

# Between the Beans

FREE  
TAKE ONE

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## DOLORES COUNTY JR RODEO 2026

The Dolores County Jr Rodeo has faced quite a year: the first rodeo was cancelled due to an equine disease outbreak of VSV – Vesicular Stomatitis in the state, the second event was held at the end of June, but then the third rodeo was cancelled due to the spike/commander center for the Ferris Fire using the Fariground facility. The amazing organizers were able to run the August event with two rodeos on the same weekend - one August 8th and a final run on the 9th, so that entrants could qualify for the prizes by attending at least 2 of the 3 event days.

The organizers do a great job with their goal to offer a family friendly rodeo series, to educate and influence area youth to become all around cowboy or cowgirl athletes. Later this fall they will host the awards dinner for 2026.



Photoa courtesy Facebook page - online many photos from the events

## Spilling the Beans...

By Kendra Cook

Dove Creek Schools begin this week! A bit of coolness in the mornings does feel like fall is just around the corner. We had a great celebration of 4 years of the big Pinto Bean last week at Bangers; did you know they now serve delicious hamburgers, great option to the wings, pizza, and fresh salad bar (happy hour it's half price 4-6pm) Also open Sundays, so football watching with a pitcher of beer and friends is great, saves on clean up, let them cook the pizza! 'Support local' business is part of the "Bean" theme.

Between the Beans is archived online on our website [www.PintoBean.CO](http://www.PintoBean.CO) check that out if you also are online. And @ThePintoBean on Facebook, is a location to share content, and follow us daily. Almost ready on Substack, so you can subscribe for free and be emailed when it is uploaded to view. Presented the option to become the 'paper of record' for Town and County, so this could expand and include the official notices and legals.



## San Juan National Forest Proposed Winter Road Closure

The Dolores Ranger District manages 597,373 acres of the San Juan National Forest in Dolores, Montezuma and San Miguel counties, Colorado. The District stretches west of the La Plata Mountains and north to Lizard Head Pass. Its employees are co-located at the Dolores Public Lands Office with the BLM Tres Rios Field Office.

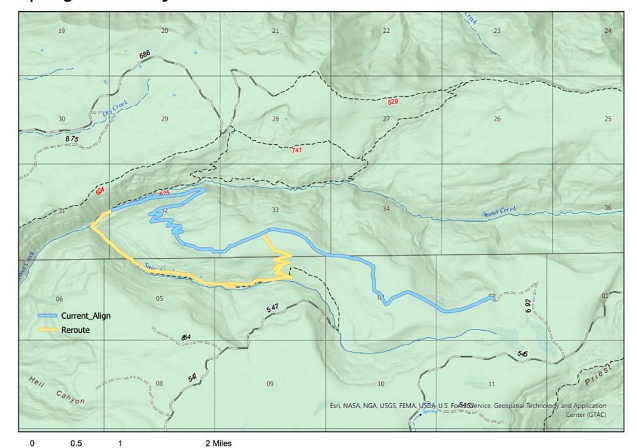
The Dolores Ranger District is considering a few changes aimed at following through on commitments made in the Rico landscape.

First a proposed reroute of the Spring Creek motorized trail to improve the connection between Taylor and Stoner Mesas while avoiding challenging terrain and sensitive areas. Second, to be a good neighbor to Dolores County search and rescue, which routinely receives winter rescue requests in the high country between Dunton and Rico as a result of navigational services suggesting routes across Fires Service Road

535... a proposed installation of seasonal closure gates on that road. That would also protect the road from 11/15 to 6/30.

The Dolores Ranger District is seeking public input on two proposed changes in the Rico area. Community feedback will help inform the next steps before any decisions are made. Comments are requested by August 27, 2026. Send thoughts questions concerns and feedback via email [Nicholas.mustoe@usda.gov](mailto:Nicholas.mustoe@usda.gov) or call 928-5226 or mail Attn: Nicholas Mustoe 29211 HWY 184 Dolores CO 81323

Spring Creek Project



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Dove Creek Elementary Families!  
WELCOME BACK NIGHT  
+ COLOR RUN!

We are SO excited to kick off the 2026–2027 school year with something new!  
Join us August 17th for Welcome Back Night! Come meet your child’s teacher, grab some ice cream, connect with our school and community, and then get ready to get COLORFUL!

Ice Cream Social begins at 6:30 PM in the Pup's Den - Color Run begins at 7:15 PM

Our students (and some lucky staff!) will even have donated white Color Run shirts ready to get absolutely COVERED in color!  
A food truck will be there! The Dove Creek Volunteer Fire Department will be joining the fun - Community organizations will be stationed along the Color Run route throwing color and cheering everyone on!  
We'll also have a couple of ways for families to get involved this year:

Family Partnership Committee sign-ups — Come be part of the team helping us create fun events, support our staff, and build stronger connections between our families, school, and community. You can be involved as much or as little as your schedule allows!

Room Mom applications — Interested in helping your child’s classroom with holiday parties, games, decorations, and other fun throughout the year? Applications will be available that evening!  
And a HUGE shoutout to our **Family Partnership Committee** for jumping in and helping bring all of this together. This is exactly what we hoped this committee would become—families working alongside our school and community to create some pretty awesome experiences for our kids.  
We can’t wait to see everyone! August 17th

Dove Creek Elementary  
6:30 PM — Ice Cream Social  
7:15 PM — Color Run  
Come ready to get messy!

DOLORES COUNTY ELECTIONS  
End of Summer Republican BBQ and Candidate Meet 'n' Greet  
August 22, Noon at Weber Park Cookshack  
<https://colorado.gop>  
Unaffiliated Candidates can be found on the CO State SOS web.  
Democratic Party in Dove Creek has no candidates for this November election.



Courtesy Photo facebook Dolores County SAR

Search and Rescue

"On Saturday, August 9, 2026, the Dolores County Sheriff’s Office paged out Dolores County SAR for an injured climber on the El Diente traverse. Initial GPS coordinates placed the injured several hundred feet below the traverse, but was quickly traced to be on top near the Organ Pipes.

SAR command was able to reach the RP via cell phone due to them being just shy of 14,000 feet. Initial report was of an arterial bleed in the lower leg, shock setting in and both climbers had taken minor falls.  
A call was immediately made to Mesa Verde Helitack for extraction and since they were at base, and the weather was cooperating, they were able to take the mission.

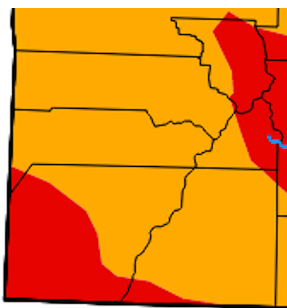
While the helicopter was being prepped, members of Dolores County SAR and the Rico Fire Department loaded up a truck and Ambulance and headed to the Killpacker Trailhead to receive the injured party.  
Due to the amazing professionalism of our partners at Durango Interagency and Mesa Verde Helitack, it took less than an hour for them to lift off from time of call, including a wait for a weather squall to pass. The helo was able to quickly locate the injured climbers due to them wearing bright colored clothes/helmets. (Yes, that sentence included words of wisdom that could save your life. )  
The crew then rigged the line and extracted them in two hauls to the waiting Rico Ambulance. The ambulance drove them out of the wilderness and down to the Town of Rico where they were transferred to a waiting Southwest Health Ambulance and driven to the hospital in Cortez.  
This mission proceeded like clockwork, and I cannot say enough about the professionalism and quality of Rico Fire, Mesa Verde Helitack, Durango Interagency, Southwest Ambulance Service, and Dolores County SAR - and both Dolores County and Cortez Dispatch. "

CHEER - TUMBLERS

DC Recreation Cheer/Tumbling registration is now open! Go Bulldogs!  
Registration DEADLINE is August 31st  
Cost is \$60 - scholarships are available if needed. Reach out to Kristy Chadd for more information. Registration, information and uniform pass out will be August 19th at 5:30 at the Community Center.  
Registration forms can be picked up at back to school night on the 17th or at the uniform checkout on the 19th.  
Jackie Banks 435-459-1328  
Kristy Chadd 970-739-8874



Dolores County High School class of 2015 graduate, Tyler Robert Knuckles, just graduated from the border patrol Academy. He had been working in service to our country as a National Guard member since he left Dove Creek after High School. Photo courtesy proud grandmother Marti Banks Spitzer, who wrote, "He is a stellar young man with a bright future. he had the honor of being pinned by his father, Vernon Knuckles, who is the chief of police in Cortez." Congratulations and thank you for your service.



August 13 2026  
Drought .gov  
SW Colorado map  
Dolores County  
remains mostly in 02  
Severe Drought

More scattered rains are probable through the week, but we are looking to the winter snows to bring us further out of drought.

**Intensity**  
None  
D0 (Abnormally Dry)  
D1 (Moderate Drought)  
D2 (Severe Drought)  
D3 (Extreme Drought)  
D4 (Exceptional Drought)  
No Data

DOVE CREEK  
Weather Outlook

MONDAY  
8/17

Partly sunny,  
afternoon  
showers possible

86/59

TUESDAY  
8/18

Mostly sunny,  
spotty  
thunderstorms

86/63

WEDNESDAY  
8/19

Partly sunn  
and breezy

85/64

THURSDAY  
8/20

Cloudy with  
afternoon  
thunderstorms

87/62

FRIDAY  
8/21

Mix of sun and clouds  
scattered  
thunderstorms

83/61

SATURDAY  
8/22

Cloudy with  
afternoon  
showers likely

85/62

SUNDAY  
8/23

Cloud sun mix,  
afternoon  
thundershowers

83/61

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