone ceremony on July 4,1848, a container that held copies of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Holy Bible and other objects were buried in the cornerstone.

Construction began and was dedicated on a chilly February 21, 1885, one day before George Washington’s birthday. It was first accessible to the public in 1886. It was closed most of 1887 and reopened in 1888 with a public elevator.

From the vantage point atop this monument visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that point one can see a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north, The Jefferson Memorial to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west. Yes, a cross separation of church and state was not and still is not in the Constitution. On the aluminum cap atop the Monument are two words. Words that visitors cannot see. Two seemingly unnoticed words very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world. What are those words you might ask - *Laus Deo* – Latin for Praise God!

So, if you see this monument in person or in pictures remember that the Monument points us upward to our heavenly Father. Amen

Until next week, Take Care and Give God the Reins

by Audrey Slater. Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Monument, <https://www.nps.gov/wamo/learn/historyculture/index.htm>, <https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/10-fascinating-facts-about-the-washington-monument>
Photo credit: Wikipedia, Greyfiveys - Own work. CC 4.0



Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”

—George Washington, Farewell address, Sept. 19, 1796



Custer County School District C-1

MENU for the WEEK of October 6 - Oct 9, 2025

	Breakfast	Lunch
Monday	Cold Cereal Oatmeal Fruit Milk	Chicken and Dumplings Green Beans Fruit Milk
Tuesday	Breakfast Sandwich Yogurt Oatmeal Fruit Milk	Tacos Rice Corn Fruit Milk
Wednesday	Cinnamon rolls Berries and Cream Pastries Yogurt Fruit Milk	Sloppy Joes Oven Fries Coleslaw Fruit Milk
Thursday	Biscuits and Gravy Fruit Milk	BBQ Turkey Sandwich Pasta Salad Corn on Cob 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 employer

Calling All Student Readers !!!

The love of books will be palpable this month as the Custer County School District gears up for the return of its Scholastic Book Fair. The event runs **October 13–16** in the school library, with daily hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and extended hours on Thursday, October 16, until 6 p.m.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** has long been a favorite tradition for students, parents, and teachers alike. Beyond filling bookshelves at home, every purchase helps support the school’s library and classroom resources. It’s an opportunity for students to explore new titles, discover interests, and experience the excitement of choosing a book.

This year’s fair also includes the “Share the Fair Fund,” which allows community members to contribute directly. Donations help ensure that every child, regardless of circumstance, has the chance to pick out

a book. The fund has become a valued tradition, ensuring that all students have the joy of owning a new book. Families who can’t make it in person will still be able to shop online, with proceeds benefiting the school in the same way.

“Events like this encourage our kiddos to love reading,” said Lea Grundy. “Think of it as an investment in the future of our kids instead of just a book fair.” Books are available for those in pre-k all the way through high school. The fair is also open to the community, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Whether you’re a parent, grandparent, or simply a supporter of education, your participation makes a difference.

For more information, to shop online, or to contribute to the Share the Fair Fund, visit <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/custercountyschool1> or contact Sydney Curry at sydney.curry@ccbobcats.net.

BOBCAT CORNER

Friday, October 3:

7 pm: HS Football @ Walsenberg (away)

Saturday, October 4:

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

Monday, October 6:

4:30 pm MS Football @ Lake County (away)

Wednesday, October 8:

4:30 pm: MS Volleyball @ HOME vs Trinidad

Friday, October 10:

4:30 pm: MS Volleyball @ Calhan (away)

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

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

7 pm: HS Football @ HOME vs Fowler

Saturday, October 11:

8 am: HS Varsity Volleyball Tourney @ Swink (away)

10 am: MS Volleyball Tri vs Merit Academy/Cotopaxi @ Paxi

Tuesday, October 14:

4:30 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ La Veta (away)

5:30 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ La Veta (away)

Thursday, October 16:

4 pm: HS Football @ Crowley County (away)

Friday, October 17:

7 pm: HS Football @ Crowley County (away)

Saturday, October 18:

12 pm: HS JV Volleyball @ Monte Vista (away)

1 pm: HS Varsity Volleyball @ Monte Vista (away)

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR CUSTER COUNTY BOBCATS!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

LIBRARY TO GO-GO!

West Custer County Library is now offering a program to deliver library materials to our mobility impaired patrons. On the 2nd & 4th Mondays we will bring the library to you! Or we can arrange for transportation to bring you to library events! Please visit our website at westcusterlibrary.org under ‘services’ or give us a call to learn more!



West Custer County Library District
209 Main Street
Westcliffe, Colorado 81252 | (719) 783-9138
<https://www.westcusterlibrary.org/>



BOBCAT ATHLETE OF THE WEEK!

Cross Country
Pierce Rowans!

Pierce is a new addition to the XC team and to Custer County altogether! Moving here from Florida at the very start of the season, Pierce had to take time to adjust to a new city, a new school, new friends, and the altitude! Now competing at a Varsity level, Pierce is already running a sub-8 minute/mi, and is gaining speed at every meet. Pierce has been really fun to watch compete and to get to know, and we're very happy he's here and a part of our team!

Volleyball
Hayden Hampton for Varsity!
Serenity Moos for JV!

See photos on pages 12 & 13!

JV Lady Bobcats 3rd Place in Tourney



The JV Lady Bobcats Volleyball team journeyed to the Pueblo Centennial Tournament last weekend. They earned victories over Fowler and Woodland Park. Pueblo East challenged our Lady Bobcats to dig deep but ultimately Custer County lost the battled set. Their pride in teamwork captured the spirit of their endeavor. The JV Lady Bobcats brought home third place overall in the tournament.

Photo Courtesy of CCSD-1

Custer County School District

WINTER COATS

for a Cause



HOW TO SUPPORT A STUDENT IN NEED:

Come to the School's Main Office between September 29th - October 9th to pick up a "Coat Card". The card will have information about coat size needed for a student. Purchase a new or gently used coat and return the coat with your "Coat Card" to the Main Office by October 20th. If you aren't interested in purchasing a coat, but want to support the cause, we are accepting donations for our student coat fund as well. Contact Sydney Benesch at sydney.benesch@ccbobcats.net with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

BOBCAT SCOREBOARD

Thursday, September 25:
HS Varsity Volleyball @ Cotopaxi: 3-0, Win! (1st game: 25-18, 2nd game: 25-18, Win! 3rd game: 25-18, Win!)

Friday, September 26:
MS Volleyball @ HOME vs South Park: B Team: 1-2, loss (1st game: 11-25, loss, 2nd game: 25-19, Win! 3rd game: 6-15, loss)
A Team: 1-2, loss (1st game: 25-22, Win! 2nd game: 22-25, loss, 3rd game: 13-15, loss)
HS Cross Country: Rampart Kozuik Classic @ Colorado Springs:
Boys (114 boys running): Mason Stover placed 10th w/ 18:43, Robert Bachman placed 46th with 21:27, Pierce Rowans placed 81st w/ 24:57, (Jacob Weeks was out due to a minor injury)
Girls (95 girls running): Abigail Handy placed 15th w/ 23:45, Shiloh Holmes placed 48th w/ 30:37, Emma Stover placed 57th w/ 31:36
HS Varsity Volleyball @ Center: 3-1, Win! (1st game: 21-25, loss; 2nd game: 26-24, Win! 3rd game: 25-23, Win! 4th game: 25-20, Win!)
MS Football @ Sanford: 52-0, loss

Saturday, September 27:
HS JV Volleyball @ Centennial Tournament: Placed 3rd!
(vs Fowler: 25-14, 25-21, Wins! vs Pueblo East: 23-25, 26-27, loss vs Woodland Park: 25-10, 25-10, Wins!)
MS Volleyball @ Cripple Creek: A Team Won! B Team lost

Tuesday, September 30:
HS JV Volleyball @ HOME vs Buena Vista: 2-1, Win!
(1st game: 25-14, 2nd game 21-25, 3rd game: 15-11)
HS Varsity Volleyball @ HOME vs Buena Vista: 0-3, loss
(1st game: 22-25, 2nd game: 28-30, 3rd game: 28-30)



After an accident have your insured vehicle towed to Zimmermans Body Shop now thru October to receive a \$50.00 gift card to the Holy Cross Abbey Winery! (The holidays are coming!)

CALL US TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!
719-275-4300
John@zimmermansbodyshop.com
Monday - Thursday 7:30am-5:30pm
Friday: 7:30am-11:30am
713 S. 8th St., Cañon City, CO 81212

WOOD PELLETS



\$6.99 PER BAG
\$340 PER PALLET
50 PER PALLET

\$9.99 PER BAG
\$474 PER PALLET
50 PER PALLET

\$25 DELIVERY FEE PER PALLET

Central Building Supply Inc.
719-783-2385
WWW.CENTRALBUILDINGSUPPLYCO.COM



BOBCATS FA

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECE BOBCAT ATHLETE



Volleyball (left to right): Stephanie Lewis, Cadence Weeks, and Brylee Shy, with Johnny Winton



Football (left to right): Doc McCoy, Wade Pierce, Eli Flynn, Lucas Bradford, Justus Simmons, and Stone Everhart, pictured with Tony's owner, Johnny Winton



Cross



ALL SPORTS

NT TONY'S MOUNTAIN PIZZA'S
S OF THE WEEK!



country (left to right): Emma Stover, Jacob and Abby Handy, with Johnny Winton



Volleyball: Hayden Hampden with Johnny Winton



Cross Country Pierce Rowan with Johnny Winton





The Cliffes Auto Services

215 E. Main St
Silver Cliff, CO 81252

(719) 285-3181
(719) 783-3281

cliffesautosvcs@gmail.com

FINNEY DRILLING
& EXCAVATING INC.

“We take the time to do the job right”
Larry & Cathy Finney, Owners • Fourth Generation Driller

Water Wells • Septic Systems • Foundation Excavating
Well & Septic Permit Applications • Free On-Site Planning & Estimates
Friendly Service • Licensed #1358 • Bonded • Insured • Competitive Pricing
719-275-9525 • larryfinneydrilling@gmail.com • Cañon City

Hershberger
CONSTRUCTION

- Metal Roofing
- Siding
- Windows
- Decks
- Buildings

719-216-9545

OVER 20 YEARS OF QUALITY AMISH WORKMANSHIP

- Sewer Line Cleaning
- Video Camera Inspection
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Replacement of Main Water and Sewer Lines
- Repair & Replacement of Water Heaters, Furnaces & Boilers
- Geo Thermal Heating & Cooling
- Air Duct Cleaning

Certified Backflow
Installation and Testing
Service and New Construction
Licensed and Insured
Locally Owned & Operated

www.rivervalleyplumbingandheating.com
250 Moore Dr, Florence
719-784-3876



2025 Colorado Ballot Certified With Two Statewide Measures

by Sherrie Peif,
Complete Colorado.com

DENVER — Colorado voters will be getting a break from a long list of statewide questions this November, after Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced she had certified the 2025 ballot with only two measures going in front of all voters in the state.

Voters will however still have their fair share of things to vote on closer to home as many city council and school board seats are up for grabs, as well as new local tax asks and extensions of existing taxes around the state.

This year is an odd year election, meaning ballot measures are, for the most part, limited under state law to fiscal issues related to the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR).

The two measures that will appear were both referred by the legislature this Spring out of House Bill 25-1274, and Senate Bill 25-214.

Proposition LL will ask voters to “de-TABOR” excess revenue received

from the previous Proposition FF tax hike on Coloradans with incomes over \$300,000. The 2022 voter-approved measure for the Healthy School Meals For All program pays for public schools to offer fully subsidized breakfast and lunch to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

However, the program is going broke, with the number of students eating school meals skyrocketing when parents who had been paying learned they no longer had to foot the bill.

It was estimated it would cost no more than \$100 million a year, but in its first year, it was in the red by more than \$60 million.

Proposition LL was referred to help fix the fiscal mess by allowing the state to keep and spend all the excess revenue collected from the first measure, which otherwise would be refunded back to taxpayers.

The second measure on the ballot is **Proposition MM**, which once again hikes taxes on those making more than \$300,000 (roughly 5 percent of

Colorado filers) by lowering their allowable income tax deductions from \$12,000 for single filers and \$16,000 for joint filers down to \$1,000 for single filers and \$2,000 for joint filers, thus increasing their taxable income. It is expected to raise about \$95 million more a year.

An amendment to MM was also created during the recent special session to also help subsidize food stamps in Colorado. Senate Bill 25B-003 allows the state to spend all revenue collected over and above what is needed to fund the “free” school lunch program, on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which supplement low-income families’ grocery costs, and which are expected to decrease because of new work requirements put in place by the Trump administration.

Ballots for Colorado’s November 4 election are scheduled to start being mailed out on October 10.

Please see: <https://completeminnesota.com/2025/09/18/2025-colorado-ballot-certified-two-statewide-measures/>

See You at the Pole 2025



FCA Sponsored “See You at the Pole” event at Custer County Schools in Westcliffe, CO.

Sentinel Photo

by Sentinel Staff

Before the school day began on September 24, a group of Custer County students gathered at the flagpole to pray. The student-led Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) hosted the gathering, joining millions of young people around the world in the 35th annual See You at the Pole event.

The early-morning service was simple but meaningful. Students, parents, friends, and community members prayed together for their school, teachers, community and nation. Like FCA, See You at the Pole is entirely student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led. The tradition began in 1990, when 10 students in Texas came together to pray at their school’s

flagpole. Some critics continue to question whether such gatherings belong on public school grounds. But student-led religious expression is constitutionally protected. In fact, 35 years ago the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Board of Education v. Mergens* (1990), upheld students’ rights to form Bible clubs at public schools under the Equal Access Act. The Department of Education also affirms that student-organized religious events fall under free speech rights, making them a lawful expression of faith.

Last week’s gathering at Custer County High School reflected that same 1990 spirit of faith and freedom. One student prayed specifically for the courage to be bold and live out their faith among classmates and teachers.

A parent offered a heartfelt prayer of thanks for our Freedom, specifically thanking God that we have the freedom to gather publicly, the freedom to pray, and the freedom to worship as we choose. Several local pastors accepted the students’ invitation to join in the gathering, and offered uplifting prayers for the staff, students and community.

One passerby, curious about the group, stopped to see what was happening. After learning the purpose of the event, she stayed and joined in the closing prayers of gratitude for all of the freedoms we enjoy, for the daily commitment of our school staff, and for the goodness in our community.

The event takes place each year on the fourth Wednesday in September. See You at the Pole in 2026.

“To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.”

—George Washington



Colorado State News

Seven Colorado Counties Asking For Lodging Tax Hikes

—September 25, 2025

by Savana Kascak,
CompleteColorado.com

DENVER—At least seven Colorado counties are asking voters to double, and even triple, lodging taxes at the ballot this November, with proponents claiming the jump in rates is needed to help compensate for declining revenues, and negative impacts of tourism.

Commissioners in Chaffee, Custer, Eagle, Gilpin, Routt, Ouray, and Park counties are all looking to cash in on the higher taxes, which apply to short-term (30-days or less) accommodations such as hotels, motels and short-term rentals, such as AirBnB.

Lodging tax revenue traditionally funds tourism marketing, but also gets poured into things such as roads, police, fire and emergency services. The legislature in 2022 expanded use of lodging tax revenue to include childcare and housing, requiring 10% to be used for tourism promotion.

Lawmakers went a step further

earlier this year with House Bill 1247, increasing the maximum lodging tax rate allowed from 2% to 6%, and allowing the money to be used for infrastructure and public safety, thus unleashing the torrent of tax hikes on local ballots.

Don Sheehan, a Centennial city councilmember and mayoral candidate, voted against referring a lodging tax to city voters in 2022, and then went on to help defeat the measure at the ballot.

“The sales pitch is ‘hey it’s not going to hit you, it’s going to hit somebody you don’t know,’” Sheehan told *Complete Colorado*. “I think that’s kind of the motivation, it’s an easy way to attempt to raise revenue.”

While lodging taxes might be a convenient way to raise revenue without asking residents to dip into their own pockets, Sheehan notes that such tax hikes could backfire, and urges voters to think through all the potential implications before marking their ballots.

“I wonder if there will be an impact on tourism if it becomes more expensive,” Sheehan said. “You may actually be hurting your overall tourist volume if its more expensive for tourists to come out and stay here.”

Nash Herman, fiscal policy analyst at Independence Institute, a free market think tank (and publisher of *Complete Colorado*) agrees, noting these taxes may come with good intentions, but poor outcomes,

“These counties are basically trying to account for the adverse effects of over-taxation and over-regulation with even more taxation,” said Herman. “Counties are essentially looking to subsidize services that should already be covered by local property taxes. Voters should first ask that their property taxes be spent more effectively before accepting a new tax.”

The ballot measures

Chaffee County Ballot Issue 1A asks voters to triple the lodging tax from 2% to 6%, raising an

estimated \$3.5 million annually for roads and public safety. The tax hike includes the towns of Buena Vista, Poncha Springs and Salida.

Custer County Ballot Issue 1A also asks to raise the tax to 6% for subsidized housing and early childcare. The tax is projected to generate \$170,000 annually.

Gilpin County Ballot Issue 1A triples the county’s lodging tax to 6%. The estimated \$340,000 in new annual revenue would go toward roads and childcare.

Eagle County Ballot Issue 1A asks voters to increase the lodging tax to 4% in unincorporated areas of the county. The tax could generate \$4.5 million a year for tourism marketing, childcare, infrastructure and police/fire services.

Routt County Ballot Issue 1B asks for an increase to 6% for roads and public safety, potentially generating \$821,000 annually. It will not include Steamboat Springs, which already has a lodging tax rate of 12%.

Park County Ballot Issue 1A asks voters to triple the tax to 6%, projected to raise \$1.8 million for roads, police and emergency services and tourism. The tax excludes Fairplay and Alma.

Ouray County Ballot issue 1A asks voters to implement the county’s first ever lodging tax starting at 6%, projected to raise \$182,000 annually. Excluding Ouray and Ridgway, proponents claim the need for the tax is “urgent” due to development pressures and tourism driving up the housing market.

As previously reported by *Complete Colorado*, at least two Colorado municipalities, Basalt, located in the Roaring Fork Valley, and Rifle, located in Garfield County on the Western Slope, are also asking for lodging tax hikes in November.

Ballots for the November 4 election will start being mailed out to voters on October 10th.

Please see: <https://completecolorado.com/2025/09/25/colorado-counties-lodging-taxes-november-ballot/>



Beach REDI-MIX

**CONCRETE SUPPLIER
& CONCRETE PUMP TRUCK**

“THE FOUNDATION OF CUSTER COUNTY”

**PRE-CAST SEPTIC TANKS AVAILABLE
1000 GALLON, 1250 GALLON, AND 1500 GALLON**

**PRE-CAST BARRIER BLOCKS
DECORATIVE & PLAIN**

198 Range View Loop, Westcliffe, CO 81252
719.783.3558
BeachRediMix-CO.com





Accepting most insurance, including Tricare!

*Offering the same great service in
Custer County that has won us
“Best Pharmacy in Fremont County”
for the past 20 years!*

Your local source for
Prescriptions and
Over-The-Counter
Medications & Supplies

**OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY
9AM-5:30PM
CLOSED SAT & SUN**

palacedrugco.com 719-371-9402

94 E. Main St., Silver Cliff ~ 601 Main St., Cañon City



Market *Your Neighborhood Grocery Store*

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

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

Visit us online at LOWESMARKET.COM
or on Facebook at
FACEBOOK.com/LowesSupermarkets

**50 Main Street
719/783-0550**



Colorado State News

Local Food Efforts



September 3rd Care and Share of Southern Colorado’s delivery to Silver Cliff.

Photo via Town of Silver Cliff Facebook page

by Sentinel Staff

In Custer County, the Town of Silver Cliff coordinates a Care and Share of Southern Colorado Food market truck with volunteers helping make it possible. The last Mobile Market, on September 3rd served over 100 people. The truck left empty.

To view the Care and Share Calendar for Southern Colorado’s Food market truck, go to <https://careandshare.org/findfood/#calendar>. Current plans for October include Silver Cliff on October 7th 1 – 2 p.m. @ 1011 Butler St. in Silver Cliff. Weather and food availability can change plans. We recommend that you check the

schedule or follow the Town of Silver Cliff Facebook page. To volunteer or ask questions, please call 719-783-2615.

Those in need can also contact another entity; the local CCC Sharing Food Pantry in Westcliffe. Here’s their information: Custer County Community Sharing Food Pantry:

120 N. 3rd St., Friday (719) 783-3303
OPEN the First 3 Fridays of the month from 11 – 2 p.m.

TFAP distribution will be October 10th from 12 to 2 p.m.

Everyday Eats boxes are available during any regular distribution from 11a.m-2p.m.

Colorado King Soopers Workers File Federal Charges Against Union

by Elyse Apel,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – Two King Soopers grocery workers have filed federal charges against a Colorado union for allegedly threatening to fine them after they chose to work during a strike.

(The Colorado-based grocery store is one of the largest employers in the state.)

Ryan Lamb and Lucas Martin allege the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 union retaliated against them following a February strike, even though they had already submitted their resignations to the union.

The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, a national nonprofit, is representing the workers in the cases, which have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

“Mr. Lamb and Mr. Martin have submitted ample documentation to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that they submitted their union membership resignations in advance of returning to work,” Patrick Semmens, the foundation’s vice president, told *The Center Square* in an exclusive statement. “We are confident that the facts will bear out their charges against local union officials and look forward to seeing the fine threats withdrawn and the union officials held accountable for their illegal actions.”

King Soopers is one of the largest employers in the state. During the February strike, union members at more than 70 stores, many of them in the Denver area, joined the picket lines.

The strike affected more than 10,000 workers.

The union alleged unfair labor practices. According to the union at the time, 96% of its members voted to strike.

During the strike, the foundation reached out to workers to inform them that they had the right to continue working.

“Despite often-misleading language in union contracts, no employee is actually required to be a member of a union,” the foundation’s notice to workers stated. “And if an employee is not a member of a union, union officials have no power to fine or discipline him or her.”

At that time, both Lamb and Martin decided to return to work. The union then allegedly assessed fines and scheduled “trials” for each of them, even though they were no longer members.

“We have the right to keep working and not abide by their rules, and it’s ridiculous that the union officials think they can punish us for exercising that right,” Martin said.

This isn’t the first time the UFCW Local 7 union has faced similar charges. In 2022, a similar strike was called, and the union made moves to fine nonmembers. Fines can total tens of thousands of dollars per employee.

In those cases, the union backed down on the fines after facing potential discipline from the National Labor Relations Board.

Semmens said it is important for the board to take action this time.

“Given that this is not the first time UFCW Local 7 officials have engaged in these types of retaliatory threats, the NLRB should pursue the fullest remedies allowed by the law,” he told *The Center Square*, “which include ensuring that all King Soopers employees are notified that they have the right to resign their formal union membership at any time, and that by doing so they cannot legally be ‘disciplined’ by union boss-run kangaroo courts.”

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

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/article_05d9d487-f8f6-4b40-bfd4-4494898e91f3.html



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

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

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

Providing 34 years of Experience, Knowledge, Reliability & Honesty

LICENSED & INSURED
P.C #2578 / M.P. #189724



SAPIAH WOODWORKS

Lisa Kidwell
Owner/Contractor

- ♦ Deck Restoration ♦ New Deck Construction
- ♦ Log Home Restoration ♦ Custom & Fine Carpentry
- ♦ Interior/Exterior Painting ♦ Hardwood Floor Installation
- ♦ Hardwood Floor Restoration ♦ Custom Barn Doors
- ♦ Project Management ♦ Consulting

Fully Insured ♦ Complimentary On-Site Consultation

720.309.4262 ♦ sapiahwoodworks@gmail.com



YODER'S HOME FURNISHINGS

We create heirloom furniture so you can create lasting memories.



Dining Tables starting under \$1,000!

Beautiful furniture of all kinds, Live Edge Slabs, Amish Handcrafted Beds & Mattresses, Metal Art, Quality Footwear and SO MUCH MORE!

Come check us out!

At Yoder's, we only source the highest quality materials. Our furniture is built by the best Amish craftsmen in the country and will last for generations to enjoy.

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

Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC from page 1

The Board heard an update on the U.S. Forest Service land exchange involving Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Appraisals are complete and about 94 acres are being considered for exchange. Conservation easement work is well underway, and public comment is expected in November. Camp leaders assured commissioners that the camp does not plan large-scale expansion, as rumored. According to Dave of the Rainbow Lutheran Camp, their focus is to simply make their existing programs better. The exchange is on track to finish in late 2026.

Finance Director Vernon Roth engaged the commissioners with several budget resolutions prepared. He presented the budget adjustments. All were approved by the Board:

- Landfill Compactor: \$115,000 capital expenditure correction.
- Self-Insurance Fund: \$18,000 adjustment for accidents that occurred so late in 2024 that they weren't paid until 2025.
- Tourism Fund: \$9,500 for year-end expense prepayments. Moving forward Deb Adams will work with her vendors so that those funds are due on January 1st.

The Commissioners passed a resolution designating Commissioner

Epp as signatory for a \$60,000 DOLA grant application to make twelve Silver Cliff lots "shovel ready" for the workforce housing project. The Board also designated Epp to represent Custer County on the CCI Legislative Committee, with Canda as alternate. Also approved, was the renewal of the Humane Society of Fremont County impound agreement through 2026.

HR director Robert Smith presented a thorough discussion (to include whiteboard notes) of options for county employee insurance. After reviewing bids, the commissioners voted to end their contract with CTSI for workers' compensation and select Pinnacle instead, citing better service and potential long-term savings despite higher initial costs. One community member challenged the acceptance of a nearly \$50K premium increase for the new services. HR Director Smith said in essence that Pinnacle provides direct interaction with the employee and an employee portal which reduces employee frustrations and makes them happier. This option, Smith added, also creates a pathway to future cost containment for the county.

The Board also approved moving to a partially self-funded plan with Aetna for medical coverage, life and vision and additional voluntary benefits. Delta Dental's premium level coverage was approved for dental services which will now also cover

orthodontia and crowns. Smith emphasized that the county's move to partially self-funded insurance plans will allow the county to keep excess funds in the county, potentially saving money in future years while expanding coverage and benefit options for employees. The fund savings each year can only be spent on improving employee health or their health related benefits.

Next, the Board ran through the accounts payable for the month noting payments above \$5,000. Payments included the \$12,000 PILT III funds to Search and Rescue. Road and Bridge received some free radios from the Department of Corrections; the cost to the county for the needed radio accessories was \$8,784. The McFarland Oil fuel payment for Road and Bridge was nearly \$25,000, and Seifert Enterprises \$5,724 for natural materials. The Lodging and Tourism partnership for Colorado.com in the amount of \$5,000 was funded. In Auxiliary Services the Fair Board reimbursements totaled about \$14,000; for a grand total of \$208,922.77.

The meeting was adjourned with an audit report workshop to take place later in the day. Mr. DaNardo went through the audit by section and explained terminology, what has improved, and what still needs improvement in terms of accounting methodology and documentation.

LTE : For The Children from page 5

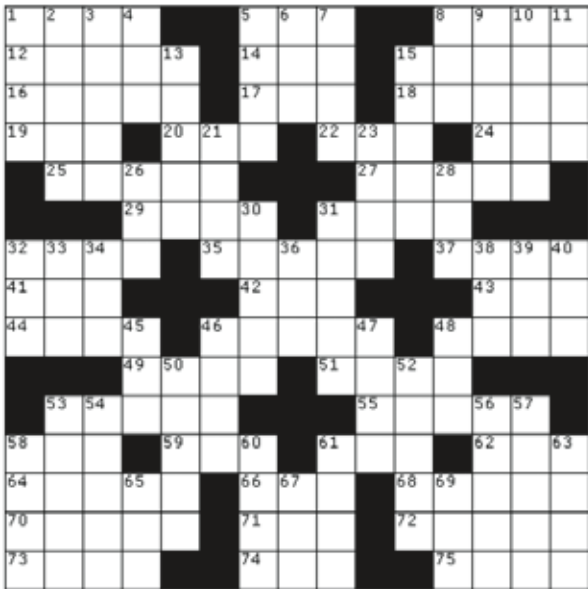
does not pay for more teachers. Oh no, they only hire more therapists to help the kids decide which gender they really want to be and of course, which "pronouns" they would like to be called by. Just forget most of them have not been taught how to read or even make change for a dollar. I guess they have their phones for that?

More and more taxes that who exactly will pay for? Well, we who are paying now won't live that long, but all those children and even those kids' children and grandchildren and great grandchildren are "on the hook" for paying that. Pass the buck? Good planning dem-bulbs of Congress. You'll be long dead by the time the uneducated kids find out we sold them "down the river" to pay for all the "free" stuff. By the way, back in the old timey days, we were taught that a balanced budget was how we determined what money we actually had and we spent NO more than that. Something democrats and RINOs alike could take note of. (If only?) I can't hardly wait to vote NO on both corrupt and expensive bills on this ballot. I know they will only continue trying to get rid of TABOR. They just hate letting us keep any over-collected tax money.

The ship is sinking, but it might not drown the ones in power now. NO hope for future slaves. Reparations for taxpayers of any color? Shame on Colorado for letting these crooks decide how to spend our money.

Frank Searight, Silver Cliff

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- ACROSS
1 Fraud
5 Drain
8 Opaque gem
12 Veranda
14 Samuel's mentor
15 White poplar
16 Last letter of Greek alphabet
17 Ball holder
18 Type of car
19 Container
20 Miles per hour

- 22 Rio de Janeiro
24 Mouse catcher
25 Chocolate tree
27 Widow's property
29 Son of Seth
31 Does (KJV)
32 Taboo
35 Mark
37 Young Women's Christian Association
41 Old Testament city
42 Spirits
43 Possessive pronoun

- 44 Type of cheese
46 Authoritative list of scripture
48 7 days
49 He built the ark
51 Northeast by east
53 Mother-in-law of Ruth
55 Jewish teacher
58 Farm animal
59 No room for them in the ____
61 Cry
62 Pen stuff
64 Heron
66 A name of God
68 Sugar-free brand
70 Rook's game
71 Central processing unit
72 Wary
73 Tier
74 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
75 Branch of learning

DOWN

- DOWN
1 Small dirty area
2 Humorous
3 Playing field
4 Microgram
5 Cain's brother
6 Lager
7 Jetty
8 Kimono sash
9 On earth ____, good will toward men
10 Sacrificial table
11 For fear that

- 13 Villain in book of Esther
15 Walking (KJV)
21 Kitty
23 Object of false worship
26 Chief executive officer
28 Reporter's question
30 Wife of Abraham
31 Evil angel
32 Clutch
33 Lubricate
34 Compass point
36 Roll
38 Ill-being
39 Remind
40 Noah's ____
45 Card game
46 Adam's son
47 A Roman emperor
48 Spider's net
50 Leaves out
52 Tower of ____
53 Silent ____
54 Match
56 Chomper
57 Unreactive
58 Chest muscles
60 Goodly
61 Priggish
63 Lock openers
65 Sixth sense
67 Baboon
69 Ocean

Key on page 14

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

WET MOUNTAIN STORAGE
115 C.R. #241, WESTCLIFFE, CO
FOR ALL YOUR STORAGE NEEDS

Fully Fenced, Automatic Gate & Video Surveillance

5x10	10x10	10x15	10x20
8x20 Conex	10x30	8x40 Conex	
RV Storage			

Office at 300 Main Street• Westcliffe
custompropertyservices@yahoo.com
719-783-9321

**High Peaks
Animal Hospital**

Dr. Kayla Ingram

Call for an appointment:
719-783-3770
1200 Broadway in Silver Cliff

**Need a ride? Call
Randy CAB**

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

**PREMIER
PEST CONTROL LLC**
WESTCLIFFE, CO

719-371-7404
PPC16@PRIVATEGARDEN.ORG

*Call to schedule: inspections, estimates, professional
pest management, residential, commercial,
licensed and insured*

**William A Good
Manager**

Outta Space Storage LLC

860 Airport Road
Silver West Airport
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Learn more and reserve at our website:
www.outtaspacestoragecolorado.com
or call 303-906-1900

**WESTCLIFFE
FIREWOOD**
EST. 2018
719-371-6074

Ryan Stover
719-371-6074

westcliffefirewood@gmail.com

*The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.*

Proverbs 16:9 ESV

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

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

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

The Deep State Strikes Back

The battle lines inside America’s health bureaucracy are drawn. Over 1,000 CDC and HHS workers signed a letter demanding the ouster of Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. after he fired CDC Director Susan Monarez and began rolling back vaccine policies. To them, Kennedy represents disruption. To many Americans, he represents reform. The letter is less about science than it is about entrenched bureaucrats protecting their power. Those in public health policy are fighting to keep a system that rewards compliance and punishes dissent. This is the deep state flexing its muscle, using insider outrage as a weapon against someone threatening the order that has enriched and empowered them for decades.

The health deep state runs very deep. HHS, CDC, FDA, and NIH employ more than 100,000 people, most of whom are unelected career staff. That continuity gives stability, but it also builds resistance to change, nepotism, and industry incest. Add to this the “revolving door” between industry and government, corporate donations to agencies like the CDC Foundation, and the FDA’s dependency on industry fees, and you get a deep state ecosystem. The system has its own survival instincts. It can outlast administrations, override reformers, and neutralize whistleblowers. It’s not one conspiracy, it’s a dense web of relationships and money flows that keeps power concentrated in the same hands year after year

The money explains everything. Big Pharma spends more than \$700 million a year lobbying Congress—more than oil, defense, and tech combined. It pours another \$2.9 billion annually into FDA “user fees,” funding the very office tasked with approving its products. Beyond Washington, pharmaceutical companies spend over \$30 billion a year on marketing, including \$6 billion in direct-to-consumer advertising. That is why every evening news broadcast and magazine break is saturated with “ask your doctor” ads. The entirety of these efforts is about convincing the public that pills and injections are the only solutions to health. It’s an advertising machine as powerful as any political campaign. And where else can a product be sold where half the commercial time is taken by enumerating side effects, including death, as disclaimers?

This closed loop is reinforced by the revolving door. Scott Gottlieb, former FDA commissioner, joined Pfizer’s board just months after leaving office. He is not alone—this pattern repeats across agencies. Regulators become executives; executives become regulators. Add to that industry-funded research grants at NIH and corporate donors at CDC, and you have incestuous ties that keep everyone fed while the public, living in fear of whatever ails them, foots the bill. The deep state is fighting to keep its position of using fear and miracle-drug promises to keep people as unhealthy, returning customers, while destroying reformers like Kennedy who want sanity in the system. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” We all need to remember this.

—Bill Wilson Dailyjot.com Printed with permission.

Sources
CB News,Over 1,000 HHS staffers call for Kennedy’s ouster (Sept 2025) — <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hhs-staffers-call-for-rfk-jr-ouster-letter>
The Guardian,Health workers urge Kennedy to quit over vaccine policies (Sept 2025) — <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/03/hhs-letter-rfk-resign-vaccines>
Wikipedia,Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centers_for_Disease_Control_and_Prevention
Wikipedia,2025 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reorganization — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_U.S._Department_of_Health_and_Human_Services_reorganization
OpenSecrets,Pharmaceutical lobbying expenditures — <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/totals.php?ind=H04>
FierceHealthcare,Medical and public health leaders demand RFK Jr.’s resignation (Sept 2025) — <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/regulatory/medical-and-public-health-leaders-demand-rfk-jrs-resignation-hhs-employees-also-join>
NIH,Technology Transfer and Licensing — <https://www.nih.gov/research-training/technology-transfer>
CDC Foundation,Corporate Donors — <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/partners>
STAT News,Scott Gottlieb joins Pfizer board months after leaving FDA — <https://www.statnews.com/2019/06/27/scott-gottlieb-joins-pfizer-board>

Leaked Memo: FBI Deployed a Stunning 274 Agents on J6, Causing Internal Revolt



Via ZeroHedge.com

The FBI deployed nearly 300 plainclothes agents to the U.S. Capitol during the January 6, 2021 riot, in an effort that became so chaotic it caused an internal schism within the agency that led many rank-and-file at the bureau that core competencies had been lost to “wokeness,” and that employees had become “pawns in a political war,” according to an after-action report hidden from the public for over four years until it was obtained by Just the News.

Anonymous complaints were sent to the after-action team by scores of FBI agents and other personnel — many from the bureau’s premier Washington field office (WFO) — detailing how agents were sent into a dangerous situation without proper safety equipment or even the ability to identify themselves as armed officers to other police agencies.

Most common among the complaints was that under former directors Chris Wray and just-indicted James Comey, the bureau had become infected with political bias and liberal ideology that treated the Trump-supporting January 6 protesters much differently from Black Lives Matter rioters from the summer of 2020.

“The FBI should make clear to its personnel and the public that, despite its obvious political bias, it ultimately still takes its mission and priorities seriously,” wrote one employee. “It should equally and aggressively investigate criminal activity regardless of the offenders’ perceived race, political affiliations, or motivations; and it should equally and aggressively protect all Americans regardless of perceived race, political affiliations or motivations.”

The agent suggested that leaders “identify viable exit options for FBI personnel who no longer feel it is legally or morally acceptable to support a federal law enforcement and intelligence agency motivated by political bias.”

Another agent suggested that the problem was widespread throughout the FBI.

“Currently, the U.S. Attorneys Office is dictating what it is that gets investigated. This is a dangerous precedent because we can barely get them to prosecute investigations that clearly meet thresholds needed for Federal prosecutions,” the agent wrote. “However, their willingness to conduct a search warrant on someone’s life for a misdemeanor seems ridiculous. It is unreasonable for the FBI to conduct investigations involving misdemeanor violations at a federal level... it is not our role.”

‘Hopelessly Broken’

Several employees directly mentioned the Washington Field Office and its culture. “WFO is a hopelessly broken office that’s more concerned about wearing masks and recruiting preferred racial/sexual groups than catching actual bad guys,” wrote one worker.

“I wish you all would pay more attention to our safety than what type of masks we wear. If you are going to deploy us to a riot situation, then give us the proper damn safety equipment—helmet, face shield, protective clothing—and training!” wrote another.

In total, the after-action feedback spanned 50 pages, which were located by current FBI Director Kash Patel’s office and turned over to the House Judiciary Committee and its subcommittee.

As Just the News notes further; the document has proven a bombshell to lawmakers, revealing for the first time that the FBI had a total of 274 agents deployed to the Capitol in plainclothes and with guns but no clear safety gear or way to be recognized by other law enforcement agencies working in the chaos of the riot.

Wray, Patel’s predecessor, steadfastly refused to tell Congress how many if any agents went to the Capitol that day. And a prior DOJ Inspector General Report did not

divulge the number, referring only to a SWAT team the bureau sent into the Capitol and having more than two dozen informants in the crowd.

The existence of mass FBI agents at the Capitol on January 6 could also be a problem in many of the cases that were subsequently brought in court. If agents were witnesses at the Capitol and did not disclose it in the subsequent affidavits during prosecutions it could create grounds for defendants to appeal.

The document also reveals for the first time that there were widespread concerns for years inside the bureau — sentiments that boiled over after the FBI began sending SWAT teams to arrest January 6 participants on misdemeanor charges — that the FBI had become biased in favor of liberals and against conservatives.

Despite the pre-existing report, Wray rejected that notion in testimony before Congress. “The idea that I’m biased against conservatives seems somewhat insane to me, given my own personal background,” Wray told Congress in 2023.

“I have found almost invariably, the people screaming the loudest about the politicization of the FBI are themselves the most political, and more often than not, making claims of politicization to advance their own views or goals, and they often don’t know the facts or are choosing to ignore them,” Wray added in an episode of the podcast “FBI Retired Case File Review” that aired the same year.

Read the rest of the JustTheNews report go here... <https://justthenews.com/accountability/fbi-bombshell-274-agents-sent-capitol-j6-many-later-complained-they-were-political>

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/leaked-memo-reveals-fbi-deployed-stunning-274-agents-j6-causing-internal-revolt>

Conservative Policies: The Answer to the Housing Crisis?

by Larry Alton,
Freelance writer and business consultant

The housing crisis is a growing problem in America, with rising rents, soaring home prices, and a shortage of affordable housing putting the American Dream out of reach for many. It's a crisis that demands action, but the solutions proposed by many seem to rely on heavy-handed government intervention.

Why is it that liberal policies are always assumed to be pro-housing and pro-people, despite the fact that even the most "praised" ones have done nothing to improve the situation over the past 50 years?

Overreach and intervention haven't worked -- so why would they start now? Instead, it's time for lawmakers to realize that there's a better way -- one that empowers individuals, respects property rights, and unleashes the power of the free market to create opportunities for all. By focusing on lower taxes, reduced regulations, and incentives for

private investment, we can tackle the housing crisis while upholding conservative principles.

While there probably isn't a "perfect" plan, here are some specific steps and policies that can push us closer to ending the American housing crisis once and for all.

1. Lower Taxes to Encourage Investment

High taxes stifle growth and discourage investment, and the housing market is no exception. Developers, builders, and property owners face big tax burdens at every stage of the housing process, from purchasing land to completing construction. These taxes drive up costs, which are then passed on to renters and buyers.

Everyone wants to "tax the rich," but the reality is that taxing the "big guys" putting these deals together actually ends up having a negative trickle-down effect on the very people that we're trying to protect.

By lowering taxes on housing-related activities, you can encourage private investment and increase housing supply. For example, cutting capital gains taxes on real-estate investments incentivizes developers to take on new projects. Similarly, offering tax credits for landlords who renovate or build affordable housing makes it financially viable to expand the rental market.

When taxes are lower, it also frees up capital for investors to create more jobs. Rental property owners are no longer maxed out and have free capital to hire property managers, which allows another ancillary industry to thrive.

Lower taxes aren't just about numbers -- they're about creating an environment where entrepreneurs and investors feel confident putting their resources to work. When you reduce the tax burden, you free up capital that can be reinvested into communities, creating jobs, and housing in the process.

1. Reduce Burdensome Regulations

Regulations often start with good intentions but can lead to unintended consequences. In the housing market, excessive red tape slows development, increases costs, and limits supply. Zoning laws, environmental regulations, and building codes are often cited as key obstacles to building new housing.

In many cities, restrictive zoning prevents the construction of multifamily units, limiting housing options and driving up prices. Streamlining zoning regulations can allow for more diverse housing developments, including townhomes, duplexes, and apartments, to meet the needs of growing communities.

Similarly, reforming environmental regulations to focus on practical, science-based standards -- rather than unnecessary bureaucracy -- can speed up the permitting process without compromising safety or sustainability.

By cutting through the regulatory jungle, you make it easier and more affordable for developers to bring housing projects to fruition. The result? More homes, lower prices, and stronger communities.

2. Incentivize Private Investment

The private sector has the tools, resources, and expertise to solve the housing crisis, if given the right incentives. Public-private partnerships and tax incentives can encourage developers to focus on affordable housing and community revitalization without heavy-handed government mandates.

For instance, offering tax abatements for affordable housing developments can make it profitable for private investors to prioritize lower-cost units. Opportunity Zones, which provide tax benefits for investing in economically distressed areas, are another example of how conservative

HOUSING
see page 23

South Korean Pastor Detained for Candidate Support

by Sentinel Staff

South Korean Pastor Son Hyun-bo from Busan Segyeoro Church was arrested on September 8th. He is facing the charges, in part, for allegedly interviewing election candidate, Jeong Seung-yoon, during a church service and uploading a video of the conversation to social media. He also faces allegations of holding a "prayer service for victory" at Jeong's campaign office and stating, "We must vote for the right-wing candidate and truly establish God's kingdom."

Pastor Son has been actively contending against government overreach, including serving as a leader of the "Save Korea" group, which campaigns against the current left-leaning South Korean president, prime minister, and Democratic Party, who are in power.

The outcry against the pastor's arrest has included members of the opposition party. On September 14th, several representatives from the People Power Party, attended a church service at Pastor Son's Busan Segyoro Church to show support.

"There is growing concern from conservative Christians in South Korea that the current progressive government is targeting and suppressing specific Christian communities, especially with several recent cases of conservative Christian pastors and leaders having their homes raided by government special investigation teams in relation to an investigation of a South Korean Marine".

In a Facebook post on the 9th, former People Power Party Representative Han Dong-hoon (opposition party) spoke out concerning Pastor Son's arrest.

"In South Korea where freedom of expression is guaranteed, receiving an arrest investigation over such criminal allegations is excessive. I am not trying to protect anyone. Pastor Son actively argued during the last election that I should be disparaged and defeated, but the law must be applied equally to everyone."

September 24th, Busan District Court's Criminal Division explained, "As the request in this case is recognized as having no grounds, it is dismissed." In other words, the court ruled that the detention of Pastor Son Hyun-bo, facing allegations of violating the Public Official Election Act, is justified.

Sources: Church bulletins, Facebook, and Korean news "THE CHOSUNILBO".



Glenn Beck
@glennbeck

From @charliekirk11's chief of staff:
Pastor Son was arrested right after Charlie left [South Korea]. Charlie met him backstage at the event and took a photo with him. After the picture CK said 'I took that photo so if they arrest you I can post it all over social media.'

You know what to do, America.



Secret Service Dismantles Telecom Threat Near UN During General Assembly



The Secret Service released a photo of the devices the agency said were concentrated within 35 miles of the global meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. (U.S. Secret Service)

by Tom Manke,
Friends Community News

U.S. Secret Service agents have dismantled a large and sophisticated telecommunications threat operating within roughly a 35-mile radius of the United Nations head-quarters in New York, just as world leaders gather for the U.N. General Assembly.

According to the Secret Service and law enforcement officials, the network comprised more than 300 SIM servers and over 100,000 SIM cards, spread across multiple sites. These devices were capable of multiple serious actions: conducting telecommunications related threats toward senior U.S. government officials; disabling cell phone towers; carrying out denial-of-service attacks; facilitating anonymous or encrypted communications; and potentially crippling emergency communications, including 911 services during a critical moment.

Officials say the investigation began in the spring, spurred by threats directed at senior officials, which led to uncovering the network. Forensic examination

of the devices is underway. So far, authorities have not publicly disclosed any arrests or identified specific individuals or groups responsible, though some reports mention suspicion of involvement by foreign actors.

Secret Service Director Sean Curran described the potential harm as severe. "The potential for disruption to our country's telecommunications posed by this network of devices cannot be overstated." The agency's newly formed Advanced Threat Interdiction Unit is leading the probe, which also involves the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and local law enforcement including the NYPD.

To date, there is no evidence that the network was activated with respect to disrupting the U.N. General Assembly itself, but the timing, location, and scale raised alarm. Officials stress that the devices no longer pose an active threat in the region.

Sources: AP News, Reuters, New York Post, Guardian.



The Second Amendment Corner

1776

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2025



MOLON LABE

Advocate for Armed School Staff Destroys Denver Post's Claim of "No Viable Alternative" to SROs

by Cam Edwards,
BearingArms.com

A few days ago I wrote about an editorial from the *Denver Post* that advocated for an armed presence on every school campus in the state, saying the paper got it half-right. I'm in full agreement about the need for an armed response to an attack on school grounds, but the *Post* wildly erred when it argued there was "no viable alternative" to having school resource officers (SRO) in place, despite the financial and logistical difficulty it would pose for many smaller school districts.

I brought that editorial to the attention of FASTER Colorado's Laura Carno, who joined me on Bearing Arms Cam & Co to detail the extensive training the group has provided to hundreds of educators across the state, who are lawfully carrying on their campuses every day. Carno told me that she was going to write a

piece rebutting the paper's claims, and I'm pleased (and somewhat surprised) to see that the *Denver Post* has actually published her column.

Carno notes that 50 school districts have armed school staff in place, and the 500 or so staffers who are carrying concealed have an unblemished record of safety. So why haven't more districts adopted a policy that allows for trained and vetted staffers who volunteer to serve as a first line of defense in case of a targeted attack on campus? Carno calls out the Colorado media, including the *Denver Post*, for largely ignoring this option.

At FASTER Colorado, we often hear that the media largely fail to share information that could raise awareness and interest in these programs. Reporters rarely highlight armed staff programs, leaving parents unaware of a proven remedy. Instead,

headlines focus on tragedies and their painful aftermaths instead of prevention.

It's time to spotlight the heroes quietly protecting our schools. Network and cable news rarely cover how widespread armed staff policies are, how safely these programs have been implemented across the country, or how some attackers may choose targets based on perceived security weaknesses. We also seldom hear the stories of the brave men and women working in schools, who willingly run toward the sound of gunfire to save children. That needs to change.

Imagine a teacher, coach, or counselor – someone your child trusts – who's rigorously trained to protect lives, ready to run toward danger. That could transform our culture.

Kudos to Carno for writing this column, but also to the *Denver*

Post editorial board for running it. I told Laura that if the paper didn't see fit to publish her piece I'd post it at Bearing Arms, but I'm happy to forgo publishing it in its entirety here if it means that more Coloradans will be exposed to the work that FASTER Colorado does... and the fact that having armed school staffers is an option where they live.

As Carno says, there's nothing wrong with having an SRO on campus. But having armed school staff in addition to or instead of is a practical option for every school district in the state; one that's both cost effective and effective at deterring a targeted attack. Now that the editorial board has shared Carno's column, I hope the news side of the paper will see fit to go out and cover a future class, which should help raise the profile of FASTER Colorado and perhaps spur some interest among parents, students, faculty, and school administrators.

Editor's Note: Second Amendment advocates like Carno aren't just doing everything they can to protect our Second Amendment rights. They're intent on protecting innocents from harm as well. Last week our readers heard from Jon Caldera at Independence Institute which founded Colorado's FASTER Program nine years ago. Laura Carno is the executive director of **FASTERColorado.org**. To see Cam's podcast interview with Carno go to:

<https://bearingarms.com/videos/2025/09/18/colorado-media-ignoring-option-of-armed-staff-to-protect-schools-n1229955>

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/camedwards/2025/09/25/advocate-for-armed-school-staff-destroys-denver-posts-claim-of-no-viable-alternative-to-sros-n1230042>

Survey: Americans Like Armed Communities

by Tom Knighton,
BearingArms.com

Anti-gunners always claim that no one wants to ban all guns. They do it despite the numerous people who have said they want to ban all guns. It's almost amusing, really.

They claim they're not coming for your guns, even as they scream about gun control in the wake of Charlie Kirk being killed with the quintessential hunting rifle.

Overall, they say one thing, but demonstrate quite another. They don't like guns at all; they don't like that you can have them, and they want them all gone. As Gabby Giffords was quoted as saying, "No more guns."

But a new poll illustrates why

they won't admit it. Americans, including a lot of self-described Democrats, like having guns in their communities.

With so many laws on the books regulating gun ownership and enforcing myriad gun control measures, it's more than a bit surprising that Americans prefer law-abiding citizens be allowed to have firearms in their neighborhoods. This includes those who identify as Democrats. A new survey conducted by Napolitan News Service reveals 53% of voters "prefer to live in a community where people are allowed to own guns, while 38% say they would prefer to live where guns are outlawed." This includes 76% of those who self-identify as Republican and 63% of Democrats.

By an almost 2-1 margin, men say they want to live in an area where their friends and neighbors are allowed to own guns. Women, however, appear to have mixed feelings, with 44% saying they prefer to have firearms outlawed. Forty-three percent of women want to live in a location where guns are allowed.

When asked about gun violence and so-called "mass shootings," 56% of those polled would rather have the laws already on the books enforced over passing new legislation. Concerning matters of race, it's clear that blacks and Hispanics are more concerned about "mass shootings." Only 3% of whites said it was "very likely" that a close family member might be killed in a random shooting, but 11% of blacks and 9% of

Hispanics felt more personally threatened.

Now, that's not an overwhelming percentage of anything, but it's still a clear majority, which is meaningful.

Also interesting is that last sentence. While it's not surprising that the numbers are higher for black and Hispanic people to believe someone they love will be killed in a random shooting, those numbers are significantly lower than we might otherwise be led to believe.

The fact that a plurality of women want guns outlawed is troubling, though, especially as they're one group that would benefit more from guns than most. The average woman is never going to match up with the average man in

a physical altercation. Yeah, there are exceptions, but by definition, most women aren't the exception. Guns even the playing field for them against a male predator.

This might also be why groups like Moms Demand Action seem to be popular when the numbers above suggest they shouldn't be.

Clearly, this is a group we need to keep reaching out to.

As for the rest, it's telling that so many people favor gun ownership being legal and prefer we not enact new gun control laws when the existing ones are so poorly enforced.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/tomknighton/2025/09/18/survey-americans-like-armed-communities-n1229945>

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.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • 601 Main Street • Westcliffe Colorado 81252 • 719/783-3360



Thank You for Your Support!



Subscribe to the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

"The Voice of Conservative Colorado"

Help us Spread the word! Subscribe today!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City & State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Payment: \$ _____ Type: (circle one): Cash Check _____ Credit Card

\$49 Yearly for 81252 zip code • \$59 Yearly for out of 81252 zip code.

Please Mail or bring your payment to:
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
601 Main Street, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252
719/783/3360

Get the Digital Edition for only \$29 a year!
Online @ <http://SangreDeCristoSentinel.com/register/>

26 Montana Grizzly Bear Deaths by September, Multiple Defensive Shootings

by Dean Weingarten, Ammoland.com

Montana has created a web page to track grizzly bear deaths in the state. The page is administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP). Mortalities on Tribal lands are not included in the FWP bear mortality database. From krtv.com:

The site displays mortality information, including the various factors that contribute to grizzly bear deaths in Montana, outside of Tribal lands.

Four grizzly bears have been killed in defense of self and others so far in 2025. Two incidents may be defensive, but are still under investigation.

FWP estimates that, as of 2024 September, there were about 2k grizzly bears in Montana. [which] has more than half the grizzly bears in the contiguous 48 states.

Between Montana's portion of all four recovery zones and other areas where grizzly bears have established populations, FWP estimates that there are about 2,000 grizzly bears in Montana.

The four incidents occurred on May 21st at Choteau, June 3rd at Lake County, June 11th at Blaine County, and June 30 in Choteau. They are all listed as Defense of Life incidents by Montana FWP.

An April 10, 2025, incident is still listed as "under investigation". The United States Fish and Wildlife Service investigates grizzly bear killings in the contiguous 48 states. From MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks:

Like many Montanans do this time of year, a man was shed hunting in north-central Montana



Grizzly Bear in Montana.

Photo by Jean Beaufort, Public Domain

near Dupuyer on Friday. The man was searching for antlers on a brushy hillside when he first saw a bear. As he was leaving the area, the bear charged him at close range. He shot and killed the bear. Fortunately, the man was uninjured.

The bear was an adult female in good condition with no history of conflict, and was estimated to be 13 years old and weighing about 250 pounds.

The May 21st case happened near Choteau, Montana. The area is a hot spot for grizzly bear attacks. The Choteau incident was covered at AmmoLand:

At 30 yards, the bear put her ears back and charged. Justin and John drew their pistols and started firing. John was on Justin's right, about 10 feet away. He was armed

with a 1911-style .45 ACP. Justin had a Glock 20 chambered in 10 mm. John fired five shots, Justin fired three shots.

Justin said, "the bear looked as big as an elephant coming toward us."

Justin believed bear spray would have been useless because of the variable wind. Justin was using a mix of Federal full metal jacketed and hollow point rounds in the Glock, while John was using his .45 ACP.

At about 20 yards, the bear, obviously hit, veered to Justin's side and out of sight, moving north.

The June 3rd incident involved a homeowner. From xlcountry.com:

According to Montana Fish Wild Life and Parks report, a grizzly bear charged a landowner near their home in Condon and Seeley Lake. The incident happened the night of June 3rd, when the landowner said he heard noises outside.

The noises were coming from their livestock, their dogs—and a grizzly. When the man went to check on the animals, the bear charged. He fired in response, killing the bear. Just like the other incidents this year, the person involved walked away unharmed.

The June 11th incident also involved a homeowner. From krtv.com:

GREAT FALLS — Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks reports that a man shot and killed a grizzly bear that was threatening him on the

northeast side of the Bears Paw Mountains south of Havre on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

The agency said the man heard a disturbance with his dogs and when he opened the door to his porch, he encountered the bear and shot it.

The June 30th killing of a grizzly bear near Choteau, Montana, is listed as a self-defense killing. This correspondent has not found any details about the incident.

The July 10th incident is listed as "under investigation". As reported by the Fairfield Sun Times:

According to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, a landowner along Foothill Road east of Kalispell shot and killed a grizzly bear on July 10, after he discovered the bear getting into a chicken coop.

The bear approached the landowner, according to an FWP press release, when he shot and killed the animal. The man was uninjured in the encounter.

Twenty other grizzly bear deaths are recorded at the Montana web page as of September 2025. Nine were killed in vehicle accidents. Eight were killed as management actions by government agents. Two were killed in incidents of mistaken identification by black bear hunters. Cause of death could not be determined for one bear.

In a given year, about 77 grizzly bear deaths are recorded in the 48 contiguous states.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2025/09/26-montana-grizzly-bear-deaths-by-september-2025-multiple-defensive-shootings/>

JARED M. SMITH, DMD
Advanced Dental Technology

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

Creating Beautiful Smiles in Colorado

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

LOCAL, TRUSTWORTHY, DEPENDABLE.

COLORADO FORESTRY & EARTHWORKS, LLC
COFOREARTH.COM

INSURED, WITH 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

GRAVEL

LANDSCAPE ROCK

TOPSOIL

SAND

ROAD BASE

MATERIAL HAULING

EXCAVATION

SEPTIC INSTALLATION

EROSION CONTROL

DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION

FOUNDATIONS

SITE PREP

STUMP GRINDING

MULCHING

Shawn Gaide

719-429-1676 coforearth@gmail.com

Freedom is the last best hope of earth. ~ Abraham Lincoln

America's Wealth Distribution by Generation

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

The Baby Boomer generation is arguably the richest in history, averaging \$1 million in wealth per person in America. Thanks to decades of strong economic growth and falling

Generation	Birth years	Value of assets, net of mortgage debt (USD)	Share
Silent Generation	Before 1946	\$20.1T	12.3%
Baby Boomers	1946 to 1964	\$83.3T	51.0%
Generation X	1965 to 1980	\$42.6T	25.1%
Millennials and Gen Z	1981 or later	\$17.1T	10.5%

interest rates, America's Boomer generation holds more than half of all of the country's wealth.

Notably, they make up only a fifth of the population.

The chart, (See Right) via Visual Capitalist's Dorothy Neufeld, shows U.S. household wealth distribution by generation, using data from the UBS Global Wealth Report 2025.

Breaking Down Wealth Distribution by Generation in 2025

Above, we show the distribution of assets owned, net of mortgage debt in 2025:

In 2025, Americans hold a combined \$163.1 trillion in wealth, with Baby Boomers accounting for \$83.3 trillion.

For Boomers, the largest share comes from financial assets (29.3%), followed by real estate net of debt (23.3%). Today, the youngest Boomers are turning 60 or 61, with the generation approaching peak wealth accumulation as they exit the workforce.

Generation X—now ages 45 to 60—holds \$42.6 trillion, roughly half the wealth of Boomers. This gap reflects



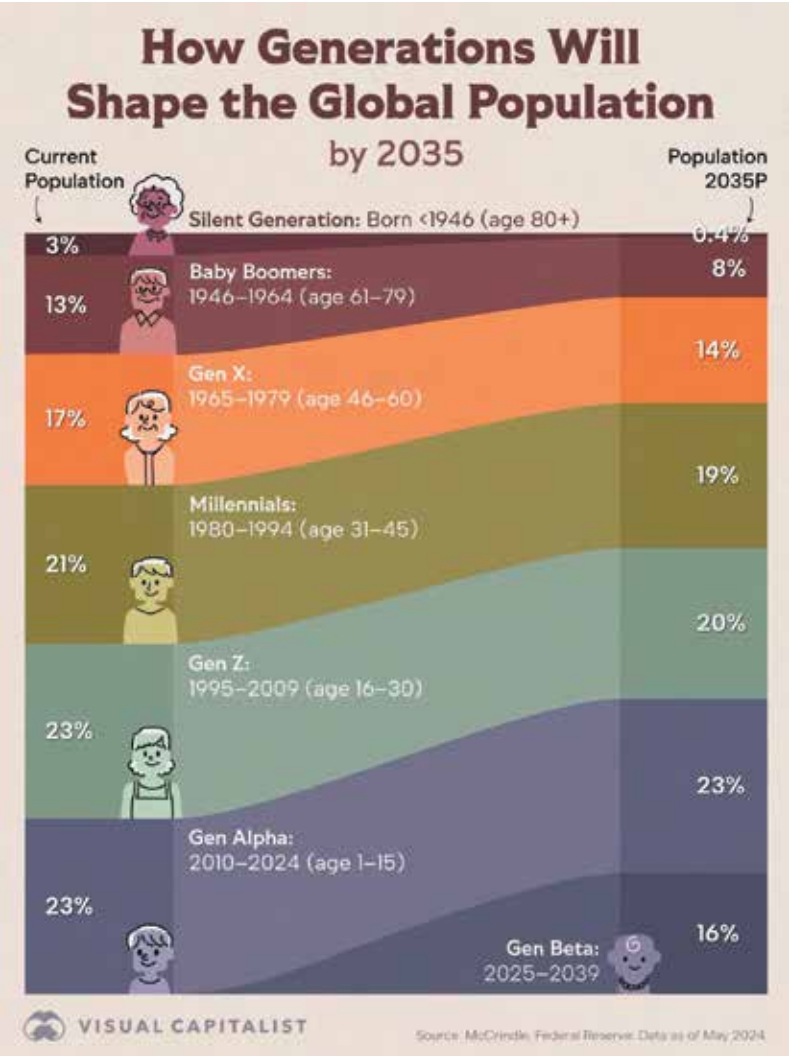
slower income growth compounded by weaker stock market performance in the years following the dot-com bust.

Importantly, these years overlapped with Gen X's prime earning period. In comparison, Boomers benefited from a fourfold surge in financial markets during their 30s, accelerating their wealth growth.

For Millennials and Gen Z—

those born after 1981—total wealth stands at \$17.1 trillion. Interestingly, private business assets (10.8%) makes up a bigger part of their wealth than other generations, suggesting an entrepreneurial edge relative to older generations today.

Please see: <https://www.zerohedge.com/personal-finance/visualizing-americas-wealth-distribution-generation>



WILDFIRE MITIGATION

HOME & PROPERTY PROTECTION

SKID STEER WORK / HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIRS

SWOTA ENTERPRISES

SERVING CUSTER COUNTY & SURROUNDING AREAS

719-783-4477

RSWOTA@GMAIL.COM

RAY SWOTA

FIRST ANNUAL

CORONER'S BALL

OCTOBER 18TH, 2025

The Saddle Club

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

DINNER AND DANCING

SPAGHETTI DINNER • LIVE MUSIC • DAVE ROPOLLO

SILENT AUCTION

FUNDRAISER FOR A STUDENT FOR TRADE SCHOOL



Coffee and

Friday Morning's Paper

Plus Back Issues





SANGRE DE CRISTO

SENTINEL™

The Voice of Conservative Colorado!



E-Edition

\$29 a year. That's it.

SangreDeCristoSentinel.com

FREE

SINK

with

purchase



SOL

GRANITE

STONE & TILE CENTER

Countertop purchase of 45 square feet minimum required. Valid only on Stainless Steel sinks. \$195 value. Coupon must be presented at time of sale. New proposals only. Only one coupon per customer. Not to be combined with any other offers.



SOL

GRANITE

STONE & TILE CENTER



Pueblo's Only Granite & Quartz Countertop Fabricators!

719-544-3085

4804 Dillon Drive, Pueblo

(Behind Texas Roadhouse)

solgranite.com

Serving Pueblo Since 2007

Shop Local. Shop Direct.

WE ARE OPEN

M-F 8-5, SAT 10-3

HOUSING
from page 19

policies can attract private capital to underserved communities.

Incentives like these allow the free market to thrive while addressing social needs. They also ensure that taxpayers aren't footing the bill for expensive government housing programs, which often suffer from inefficiency and mismanagement.

3. Protect Property Rights

Strong property rights are the foundation of a free society. And yet government overreach like rent control policies and eminent domain abuse, undermine this principle.

Rent control may seem like a quick fix for rising housing costs, but it often backfires by discouraging investment in rental properties. When landlords can't charge market rates, they're less likely to maintain or improve their properties, leading to a decline in housing quality and supply.

Instead of imposing rent control, you can focus on policies that increase the housing supply, naturally bringing prices down.

Protecting property rights ensures that landlords and developers remain incentivized to invest in and expand housing options.

4. Encourage Local Solutions Over Federal Overreach

The housing needs of a small rural town are very different from those of a major metropolitan area. That's why a one-size-fits-all federal solution is unlikely to work. Instead, empowering local governments and communities to address their unique challenges is a smarter, more effective approach.

Encourage local governments to revisit restrictive zoning policies, streamline their permitting processes, and work with private developers to identify creative solutions. For instance, adaptive reuse of vacant commercial buildings, such as turning old warehouses into apartments, can provide housing without the need for new construction.

Federal overreach often leads to inefficiency and waste. Local solutions, driven by the people who understand their communities best, align more closely with conservative values of self-governance and limited government.

5. Focus on Wealth Creation Through Homeownership

Homeownership has been a cornerstone of the American Dream for as long as the American Dream has existed. Policies that encourage homeownership -- such as first-time homebuyer tax credits and down payment assistance programs -- can help families move from renting to owning, building wealth along the way.

By removing barriers to home ownership, like excessive closing costs or credit restrictions, you empower individuals to invest in their future. Homeowners are more likely to take pride in their properties and contribute positively to their neighborhoods, creating a ripple effect of community improvement.

6. Address Workforce Housing for Essential Employees

Teachers, police officers, firefighters, and healthcare workers make up the fabric of any community. Yet, many of these workers struggle to find affordable housing near their jobs. Addressing this issue is critical to maintaining strong, stable communities.

Conservative policies can encourage the development of

workforce housing through targeted tax incentives or public-private partnerships. For example, offering developers bonuses for including workforce housing units in their projects ensures these critical workers have access to affordable homes close to their jobs.

7. Emphasize Accountability and Efficiency

Government housing programs often suffer from inefficiency, mismanagement, and a lack of accountability. Throwing taxpayer dollars at the problem isn't the answer. Instead, we need to focus on solutions that prioritize efficiency and results.

Programs like Section 8 vouchers can be improved by working with private landlords and streamlining administration. Additionally, requiring accountability measures for government-funded housing projects ensures that resources are used effectively and with minimal waste.

Why Conservative Policies Work

Conservative policies work because they leverage the power of the free market, encourage individual responsibility, and respect the principles of limited govern-

ment. By reducing barriers to investment and protecting property rights, you create an environment where housing supply can meet demand without unnecessary government interference.

The housing crisis is solvable, but it requires bold, common-sense solutions that align with American values. By focusing on wealth creation, local solutions, and free-market principles, you can ensure that more Americans have access to safe, affordable housing while building stronger communities in the process.

The path forward doesn't require or necessitate more government control. The future will be predicated on empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to work together for a common cause. With the right policies, we can tackle the housing crisis head-on, creating opportunities for millions of Americans while staying true to the conservative ideals that this country was built on nearly 250 years ago.

Originally printed in American Thinker. See https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2025/01/conservative_policies_the_answer_to_the_housing_crisis.html



**LOCAL
FULL
SERVICE
PLUMBING
&
HEATING**

719-458-8305 **WESTCLIFFE, CO**

www.whitebrosplumbing.com **PC# 1016
MP# 189358**

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





Ronnie Miller
Custom Homes
General Construction
Framing, Siding
Metal Roofing & Decks

719-239-0300
eagleedgeconstruction@yodermail.net



Steven Hardin
Owner

719-371-1221
boneyardelectric@gmail.com
License No. ME3001843

Industrial • Residential
Commercial

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

**Kauffman's
Construction**

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



**725 Riggs Road N
Westcliffe, CO**

Offered at \$195,000



SOLD

Bull Domingo Ranch
35.2 +/- Acres
Nicely treed with Mountain Views
Cul-de-sac Property

Offered by: **Bob Senderhauf**



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



**105 Bull Domingo Lane
Westcliffe, CO**

Offered at \$199,900



UNDER CONTRACT

Price Reduction!

1 Bed / 3/4 Bath
692 Sq Ft, +/- 1.34 Acres
1,100 gallon freshwater cistern

Co-Listed by:
Bob Senderhauf, Owner/Broker
& Michael L. Butts,
Frontier West Realty *
***One of the homeowners is a**
licensed Colorado real estate agent



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





HOLT FAMILY

FUNERAL HOME

serving the community for five generations

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



BROOKE PETERSON
5th generation to serve Fremont County

719.275.4113





CK

GET THE TO-DO'S
TO-DONE

CK SERIES

20, 35 AND 40 HP ENGINES

3 TRANSMISSION CHOICES

ADPS OR CUB MODELS

EASY TO HIRE

WE DID YOUR DREAM



WE DIG DIRT

True Value

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

TRAIL FESTIVAL
from page 1

The course record set in 2020 still holds at 22 hours 28 minutes. Locals Lindsey Averill and Chloe Carlin volunteered to help with the event because they thought it would be fun. They passed out finisher medals alongside John Cohen of Pueblo. Cohen is a past participant who returned this year to give back.

Tim Ashford of Colorado Springs decided that 100 miles wasn't enough. He ran 200 miles, starting Wednesday, camping at Alvarado along the way, and finishing his second century run with a smile and a leap across the finish line 98 hours after his first step.

For many families, the festival is more than a race, it is a chance to enjoy time outdoors together, connect with the community, and appreciate the unmatched beauty of the Sangres. Thirteen-year-old Flora Caputo-Willkowski came from Laramie, Wyoming, with her family to compete in the 8K. Trail running seems to be the perfect blend of Flora's love of the outdoors and running. Flora's mom, Michele, said what they love about the Human Potential Race Series is that you can be as competitive as you want or not and that it also allows Flora to compete at her young age. Adding, "We love the culture of trail running because everyone is nice." Flora finished first in the 8K race. She loped across the finish line at 1 hour and 39 minutes. Volunteer Cohen exclaimed, "very awesome time, especially for a young runner. We normally expect runners to finish this distance in about 2 hours"



Flora, who left her dad Ben in the dust, has a bright future in trail running.

The Sangre De Cristo Trail Festival will return the last weekend of September 2026. Whether as a runner, volunteer, or cheering spectator, mark your calendars now. And if you want to fit in with the trail crowd, make your reservation at Melanzana in Leadville to buy your own micro-grid hoodie and you'll be sure to hear, "I like your Melly!"

This annual festival is more than a test of endurance. It's a celebration of nature, community, and the mountain lifestyle we hold dear here in the Wet Mountain Valley.



Left: Flora Capato-Willkowski runs to 8K victory. Above: Race Director John LaCroix and John Cohen congratulate Izzy Davis on her 100 mile victory. Below: Runners focused on the Pre Race Safety Brief.

Photos by Reggie Foster

