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DECEMBER 2025

Dove Creek, Colorado Dolores County - "Hidden Gems of the SW"

Activities and News Along the SWAC

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 12



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ALGORITHMIC PRICING

By Kendra Cook

As 2025 comes to a close, are we better off? In some cases the answer is yes, and some no. Much depends on which issues you are observing and have the biggest impact on your particular lifestyle. For certain, the 'machine' continues to turn and churn, with the global interests moving their agendas along through "nudge theory" to push on one front, then pull back, yet always moving their agenda forward; little by little. Through all of the distractions and noise, there are many big changes happening without a lot of attention to them in the main stream news.

Take the term "Algorithmic Pricing" aka 'Surveillance Pricing'. Have you heard about that? It's here NOW. This is also known as dynamic or AI driven pricing, referring to the use of algorithms and machine learning to automatically adjust prices based on real time data such as demand and supply, competitive prices, consumer behavior, and eternal factors like time of day or even the weather. Yes don't miss that one - consumer behavior. This concept has been in use, with proponents arguing it enhances market efficiency and consumer welfare - enabling personalized discounts that make products more accessible, often benefiting lower income households. IS that fair, or good? Data available is reviewed by a computer program to determine what price they'll offer you for xyz, while the data for another person may be offered a different price on that same xyz.

The travel industry has used a fraction of this type of price adjustments for years particularly for airline online ticket purchases. You also see ride hailing services like Uber hiking pricing at peak demands; Amazon adjusts prices based on competition and

demand (which facilitates coordinated pricing which used to be called price fixing). Even in the food and agriculture sector, tools like Agri Stats share details in the market to coordinate pricing and supply cuts. So what's different, what does this Algorithmic pricing mean to me?

To look at the big picture, it's paving the way for AI through private companies, to collect and asses YOU - from your decisions online, social media posts, to purchasing history, to search engine queries, to travel tracking through gas charges and points of purchase. Throw in some medical assistant devices and wearables, and these private corporations do much more than Santa - knowing when your sleeping, knowing when you are awake, and particularly based how the AI learning was created - determining if you've been 'bad or good' along their lines of subjectivity. With the next step being, if you've been 'bad' in their eyes, there are ramifications and consequences. Just think how things happened during project COVID - you had a choice, but if you didn't provide tracking or submit to the mandates, you weren't allowed to participate in society the same way. The merging of State and Corporate powers, allows the private sector to 'offer' up these biometrics, and then provide that information to the government. It's not actually Facism, but more Corporatism - which is why we face the same challenges overall, regardless of left or right, blue red or green politics.

This scenario being revealed, is coming to light as New York of all states, launched the Algorithmic Pricing Disclosure Act in November. This requires private corporations to notify you that you are being charged based on personalized algorithmic pricing ...

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DOVE CREEK DOLORES COUNTY SCHOOL SCHEDULE Check calendar at www.dc2j.org

DECEMBER 2025

- 1 - KB Mancos
3 - Futures Fair Cortez
Cheer MS/HS @Mancos
4-6 - HS Basketball @Sangre Tourn
5 - HS Wrestling @Buckeye, AZ
FFA Dist III Ice Skating Durango
8 - FFA Santa at ROCK
School Board Meeting
9 - Science Fair
11 - HS/MS STUD Health Fair
FFA Dove Creek Christmas Party
12-13 - HS Wrestling @Montrose
HS Basketball @Rangely Tourn
18 - End of 1st Semester
DCE Christmas Parties
19-20 - HS Basketball (H) Bulldog Classic
22 - CHRISTMAS BREAK
NO SCHOOL
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Publisher/Editor: kendra cook
Contributing Writers: hayden pate, linda cunningham, kenny ray, dexter gill, aimee tooker, sarah toenin, jeff osbourn, dewey cheatham, miso poh,

Donate by cash or check or PayPal at PintoBean.CO
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SKI PATROL SAFETY COST

By Sarah Toenin

Ski patrollers are pushing to demand better wages and working conditions in both Colorado and Utah recreation towns. There are just a couple of weeks to the deadline in December, for Telluride Ski Patrol Association and Telski to reach a deal. In Telluride, their Patrol has unanimously voted to authorize a labor strike, escalating contract negotiations with resort owner Telski - their demands are based around the high cost of living in those areas, while the compensation they claim is well below a 'living wage' - affecting retention of experienced staff as well. "For reference, the average pay of our patrol with over 20yrs of experience is \$33.12/hr" Instagram commenters noted that starting wages for a restaurant hostess with no experience is \$25/hour - statistically, the San Miguel County Living Wage is \$26.07/hr. Telski has adjusted their proposed pay up 9% for a wage adjustment along with some other changes, but these offers are not significant enough according to the Association representative. Both sides will need to come to an arrangement to open the ski resort with qualified patrol personnel. However, Telski has published temporary hiring options for those who might want to cross the picket line if it comes to a strike scenario.



One thing all these types of workers have in common is a Union. "United Mountain Workers (UMW) represents over 1,100 ski industry professionals from across the West under Communication Workers of America (CWA) AFL-CIO Local 7781. Their website states, "Our membership includes ski patrollers, bike patrollers, and ski lift mechanics and electricians working in technical, hazardous, and under-compensated roles. Working these positions in a mountain setting requires unique grit and tenacity: UMW is enormously proud to represent this group in a unified pursuit of sustainable, respectful wages and benefits, improved workplace safety, and just employment standards reflective of their competence and skills." The UMW represents 16 patrols according to their website.

Park City UT's ski patrol strike this past January, shut down their area for over a week, before finalizing wage adjustment rates. Their union represented over 200 patrollers and safety staff. Most of the area ski resorts are now open for skiers by December.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...
which the Southern District of NY court defined as dynamic pricing set by an algorithm that uses personal data - which is then defined as any data that identifies or could reasonably be linked, directly or indirectly, with a specific consumer or device. This type of disclosure should be rolling out across the states in 2026, with certain industries exempt, including regulated financial institutions and the insurance industry. Adopting disclosure acts won't completely reveal who is collecting what data for what purpose.

Many have been talking about the Social Credit System already being implemented in China, as an example of where the US is heading. This is the bottom line of what an AI program provided when asked about custom tailored pricing based on your data, not an actual set value - "While not yet widespread in the West, emerging trends suggest algorithmic pricing could integrate behavioral scoring to tailor prices, rewarding "good" actions with discounts and penalizing others with surcharges. This could enhance revenue optimization but raises ethical concerns about discrimination and societal control. "

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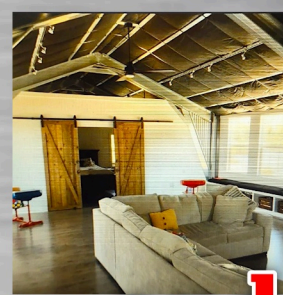
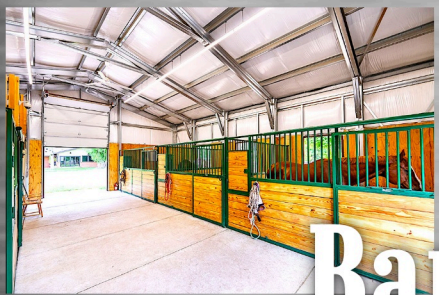
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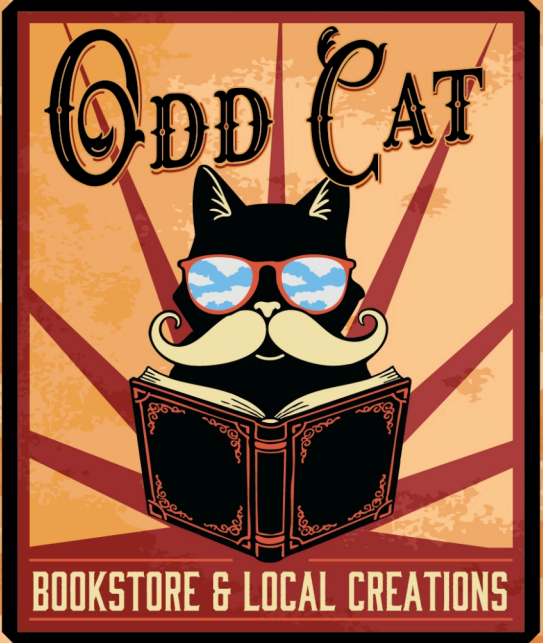
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Meet Odd Cat!

At a time when newspapers are consolidating or closing, books can be published by AI prompting, and so much is available through the elusive cloud based internet - the desire for holding a paper, and reading a book, continues to be present despite all odds - enter Odd Cat Bookstore & Local Creations by Angie Beal. "In mid-May of this year, an idea was given to me. I liked it, it felt true, so I ran headlong into the idea of opening a bookstore. I was told that

BIZ SPOTLIGHT

opening a bookstore was crazy, no one reads books anymore! And what about Amazon?? How will you compete? Short answer- I'm not trying to. Welcome to Odd Cat Bookstore & Local Creations! Odd Cat is located in Dolores, CO, between Riverside Park and Montezuma's Restaurant. I carry both new and used books along with a beautiful selection of works by Montezuma County artists and makers!

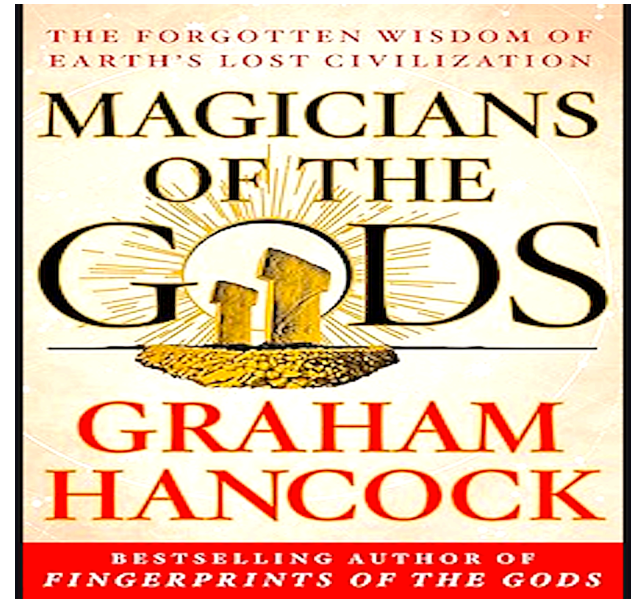
I love a good workshop so we have been having lots of those! So far, the most popular has been the American Sign Language workshop. It was SO popular that we are looking at having a regular ASL group meet here once or twice a month. I'm still ironing out the details on that one! I also hold author talks here. The space is small but it is perfect and cozy for intimate gatherings of 12 or less. I encourage you to contact me if you'd like to share or teach something to the community!

Odd Cat (me) is a staunch supporter of new and/or emerging artists and authors. My goal is to have a place for creators who (maybe?) aren't quite sure of themselves or they'd simply like to try having their goods in a year-round brick and mortar. When you're unsure of your creative voice, it's not always easy to find a safe place to sing your song, so... I welcome you to Odd Cat - a cozy space to express and be yourself!"

More than a bookstore, Odd Cat is a place to gather your thoughts, and gather together, it's not a coffee shop, it's a place to "Unplug & Reconnect!" Stop in, you'll find the monthly Pinto Bean on the counter too!

BOOK CORNER - Hancock

Visible and easily accessible ancient archaeology abound here. Though institutional 'archaeology' aligns with what could be called "industry standards"; that is to say, the patterns, stories and interpretations, that comply with an academic standard regardless of new information, and disregard anyone who challenges the narrative. Those who do dare to speak out, question, and follow possible new information and interpretations, usually have been shunned by the mainstream followers. These people are labeled "pseudoscientists" and portrayed as entertaining "hypothetical" theories only.



Enter Mr. Graham Hancock, an adventurer, researchers, story teller, and investigator who dares to stand up and tell you what he sees from years of first hand experience traveling around the world, spending hours engaged and involved in the sights and people right at the source. His unique point of view, is taking the balloon ride above and across all continents and into the depth of the waters as well, hardly something seen by narrow channeled academics.

His first well known book "Finger prints of the gods" from 1996, has been followed by over 30 additional titles to date. "The evidence revealed in this book shows beyond reasonable doubt that an advanced civilization that flourished during the Ice Age was destroyed in the global cataclysms between 12,800 and 11,600 years ago. But there were survivors - known to later cultures by names such as 'the Sages', 'the Magicians', 'the Shining Ones', and 'the Mystery Teachers of Heaven'. They travelled the world in their great ships doing all in their power to keep the spark of civilization burning. They settled at key locations - Gobekli Tepe in Turkey, Baalbek in the Lebanon, Giza in Egypt, ancient Sumer, Mexico, Peru and across the Pacific where a huge pyramid has recently been discovered in Indonesia. Everywhere they went these 'Magicians of the Gods' brought with them the memory of a time when mankind had fallen out of harmony with the universe and paid a heavy price. A memory and a warning to the future... " So if you are suspicious of academic gatekeeping, and have found the main theories and information have been misleading, misdirected or down right lies at times, you may be open to reading or listening to Mr. Hancock reading his book in his own voice, as an outstanding storyteller, through audible, or tackle the 600 pages and go on an adventure without leaving your home. <https://grahamhancock.com/>

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Our office will be closed on the following dates for the holidays:
December 25 and 26
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Congratulations to LaRissa Nelson - EMS Dispatcher of the Year!
 "Her dedication, staying calm under pressure, and compassion for our community makes such a difference every single day. Dolores County Sheriff's Office is so proud to see your hard work and professionalism recognized."

Local Recognition

Dove Creek FFA members participated in the Four Corners Invitational Speaking Contest with other students from all Four Corners states. These guys represented Dove Creek well in the District 3 portion of the contest with Mason Forst taking second in Prepared Public Speaking, Hayden Forst taking first in Creed Speaking, and River Mikhail taking 3rd in Creed Speaking. Hayden took 2nd overall in Creed Speaking.

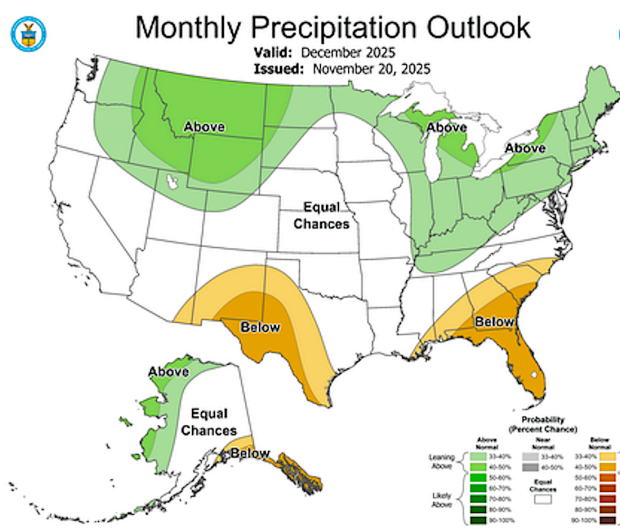


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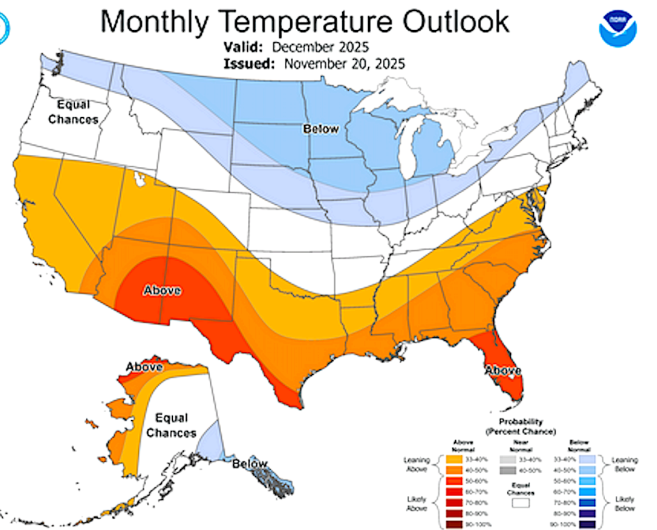


DECEMBER WEATHER

Winter begins for meteorologists the 1st, cold drops in as la Nina persists for drier weather. Snow in the mountains will be great!


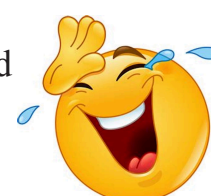
Listen to the weekly "Global Alert News" radio show from GeonengineeringWatch.Org it will answer some of your questions on weather whiplash. Show is weekly on Saturday afternoons.

Maps from Weather.gov



It won't be long 'til you won't be able to find paper calendars anymore. Their days are numbered. Why did the chicken sit on the clock? Because it wanted to be on time!

Scientists combined DNA of a cheetah and the DNA of a crab. Things went sideways real fast.

DEC WHAT'S UP

Birth Flower – Poinsettia
 Birth Stone – Turquoise
 Zodiac Sagittarius-Capricorn



- Dec 1 - Cyber Monday
- Dec 4 - National Cookie Day
- Dec 6 - National Miners Day
- Dec 7 - Natl Pearl Harbor Remembrance
- Dec 12 - Gingerbread House Day
- Dec 13 - National Guard Birthday
- Dec 15 - Bill of Rights Day
- Dec 19 - Ugly Xmas Sweater Day
- Dec 21 - Winter Solstice (20-23)
- Dec 23 - Festivus
- Dec 24 - Christmas Day
- Dec 30 - Bacon Day
- Dec 31 - New Year's Eve
Leap Second Time Day

FULL MOON

Moon Phases

DEC 20	- New Moon
DEC 04	- Full Moon
DEC 04	- Perigee
DEC 17	- Apogee

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- Heat Tapes
- Snow Tires
- Pipe Insulation

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 Christmas Day Thurs. Dec. 25th
 New Years Eve Dec. 31st at 12 p.m.
 New Years Day Jan. 1st

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DRIVEWAY WINTER TIPS

Rains and Snows can make for a challenging season, but you don't have to wait and see how things go, making spring projects and 'fixes' more difficult and costly than they may have to be. Area contractor, Blue Top Earthworks' T.J. Bicknell offers some advice from his years of experience!

Driveway Winter Prep Tips:

- 1. Proper Drainage.** Ensure water does not sit on the driveway and parking areas - Fill any potholes with road base material if possible, and compact the material. Standing water will cause bigger issues in the long run.
- 2. Ditches.** Keep ditches and culverts clear of dirt, weeds, and debris for proper positive flow. Water will need to have a place to go. This helps keep the drive dryer and offers less of a chance of making ruts.
- 3. Driveway Shoulders.** Keep vegetation on edges of driveway cut down. Snow will stay in thick vegetation and saturate areas when melting occurs.
- 4. Plowing.** Plow the driveway when there is 2 or more inches of snow if possible. This will help the drive from becoming overly wet when it melts, which can cause rutting when driving on it.
- 5. Proper Plowing.** When removing snow, try not to plow up the gravel on the drive. Leaving a little layer of snow. It will melt quicker than you think and keep the gravel where it's supposed to be!

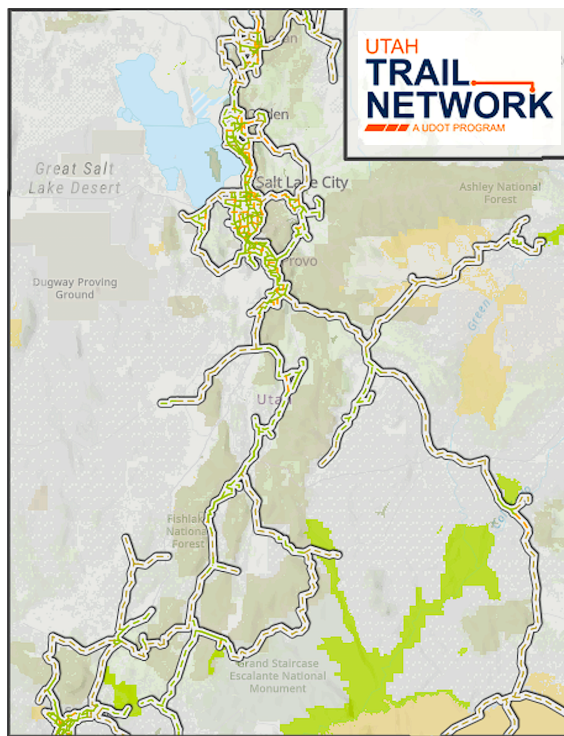
Utah's Bold Vision: A 3,100-Mile Bicycle Interstate System

By Kendra Cook

Utah Governor Spencer Cox and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) released the master plan for the Utah Trail Network this past fall — a proposed 3,100-mile network of paved, separated trails that would function as a true "interstate highway system" for bicycles, pedestrians, e-bikes, and wheelchairs. When complete, the system will place a high-quality paved trail within one mile of 95% of Utah residents, connect 208 cities and towns, link all 33 colleges and universities, reach six national parks, 25 state parks, and at least 74 transit stations, and allow riders to travel from Bear Lake to Zion Canyon (or Logan to St. George) almost entirely on protected paths.

Approximately 500 miles already exist (Jordan River Parkway, Provo River Parkway, Moab Canyon Pathway, Washington Parkway Trail, etc.), leaving about 2,600 miles to build. The state has dedicated up to \$45 million per year indefinitely (drawn from six different transportation-related revenue sources) to construct and maintain the network, a funding mechanism locked in by legislation in 2023.

Unlike typical local trail projects, this is a true statewide backbone infrastructure — designed the way the freeway system was planned in the 1950s and 60s: one coherent, connected grid that prioritizes long-distance, car-free travel. Southern Utah, which already has one of the best urban trail networks in the country, will see major new connections (e.g., closing gaps between St. George, Ivins, Santa



Clara, Hurricane, and eventually Kanab), while northern and central Utah will gain hundreds of miles of new separated paths along highways and rail corridors.

Advocates call it potentially the most ambitious active transportation project in U.S. history. If built out, Utah would become the first state with a genuinely statewide paved trail system, giving residents ages 8 to 80 a realistic alternative to driving for commuting, recreation, school trips, or even multi-day bike tours across the state. (And more than 15 minutes at a time.)

The full interactive map is now public at utahtrailnetwork.udot.utah.gov. While completion will take decades, the funding is in place and the vision is set: Utah is building the country's first bicycle interstate — and it just might change how an entire state moves.

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The Three C's

By

Aimee Tooker



The Rewilding of Colorado conspiracy theory or well on its way?

I promised last year that I would address the Wildlands Project and so here it is.

If you recall the Center for Western Priorities put out the "National Monuments Disinformation Brigade" press release. The report stated "Tooker claimed the Dolores monument proposal was connected to the "Wildlands Project," a now-defunct group that was a popular boogeyman for conservation opponents in the early 2000s. Tooker claimed that under the Wildlands Project at least 50 percent of land in America would be returned to 'core wilderness' area with no human activity."

Because I like to do my homework and read, I came across this report <https://rewilding.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/S.-Rockies-WND.pdf>

The report called the Southern Rockies Wildlands Network Vision was completed in 2003 by the Denver Zoo, Wildlands Project, and the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project.

When I was researching these groups during the monument issue, I learned that lots of them rebrand and change names over the years, not sure why they do that other than to possibly distance themselves from previous actions? The Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project was rebranded as Rocky Mountain Wild "Yes, the map makers for the proposed Dolores River National Monument". A 2012 merger 'Conservation Colorado' is a result of a merger with Colorado Environmental Coalition (CEC).

If you read the acknowledgements, you will find some familiar names in the world of wolf reintroduction, fur banning and grizzly bear talk. Even the Governor appointed head of the Wildlife Commission and other familiar names associated with the Wildlands Project partake in the happenings at the Wildlife Commission meetings, are listed in helping create this document.

This 2003 report document is a little nicer than the boogeyman image the Wildlands Project has embraced in the public. The Wildlands Project promotes taking things a little bit further. The Wildlands Project promotes that conservation easements are the key to the corridors. Once the easements are legally in place, they can impose habitat restrictions for wildlife thus ending grazing and other agricultural practices. If the landowner refuses, the easement management loophole will allow them to sue the landowner and impose those restrictions. Critical habitat for endangered species could justify its condemnation. Also stated - If they identify a ranch - that's between two wilderness reserves, and they feel it will be necessary as



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a corridor, they can say to the rancher, they don't want you to give up your ranch now but let them put a conservation easement on it, work on the tax details so you can donate it in your will to this reserve system.

It is critically important to completely rewrite the parameters and close the detrimental loopholes for conservation easements. Why not conserve those for the next generation of farmers and ranchers to lease instead of squeezing out those industries. If we are truly pro farmer and rancher then the large acreage should be conserved for those purposes and not taken away because of innovative and different practices being introduced to the land?

Here's where I plug in the Coordination, Cooperation, and Collaboration process that should and would protect the local communities from the "collaborators" getting out of their lane. <https://americanpolicy.org/2025/10/05/a-seat-at-the-table-not-just-a-chair-in-the-room/>

We need balanced conservation and species recovery plans led by the local communities, not by rewilders living hundreds of miles away. So, is rewilding alive and well in Colorado? Are the rewilders using conservation easements to tie up private property? Do your homework and form your own opinions.

So why large, scary Gray Wolves that will scare us into our homes and not the smaller Mexican Gray Wolves? Because that was never part of the plan.

Aimee Tooker is a community leader from Nucla, CO with deep connections to the region. She is passionate about preserving the area's economic independence and preserving the culture and history of the area. She volunteers on local, regional and state committees representing rural community interests like that of the West End of Montrose County.

SAY WHAT

Commentary by Linda Cunningham

The democrats and their supporters have no moral clarity, they have truly lost all sense of right and wrong. They elected a socialist democrat/communist for mayor in New York City who spews communist, antisemitic, ludicrous rhetoric and makes promises outside of his mayoral position. Virginians have also lost their way, electing an AG that threatens to kill children. And while all the focus in main stream media has been on the newly elected mayor of New York City, Mamdani, 42 other Muslim extremist have been elected across America. These newly elected officials are 6 mayors, 4 state legislatures, 20 city councilors and commissioners, 6 school board members, 2 judges, and 4 other political positions, that span 9 states, coast to coast. Many of these newly elected officials are members of the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization founded in 1928 and has been growing in membership ever since. A paper written in 1991 explains a plan for a "civilization alternative" for America. This paper, "An Explanatory Memorandum on the general strategic goal for the group in North America", aka "The Project", lays out a well thought-out plan for inserting that radical ideology into American politics and the American way of life. And it looks as though their "plan" is working. Never before has the term "brainwashing" been more relevant than it is now. It's obvious what's happening, and if nothing else this should be enough for even the most skeptical of us to take notice, denying the facts is no longer an option.

"And to those who would choose the safety of inaction over the danger of taking a stand, I have this to say: You bloody cowards. May you have the world that you deserve."

— Mira Grant

READERS' RESPONSES

QR code takes you to the website page with Readers' Responses changed monthly. Thank you!



As there's limited space in the printed pages, responses and 'letters to the editor' will be shortened with a link to the full text on the website. Editor@PintoBean.CO

Concerned Citizen of Dove Creek
Ambulance District

How much longer are we, the citizens of this area, supposed to sit quietly while incompetence and personal politics destroy the very services that protect our lives? The Ambulance District, once a source of pride and community trust, has been run straight into the ground (By Henry Daves)

Continued on PintoBean.CO



Southwestern Adventure Guide

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Moab

Dec 6th Holiday Tree Lighting in Town.
Dec 6th Moab Chamber: Electric Light Parade & Community Gathering 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Dec 6th 10K Moab Locals
Dec 5-6th Moab Arts and Recreation Center

Monticello

Dec 12-13th Christmas Market

Blanding

Dec 5th 6th Tree for ALL Blanding Santa will Be There! Wellness Center

Flagstaff

Dec 5th & 7th Holiday Concert NAU Choral Camelback Bible Church

Dove Creek

Dec 20th Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Stateline
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Bangers Bar & Pizza

Cortez

Dec 1st 6th Annual Festival of Wreaths – Cortez ALL WEEK
Dec 6th Four Corners Board of Realtors Parade of Lights
Dec 5th 7-9pm The Flyaways
Four Corners Dance Party Montezuma Annex

Dolores

Dec 6th Dolores Christmas Craft Fair Dolores Community Center (400 Riverside Ave, Dolores CO)
Dec 13th Christmas at the Galloping Goose 36pm

Mancos

Dec 5th Old Fashioned Christmas 5-8pm
Dec 6th Nativity Event 12-3pm
Mancos Opera House
Dec 7 /10/ 12 Mancos Valley Chorus United Methodist Church (Mancos & Cortez)

Dec 13th New Village Free Music Lighting Market, Baked Goods & more
Dec 18th Christmas Dinner for all 5-7pm Mancos Community Center

Durango

Dec 3 Donny Johnson 6:00pm / The Diamond Belle Saloon
Dec 4th The Polar Express Train Ride 4:30pm / Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
Dec 5th Noel Night 10am-10pm
Dec 5th-7th Festival of Trees & Wreaths
Dec 20th Fort Lewis College Community Concert Hall Bar D Wranglers Christmas Jubilee

Pagosa Springs

Dec 2d Wolf Creek Ski Area Local Appreciation Day ~ Everyone's a Local!
Dec 5th Buckaroos Santa Ride @ Buckaroos Horse-Drawn Rides
Dec 20th Ugly Sweaty Sweater 5k Walk/Run 2025 @ Uncle's Bar & Social Club

Rico

Dec 12th Enterprise Bar & Grill
Noel Night Local Artist & Crafts Live Music

Telluride

Dec 4th Telluride Nordic Ski Season!
Dec 6th Telluride Ski Resort Opening Day
Dec 10th Noel Night Photo With Santa
Dec 18th Chanukah in Telluride Festival of Lights
Dec 24th The Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade
Dec 31st New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade & Fireworks

Norwood

Dec 12th Fix It Friday! With Carl Cody @ The Livery Norwood Park and Recreation District

Dec 5th Noel Nights Holiday Market email Play@NorwoodParkandRec.org for More Info
Dec 13th @ The Livery Kat Wilder SNL!
Dec 19th Staged Reading of A Christmas Carol presented by Norwood's community theater players

Nucla

Dec 4th Elf Eve & The West End Parade of Lights - 5pm

Naturita

Dec 12th -14th Chamber Of Commerce Biz & Res Holiday Decoration Contest.

Gateway

Dec 12th Gateway Community Christmas Program 6:00 pm.

Ridgway

Dec 2 YULE CELEBRATION: Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec 5th Annual Noel Night 2025
Downtown Ridgway
Dec 6th MOVIE: "Elf" at the Wright Opera House, Ouray

Farmington

Dec 4th Christmas Parade
5:00pm - 6:30pm | Main Street in Downtown
Dec 5th Evening of Lights 6:00pm - 8:00pm | Aztec Ruins
Dec 11th Polar Express Pajama Party
Dec 13th Toys for Tots
9:00am - 4:00pm | Ziems Ford Corners

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What's on My Mind?



THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR / PUBLISHER

Kendra Cook



Love and Joy to the World..

We just passed Thanksgiving, giving thanks for an emergency helping to bridge the gap for Federal food stamps for a couple of weeks in November, and after that last big dose of fear and scarcity, intentionally directed at humans, we anticipate the swing back towards abundance - for the moment. December's holiday giving season continues, which seems to be a great time for contrived chaos to be thrown into the mix as well. What I mean is this is an emotional time - not enough sunshine for Vitamin D creation - it's cold and dark, they now name storms to give them higher marketing impact, we tend not to give our rational side the reigns - we over indulge, we spend beyond our means, and turn inside as we bundle up, and hunker down. Stay calm, stay focused, and as always, avoid falling into feeling fear and depression. The winter solstice and the shift to daylight increasing is on its way!

This time of year makes me recall being a child, and anticipating presents under a tree - made in Japan was interpreted as being cheap, then after the 1970s (research Kissinger's secret meetings in China) Made in China would start to take over as the cheaply made, inexpensive consumer goods label. With that shift, the US began the decent into loosing our own industries. Now, Chinese are out performing the US brain power - the west, specifically Americans, have been dumbed down, leaving China far ahead of America. Sadly, there are many elements dumbing down and subduing our population, from the food substances we now consume, the types of jobs, the social media influences, light frequencies (LEDs etc), wifi and wearable impacts and so much more. Our 'education' system was hijacked long ago, with specific direction for future generations. How does America, do Americans compete so we can thrive with the hopes and promises of our Representative Republic (not democracy, Please look it up if you still are repeating the 'we need democracy' phrase which is mob rule and not what America is based on). In one major way, the dollar is the key pin to deindustrialize, some how we'll have to make a multi currency trading system - thus the tariff wars, with an unpredictable forecast. Many analysts are seeing the economic collapse of the current system upon us, pointing to historical scenarios of generating wars in order to reset economies. And with wars, only the bankers win in the end.

That all being said, the current AI war is more likely what the 'real' battle is focused on. All the other conflicts and hostilities are distractions, whilst the bigger main plot continues on it's way to prepare earth for a post human future, if we let them. Look to the control as the China model shows us, that is the direction we are headed if the globalists and technocrats have their way. Keep your eyes on the big picture, the destination, and you'll better understand the journey. As we get more disconnected in our lives, we don't know what's real anymore, seek out those things in our lives that feel real. Trust and develop your inner intuition, and connect with one another. Gather together and embrace one another, without arguing over this issue or that person, it's up to ALL of us to live and act out of Love. Restoration and renewal is all about communing with others, making real memories especially at this time of year, and choosing to use that strength in a positive way. We can't accomplish our goals, without setting down what our goals are in the first place. There's lots to prepare for to navigate 2026 which is just around the corner. Best wishes for your discernment and staying loving in and enjoying a wonderful New Year!

2 Timothy 1:7

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."



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\$10 gets you a text only spot that fits into 11pt Times font up to 3 lines of the entry. The Classified section will be 3" wide just like this. \$2/ additional lines. Ask about Agency Notices.

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E-BIKES SHARING THE TRAILS

The Bean ran an article a couple of years ago on eBikes and their uncertain future on roads and trails. It's a bike, it's motorized - ish - not wide like the 'footprint' of a side by side, while 4 wheeled ATVs have turned into the size of on road vehicles; eBikes are two tired, but potentially can run much faster than most human powered peddlers. So. How do land managers deal with the mix use? It's a long standing back and forth, as more



stakeholders and tourists, take to our area trails in Utah and Colorado. Don't forget other trail user groups: the horseback, mule and lama riders and packers, and hikers. Respecting everyone's unique style of enjoying the outdoors would go a long way - however, sharing the trail continues to need external management, for the users and the land itself.

Enter the Blue Ribbon Coalition. TPI (the publisher of the Pinto Bean) was integral in helping the BRC to jump online on the early internet in the 1990s (along with registering the Treadlightly! domain to help that concept



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to gain exposure and distribute education to a wide audience online). Currently, the BRC is leading the charge to expand access for Class 1 pedal assist e-bikes on public land trails where traditional bikes are allowed. E-bikes offer an accessible low impact way to enjoy the outdoors, especially for older users or those with physical limitations. The National Park Service has adopted agency wide regulations allowing individual Park Supervisors discretion to allow Ebikes on trails open to other bikes. Most MTB trails on USFS lands are closed to Bikes, and BLM offices maintain their discretion whether to allow them on MTB trails in their region or not. In Moab this past September, the BLM announced the opening of over 200 miles of mountain bike trails for class 1 eBikes starting March of 2026. Class 1 e-bikes must have operable pedals, where power is only provided when pedaling. Power is only provided up to 20 miles-per-hour. Non-motorized, mountain bike trails will remain closed to class 2 e-bikes with a throttle and class 3 e-bikes that provide power up to 28 miles per hour. The BLM will monitor these trail networks for public safety, visitor experience, and trail/resource impacts.



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SW CO OUTDOOR RECREATION

By Kendra Cook

Public lands. A constant balancing act of use, access, financial impacts, environmental impacts, rights, restrictions, and management for an illusive 'greater good'. The challenges arise from conflicting interests, and prioritizing whose interests are more important, or more beneficial to whom and to what end.

As rural towns struggle with the economy of jobs and infrastructure - the lowest hanging fruit has become the industry of 'tourism'; particularly utilizing the opportunities of outdoor recreation on mostly public lands. Many acres are specifically managed for access and trails, by Federal and State agencies. But the local input ultimately, is the most critical, with the most day to day impact, though external influences are apparent in many circumstances, led by specific agendas and supported by external funds. That doesn't mean the local citizens should just let others drive the direction of any type of tourism opportunities, but if locals do not participate in the discussions, the determinations, you may not be content with the results when it's too late.

Montelores is the catch phrase for Montezuma and Dolores County collaborative projects. The Montelores Coalition was established to create a Montelores Coalition Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Plan - a proposed plan released in October of 2025, it is a strategic document developed with funding and assistance from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, aiming to balance conservation and outdoor recreation in both counties.



Key points include the following - **Purpose and Alignment:** The plan aligns with Colorado's Outdoor Strategy 'North Star' Goals, focusing on exceptional outdoor recreation, climate-resilient conservation, coordinated planning, and funding. It captures community perspectives and values from local residents and workers. **Current State and Challenges:** The region sees over a million outdoor recreation uses annually, with most activities occurring on BLM, USFS lands, or in Mesa Verde National Park. Outdoor recreation can have unwanted impacts on natural resources, wildlife, and public infrastructure. Funding and staffing at federal lands agencies are declining despite increasing demand for outdoor recreation.

Goals and Strategies: *Exceptional Outdoor Recreation Experiences:* Maintain and adapt outdoor recreation opportunities to growing demand and changing preferences. *Equitable Access to Outdoor Recreation:* Expand accessibility to outdoor recreation in the region. *Conservation of Natural and Heritage Resources:* Identify and address impacts from current outdoor recreation use, anticipate future impacts, and

protect natural resources, wildlife, and heritage resources. *Capacity, Workforce, and Funding:* Ensure a stable workforce and funding for conservation and outdoor recreation management and infrastructure. *Outdoor Recreation Business Growth and Development:* Support outdoor recreation tourism to drive sales, expand livelihoods, and generate tax revenues.

So all of this sounds general and vague, look at the specifics of the Action Plan which outlines what actions, partners, funding agencies, specific locations, and priority levels to use to implement the aforementioned goals and strategies. The "plan" is being shown at workshop meetings in locations around both counties, to encourage community engagement. If you have not heard about this, and live in either County, read the full plan (a copy can be requested if you are unable to read it online), by going to the website <https://montelorescoalition.org/> or follow their facebook page for updates. It's up to you to help determine how the future of outdoor recreation and conservation are balanced in your own backyard before the programs are implemented without you.



Photo courtesy MonteloresCoalition.org

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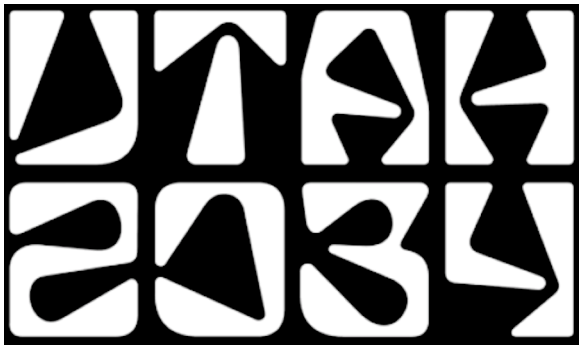
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OLYMPICS



UTAH was selected as the 2034 host for the Winter Olympics, and with less than 3000 days to go... they announced their logo and branding concept - UTAH 2034. Logo above - "From our capital of Salt Lake City out to every corner of our state, the Utah 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games should be shared by all Utahns," said organizing committee President and Executive Chair Fraser Bullock. "We are all Utahns together! Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together." The font design was met with mixed reviews, and while it's their holding spot for now, they will finalize a logo design in 2030.

The next Winter Olympics will start in Italy February of 2026, called the Milano Cortina Winter Games, from the 6th through the 22nd. So far 15 athletes in total have been officially nominated to Team USA across all sports, and just one has a direct Utah tie - Freestyle skier Alex Hall (Park City hometown) and Red Gerard, snowboard slopestyle/big air (hometown Silverthorne) and Alex Ferreira freestyle skiing halfpipe, (hometown Aspen) are the only two from Colorado at this time. The Team members will be finalized through on going qualifying events taking place in the next two months.

NUTS FOR COCONUTS

By Sarah Toenin

Coconut oil. Though not a local resource, organic fair trade preferably always purchasing food in glass jars, is a must for more than making your dinner taste good. More science has come out on the health impacts of hydrogenated fats, highly processed oils and seed oils, while at the same time, the potential benefits of coconut and other natural oils and fats is gaining attention. Truly versatile, you can use it for cooking, frying, or eating it 'raw' (spread on toast) and for skin and tooth care.



Take some time to study the brand and the food manufacture before you buy; the various processes, and the effects they have on the nutritional qualities of the food do matter. Processing oils is often chosen to change the color and shelf life of the product along with other factors that maximize profits. Here are a few possible benefits of Coconut oil you may not have heard about: it contains natural antioxidants that help combat oxidative stress and are useful in

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Dolores County CO

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2nd and 4th Monday's day time Courthouse
Town of Dove Creek Meetings 1st and 3rd
Thursdays 6:30pm Town Hall
DCDC Meetings Quarterly a Wed CSU Office
Dolores County School Board 3rd Wed. 6pm
DCVFD Every Wed at the Firehouse 7pm
Dove Creek Ambulance Dist. 3rd Monday
6:30 at the Ambulance Barn

San Juan County UT

County Board Meeting 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays 11am Commission Chambers
Monticello City Council Meeting 2nd and
4th Tuesday 7pm Community Center
Blanding City Council Meeting 2nd and
4th Tuesdays 7pm City Office

Montezuma County CO

County Board of Commissioners 2nd and
4th Tuesdays 9am 109 W Main
Cortez City Council 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
7:30pm City Office

San Miguel County CO

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SAN MIGUEL COUNTY CO

The San Miguel County Board of County Commissioners authorized an increase to the Employee Housing Impact Mitigation Fee from \$527/sq ft to \$928/sq ft. The Impact Fee applies to new residential construction and additions in the unincorporated County within the Telluride R-1 School District. The fee has been phased in since the spring of 2025, and the subsequent fee increase will take effect on 1/1/2026. From the point forward, the fee will be reevaluated annually and updated to reflect the current cost of new construction. For additional questions, please reach out to the San Miguel County Planning Department at 970-369-5423 or planning@sanmiguelcountyco.gov.

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SAN MIGUEL COUNTY CO

San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) has announced a proposed electric rate increase for all consumers, scheduled to take effect on December 15, 2025. The proposal is designed to ensure balanced cost recovery in the face of rising expenses while maintaining SMPA's commitment to providing members with reliable power and meaningful choices in how they manage their energy use.

For residential consumers, the proposed change includes a \$5 increase to the monthly access charge, bringing it to \$33.00 per month, and a 3¢ increase to the on-peak energy rate, bringing that rate to 25¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Unlike many utilities across the nation, SMPA has kept rate increases to a minimum over the past several years, limiting operational costs through efficient practices and cost-saving measures. Recently, external expenses have made a relatively greater increase necessary. Wholesale power rates—including a 7.2% increase from its power supplier is a major cost driver. Additionally, there have been continued increases in materials, insurances and investment in critical infrastructure projects which ensure the cooperative can maintain safety, reliability, and resilience across its service territory. Over time, SMPA's rate increases still pale in comparison to the rate of inflation and average electric costs, nationally.

DURANGO CO

Ft Lewis College's "AI for Rural Communities" is a free, one-day event that will bring together community members, Fort Lewis College students, faculty, and staff, along with regional business, education, and civic leaders, to discuss how AI can power the future of rural communities. December 16, 2025.

The Free 2nd Annual Four Corners AI Conference: AI for Rural Communities takes place at the Fort Lewis College Concert Hall in Durango. This one-day event brings together community leaders, educators, business owners, technologists, and residents to explore how artificial intelligence can strengthen rural communities. Whether you are just curious about AI, use it in your workplace, or are developing advanced applications, you will find sessions designed for your level of experience. " Together, we are building an AI-ready future for the Four Corners region".

Employee Housing Impact Mitigation Fee Increasing 1/1/26

As a part of a phased increase schedule, the fee will increase to \$928/sq ft as of effect as of 1/1/26.
 More info + details: bit.ly/mitigationfee

MONTEZUMA COUNTY CO

Montezuma County commissioners had been given the task back from the spring of 2025, to assess the large solar 'farm' projects and land use regulations, as there has been a lot of concern from residents on the impact on their communities, property values, and in general how they affect or benefit the area, or not. In a November meeting, the commissioners approved the new regulations, with an adjustment to increase the size of the setback from 150 feet to 500 feet from any neighbors' property lines.

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MOAB UT

Moab Utah has seen its share of flooding over the past several years of experiencing deluge force rains. One of the approved projects to protect infrastructure and specifically the Mill Creek stability on the banks, is an approved erosion reduction plan. In November, the two designated sites which includes a portion of Rotary Park were set off limits to the public with chain link fences. The other location is around the West of 400 East road. The City reported work will include excavating unstable banks, installation of geo textile fabric, with riprap and gabion structures, to rebuild and reshape the bank according to the floodplain plan, in some spots installing a concrete grade control structure, and finally to restore the creek flow and restoration through re seeding once complete.

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TAT ON STREET VIEW

By Kendra Cook

Do you know what a "TAT-er" is? TAT stands for Trans American Trail - a popular cross country trail that offers an unforgettable journey as the website states, using either a dual sport motorcycle or a 4x4 vehicle. The east to west coast 'trail' comes right through Dove Creek Colorado. The trail is made up of dirt, gravel, forest, farm, and brief sections of paved roads. Sam Correro was the Mississippian motorcyclist who decided in 1984 to create a paper atlas to mark out the path, which took him decades of scouting to create the best combination route. His efforts resulted in both roll charts and GPS files from the official website transamtrail.com.

After 40 years of hundreds of travelers each year creating their personal cross country adventures, Google Maps and the Ford Motor Company joined efforts to navigate the TAT via Street View, so you can virtually preview the terrain - for your adventure prep or armchair enjoyment. It took the team of drivers and engineers over

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PHOTOS FORD / Google MAP - TransAmTrail.com

32 days, with Ford's Bronco Badlands edition leading the way, with their Ranger Lariat and an Expedition Tremor operating as follow trucks for the base camp setups.

You may have seen a Google street view car with the odd contraption on the roof, but for off road conditions, the Bronco was outfitted with customized dust proofed and vibration dampered mounts, while the engineers had to work their magic to stitch together the images, and maintain the systems at the end of each day. "Ford describes the undertaking as part of its 'From the Road' storytelling initiative, which celebrates real journeys and the people who take them" and is a good PR piece for their expanded Bronco lineup, though they say that's not why they did it. Right. The simplest way to view it is using the mobile version of Google maps, where you can follow a continuous green ribbon across the landscape. Simply open the app,

search for "TransAmerica Trail," select "Street View" from layers, zoom into any area on the green line that marks the path across the country, then tap the line to drop in and explore."

Though this is wonderful as an historic imagery capturing the trail as it was in August of 2025, there are those who are not thrilled with making the route attractive to more users, in fear of the trails becoming more crowded or potentially abused. This is the case for every little known adventure spot - as backcountry tourism continues to grow. If you meet a "TAT-ER" (tat er not like the potato) who's stopped for gas, or a meal, or supplies - take a moment to say hello, you're sure to enjoy some good story telling by an adventurous soul, that might just inspire you to take your own journey and explore this great nation at a slower pace. In this case, it's definitely not the destination - it's the journey!

DEEP DIVE HEADLINES

QR CODE
 TO DEEP
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Point your phone camera at the QR code above, there will be a link that opens up, tap that and it takes you to a webpage. Deep Dive is the section with headlines and links to news you can use - bookmark the resources.

This "Deep Dive" section, is designed to provide various interesting and off main stream headlines

<https://pintobean.co/deep-dive-1>

Do your own truth seeking - find multiple sources to verify. If you have a site you'd like us to share at our discretion, send it in to Editor@PintoBean.CO

CO2 is a Real Medicine
https://bibliotecapleyades.net/ciencia4/co2_35.htm

10 things you don't want to know about yourself
<https://www.self-inflictedphilosophy.com/single-post/ten-things-you-don-t-want-to-know-about-yourself>

Panic as Climate Summit Goes up in Flames COP30
<https://www.lifezette.com/2025/11/panic-as-climate-summit-goes-up-in-flames-thousands-evacuated-watch/>

Nigerian Gunmen Abduct over 200 Christian Children, 12 Teachers in Boarding School Attack
<https://www.zerohedge.com/political/nigerian-gunmen-abduct-over-200-christian-children-12-teachers-boarding-school-attack>

For the Love of Food

By Kendra Cook

Last month I hope you enjoyed the use of Pinto Beans in a different type of soup. This month I wanted to include sweet recipes that feature the humble little bean - treats and cookies! The holiday season is packed with tons of cookie recipes to share with family and friends, if you try these and like them you'll be remembered this year for sure! Maybe even become a tradition?

Again pulling from the Colorado Dry Bean committee's website, the first treat is: Pinto Bean Peanut Butter Cups! The recipe is from Colleen Ferreira, "That irresistible combination of peanut butter and chocolate just got an upgrade! Worthy of your holiday cookie plate, these pinto bean infused candies are nutty, creamy and downright delicious - celebrate the festive season with local Colorado beans!" She also created the recipe for Pinto Bean Ginger Snaps - sweet, spicy, crispy and chewy - a perfect treat for the holidays.

Recipes and Directions:

Place cooked pinto beans, peanut butter, powdered sugar, and vanilla extract into a food processor. Blend ingredients until smooth. Take a tablespoon of the filling and create a circular patty. Set patties aside on a plate. Melt chocolate chips and coconut oil together until smooth. Line a muffin tin with parchment paper cups.



Pinto Bean Peanut Butter Cups

- Ingredients - For 12 large candy cups
- 1 cup pinto beans, cooked
 - 1 cup creamy peanut butter
 - 2/3 cup powdered sugar
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
 - 3 tsp coconut oil



Pour a large tablespoon of chocolate into each cup. Place a pinto bean peanut butter patty over each chocolate layer. Top patty with another layer of chocolate. Let candies set in the refrigerator for a day. Enjoy cold or at room temperature. Keep refrigerated.



Pinto Bean Ginger Snaps

- Ingredients
- 1 cup cooked pinto beans, unsalted
 - 1 egg
 - 1 standard box of spice cake mix
 - 1 tbsp ground ginger
 - 1/4 cup molasses
 - 3 tbsp oil
 - 1/2 cup flour

white sugar, for rolling cookies
Combine the first 6 ingredients in a food processor and blend until smooth. If the cookie dough seems wet, add in a few tablespoons of flour and blend again. Keep adding flour if necessary until a cookie dough forms. Remove the dough from the food processor and create a tube shape with the dough. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Remove wrap and cut thin slices from the dough. Dip each cookie slice in white sugar and lay on a cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes until golden and crisp on the outside.

Void where prohibited by law or a bah humbugger

Pinto Bean's Winter BINGO Card !

Editor@PintoBean.CO

Cut out the card - make copies and compete with your friends - if you take our challenge, play the Bean Bingo and be the first to submit a winning line, you could win some Pinto Bean swag! Email the 5 squares in a line, proof (screen shot from news,instagram,facebook or online or however you determine that square is filled) GAME ON Dec. 1st through January 31st.... Stay Frosty my Friends!

Truck Stuck pulling out Truck	Snow Angel Photos	Wolf Creek Pass Closed	Snowman Worthy Snow	Flip Flop Wearer Seen
State Plows Out	5' Snow Report	School Delay	Power Outage	HWY 491 Closed
TX Car in Ditch	Chains on Cars Alert	Free 	Phrase Chemical Ice Nucleation	Skier Accident
Photo Snow on Grill	Lizardhead Pass Closed	Snow Melt by Noon	Avalanche Alert	20 Flights or more Cancelled
Golf Ball Sized Hail	Panic Milk and Bread Buying	HWY 191 Closed	Big Icicles Photos	Photo Measuring Tape in Snow

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Commodity Pricing Sample

2025	Nov	Dec
GOLD	\$4,0002.26 ↑	\$4,216.34
SILVER	\$48.68 ↑	\$56.41
URANIUM	\$82.40 ↓	\$76.45
COPPER	\$10,901.50 ↑	\$11,004.00
OIL (wti)	\$60.98 ↓	\$58.55
NATURAL GAS (Henry Hub)	\$4.12 ↑	\$4.85
Live Cattle	\$2.37 ↓	\$2.15
Feeder Cattle	\$3.38 ↓	\$3.23
WHEAT (winter)	\$7.50	\$7.50
BEANS	\$28.00	\$28.00

sources: Business Insider / tradingeconomics / CSU & Local Producers



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