

MASKSFrom page **A13**

between the county and Cornerstone. In its complaint, Eagle County contends that the school should be ordered to comply with the mask mandate to stop the spread of disease at Cornerstone's school and child care center and in the midvalley community as a whole.

"The balance of equities favors an injunction because Plaintiffs' protection of the public health from the risks associated with COVID-19, including hospitalization and death, outweigh any potential impact caused by complying with the Public Health Orders, including requiring face coverings in school settings in order to prevent further spread of this potentially deadly virus," the county wrote in its complaint.

But the attorney for Cornerstone wrote in response that the county hasn't made a specific case that warrants interfering with constitutional rights.

"(I)n its Motions and the Orders, Plaintiffs do not reference any public health emergency specific to Eagle County which would necessitate the urgency to restrain Cornerstone Christian and the fundamental constitutional rights of its families today," wrote Beth Chambers of the Corporon law firm of Aurora.

Chambers contended that Cornerstone Christian would suffer irreparable harm if the mask mandate were required.

"The policy of Cornerstone Christian is compelled by its religious belief that it is the sole right and responsibility of parents to determine what is best for their children's emotional, spiritual and physical well-being," the response said.

It continued, "To require Cornerstone Christian, as a church, to dictate decisions to parents concerning their child's mask-wearing would directly burden the freedoms afforded to Cornerstone Christian families to exercise their religious beliefs about parental authority and responsibility. Before God, Cornerstone Christian cannot submit to government demands to violate their religious convictions in this way. Moreover, such a demand would violate the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

In addition, Chambers' response said the county failed to show how it would be irreparably harmed by Cornerstone's position on parental discretion, and that the county health order was an unconstitutional delegation of power.

However the court battle plays out, it has already taken a toll on the small school. In earlier meetings with county officials, Tarr said there were roughly 100 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Tuesday he told the commissioners "we've lost about 50% of our school."

Tarr insisted he would continue to defend freedoms and liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution out of principle.

The county commissioners, acting as the health board, said in a previous meeting they wouldn't pursue criminal charges against Cornerstone officials. However, Tarr said defying a possible civil order mandating masks could have consequences such as fines and jail time.

"You can fine me into oblivion if you want to," Tarr said. "I could lose my house. I could lose my checking account. I could lose my position at the church. I could lose this school, but one thing I won't stand by and lose is the liberties and freedoms granted to me by the Constitution of the United States."

*In Memory...***George Pope**

October 17, 1936 - October 18, 2021



George Everett Pope, of Eagle Colorado, was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He passed away surrounded by his family at age 85 from health complications following a stroke.

George (Pope) was born in Okemah, Oklahoma. Pope spent his childhood in Oklahoma, California, and Missouri. While serving in the Army he met his first wife, Bonnie Kent. They married and had 4 children, raising their family in California, Missouri, and Colorado.

He and his wife of 26 years, Sandy Alfred, enjoyed exploring Colorado, traveling to sunny destinations, hosting friends and family, and gardening. Pope was also an avid fly fisherman and loved frequenting his favorite trout holes.

Pope loved living in Colorado and especially loved life in the Eagle Valley. He spent his career in sales and working and owning small businesses. His final business venture was The Tile Warehouse in Edwards, Colorado.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife Sandy; son Scott (Allison); three daughters Lisa, Stacy (Joe), and Laura (Jon); as well as his 9 grandchildren and many friends.

Pope was loved by many. His joy, quick laugh, and witty comebacks will be missed.



Sign up for our Obituary Newsletter
New obituaries e-mailed to you.



vaildaily.com/news/obituaries

Roger Tilkemeier

November 25, 1928 - November 20, 2021



Roger Tilkemeier, 92, passed away at his home in Eagle Ranch on November 20, 2021, just shy of his 93rd birthday.

Roger was born in Freeport, Illinois on November 25, 1928. He first came to Colorado as a 13-year old YMCA camper and thus began a life-long love of the Mountain West. Roger attended the University of Colorado where he met his wife, Jeanne. It was love at first sight for Roger! Roger and Jeanne were married for 62 years. Jeanne preceded him in death in 2014.

After graduating from CU in 1951, Roger served as an officer in the US Navy. In 1964, Roger and Jeanne became pioneers of East Vail when they built the first house there. When they purchased their property there were no utilities and no bridge across Gore Creek. In the winter they used a snow bridge. Roger and Jeanne loved skiing and it was a family affair. Their three children, Susan, Erik and Jon, all learned to ski in the early days of Vail and feel privileged to have done so.

In the 1960s, Roger served as Marketing Director and President of the Rocky Mountain Division of the US Ski Association and in 1971, he served a term as the director for the national organization. In the late 70's Roger worked as a Special Projects Manager for Vail Associates. He negotiated the sale of Meadow Mountain to the US Forest Service which provided the seed money for the Beaver Creek ski area. During that same time, Roger served on the Vail Planning Commission and the Eagle Valley School Board. He was also a founder of the Eagle Valley Land Trust.

Roger and Jeanne shared a love of horses. Roger owned and operated the Spraddle Creek Livery Stables and the Vail Sleigh Rides. In the later part of his career, Roger established the Quarter Circle Box T ranch real estate company. Through his work, he developed a deep knowledge and love of ranching and the rugged life of the cowboy. Roger was passionate about soil, water and land stewardship.

In his late 80's Roger spearheaded the creation of a sculpture to honor Pete Seibert's founding vision for Vail and the ranchers of the Vail Valley who owned the land that became the ski area. The sculpture is located in Vail Village at the base of Gondola One.

In the last week of his life, Roger was able to visit with close friends and family and celebrate an early birthday.

He has ridden off into the sunset to be with Jeanne. A life well lived!

A celebration of life is planned for Spring 2022. Donations may be made in Roger's name to the Eagle Valley Land Trust. <https://evlt.org/support/support-options/>

Robert Hammer

October 5, 1948 - December 4, 2021

Robert "Bob" Hammer, 73, of Kenai, passed away December 4, 2021, at Central Peninsula Hospital with his loving wife by his side.

Bob was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado to Roy and Vivian Hammer. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam war and was proud of his service. He moved to the Eagle/Vail Valley in 1975 where he raised his daughters and managed Diamond Lumber in Minturn and later the Edwards Building Center in Edwards. He was partners in a drywall business before leaving the Eagle Valley area. Bob and Kathy moved to Alaska in 1996, after falling in love with the state during a summer trip in 1992.

During his career as a general contractor in Alaska, Bob served as president of the Kenai Peninsula Builders Assn and the Alaska State Homebuilding Assn. He was one of the founders of the Kenai Peninsula

Construction Academy and was actively involved at his death. He was passionate about passing along his construction knowledge and helping the younger generations learn the trades.

Bob was an avid hunter and loved spending time with his family, especially teaching his grandchildren about the construction trades. He was proud of each of his daughters and grandchildren and loved them beyond words. He was the backbone of his family and young at heart, you'd never have guessed he was 73. Bob was outspoken and you always knew where he stood. He has been described by his friends as one tough SOB who could always be counted on.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents Roy and Vivian Hammer. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Kathy Hammer, his daughters Amie (Jeff) Meek and Danielle



(Rick) Ettles, his grandsons Lane Smith (Rebecca Miller) and Jayce Meek and granddaughter Bryce Ettles.

At his request there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, an account has been setup for donations to fund a scholarship for those pursuing a career in construction building trades. The account is at Wells Fargo under Bridges/Hammer Building Trade Memorial account number 9915255823.

Gone but never forgotten.

**Obituary, In Memoriam
& Death Notice placement
available anytime**

obits.cmmn.org

