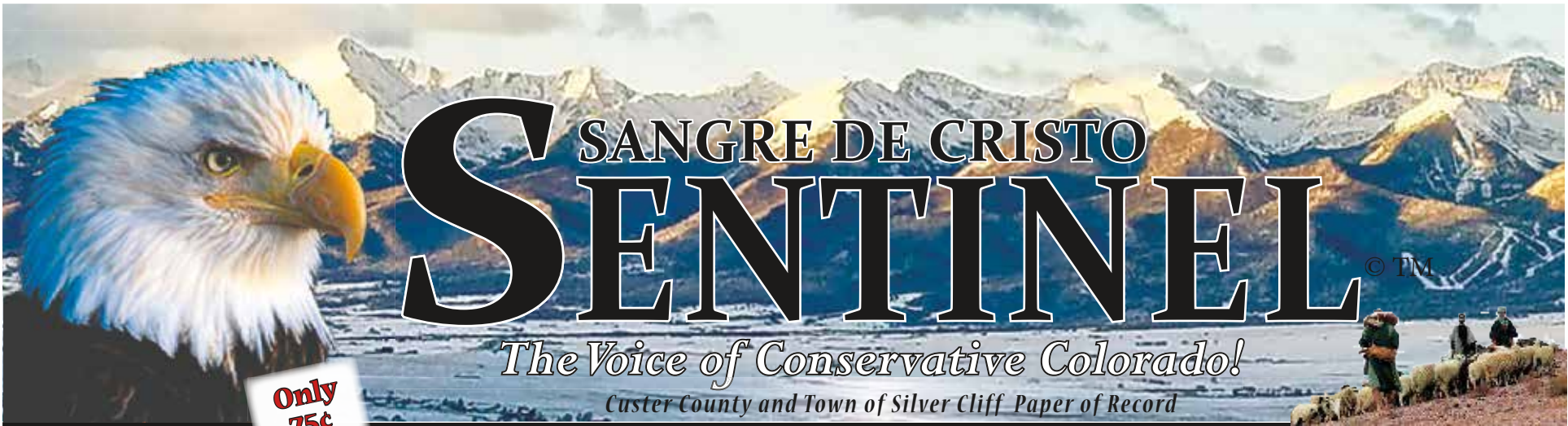




The Christmas I Remember Best

by Charlie Flood,
ChristmasStories.Org

Stealing a Christmas tree is something that isn't done every day. And it really wasn't stealing—not like the Grinch who tried to steal Christmas. The motivation and timing were different.

I was a feisty 9 year old when Dad took sick and left mom and me sudden-like. That same year, the Great Depression hit the country, but it made no difference to us. We had nothing to begin with. Since mom was an invalid, our existence depended on kind-hearted neighbors and my marvelous talent for survival.

I sold newspapers on street corners and occasionally moon-lighted at night by picking up a bottle of milk from some front porch, a pie from a pantry window, or fruit from neighborhood trees. I thought I had my mother believing they were neighborly gifts, but



I knew I didn't fool Him, if you know what I mean.

During the first Christmas season without dad, I got caught up in the yuletide spirit. Like any other

young boy, I reveled in the holiday sights and sounds. My anticipation was high, but deep down in my heart was a gnawing resignation that the man in the red suit would skip right over our little two room

shack. He stopped only at houses that had fireplaces. That's what I told myself. I knew I was being punished and fervently promised that I would leave other people's milk and pies alone.

Meanwhile, there would be no bounteous goodies under the tree. In fact, there would be no tree. That didn't seem right. At least, a tree would ease the hurt. I resolved to remedy this decoration omission. On Christmas Day I hurried to Petersen's Market. A fresh layer of new snow lay on the street unmarked by passing vehicles, not a soul was stirring.

I figured that since the store was closed and the unsold trees were usually thrown away, I was embarking upon fair game. As I prowled among the snow-dusted trees beside the store, old man Petersen popped out of nowhere

CHRISTMAS
see page 24

Christmas and the Importance of Faith In God

Faith is the complete trust or confidence in someone or something. It is the belief in God, His power and His mercy. It is the ability to believe when no one else believes. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things yet seen or realized. It is neither oppressive nor coercive, for it is an unshakable belief.
Thus, through life we walk by faith, not by sight.

by Gene Ferraro,
Sentinel Contributor

Ned was born in Boston on October 7, 1931. The son of a marine architect and navy officer, he was raised to respect his parents, treat others with kindness, and love God. He was handsome, athletic and smart. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1954 and arrived in Vietnam in September 1967 aboard the nuclear-powered carrier, the USS ENTERPRISE.

The ENTERPRISE had arrived on Yankee Station on December 2, 1965, and at the time, the largest warship ever built. She brought with her not only an imposing physical presence, but also a lethal complement of warplanes and advanced technology. By the end of her first week in hostile waters, the ENTERPRISE had set a record of 165 combat sorties in a single day. By the end of her first combat cruise, her planes and aircrews had flown over 13,000 combat missions. But the record had not been achieved without cost.

On March 17, 1968, Ned and his Bombardier/Navigator, Dale Doss, launched in their A6-A Intruder on a night, low-level strike into the heart of North Vietnam. After



Undated U.S. Navy photograph of Ned beside his A6 Intruder. Note the 500 pound M-82 bombs configured for low altitude/close-support bombing under the plane's belly and left wing.
Photo credit: U.S. Navy

their departure they emitted their first radio transmission indicating that they were "feet dry" and over land, proceeding stealthily to their target, a rail yard just north of Hanoi. It would prove to be their final communication.

The next day, Radio Hanoi announced the capture of Ned and his bombardier. Following what had begun as his 18th combat mission, suddenly he had become a prisoner of war.

Both Ned and Dale were transported to a filthy camp near the center of Hanoi, called by its prisoners,

FAITH
see page 4

A String of Blue Beads

by Fulton Oursler,
ChristmasStories.Org

Peter Richards was the loneliest man in town on the day Jean Grace opened his door. You may have seen something in the newspapers about the incident at the time it happened, although neither his name nor hers was publicized, nor was the full story told as I tell it here.

Pete's shop had come down to him from his grandfather. The little Christmas front window was strewn with a disarray of old-fashioned things; bracelets and lockets worn in days before the Civil War; gold rings and silver boxes; images of jade and ivory, porcelain figurines.

On this winter's afternoon a child was standing there, her forehead against the glass, earnest and enormous eyes studying each discarded treasure, as if she were looking for something quite special. Finally, she straightened up with a satisfied air and entered the store.

The shadowy interior of Pete Richards' establishment was even more cluttered than his show window. Shelves were stacked with jewel caskets, dueling pistols, clocks, lamps, and the floor was heaped with andirons and mandolins and things hard to find a name for. Behind the counter stood Pete himself, a man not more than 30 but with hair already turning gray. There was a bleak air about him as he looked at the small customer who flattened her ungloved hands on the counter.

"Mister," she began, "would you please let me look at that string of blue beads in the window?" Pete parted the draperies and lifted out a necklace.

The turquoise stones gleamed brightly against the pallor of his palm, as he spread the ornament before her. "They're just perfect," said the child, to herself. "Will you wrap them up pretty for me, please?" Pete studied her with a stony air. "Are you buying these for someone?" "They're for my big sister. She takes care of me. You see, this will be the first Christmas since Mother died. I've been searching for the most wonderful Christmas present for my sister." "How much money do you have?" asked Pete warily. She had been busily untying the knots in a handkerchief and now she poured out a handful of pennies on the counter. "I emptied my bank," she explained simply. Pete Richards looked at her thoughtfully. Then he carefully drew back the necklace.

The price tag was visible to him but not to her. How could he tell her? The trusting look of her blue eyes smote him like the pain of an old wound. "Just a minute," he said and turned toward the back of tile store. Over his shoulder he called: "What's your name?" He was very busy about something. "Jean Grace." When Pete returned to where Jean Grace waited, a package lay in his hand, wrapped in scarlet paper and tied with a bow of green ribbon. "There you are,"

BLUE BEADS
see page 24

The Lord is Come:

Photo Feature
pages 12-13

Another Trib Ripoff
page 3

BOCC
page 5

Get Involved
page 4

SWAT Incident
page 9

Criminals Let Loose
page 16

Post Republican Colorado
page 17

Nine Meals
page 18

Grizzly Attack
page 20

PATRIOT ALERT!
The Final Inspection
page 22



Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

James 1:17 NKJV

The image is a vertical advertisement for Seifert Enterprises, LLC. At the top is a diamond-shaped logo with a maroon background. Inside the diamond is a large white 'S' and a black-and-white illustration of a mountain range with a winding road. Below the illustration, the text 'SEIFERT ENTERPRISES, LLC' is written in white. Underneath the logo, the text 'Building the backbone of Colorado communities since 1975' is written in a script font. The word 'Providing:' is centered in a large serif font. Below it is a list of services: 'Excavation', 'Septic Systems', 'Culverts, Cattle Guards', 'Driveway Repair & Maintenance', 'Rock', 'Road Base', and 'Top Soil'. The company name 'Seifert Enterprises' is written in a large, bold, italicized serif font. At the bottom, the address '198 Range View Loop, Westcliffe, CO 81252' is listed, followed by the phone number 'Phone 719.783.2757', the fax number 'Fax 719.783.2988', and the email address 'Email info@SBCompanies.com'. A small Facebook logo with the text 'LIKE US ON facebook' is at the very bottom.

Local Mountain News & Notices

REDACTED -See hard copy





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“We the People” Speak

Letters to the Editor



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

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

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It's Time to Get Involved!

SDCEA members;

It has been nearly a year since the Sangre de Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA) rolled out proposed rate changes with little advance warning to or involvement with their cooperative members. While the rate structure design process was a misstep on the part of the staff and board of SDCEA, members like me bear some responsibility for our historic lack of involvement with our own electric company. Let's change that!

The Ark Valley Coalition for a Sustainable Energy Future (AVEF) formed to advocate for a responsible, clean-energy future for the SDCEA members and valley community. Together with other supportive coop members, the board of AVEF has been communicating with and tracking activity at SDCEA.

Even though the proposed rate structure from one year ago was rescinded, a new one is on its way. So, it's time to amplify our voices.

As a follow-up to a survey that AVEF conducted during the month of November, we are inviting you to come hear about the survey results, discuss challenges that were revealed, and consider solutions and take action.

These community engagement sessions will be held in three locations on three different days in January. We welcome you at one or more of the sessions, which will be professionally facilitated by Kim Smoyer of Smoyer and Associates:

January 7: Howard Hall, 10-noon

January 10: Poncha Springs Town Hall, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January 12: Buena Vista Community Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Come join us to discuss our energy future by registering online through the AVEF website www.arkansasvalleyenergyfuture.org or directly at <https://forms.gle/xKvQKseWcBeHk1hx7>.

Your registration helps us plan for adequate materials and food (yes, food!) for these community meetings. We look forward to collaborating with you!

Deb Hannigan for AVEF

Warming Shelter in Fremont County

Loaves and Fishes 241 Justice Center Road Canon City, CO, will take people in for cold weather shelter through Sunday evening.

The shelter will also remain open all day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The shelter currently has 38 beds and if more are needed, they will allow people to sleep on mats on the floor. The shelter can provide sleeping mats to other shelters if they are opened. The shelter is expanding capacity in an emergency capacity utilizing sleeping mats and are waiting to hear from DHS on possible temporary shelters with churches.

If no other choices are available, considerations will be made for overnight accommodations in a hotel room for elderly and families with small children

FAITH from page 1

the *Hanoi Hilton*. There, Ned (like Dale and hundreds of others), was beaten, tortured and held in solitary confinement. After 17 months he and Dale were reunited, and soon joined some of their fellow prisoners. For what seemed a lifetime, they sat, waited, and gave emotional support to one another. Then a miracle occurred.

Shortly before Christmas in 1970, Ned and 42 other American prisoners of war decided to break prison rules and hold a brief service in celebration of the birth of their savior. But their barbaric and inhumane guards

stopped them. In their presence, Ned stepped forward and asked his emaciated fellow servicemen, "Are we really committed to having church Sunday? I want to know person by person." Fellow prisoner, Leo K. Thorsness, later recounted in a memoir, "When the 42nd man said yes, it was unanimous. At that instant, Ned knew he would end up in the torture cells." The following Sunday, Ned stepped forward to lead a prayer session and was quickly hustled away by angry guards. The next four ranking officers did the same, one by one, they too, were taken away to be beaten. And then, Thorsness remembered, the sixth-ranking senior officer began, "Gentlemen, the Lord's Prayer—*Our Father*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...And

this time, we finished it." Realizing they were facing men who believed in a God they could only imagine, the humbled guards relented, and no one was punished.

Lt. Commander Edwin A. Shuman III, known to his fellow comrades as Ned, remained incarcerated at the Hanoi Hilton for more than two additional years. But it was Ned, the downed navy pilot, a man of impeccable courage and unshakable faith, who had won the prisoners' privilege to collective prayer.

Gene Ferraro is a former USMC Captain and Naval Aviator with over 2500 hours in military combat aircraft and now lives in Westcliffe, Colorado.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC: Bigger Incintive for “Attainable” Housing Builders, OEM Honcho Leaving, More on Prisoner Housing Costs

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The December 15, 2022 Custer County Board of County Commissioners meeting started around 9 a.m. in the mighty musketeers adorned throne room. All three muskies were present: Chair Kevin Day and members Bill Canda and “Traitor Tom” (“TT”) Flower.

Under Commissioner Items, Flower the “Talk Machine”, just talked, and talked about all the wonderful meetings he went to including the Underfunded Court meeting. On and on and on. *(TT looked a little tired or agitated. Was a bit more “croaky” than normal. We will see that manifest itself later on.)* Canda said he talked to Fremont County about them housing our prisoners (as our jail is closing) and they will do it for \$120 a day per prisoner. They won’t cover any hospital costs or supply deputies to guard any prisoners who are in the hospital. *(The citizens voting down the Taj Mahal jail/courthouse complex was a blessing. It would have cost us around \$32 MILLION to pay for it in the end. The average daily number of Custer County inmates in the jail is around 3.5. Putting up a huge jail with all the mandates was just stupid. With the state imposing more and more criminal friendly mandates, regional jails are the only answer. Believe me, the transportation issues pail to \$32 Million and all the upkeep cost that monstrosity would have required.)*

Day noted that the lawsuit filed by the Editor of the *Wet Mountain Tribulation*, Jordan “Red Bug” Hedberg was settled the day before in an all day mediation session in Colorado Springs. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drawn up. (See page 3 for the article on that county ripoff.)

Under New Business there was a bunch of year end resolutions the musketeers had to pass. We won’t bore you with most of them. They ratified the Sheriff’s Office contract with the Town of Westcliffe for \$56,500 and the Town of Silver Cliff for \$23,870. The Alpine Lodge Liquor License was renewed.

Next up was the Attainable Housing project. Representing the Attainable Housing entity was Charles Bogle *(who also is the head of the grant sucking Custer County Economic Development organization). (Last year the muskies designated 19 properties in the Town of Silver Cliff for “attainable housing”. Bogle and his grant dependent homies are in charge of getting a contractor/developer to buy those properties and build cheap housing on them.)* Bogle says the county paid \$3,000 each for them via, of course, grant money and now these lots are worth a total of around \$500k. Bogle asks the muskies that instead of selling the lots to the developer cheap why not just give the lots to him which would help in getting a developer to take on the project. This sets the muskies off. Finally,

TT says he supports giving Bogle the power to give \$500k away to some developer and the other two brave musketeers agree. *(Folks, Bogle’s track record is a little shaky. Note the huge internet tower project he and his Boglelettes wanted to adorn the countryside with. After a ton of money was spent, NO towers. Now we give him authority over \$500k...?)*

The next item on the agenda was that the head of Happy Valley’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Adrian Washington (AW), announced a week ago that he was leaving for a great job in Utah. He had told his muskie contact, Canda, about it around a week ago and Canda notified the other muskies of it. Canda also had Braden Wilson, the head of Human Resources, post the vacancy on the state’s OEM website to start working on getting a replacement. *(AW said people are already applying for the job.)* AW was present and told the muskies the usual stuff and the muskies voted to accept his resignation.

This, for some reason, seriously sets off The Flower, again. He starts yelling at Canda that Canda should not have had Wilson post the vacancy, and OMG, Wilson should not have posted the vacancy in the *Sentinel* before the muskies, meaning Flower, approved these common sense moves. *(TT really was upset that Canda showed some leadership and initiative and poor Tommy was not consulted. During this*

discussion control freak TT was VISIBLY agitated. We’re talking temper tantrum. Way out of line concerning the minor nature of this stuff.) Canda responds it is important to act quickly to let people know about the vacancy as the job is important and we don’t want a long vacancy. *(Duh.)*

Flower then gets more crazy and is more upset that the vacancy was posted before AW came into the meeting today and affirmed his resignation before the mighty muskies. *(AW verbally resigned a week ago.)* TT said that posting the vacancy before AW came to the exalted ones and made his resignation announcement was “weird”. *(It’s called initiative.)* Day says it was outside of our normal operating procedures. *(It was the right thing to do.)* This goes on and on.

AW gives the muskies his updated job description for the slot. He says the regional OEM honcho reviewed it yesterday and she said it was gtg. This sets TT off big time. *(He is literally pouting and yelling at the same time.)* TT starts going over the job description *(which was essentially identical to the one the muses used to hire AW).* TT then starts to pick on some of the job requirements and the language in a real aggressive manner. He starts arguing over standard requirements and language which everybody had agreed to years ago. On and on and on and on. *(This really is some ego attention getting act as TT is definitely a bit more aggressive than*

normal.) Canda says Tom, you always do this, start picking at minutiae after everybody agrees on something. *(True.)* The human talking machine will not stop.

Finally, they switch to how much coin goes with the job. Wilson suggests \$50k to \$60k per year. The muskies like that. Day then moves to approve the job description and salary range and all three luminaries vote aye.

Braden is next with a plea for his administrative assistant’s job to Assistant Director of Finance as the person is doing a bunch of jobs that fall under that heading and she is doing a great job. He wants a salary of \$43,250 for that. The muskies give it the green light.

The musketeers then approve the county’s 2023 budget. There is then a big drama about today being the last time to send the county’s mil levies to the state for approval and the Wetmore Fire District has not sent the info to the Assessors Office. J.D. Henrich, our Assessor says he has been bugging them but nothing has shown up yet. He also said he couldn’t send the stuff to Denver until the county ok’s its own budget which it just did a few minutes ago. Everybody is yapping now. Finally Wilson and J.D. said somehow, they can do this in a few days. It is unclear how this really turned out. We will let you know.

Day adjourns the meeting and peace returns to the Valley.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

4-H'ers Serve at Commissioners Dinner



Three 4-H club members Angel, Alexis and Serenitey, volunteered to serve at the Commissioners dinner.

Photo by Katie Johnson



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KIDS

Friday, December 23, 2022

Christmas Traditions

What do we really know about Christmas? There are so many traditions that we take for granted. There was a time when these traditions were not yet traditions. Let's see what we can learn about them.



The Christmas tree - Christmas trees became popular in Victorian Britain. But these were first seen in 16th Century Germany where, at Christmas time, people decorated fir trees with fruit and nuts — and later sweets, paper shapes, and candles. Today we buy Christmas trees and decorate them with ornaments, lights, tinsel and we even sometimes string popcorn and cranberries for the tree. Of course, it was hard to keep up with the popcorn.

Why do we hang stockings by the chimney? According to tradition, once a poor German man didn't have enough money for his three daughters' dowries. Generous St. Nick dropped a bag of gold down their chimney one night after the girls had hung their freshly washed stockings there to dry. That's where the gold ended up, and the tradition stuck. This is one I never heard.

Washington Irving is best known for authoring the "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" featuring the headless horseman, but he is also the one who came up with the idea of eight reindeer pulling a sleigh full of toys.

The Day-Not all Christians celebrate Christmas on the same day! In countries with large populations of Orthodox Christians, such as Russia, Ukraine and Romania, Christmas Day falls on January 7th .

The Christmas wreath first originated as a symbol of Christ. The holly represents the crown of thorns Jesus wore at his crucifixion, and the red berries stand for the blood he shed. So, when you see a wreath this holiday, you'll remember the reason for the season.

Being a Christian, my favorite is the **Nativity Scene**. I know that He probably wasn't born on December 25th but what matters most to me is that we gather with friends and family to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Many places have live Nativity Scenes with real people and animals. I have fond memories of Christmas Eve in our barn church and the little boy that asked his grandma, "Grandma do you think this is the barn He was really born in?"

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and let's all remember
Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.elizabethhton.com/2022/12/08/some-interesting-facts-about-christmas/>,<https://www.chron.com/opinion/article/Things-you-might-not-know-about-Christmas-17623979.php>
Photo: Velka nativity. Public domain.

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22 NKJV

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Wreaths Across America



American Legion Post #170 hosted the Wreaths Across America ceremony with the kickoff ceremony at the Silver Cliff Park. Nearly 60 people were in attendance. Wreaths were then placed at the local cemeteries. Photo by George Gramlich

2023 Winter Adult Reading Program Offers Events, Learning, and Prizes

Press Release

The holidays will soon be behind us and it is time to start thinking about the West Custer County Library’s 2023 Winter Adult Reading Program. The reading program begins Wednesday, January 11th at 10 a.m. and ends on Friday, March 31st at 5:30 p.m. The program theme is “Mountains of Learning.” Grab and go reading packets, including bingo cards, can be picked up at the Library’s front desk or at events. Local archaeologist Gary Ziegler will be the featured guest speaker on January

11th at 10 a.m. at the All Aboard facility at 110 Rosita Ave., Westcliffe. He will present 40 million years of local history in an hour. Reading program prizes can be earned for up to three completed bingos and a blackout, participants who achieve a blackout will also be entered into a drawing. One first place winner will receive a \$75 gift card to a local business of their choice. The second place winner will receive a \$50 gift card. Completed bingo sheets must be submitted by Thursday, March 31st at 5:30 p.m.

Bobcat Strong Sponsors “Cook with the Chefs” Activity



Press Release

Just in time for Christmas break, students from elementary to high school had the opportunity to learn from the Bobcat kitchen staff and retired chef Brett Bowdish in a special Bobcat Strong activity. Custer County head cook Jeri Sumpter and her assistant Jane Koen, welcomed Chef Bowdish to the Bobcat kitchen on Wednesday, December 14th to work with students in preparing and baking holiday pumpkin muffins.

“We had a great turnout,” noted Sumpter. “And the cooperation was awesome between students, cooks and teachers.” Koen added, “It’s always an adventure when you get kids in the kitchen!” The activity was a spin off of the monthly cooking competitions that started last year and are gaining popularity with students. 17 students attended the two-hour event where students, under the watchful eye of Sumpter, Koen, and Bowdish, prepared and

baked the muffins. “I felt like it was a great start for this kind of event,” said Bowdish. “The kids were awesome and asked good questions and we look forward to more events during second semester.” Students ended the activity by eating a few muffins and taking home a recipe basket of ingredients and measuring utensils to prepare the muffins for their families during the holidays. The cooking activities are funded by the Bobcat Strong Substance Abuse Prevention Grant.

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Local Mountain News & Notices





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**American Legion and VFW
Monthly Meetings**

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



Classifieds

Announcements

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Custer County is looking for a Director of the Office of Emergency Management to lead and be responsible for the deliveries of the department. The ideal candidate will have experience in the emergency management field, have a strong work ethic, does well under tremendous pressure and

is a great communicator.
Deadline to apply is December 28.

Applications and full job description are available at: <https://www.custercounty-co.gov/employment> or Custer County Finance & Human Resources Department
205 S 6th Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Monday through Thursday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Please submit applications to the address above or email hr@custercounty-co.gov

Custer County School District Openings
Custer County School District is now hiring for the following positions:
Boys Basketball Assistant Coach - Middle School, Substitute Teacher/Staff, Instructional Paraprofessional – full-time, Instructional Paraprofessional – part-time, and Substitute Bus Driver. Any Certified Teacher/Substitute application without a CDE license is incomplete and will not be considered. Online applications only. Please visit us on the web

at: custercountyschools.org/employment for more information and to apply.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jesus!

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.

Recurring Events

Monday
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St. Luke's, 3rd & Rosita in Westcliffe. Jim at 783-2053.

2nd and 4th Monday
9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) .
at Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Lane in Silver Cliff. Call 913-710-6109
6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Children Welcome. Contact: colobamanana@yahoo.com

1st Tuesday of the Month
4:15 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting (year-round) at the Cliff Lanes meeting room.
6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM

Wednesday
9 a.m. Couples Bible Study (FBC folks)
Meet at the Custer County Senior Center
9:30 – 11 a.m. Line dancers meet at the United Methodist Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at (432) 553-7483.
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Sil4er Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at St. Luke's, 3rd & Rosita, in Westcliffe. Jim at 783-2053.
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

First Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters, First Baptist Church Community Room (log building next to the church) located at 417 S. 6th St. Contact Delores Jobe at 719-371-1451.

2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee meeting. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend at **Rancher's Roost, 25 Main St, Westcliffe**, 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. Loc. TBA
6 p.m. Liberty Rocks 5:30 order, 6 p.m. Presentation at Tony's Pizza, Silver Cliff.

Friday
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center in Silver Cliff.
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St Lukes, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853.

Saturday
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
1 p.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room, Post Commander Burt Daniels 719-783-3050

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Fremont County SWAT and CNU Assist with Local Shooting Situation

Case Number 22-0834, 22-0837
—December 19, 2022

On Saturday, December 17, 2022, Deputy Reeve responded to a disturbance near Lea Lane in Westcliffe, Colorado. When deputy Reeve arrived, he found a 61-year-old male assault victim who was bleeding. Aaron Jones age 30 of Westcliffe, was also on-scene and was determined to be the assailant. When Deputy Reeve attempted to arrest Jones, Jones resisted. Deputy Reeve called for emergency assistance and an off-duty deputy was able to respond to the scene and help take Jones into custody.

Two additional state troopers were requested from Pueblo to assist. Jones was booked into the Custer County Jail on the charges of 3rd Degree Assault and Resisting Arrest.

Jones was bonded out of jail with a condition of bond to not possess firearms or consume alcohol on Saturday night.

On Sunday, December 18, 2022, at about 9:13 a.m., Frecom Regional Communications Center received at least three 911 calls about shots being fired in the vicinity of 706 Butler Street in Silver Cliff, Colorado. Sergeant Salbato responded to the area in fully marked Custer Sheriff SUV. Upon arriving, Aaron Jones exited his camper and fired three shots in rapid succession. Sergeant Salbato immediately backed his vehicle out of the line of fire and requested emergency assistance. Three off-duty members of the sheriff’s office and one state trooper

responded to the area. Upon arrival, the deputies took up defensive positions and began a house-to-house evacuation. During this time one of the original 911 callers identified a bullet hole in her home, fired by Aaron Jones from his camper. The occupants of one home were directly in the line of fire but were not able to be evacuated safety due to a medical restriction. Deputies requested an ambulance to respond and stand by a few blocks away.

During this time; Frecom 911, Aaron Jones’ mother and Aaron Jones’s brother attempted to make telephone contact. Deputies on scene also used a loudspeaker to order Jones to leave the dwelling with his hands up.

The Custer County Sheriff’s Office requested a mutual aid response from the Fremont County SWAT team. Custer also requested a tall bullet proof vehicle that could be used as a shield to protect the home that was occupied by the medical patient should Aaron Jones begin firing again.

The FCSO SWAT team arrived along with the FCSO Crisis Negotiation Team (CNU). After numerous attempts by CNU failed, a chemical irritant was introduced into the camper. Jones was observed using his fists to punch out the glass windows in the camper, resulting in self injury. He then came out of the camper and was taken into custody. Jones was transported by ambulance to a medical facility for treatment. In conjunction with a search warrant all firearms and ammunition in the camper were seized.

Jones is being charged with the following charges: Felony Menacing, Illegal Discharge of a firearm, prohibited use of a weapon, criminal mischief, violation of multiple protection orders, disorderly conduct, obstructing government operations, reckless endangerment, and violation of bond conditions. Pending an investigation one other local person may be charged in conjunction with this incident.

This operation could not have been carried out successfully with a peaceful resolution without the assistance of our partners with the Fremont County SWAT team, Frecom 911 Regional Center, Custer EMS, Wet Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, and the Colorado State Patrol

###

The information contained in this release is based on information taken from initial police reports and initial reports from other agencies and should not be considered as complete. Any charges alleged in this press release are merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty. The dispatch center of the Custer County Sheriff’s Office is not authorized to release any additional information not contained in this release and may not comment on any information contained in this release. Calls for additional information should be directed to Deputy Nathan Koury or Undersheriff Lloyd Rich Smith at 719-783-2270



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For more information, call 719-395-2412; toll-free 1-844-395-3412 or email communications@myelectric.coop.



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www.frontrangemd.com/mobile-unit

Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources
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Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(719) 783-4357

National Suicide HOTLINE
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Veterans Press 1

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for Fremont and Custer Counties
1-719-275-2351

Veterans Services
VSO Officer Jared McClain
Mon-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fri 8 - 11 a.m.
615 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe, CO
719-783-9470

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 Mt. Rotary Van Service
Call M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (719) 783-2343

Come and Worship

Christian Science
9:30 a.m. Worship
800 North Main, Westcliffe

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
415 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff
719-783-4664

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
340 Highway 26, Westcliffe
Pres: 719-783-4195

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Tues. 8:30 a.m. Prayer Mtg.
Weds. 7 p.m. Bible Study
6377 County Rd. 224
Cortez 719-940-4326

Community United Methodist Church
9 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship
252 E. 6th Street, Westcliffe
719-783-2511

Covenant Community Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Weds. Bible Study
Pastor@ccwcc.org
3000 E. Hwy. 34, Cortez

Fall Schedule Changing?
Send Church updates to
cdc_senior1@gmail.com
(719) 783-3350

The Cowboy Church at Crownrock
9 a.m. Worship Service
4th Ave Park Place
and Illinois Street, Poncha
Pastor 719-784-0426

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
417 E. 6th Street, Westcliffe
719-783-2498

High Country Mountain Church
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
189 N. Adams St., Westcliffe
719-783-4603

Horizon Community Bible Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m. Thursday Bible Study
685 Loan Street, Manitou
(719) 231-8005

Hope Lutheran Church
2 p.m. Worship
3 p.m. Bible Study
3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe
Pastor Dan Kloffe 719-783-2525
Lodge Hall 719-783-2561

Living Stone Calvary Chapel
Sunday 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
850 Bridge St., Canon City CO
Pastor Ben Menger
719-275-0883

Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church
Divorce of Pardon
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. Sunday Mass (summer)
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass
169 E. 3rd Street, Westcliffe
719-783-3367

Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church
11 a.m. Mass
2nd & 3rd Sunday of month
218 E. 2nd St. Westcliffe
719-783-3461

Proter Community Church
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Worship 10:45 a.m.
215 N. Pine Park Ave., Florence
719-784-1184

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays
3rd & Florida Streets, Westcliffe
719-783-2477

St. Patrick's Anglican Church
11 a.m. Worship
405 S. 2nd St., Westcliffe
929-939-8175 or 719-783-2580

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Divorce of Pardon
Sunday Mass 4 p.m.
Highway 66, Gardner
719-734-1264

Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church
Pastor: John Shultz
3 p.m. Sunday School Bible Study
4 p.m. Worship
Last Sunday of January Potluck
6 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study
csangrechurch@cowboychurch.com
also on Facebook
6860 Hwy. 66 N. Westcliffe
719-232-9373

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
9 a.m. Mass at Court
9:30 a.m. Service
128 Jerry Court, Westcliffe
719-783-0803

Sangre de Cristo Sanctuary Chapel
10 a.m. Worship
6100 Camp Rd. 154, Westcliffe
719-571-4823

Valley Bible Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship
116 Elmer Lane, Silver Cliff
719-783-4636

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
Junction of Hwy 34 & 67, Wetmore
719-571-4298

Wetmore Community Church
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
608 County Rd. 591, Wetmore
719-784-0386

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1-2 NKJV

The SO stops the Grinch from stealing christmas.

photos by Ann Barthrop



Business Directory



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The Cliffes Auto Service

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CliffesAutoSvc@gmail.com

Banks & Financial Services

Kirkpatrick Bank

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

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email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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https://www.haydenoutdoors.com

Lori Kastendieck

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OFFICE: 719-783-9201
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email: pbailey@solarsolutions.com

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www.westcliffecoloradoselfstorage.com

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JOY to The World! The LORD is Come!

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Matthew 1:21-23

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will
be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



But Mary treasured up
all these things
and pondered them
in her heart.

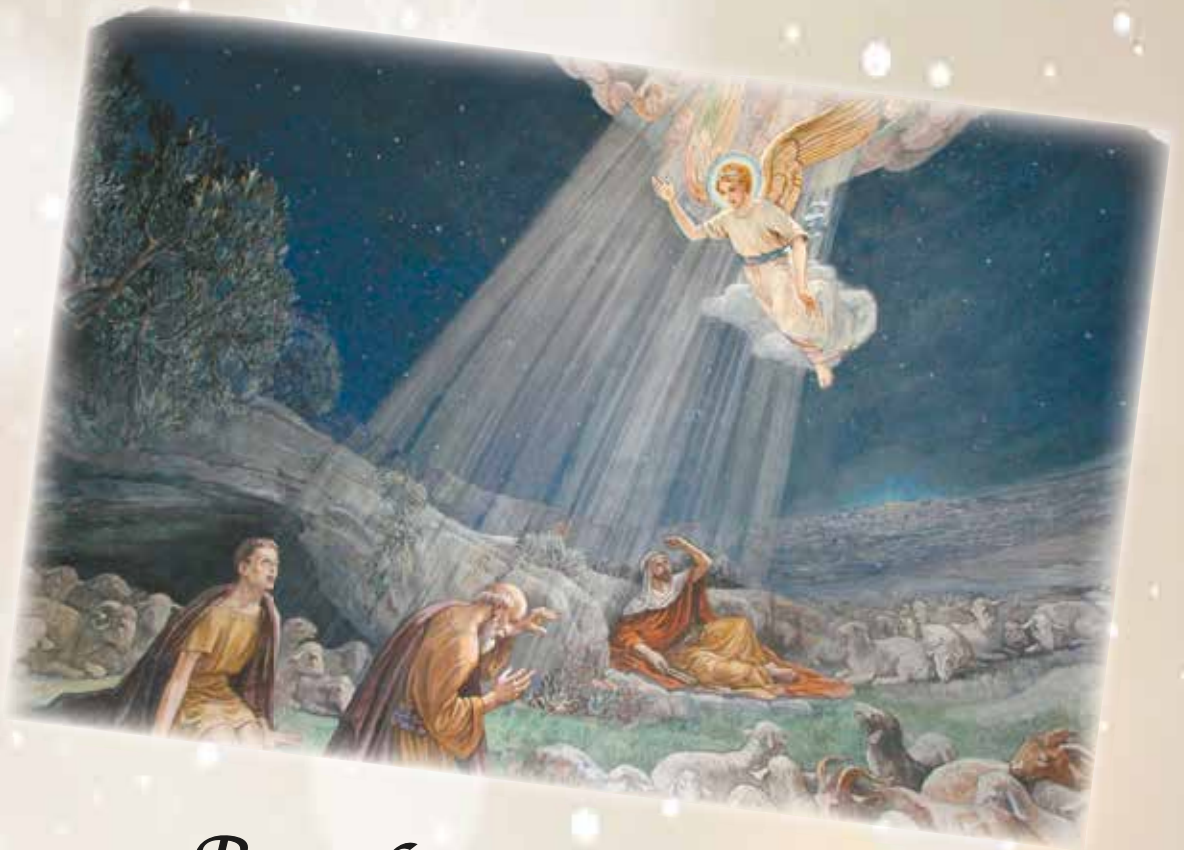
Luke 2:19



The LORD is Come!

child is born,
n is given,
ernment will
shoulders.
ill be called
Counselor,
, Everlasting
nce of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



But the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news that will cause
great joy for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
He is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you:
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths
and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the
heavenly host appeared with the
angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace
to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:10-14





Colorado State News



Colorado Parents Deserve Curriculum Transparency

by Pam Benigno,
Complete Colorado Page Two

The adoption of Colorado’s new social studies standards provides parents with a lesson in why increased curriculum transparency is needed.

After a year of impassioned debate about proposed new social studies standards, the Colorado State Board of Education has finalized what PK-12 public school students should learn in history, civics, geography, economics, and financial literacy. The social studies review committee was charged with incorporating directives from the legislature related to five new laws. The major controversy was triggered by one bill that targeted history and civics education.

For decades, as it should, Colorado law has required students to learn about the history, culture, and social contributions of African Americans, Latinos, and indigenous peoples. In 2019, House Bill 1192 added Asian Americans and religious minorities to the required studies, as well as individuals from the LGBTQ community. The bill also incorporated the requirement into history and civics academic standards. How the legislation would be implemented is what caused concern, not the groups that were included.

We can all agree that children should be well educated in history and civics. Both can be taught from various political perspectives, which helps inform and shape students’ world views. To ensure that students receive a balanced view of these important topics, schools and parents must work closely together as partners. And at the root of any true partnership is transparency. Policy makers at the school district and state levels should adopt policies that encourage curriculum transparency.

A political battleground

When the proposed, revised social studies standards were first released a year ago, they prompted thousands of

comments from individuals through the public scrutiny process. Obviously, the revisions stirred controversy. Comments from politically left-leaning individuals generally supported the revisions. Individuals on the right were concerned that the legislature was using academic standards as a vehicle to interject politics into the classroom.

Our public school system has been a battleground for social transformation for over a hundred years. It’s commonly known that most university professors lean left politically. Parents, however, may have been unaware that politically progressive thinking has also been infused into elementary and secondary education for decades. In recent years it has become more apparent.

Where Did Social Studies Go Wrong? is a compilation of essays published by the Fordham Foundation. Chester E. Finn Jr. wrote in the book’s forward that those who took over the field of social studies possessed no respect for Western civilization and saw America as a problem for humanity rather than mankind’s best hope. Diane Ravitch, a well-known education historian, wrote in her essay that the term social studies was unknown until 1913. She explains that a 1918 report published by the National Education Association suggested that the goal of social studies was good citizenship and that historical studies that did not contribute to social change had no value.

Usually called critical race theory among political conservatives, multiculturalism pedagogy, which emerged in the 1980s and 90s, is often based on the belief that there must be justice for marginalized groups by dismantling the dominance of white privilege in the United States.

Traditionally the United States is viewed as a cultural and ethnic melting pot where we embrace and appreciate the history and culture each brings to our country and are proud to come together as

Americans. The aforementioned education historian, Diane Ravitch, wrote in 1990 regarding multiculturalism’s role in schools, “Paradoxical though it may seem, the United States has a common culture that is multicultural.”

Pushing a divisive agenda

Colorado’s new social studies standards ask children to dissect the differences among identity groups instead of what unites us. It’s not fair to group people by their skin color or sexuality and generalize about each individual group member’s perspective on life.

Many who read the proposed standards were shocked to see how the United States was portrayed. Students could be led to the conclusion that our country was founded on the premise of oppressing marginalized groups rather than on the idea of individuals seeking freedom and opportunity.

Our unvarnished history should be taught, but it must include our accomplishments, not just our shortcomings. Otherwise, students are not learning the whole truth, which is harmful to all, including to some of our most vulnerable children who need to know that no matter their skin color, they have hope and opportunity.

Some individuals felt that the state was promoting “action civics,” another trend in social studies instruction, which asks students to participate in protests against social injustices instead of learning about history and civics.

The proposed first-grade standards included discussions related to sexual orientation and gender identity. Numerous individuals who submitted comments were concerned that young children don’t have the cognitive ability to engage meaningfully with these topics and that the timing for such conversations should be up to parents.

The standards review committee considered the record-setting

number of public comments and modified the new standards before presenting its final work to the State Board of Education last spring.

The committee tried to be more balanced in portraying America and offered a compromise by removing the mention of LGBTQ from below fourth grade. The compromise aligned with a state law that says comprehensive human sexuality courses cannot be taught below fourth grade.

Parents who felt the originally proposed standards were violating their parental rights were pleased with the change. LGBTQ organizations, however, disagreed with the modifications.

Parents ignored by board

In the final vote, Democrat members, who control the Colorado State Board of Education and will continue to do so following the 2022 elections, rejected the review committee’s compromise to delete LGBTQ from below fourth grade. They also ignored the argument from moms and dads that parents should control when sexual orientation and gender identity are introduced to their young children. Instead, they added the acronym LGBTQ into civics standards beginning in preschool.

State Board member Dr. Debora Scheffel offered an amendment to replace the standards with American Birthright: The Civics Alliance’s Model K-12 Social Studies Content Standards, from the National Association of Scholars. American Birthright is based on some of the highest-rated standards in the country. The amendment failed on a party-line vote.

Here is an example of one of Colorado’s new first-grade history standards: “Explain how the diverse perspectives and traditions of families from many cultures have shaped the United States.” The following measurement is one of three that first-grade students are expected to demonstrate: “Students can discuss common and unique characteristics of

different cultures, including African American, Latino, Asian American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ, and religious minorities, using multiple sources of information.”

The Colorado Department of Education makes it clear in the standards document that references to LGBTQ are to ensure that the history, culture, and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals are recognized in Colorado’s history and civics standards and that this requirement is not an obligation to teach comprehensive human sexuality education.

Yet, what children will learn about sexuality in social studies class will depend on the perspective of the teacher, school, and school district. Colorado law says parents can opt their children out of sex education classes, but no law gives parents the legal right to opt their children out of social studies classes.

The case for transparency

The standards have been adopted. Now, it is up to parents to do their due diligence to discover what their children are learning. And unfortunately, it is not as easy as it should be. Partnerships between teachers and parents are the key.

When my daughters, now in their 30s, attended school, there were no secrets about educational materials. As a parent, I knew which textbooks they would learn from and the names of the books they would read in literature classes.

Today, many educational resources purchased by districts are hidden behind password-protected portals or gathered from various internet sites. Parents don’t always have easy access to the materials.

Take Poudre School District’s mother of two students, Sherri Yockey. On four occasions, she

CURRICULUM
see page 15

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Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

**PROPANE GAS SERVICE
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Custer County is soliciting bids for LP Gas service to the following County Buildings: Courthouse, 205 S. 6th St, Westcliffe; Custer County Sheriff's Office, Jail and Search & Rescue Building, 702 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe; Custer County Resource Center Annex, 615 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe; Road and Bridge Shops, 213 N.4th St, Westcliffe; Landfill Buildings, 2250 County Road 328, Westcliffe; Custer County Airport, 360 County Road 310, Westcliffe; and the Wetmore Community Building/Library, 95 County Road 393, Wetmore, Colorado. The County owns some

of the existing LP tanks and leases some. The bid should include the annual lease costs for necessary tanks.

The requested bids should cover the period of **January 2023 to September 2023**. The County requests two bids, if possible, from each bidder. One bid should be a "flat rate per gallon bid" for the entire period. The other bid should be a "percentage or amount above cost per gallon bid" for the period. The "percentage bid" must include bidder's supplier contact information so the County may confirm the base cost price at any time. All bids MUST include proof that each bidder is current in their payment of County and municipal sales taxes for commercial propane sales for the most recent reporting

period. Each bid should also include contact information for the bidder's emergency service technician and their response time with ample fuel replacement located in Westcliffe.

Custer County is an equal opportunity employer. Custer County reserves the right to reject any or all bids. All bids must be in accordance with the Custer County Policy & Procedures Manual for Purchasing & Contracting.

Bids must be received by the Custer County BOCC Office by the close of business December 27, 2022. Bids should be addressed to: Custer County BOCC Office, Attn: Propane Bid and may be mailed to P.O. Box 150, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

or may be hand delivered to the BOCC Office at the Courthouse, 205 South Sixth Street, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252.

Bids will be considered and awarded at the BOCC meeting on Thursday, December 29, 2022 Please submit your sealed bid to: BOCC Administrative Assistant

205 S. 6 Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
boccadmin@custercounty-co.gov

Ordered published by
Kevin Day, BOCC Chairman
Custer County Commissioners
December 12, 2022

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**CURRICULUM
from page 14**

was told that she could not see educational materials used in her daughters' classrooms for various reasons. One time she simply asked to access the learning materials used to teach her daughter about Russia so that she could help her daughter study for a quiz.

Another time, a sexual assault course was going to be taught in one daughter's P.E. class. An outside nonprofit runs the program and has partnered with Poudre School District for 20 years. When Yockey asked to view the program materials, she was told by the program director that they have a policy **not** to share the curriculum with parents.

Sherri works in educational publishing, and it never crossed her mind that the curriculum wouldn't be shared with parents. After much time, effort, and fortitude to challenge the system, she was finally allowed to see the

instructional materials.

Parents want to be partners in education. And to foster the trust that underlies true partnership, transparency is critical. School districts have policies regulating how materials are chosen; some districts honor parental concerns about curricula more than others.

Local school district boards and charter schools should pass policies that clearly state a parent's right to access all educational materials, including those used by guest speakers and non-profit partnerships.

Independence Institute's publication, *Curriculum Transparency: A Must for Effective Parent-Teacher Partnerships*, empowers parents with the knowledge to better understand district policies and their rights as parents to view curricula. It also suggests simple changes to local school district policies and state law that could help to cultivate trust between parents and schools.

Local control matters

Local school districts may adopt the state's model standards or create their own if they meet the state's minimum requirements. However, there is no enforcement if school districts don't. School districts can even consider some or all of the standards within the American Birthright model standards.

Colorado's Constitution guarantees local school boards control over instruction and prohibits the state from prescribing textbooks; therefore, the state cannot adopt curricula because that would include instructional materials.

We can be proud that the authors of our state constitution had the foresight to empower local communities with curricula decisions. In fact, according to the Education Commission of the States, we are the only state with such a provision in our constitution. Some school boards believe the Colorado legislature has disregarded "local control" by pushing a political

agenda using academic content standards.

School districts and schools should be transparent with whatever they are teaching students. The new social studies standards should signal parents to request and expect access to all educational materials used in their children's classrooms.

(Editor/GG: These "standards" are a disgrace. Note the author says our school can do their own thing and ignore this depravity.)

Please see: [https://page two.completecolorado.com/2022/12/19/benigno-colorado-parents-deserve-curriculum-transparency/](https://page.two.completecolorado.com/2022/12/19/benigno-colorado-parents-deserve-curriculum-transparency/)

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Colorado State News

Are Criminals Getting Out of Jail Too Soon?

by Trevor Phipps,
The Maverick Observer

Across the nation, many cities have seen an increase in serious crimes. Most experts will tell you that the number of repeat offenders in big cities has also increased.

The criminal justice system has received criticism for new lenient policies that found people getting released from the prison system sooner. During the pandemic, prisoners were getting released at a much higher rate and some were not being jailed when they would have been.

Many experts have said that the number of repeat criminals is on the rise as court and prison systems are not keeping convicted criminals locked up as long as they used to. Some have even pointed out that the increase in crime is worse in cities that are run by Democratic mayors.

In Denver, the police chief and business owners have spoken out about the increase in dangerous crimes in the city. According to an article published in August by reporter Katie Spence of *The Maverick Observer*, Colorado has seen an increase in population and crimes over the last decade, but the number of criminals being prosecuted and incarcerated has dropped in the last several years.

Locally, prosecutors and law enforcement officials alike have spoken out about the problem. Colorado's 4th Judicial District

Attorney Michael Allen and Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell agree that the criminal justice system is softer on criminals than it used to be. And both of them are saying that high recidivism rates are causing big problems in local communities.

Springs Area District Attorney Cites Numerous Causes of the Changing Criminal Reform System

Allen, who serves as the district attorney for both El Paso and Teller Counties, said that he is seeing criminals getting more chances to re-offend. "Basically what we see is that people are being let out of custody a lot quicker than they had been before," Allen said. "So, if you get a career criminal, they will pick up several cases one right after the other. Which obviously has an impact on the community. It creates more victims and there is an economic impact as well. It also clogs up court dockets so you will have more cases than you should because the person has racked up so many cases that are all pending at the same time."

When asked what has caused this recent change in the criminal reform system, Allen said that it has been a "slippage across the whole system." Allen said that both judges and the state's department of corrections have contributed to the issue.

"It is just a system-wide, concerted effort to reduce how much time people are spending in custody,"

Allen explained. "Which can be good if it's the right kind of person. But if it's somebody that has a career criminal history, then maybe it's not the best thing to give them low bonds or push them out of custody sooner than they otherwise could have. Because that means that they have criminalistic thinking and they are going to re-victimize other people in the city and have a bigger impact than they should have."

The criminal justice issues seem to have gotten worse in the last few years, but Allen says that it was a combination of things that brought the state to where it is today with its criminal reform system. "It's almost like the old saying that goes, 'If you put a frog in a pot of water and turn up the heat, they don't realize it until the water is boiling,'" Allen stated. "The slippage toward the reality we are facing now has been happening gradually over time."

Local Sheriff says Repeating Criminals Make it Hard Keep Communities Safe

Teller County Sheriff Mikesell recently produced a podcast that talks about the struggles law enforcement have seen when it comes to keeping residents safe. The sheriff said that one of the biggest issues he is seeing is unusually high recidivism rates. He said that issues with repeat offenders are not being documented and are being "mopped under the rug," and not being discussed.

"What has happened in recent years is that the state has gone to a new model, that model is that we are going to rehabilitate everyone," Mikesell said. "They have closed a lot of prisons and the probation officers and parole officers do not violate people like they used to."

The sheriff gave several examples of issues surrounding repeat criminals. "I have a family that is in fear of their life in the county," Mikesell said. "A person had threatened them with a firearm and threatened to beat them up. They got a restraining order for him. He then shoots at the police and gets convicted. He goes to Denver and he ends up in a halfway house. This person had multiple offenses prior to this also. He goes to the halfway house and then they send the victim a letter saying, 'Sorry, this person has absconded from us and we don't know where he is at.' So, now they are in fear for their lives because they think this person is coming back after them. And what bothers me the most is all I can get from the state is, 'Well, we are looking for him.'"

What are Possible Solutions to the Problem?

Allen said that one of the major issues is that voters are not paying attention to the criminal justice bills getting signed into law at the state level. He explained that new laws that lower criminal penalties have been happening all across the board.

"I really encourage people to especially pay attention to the criminal justice bills that are going through the state legislature," the district attorney said. "What we are seeing in the last several years is an effort by those that have power and controlling interests in the state legislature and governor's office to not necessarily listen to public safety professionals like district attorneys, sheriffs, and chiefs of police. Instead of listening to those people who are actually tasked with upholding public safety, they listen more to public defenders, the ACLU, and different advocacy groups that are looking for ways to reform the criminal justice system."

Mikesell said that people need to exercise their Second Amendment rights because it is getting tougher and tougher for law enforcement agencies to do their jobs. "We respond very quickly to any crime that is occurring," the sheriff said. "But here is what I need to tell you as a community, you need to arm yourselves. You need to understand that law enforcement is not going to get to your door when it happens. We just can't. There are not enough of us anymore to do those things. The community has to help themselves and make themselves safe. I think that is the key."

Please see: <https://themaverick-observer.com/criminal-justice-system-are-criminals-getting-let-out-of-jail/>

Report: Colorado Needs to Focus on Essentials Due to Inflation, Possible Recession

by Joe Mueller,
The Center Square

Colorado needs to prioritize essential issues and return to principles of free enterprise, according to the 2023 edition of the "Colorado Free Enterprise Report," by the Common Sense Institute.

"Colorado policymakers will face tough decisions with high inflation and a potential recession on the horizon," the report said. "To ensure a stable and competitive economic position, a reprioritization of essential issues and a return to the principles of free enterprise in addressing those issues will keep the state on the right path through economic uncertainty."

The 52-page report reviewed eight policy areas: jobs/economy, education, energy/environment, health care, housing/community, infrastructure, state budget and taxes/fees. The Common Sense Institute (CSI), a free-enterprise

research organization focused on the state's economy, rated policy areas on a five-point scale. Jobs/economy and state budget were rated highest (4s) while housing/community received the lowest (1).

"To be clear, these findings are not presented as the final word, nor the only valid perspective on Colorado's free enterprise system," the report said. "CSI acknowledges that different observers, when presented with the same information, can reasonably disagree about the meaning and significance of that information. What is important is to start a conversation."

Despite the high rating, the report forecasts a negative outlook for the state's jobs and economy due to workforce issues, inflation and "the strong possibility of a recession." The report also warned of the impacts of new state regulations and workforce programs like Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance. Minimum wages in Denver

and Colorado will increase on January 1, 2023, increasing labor costs for some businesses.

The report gave a neutral rating to the state budget as the governor's fiscal year 2024 proposal appropriates \$40.5 billion, a 3.15% increase over the previous fiscal year. It includes a record-high general fund reserve of 15% or \$2.2 billion.

The outlook for the state's taxes/fees is neutral, according to the report. Net taxes and fees are rising in Colorado, even though voters approved income tax cuts in 2020 and 2022. Earlier this year, voters reduced the state income tax rate from 4.55% to 4.4%.

In 2023, Colorado employers and employees will begin paying a .9% payroll tax to fund the state's new paid family and medical leave program. Voters also approved tax increases on those earning more than \$300,000 annually to pay for adding students eligible

for free school meals by 615,000, a 125% increase.

Colorado legislators continue to pass fee increases and tax law changes to bypass the state's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) Amendment, approved by voters in 1992, the report said. The constitutional amendment limits the amount of revenue retained or spent by state government. It requires excess revenue to be refunded to taxpayers, absent voter approval. TABOR also requires voter approval for specific tax increases.

Energy/environment and health care received negative outlook ratings. The report predicts new regulatory requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for all sectors of the economy, especially for transportation and the built environment. Increases in energy prices and natural gas are forecast along with consumers being forced to purchase reformulated gasoline due to the Environmental

Protection Agency's expected ruling on poor air quality on the front range.

The report stated some health insurance carriers are leaving the state due to the "Colorado Option," regulations reducing prices of individual and small-group plans by 10% below a 2021 baseline. Health care providers will either cut services or pass costs on to the private insurance market due to inflation, the report said.

(Editor/GG: Do you think the total wacky libs in Denver are going to slow down on more spending, more laws, and more degeneracy? And you know what, when it eventually blows up, they will blame us...)

Please see: https://www.thecentersquare.com/colorado/group-urges-colorado-to-focus-on-essentials-due-to-inflation-possible-recession/article_9864df3a-7bec-11ed-b3fc-cb0b64acfe09.html



Moving Forward in a Post-Republican Colorado

By Jon Caldara, Complete Colorado Page Two

Moses wandered the desert for 40 years. Looks like the Colorado Republican Party might do the same.

That doesn't mean conservative, libertarian and limited government policies can't advance while the state GOP stares at its navel for a generation.

The "Boot Barn Rebellion" that happened the other week was to be expected. Hardcore Colorado Trumpy Republicans, rallying outside a Boot Barn store near the state GOP headquarters, blasted others in their party as "whores" and "a** wipes." If only their Trumpy candidates won the primaries, Colorado Republicans would have won in the last election.

And the initiative to legalize psychedelic mushrooms passed just a few weeks before.

These are frustrated people. They love this state and country. But if their candidates can't win in an open primary, they can't win in an open general election.

Here's a very possible future: The Boot Barn Rebels might elect a new slate of hardcore GOP Central Committee members this spring, who then close their primaries. Meaning that only those who go to the caucuses system, and on to the state assembly, will choose which Republicans get on the general election ballot.

Meaning they'd disenfranchise nearly a million Republicans and more than a million unaffiliated

voters who won't be allowed to vote in a GOP primary. Meaning Republicans will have very Trumpy, stolen-election, hardcore candidates in the general election who will get completely, utterly, stupendously demolished in this very blue Colorado (I say this as a guy who proudly voted for Trump).

In other words, the total extinction of the Republican Party in Colorado will come even faster.

This might not be a bad thing. Colorado has been turning into an unaffiliated state. Speeding up the inevitable only makes us conservatives and libertarians face reality sooner.

Democrats are wrong to think that "unaffiliated" means Colorado is turning into an elitist socialist

state. Yes, this state is wildly socially liberal. But might it still be a fiscally conservative one? My two income tax cuts passed in a row by overwhelming majorities. The only way progressives can get large tax increases passed is to call them fees and do it without voter consent.

There is finally a ripe market for a third way in Colorado beyond just Republican and Democrat, and traditional voting.

I want to offer two warnings before we go "Third Way" crazy.

First, beware of new political movements that are "we're not them" parties.

Voters are so sick of Rs and Ds they will welcome the first parties of kinda-conservative Dems and

kinda-liberal Republicans — in other words, parties that stand for nothing but fence-straddling principleless happy talkers. The Leaderless Party, "but we're not Republicans OR Democrats, but something in-between."

These aren't political parties. These are bad compromises. These are the bad marriages your mother warned you about.

Let's remember the late great Steven Covey's rule: "start with the end in mind." A true third party should have an ending vision, something unifying. For me it would be the Fiscal Sanity Party — a party that believes in low taxation, property rights, civil liberties and rule of law. Other things we can argue about later.

Next warning, be suspicious of "rank-choice voting." Rank-choice voting, or otherwise known as "instant runoff voting," is being sold as a way to vote for more than one candidate. "My first choice is Bob, but if I can't have him, I'd vote for Sue."

It is a complicated system

of basically several different elections, but you can only vote in the first election, without any knowledge of who all your choices might be in the next election. We've seen how it ties the hands of voters and comes up with perverted results. In overwhelmingly Republican Alaska, ranked choice managed to get a Democrat elected U.S. Congresswoman.

The far simpler and less corruptible multiple-candidate system is called "approval voting," where voters can vote for as many candidates as they like in an election. Voters don't rank them in order of preference, they just vote for as many as they like. Which-ever candidate gets the most votes wins in the first and only count.

Easy peasy.

Was our goal to elect Republicans? If so, the future here is not good. Or was the goal to change policy?

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2022/12/14/caldara-moving-forward-in-a-post-gop-colorado/>

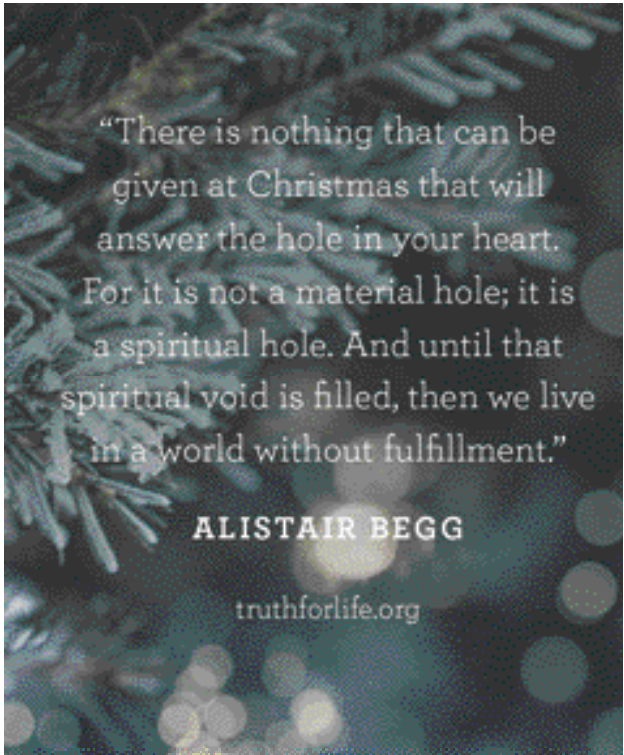


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A Strategy To Be On The Last Train To The Gulag Still Ends Up At The Gulag

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 Farm Chronicles: American Christmas is Better than Today's Hallmark

A couple of years ago Hallmark Christmas movies were being attacked as too white, too traditional, too heterosexual, and not enough gay, black and, yes, Islamic. As Slate.com put it in 2017, "... they all depict a fantasy world in which America has been Made Great Again." Salon.com agreed: "This is a cultural representation issue and one made especially disheartening when you take into account the way these movies sell a nostalgia for a false, if durable, vision of an America that never existed." Slate and Salon are leftist publications that criticize everything they perceive as traditional American values. So Hallmark changed, and now it is part of the "woke" culture. But not all of America is like that, even today.

Wayland, Ohio is a small, rural burg even today. While Griff's old post office/general store no longer exists, and the town hall and church built in the early 1800s were sold by the township trustees in the late 1970s, Wayland still recalls the strength and ideals of America and the American way of life. Wayland is connected to Paris, Palmyra, Deerfield, Charlestown, and Edinburgh—each about five miles from the other. The people that lived in these communities when I was growing up were diverse—Italian, Welsh, Hungarian, German, Black, White, Catholic, Protestant, very poor, middle class, upper middle class. They were farmers, factory workers, storekeepers, volunteer firemen, construction workers.

I remember one Christmas, the Umbaughs across the road from our church lost everything in a fire. They were not members of the church and they were largely first generation "foreigners" to the area. But everyone made sure they had food, clothing, housing, fuel and fellowship until they got back on their feet. Leonard Bell's father died. They lived next to Paris school. Everyone chipped in and made sure their needs were met. If someone's car stopped alongside the road, a neighbor would make sure they got what they needed to fix it and get back on the road. When it was harvest time, my Dad and our neighbors helped one another get the crops in. We took freshly baked cookies and pies to one another for no good reason except to be kind and neighborly.

There was a connection between all the families in the area. And you know something, these traditions continue today. They are instilled in each of us. My wife's family lived only about 10 miles from mine. We knew each other from young ages. The American tradition depicted by Hallmark lives in them every day of the week, every month of the year, not just on Christmas. It reaches beyond differences in religious beliefs, politics, ethnic backgrounds, race, or all the "isms" the anti-America crowd likes to throw in our faces. We aren't perfect, but we are kind and civil. We follow a simple rule as spoken by Christ in Luke 6:31, " And as you would that men should do to you, do you also to them likewise." The America that Hallmark once portrayed does exist in the hearts of those who love God, country and family. You and I are part of it.

Bill Wilson

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Nine Meals From Anarchy

by Jeff Thomas,
The International Man

In 1906, Alfred Henry Lewis stated, "There are only nine meals between mankind and anarchy." Since then, his observation has been echoed by people as disparate as Robert Heinlein and Leon Trotsky.

The key here is that, unlike all other commodities, food is the one essential that cannot be postponed. If there were a shortage of, say, shoes, we could make do for months or even years. A shortage of gasoline would be worse, but we could survive it, through mass transport or even walking, if necessary.

But food is different. If there were an interruption in the supply of food, fear would set in immediately. And, if the resumption of the food supply were *uncertain*, the fear would become pronounced. After only nine missed meals, it's not unlikely that we'd panic and be prepared to commit a crime to acquire food. If we were to see our neighbor with a loaf of bread, and we owned a gun, we might well say, "I'm sorry, you're a good neighbor and we've been friends for years, but my children haven't eaten today – I have to have that bread – even if I have to shoot you."

But surely, there's no need to speculate on this concern. There's nothing on the evening news to suggest that such a problem even *might* be on the horizon. So, let's have a closer look at the actual food distribution industry, compare it to the present direction of the economy, and see whether there might be reason for concern.

The food industry typically operates on very small margins – often below 2%. Traditionally, wholesalers and retailers have relied on a two-week turnaround of supply and anywhere up to a 30-day payment plan. But an increasing tightening of the economic system for the last eight years has resulted in a turnaround time of just three days for both supply and payment for many in the industry. This a system that's still fully operative, but with no further wiggle room, should it take a significant further hit.

If there were a month where significant inflation took place (say, 3%), all profits would be lost for the month for both suppliers and retailers, but goods could still be replaced and sold for a higher price next month. But, if there were three or more consecutive months of inflation, the industry would be unable to bridge the gap, even if better conditions were expected to develop in future months. A failure to pay in full for several months would mean smaller orders by those who could not pay. That would mean fewer goods on the shelves. The longer the inflationary trend continued, the more quickly prices would rise to hopefully offset the inflation. And ever-fewer items on the shelves.

From Germany in 1922, to Argentina in 2000, and to Venezuela in 2016, this

has been the pattern whenever inflation has become systemic, rather than sporadic. Each month, some stores close, beginning with those that are the most poorly capitalized.

In good economic times, this would mean more business for those stores that were still solvent, but in an inflationary situation, they would be in no position to take on more unprofitable business. The result is that the volume of food on offer at retailers would decrease at a pace with the severity of the inflation.

However, the *demand* for food would not decrease by a single loaf of bread. Store closings would be felt most immediately in inner cities, when one closing would send customers to the next neighborhood seeking food. The real danger would come when that store also closes and both neighborhoods descended on a third store in yet another neighborhood. That's when one loaf of bread for every three potential purchasers would become worth killing over. Virtually *no one* would long tolerate seeing his children go without food because others had "invaded" his local supermarket.

In addition to retailers, the entire industry would be impacted and, as retailers disappeared, so would suppliers, and so on, up the food chain. This would not occur in an orderly fashion, or in one specific area. The problem would be a national one. Closures would be all over the map, seemingly at random, affecting all areas. Food riots would take place, first in the inner cities then spread to other communities. Buyers, fearful of shortages, would clean out the shelves.

Importantly, it's the very *unpredictability* of food delivery that increases fear, creating panic and violence. And, again, none of the above is speculation; it's a historical pattern – a reaction based upon human nature whenever systemic inflation occurs.

Then ... unfortunately ... the cavalry arrives

At that point, it would be very likely that the central government would step in and issue controls to the food industry that served political needs rather than business needs, greatly exacerbating the problem. Suppliers would be ordered to deliver to those neighborhoods where the riots are the worst, even if those retailers are unable to pay. This would increase the number of closings of suppliers.

Along the way, truckers would begin to refuse to enter troubled neighborhoods, and the military might well be brought in to force deliveries to take place.

But why worry about the above? After all, inflation is contained at present and, although governments fudge the numbers, the present level of inflation is not sufficient to create the above scenario, as it has in so many other countries.

So, what would it take for the above to occur? Well, historically, it has always begun with *excessive debt*. We know that the debt level is now the highest it has ever been in world history. In addition, the stock and bond markets are in bubbles of historic proportions. They will most certainly pop.

With a crash in the markets, deflation always follows as people try to unload assets to cover for their losses. The Federal Reserve (and other central banks) has stated that it will unquestionably print as much money as it takes to counter deflation. Unfortunately, inflation has a far greater effect on the price of commodities than assets. Therefore, the prices of commodities will rise dramatically, further squeezing the purchasing power of the consumer, thereby decreasing the likelihood that he will buy assets, even if they're bargain priced. Therefore, asset holders will drop their prices repeatedly as they become more desperate. The Fed then prints more to counter the deeper deflation and we enter a period when deflation and inflation are increasing concurrently.

Historically, when this point has been reached, **no government has ever done the right thing**. They have, instead, done the very opposite – keep printing. A by-product of this conundrum is reflected in the photo above. Food still exists, but retailers shut down because they cannot pay for goods. Suppliers shut down because they're not receiving payments from retailers. Producers cut production because sales are plummeting.

In every country that has passed through such a period, the government has eventually gotten out of the way and the free market has prevailed, re-energizing the industry and creating a return to normal. The question is not whether civilization will come to an end. (It will not.) The question is the liveability of a society that is experiencing a food crisis, as even the best of people are likely to panic and become a potential threat to anyone who is known to store a case of soup in his cellar.

Fear of starvation is fundamentally different from other fears of shortages. Even good people panic. In such times, it's advantageous to be living in a *rural setting*, as far from the centre of panic as possible. It's also advantageous to store food in advance that will last for several months, if necessary. However, even these measures are no guarantee, as, today, modern highways and efficient cars make it easy for anyone to travel quickly to where the goods are. The ideal is to be *prepared to sit out the crisis in a country that will be less likely to be impacted by dramatic inflation* – where the likelihood of a food crisis is low and basic safety is more assured.

Please see: <https://internationalman.com/articles/nine-meals-from-anarchy/>

Lessons to Learn from Great Britain's Declining Christianity

by PGF, The Captains Journal

This article (**Editor/GG: see: <https://www.christianpost.com/voices/lessons-to-learn-from-great-britains-declining-christianity.html>**)

This article is good in that much of it is accurate. It's refreshing to see that some 'get it.' These concerns are here in America, too. One thing the article lacks, although implied in the problem, is concrete solutions, so they have been provided here at TCJ.

The problem has not been other religions converting those in the UK, but of the British leaving the Church out of a seeming lack of commitment. Most church leaders understand this dynamic, and many mainline denominational churches have attempted to liberalize and become more "relevant" to modern society. This liberalization has invariably meant moving away from previously accepted Church doctrine based on scripture. In doing so, these denominations have brought the opposite results of what they sought.

Note carefully that it's not the congregation's lack of commit-

ment that is causing them to wander, but church leadership's lack of commitment to correct doctrine in truth. Casual observers appear around the edges of a church, coming and going, but those in Christ Jesus are inherently attracted to sound teaching coupled with worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), for God seeks such a people.

The Church is rather easy to define. It's strange indeed that so many struggle with it. The Book of John is written to unbelievers so that they might be saved and come to know Christ. There's no better place to look for the fundamental and elementary foundations of the Christian faith than Christ's own words recorded by the disciple John.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" – John 10:27

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." – John 14:15

The Church are those who hear Christ and demonstrably love Him by the keeping of His word (following Him): seeking the lost and loving each other, which are the fruits of the Christian life,

along with prayer drawing closer to God and faithful bible study that you might learn to teach the next generations of Him.

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." – John 15:8

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." – John 13:35

Real Christians are doers of the word of God, not idle observers of ceremony.

For those maturing in Christ, the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 7 are very helpful on this topic:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." – Matthew 7:14-18

Jesus says it's impossible for a good tree to bring forth evil fruit. Now, men make mistakes, but when confronted with the truth of fundamental Christian doctrine and faith, the evil will flee (or demand you leave), but the righteous shall stand forth in repentance restored by the truth, knowing their own faith in Jesus Christ will make them whole.

And, again, we're warning of church incorporation, which is Cosmic Treason against God and a root of the problem, which tends toward bad leadership.

Back to the linked article:

American leaders need to pay attention, as the dynamic is playing out throughout Christianity in the West: As the percentage of Christians in the West has declined, Christian influence on society and culture has declined, and as a result, society has become more morally ambiguous. Families break apart or never form and children are left without moral guidance. The growing and scripturally faithful churches offer the anchor and moral clarity people seek at this time. Those attending scripturally

faithful churches are not coddled with whimsically morphing values, as has happened in too many of the declining churches. Christians are exhorted to commit to counter-cultural "biblical" moral standards which don't change.

In regaining biblical Christianity, the Church will grow and society will benefit from the salt and light the Church is called to provide.

The Church of Jesus Christ is for believers; it's not a mixed multitude. Regaining biblical Christianity for a small group of believers either means tossing out unrepentant sinners, including false leaders, or standing up a new fundamental core group that can demand adherence to the teachings of Christ and the removal of sin from their midst. Keep in mind; the Church is not a building.

"...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life..."

Please see: <https://www.captainsjournal.com/2022/12/13/lessons-to-learn-from-great-britains-declining-christianity/>

Illegals Overwhelming Local Health Care System

by Jennie Taer,
The Daily Caller News Foundation



An Arizona border county declared an emergency last Wednesday as illegal immigrants needing medical aid strained the local health care system and an anticipated surge is expected to only make the situation worse.

Yuma County Board of Supervisors Chairman Tony Reyes cited the "stress" on local healthcare workers and made the declaration in anticipation of the expected end of Title 42, the public health rule used to expel certain illegal immigrants, while the area faces a surge in COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and flu cases, according to a statement from his office. Title 42 likely ending on December 21st will make an already record surge of illegal immigration at the southern border even worse, former Border Patrol Chief Rodney Scott recently told the *Daily Caller News Foundation*.

"The projected increase of asylum seekers and migrants has and will continue to strain the ability of medical staff and local hospital resources to provide essential and necessary medical care to Yuma residents as well as the migrant community," the declaration stated.

Authorities in the Yuma border sector have apprehended more than 300,000 illegal

immigrants in fiscal year 2022, according to the emergency declaration. During that time period, federal authorities apprehended more than 2.3 million migrants along the entire southern border with Mexico.

The end of Title 42 is expected to increase numbers 40% or more, according to the declaration.

"The increased numbers of asylum seekers and migrants will place a severe strain on federal and state resources, nonprofit organizations and others providing humanitarian and healthcare services," the declaration stated.

(Editor/GG: They're coming here Happy Valley residents. Only a matter of time.

The Biden regime has let in MILLIONS of illegal aliens in just two years. It will get a LOT worse when this Title 42 rule disappears shortly. We will literally be a third world country in just a few years. Thank your local democrats for that...)

Please see: <https://dailycallernewsfoundation.org/2022/12/15/border-county-declares-emergency-over-illegal-immigrants-overwhelming-local-health-care-system/>

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2022



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"Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—"

A Psalm of David, Psalm 144:1

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Cowboy Logic

If you aim at nothing,
you will hit it every time.

Grizzly Bear Attack Stopped with Shotgun and 10mm Handgun

by Dean Weingarten,
ammoland.com

U.S.A. —(AmmoLand.com)- On October 11, 2022, a Washington State resident and his wife were hunting birds on block grant land near a creek bottom, with their dogs, in Choteau, Montana. They were charged by a large grizzly bear boar. The 51-year-old doctor was hit by the bear and his lower leg was broken. The doctor defended himself with his shotgun and his sidearm, a 10 mm pistol.

Block grant land in Montana is privately owned land on which the landowner has signed a contract with the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP). The contracts vary but provide access to hunting and other activities on private land, for which the landowner is paid a fee. Some blocks require reservations; others merely have a sign-in sheet. This block only required users to sign in.

A representative of Montana FWP was kind enough to supply details beyond what was given in the press release.

While hunting, at about 1 p.m., the couple's dogs went on point, indicating the presence of a bird. Pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, and Hungarian partridges all have breeding populations in the area.

The husband started to approach the area of the creek bottom where the dogs were pointing. This is the common practice while hunting birds with dogs. The bird or birds are flushed, providing a sporting shot for the hunter.

The wife got out her phone and laid down her Benelli semi-auto 12 gauge shotgun to video the incident. The husband saw some brown in the brush, which he thought was a porcupine. Porcupines are common in the area. He stepped forward and a large boar grizzly erupted from the creek bottom coming directly at him.

He fired one shot with his shotgun before the bear bowled him over, breaking his lower leg, then continuing past him. It appears his

shotgun went flying. As the bear spun around, the doctor was able to draw his 10mm pistol. The bear headed back toward the doctor and the creek bottom, passing the doctor within a few yards. The doctor fired one shot, thinking he hit the bear near the "armpit" of a front leg, as the bear moved past him.

The video from the wife's cell phone only showed their dogs, then either sky or ground. It did not capture the bear.

The couple contacted the authorities. They were transported to the hospital where the husband was treated and released. A team of about eight federal, state and local authorities assembled to investigate the situation and find the bear, which they assumed was wounded. A drone was used to search for the bear. When found, it was obviously wounded and in distress. The decision was made to put it down.

It appears the bear moved when the team approached. Most participants opened up with a variety of firearms. The bear was quickly dispatched with dozens of shots. Because there were dozens of bullet holes in the bear, no necropsy was done. The bear weighed 677 lbs, in moderately good condition. This was a large inland grizzly bear boar.

It was not determined if only the shotgun or the 10mm impacted the bear or both.

From my experience hunting upland birds, an experienced hunter is able to hit small, moving, targets at close range very quickly with a shotgun, in a fraction of a second. At under 5 yards, birdshot can be deadly on a large game. It acts much like a pre-fragmented slug. Several grizzly bear attacks have been stopped by bird hunters armed with shotguns and birdshot.

Similarly, the 10mm has a good record for stopping grizzly bear attacks.

If the doctor hit the bear in the "armpit" with a 10 mm, the bullet would have an excellent chance of penetrat-

ing the thoracic cavity. Such a shot would likely result in death. If only one lung were penetrated, and the heart and major arteries were missed, death would come eventually, if not quickly. It would make for a very sick bear.

As the doctor was only able to fire one shot with the shotgun, it is likely the bear contacted him less than two seconds after being recognized as a threat by the doctor. Followup shots are common and fast while hunting birds, often in a fraction of a second.

Opinion:

This case shows the advantage of having a firearm out and ready. While the doctor was not expecting a bear, his long practice and familiarity with his shotgun, ready to fire in an instant at a flushing bird, served him well. While the bear contacted him and broke his lower leg, the bear was, almost certainly, sufficiently wounded it continued on and did not attempt to renew the attack.

It shows the utility of having a holstered sidearm. When hit, it appears the long gun (shotgun) went flying. This happens with some frequency during bear attacks. The doctor was able to draw his handgun and re-engage the bear. He had reason to believe the bear would renew the attack. The boar had already charged him and broken his leg, without provocation. There are many cases where bears temporarily leave the scene of an attack, then return and renew the attack.

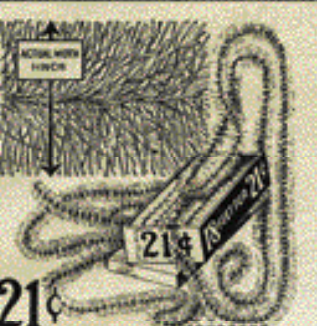
Bears that are aggressive toward humans should be removed from the gene pool. The relatively small number of bears that are aggressive toward humans in a given year is not enough to make a significant difference in even the grizzly bear population. In the Choteau, Montana area, most grizzly bears are careful to avoid contact with humans.

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2022/12/grizzly-bear-attack-stopped-with-shotgun-and-10mm-handgun/#axzz7miXCFViu>

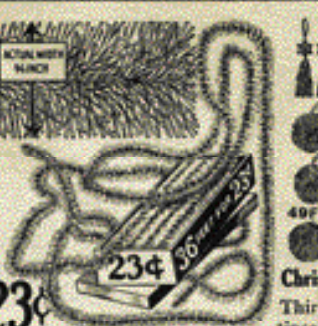
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A Trait of Successful Survivalist Groups, Past and Present

by JDC, Mason Dixon Tactical

Some Good Ol’ Boys I knew back in the 80’s. Note they have standardized on the .308/7.62×51 rifle cartridge (specifically the FAL rifle), and the 12GA Mossberg 500/590 shotgun.

Having been a Survivalist for several decades, I’ve had a lot of experience with other Survivalists, and have been around several of their groups. The one thing that has stood out with all the successful groups I know of (the majority have been failures), is that they are organized around a group of long-time friends, family or both.

Combining training with fun activities like hunting is a good group activity, especially if you need that activity’s cover to use State or Federal land.

In the “Old Days”, we didn’t have the internet to confuse what “Friends” were. You either knew someone in real time, and for a period of time, or you didn’t. These days, we have to be very careful, who we associate with online, and even more careful of which ones



we’re willing to meet in “Meat Space”. When you consider how many Federal and State Law Enforcement entities are looking to set up the unsuspecting (and generally harmless) “Low Hanging Fruit”, due to a need for

recognition or more funding, the threat is very real.

Years ago, many groups standardized on “Tiger Stripe” camouflage, because they didn’t want to use the current military

issue woodland camo pattern, and “Tiger Stripe” was still available in the military BDU cut and fabric. This fabric and layout tended to be more durable and utilitarian than many types of hunting clothing.

Even if your group consists of just you and a buddy, it’s all good if you know them well and can trust them with your life. Having family and friends that are on the same page is a good start. Having family and friends that are willing to invest their time and money into something that in actuality is highly probable, but barely possible in the minds of those ignorant to reality, is not only uncommon, it is actually frowned upon these days.

In conclusion, my suggestion is to approach forming or expanding your group as if the internet doesn’t exist. If you do this, your group’s security and privacy will be at a much higher level than the group which does their “Interview” for membership in the local McDonalds (Yeah, I knew a group that did that.... until they got rolled by LE), after letting you know about it through Facebook or a Gmail email. These are just some of my thoughts, based on many questions I’ve received, especially of late.

Please see: <https://masondixon-survivalistassociation.wordpress.com/2022/12/11/a-trait-of-successful-survivalist-groups-past-and-present/>

Ruger Introduces the New Security-380 Lite Rack Pistol

by Duncan Johnson, ammoland.com

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (NYSE: RGR) is proud to introduce the newest addition to its Lite Rack™ family of pistols, the Ruger® Security-380®. Chambered in .380 Auto, the Security-380 is full-featured, ideally sized and modestly priced.

The American-made Security-380 is constructed around a rigid, precision-machined, hard-coat anodized aluminum chassis with full-length guide rails and features a blued, through-hardened alloy steel slide and barrel. The lightweight slide features a vertical ledge on the steel rear sight and a bright fiber-optic front sight for rapid sight picture acquisition. Designed for new shooters, those who struggle with racking traditional slides, and anyone looking to



Ruger Introduces the New Security-380 Lite Rack Pistol



Some models of the Security-380 also ship with an extended, 15-round magazine that extends the grip for a secure and comfortable hold.

enjoy a day at the range, the Lite Rack system includes refined slide serrations, pronounced cocking ears, and a lighter recoil spring to ensure easy manipulation of the slide.

Unlike many micro-compact .380 pistols, this new offering will accommodate a full capacity, 10-round flush fit magazine. Some models of the Security-380 also ship with an extended, 15-round magazine that extends the grip for a secure and comfortable hold. The textured grip fills the hand and helps distribute recoil better than a narrow single-stack pistol.

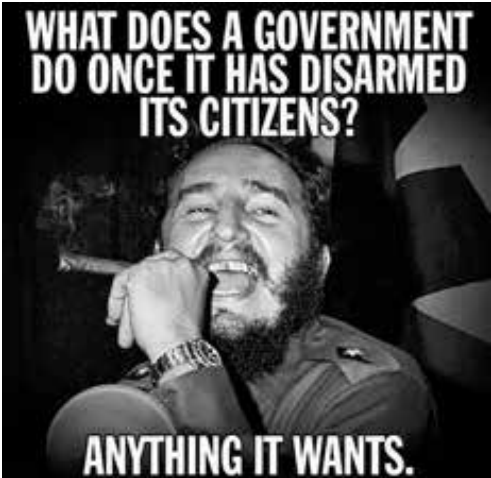
The Security-380 combines Ruger’s safe, reliable and proven Secure Action™ fire-control system with a variety of safety features, including an integrated trigger safety, external manual safety, neutrally balanced sear with significant engagement and strong spring tension, and a hammer catch to help prevent the hammer from contacting the firing pin unless the trigger is pulled. The trigger has a short, smooth trigger pull, clean

break, and positive reset.

The all-new Security-380 Lite Rack pistol is designed for hours of range training with minimal fatigue. The combination of easy-to-use features and reduced felt recoil will help recoil-sensitive shooters build skill and confidence at the range, and its lightweight and compact size makes it comfortable for all day carry. The Security-380 is based on the reliable Ruger Security-9® platform and is compatible with most of the same holsters, lights, lasers and accessories available on ShopRuger.com.

(Editor/GG: Man, this is THE answer for a lot of people. 380 is a bit minimal but the new ammo does pretty good. This pistol is small, easily concealable, and has enough rounds. This is gonna sell like mad.)

Please see: <https://www.ammoland.com/2022/12/ruger-introduces-the-new-security-380-lite-rack-pistol/#axzz7nIZbr654>



Someone Must Stop This Border Insanity

by Justin Smith,
The American Thinker

Disgusted and angry to one’s very core.

That’s what all American patriots should be who see the all out invasion of America by millions of illegal aliens, as hundreds of thousands and many millions more are making the journey to our southern border right now.

It seems as though Americans are so passive, on the whole, that they simply sit back, unwilling to raise a furor or gather *en masse* along the border to stop this incredible mounting catastrophe for all America, for surely they can see the lie behind the Biden regime’s assurances via Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas that the border is secure. Thousands of more illegal aliens from all over the world have been massing in line at the El Paso port of entry alone, since last Sunday, December 11, 2022, and yet, there is still little or next to no reaction from the general public.

At least the people of Croatia and Hungary had the backbones to gather along their borders to erect barriers and push back on illegal Muslim immigrants who were fleeing the Middle East in 2015. And they were only getting a fraction of migrants that America is receiving today.

Pass one law. Pass a hundred laws for the purpose of stopping illegal immigration and securing the border. It won’t mean a da**ed thing, since the Democrat party and a lawless Biden regime are already willfully breaking existing, perfectly good U.S. immigration law -- good when it has actually been followed in the past -- in order to purposefully undermine America and create a society that rejects America’s founding principles in favor of a socialist authoritarian government.

Although the Biden regime has touted some two million encounters of stopped and returned illegal aliens under Title 42 and Title 8, the reality is that this regime has simply paid it lip-service and refused to follow even these legal paths properly, with over two million entering America each year that Biden’s people have been in control -- 2.76 million in fiscal year 2022 -- along with more than one million “got aways” entering over this period -- closer to five million by other estimates. From the earliest days of his administration, Biden has fought to end Title 42.

Just what are traditional freedom-loving Americans to do, when those elected officials charged with defending and protecting America refuse to do their duty? They’re witnessing it now, from the highest office in the land on down to lesser offices, as seen in the case of Arizona’s Cochise County Sheriff and Governor-elect Katie Hobbs, who both intend to tear down the double stacked container “wall” that outgoing Governor Doug Ducey erected along Arizona’s southern border, contending it’s “federal land” and dismissing the fact that under the Constitution, all states have the right to defend themselves against an invasion.

What are normal America-loving people to do when they see activist far-left judges supporting and legitimizing the many illegalities surrounding Biden’s Open Borders Policy by way of flagrant, outlandish, arbitrary and erroneous rulings that actually break U.S. law?

When Title 42 ends on December 21st, this problem will become even more massive and catastrophic for America, with immigrant shelters already running at full capacity and local and state budgets straining to carry the added cost of feeding, clothing and sheltering these people, and, in too many instances, transporting them into

the interior of America. And exacerbating the problem to an exponentially higher degree, the Mexican authorities have recently been assisting the illegal aliens in their journey to the border, by, in one case, escorting twenty busloads of illegal aliens into Ciudad Juarez on Mexico’s northern border, which is directly across from El Paso.

Let’s not forget that scores of non-government organizations on both sides of the border are now known to be facilitating the movement of these hordes of illegal aliens from start to finish, as illegals from Afghanistan, Ukraine, Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and many other nations are finding their way into America without any passport or right to be here. Agencies like Catholic Charities, Pueblo Sin Fronteras, International Rescue Committee, Casa Alitas, Mission Border Hope and many others are all acting in tandem and in one massive movement to create this humanitarian crisis on America’s southern border, and then they step back to point their fingers at America, as if to say we cannot refuse to accept any of them.

Rapes. Murders. Child-trafficking. Billions of dollars of fentanyl and methamphetamine ... The stats on the worst products of the human condition coming in are damning enough to warrant tough action on border security.

The Border Patrol are in a Catch-22 situation, where they must choose between following the Constitution and actual immigration law or following arbitrary policy directives following an agenda meant to destroy the republic. It would seem to be a no-brainer for any patriot, but too many feel they have too much invested in the job to risk being suspended or fired, if they actually do their jobs, and detain illegal aliens for judicial review or prosecution

and deportation. Perhaps a few million armed patriots appearing along the border areas might give them enough moral support to actually refuse the Biden regime’s orders.

Our system isn’t broken. It’s been torn down and torn apart with malice and intent aimed at overloading all respective state’s systems and forcing a unified cry out for federal relief, to which the Democrats will throw trillions of taxpayer dollars and further overload the entire nation, in hopes it will create a demand for an even bigger federal government with their cronies at the helm.

Biden was actually in Phoenix, Arizona, on December 6th to deliver a speech at a semiconductor plant. But he couldn’t be bothered to go and assess the mess of humanity struggling to force its way across the southern border, and when asked about it, arrogantly as ever, he stated: “Because there are more important things going on.”

One should note that there’s nothing more important than defending and protecting the national sovereignty of America and all of our borders. There’s nothing more important than defending the common language and culture of one’s nation,

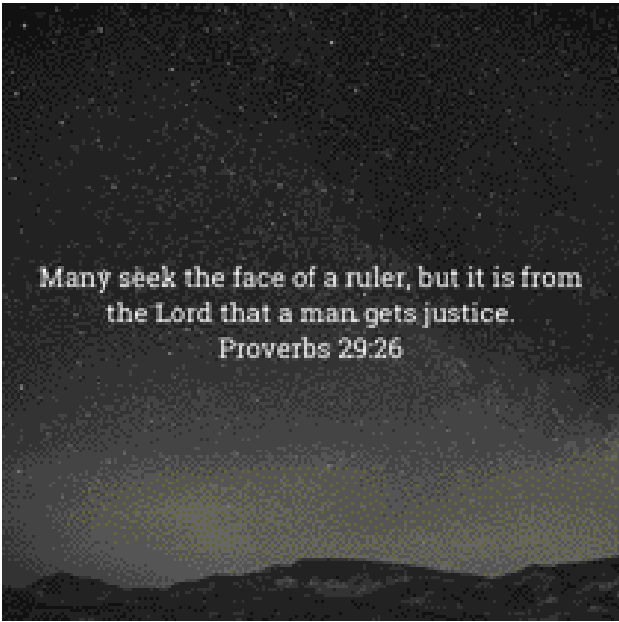
and the founding principles. Unless one is an anti-American or someone cut from the same flawed, unclean cloth as Joe Biden, this is obvious.

If some of the turncoat Republicans, e.g., Tom Tillis and Susan Collins, have their way, we’ll see some 30 to 40 million illegal aliens in America eventually granted amnesty, further changing the face of America and our culture forever, while playing into the hands of the Democrats who no longer hold any love for America.

Someone must stop this border insanity, sooner than later. If the American people cannot seat people in elected office with a will and a mind to do so, it just really might fall to those American patriots left with strong enough minds and hearts to go to the border themselves to stop this human wave in the not-too-distant future.

We either garner the will in earnest to secure our borders and deport all illegal aliens, or we will lose our country. If it’s the latter, we will see the end of America.

Please see: https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2022/12/someone_must_stop_this_border_insanity.html



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The Unexpected Bearer of God's Presence:

by Carol Parnicek

Throughout the Bible we find donkeys serving behind the scenes and helping where needed. Donkeys hold the distinction in the Bible as being one of the earliest and most frequently mentioned animals in the text. Although there is no mention of the means of transportation that Joseph and Mary used on their travel to Bethlehem, many Christians still believe that the faithful donkey was an integral part of this journey. Even scientists at the University of Portsmouth in England suggest the donkey was the perfect choice for Mary's journey to Bethlehem.

So, even though we don't have the proof that a wonderful donkey was involved; they still have a place in many nativity scenes. Maybe this Bible verse helps us understand: "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's manger, Israel has no knowledge my people have no understanding" (Isa 1:3). Some Bible scholars interpret this sentence to mean: animals know where they belong. At the time, the ox and donkey were very important, as they served as a livelihood and were indispensable tools for field work. The animals in the manger, the ox and the donkey, are a very close message to the Incarnation of God.

There are many stories about how the donkey received it's cross – but this one fits this wonderful season where we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Joseph bought a donkey for Mary a few weeks before they left for Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Mary and the donkey built a strong bond and became good friends. On cooler nights, Mary would wrap her cloak over the donkey, so he would not be cold. She fed him treats and went on walks with her donkey where she would talk to him. The donkey listened to her talk all about her baby and her love for God, and the donkey seemed to understand. When it was time for the three to set out for Bethlehem, Mary and the donkey were best of friends. The journey to Bethlehem was a long one. Along the way, the donkey stepped on a thorn. Neither Joseph nor Mary knew about the thorn, so they kept the donkey going. Although the thorn hurt the donkey at first, he decided he would not limp, because it might make Mary uncomfortable. So, he continued to walk the Bethlehem without jarring Mary. The donkey knew his job was important and nothing would stop him from doing his job well. The donkey knew he was serving Mary unselfishly and that God was taking care of them.

When they finally arrived in Bethlehem, the donkey was glad to lie down and rest outside of the manger where Joseph and Mary stayed. As usual, Mary laid her cloak over the donkey and gave him treats before telling him good night. In the night, an angel appeared to the donkey and said, "Since you've served so faithfully and unselfishly, you and all future donkey's will be blessed and honored." The angel touched the donkey and the donkey slept peacefully. In the morning, when Joseph brought the donkey his hay, he lifted Mary's cloak from the donkey's back and saw a cross that had not been there before.

Thinking about donkeys (especially my little guy, Little Joe), makes me remember that God speaks to each of us in a way that we can understand. His message is clear and direct to each of us, we just need to slow down and listen.



From all of us at Pennica Financial Group, we wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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CHRISTMAS
from page 1

yelling dire threats and chasing me away.

Nels Petersen was an old bachelor who could squeeze a nickel till the buffalo bellowed. Scrooge could take lessons from him—he was that mean. The following year, he installed a fence around the Christmas tree lot and locked the gate every night. I accepted the challenge.

On that eventful night, when people basked in the warm glow of family togetherness and somewhere angels were singing, I climbed the fire ladder that hugged the store wall. Hanging onto the rung with one arm and leg, I lifted over the fence a big six foot fir. The next day, old Nels knew one was missing; he had counted them. Next year, the ladder was removed. I dug under the fence. The following summer the area was cemented and a light installed.

Then came a Christmas that I shall always remember with fondness and warmth. My teacher at school involved our class in making Christmas cards for our favorite person, not counting our families. I participated reluctantly; I was almost 12 and this was kid stuff. I made a humdinger for Nels Petersen. Why I included him as my favorite person, I didn't know.

I pasted up a magnificently decorated green tree with all the trimmings. As I worked on it, my enthusiasm sparked a tremendous artistic fervor. I figured that it would be the only card he would get from anybody. By the time I had finished, I felt a strange kinship for my adversary. I signed it and put it in his mailbox. He spotted me and the chase was on. I guess he thought I was stealing his mail.

Late Christmas Eve, when the stores were closed and everybody was home, I peered around the corner of the back of Petersen's Market cautiously. Lo and behold, the security light was out and the lot was shrouded in darkness. The heady

scent of evergreen caressed my nostrils. With neck hackles alert and nerves keyed for a quick getaway, I moved with suspicion along the fence.

The gate was open! My first thought was that anyone that dumb deserved to lose a tree. My second thought was that he may not be so dumb; this could be a trap! He was probably hiding among the cluster of branches ready to grab me when I stepped through the gate. A mixture of strategies raced through my mind. Not so dumb, maybe, but slow; he never could catch me. I'll rush it, grab a tree and be gone before he can move. I stood motionless while scanning the enclosure. I spotted a lone seven footer standing in the center by itself—a beautiful ready-made target.

My muscles stretched taut as I sprang through the gate. Suddenly, the tree blazed alive; it sparkled with brilliant colors of light like a Christmas tree should. The sudden brightness stripped me of all anonymity. I felt the whole world was watching me in the midst of a heinous crime.

Just as I was about to turn and bolt, I saw the large crudely- lettered sign on the tree. It stated simply: DON'T FORGET TO PULL THE PLUG AND LOCK THE GATE—MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dazed, I reached down for the connection and saw the presents and box of groceries. Mr. Petersen wasn't among the trees; he was somewhere throwing the switch and watching me. With a suspicious lump in my throat, I waved and called out, "Merry Christmas, Mr. Petersen!" I did as his sign directed and carried home the best Christmas I have ever had.

My new friend and I had learned a beautiful lesson on the joy of giving—all because a simple home-made Christmas card had touched a lonely heart and opened a locked gate.

Please see: <https://christmasstories.org/christmas-i-remember-best/>

BLUE BEADS
from page 1

he said shortly. “Don’t lose it on the way home.” She smiled over her shoulder as she ran out the door. Through the window he watched her go, while desolation flooded his thoughts. Something about Jean Grace and her string of beads had stirred him to the depths of a grief that would not stay buried.

The child's hair was wheat yellow, her eyes sea-blue, and once upon a time not long before, Pete had been in love with a girl with hair of that same yellow and with large eyes just as blue. And the turquoise necklace was to have been hers. But there had come a rainy night—a truck skidding on a slippery road—and the life was crushed out of his dream. Since then, Pete Richards had lived too much with his grief in solitude. He was politely attentive to customers, but after business hours his world seemed irrevocably empty. He was trying to forget in a self-pitying haze that deepened day by day.

The blue eyes of Jean Grace jolted him into acute remembrance of what he had lost. The pain of it made him recoil from the exuberance of holiday shoppers. During the next ten days trade was brisk; chattering women swarming in, fingering trinkets, trying to bargain. When the last customer had gone, late on Christmas Eve, he sighed with relief. It was over for another year. But for Pete Richards the night was not quite over. The door opened and a young woman hurried in. With an explicable start, he realized that she looked familiar, yet he could not remember when or where he had seen her before. Her hair was golden yellow and her large eyes were blue.

Without speaking, she drew from her purse a package loosely unwrapped in

its red paper a bow of green ribbon with it. Presently the string of blue beads lay gleaming again before him. "Did this come from your shop?" she asked. Pete raised his eyes to hers and answered softly: "Yes, it did." "Are the stones real?" "Yes. Not the finest quality—but real." "Can you remember who it was you sold them to?" "She was a small girl. Her name was Jean. She bought them for her older sister's Christmas present." "How much are they worth?" "The price," he told her solemnly, "is always a confidential matter between the seller and the customer." "But Jean has never had more than a few pennies of spending money. How could she pay for them?" Pete was folding the gay paper into its creases, rewrapping the little package just as neatly as before. "She paid the biggest price anyone can ever pay," he said. "She gave all she had."

There was a silence then that filled the little curio shop. In some faraway steeple, a bell began to ring.

The sound of the distant chiming, the little package lying on the counter, the question in the eyes of the girl and the strange feeling of renewal struggling unreasonable in the heart of the man, all had come to be because of the life of a child. "But why did you do it?" He held out the gift in his hand. "It's already Christmas morning," he said. "And it's my misfortune that I have no one to give anything to. Will you let me see you home and wish you a Merry Christmas at your door?" And so, to the sound of many bells and in the midst of happy people, Pete Richards and a girl whose name he had yet to learn, walked out into the beginning of the great day that brings hope into the world for us all.

Please see: <https://christmasstories.org/a-string-of-blue-beads/>