

The Dime – A Christmas Story

by ChristmasStories.Org

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his back yard in the snow. Bobby didn’t wear boots; he didn’t like them and anyway he didn’t own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold. Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother’s Christmas gift.

He shook his head as he thought, “This is useless, even if I do come up with an idea, I don’t have any money to spend.”

Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn’t because his mother didn’t care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far. What the family

lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity.



Bobby had two older and one younger sister, who ran the household in their mother’s absence.

All three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother. Somehow it just wasn’t fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already, and he had nothing.

Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were. It wasn’t easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to. Bobby walked from shop to shop, looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach.

It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun’s rays reflecting off of something along the curb. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime. Never before has anyone felt so wealthy as Bobby felt at that moment.

As he held his new-found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his

entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement quickly turned cold when the salesperson told him that he couldn’t buy anything with only a dime. He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line.

When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his mother’s Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten-cent offering. Then he put his hand on Bobby’s shoulder and said to him, “You just wait here and I’ll see what I can do for you.”

As Bobby waited he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls liked flowers. The sound of the door closing as the last customer left jolted Bobby back to reality.

THE DIME
see page 17

BOCC: Good News of 2025 County Budget, New SO Vehicles, More OEM/ Mitigation Drama

by George Gramlich,
News and Commentary

The December 12, 2024 Custer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular meeting started at around 9 a.m. at their regally appointed throne room (the “Annex”) across from the courthouse. All three mighty commissioners were present: Bill Canda, Lucas Epp and Kevin Day.

In Commissioner Items, Epp noted at the CCI conference he attended last week, our lib Governor, Polis, focused his speech on the Denver to Fort Collins wasteland and ignored the rest of the state. Canda said that the county airport MIGHT be able to get a decommissioned Apache helicopter and also a Blackhawk for display purposes only.

In New Business, the commissioners ok’d last month’s Accounts Payable amount of \$218,655.

Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith was up next looking for approval of the SO’s purchase of new vehicles for 2025. SO Chief of Staff (part time), Micheal DeLaurentis, led the discussion. The SO wants all their new vehicles to be V6’s to maximize gas mileage. They proposed that the SO sell six

used vehicles they own to get the money to finance four new ones. They proposed the new Dodge Ram which has a V6. (Epp stated that he has a problematic Dodge remarking that “Dodge sucks”. Fair enough.) This went on for a bit discussing the finance situation and the possibility that the county would be hiring a consulting company to handle all of the county’s vehicle purchases/leases. Finally, it was decided that they would have a workshop on this as it might take some time to figure things out.

Custer County SO Undersheriff Susan Barnes then took over with a request for the SO to buy a locally sourced 2016 Jeep Cherokee for \$16k. It only has 40k miles on it and was serviced at Westcliffe Petroleum. The SO has \$14k in the “inmate fund” which is found money as we got rid of our jail. The commissioners gave their blessing to buy the Jeep.

(Editor/GG: We reached out to Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith about the SO vehicle situation and he graciously sent us a brief email explaining the basics of it. See it at the end of this article.)

BOCC
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Christmas Eve Services



6 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE - Cotopaxi
Community Church - 20326 US Highway 50, Cotopaxi

5 p.m. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - First Baptist Church - 410 South 6th, Westcliffe

4 p.m. NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church - 109 South 5th Street, Westcliffe

6:30 p.m. (Potluck 5:30 p.m.) CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE -St. Lukes Episcopal Church
201 South 3rd Street, Westcliffe

5 p.m. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church 60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe

5 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
20 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe



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ALERT!**
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Whitworth
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And she shall bring
forth a son, and thou
shalt call his name
JESUS: for he shall
save his people from
their sins.
Matthew 1:21 KJV

SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL

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of Conservative
Colorado!



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

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

We will not be constrained by the illogical, misleading and inaccurate thinking and use of "political correctness" but by truth, facts, logic and common sense.

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

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Winter Business Hours:

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

Subscription Rates:

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

How to contact us:

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



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Obituary
Jerald Estis

What a grand exit he made leaving no doubt as to where he was going...straight into the arms of Jesus!

2 Timothy 4:6-8: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

Jerald Marvin Estis was born in Jane, Missouri, on October 18, 1934, to Erma Aline Reed Estis and Cleo Warner Estis. He was their firstborn son.

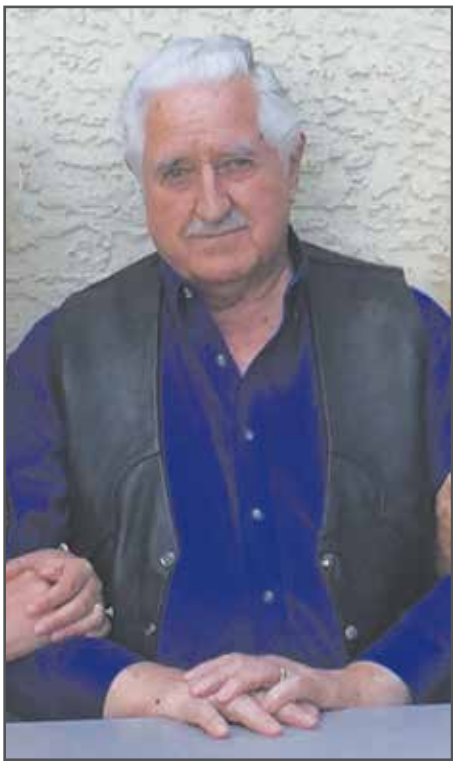
In the spring of 1936, Jerry and his parents moved from Joplin, Missouri, to the Estis Ranch on Waugh Mountain, which is 16 miles north of Cotopaxi. He lived on the ranch with his parents and brother Tom until 1949 when the family moved to Cotopaxi, into the home they had built close to town so he and his brother could attend Cotopaxi School. He attended Cotopaxi School from first through 12th grade and as a sophomore in high school he became a board member for the Cotopaxi Church where he served as a deacon from 1950 to 2010. In 1952, he began work for Fremont County Road and Bridge crew for three years, until he was called to the Army in 1955 by Uncle Sam in the draft.

While in the Army, Jerry served two years, mostly stationed in Germany, where he was part of the American Rifle Team. Jerry was an excellent marksman and in the world competition, he and his team won the World Championship against all NATO countries - Go USA!

After his discharge from the Army, Jerry returned to Cotopaxi where he resumed his service on the Cotopaxi Church board and his job with the Fremont Road and Bridge, which was held for him, during his service away. In 1960, he married the love of his life, Sharon Church, with whom he had three daughters, Twila (Darell Geroux), Toloa (Jerry Pearl), and Treva (Willie Dominguez), which led to nine beautiful smart grandkids and 20 great grandkids.

In 1963, he began work with the Colorado state highway system, maintaining West Highway 50 for 25 years until his medical retirement due to wounds received in a motorcycle accident. On August 1, 1985, at the age of 50, his life took a sudden turn when he and Sharon, were struck by an oncoming vehicle while returning from vacation on their motorcycle. Due to the wounds he sustained in the accident, he was forced into medical retirement. His remaining years, from age 50 - 90, were spent living with and overcoming the injuries that occurred during that accident.

In addition to his primary employment, he was an expert carpenter, crafting custom homes, custom furniture, and personalized cabinetry after hours and on weekends. He enjoyed crafting unique items for his grandchildren such as wooden knives, slingshots, ping pong ball guns and the like. He enjoyed reloading ammo, driving fast cars, hunting, attending auctions, and he was a connoisseur of good food, particularly favoring sirloin steak. In addition to the church board, his service to the community included two terms on the Cotopaxi School board and 10 times on the election board for the Sangre de Cristo Electric Coop. He remained a member of Cotopaxi Church until he passed on December 14, 2024.



Jerry made many important decisions, but the most significant decision of his life was welcoming Jesus into his heart at an early age thus setting the stage for lifelong service to Jesus Christ. His second most important decision was his marriage to Sharon, the love of his life, and service to his family. His family was his treasure; he often declared himself the richest man on earth, "richer than Elon Musk" he would say, valuing his wife, daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Above all, he prayed fervently for the salvation of each family member, focusing on eternal life with Jesus as the ultimate goal. Jerry was the epitome of kindness, strength, and moral character and integrity, always leading by example rather than words.

Jerry quoted this scripture often: Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." -

The 40 years following his motorcycle accident were physically and mentally trying, to say the least. He lived in constant pain and struggle and without his faith in God and the constant service and excellent care of his wife Sharon, the difficulties would have been impossible and would have taken a lesser man out many times. Although his physical life in his later years was defined by the physical difficulties he endured, his spiritual and emotional life was enriched daily by his family and friends. He loved the visits from friends,

who stopped in daily for long conversations and to assist with simple tasks around his home. He loved telling stories of life on his ranch and life with his wife, kids and grandkids, often bragging, like a grandpa can, on the exploits and shenanigans of his grandkids.

A poem by Robert W. Service, that his mama taught him as a young boy, and that he quoted as a young man became the defining character in his life, even to the day of his death. The poem is as follows: ...

Jerry's life was a testament to perseverance,

The Quitter

When you're lost in the wild and
you're scared as a child, And Death
looks you bang in the eye, And
you're sore as a boil, it's according to
Hoyle To cock your revolver and die.
But the code of a man says: "fight
all you can," And self-dissolution is
barred. In hunger and woe, oh, it's
easy to blow, It's the Hell-served-for-
breakfast that's hard.

"You're sick of the game !" Well,
now, that's a shame, You're young
and you're brave and you're bright.
"You've had a raw deal!"
I know - But don't squeal, Buck up,
do your damndest, and fight!

It's the plugging away that will win
you the day, So don't be a piker, Old
Pard! Just draw on your grit, it's so
easy to quit, It's the keeping your
chin up that's hard!

It's easy to cry that you're beaten
and die, It's easy to crayfish and
crawl, But to fight and to fight
when hope's out of sight --
Why that's the best game of them all.

And though you came out of each
grueling bout, All broken and beaten
and scarred, Just have one more try -
it's dead easy to die, It's the keeping
on living that's hard.

--- Robert W. Service

faith and love, leaving behind a legacy of
resilience and deep familial bonds.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday,
December 20th at 11 a.m. at the Cotopaxi
Church. Post-service there will be a
Graveside Service with Military Honor
Guard Salute, followed by lunch served
back at the Cotopaxi Church.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

NEW BUSINESS TO SERVE Custer County Greenstreet Plumbing Services

by Fred Hernandez

Plumbing is simply the transportation of water, liquids from one place to another. Truly, necessity is the mother of invention. Thousands of years ago man created the beginnings of plumbing as we know it today. We can trace its history back to the ancient civilizations of the Greeks, the Romans, Egyptians, Persians and Chinese to name a few. Egyptians for example were among the first to utilize irrigation in farming. They also began drainage systems and even invented the water wheel.

The Minoan Palace in Crete which dates back to 4,000 BCE is the oldest known structure which used conical-shaped terracotta pipes to distribute water. The Greeks were arguably the first to devise the system for hot and cold running water for the benefit of their athletes. Romans built aqueducts to transport water from the mountains to the cities to provide potable water and for their public baths. Mesopotamians used clay pipes four thousand years ago. The root word from which plumbing is derived is plumbum the Latin word for lead from which much of the ancient pipes were made. Plumbing is one of the oldest professions of man.



A most important cornerstone of any civilized society.

Here in our county we have the benefit of having one of the most experienced professionals in the industry, Chris Greenstreet, who comes from a long, long line of professional plumbers. While his company was officially formalized not too long ago, Chris, as the owner/ operator,

GREENSTREET PLUMBING
see page 8



Bookends December 2024 Library News

Thank you to all who visited the winter Arts & Crafts Fair in Lange Hall in the first part of December. The Friends of the Library put on the semi-annual (July and December) Craft Fairs to support local crafters and to raise money for the Library's regular youth and adult programming, to support the courier that brings books from libraries all over the state to Custer County, and to buy new materials. Your support of the Craft Fair builds a better library for all. And thanks to all who have donated to the Friends or the Library through the Spirit Campaign. If you haven't yet, go to wmvcf.org and donate!

Speaking of adult programming – the annual Adult Winter Reading Program begins January 14th and runs through the end of March. "Winter Reading Program" is a bit of a misnomer as the program includes much more than reading! When you sign up to participate, you get a "bingo" sheet that has 24 activities to try over the winter. One bingo square involves reading something by a Colorado author. Another is to ask about the Great Books Directed Discussions beginning in January (more on that later). And yet another is to attend a Library event: how about Sarah Scoles' scientific discussion of UFOs on January 14th? Other activities are more reading-centric: read a non-fiction book, or one from the 940s (where are the 940s? you'll have to visit the Library to find out!), or a classic from our new classics section.

Or attend one of many thought-provoking events. Complete a row for a bingo and you're eligible for a prize. You can earn up to three bingos/prizes. Blackout sheets are entered into the grand prize drawing, with first prize a \$75 gift card to a local business, and second prize a \$50 gift card to a local business. Any way you play it, the Adult Winter Reading program is fun! Sign up beginning January 14th. More information at www.westcusterlibrary.org or call 719/783-9138.

Retired professor Karl Walling would like to start a Great Books directed discussion group that meets at the Library. Prof. Walling has lectured all over the world. He has taught at the United States Naval War College, John Cabot University in Rome, and others. The initial directed discussion will read the Gettysburg Address (272 words, infinite meaning) on January 9th from 12 - 2 p.m. in the Library Community Room. What do the words actually say? And what do they mean? Participants are welcome to bring a lunch to eat while examining the Gettysburg Address. If you are interested in joining a regular group that discusses Great Books, please join us for the initial meeting while we assess this pilot program.

By the time you read this column, December's winter holiday season will be in full swing.

The Library wishes everyone a happy holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year!

New Year's Eve
at Tony's

2025

DEC 31, 2024

Call for Reservations

Limited seating for sit down dinner with tickets paid for up front and non-refundable

Gratuity not included

Sit down dinner - \$40

5:30 | COCKTAIL HOUR
6:30 | DINNER
10:00 | CHAMPAGNE TOAST

Choice of 6oz Filet Mignon or Chicken Lombardi

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"We the People" Speak

Letters to the Editor



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

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

A Thank You from WMV Community Chorale

Dear Editor,

'Tis the season of blessings and we are indeed very blessed to live in such a giving and caring community. On behalf of the Wet Mountain Valley Community Chorale, I would like to express our appreciation for the support received at the "Lessons and Carols" Christmas concert held on December 8th.

We are so happy that you enjoyed it and thanks to our very generous community and chorale members,

we will be able to continue this tradition in the future, acquiring some new music for our next Christmas concert and offering child care so that parents of young children may participate. Thank you to Sangre de Cristo Fellowship for the rehearsal space and Custer County Schools for the use of their risers. Special thanks to the members of First Baptist Church of Westcliffe for the beautiful concert venue, the wonderful readers of the scripture lessons, our soloists and instrumentalists, our amazing

children's choir, our director Sarah Peachey, and our accompanist Cheryl Pinnella. This is truly a community wide endeavor and we look forward to next year, inviting all of those in the community who love singing to join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Happy and blessed 2025 to all!

Amy Perschbacher
Wet Mountain Valley Chorale
Board Member

Town of Westcliffe Announces Town Manager Resignation

Press Release
WESTCLIFFE, CO
– December 17, 2024

The Town of Westcliffe announces the resignation of Town Manager, Caleb Patterson, effective immediately as of December 12, 2024.

As the Town begins its search for a successor, the focus remains on ensuring a smooth transition and continuing the momentum of ongoing projects. The

leadership team is committed to maintaining the high level of service and operational excellence that residents expect.

The Town will share updates regarding the next steps in the hiring process as they become available. For any inquiries or further information, residents and media are encouraged to contact the Town Hall at (719) 783-2282 or visit the Town's website at: townof-westcliffe.colorado.gov

Our Soldiers Deserve Better: Food Scarcity at Fort Carson

Dear George,

Steve Beynon, a reporter for SMilitary.com, has uncovered a shocking truth: food scarcity for our soldiers at Fort Carson. This is unacceptable. While the current administration has allocated \$175 billion in aid to Ukraine and recently pledged \$1 billion to Africa, the food budget for Fort Carson is a mere \$5 million. Our soldiers—those who put their lives on the line for our freedoms—deserve better.

The situation is dire: 4,600 soldiers with meal cards at Fort Carson are struggling to access proper meals. It's time for us to take action. Here's how you can help.

Contact Fort Carson to demand immediate action to address food scarcity:

Inspector General's Office: usarmy.carson.4-id.list.mse-ig-complaints@army.mil

Directorate of Public Works: usarmy.carson.imcom.mbx.fcdw@army.mil

Contact local officials in El Paso County to advocate for better meal access for soldiers:

Longinos Gonzalez Jr.:

longinosgonzalezjr@elpasoco.com

Stan VanderWerf: stanvanderwerf@elpasoco.com

Cami Bremer: camibremer@elpasoco.com

Carrie Geitner: CarrieGeitner@elpasoco.com

Holly Williams: hollywilliams@elpasoco.com

Contact Colorado Springs Town Council:
AllCouncil@coloradosprings.gov

Contact Colorado State Senators to demand better meal access for soldiers:

Paul Lundeen: paul.lundeen.senate@coleg.gov

Larry Liston: larry.liston.senate@coleg.gov

Tony Exum: tony.exum.senate@coleg.gov

Bob Gardner: bob.gardner.senate@coleg.gov

Contact Colorado State Representatives:
Rose Pugliese: rose.pugliese.house@coleg.gov

Scott Bottoms: scott.bottoms.house@coleg.gov

Stephanie Vigil: stephanie.vigil.house@coleg.gov

Regina English: regina.english.house@coleg.gov

Marc Snyder: marc.snyder.house@coleg.gov

Don Wilson: don.wilson.house@coleg.gov

Mary Bradfield: mary.bradfield.house@coleg.gov

Ken DeGraaf: ken.degraaf.house@coleg.gov

Our soldiers should never face food scarcity, especially not on U.S. soil. Please take a few moments to reach out to these officials and ensure our brave men and women at Fort Carson have access to the meals they need and deserve.

Let's stand together for our soldiers.

Warm regards,

Kim Monson
Host, The Kim Monson Show and America's Veteran's Stories, President, The Colorado Union of Taxpayers

A New Sentinel Advertiser Thanks Fred

Fred Hernandez (My Dear Friend):

*The moving finger writes
and having written moves on.
Nor all thy piety nor all thy wit,
can cancel half a
Line of it. —Omar Khayyam*

I am so honored by your wonderful article and the ads that now grace the *Sentinel* each week! My business has been growing steadily since this appeared months ago!

I have not words to thank you fully for the kindness and friendship you have always shown me since we drank wine so many years ago.

So, I quote the poetry of my favorite writer (SUPRA), with my thanks for the magic your words have done for me.

I wanted to get this to you sooner, but my broken back and ribs have limited my travel these last two months.

God Bless you and your family in this coming holiday season.

Brian Corrigan, The Electron Wizard

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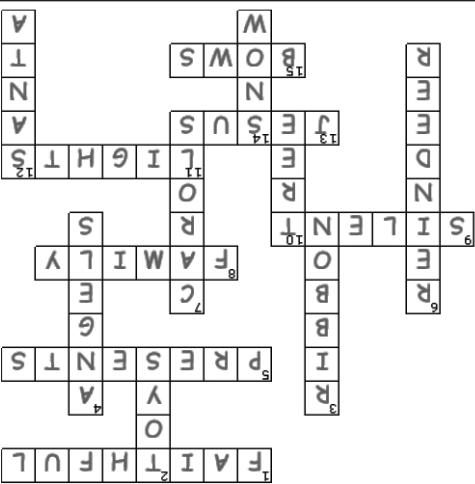
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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ADVERTISERS!



Custer Senior Center Menu

Monday, December 23
#76 Roast Turkey w/Gravy
Smashed Red Potatoes
Squash, Cream of Spinach Soup
Mitzie's WW Rolls
Orange

Tuesday, December 24
CLOSED
CHRISTMAS EVE OBSERVED

Thursday, December 26
#85 Spinach Cheese Squares
Tossed Salad w/Pear
Whipped Hubbard Squash
Citrus Cup
WW Bread w/Butter

Served Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at noon. 612 Main St. , Silver Cliff Townhall (lower level)
The following major food allergens are used as ingredients: Milk, Egg, Fish, Tree Nuts, Peanuts, Wheat, Soy and Sesame.

Please call (719) 783-9508 before 9:30 a.m. for reservations
A \$3 suggested donation per meal is appreciated, but not required. All menus subject to change.

Recurring Events

Mondays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Mem.Park (SCMP)
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 -7:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Meeting (The Bible and X) w/
Scott Munger. at First Baptist Church.
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) 12 Step study, at St.
Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Monday of the Month
5 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting
(year-round) at Cliffe Lanes
2nd and 4th Monday
6 – 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
Children Welcome. colobamanana@yahoo.com

Tuesdays
12 noon – 1 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLDS)
“As Bill Sees It” St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita in W/C.
Call Martha at 719-371-1853.

1st Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Comfort
Quilters @Valley Bible
6:00 p.m. American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting
at Cliff Lanes meeting room.
4-6 p.m. Christian Music on KLZR 91.7 FM
2nd Tuesday of the Month
9 a.m. Old Schoolhouse Quilters Guild Meeting
@Valley Bible
3rd Tuesday of the Month
Liberty Rocks TUESDAY Meet/greet &order 5:30 p.m.
Presentation 6 p.m. Location Tony’s Pizza All welcome.

Wednesdays
8 -9 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Veterans and Caregivers
welcome. West Custer County Library Community Rm.,
209 Main St. Westcliffe

9:30 – 11 a.m. Line Dancers meet at United Methodist
Church, 204 S 6th St. Call Debbie Underwood at
(432) 553-7483.

9:45-11:30 a.m. The Posse Ladies Bible Study “Names
of God” at Sangre de Cristo Fellowship, 120 Jerry Dr.
Westcliffe. September 18- December 4
Questions? Holly 703-338-4100

10 a.m. Pickle Ball (SCMP) info: lizbrannen@gmail.com
6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (CLSD) Big Book Study at
St. Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita, Westcliffe. Martha at
719-371-1853.

6 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting, First Baptist Church
of Westcliffe. Call 719-783-2498.

First Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Comfort Quilters, FBC (log bldg next to the
church) 417 S. 6th St. Contact Delores at 719-371-1451.

2nd Thursday of the Month
6 p.m. Custer County Republican Central Committee
meeting. Ranchers Roost. The public is welcome See
www.CusterGOP.com or Facebook page at https://m.
facebook.com/custergop

3rd Thursday of the Month
2 p.m. Round Mt Water District Meeting.

Fridays
10 a.m. Pickle Ball Silver Cliff Memorial Park
More info: lizbrannen@gmail.com

1 - 4 p.m.- Mah Jongg at the Senior Center

6 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Open Discussion, St.
Luke’s, 3rd & Rosita. Call Martha 719-371- 1853

2nd Friday of the Month
8 am- Westcliffe Band of Brothers & Sisters Men’s
Prayer Breakfast, at the Senior Center followed by
Monthly Meeting at 9:30 - all are welcome

Saturdays
10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family Group meets at
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Dee (719) 404-1851
or Jean (719) 371-1229.

3rd Saturday of Month
8 a.m. Valley Bible Fellowship Men’s Breakfast Open to
all Men of the Community, 116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
Questions, **Mike @ 719-650-0362**

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



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

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

American Legion and VFW Monthly Meetings

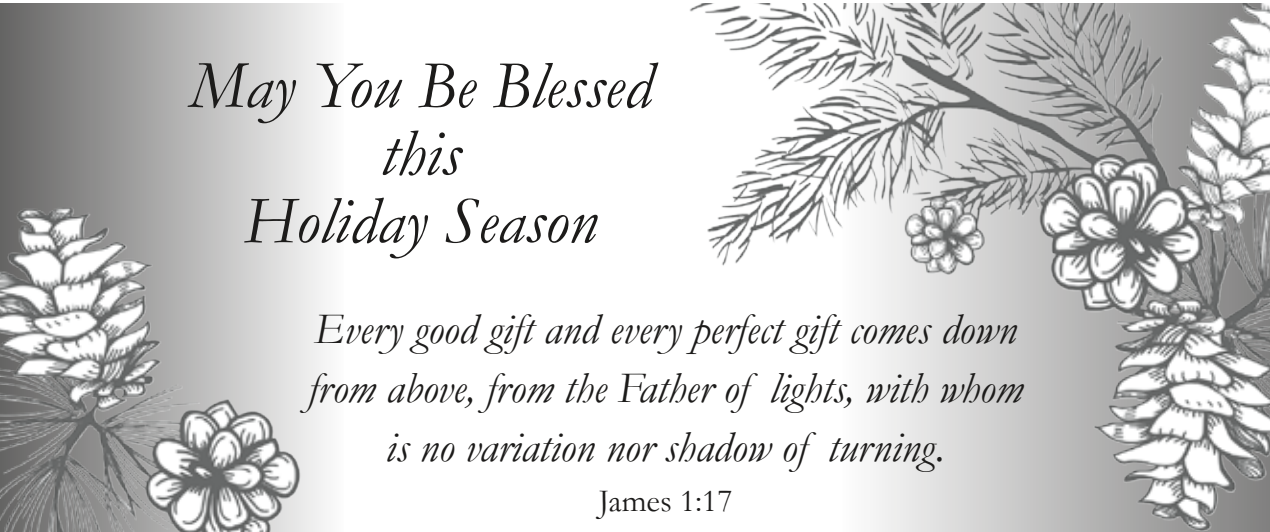
The Veterans of Foreign Wars Monthly Meeting is the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. at the bowling alley.



May You Be Blessed
this
Holiday Season

Every good gift and every perfect gift comes down
from above, from the Father of lights, with whom
is no variation nor shadow of turning.

James 1:17



GREENSTREET PLUMBING
from page 4

has a lifetime of extensive training and experience. Born in Salida in 1981 he was the oldest of three children to a coal miner who worked the mines in Leadville. After his time at the mines his father worked for a big plumbing company based in Denver. Later he started his own successful company and the family moved to Cañon. Chris attended the high school in Westcliffe and graduated from Custer County High School.

After that his training and work experience can only be described as boundless. Starting with his apprenticeship application with U.S. Engineering at which his test scores ranked him number two but unfortunately 9/11 happened at the time and he was unable to pursue that opportunity. One who is not easily deterred he applied in several

other big companies but was only able to snag a job as a tinner which is one who fabricates sheet metal. This talent served him well later in his career. He was the fastest worker in the company and outdistanced everyone on any job needed. Over the years he went on to work for big companies including R.K Mechanical and Cobb Mechanical which had contracts with the State building large prisons. In fact it was in one of those huge projects that he got his AHA! moment. It was in 2009, and the project was a prison in Cañon City. He was with the foreman, and they were waiting for the superintendent to go over the blueprints. Chris read the prints and did all the measurements on a four thousand square foot project before the supervisor came in and at that moment, he realized he was way ahead of the game and all his training had paid off. Some of the other big jobs included Fort Carson and Cheyenne Mountain Zoo where

he worked on the elephant and lion exhibits. After a time working with the big companies his father needed some help so he went to work for his Dad. After his father passed away Chris went on his own. Today with a Masters License, Bonded and fully insured Chris is in business to serve his community. He is a patient man who listens carefully to his clients. In fact he treats clients like old friends. A critical thinker, he takes the time to explain in detail so the client is fully informed of the work at hand. This is my community Chris says, and I am not motivated solely by money but by the good service I can provide to ensure the full satisfaction of my clients. His intention is to create long-term relationships. A professional like Chris is most welcome in any community.

Chris can be reached at (719) 783- 2800 or email him at Greenstreetplumbing@gmail.com



Christmas Eve Services given to the Sentinel are Listed on page 1

Come and Worship

Christian Science
9:30 a.m. Worship
8 Bassick Place, Westcliffe

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
818 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff
719/783-4601

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
240 Ridgeline Dr, Westcliffe
Pres: 719/214-4589

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Tues. 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg
Wedn. 7 p.m. Bible Study
0157 County Rd. 27A
Cotopaxi 719/942-3526

Community United Methodist Church
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship
202 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-2511

Cotopaxi Community Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study
Pastor Steve Holcomb@gmail.com
20326 Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Worship
4:30 p.m. Wedn. AWANAS
410 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe
Pastor Josh Olsteen
719/783-2498

High Country Mennonite Church
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
103 N. Adams St, Westcliffe
719/783-9045

Huerfano Community Bible Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study
603 Leon Street, Walsenburg
(719) 251-9053

Hope Lutheran Church
2 p.m. Worship
3:15 p.m. Bible Study
3rd & Powell Streets, Westcliffe
Pastor Dan Kletke 719/783-2323
Lange Hall 719/783-2561

Living Stone Calvary Chapel
Saturday evenings: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings: 9 a.m. & 11a.m.
830 Bridge St., Canon City, CO
Pastor Sean Meagher 719/276-0863

Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. (2nd Tuesday of month) Mass
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass
5:30 p.m. Thursday Mass
109 S. 5th Street, Westcliffe
719/783-3507

Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church
11 a.m. Mass, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of month
210 S. 2nd St, Westcliffe
719/783-2491

Praise Community Church
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:45 a.m.
215 N Pikes Peak Ave., Florence
719/784-1184

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
8:30 a.m. Prayer Service, Thursdays
3rd & Rosita Streets, Westcliffe
719/783-2477

St. Patrick's Anglican Church
11 a.m. Worship
403 S. 2nd S., Westcliffe
925/339-0175 or 719/783-2500

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
Saturday Mass 4 p.m.
Highway 69, Gardner
Bldg. Mickey, 719/746-2037

Sangre de Cristo Cowboy Church
Pastor: Mike Shields
10 a.m. Sunday School Bible Study
11 a.m. Worship
Last Sunday of Month:
Potluck at Noon
sangredecrislocowboychurch.com
also on Facebook
60260 Hwy 69, Westcliffe
719/232-5372

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
9 a.m. Meet & Greet
9:30 a.m. Service
120 Jerry Drive, Westcliffe
719/783-0903

Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel
10 a.m. Worship
6160 County Rd. 130, Westcliffe
719/ 371-1822

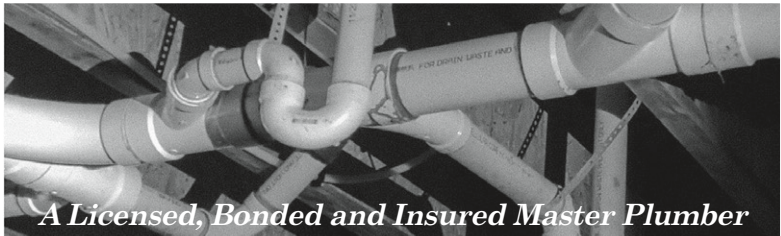
Valley Bible Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship
116 Hermit Lane, Silver Cliff
719/581-7572

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
Junction of Hwy 96 & 67, Wetmore
719/371-1230

Wetmore Community Church
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
699 County Rd. 395, Wetmore
719/784-0596



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Any Certified Teacher/ Substitute application without a CDE license is incomplete and will not be considered. Online applications only. Please

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Jerry Jennings

Happy Birthday Jesus!

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

National Suicide HOTLINE
1-800-273-8255 Veterans Press 1

Solvista 24/7 Crisis Line
for Fremont and Custer Counties
Regional 719-276-5488 Local Office 719-275-2351

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

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

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: "Lessons & Carols"
St Luke's Episcopal Church
Everyone Welcome!

If you need a ride to the service, please call Ann @ 303-547-4723 by Dec 23 to schedule.

- Potluck at 5:30 pm
- Worship Service at 6:30 pm
- Dessert after the service at approximately 7:30 pm

Service held at 201 S 3rd St., Westcliffe, Colorado





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SENTINEL**

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Keller's Food Drive



Keller Johnson's 4th annual food drive set a new record this year, with 1,470.5 pounds of people food, 247 pounds of pet food, plus a lot of paper goods, toiletries, pet toys/beds/leashes etc. being given to benefit the seniors and pets of our community! Thanks to everyone who participated and to Keller for all the work and organization to make this happen. Outstanding work, young man!

—Courtesy photo

KIDS

December 20, 2024

Fun Christmas Facts

Well, Christmas is a few days away so, this week we will be looking at a list of fun facts about the Christmas holiday.

How about Jimini Christmas. Well, it is used as what some call a minced oath. It's an age-old way to dance around what throughout history has been considered blasphemous — i.e., using the Lord's name as a profanity. "Jiminy Christmas" was used for Jesus Christ, which is said to date to 1664 CE, when it was first recorded as "Gemini," a twist on the Latin phrase Jesu domini.

Most of us have heard of the yule log. In fact, Beulah, Colorado, has a yule log celebration every year. Yule is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world—celebrated on the solstice. Today, Yule and Yuletide are used synonymously with "Christmas" and "Christmastide." The meaning behind them is quite different from that of the Christian holiday. This midwinter celebration is centered around the winter solstice. It marks the halfway point of the winter season. The god of the Germanic peoples Wodan (Norse Odin) of the north had a long white beard and rode a horse during his ghostly hunts through the midwinter sky. It's believed that this Germanic tradition was later merged with the Dutch traditions regarding Saint Nicholas, an early Christian bishop, to create the image of Santa Claus.

Next question is, why do people use Xmas, is it just an abbreviation, not hardly. The early church used the Greek language and the letter "C" for Christ or Christos was the letter "chi" or "X". Christ's name was often represented with the first two letters of the name "Christos"—'chi' and 'rho.' This looks like an X with a small "p" on the top.

Here's a biggie, why do we decorate trees? Evergreen trees have been a symbol of winter festivals well before Christianity. Romans have decorated trees and topped them with an image of their Sun god. Christians in Germany started using evergreens as a symbol about 400 years ago as a sign of everlasting life with God.

Lastly, anyone remember Christmas Club accounts? I do I guess that officially makes me old. The idea was to offer customers 3% interest on money deposited in a special Christmas account. You would deposit money in the account weekly and in early December you were able to redeem your monies and go shopping!

by Audrey Slater. Sources: <https://www.almanac.com/christmas-facts-and-trivia>, <https://www.juniorsbook.com/tell-me-why/where-did-the-saying-jiminy-christmas-come-from/> Photo: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4e/BarcelonaNativityScene.jpg>.



Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Jesus said

And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Luke 24:44 KJV

Bobcats Scoreboard!

Friday & Saturday, December 13 & 14:
HS Boys Wrestling @ Badger Invite in Limon:
Corbyn Martin: 4th Place; Jason Hemseth: 1st Place; Colt Moulton: 5th Place
HS Girls Wrestling @ Rob Mickel in Salida:
Liz Ergo: 5th Place; Stephanie Lewis: 5th Place; Brylee Shy: 2nd Place; Maddie Staley - 3rd Place

Tuesday, December 17:
HS Boys JV Basketball @ Crowley County: 40-7 (loss)
HS Girls Basketball @ Crowley County: 46-37 (loss)
HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Crowley County: 79-26 (loss)

Booster Club Bobcat Corner



Come out and support your Custer County Bobcats!

All games and dates are subject to change without notice.

Friday & Saturday, December 20 & 21:
TBD HS Girls & Boys Basketball @ La Veta Tournament
TBD HS Boys & Girls Wrestling @ 10th Annual Kieth Kilker Invite in Keenesburg

Saturday, January 4:
7 am (weigh in) / 9 am (start) HS Boys Wrestling @ Bennett Invite
TBD HS Girls Wrestling @ Bennett Invite

Thursday, January 9:
5 pm HS Boys JV Basketball @ Sanford (away)
6 pm HS Girls Basketball @ Sanford (away)
7:30 pm HS Boys Varsity Basketball @ Sanford (away)

Don't forget to grab your TONY'S MOUNTAIN PIZZA DISCOUNT CARDS to support your Bobcat athletes! With over \$50 in discount savings at Tony's! Only \$20 each! Great stocking stuffers! Stop by Tony's to get yours!

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

Luke 2:10

JOY to The World!

She will bear a son and
you are to name him Jesus, because
he will save his people from their sins.”

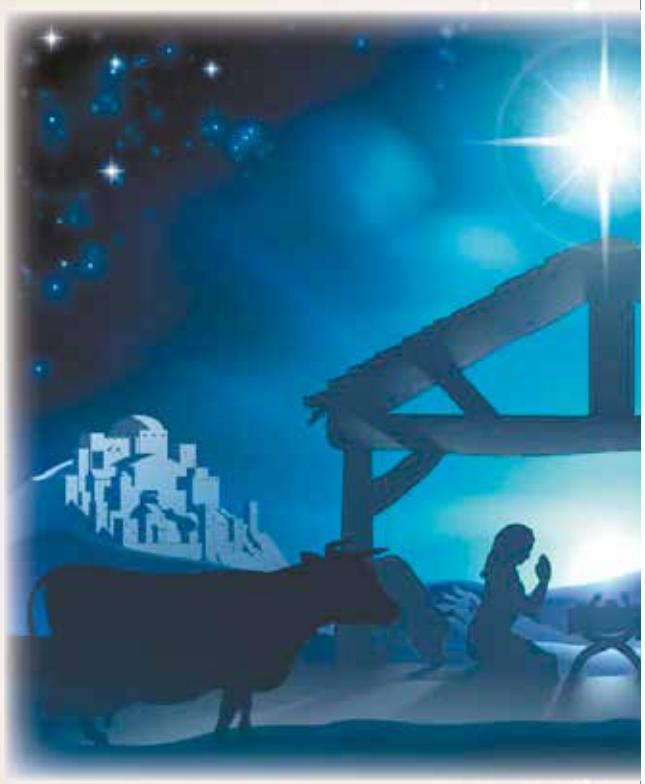
²² All this took place to fulfill what the
Lord had said through the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with
child and bear a son, and they shall
name him Emmanuel,”

which means “God is with us”.

Matthew 1:21-23

For a child
a son is g
upon h
domini
They n
Wonder-
God-
Father
Prince



And Mary
kept all these things,
reflecting on them
in her heart.

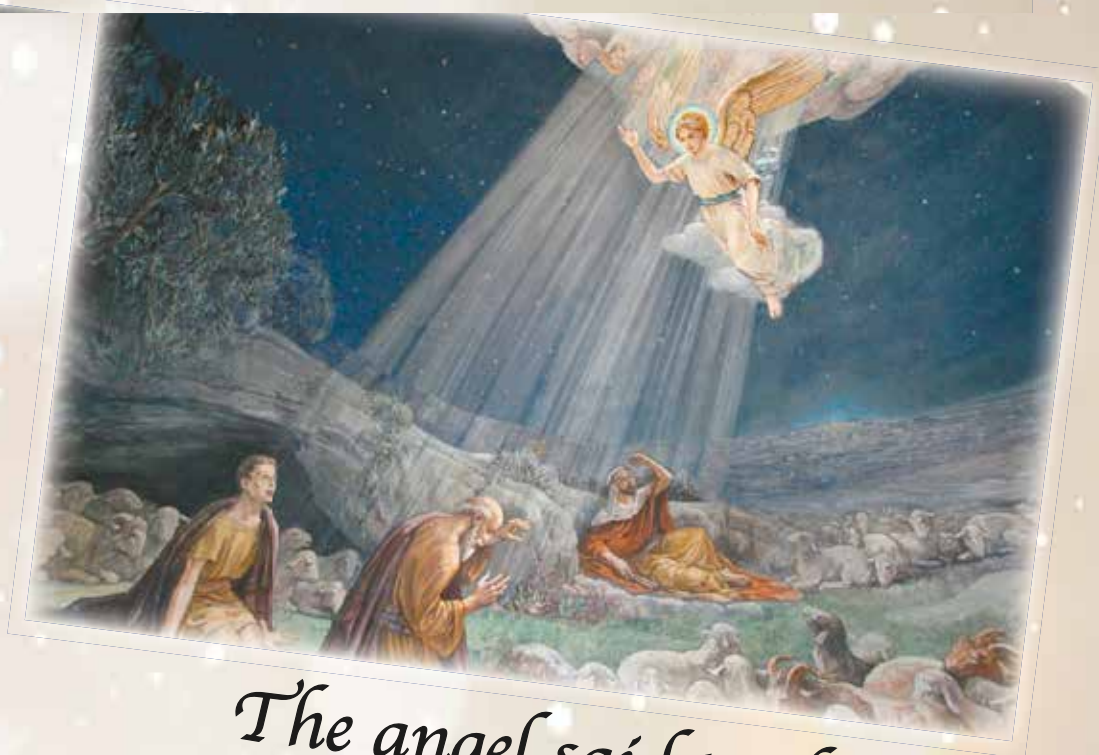
Luke 2:19



The LORD is Come!

For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us;
upon his shoulder
dominion rests.
They name him
Wonder-Counselor,
God-Hero,
Father-Forever,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:5

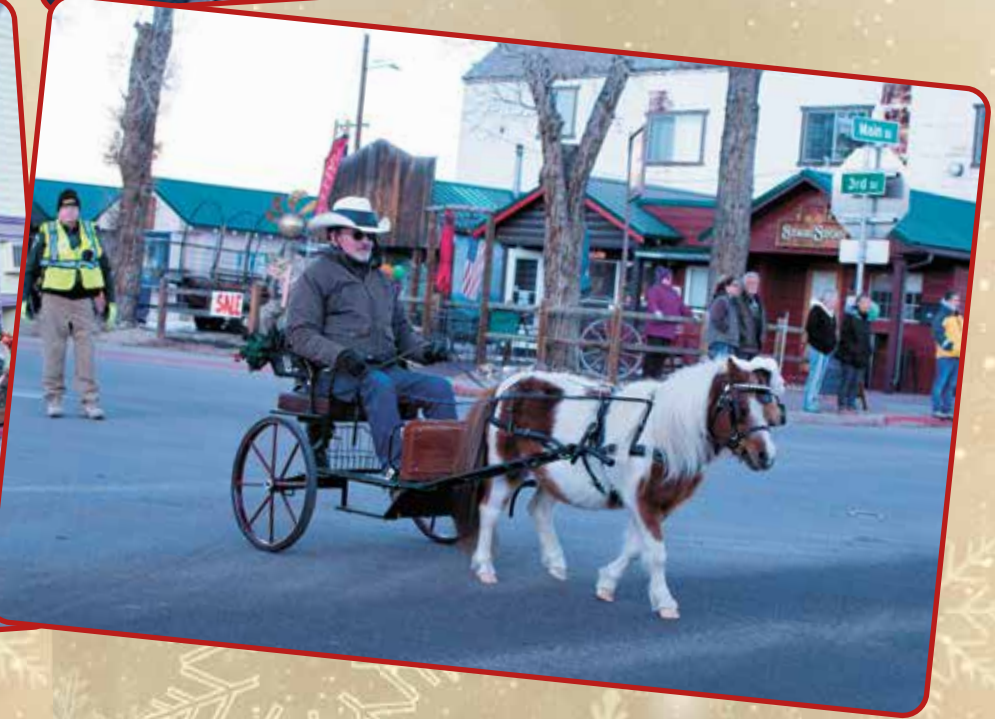
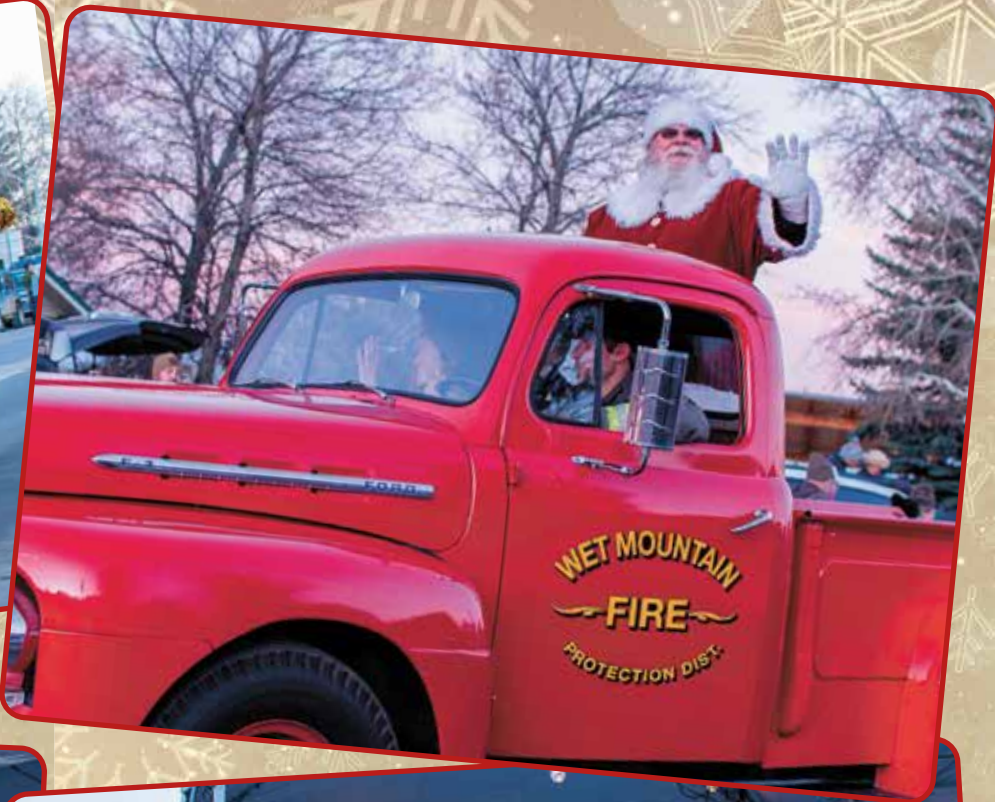
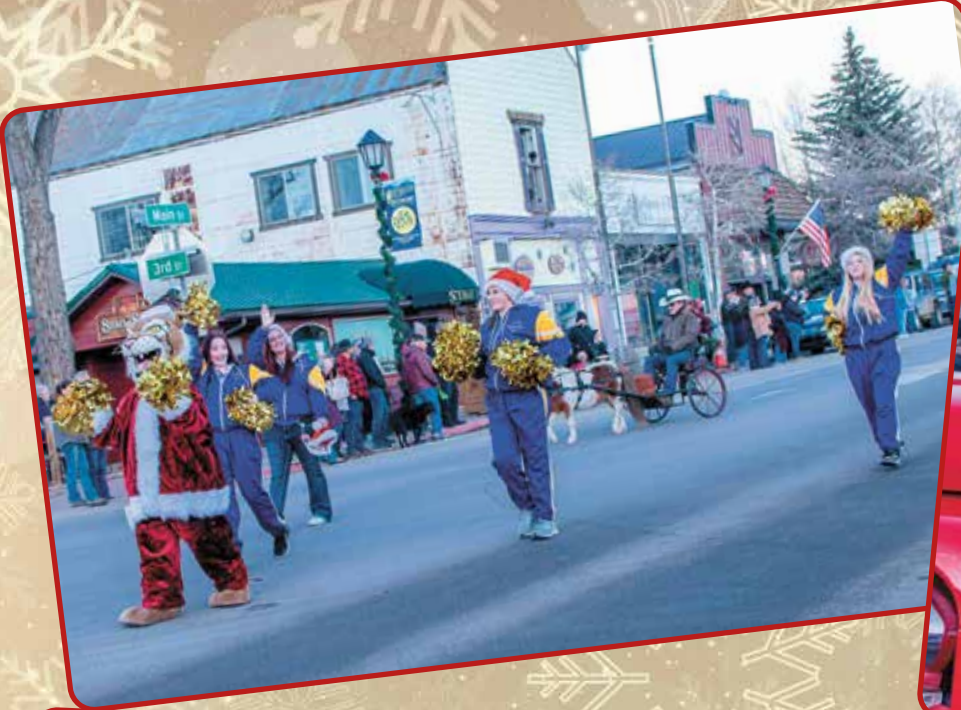


The angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid; for behold,
I proclaim to you good news
of great joy
that will be for all the people.
¹¹ For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you
who is Messiah and Lord.
¹² And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant
wrapped in swaddling clothes and
lying in a manger.”
¹³ And suddenly
there was a multitude of the
heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace
to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:10-14



Custer County's Annual Christmas Parade



Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC from page 1

Next was a discussion about implementing the SO's new proposed Automated Traffic Enforcement System. (This is the handheld radar speed control unit that can transmit the vehicle's plate number and speed to a system that would generate a speeding ticket and mail it to the speeder.) Epp talked about various issues with payments, the Finance Department, the Treasurer's Office, sign costs and other items. Epp stated, "We don't know the true cost of the system." Canda noted that the commissioners still had to decide on the cost of the tickets. Epp said that there were other companies that do this, and he would like "another bid". In the end, nothing concrete was decided.

Our Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director, Robyn Knappe, was next with another grant proposal concerning OEM's Fire Mitigation Project. Knappe said there is a grant available (up to \$50k) to spend on mitigation personnel, planning or equipment. Knappe wants to apply for \$27.8k to hire a part time person "to help with the mitigation program and to work with neighborhoods to build interest in mitigation programs". (Not a really good job description for a job paid for by us taxpayers, commissioners???)

This got Epp riled up a bit. He said we have contractors and citizens "out there that do this for a living. We don't want the county to hurt our contractors." Then Epp hit on what he sees (and Canda discussed later) is wrong with current OEM mitigation effort was that OEM has no real current overall fire mitigation plan. No overall, county-wide strategy. He also

asked what about also mitigating the county's land instead of just private land. He said this overall plan needs to be "formalized" and that "we need the big picture". Epp continued saying "What is our big plan" What are we going to do in the coming years? We need a long-term plan, corridor by corridor. Our last plan was 2007".

Knappe danced around the fact that there is no current, updated plan and that she will "work" on the plan. Canda also didn't like the fact that there is no overall strategy.

(Folks, Epp is totally correct on this. There is only so much money available for mitigation (and a LOT of that will be drying up in a year with the new Trump admin and the Colorado budget deficits) and we should not just be using it in dribs and drabs, here and there all over the county. It should be spent where it is needed most (possibly the Rosita area) where the county OVERALL would get the best return on the money. (That is called a cost/benefit analysis which we seem to not do here with our tax money. It should be done for ALL county expenditures, but especially here.) Mitigating one private property here and one there is a waste of money. Establishing fire blocking "corridors" in our high risk/high benefit areas would possibly seem to be maybe the best way to spend our LIMITED funds. Before we spend another nickel, the mitigation plan must be finished and done with the cooperation of Wet Mountain Fire and the SO. We need a STRATEGY for the county as a whole and we do not have that now. This is OUR tax money and we need it spent RIGHT. We need the BEST payback for every tax dollar we spend. Amusing Government Psy/Ops

Propaganda Side Note: Knappe mentioned that a government statistic re mitigation is that for every tax dollar spent we get back three in benefits. (Really?) Another government employee, on Zoom, said that the real figure is that we get Six dollars back in benefits for every tax dollar spent on mitigation. (Really, really??) Folks, first of all, these statistics are from the government, and you know what that means. Probably totally bogus. For the government to tell us working people that the more tax money spent the better off we are, is pretty offensive to most of us. It is why the country is literally bankrupt.)

This went on and on. In the end, Epp and Day voted to have Knappe apply for the \$27.8 grant to hire a part time person to do mitigation related work (which was never really properly defined.) Canda voted no. On the plus side, due to Epp and Canda, the BOCC and OEM will be having a mitigation workshop on December 17 to further examine what to do going forward.

Landfill reported that they hired Frontier Fence to put up a fence to block wind driven landfill material. It will cost \$19.5k.

The three commissioners all voted to join the Fremont County driven lawsuit against our former 11th Judicial District District Attorney, Linda Stanley, for allegedly using 11th Judicial District money to defend herself in her disbarment drama. They want the approximate \$110k back.

Next was the resolution to approve the county's 2025 budget. Vernon Roth, our IT guy who is doubling essentially as the Finance Director until we somehow magically find one, led the discussion. (We said it before and we will say it

again, God Bless Vernon Roth.) Vernon said that the county was under budget for 2024, which is a good thing. He went into detail on the various funds, revenues and expenses. And basically, after a ton of moving stuff around, he, with the help of Epp and the various departments, have come up with a balanced budget for 2025. The really good news is that despite previous statements that Road & Bridge and the Sheriff's Office's budget would be cut by \$100's of thousand of dollars, this did not happen! They were basically fully funded. So good work there. Vernon concluded with the statement, we are, "starting the year off in a better place than we have been for a while". (The county's budget for 2025 is \$11.1 Million. About what it has been the last few years. You can go to the county's website and see the whole thing in detail. Some fairly interesting data there.)

And that was it. Another joyous day in Happy Valley.

(Editor/GG: Below is an email from Custer County Sheriff Rich Smith on some details of the SO's proposed vehicle acquisition proposal. And thanks to the Sheriff for responding to our request.)

From Sheriff Smith:

At this commissioner meeting we proposed absorbing a new budget cut of \$160,000 from previous years and continuing the budget cut of \$300,000 from 2024 for a combined savings to taxpayers of \$460,000 in 2025. The \$300,000 annual savings comes from savings generated by outsourcing the jail operations.

For the past four years the BOCC has allocated approx \$160,000 each year *[Editor/GG: For new*

vehicle purchases.] This was used to buy two new 4x4 police vehicles outright and add lights, siren, light controller, push bumper, console, and decals. Roughly \$80,000 per vehicle on average.

For 2025 the Sheriff's Office proposed selling five used vehicles, our oldest, to cover the one year costs of financing four new pickups and one new prisoner van (all would be V6 motors). The Sheriff's Office plans on selling surplus equipment in 2025 to generate enough to pay the financing for the vehicles in the year 2026. We feel we could continue each year until the vehicles are paid off. We currently keep a police vehicle for about 12 years before disposing of them. We hope to lower the number of years they are kept in service to cut down on the costs of maintaining old vehicles while using them at high speeds and over rough terrain.

Finally, we secured donated equipment from one of the largest police agencies in the state of exterior lightbars, control boxes, siren, and radar units. We also got eight brand new push bumper sets for free for an additional savings of about \$48,000 for the 4 pickups and \$6,000 for the prison van. We are ending our nine-year agreement with a Denver based upfitter and hiring a local mechanic to install the equipment for cheaper and with a much faster turn around.

We had enough money left over in our 2024 budget this year to buy a used Jeep Cherokee with very low miles. The jeep will go to admin and a police Durango will move from admin to patrol. We were one vehicle short for a new deputy that graduated from the police academy in Pueblo last week bringing us back to full staffing. This vehicle will be ready for service by the time he completes his field officer training.)



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Colorado State News



Colorado: Cattle Missing Worth Between \$300,000 & \$400,000

by Zachery Schmidt,
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – The Montrose County Sheriff’s Office is asking the public for help finding 180 unaccounted-for missing cattle.

Sergeant Chuck Searcy told The Center Square Thursday that most of the missing cattle are calves.

Searcy said that this was a “red flag.”

“Why would only calves be missing? That tends to [tell law enforcement] that they’re more likely stolen than just missing,” he said. “At the same time, [law enforcement] can’t account for everyone and don’t know if one didn’t get killed by a mountain lion.”

The sergeant said it was a huge financial loss for the Colorado ranchers who own the calves. He estimated that the missing cattle are worth between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

“It’s not like these ranchers are becoming millionaires and making all kinds of money. This is a livelihood for them. This is their way of life. Everything they have depends on these cattle,” Searcy said.

He said that the cattle started going missing around June or July.

“These ranchers take their cattle up to these grazing permits, and they might have 300 or 400 cattle that go up there,” Searcy said. “They don’t know that they’re missing 30 or 40 or whatever it is until they bring them down off the mountain and start counting and say, hold on, ‘I took a lot more up there than this.’”

The sergeant said that ranchers “assume” that they will lose cattle yearly to predators, accidents and natural causes. However, Searcy said that this is far “beyond that and exceeds that number of what anything would be expected for a death loss for a summer.”

Searcy said the majority of the cattle are missing from an area of 75,000 acres, which is all public land. The lieutenant added that snow covers the area where the cattle are missing.

Searcy said no wolves are located in this area.

In terms of the investigation, he said the Sheriff’s Office has seen “great progress” in getting help from different agencies. The sergeant added that the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Bureau of Investigation and Colorado State Patrol have all provided resources to the Sheriff’s Office.

Furthermore, Searcy said he appreciated the public helping spread the word about these missing cattle.

If the public has information, “please contact WestCo Dispatch at 970-249-9110.”

Please see: https://www.the-centersquare.com/colorado/article_c4b73da0-b8ba-11ef-99fb-9bcd5118943.html?a

Denver’s Nicotine Nazis Say No More Flavors for You!

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

—December 17, 2024

Denver has banned the sale of flavored tobacco products used by so many smokers to kick or replace the nicotine drug habit via cigarettes, but it’s okay to still buy cigarettes.

And marijuana.

And beginning in January, psilocybin. Presumably unflavored.

The Denver City Council voted 11-1 Monday with Councilman Kevin Flynn as the lone opponent to ruining local businesses in favor of those just outside city limits.

From the *Denver Post*:

The council majority brushed aside arguments from convenience store and smoke shop owners facing potentially steep revenue losses and warnings about the potential of a black market

forming for flavored products. Instead, they heeded calls from public health and children’s advocates who have decried products like strawberry mango e-cigarettes as lures that can draw young people into lifetimes of addiction.

Councilman Darrell Watson sponsored the measure claiming that 7% of Denver teens admit to using vape products.

Just FYI, nearly 12% of Denver high schoolers admitted to having used marijuana in the month before the Healthy Kids Colorado survey conducted by the state Department of Public and Health Environment.

Mayor Mike Johnson is expected to sign the measure into law.

Please see: <https://colorado-peakpolitics.com/2024/12/17/denvers-nicotine-nazis-say-no-more-flavors-for-you/>



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Colorado State News

Progressives Put Colorado's Decades Old Labor Treaty at Risk

by Jon Caldara,
Complete Colorado Page Two

We have been at peace for 80 years. Think of that. It has been long peace, sometimes an uneasy peace. But the peace in Colorado has been kept through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and Gulf Wars.

Sadly, that peace is coming to an end.

The history? After decades of violent and often deadly conflict in the early 1900s, business owners and striking workers found a compromise, a peace treaty. Colorado's Labor Peace Act was signed into law in 1943, guaranteeing workers the right to unionize and collectively bargain if workers vote twice to do so.

The first vote is to unionize and needs a simple majority. The second vote requires a supermajority vote of 75% for "security agreements," meaning to force union dues be paid by all workers, even the up to 25% who didn't want to join.

Of course, the 75% requirement makes it harder to collectively bargain and force money from union members, an obvious benefit for business owners. But it also protects workers.

Believe it or not, some workers don't want to be forced to join an organization against their will; some don't want to hand over their hard-earned money to a political group they might disagree with.

And yes, unions are political organizations. They endorse, contribute to, and mobilize for candidates and ballot issues. They lobby lawmakers and bring court actions. You know, just like the NRA.

To force a person to associate with, and pay for, something they disagree with is forced speech, forced association. It's a violation of the values we hold so sacrosanct we protect them with the First Amendment.

The great spiritual leader Groucho Marx said, "I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member." But what if Groucho still had to pay for the club membership he refused? Well, then he'd be working for a Colorado company where 75% of his co-workers voted to take his money.

While not perfect, the 75% vote requirement acts as a proxy to protect those employees who don't want to unionize.

If progressives in the state legislature remove that 75% requirement, that compromise which kept the peace for eight decades, there will be a counteraction to protect individuals who, like Groucho, don't want to join.

That protection will be right to work. Over half the states have "right-to-work" laws, 26 in fact, which protect an individual's right not to join a union and not pay union dues against his will.

Colorado is not one of those 26 states, and that's caused a fair amount of hassle to me over my many years running Independence Institute. You see, I regularly meet up with colleagues from around the country, and they bust my chops.

For a quarter of a century now they nag me about right to work and why Colorado doesn't have it like most of the rest of the country. "Come on Caldara, you put questions on the Colorado ballot all the time, like your income tax rate cuts. When are

you going to bring that square state of yours into the 21st century with a right to work initiative. We'll help!"

Then I must explain the peace treaty that has lasted the better part of a century, our Labor Peace Act, and how I don't want to be the one to break that fragile peace.

Since my crowd mostly grew up in their mother's basements, I talk in metaphors they can understand. The United Federation of Planets and the Klingon Empire have had a tense, but workable, peace in Colorado for 80 years.

Between the Federation and the Klingons lies the buffer of the neutral zone. And if I brought forward a right-to-work ballot initiative, well that would be an incursion into the neutral zone. The Klingons would surely retaliate by attempting to blow up the peace treaty by removing the 75% vote requirement.

I'm not going to start that intergalactic war.

But if the Klingons raid the neutral zone and break the treaty first, well, the Federation will have no choice but to unleash right to work to protect workers right to association, or not to associate at all.

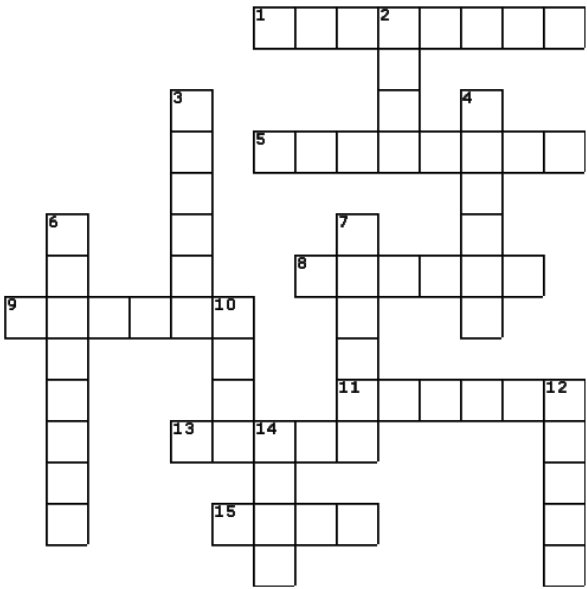
And unleash the dogs of war.

By the way, businesses don't relocate to war zones.

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

Please see: <https://pagetwo.completecolorado.com/2024/12/11/caldara-progressives-put-colorados-decades-old-labor-peace-treaty-at-risk/>

Christmas CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
1 O come, all ye ____
5 Gifts
8 ____ get together
9 ____ night, holy night ...
11 Tree decorations
13 We celebrate His birth
15 Present decorations
- DOWN**
2 What Santa brings
3 Used to tie a present
4 Heavenly beings
6 Dasher, Dancer, etc.
7 Christmas songs
10 Place for lights and ornaments
12 Jolly old St. Nick
14 Makes a white Christmas
- Puzzle key on page 7**

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THE DIME from page 1

All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid. Suddenly the shop owner came out and moved to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow.

Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box. "That will be ten cents young man." the shop owner said reaching out his hand for the dime. Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give the man his dime.

Could this be true? No one else would give him a thing for his dime!

Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?"

This time Bobby did not hesitate, and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door that the owner was holding for Bobby, he heard the shop keeper say, "Merry Christmas, son."

As he returned inside, the shop-



keeper's wife walked out. "Who were you talking to back there and where are the roses you were fixing?"

Staring out the window, and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I wasn't sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway. Then just a few minutes ago, a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime.

"When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too, was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A bearded man, whom I never knew, stopped me on

the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars.

"When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was, and I put together a dozen of my very best roses." The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly, and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air, they somehow didn't feel cold at all.

May this story instill the spirit of CHRISTmas in you enough to pass this act along.

Please see: <https://christmasstories.org/the-dime/>

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“All That Is Necessary for the Triumph of Evil Is That Good Men Do Nothing”— Edmund Burke

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.

A Christmas Eve Memory

There are a lot of terrible things going on right now in the world. But we are at the time of the year when we as Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We can choose to be impacted by the world around us in its dimly lit arena, or we can choose to let our light so shine. I choose the latter. I want to tell you a little about the Christmas’ that I had growing up on our family farm in Ohio. I was blessed to be born into a horse and cattle farm that has been in our family over 200 years. And Christmas, especially Christmas Eve, was a wonderful time for our family. December 24 was my Dad’s birthday. And my Dad was well loved by his neighbors and friends, so we had a lot going on Christmas Eve.

I remember one special Christmas Eve. I must have been about four years old. The night was falling and the wind and snow were whipping across the barnyard, as we often were victims of the “lake effect” from Lake Erie in the southern most tip of the snow belt. The barn was cold when we turned on the lights and started climbing into the loft and throwing bales of hay down, putting the hay in the mangers, grain in the feed boxes and water in the buckets. Then the horses and cows were gathered in the barnyard, one by one we let them through the door and they automatically went to their stalls or stanchions. The barn warmed up and the animals contently eating was a comforting sound.

We had dinner and went to church. I remember my brother Chuck carried me out of church that night. He was 14 years older than me and we were so very close. He was asking me whether I thought Santa had made it to the farm yet. And I was worried that it was so early on Christmas Eve that he had not—for we celebrated our family Christmas on Christmas Eve with my Dad’s birthday. Then he looked up at the moon and said, “See there...its Santa’s sleigh and his reindeer. Don’t you see them?” He was so convincing that I looked and looked, but couldn’t find them. But Chuck insisted that he had seen Santa Clause. We got home and sure enough there were wonderful presents under the tree.

We had a great family time that year, opening presents and enjoying one another. And afterwards, neighbors and friends started dropping by to wish my Dad happy birthday. Their kids and me were playing with my new farm set, and there was a lot of laughter and fun. Chuck was killed by a drunk driver a few years later. Dad passed in 1989. But the spirit of those two wonderful men lives on here and especially in heaven, and I am reminded of them every Christmas Eve—in the best of times or worst of times, they were the best of men. We have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who is with us in all times. And no matter the condition of the world, we can draw comfort in His promise in Matthew 28:20, “I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” God Bless you and yours during this season.

Bill Wilson

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Biden-Harris Admin ‘Grossly’ Underestimated Inflation Since 2019

by Owen Klinsky

THE DAILY CALLER

NEWS FOUNDATION

The Biden-Harris administration has “grossly” understated inflation, hiding the economic pain that price hikes have caused Americans, according to a new study from the Brownstone Institute.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ (BLS) consumer price index (CPI) — one of the most popular gauges of inflation — has failed to accurately account for rising homeownership costs, economic harms from government regulations and the cost to consumers of indirect purchases like health insurance, the study found. Using an alternative inflation metric that accounts for these CPI deficiencies, the study’s authors found cumulative inflation since 2019 has been undercounted by nearly half and economic growth has been overstated by approximately 15%, with the metrics indicating that the U.S. economy has been mired in recession since 2022.

“These conclusions are in stark contrast to the establishment narrative that the U.S. economy is enjoying robust growth that for some reason the public is incapable of perceiving,” the study’s authors, E.J. Antoni —a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation’s Grover M. Hermann Center for the Federal Budget — and Peter St. Onge — the Heritage Foundation’s Mark A. Kolokotronis Fellow in Economic Freedom — wrote. “Indeed, our results are consistent with

the perceptions of the American public, of whom a majority believe we are in recession.”

In this study we quantify some of the biases in inflation statistics to get closer to a true understanding of economic growth since 2019.

Roughly 70% of respondents say cost of living is their biggest economic concern, according to a poll conducted by market research and analytics company Harris in May. However, on paper, the economy is not experiencing an extended period of decline, with the economy growing at an upwardly revised rate of 3% in the second quarter of 2024, well above the 1.6% growth rate seen in the first quarter.

Antoni and Onge attribute this disconnect largely to a “bias related to housing,” arguing CPI’s proxy for homeownership costs — “owners’ equivalent rent of residences” (OER) — understates inflation because it is calculated based on rent expense, which has inflated more slowly than the cost of homeownership in the last four years. The result is CPI “grossly underestim[ing] housing cost inflation,” as OER makes up roughly 26% of CPI.

Another CPI deficiency stems from trouble quantifying the impacts of government regulations, according to the Brownstone study. When a regulation drives up the price of a product, but the government claims the regulation has improved its quality and thus made it more valuable, the price increase is not registered, and could result in a price decline.

CPI also fails to account for price changes when consumers are charged for a good indirectly, the study claims. In the case of health insurance, for example, costs are imputed from the profits of health insurers, meaning if profits decline due to an increase in operating costs for the insurer, CPI will count the shift as a decline in costs for consumers, even if the premium the consumers pay and the coverage they receive is identical to before.

These “egregious biases” cause CPI to massively undercount the price increases weighing on the wallets of everyday Americans, according to the study. They also cause “real GDP” growth — economic growth adjusted for inflation — to be overstated as the downward adjustment for inflation is not large enough.

The White House has taken a victory lap on inflation and economic growth in recent months, as year-over-year CPI has drawn closer to the Federal Reserve’s 2% target, and President Joe Biden claimed that he “cured the economy” in August.

However, when adjusted for the CPI metric’s deficiencies, adjusted real GDP fell 2.5% between the first quarter of 2019 and the second quarter of 2024, with the economy experiencing essentially no growth in the two years from the second quarter of 2022 through the second quarter of 2024, the study showed.

Please see: <https://dailycaller.com/2024/10/09/egregious-biases-biden-harris-administration-grossly-underestimated-inflation-2019-study-shows/>

It Only Took 12 Months for Roughly 1,000,000 Native-Born Jobs to Vanish Under Biden

by Owen Klinsky

THE DAILY CALLER

NEWS FOUNDATION

More than 1,000,000 fewer native-born Americans are employed than last year, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The number of foreign-born workers employed increased by roughly 400,000 year-over-year in November, while 1,094,000 fewer native workers were employed, BLS data shows. The large disparity is partly driven by a decrease in the number of native-born Americans employed of 215,000 from October to November.

“Biden’s economic legacy, besides 40-year-high inflation and record debt, could perhaps best be described as transforming the American labor market into a temp agency for foreign workers and government bureaucrats,” E.J. Antoni, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation’s Grover M. Hermann Center for the Federal Budget, told the *Daily Caller News Foundation* regarding the increasing disparity between foreign and native-born employment. “He [Biden] has left behind blue collar America to import new blue voters.”

The U.S. economy added 227,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in November, according to BLS data, exceeding

economist expectations of 214,000. The unemployment rate, meanwhile, rose to 4.2%, up from 4.1% in October.

Employment gains were largely tied to government expenditure in October, with government adding 33,000 jobs and the healthcare industry adding 54,000 jobs. In 2022, government sources accounted for over 45% of healthcare spending, according to the Congressional Research Service.

“Government spending has played a large role in much of the economic growth seen over the past few years,” Peter Earle, a senior economist at the American Institute for Economic Research, told the *DCNF* in July. “The problem with that, of course, is that government spending is redistribution: taxing certain citizens or floating more trillions of dollars in debt to send those

NATIVE-BORN JOBS

see page 19

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.

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 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, 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



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

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.

The evidence of Wisdom is prayer. Knowing that there is in fact a Higher Being Who controls the entire universe and everything in it; every living being, every visible and every invisible thing signifies a deep understanding of the importance of prayer, an act of communication and worship that glorifies God and affirms our state as His children. Let us pray not only in times of adversity. Let us pray always to Our Father in Heaven. Glory to God always and Peace to His people on Earth. Merry Christmas to one and all.



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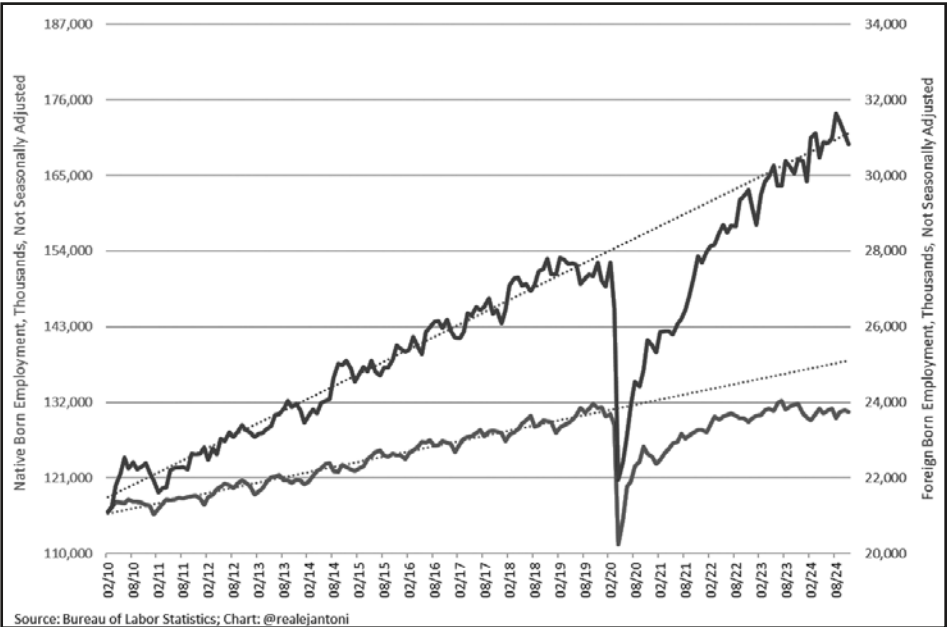
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NATIVE-BORN JOBS from page 18

dollars to other citizens. It’s not innovative entrepreneurship or other productive commercial undertakings.”

Real wages in the third quarter of 2024 remain below the first quarter of 2021 when President Joe Biden took office. Prices have risen by over 20% during the same time period, with the rate of inflation rising from 1.4% at the conclusion of former President Donald Trump’s administration up to roughly 9% in June 2022.



E.J. Antoni, Ph.D. (@RealEJAntoni)

Dec. 6, 2024

Native-born employment has never returned to its pre-pandemic trend and is now 619k below its pre-pandemic level; conversely, foreign-born employment is at its pre-pandemic growth trend, accounting for all net job growth over the last [five] 5 years:

“The job market remains strong, as has been the case for most of the Biden-Harris Administration,” the White House said in a press release Friday following the publication of the November jobs report.

The Biden-Harris administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Please see: <https://dailycaller.com/2024/12/06/native-born-jobs-vanish-biden-harris-bls/>

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The Whitworth Rifle

The Witworth Rifle - A Short History from WikiMili.com

The Whitworth rifle was an English-made percussion rifle used in the latter half of the 19th century. A single-shot muzzle-loader with excellent long-range accuracy for its era, especially when used with a telescopic sight, the Whitworth rifle was widely regarded as the world's first sniper rifle.

The Whitworth rifle saw extensive use with theConfederate sharpshooters in the American Civil War, claiming the lives of several Union generals, including Major General John Sedgwick, one of the highest-ranking Union officers killed during the Civil War, shot on 9 May 1864, at Spotsylvania. In October 2017, a surviving example of a Confederate Whitworth rifle was auctioned with a hammer price of \$161,000.

The Whitworth rifle was considered to be the very best rifle of its time in terms of accuracy, when compared to other British, French, American rifles, or those produced elsewhere.

History

The Whitworth rifle was designed by Sir Joseph Whitworth, a prominent British engineer and entrepreneur. Whitworth had experimented with cannon using polygonal rifling instead of traditional rifled barrels, which was patented in 1854. The hexagonal polygonal rifling meant that the projectile did not have to bite into grooves as was done with conventional rifling. In 1856, that concept was demonstrated in a series of experiments using brass howitzers.

Whitworth believed that the same type of system could be used to create a more accurate rifle to replace the Pattern 1853 Enfield, which had shown some weaknesses during the recent Crimean War. Trials were held in 1857 to compare Whitworth's design against the Enfield. The Whitworth rifle outperformed the Enfield at a rate of about three to one in the trials, which tested the accuracy and range of both weapons. Notably, the Whitworth rifle was able to hit the target at a range of 2,000 yards (1,800 m), whereas the Enfield was only able to hit the same target at a range of 1,400 yards (1,300 m).

While the trials were generally a success for the Whitworth rifle, the British government ultimately rejected the design because the Whitworth's barrel was much more prone to fouling than the Enfield, and the Whitworth rifle also cost approximately four times as much to manufacture. The Whitworth Rifle Company was able to sell the weapon to the French army, and also to the Confederacy during the American Civil War.

Design and features

While the barrel design of the



Whitworth rifle was innovative, the rest of the rifle was similar to other rifles and rifle-muskets used at the time. The rifle was muzzle loaded, and used a percussion lock firing mechanism. The lock mechanism was very similar to that used on the Enfield rifle-musket.

Whitworth chose to use a longer and more slender bullet than was common at the time, which resulted in a bore diameter of .451 inches (11.5 mm) caliber, significantly smaller than the Enfield's .577-inch (14.7 mm) caliber bore. Whitworth's bullets were more stable at longer ranges than the shorter and larger diameter bullets found in other rifles of the time. Soon .577 calibre was called "fullbore", and .451, used extensively in long range shooting sport, "smallbore". [5] Whitworth also engineered the barrel with a 1-in-20-inch (510 mm) twist, quite a bit tighter than the 1-in-78-inch (2,000 mm) of the 1853 Enfield, or the later 1856/1858 variants with five-groove barrels and a 1-in-48-inch (1,200 mm) twist. The extra spin the tighter twist imparted to the projectile further stabilized the bullet in flight.

The Whitworth rifle weighed 9 lb. (4.1 kg). Other long-range rifles of the period tended to have much larger and heavier barrels, which made them too heavy for standard infantry use.

When being used by sharpshooters, Whitworth rifles were usually rested against a tree or log to increase their accuracy. Some sharpshooters carried their own forked rests for the rifle, so that a suitable rest was always available.

Use

In 1860, the British National Rifle Association held its first annual meeting at Wimbledon. Queen Victoria fired the first shot from a Whitworth rifle on a machine rest at 400 yards (370 m), and struck the bull's-eye 1 to 1 + 1/4 inches (25–32 mm) from its center.

Britain was officially neutral during the American Civil War, but private arms manufacturers were not required to remain neutral. The Whitworth Rifle Company, for example, sold the rifle to the Confederacy. The Confederate soldiers that used these rifles were referred to as Whitworth Sharpshooters. They accompanied regular infantrymen and were usually used to eliminate Union artillery gun crews.

The Whitworth was held responsible for at least two deaths of high-ranking officers. On 19 September 1863, at the Battle of

Chickamauga, an unnamed Confederate sharpshooter mortally wounded Union General William Lytle, who was leading a charge at the time.

Later in the war, on 9 May 1864, during the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, according to popular accounts, Union General John Sedgwick was chiding some of his troops for lying down in a ditch to avoid Confederate sharpshooters at a range of around 800 to 1,000 yards (730–910 m). Shots from Confederate Whitworth rifles, easily identifiable due to the shrill whistling noises their hexagonal bullets made in flight, caused members of his staff and nearby artillerymen to duck for cover. Sedgwick strode around in the open and was quoted as saying, "What? Men dodging this way for single bullets? What will you do when they open fire along the whole line? I am ashamed of you. They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance." Although chastened, his men continued to flinch and he repeated, "I'm ashamed of you, dodging that way. They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance." Just seconds later he fell forward with a bullet hole below his left eye. At least five Confederate soldiers claimed that they had fired the fatal shot.

The Whitworth rifle with a hexagonal bore and rapid regular twist, when it was tested by the Union's Ordnance Committee, along with the

- Lancaster rifle with a smooth elliptical bore and an increasing twist;
- Westley Richards' breech loader with a Whitworth barrel; and the
- Enfield rifle of five grooves and regular twist of one turn in forty three inches;

was admitted to have surpassed all the others for accuracy at long ranges. No less than 1,000 rounds were fired from each rifle without cleaning. But as it required "...very peculiar long cartridges, it was thought these would be inconvenient for army purposes."

Variants

Whitworth rifles were made with barrel lengths of 33, 36 and 39 inches (840, 910 and 990 mm), giving the weapon an overall length of 49, 52 and 55 inches (1,200, 1,300 and 1,400 mm) respectively. The barrel was attached to the stock using two or three barrel bands, depending on the barrel's length.

Two types of bullets were used in the Whitworth rifle: hexagonal and cylindrical. The cylindrical

bullets had to be made out of soft pure lead, with a small hollow in the base. Under the influence of the deflagration of 80 to 90 grains (5.2–5.8 g) of fine rifle powder, the bullet would obturate into the hexagonal bore. Recovered bullets were found to be as hexagonal as those which had been factory-made to a hexagonal shape. The hexagonal-form bullet did not need to expand to properly grip the barrel, and therefore could be made out of a harder lead alloy.

The sights used on Whitworth rifles varied. Some used Enfield type flip-up sights that were graduated to 1,200 yards (1,100 m) in 100 yards (90 m) increments. Others used a sliding blade sight with an adjustment for windage. Some had simple fixed front sights, while others used a post and globe front sight. A small

number of Whitworth rifles were equipped with a four power telescopic sight, designed by British Colonel David Davidson which, unlike modern rifle scopes, was attached to the left side of the weapon instead of the top. While the telescopic sight was very advanced for its time, it had a reputation for leaving the user with a black eye due to the rifle's fairly substantial recoil.

The typical Confederate rifle in the U.S. Civil War had a barrel length of 33 inches (840 mm), open sights with the front blade being adjustable for windage, and a stoc

those who have an interest in muzzleloading firearms. All variants used in the American Civil War were "two-band" with 33-inch (840 mm) barrels, while, as of 2022, the reproduction rifles are all the longer-barreled, "three-band", civilian versions of the famed rifle. Many riflemen enjoy using them in target shooting competitions at ranges up to 1,000 yards (910 m).

Please see: https://wikimili.com/en/Whitworth_rifle

Type	Muzzle-loading rifle
Place of origin	United Kingdom
Service history	
Used by	United Kingdom Canada Australia New Zealand Confederate States of America
Wars	American Civil War, Australian frontier wars, New Zealand wars
Production history	
Designer	Joseph Whitworth
Designed	1854–1857
Manufacturer	Whitworth Rifle Company
Produced	1857–1865
No. built	13,400
Specifications	
Length	49 in (1,200 mm)
Barrel length	33 in (840 mm)
Calibre	0.451 in (11.5 mm)
Action	Percussion lock
Rate of fire	2–3 rounds per minute
Effective firing range	800 to 1,000 yd (730 to 910 m)
Maximum firing range	1,500 yd (1,400 m)
Feed system	Muzzle-loaded
Sights	Classic iron sights, Scope

Merry Christmas
and
Happy Hanukkah





Happy
New Year
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and Healthy New Year

From all of us at
Custer County Realty, Inc.

Rifling: Polygonal Bore and the Whitworth Rifle

by the FirearmHistory.
Blogspot.com

In our last post, we studied the principle of rifling with the expanding bullet. Now, we will study another system of rifling that has also stayed with us to this present day. We start our history with the Enfield 1853 rifle, which worked with an expanding bullet (the Minie ball concept) that we talked about in the previous post. While the original design was done by Enfield, the actual manufacturing of weapons wasn't always done by them, since they didn't have the facilities to produce the weapons at the rate that the British military needed them. Hence, several London based firearm manufacturers were subcontracted to manufacture the weapon to the Enfield design's specifications and the job of checking that each contractor manufactured to the same specifications fell to the Royal Armory at the Tower of London.

In 1852, the official Master of Ordinance and Arms, whose job it was to ensure that standards of weapons manufacture were met, was Sir Henry Hardinge, First Viscount Hardinge of Lahore. Indian readers of this blog might recognized the name because this is the same Hardinge who had earlier served a term as Governor General of the East India Company, founded Roorkee University (now IIT Roorkee) and under whose term of rule, the first Anglo-Sikh war had taken place. He had returned to England after his term in India and had been promoted to the post of Master of Ordinance and Arms. Viscount Hardinge was engaged in the study of the comparative merits of the rifles manufactured by Government owned factories (such as Enfield Rifle works) and those made by private manufacturers. He was most distressed to find that there were such wide standards used in manufacturing that no two rifles shot alike and many parts could not be interchanged, even if the rifles were the same model.

In order to solve the problem, he recruited Mr. Joseph Whitworth (later Sir Whitworth), to improve the precision of manufacturing tools. Mr. Whitworth was arguably the foremost mechanical engineer of that time period and was already famous for manu-

facturing precision tools (such as the Whitworth lathe, shapers, planers, drills etc.) and establishing a standard for screw threads (The British Standard Whitworth (BSW) thread standard, which is still used to this day. E.g. look at the base of any camera where you attach a stand and that's a Whitworth screw thread). After some research, Mr. Whitworth came to the conclusion that the fault was really in the design of the rifle rather than the production techniques, and was commissioned by the British Government to improve the rifle design altogether. He was built an extensive test facility for this purpose, which became operational in 1855. Meanwhile, Mr. Whitworth had already built a cannon using a polygonal bore in 1854 and decided to adopt this same principle to firearms. He also worked to determine the best form of bullet.

At that point, the bullet that was being used by the Enfield Model 1853 rifle was cylindro-conoidal and on attempting to elongate the bullet, he discovered that it had a tendency to tumble over in flight. He determined that this was due to the slow spiral of the rifling (the Enfield had a 39 inch barrel with three threads, each making one turn in 78 inches) and tried out every combination from 1 turn in 5 inches to 1 turn in 78 inches to find the best possible combination. He eventually settled on a rifling of 1 turn in 20 inches, which he determined gave the bullet enough stability in flight to not tumble over, but also kept the forward velocity of the bullet high enough.

Whitworth was already known for inventing Engineer's Blue, which was useful for machining perfectly plane surfaces (i.e. flat surfaces), and several precision planers. Hence, he determined that instead of a round rifled barrel, he was going to manufacture one using several plane surfaces (i.e. flat surfaces). The reason for this was because he could machine flat surfaces much more precisely and thereby increase the tightness of fit of the bullet. The bullet could be made of harder lead material as it did not need to deform to engage the rifling. In the process, Whitworth elongated the bullet (at that point, Minie balls were still more round than tapered) and

made it more like the modern bullets of today. He also discovered that with each variation of bore, the charge and size of the bullet had to be modified as well and determined that 0.450 inch diameter was the optimum for the amount of gunpowder and weight of lead that he was restricted to (the restriction was that the weight of gunpowder could not exceed 70 grains and the weight of the bullet could not exceed 530 grains)

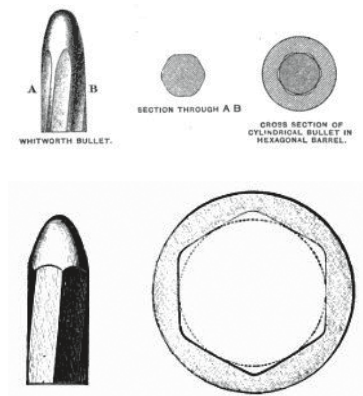
First, we will look at the competing Enfield bullet and rifle bore:

The Enfield 1853 rifle is a muz-



zle-loading weapon that has a barrel that is circular in cross-section and is 39 inches long with 3 grooves in it. Each groove is cut so that it would make a complete turn every 78 inches, which means that each groove makes one 1/2 turn through the length of the 39-inch barrel. The bore of the Enfield is 0.577 inches and the length of the bullet is 1.8 times its diameter. The bullet is cylindro-conoidal in shape and has a wooden plug at the base. The bullet is wrapped in greased paper before being inserted into the barrel. Firing mechanism is a percussion lock and upon firing the weapon, the bullet expands and engages the three grooves of the rifling. In order for the expansion to happen properly, the lead is required to be very pure and soft.

Now we look at the new Whitworth design:



The Whitworth rifle is also a muzzle-loader with a percussion lock firing mechanism. Like the Enfield 1839, this model also has a 39 inch long barrel, but it has a smaller bore of 0.451 inches, since

Whitworth's experiments proved that this was the best caliber for the gunpowder amount and bullet weight requirements. The rifling is much tighter, being one turn in 20 inches, which means the bullet makes almost 2 turns by the time it comes out of the barrel. The cross section of the barrel is hexagonal instead of circular and the smallest diameter is 0.451 inches and the widest diameter is 0.490 inches. The bullet itself is smaller in width and is also hexagonal shaped in cross-section. However, it is much longer than the Enfield bullet, with the length to width ratio being 3 : 1. The bullet can be dropped into the barrel much easier than the Enfield bullet. Since expansion of the bullet is not critical to engage the rifling, it is possible to use bullets made of harder materials, e.g. tin-lead alloys or hardened steel! An expanding bullet made of soft pure lead may also be used as well.

It was argued that the tighter rifling of the Whitworth rifle (1 in 20 inches) reduced the velocity of the bullet, but a test conducted in 1857 at Government School of Musketry at Hythe showed that the Whitworth rifle penetrated fifteen elm planks to the Enfield's six, with the same amount of gunpowder in each. A hardened bullet on the Whitworth penetrated 35 planks, whereas the Enfield, which could only shoot soft lead bullets, only managed to penetrate 12 planks. The rifles were also put to accuracy tests by taking ten shots each at targets at various ranges. The following table and diagram illustrate clearly the results that were obtained during

the trial (figures reproduced from W.W. Greener's *The Gun and its Development*, Second Edition):

The Whitworth rifle clearly outperformed the Enfield 1853, which was the premier rifle of its day. Until the Whitworth came out, the best recorded deviation from the center for any rifle at 500 yard ranges was 27 inches (2.24 feet). The Whitworth rifle at 500 yards had a mean deviation of only 4.5 inches! At 1,400 yards range, the Enfield could not even hit the target square which was 14x14 feet in size.

The committee, while acknowledging the Whitworth's superiority in accuracy, also noted that the barrel tended to foul up easily due to the quality of black powder used in those days. They also expressed doubts about how the hexagonal bullets could be manufactured in bulk and had concerns about whether these rifles could be manufactured with equal mechanical perfection. At that time, the British tactics relied on mass-rapid fire and less on accuracy and the Whitworth rifle also cost 4 times more than the Enfield to manufacture. As a result, the Whitworth rifle was rejected by the British Government as non-suitable for their order of battle. There was a trial held in England in 1860 at the National Rifle Association, but since Whitworth was not a gunmaker of experience, his rifle had ignition problems due to faulty percussion-lock design. On the other hand, rival gunmakers learned from his methods and produced weapons of similar caliber,

Rifle	Range (Yards)	Elevation (Degrees)	Deviation (Feet)
Whitworth	500	1.1	0.37
Enfield	500	1.32	2.24
Whitworth	800	2.22	1.0
Enfield	800	2.45	4.11
Whitworth	1,100	3.45	2.41
Enfield	1,100	4.12	8.04
Whitworth	1,400	5.0	4.62
Enfield	1,400	6.20 to 7.0	No hits
Whitworth	1,800	6.40	11.62
Enfield	1,800	--	Shooting was so wild that Enfield was not even considered.



Colorado State News

By Rail and River

Part 2 of 3

July 26, 2024

by Sam Bock and Jim England, History Colorado

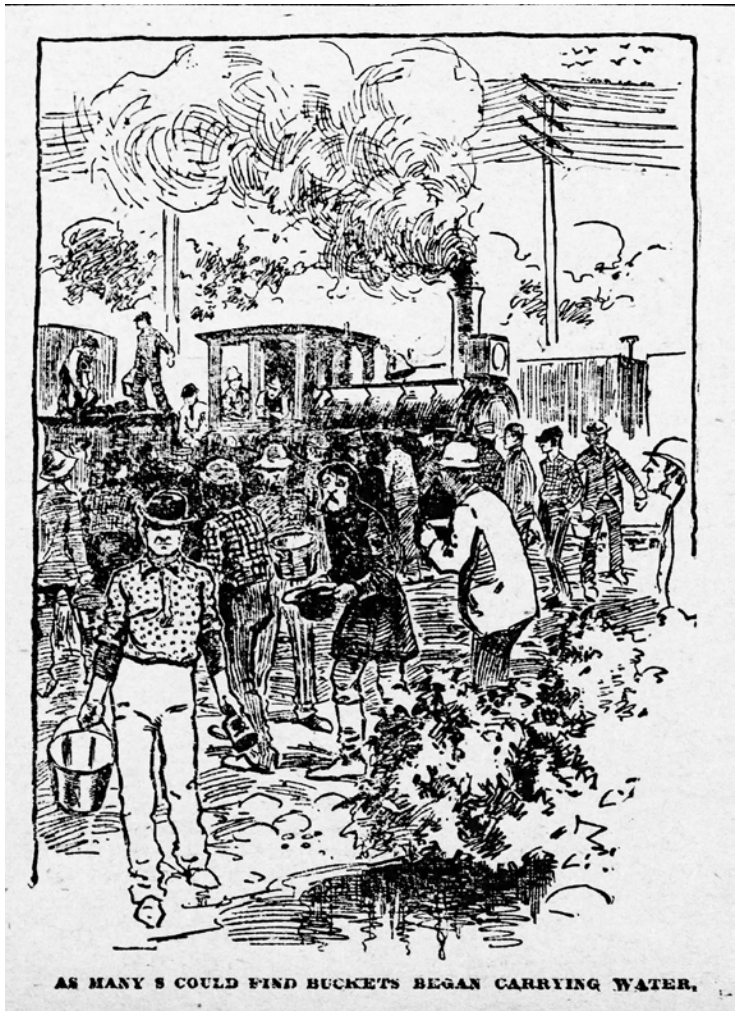
(Part 2 of 3)

(Editor/GG: This article was first printed in The Colorado Magazine.)

Although initially reported as hurtling down the tracks at fifty miles per hour, the hijacked switch engine, ordinarily limited for use just within the train yards for switching cars from one track to another, was probably only capable of about twenty to twenty-five miles per hour at most. This is consistent with the fact that it took the Cripple Creek army two hours just to travel the thirty or so miles east from Pueblo to the town of Boone.

Shortly before midnight on the 8th, the army reached the “ditched” train, but the men, who had been erroneously warned that they were being trailed by a posse from Pueblo—(neither the railroad nor the Pueblo County Commissioners were willing to pay the expense) simply began building around it. They ripped up the tracks behind them, and re-laid them around the ditched train, all by hand, so as to bypass the obstruction. After just a few hours, they were back on their way eastward but made only about ten miles before having to stop at Ordway to take on water for the engine’s steam boiler. The Missouri Pacific water tank there had been drained, but the water had puddled on the ground. One report had the undiscouraged Coxeyites using this puddle to fill up coffee pots and buckets to add to the boiler. A second, similar stop was made after another forty miles or so near Arlington, but the water in Adobe Creek there was so alkaline as to endanger the train’s boiler.

Another twenty miles or so brought them near Haswell, only to encounter a second engine and car ditched at the order of Superintendent Derby, requiring yet another impromptu re-laying of bypass tracks. Derby’s zealotry in this regard might have been partially due to antipathy toward the striking miners based on his own recent acquisition of an ownership interest in a local mine. With water again running low and impeding speed, it then took almost an hour to travel about fifteen miles and reach Eads. There, “a large number of men were set to work carrying [1,600 gallons of] water from a farmer’s well, a full quarter of a mile away.”



An illustration of Sanders’ Coxeyites carrying water via bucket-chain to refill their stolen engine’s boiler. While not widely remembered today, Sanders’ “wild train” left quite an impact on the people of the time. This illustration was published three years after the Coxey marches, in a Memphis newspaper—one of many across the country to run a syndicated article about it that year.

Commercial Appeal (Memphis), 13 June 1897

With the engine’s water replenished, by the afternoon of May 9th, General Sanders’s Cripple Creek “legionaries” had made it almost to the tiny town of Chivington (named after the infamous commander of the massacre at nearby Sand Creek), only to find yet a third deliberately-wrecked train, this one the most extensive yet. By now “wet with rain, worn out with exposure and hard work, with practically no food on hand,” the men called a temporary halt, and walked three or four miles into town “to get what victuals they could.” This only amounted to about “two potatoes, a small piece of meat...and a little coffee for each man.” And then it really started to rain on the camped-out men.

From here, accounts diverge. In one, Sanders somehow motivated the discouraged men and they returned to the ditch site and resumed efforts to once again bypass the obstruction. In the other account, a Missouri Pacific work crew arrived to clear the tracks for the mail trains, and were surprised when Sanders offered his men’s assistance.

This account is somewhat bolstered by ongoing judicial efforts. The railroad’s first attempt to obtain an injunction against the

“wild train” crew had been filed in Colorado’s federal court in Denver. Federal Judge Moses Hallett, awakened at one o’clock in the morning to hear the request, denied it. The railroad had based its request on the stolen train’s supposed interference with trains delivering U.S. mail, but Judge Hallett found that any interference was instead due to the railroad’s efforts to block its own tracks. The railroads then sought a judicial bypass, joining forces with the U.S. Attorney in Kansas to seek judicial intervention in that state. Receiving some kind of assurance that the Kansas courts would be more helpful, Superintendent Derby ordered that one more ditched train in eastern Colorado be removed in order to clear the tracks into western Kansas, “where the little game will be stopped.” Sending a work crew to Chivington could well have been part of the plan to make sure the train was able to cross over into Kansas.

Losing Steam

Work on the tracks near Chivington was performed all through the night in a “driving rain,” and the tracks were cleared by 8 p.m. Water for the boiler was secured either from a nearby pond or by transporting barrels of

water from Chivington in hand cars, and the train set out eastward at 9 p.m. General Sanders’s army next stopped at Sheridan Lake, where they expected supplies but received only a sack of flour and one loaf of bread. Their train then crossed the Colorado border and pulled into Horace, Kansas, where “the people from all the country around were there to greet the Industrials and gave them a rousing cheer.” The cheer was offset by the discovery that the “464 breakfasts which [Sanders’s army] had telegraphed for the night before at twelve cents each had been disposed of.” A Horace deputy sheriff arrested his own underaged brother, who had joined the army at Chivington.

The trip of 167 miles from Pueblo to Horace, overcoming the numerous railroad obstacles, was said to be “regarded by railroad men as little short of remarkable, for an engine of the [Rio Grande switch engine’s] class.” Perhaps for this reason, the men pulled off a remarkable switch themselves at Horace, and appropriated yet another engine, Missouri Pacific Passenger Engine 989 (“the best passenger train they could find”), to continue on east, Engineer Cosgrove again at the throttle.



An illustration of “General” Sanders, made from a photograph taken of him while in Kansas. The theft of the train made headlines not just in Colorado and Kansas, but across the country.

Times (Kansas City), 12 May 1894

Although Sanders and his men were said to have been confident of favorable treatment by Kansas’s own Populist governor, in fact their train was heading into a trap. Missouri Pacific officials were said to have obtained as many as 500 federal-court warrants for the arrest of Sanders’s army, and those officials had traveled in special rail cars to Scott City, Kansas, with a U.S. Marshal and as many as 300 armed deputies on board.

Traveling some fifty miles from

Horace, Sanders’s second stolen engine reached the Scott City trap on the afternoon of May 10th. After some negotiations, food for his men, and dinner for Sanders in the railroad superintendent’s private car, Sanders announced an “unconditional surrender.” He was reported as saying to his 450 men: “Now, remember, boys, you are all under arrest as well as I,” with his men then yelling, “We will stay with you, general.”

Arrangements were made to return Sanders’s stolen Rio Grande switch engine to Pueblo, after determining that it had not sustained any damage. Found inside the cab when it reached Pueblo was a note from Cosgrove to Rio Grande engineer Buerger saying: “This is a good engine. Take good care of her. I may need her again.”

Considerably more damage had resulted from the railroad’s own efforts to obstruct the stolen train. Although not the most objective evaluator, General Sanders placed that damage at “fully \$5,000.” He pointed out to a Missouri Pacific attorney that the railroad would have saved considerable money if it had only agreed to transport his men without charge as originally requested. An unidentified lawyer also claimed that the railroad had by then already incurred another eighteen thousand dollars in fees in responding to the “wild train.”

Sanders’s army of 450 men, now riding in passenger cars, were fed lunch (biscuits, boiled eggs, and coffee) in Hoisington, Kansas, the next day, before being unloaded at Topeka, which proved only a temporary stop before they were transported to the army facilities at Fort Leavenworth. During this period, a story was sparsely circulated that among the recruits who had joined Sanders in Pueblo were two young women who had dressed in men’s clothing and were discovered only once at Leavenworth. The women were reported to be sisters, named Emeline and Leonore Gordon. Virtually all of the details in this account have defied verification. With the possible exception of two women, the demographic makeup of the army was said to include “a few Swedes, some Irish, possibly a dozen Scandinavians, two American-born Mexicans and two mulattoes.”

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Please see: <https://www.historycolorado.org/story/2024/07/26/rail-and-river>



Colorado State News



Taxpayers Spending \$51 MILLION for Illegal Migrants to Give Birth in Colorado

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Colorado’s working families struggling to cover their health insurance costs will be interested to learn the tax dollars docked from their paychecks will also go towards Medicaid for illegal migrants beginning in January.

We feel better al — cough cough cough — ready.

CBS4 Denver news reports that no matter the immigration status, the state Medicaid program called “Cover all Coloradans” will cover prenatal and postpartum care for mom, and for their kids to get mental health care, dental and vision coverage as well.

From the report:

“Organizations serving immigrants are working to enroll families now, and to battle fears some may have about divulging information to the government.”

Coloradans aren’t heartless by any means and would never push

a mother who can’t afford to have a larger family into an abortion to reduce human-generated global carbon emissions. Okay, some would.

But the point is, Colorado is facing a billion-dollar shortfall next year and Polis is already threatening to cut \$700 million from the budget affecting those of us who already are U.S. citizens.

Barbara Kirkmeyer
@COSenKirkmeyer

.@GovofCO cuts pediatric behavioral therapy rates, funding for CO kids with autism to fund undocumented immigrants.

Outrageous!

The Ex Dir of Healthcare, Policy & Finance needs to be held accountable

cbsnews.com

New Colorado Medicaid program covers children and pregnant women, no matter immigration status.

State law protects patient privacy and the benefits don’t present a “public charge” challenge.

8:50 AM · Dec 8, 2024

Colorado just can’t afford to pay for the health needs of those who would pay smugglers thousands of dollars to get into the country illegally and bypass the immigration system to gain citizenship rights for their children.

GOP state Rep. Matt Soper opposed the Medicaid expansion to migrants that was passed by the Democrat-controlled state legislature.

“We as Coloradans and lawmakers are going to have to deal with how we pay for this. The cost is going to be fourfold what we anticipated two years ago,” said Representative Soper.

“Our lower income individuals who are on Medicaid who might see access to healthcare cut,” added Soper; “We shouldn’t be

giving programs and services to undocumented immigrants that we aren’t giving to citizens who are within Colorado.”

Instead of the \$34 million projected cost to cover 3,700 people when it passed, there are already more than 15,000 expected to sign up for the services at a cost of \$51 million to taxpayers.

Meanwhile, incoming President Trump says it’s time to end the practice of so-called birthright citizenship.

Charlie Kirk
@charliekirk11

President Trump promises to end birthright citizenship on Day One, calls it “ridiculous.”

He’s right. The 14th Amendment was written to make citizens out of former slaves, not illegals, and has never been challenged at SCOTUS. End it, Mr. President.

Readers added context

The original post states that

the 14th Amendment has never been challenged at the Supreme Court. This is incorrect. It was challenged in *Wong Kim Ark vs United States*

immigrationhistory.org/item/united-st...

Context is written by people who use X, and appears when rated helpful by others. Find out more.

8:32 AM · Dec 8, 2024

The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868 after the Civil War to protect freed slaves and grant them citizenship.

It was never intended to encourage illegal immigration or as a vehicle to grow government through welfare expansion.

And yet here we are.

Please see: <https://colorado-peakpolitics.com/2024/12/09/taxpayers-spending-51-million-for-illegal-migrants-to-give-birth-in-colorado/>

WHITWORTH from page 21

using the same rifling, but better firing mechanisms. The Henry rifle which won the competition had many of the features pioneered by the Whitworth rifle. One more problem with the Whitworth was that it was a muzzle-loader and hence shared the defects of all muzzle-loaders (i.e.) took longer to load than a breech-loader and the user had to stand up to reload the weapon.

However, this did not spell the doom of the Whitworth rifle. There were other people who were interested in accurate weapons -- quite a few Whitworth rifles were purchased by the Confederate Army of America and were used in the U.S. Civil War with deadly accuracy. The Confederates were fighting against an Union force that was vastly larger and had better artillery. To counter the artillery of the Union Army, the Confederates created a unit called the Whitworth Sharpshooters which was designed to harass the artillery batteries. In fact, this unit was the birth of the first dedicated modern sniper unit and

the Whitworth is one of the original sniper rifles!

Traditional rifling is still used for many sharpshooter weapons, but polygonal rifling has the advantage of higher velocities, less wear and tear than conventional rifling and less lead and copper buildup in the barrel, which makes cleaning easier.

Due to the success of the polygonal bore, many manufacturers still manufacture weapons using this technique. While the polygonal bore idea fell out of fashion between 1890 and 1940, the Germans brought the concept back with the MG-42 machine gun in WW-II. The well-known Heckler and Koch G3 assault rifle also has polygonal rifling (from the G3A3 model upwards), as does their PSG-1/MSG90 sniper rifle. Polygonal rifling is also used on some handguns made by Glock, Heckler & Koch, Ceska Zbrojovka (CZ), Kahr arms, Desert Eagle and others.

Please see: <https://firearmshistory.blogspot.com/2010/05/rifling-polygonal-bore-and-whitworth.html>



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