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FEBRUARY 2026

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

Activities and News Along the SWAC & Four Corners

Solar Activity & Magnetosphere

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 02



Dove Creek CO Unusual Auroras
Photo Teresa Martin

er Text Here.



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Geomagnetic Jerks & the Sun

By Kendra Cook

In an era of rapid cosmic changes, Earth's protective magnetic field is undergoing profound transformations. Recent solar events, including a powerful coronal mass ejection (CME) that impacted our planet last month, highlight the interplay between solar activity, geomagnetic excursions, a weakening magnetosphere, and an impending pole shift. These phenomena not only disrupt technology but also influence human health and, historically, geopolitical dynamics.

A geomagnetic excursion represents a temporary but significant deviation in Earth's magnetic field, where the poles wander dramatically without fully reversing. Unlike a complete reversal, which occurs over millennia, excursions can unfold in centuries or less, leading to weakened field strength and anomalous directions. The most recent well-documented event, the Laschamps excursion around 41,000 years ago, saw the field weaken to just 5% of its current strength, allowing increased cosmic radiation to penetrate the atmosphere. This event coincided with environmental crises, including megafauna extinctions and potential impacts on early human populations.

Scientists are now monitoring signs of a modern excursion, with Earth's magnetic field showing unusual behavior. Recent studies suggest we may be in the early stages, as evidenced by accelerated pole movement and field weakening. These excursions expose the planet to heightened solar and cosmic influences, amplifying the effects of solar events. The CME impact known as the Carrington event of 1859, reports of a mega solar flare eruption that

caused a huge geomagnetic storm on Earth, causing fires and strong auroral displays world wide.

Earth's magnetic poles are on the move, with the north magnetic pole drifting toward Siberia at an accelerating rate—now about 34 miles per year, up from 6-9 miles historically. The latest World Magnetic Model (WMM2025), released in late 2024 and updated in 2025, places the pole at 86.38°N, 164.06°E, closer to Russia than Canada. Predictions for 2026-2029 suggest continued migration. Usual updates are made every 5 years, however the data is showing increased reported activity, that some point to a potential magnetic swap as early as the 2040s or sooner.

For the immediate time, scientists are researching how solar activity influences human physiology. Geomagnetic storms from CMEs can alter blood flow, trigger cardiac arrhythmias, and increase cardiovascular events, with studies showing up to 30% higher impacts on vulnerable individuals. Recent research links elevated solar activity to decreased B12 and folate levels, mood changes like irritability and anxiety, and even epileptic seizures.

Proponents of a "12,000-year catastrophe cycle" including Ben Davidson of SuspiciousObservers, (see DisasterCycle.film) argue that we're approaching the end of such a cycle, involving weakened magnetic fields allowing massive solar outbursts or galactic current sheets to trigger floods, extinctions, and societal collapses—echoing events like the Younger Dryas cooling around 12,900 years ago. Check out the QR code on the right, to find the Disaster Cycle film for a good overall introduction in laymen terms, on what has, is, and may be happening in our near future.



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

FEB 3 MS Wrestling (H) Quad
MS Girls Basketball @Nucla
HS Basketball @Ouray
FEB 4 MS Girls Basketball(H) Telluride
FEB 5 HS Wrestling @Leaguee Nucla
FEB 6 FFA Dist. III State Degree &
Proficiency Reviews
FEB 7 HS Basketball (H)Nucla
MS Wrestling @Cortez Tourn.
FEB 9 MS Wrestling @Mancos Quad
FEB 10 HS Basketball @Telluride
MS Girls Basketball (H)Dolores
FEB 12 DCE Valentine's Day Parties
FFA Chili Dinner and Auction 6pm
FEB 13-14 HS Wrestling Regionals
FEB 13 HS Girls Basketball (H)Cortez
FEB 14 HS Basketball @Dolores
FEB 15 FFA State Degrees to Office
FEB 16 NO SCHOOL
FEB 17 HS Basketball @Mancos
MS Girls Basketball (H)Mancos
FEB 18 School Board Meeting
FEB 19-21 HS Wrestling State
Championships
FEB 20 HS Basketball (H)Our
FEB 21 MS Girls Basketball SJBL
Championships
HS Girls Basketball (H) James Irwin
FEB 22-28 FFA WEEK
FEB 23 Spring Sports Begin
FEB 24 MS Wrestling @Dolores Tri
HS Basketball @Mancos
FEB 26 FFA Staff Appreciation Bfast
FEB 27 HS Basketball (H)Ridgway
MARCH 5 Mid Term

DOVE CREEK / DOLORES COUNTY

Celebrating the Seniors – High School

This Knowledge Bowl season was especially meaningful as four seniors competed in their final year. The team brought energy, focus, and strong camaraderie to every meet, creating a memorable season for everyone involved. With one freshman rounding out the roster, the team blended experience with new beginnings to close out a great final chapter.



Middle School Knowledge Bowl

Brains, buzzers, and big wins! The middle school Knowledge Bowl team dominated the competition this year with three 1st-place finishes, one 2nd-place, and one 3rd-place finish. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and dedication proved that knowledge truly is power!



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See Page 6 for the Dove Creek Schools Wrestling year achievements wrap up . . .



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Why a National Conservation Area for the Southern Dolores River?

Commentary by Al Heaton

I'm writing to address the growing misinformation surrounding the proposed National Conservation Area for the southern Dolores River. As someone who has worked and lived in this area and who participated directly in the collaborative process that produced this proposal, I believe it's important to explain why many local interests came together to support it — and what it does, and does not, mean for our communities.

Because of the interests and concerns that come with Wild and Scenic River eligibility and suitability — which originate in Washington DC and direct's the Bureau of Land Management's current river corridor management plan — many interests came together, in good faith, to discuss what matters to us as a community that relies on and enjoys the Dolores River. Over time, a local proposal for a National Conservation Area (NCA) took shape. If that bill passes in Congress, it would take both a national monument and WSR designation off the table.

There has been a flurry of misinformation online about the NCA, its creation, and what it would mean for the lower Dolores River corridor in Montezuma, Dolores, and San Miguel counties. Did any one interest or

stakeholder get everything it wanted? No. Does any one interest or stakeholder think it is perfect? No. It is a compromise. It reflects our diverse communities and provides greater certainty for everyone about how multiple uses and resources will be managed moving forward.

The process of developing the details of the NCA took place over many years and included hundreds of meetings, numerous site visits, multiple drafts of legislative language, several different maps, and many opportunities for public input. From the perspective of a local rancher who operates in all three counties and along the river included in the bill — and from the perspective of the counties that participated — we saw a deep sense of fairness and consensus-building throughout the process. We have deep roots in southwest Colorado, and we understand the need to work with all interests regarding public lands. Public land is not, and should not be, simply partisan.

Lands included in the proposed National Conservation Area and Special Management Area are already managed and owned by the federal government. If this bill passes, it will not mandate additions to the federal estate, affect or harm private property, or create any buffer zones. It protects valid existing rights. Livestock grazing will not be changed or altered by this legislation.

It is naïve to assume that conditions — on public land or in national politics — will remain the same in the future. An NCA designation developed from the ground up offers the best way to secure a degree of certainty for our water rights, multiple uses, and reliance on the Dolores River corridor. This proposal was developed locally, on the landscape, and it takes a national monument or WSR designation off the table. It also gives us a seat at the table if future changes are proposed.

If we do nothing, an outside proposal will emerge in the not-too-distant future and determine how the Dolores River is managed. The NCA represents a reasonable compromise for the Dolores River and respects the majority of local voices.

Please study the facts. Don't simply follow personal opinions, negative rhetoric, or conspiracy theories that do not offer a meaningful alternative to a WSR designation. I have never found those to be beneficial.

Al Heaton is a third-generation Colorado rancher and farmer whose livestock and farming operation spans all three counties in the proposed NCA, including federal grazing allotments. He represented grazing, mining, and private land interests in the collaborative process that led to the NCA proposal.

Quotes on Request

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Barndominiums



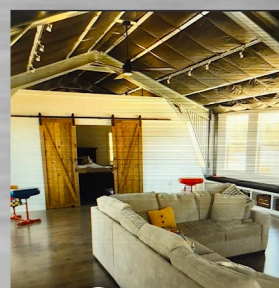
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Offices



Barns



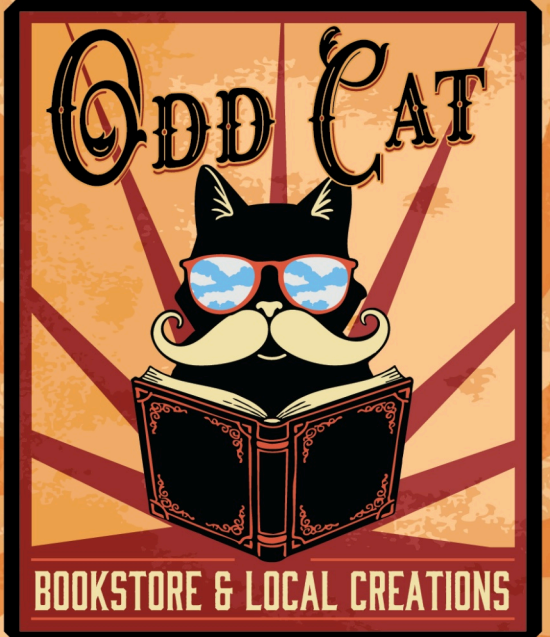
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Well hellooooo February! Odd Cat Angie B.

Usually at this time of year, I'm looking forward to the first hints of Spring breezes and longer days. This year though, doesn't feel the same. I'm not sure we've even had winter yet, so it feels off-kilter to be looking forward to a change of seasons already. Quite strange. Enough fluff! Let's get on with business!

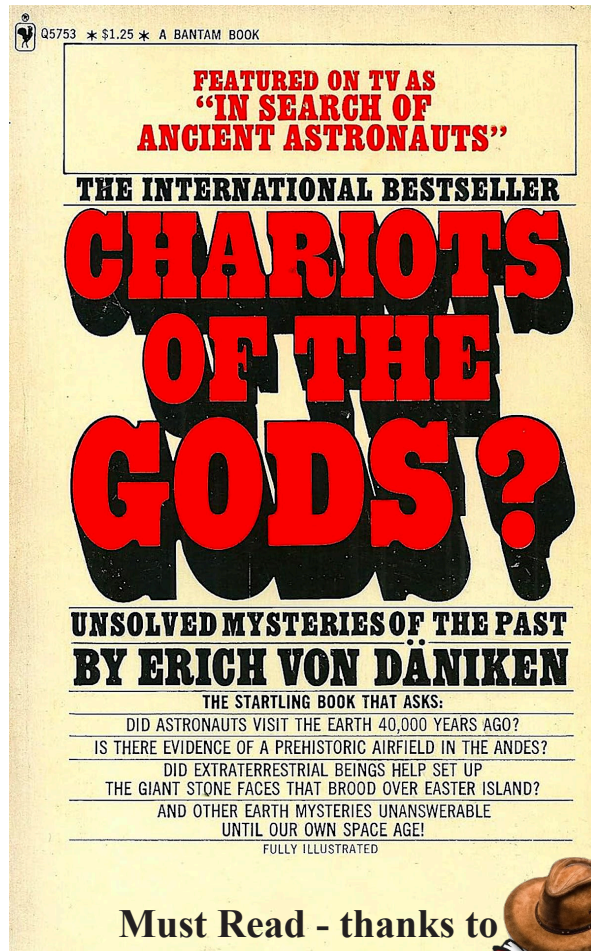
This past autumn/early winter, Odd Cat Bookstore had lots of events going on. Author talks, instructional workshops, book clubs, writing groups, discussion circles, and more. The support and enthusiasm on my social media were ENORMOUS and completely positive each and every time.

Now, the ugly truth: In spite of all the positive support I've always received, many times only one person (or zero) showed up to participate. It made no difference if there was a fee or not, nor did it matter if I requested RSVPs or registrations.

In light of this, I have redirected my energy. I am 1000% supportive of other people using this space as an intimate gathering spot. If you'd like to hold a book group, a workshop, teach something, or discuss something, come on down! Odd Cat comfortably seats 10 but can hold more. We've even been used as a meeting spot, a casual job interview venue and a podcast locale! Free coffee and Wi-Fi are hard to beat. Plus, it smells amazing in here (and I'm hilarious)!

This is simply a friendly reminder that "Support Local" is not just a catchy slogan on your market tote. I strongly encourage you to go to that little shop you've been hearing about. Take a drive around the area to see what's new. Explore different informational outlets- they may advertise something you haven't seen yet. If you've "been meaning to make it down there", please GO. We're all depending on you!

BOOK CORNER



Must Read - thanks to
the life of
Erich von Däniken



"The idea that we are alone in the universe is one of the most arrogant assumptions humans have ever made."
-- Erich von Däniken



The above image is a Mayan carving that could be interpreted as showing what looks like an 'ancient astronaut'. Others interpret the 'tree of life' concept of connection. Von Däniken subsequently wrote a book titled: "Astronaut Gods of the Maya: Extraterrestrial Technologies in the Temples and Sculptures" in which many more artifacts are reviewed with a different perspective. Though his writings seemed to irk academically approved scholars, he was stirring our imagination, by considering alternative possibilities.

Chariots of the Gods?

Chariots of the Gods 1968 book author, Erich von Däniken passed on January 10, 2026 at the age of 90. He was most well known for his books about the extraterrestrial origins of ancient civilizations. The book fueled a growing interest in unexplained phenomena at a time when the race to get to the Moon was the primary meme of the day.

Ironically, this Swiss native rebelling on his Catholic upbringing, left school for being a waiter and barkeep, after some law issues, in 1964 he was appointed manager of a hotel in no other than the town of Davos - the home of the annual WEF (world economic forum) meetings yearly in Jan/Feb. It was here, that he started to write the first book. After that phenomenal success, he went on to a career writing over 24 more published books, International speaking tours, and interviews and spots on TV series.

As to the book, he asserts humanity's ancestors had contact with intelligent beings from other worlds. He cites evidence like unexplained engineering feats, ancient texts describing advanced technology, and artifacts suggesting metallurgy beyond these societies' means. He also examines maps such as the Prior Reis that bring up more questions than answers.

Von Däniken also covers ongoing efforts to communicate with extraterrestrial life. He discusses scientific estimates about life existing elsewhere, strategies like broadcasting mathematical signals into space, and the developing field of exobiology exploring life in the cosmos. The book invites readers to consider mankind's role in the broader universe.

The title word, Chariots, hearkens to interpreting Ezekiel's vision in the Bible as a UFO encounter combined with Hindu epics as descriptions of aerial battles with high-tech weaponry; see the artifacts of Vimāna, and Sanskrit texts that also refer to flying machines that predate our told history of high tech transportation.

Chariots of the Gods became a global phenomenon, selling in the tens of millions and sparking a worldwide conversation about human origins that continues to this day. I love what people find is the most important part of his writing, is that he gave permission to wonder.

Looking up... NASA has been following 'Oumuamua' - the first confirmed object from another star to visit our solar system. This interstellar interloper, discovered Oct. 19, 2017, appears to be a rocky, cigar-shaped object with a somewhat reddish hue.

The object was named 'Oumuamua' by its discoverers. It means "a messenger from afar arriving first" in Hawaiian. A quarter of a mile long and skinny, it doesn't fit the aspect ratio of an asteroid or comet. What this object really is... has yet to be determined.

2026 DOOMSDAY CLOCK

The Science and Security Board (SASB) is a select group of globally recognized leaders with a specific focus on nuclear risk, climate change, and disruptive technologies.



IT IS 85 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

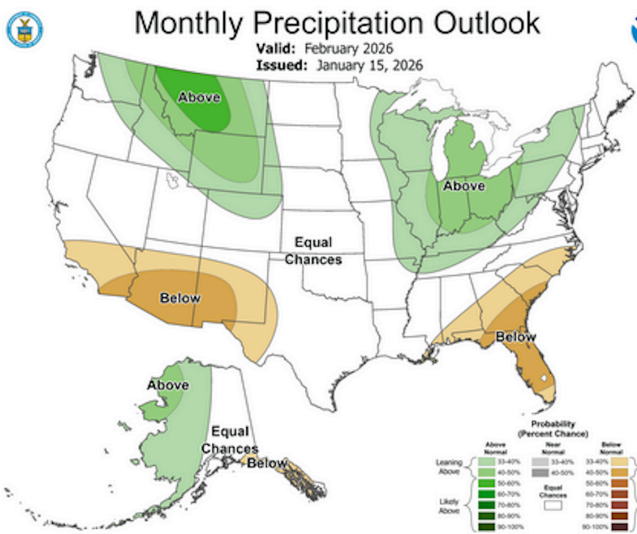
They stated: "A year ago, we warned that the world was perilously close to global disaster and that any delay in reversing course increased the probability of catastrophe. Rather than heed this warning, Russia, China, the United States, and other major countries have instead become increasingly aggressive, adversarial, and nationalistic. Hard-won global understandings are collapsing, accelerating a winner-takes-all great power competition and undermining the international cooperation critical to reducing the risks of nuclear war, climate change, the misuse of biotechnology, the potential threat of artificial intelligence, and other apocalyptic dangers. Far too many leaders have grown complacent and indifferent, in many cases adopting rhetoric and policies that accelerate rather than mitigate these existential risks. Because of this failure of



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leadership, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Science and Security Board today sets the Doomsday Clock at 85 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been to catastrophe."

We are sponsoring the 6th Big Truckin' Car Show in June - if you'd like to be a sponsor or vendor please contact us. Vehicle Registration \$10 8am on 6.27.26

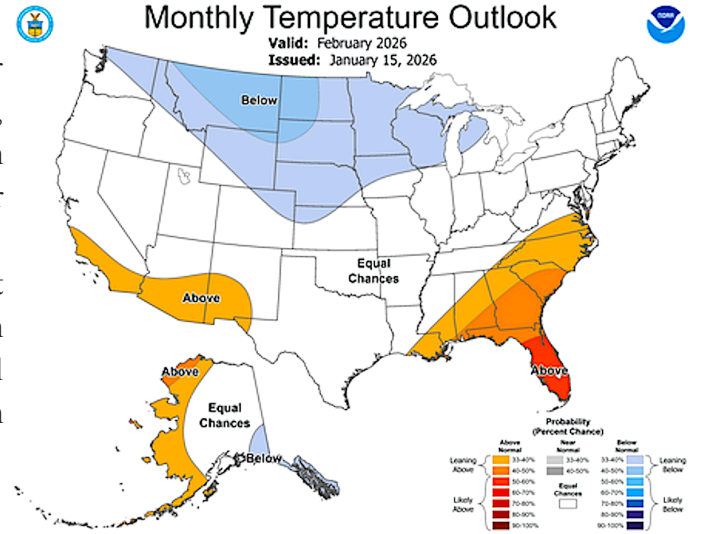


FEBRUARY WEATHER

Expecting the La Nina to stop, and offer equal chances of rain snow or nothing, definitely remaining below average on snowpack, monsoons later in the year look good.

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

Maps from Weather.gov



I can cut a piece of wood in half just by looking at it. I've often heard that "icy" is the easiest word to spell...
You might not believe me, but I saw it with my own eyes. Looking at it now, I see why.
I overheard someone talking about a dating app for seniors. Argentina is surprisingly cold.
I think it's called carbon. It's bordering on Chile.

FEB WHAT'S UP

Birth Flower - Violet

Birth Stone - Amethyst

Zodiac Aquarius - Pisces

- FEB 1 - Nat'l Freedom Day
 - FEB 2 - Groundhog Day
 - FEB 3 - Nat'l Carrot cake Day
 - FEB 8 - Superb - owl Sunday
 - FEB 10 - All the News that's fit to Print
 - FEB 12 - Abe Lincoln Bday / Fat Thurs.
 - FEB 14 - Valentine's Day
 - FEB 16 - President's Day
 - FEB 17 - Lunar New Year / Mardi Gras
 - FEB 22 - Nat'l Margarita Day
 - FEB 23 - Curling is COOL Day
 - FEB 26 - Nat'l Chili Day
- LEAP YEAR!
National Bird Feeding Month
Celebration of Chocolate Month



Moon Phases

- FEB 17 - New Moon
- FEB 01 - Full Moon
- FEB 24 - Perigee
- FEB 10 - Apogee

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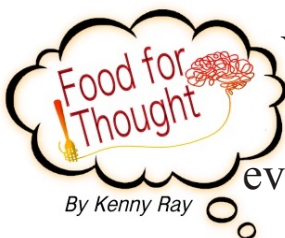
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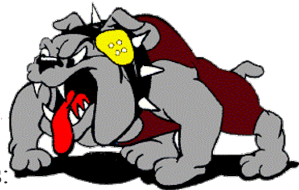
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Dove Creek Wrestling



DCHS Wrestlers:

- Keaton Banks – 106lb
- Conner Horn-Beanland – 126lb
- Cael Beanland – 138lb
- Chad Kline – 144lb
- Josh Kibel – 175lb

12/5-12/6/25 Buckeye, AZ:

- Keaton Banks – 1st
- Conner Horn-Beanland – 5th
- Cael Beanland – 8th
- Chad Kline – 5th

12/12-12/13/25 Montrose, CO | Western Slope Showdown:

- Conner Horn-Beanland – 6th

12/20/25 Walsenburg | Pete and Ina Gomez Tournament:

- Keaton Banks – 2nd
- Cael Beanland – 2nd
- Conner Horn-Beanland – 2nd
- Chad Kline – 5th
- Josh Kibel – 6th

1/9-1/10/26 Vernal, UT | Tournament of Champions:

- Keaton Banks – 2nd

1/17/26 North Fork (Hotchkiss, CO) | Fight at the Fork:

- Keaton Banks – 5th
- Conner Horn-Beanland – 5th
- Cael Beanland – 6th

1/24/26 Ignacio, CO | Butch Melton Tournament:

- Keaton Banks – 4th
- Conner Horn-Beanland – 7th

1/30-1/31/26 Center, CO | Valley Classic

- Cael Beanland - 1st
- Conner Horn-Beanland - 3rd
- Keaton Banks - 4th
- Josh Kibel - 5th

SPRING WILDFIRE OUTLOOK

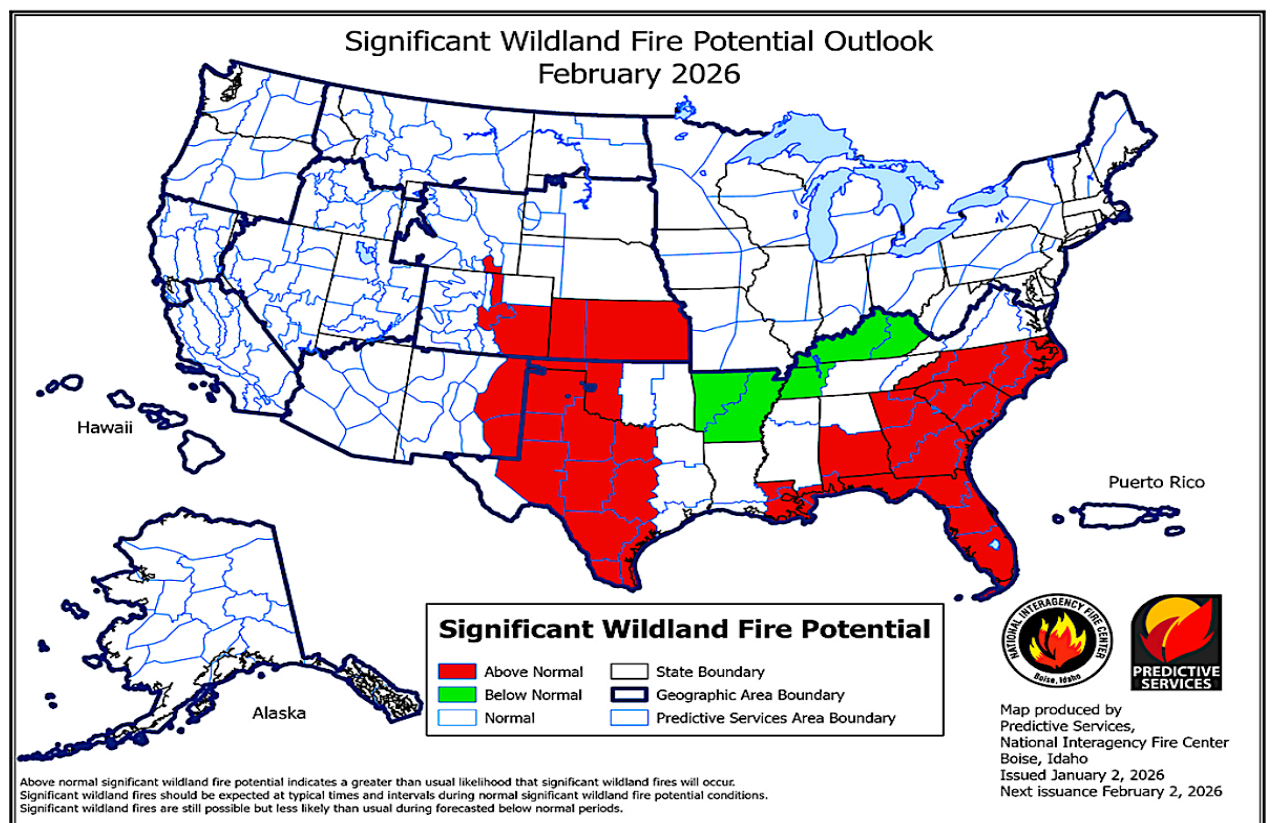
National Interagency Fire Center looks at the potential outlook for January through April 2026. Fire activity remained at low levels across the U.S. through December, although periodic slight increases in activity occurred in the Southern Area, typical of early winter. The National Preparedness Level remained at one (on a scale of 1-5) due to the low level of activity nationally. Total acres burned through December 26 is below the 10-year average at less than 68%, but with an above average tally of wildfires of 122%. (January data not yet out)

La Niña is expected to persist through March while gradually weakening. A typical La Niña pattern for the RMA (Rocky Mts) favors above normal precipitation in Wyoming, drier conditions in southern Colorado, and near average elsewhere. Temperatures tend to run warmer than normal in southern Colorado and near average across most of the area, with

Wyoming and South Dakota sometimes trending a little colder. Springtime often features more frequent wind episodes under La Niña.

With low- to mid-elevation fuels largely snow-free and the pattern favoring increased winds rather than expanding snow cover, the Colorado Front Range is expected to experience above normal significant fire potential in January and February. This will occur in brief windows that may last two or three days. From February into March, as Southern Plains temperatures rise and winds typically strengthen while fuels remain dormant, southeastern Colorado and western Kansas are likely to see increasing chances for wildfires to arise, similar to recent years. Otherwise, significant fire potential is expected to remain near normal across the remainder of the RMA. For the latest updates, go online to the website at

<https://www.nifc.gov/>



Urban Dreams and Rural Sacrifices



Commentary By
Aimee Tooker

When we were younger our grandparents were in quite a few local associations and clubs and each had its own mission and interesting and unique rituals (If you know you know). I am a firm believer in donating and volunteering locally and that good things come about when the locals support each other. But keeping our heads in the sand is no longer a luxury. We have to speak up and get involved, and yes get to the big tables.

I advocate for local coordination tables that operate as equals rather than subordinates, and for adherence to state and federal legal coordination requirements. This ensures that mining permits, conservation initiatives, and wildlife management plans are developed collaboratively with local communities, instead of being steered by the governor's castle in a land far, far away. In 2024 the Eastern Slope was 90% of the state population. We are basically two different countries that share the same Colorado name. Regional instability often originates in this manner, leading to the escalation of cultural wars and battles that seem to include rewilding efforts and private property control by the states first couple and their urban friends.

The reality is that our peace is interrupted by external forces and decisions that are made without our involvement. These disruptions are not happening with us; they are happening to us. If we wish to influence the outcomes that affect our communities, we must accept that genuine participation may unsettle our routines and challenge our tranquility. That is the price—and the promise— for our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

One of the notable aspects of modern work is our capacity to engage virtually. As an individual who regularly balances numerous responsibilities and participates in various organizations at the local, regional, and state levels, I recognize both the advantages and challenges that remote meetings present. There is something to say about being physically present and looking someone in the eyes while stating your thoughts. Increasingly, I find myself tuning into meetings, commission sessions, and podcasts about state topics like energy development, public lands, and wildlife—subjects that are especially significant to me and my community. I fit these listening sessions into everyday tasks, like walking my dogs, washing dishes, or sorting laundry (I don't fold, I sort into piles by kid). Even though life can be hectic, carving out a little time here and there to listen deeply helps you grasp the issues that matter most to you. Don't take anyone's word for it, do your own homework.

Yes, if you are not at the table, then you are on the menu so get to the tables, put your thoughts out there, get to the polls and vote, unless you want to be on the menu at the mile high emerald city where urban dreams most often lead to rural sacrifices.

BABY BOOMERS TURN 80 - 1946 to 1964

By Hayden Pate



Lately it occurs to me, what a long strange trip it's been!
- Grateful Dead

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As of January 1, 2026, the nation's first baby boomers have started to turn 80 years old. Once subscribing to the slogan "Don't trust anyone over 30," this formerly giant group of Americans—numbering 79 million in its peak year—has made a huge impact on all aspects of the nation's social, cultural, and economic life.

During their younger years, baby boomers advanced the causes of civil rights and women's equality, setting the stage for broader shifts among later generations. They have affected the business world and popular culture in ways that still endure to this day. But "the times they are a changing" as Mr Dylon once sang.

Now as once before the indoctrination has set in as it did in the past. Once the "Hippy Generation" was programmed by the media and influences of a hidden hand. Those obscured influencers are at work once again.

As we can see the schisms of our world collide in lock step - mocking bird media chants of Racial Division. It was World Wide Peace * Love * Rock & Roll (Music) Now: Violence * Hate.

More division, hustle culture, digital overload, global tensions, and less of that widespread "flower power" unity.

No single phrase has fully replaced it in the same massive cultural way, but people often joke or reflect on what the modern equivalent might be. Hustle, grind, and crypto (or "money, power, respect") — the capitalist, always-on-the-move vibe of the current era. Anxiety, memes, and doom scrolling — a more cynical take on how many feel these days. Cancel, cancel, and more cancel — poking at social media outrage culture. Or, the hopeful ones still clinging to the old spirit: Peace, love, and rock & roll forever, because we could sure use more of it now.

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From Music to Mountain Skiing - Crazy Expos to Car Shows - Foot Races to Balloon Rides - Horses to Horsepower - Fundraisers to Parties and more!

FEBRUARY EVENTS IN THE FOUR CORNERS

More National Holidays continued from pg 5

National dark chocolate Day. February 1
 National tater tot Day. February 2
 National Groundhog Day. on February 2
 National Carrot Cake Day. on February 3
 National Hemp Day. February 4
 National Chopsticks Day. February 6
 National Fettuccine Alfredo Day. February 7
 National No One Eats Alone Day.
 Go to Banger's Bar & Pizza with some friends.
 National Cream Cheese Brownie Day.
 February 10
 National Football Hangover Day. Hangover @
 Stateline Bar & Grill.
 National Ash Wednesday 18, Fat Tuesday 17
 Mardi Gras
 National Random Acts of Kindness Day
 February 17
 National Drink Wine Day. February 18
 National Margarita Day on February 22
 National Chili Day on the 27

Moab

Feb 2 - Moab Liquor Store Open
 Feb 7 Bull Warriors
 BerentisRodeo.com
 Feb 16 FeeFree Day NPS
 Feb 21 Musical Story Hour with Tessa Lark
 Feb 21-27 Moab Music Festival - Winterlude
 (10th Annual)
 Feb 27-28 Red Hot Ultra Run

Blanding

Feb 14 International Night Valentines Dance
 (USU Arts Center)
 Feb 21 Utah Shakespeare Festival

Dove Creek

Feb 14 Dinner Special Stateline Bar & Grill
 Feb 27 Dave Mensch Stateline Bar and Grill

Cortez

Feb 4 Cortez Livestock Auction Reg.Sale
 February 6: Cardboard Boat Race Rec Center
 Feb 15 Four States Jr. Rodeo - Indoor Arena
 Feb 18 Cortez Livestock Auction

Dolores

February 6 13th Annual Permit Party. Hosted
 by Dolores River Boating Advocates

Mancos

February 13 Mountainfilm On Tour Opera
 House
 Feb 19 Cult Movie Federation Movie:
 Office Space "Work Sucks"
 February 20 RC Hall at Mancos Brewing
 Company
 February 27 JB & the Flybiscuits MBC

Durango

February 4 Peking Acrobats Ft Lewis College
 Feb 11 Cowboy Tuesdays The Diamond
 Belle Saloon

Pagosa Springs

Feb 5 Wolf Creek Ski Area Local's Day ~
 Everyone's a Local!
 Feb 9 Wolf Creek 85th Anniversary Fun Race
 Feb 16 Wolf Creek Presidents' Day Fun Race

Farmington

Feb 22 Donut Run
 Feb 28 Dirty Dancing in Concert

Rico

Feb 21 Rico Fat Bike Bash

Telluride

Feb 13-16 Telluride Comedy Festival
 Feb 22 - Mar 1 Telluride Gay Ski Week

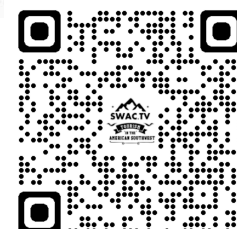
February 8th Superb owl Sunday

spectacular on TV - stay home, or
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 for the Football matchup of the
Seattle Seahawks v. New England Patriots

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RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE ROLLS ON

By Kendra Cook

Many agencies and services are important for a sound community; especially when a community is geographically far from life saving services such as hospital care. All of Dove Creek's emergency services are critically important and very appreciated by local residents. Recently Emergency Medical Services specifically the Dove Creek Ambulance District DCAD services, were temporarily shut down due to personnel and board members resigning over the course of a few days mid January. In the aftermath, only a couple of days passed without Ambulance service, while various community members and government officials worked out a stop gap measure to be legally and professionally functional.

The people stepping up to meet these state requirements to re-establish a functioning service are commendable and everyone extends their gratitude. Learning from the past problems and challenges, but focusing on today and the future, will hopefully grow the services in a stable direction. 2025 was the first year for the new 2% tax to be collected within the District map to assist with funding.

The interim EMS Chief will once again be Grant Allen, who has stepped in twice before to this role. He will manage a structured system review. In a public letter he stated "All involved entities - ambulance district,



fire departments, county partners, dispatch, sheriff's office, and emergency management - should participate in a structured review of what occurred, identify system failures, and implement corrective actions so this never happens again." He continued, "This should be about fixing systems, not public blame."

Being a small rural community, many job opportunities pay far less than in other locations. There is also often a need to bring in qualified employees from outside the community. Just as locals travel for work to other locations, EMT workers filled the positions here in Dove Creek from outside of the District. They are doing the job, and should be welcomed and thanked as for any other emergency professional worker. Moving forward, Mr. Allen stresses that all entities "recommit to solutions, professionalism, and collaboration - with patient care and community access as the priority."

To that end, four residents were appointed to fill the volunteer Board seats when only one director had remained in place. Following all legalities, an election opportunity has been established, contact Jennifer Albin to obtain a self-nomination form to be added to the May 5 2026 election ballot by Feb 27, 2026. For all details, refer to the DCAD facebook page or (970) 394-6266. A new permanent EMS Chief will also be employed as quickly as possible.



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COWBOY GATHERINGS

Cowboy Gathering's history started out of the 1700s when cowboys came over from Europe, and were literate compared with the small individual cattle ranchers homesteading at that time. When herding increased in popularity, one of the ways for the solo cowboy to pass the time, was reciting poetry, memorizing passages of the Bible, and talking or singing to the animals to keep them calm. With only a couple of saddle bags, written books or musical instruments were limited in size. By the 1800s, pocket novels were popular to bring along, but not long lasting, such that oral traditions continued to be the method to pass down the stories, history and culture.

Oral histories are important world wide, with traditional songs, poems and dancing that tell the stories to pass along the most important elements of a society. You'll find many from tribes in Africa to Native Americans in North America. According to the Library of Congress identifying 'folklorists' across the country from the 1950s to 1970s, there were four main groups assessed: Fishermen, Loggers, Miners, and Cowboys.

The individual heart language, emotions and feelings, are a matter of record from the early 1900s. As far as how what we know of

as 'Cowboy Gatherings' developed, it's said as big ranchers consolidated, we see the start of giving the working cowhands some time off to meet up for a couple of weeks, to blow off steam, share camaraderie with others, fellowship, and showing off skills - the beginning of the current "Rodeo". It was also a type of 'job fair' as different outfits might scoop up the employ of another hand here or there. Without electricity at night, it set the perfect scene for evening poetry and music by the light of the fire.

This 'history' is an important aspect of our culture, and is celebrated through similar types of Cowboy Gatherings today in many states. The second largest in the country next to Elko NV, is what is now called the Lonestar Cowboy Poetry Gathering. The next event will be held February 19-21, 2026, that will have a Dolores County local John Moore featured as one of the artists! The source for all of this background story on 'gatherings' was shared by Bob Saul, Executive Director of the Gathering, who had guided the transition from a previous long standing event in Alpine Texas, to what it is today. With the work of countless volunteers to put the annual event together, this year there will be two locations for performers and chuckwagons which are over 400 miles apart - in Bastrop, and Alpine TX. For all of the details and tickets, use the QR code to go online LonestarCowboyPoetry.com



February 19-21, 2026



John and Erika Moore produced wonderful films on Cowboy Poetry and Music - available through the Lonestar Cowboy Poetry website.



photo: Jessica Brandi Lifland

Spotlight on John Moore

In the heart of Colorado's rugged landscapes, where the spirit of the American West thrives, resides John Moore—a true renaissance man of cowboy culture. As a mandolinist, guitarist, vocalist, horseman, and filmmaker, Moore embodies the multifaceted essence of the modern cowboy. This February, he'll bring his talents to Texas for the inaugural Bastrop edition of the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering, an event poised to celebrate the poetry, music, and stories of the West in one of Texas's most historic towns.

Born with a passion for music and horses, Moore's career has spanned continents and mediums. He's performed across the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Japan, contributing to radio and TV commercials, movie soundtracks, and sessions for other artists. Notable highlights include his work on HBO's Deadwood—where he not only provided music but also appeared on screen—and a Grammy nomination for his collaboration on Rose of Old Kentucky with Vince Gill and Byron Berline. As a member of the band California, he earned the International Bluegrass Music Association's Instrumentalist of the Year award for three consecutive years. His musical prowess has landed him on the covers of magazines like Flatpick Guitar, Bluegrass Now, and Bluegrass Unlimited. But Moore's artistry extends beyond strings and melodies. For over 30 years, he's taught

equine sciences and horsemanship clinics in Europe, pioneering California Vaquero-style techniques in Scandinavia and Iceland. He's a staff writer for riding magazines in Britain, Sweden, and Finland, and has graced the covers of European horse industry publications. Back home near Dove Creek, Colorado, Moore lives with his wife Erika and their daughters Amanda and Joelle on a small spread, where he trains horses and hosts international "Horses & Cattle" educational courses. Together with Erika, he's produced and edited films like Keeping The Tradition Alive and The Legacy Lives On specifically for the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering, preserving the oral and visual heritage of cowboy life.

As the West evolves, artists like John Moore keep its traditions vibrant and accessible. Whether strumming a mandolin or gentling a horse, he's a bridge between past and present. Don't miss his performances in Bastrop—it's a chance to experience the authentic heartbeat of cowboy artistry.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR / PUBLISHER



Kendra Cook



LET'S WEATHER THE STORMS TOGETHER

The pulse of the community, nation, and the world seems to be in AFib transitioning from the start of 2026 into the rest of the year. I would presume this increased energy and chaotic distractive realm, will only ramp up more in the coming months. It's not a 'prediction, prophecy or pundit' concept, it's looking at what's happening in that bigger picture mode, connecting dots, and calmly looking to the future. That's been one of the points of this Pinto Bean paper - provide interesting local context, with an eye on the bigger picture that actually does matter. On the heels of my January front page about Silver and Gold, I loved what Michael Yon recently wrote, "This is a key moment in history. You saw far in advance and got into metals [gold/silver], for one thing. The most valuable items in the future will include accurate, usable information, human networks, and a propensity for calm action -- when necessary. And for calm inaction and monitoring during the troughs. Foresight is vital and the wisdom to know when to act and when to simply monitor are key. Which you obviously have. Eventually there will be food problems on a large scale. Human networks are vital.

All the silver and gold are very useful up to a point. Then it gets very real:

Isaiah 46:6 "Those who lavish gold from the purse, And weigh silver on the scale, Hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; They bow down, indeed they worship it." James 5:3 "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

The gold and silver are very useful in their own season. When the season of silver and gold passes, there is no use when one lacks the basics. In the end...it's all about the basics. In our time, as in the older Biblical times, overt wealth will be witness against the holder. The hoards will come like locusts for the copper wires in homes. During winter they will burn a priceless piano for heat. Be not afraid. This all has happened before. It's just a storm. A very big storm. But just a storm that will come and go. Preparation and endurance will see us through." Michael Yon has a fantastic substack, do follow him and help out if you can.

The 'preper' movement that has been ongoing long before project covid, had waves of growing activity like the 'back to the land' people in the 1970s, the 'off the grid' people after 2000, and now a larger worldwide awareness, some say awakening, that we're

not in Kansas Toto. This 'great awakening' is part of a revealing, Revelation if you will, to pull back the veil that's been over our eyes, our consciousness, and start to remember who we are and why we are here. Being a slave species is not what we want, and though we all claim being 'free' is what America is about, if you stop to take a bold look at how we operate, co-operate, and submit every day in many little ways, we really aren't as 'free' as we would like to think.

As I've said before, the divide and conquer concept is a playbook being run on humans all across the world. For some, likely not readers of the 'Bean, the most important part of life is just getting by. For more and more, people are feeling there's more than what we are told, especially when so much provided for us turns out to be a lot of lies, the obvious next step is to figure out how things really are.

PS - you may have noted that the February issue has 20 pages! Woohoo, that's another 4 page section added on for 2026 to offer even more content that you are looking for. We appreciate the contributors, advertisers sponsors and donors who make this project possible every month. It's a definite labor of love, appropriate for February and Valentine's Day - we hope it will continue to flourish throughout the years to come!

Satellite Internet Constellation

2025 had 14,000 plus active satellites with a third of those being owned by SpaceX

Starlink is beginning a significant reconfiguration of its satellite constellation focused on increasing space safety they say. Over 4400 of their Satellites will be repositioned, orbiting at 341 to 298 miles this year. The 'shell lowering' is being tightly coordinated with other operators, regulators, and USSPACECOM. Starlink's 'grid' above us, already includes hundreds of Starlink satellites specially modified to beam connectivity directly to smartphones, those hang as low as 223 miles above. Lowering the main satellites results in condensing Starlink orbits, and will increase space safety in several ways: As solar minimum approaches, atmospheric density decreases which means the ballistic decay time at any given altitude increases - lowering will mean a >80% reduction in ballistic decay time in solar minimum, or 4+ years for the old materials to be 'eaten up' in the atmosphere, will be reduced to a few months. Correspondingly, the number of debris objects and planned satellite



constellations is significantly lower below around 300 miles, reducing the likelihood of collision. Starlink satellites have extremely high reliability, with only 2 dead satellites in its fleet of over 9000 operational satellites they report.

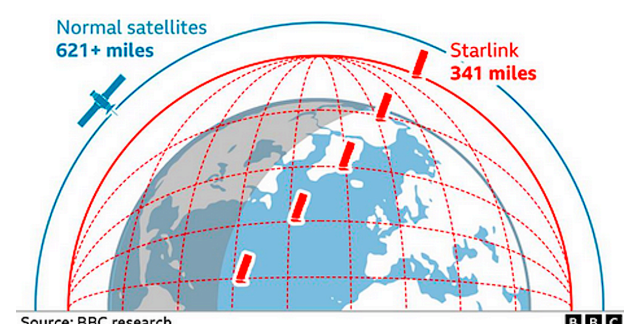
Sunweathernews' Ben Davidson says, "this takes their orbit from above to below the penetrating depths of the most dangerous space plasma after the 2024 solar super storm that largely revealed how much more vulnerable our planet has become in the ongoing geomagnetic excursion. I'm sure that's a coincidence."

Starlink's owner, Elon Musk says also at lower altitudes, the beam diameter is smaller for a given antenna size, allowing Starlink to serve a higher density of customers - they already have over 9 million users.

According to arstechnica.com, "SpaceX launched 165 missions with its workhorse Falcon 9 rocket last year, and nearly three-quarters of them carried Starlink satellites into space. The company reported its assembly line in Redmond, Washington, churned out new Starlink satellites at a rate of more than 10 per day. Aside from continuing Starlink network expansion with more Falcon 9 launches, SpaceX intends to debut the more powerful Starlink V3 satellite platform this year. Starlink V3 is too big to fit on a Falcon 9, so it must launch on SpaceX's super-heavy Starship rocket, which has not yet begun operational flights."

Starlink operates in low orbit

Low-Earth orbit satellites can link to Earth faster, but more are needed to provide coverage



Source: BBC research

BBC

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San Juan County UT

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 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

Grand County UT

County Board Meeting 1st and 3rd
 Tuesdays 4pm Commission Chambers
 125 E. Center St.
 Moab City Council 2nd and 4th Tuesday
 6pm City Council Chambers

Dolores County CO

County Board of Commissioner Meetings
 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

Montezuma County CO

County Board of Commissioners 2nd and
 4th Tuesdays 9am 109 W Main
 Cortez City Council 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
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San Miguel County CO

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- <https://www.coloradodems.org/>
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CO ELECTIONS 2026

Voters should register by February 9th, and affiliate with a party at least 22 days before their county caucus - if you don't know if you are registered, in Colorado check online at GoVoteColorado.gov. March 3-7th is the time frame for party caucuses with in person meetings by voting precinct for party members only to be held. Check with your Party for time place and date. (Democrat Caucus & Assembly - March 7, Methodist Church Dove Creek - Republican Caucus will be March 4th at 6:00pm at the Public Service Center. Assembly will be two weeks later, March 18 at 6:00 PSC in Dove Creek CO).

County Assemblies are held between March 24-28th, where delegates elected at the caucus participate, this is used to select which delegates will go to the higher assemblies and conduct the party business.

The 2026 Colorado Democratic Party State Assembly is in Pueblo on March 28th. The 2026 Colorado Republican Party State Assembly is in Pueblo April 11th.

The Primary election is June 30th where ballots are mailed out to eligible voters including Unaffiliated in the state of Colorado. The general election will be Nov. 3 2026.

UTAH ELECTIONS 2026

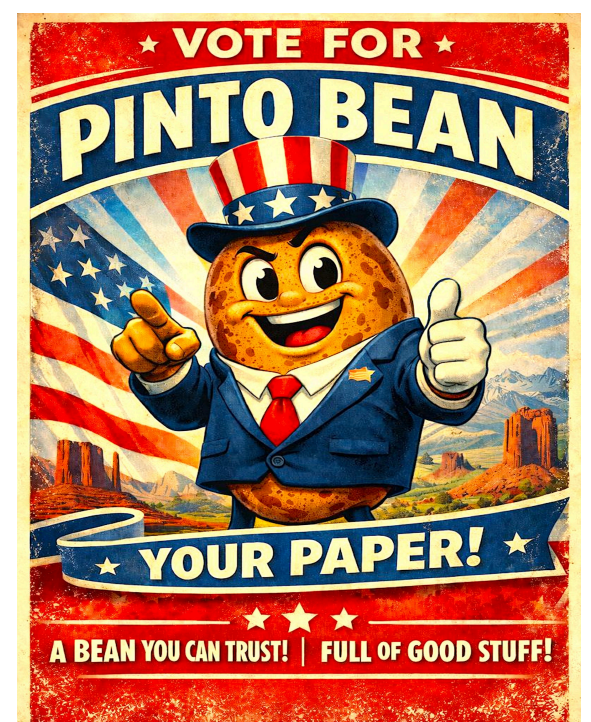
In Utah, candidate filing opened January 2nd, while Congressional candidate filing starts March 9th. March 17th is neighborhood caucus night, Republicans and Democrats hold their state party convention April 25th, with June 23rd Primary election day.

46 RUNNING

CO GOV RACE!

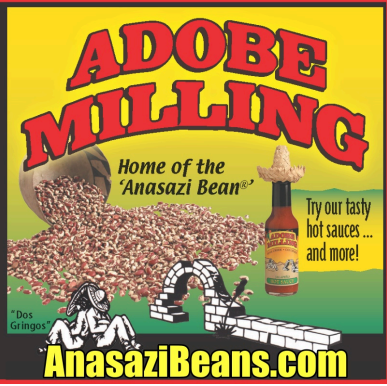
Colorado politics is shaping up to be quite a year, with the Governor seat being term limited out, the field is wide open for now 46 candidates that have committed to running as seen on the Tracer site of the Secretary of State webpage.

46 candidates are listed as active so far: 22 in the Republican field for their primary with 7 listed as Democrats, 9 are Unaffiliated, with 3 No labels, 1 Unknown, 1 Non-Partisan, 1 Approval Voting Party, 1 Libertarian, and 1 American Constitution party. The high profile Democrats are CO Atty Gen. Philip Weiser and CO Sen. Michael Bennet. Meanwhile the Republican field is deep and working to solidify behind a viable candidate who would have a chance with Republicans and pulling unaffiliated votes. There has not been a Rep. Governor since Bill Owens, the 40th CO Governor from 1999 to 2007.



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RICO CO

The Rico Ice Rink, located at Depot Park (101 S. Picker Street), is now open for the season!

Access to the ice is available from the south side of the pavilion, where picnic tables and rubber mats are set up to make it easier to gear up and walk safely onto the rink.

Town staff will be actively working to continue improving the ice surface. Conditions will improve as weather and maintenance allow, so please be patient as we work to provide the best skating experience possible. Please do not skate if there is standing water on the ice or the rink closed signs are out. Enjoy the ice, skate safely, and thank you for your cooperation as the season gets underway!



Region 9 SW CO AWARDS

Clyde Church, now retired La Plata County Commissioner, was recognized with the 2025 Ed Morlan Economic Development Leader of the Year Award, for outstanding public service and lasting contributions to the communities of Southwest Colorado.

Tommy Crosby at the City of Durango was recognized by Region 9EDD's loan committee with the 2025 Loan Partner of the Year Award for outstanding partnership with Region 9's loan programs in conjunction with the City of Durango's Lodger's Tax grant program.

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UTAH

February is one of the best times to see America's national bird in Utah during winter migrations! Bald eagles fly to Utah in the winter to find food and escape colder conditions farther north, and by late January and February, hundreds of eagles are typically in the state. Biologists recommend bringing binoculars or spotting scopes in order to better see the birds. Make sure to only view the birds from public areas and to not trespass on private property.

You can also pick up one of the free, collectible pins at any of the six DWR offices and at the DWR's Eccles Wildlife Education Center (while supplies last). Here in Southeastern Utah: Huntington State Park has a few bald eagles that are seen consistently. Scofield State Park, Recapture Reservoir, between Monticello and Blanding, Along the Colorado River, north of Moab.

If you're driving and looking for eagles at any of the locations, please do so safely. Don't drive distracted, and don't stop in the middle of the road if you see an eagle. Instead, pull completely off the road before viewing. Your safety, and the safety of other motorists, comes first.



MOAB UT

Because the growth needs to keep growing, Moab is doubling down on promotions to bring in tourism! In a January meeting, the Grand County Commission voted 5-0 for a \$1.8 million* "paid media advertising plan" promoting Moab to potential visitors in 2026. The proposal included digital advertising, travel websites and content partnerships. The funding comes through the Moab Office of Tourism via the "transient tax revenue" often called lodgers tax on hotels and short term vacation rentals. In Utah, there are full restrictions on those monies being used exclusively for tourism advertising and promotion and not for general fund.



This plan is said to utilize 31 advertising placements. There are three tiers to the approach - introducing Moab in general terms to potential visitors, advertising to people researching destinations and repeat visitors, as well as right at the time of booking opportunities. Co-op buys with the Utah Office of Tourism will provide added leverage for international lead generation. The company contracted for implementation is called Madden Media out of Tuscon AZ.

Leslie Roball, senior director of destination strategy at Madden, told the board the agency will continue tactics used in 2025 — connected TV, YouTube, paid social, programmatic banners, and paid search (including Performance Max) — and will add measurement approaches that use OTA and aggregated transaction data to estimate in-market spend and length of stay. (* funding may be more with additional inputs)

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Commentary by Linda Cunningham

I'm sure by now the people of New York City are realizing what's in their future... when you vote in a communist, you get communism, can't get much simpler than that. They're getting what they voted for, and unfortunately for those responsible, the "buyers remorse" is settling in, or is it? Will people just turn a 'blind eye' to this push for such control over their lives that they're willing to 'go along to get along'? Is it the "will of the people" or political control? If you ask google what political control is, you'll get this; "Political control refers to the methods governments and authorities use to manage society, enforce laws, and ensure compliance through tactics like coercion, (repression, fear), indoctrination, distribution of resources or legal frameworks, aiming to shape behavior and maintain state power. It involves the ability to influence individuals and groups to act in ways that align with state directives, ranging from overt force to subtle persuasion, to implement policies and minimize resistance." Sound familiar? Are we evolving into mindless humans that let the government speak for us and therefore just go with the flow? This control invades many aspects of our lives, for instance medicine, the FDA approves and regulates. Religion.. gotta keep God in that box just in case someone gets offended by my beliefs. And then there's the legal side of being to outspoken - God forbid the wrong person gets butt hurt over a comment made. There is a fine line here that's about to be crossed, which side will you be on?

"Freedom is the open window through which pours the sunlight of the human spirit and human dignity"
- Herbert Hoover

PRODUCT OF U.S.A. - MEANING

By Sarah Toenin

As of January 1, 2026, "Product of USA" should be a more trusted phrase. In previous years, a loophole allowed large processing corporations to cash in on the 'Made in America' concept, while importing animals, and simply processing or repackaging meat here in the states, and being able to label it Product of USA. Overall the local industry felt it misled consumers, and undercut our own ranchers. Now, a new USDA rule mandates companies only use "Product of USA" or "Made in the USA" on meat packaging, if they can unequivocally prove through records, that it comes from animals born, raised, slaughtered, and processed in the US.



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This should be a great win for our American meat producers of all types. Though it still leaves open the Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL) that would require imported meats to label where they came from. As the Product of USA rule is voluntary, the MCOOL would be a requirement, and provide clarity to the public consumers, who may want to know about their food before purchasing their next pack of meat from a store.



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For the Love of Food

By Kendra Cook

Pricing on protein is perilously prime - ok, well, most meats have soared in cost per pound, not looking to go down any time soon. There's actually a USDA weekly average pricing site online, porkcheckoff.org where you can see how Butt Pork Cutout, Loin, Belly Trim, Picnic and Spareribs are priced. The pork loin primal in various styles represents 25% of the hog carcass. I share this because, the 'other white meat' as they promoted it, offers excellent protein very similar to beef, with pork rich in B1 and B6, beef adds a better source of iron and Vitamin B-12. Often the price point for getting protein on the plate, is more affordable with the pork.

For this Valentine's Day special dinner, I'm offering a recipe for stuffed pork loin that is both lovely on the plate, savory and juicy to taste, without spending so much time in the kitchen - so more time enjoying your loved one.

Take about a three pound pork loin, butterfly the cut, put a layer of plastic wrap on top. and if you have one, use a meat mallet to gently pound out the pork to an even 1/2 inch thickness. Meat mallets will have one side for tenderizing, the other is flat. The technique is to hit down and swipe to the outside. A skillet also works in a pinch. You are creating a flat meat over which you will spread the filling and roll up like a pinwheel.

For the filling, we used two 8 oz packages of softened cream cheese, roasted red bell peppers, crumbled cooked bacon (alternatively prosciutto works well), a pesto



seasoning (dry seasoning package), some baby spinach leaves, and dijon mustard. The olive oil, salt, pepper and red paprika will go on the exterior. The ingredients are layered and evenly spread on the meat leaving a little edge so as you roll it up, the filling may spread out a bit. You can secure the roll with butcher's twine or toothpicks to keep the form together when cooking. On the exterior, rub on the olive oil, paprika salt and pepper. This gets baked in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes per pound and as always, check the temp for a 150 degree internal finished temperature. When finished, let it rest for 5 to 10 minutes, slice and serve.

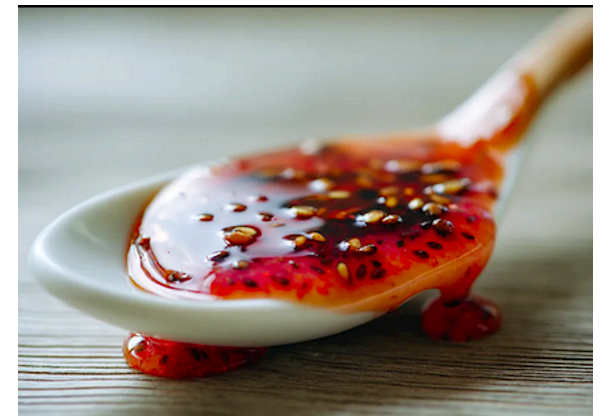
As a little ode to Valentine's day - I like to mix up a simple strawberry balsamic reduction that can be done ahead. Easiest method is to put 1/3 cup of balsamic vinegar with 2 jars of 10 oz each spreadable fruit aka strawberry Jam. You could throw in some garlic and shallots if you'd like it more savory, bring that to a boil, reduce and simmer about 10 minutes uncovered. This can be drizzled on top or add a swoosh to the plate for dipping.

Ingredients

- 3 lbs pork loin
- 16 oz cream cheese
- 1 cup roasted red peppers
- 1 cup bacon
- 1 oz pesto seasoning dry
- 1 cup fresh baby spinach leaves
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- salt, pepper, paprika



- 1/3 cup Balsamic vinegar
- 20 oz strawberry jam
- optionally - parsley to garnish
- minced garlic and shallot



There are many available balsamic based reductions available to purchase online or at a specialty food shop, or even some grocery stores.

The pork pairs well with a parmesan cheese mashed or smashed potatoes, and a vegetable of your choice. Somehow February and asparagus always time up well, and cooking the stems in a skillet with butter salt and pepper is quick and delicious - you might save back some of the bacon to crumble on top of the spears when you plate. I like a dollop of mayo for dipping too!



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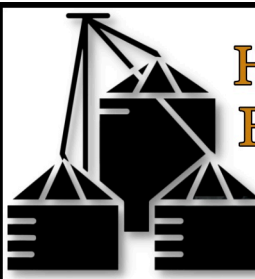
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I would appreciate your support this November and please, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out. I can be reached at 970-529-3557 or by email ablackmore1623@gmail.com

Paid for by Amber Blackmore

LOCAL OBITUARIES



Kenneth Ray Brackett

August 9, 1954 - January 13, 2026

Kenneth Ray Brackett, of Egnar, CO, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2026, at age 71 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Kenny, as he was called by most family and friends, was a loyal friend, devoted husband, and loving father.

Kenny was born on August 9, 1954 in Monticello, UT to Roy Kenneth and Nada (Harvey) Brackett. He graduated from Dolores County High School in the class of '72. Kenny married his high school sweetheart Donna Montano, spending the next 52 years of marriage together. After high school, Kenny completed the Denver Automotive and Diesel school in Denver, CO and worked for Union Carbide as a mechanic and miner until 1981. Kenny was involved in a tragic mine accident which led him to his true calling, law enforcement. He attended and graduated from the Colorado Law Enforcement Western Slope Training Academy where he became a certified law enforcement officer. Kenny spent the next 29 years serving the citizens of San Miguel County and the town of Mountain Village. Kenny served in various additional roles within those departments but is most remembered as the head of the K9 division of the San Miguel County Sheriff's office with his K9 partners (and family dogs) Bear and Buck. Kenny also had a passion for helping victims of some of the most difficult crimes and situations as proven by his awards and recognitions for helping victims of domestic violence and abuse. He retired from service in 2011 to the Brackett family home in Egnar.

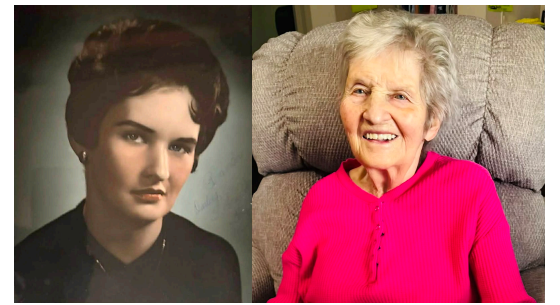
Kenny made an astounding impact on such a large number of people. Those who knew him described him as funny, honest, resilient, trustworthy, tenacious, determined, and a strong role model and mentor. He always listened to what people had to say, never judging, but always willing to offer advice. Kenny was never afraid to lend a helping hand, even as he struggled with his own medical conditions and pain. Kenny was truly patriotic and never failed to demonstrate his pride and support of numerous family members who served in the US military. Kenny loved fishing, hunting, camping, boating, spending time with friends and family, and watching the Denver Broncos play every weekend. Kenny touched so many lives and will be sorely missed.

Kenny is survived by his wife, Donna; three children, Christopher and his wife Amber, Cara and her husband Jesse, and Cory and his wife Tonya; his brother Steve and wife Patricia, sister Diane and her husband Benjamin, and sister Lana and her husband Heath; his grandchildren Liann, Tierra, Tyler, Travis, Zoe, Sophia, Isabella, Hayden, Oren, and Finnley; many great grandchildren; his beloved sister-in-laws Carmelita and Lorraine; numerous nieces and nephews; and Kenny held a deep space in his heart for Julie Bingham, Hannah Merschel, and his surviving nieces Angelina and Faith.

Kenny was preceded in death by his grandparents Tulley and Laveda Harvey, grandparents Roy Alfred and Lula Brackett, parents Roy Kenneth and Nada, brother Gary, in-laws Mel and Adeline Montano, and his two K9 partners Bear and Buck.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dolores County Senior Services, Egnar Fire Dept., Dove Creek Fire Dept. or the Dolores County Fairgrounds.

The family would like to thank all who attended and helped with the memorial, the amazing "End of Watch" caravan from Telluride/Mt. Village, and for all of your thoughts and prayers.



Kay Avaline Daves

January 24, 1941 - January 2, 2026

Longtime Dove Creek, Colorado resident, Kay Avaline (Neeley) Daves, went to rest in the Comfort and Peace of her Savior's arms, on January 2nd, 2026, just 22 days short of her 85th birthday. Kay was born in Cortez, Colorado on January 24th, 1941, to James Lawrence Neeley and Josephine Avaline (Amyx) Neeley. She married rancher Donald Harold Goodall in 1957 and to that union was born 2 daughters.

After her divorce, Kay married Dove Creek farmer and miner, Floyd Marlin Daves, on August 29th, 1964 and 2 sons soon followed. As a farmer's wife, Kay was self sacrificing and would help in any way she could. She drove tractor, milked cows and hoed weeds from the bean fields while providing the inspiration for her family and crew who worked alongside her. Of course, she was quick to take the hardest jobs and come to the rescue of any who needed help, even going out of her way to kill a rattle snake that was moving in the direction of children playing in a nearby field.

Kay learned the value of hard work as a child by helping with apple harvest at the family orchard in the Lebanon area. She picked up her parent's love of horses and competed in area team Pony Express Races. Because of her small stature and small horse, she surprised many when she would cross the finish line first!

Kay was known in her family and community as a great cook and candy maker. It was a great day when you got to sample her delicious toffee and vinegar taffy. She was very important in the lives of her grand-kids teaching them card games, from canasta to poker, how to drive a stick shift and hoe beans.

Even while raising four children in Dove Creek, Kay was very Community minded and was an integral part of securing grants and opening up a Community Health Clinic. This was such a big undertaking, the Lieutenant Governor of Colorado had her speak at a convention so others could learn from her experience. She not only worked at the clinic but became an EMT and volunteer for the ambulance, as well as trained many others to become EMT's. She also volunteered at the Pioneer Senior Center. Many local residents recount the fun of various bus trips to different states that she organized.

Cultivating a relationship with her Lord and Savior was very important to her. She was a member of the Dove Creek First Baptist Church as well as the Fellowship Baptist Church of Cahone and enjoyed many Women's Bible Studies.

After devoting herself to taking care of her husband Marlin, through his many health challenges, Kay suffered a speech debilitating stroke. She worked hard to regain as much as she could and amazingly kept that bright smile, sunny disposition and sense of humor throughout that daily challenge as well as numerous additional challenges to come. She surprised everyone with her unmatched work ethic to relearn to write and speak and did so with such grace and kindness to all who cared for her. Many referred to her as "Sweet Kay" and say they will miss those hand kisses she always gave.

She loved so fully, giving pieces of her life to family, friends and community and taught us how to live life to its fullest. We all miss her but will see her again soon!

Kay is survived by her 4 children, Donna Kay Goodall Hernandez, Shara Michele Goodall Brumley, Marlin Dustin Daves and Michael Duane Daves and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is also survived by brothers, Byron, Cliff, Vaughan and Greg Neeley.

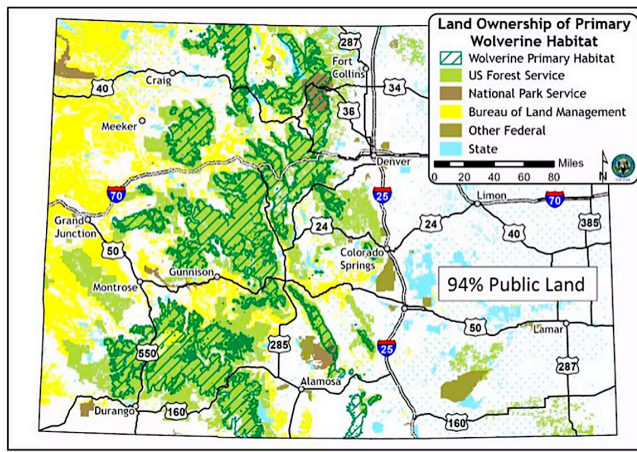
A private memorial will be held in her honor in the Loveland, CO area where she lived the last few years of her life surrounded by loving family.

FIGHTING SPOT FIRES

By Dexter Gill

FIRE! FIRE! Another new spot fire popped up! Where and what is it? The State Parks & Wildlife plans to import about 45 more Wolverines throughout the high elevation forests of the State. This is just the latest "spot fire" to fight. The Wolves "spot fire" is still smoking hot and prior to that the "Colorado Roadless Rule" ended motorized access and management on 4.2 million acres of forest. In 1999, the Canada Lynx was imported. What will be next? Well, they are talking about more beavers and creating more Wetlands. WHY? How will it help Colorado's water woes, or power generation, employment, housing, fire insurance, and economic development? It WON'T.

What will it do? Simply put, it will add to the previous listed "spot fires" in ensuring economic management, use, and protection of the public lands and resources will not happen! WHAT? How can that happen.? The Endangered Species Act of 1973 revision had provision for "citizen-suit" by "public-interest" groups, and individuals, to sue federal agencies to ensure protection of declared "threatened and endangered" Species, AND the species "critical habitat". Now looking at today's Wolverine, it was declared "Threatened" under the Endangered species listing in 2023 after



Colorado Parks and Wildlife map of Wolverine Proposed Release Areas courtesy cpw.state.co.us > wolverine

multiple lawsuits between State of Montana and environmental NGO's Pro and Con. NOW, January 14, 2026, a dozen environmental NGO's are suing the US Fish and Wildlife for not having established Wolverine "Critical Habitat" areas in Montana. With Colorado having Forty Four (44) registered Enviro non-profit NGO's, the State has identified Critical Habitat for the Wolverine, which covers the large majority of the National Forest Watersheds.

So what is the fuss all about? It is all about CONTROL of LAND and RESOURCES, thus, the PEOPLE! In brief terms, we have been experiencing the international push to end Private Land control/ownership, Capitalism and the American Constitutional Republic. How to do that is Control Land, Water, and Resources, by a Central

Government. The "Environment" is all the above. Today's issue is the 11 western States & Alaska. Beginning in the 1960's, a plethora of Environmental laws were passed to control air, water, and wildlife.

In 1976, the big jump was the passage of the Federal Lands Policy Management Act. The "Policy" was to change the previous 200 years of private land ownership within States, by declaring all unclaimed land will remain as Federal Land, not disposed of as promised. THIS is the big fire where all the spot fires originate from. This was all a well planned Goal by Non-Profit environmental groups with United Nations efforts at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, that continues on steroids today. That is a subject for another day. With that background, The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been used to control Economic development and management of the Federal lands. Wolverines and other wildlife cannot be controlled or "saved", but they are the "tool" to control the LAND via declaring it CRITICAL HABITAT that must be protected.. That is what the lawsuits are all about. The Critical Habitat here in Colorado eliminates needed Watershed management for Colorado future economic survival. Who, what is behind the drive of the 2,500 environmental Non-profits that receive approximately 30 Billion per year here in the United States, to produce what?

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San Miguel County's Mining Regulations Threatens Colorado's Uranium Mining Revival and Invites Costly Litigation

By Marjorie Haun

In the historic mining towns of southwestern Colorado, the San Miguel County Commissioners are about to approve onerous and legally dubious mining regulations that will effectively curtail all new uranium exploration and mining in the County. The vote has been put off for nearly two years following protracted hearings and opposition from the mining companies with hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of uranium ore reserves hanging in the balance. Multiple postponements of the vote underscore the deep divisions between Telluride's wealthy liberals and the prospectors, miners, and ordinary folk in the County's sparsely populated western region.

The new mining regulations, outlined in a comprehensive draft on the county's website, place unreasonable barriers to new exploration and mining on private and federal lands. More importantly, they are unnecessary, since all potential environmental concerns are already addressed in state and federal law. San Miguel's draft imposes overlapping requirements, clashing with this framework and the federal laws governing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Department of Energy (DOE) lands. The County's overreach invites Supremacy Clause violations by potentially infringing on a claim owner's mineral rights on public domains.

The proposed regulations will require permits for any disturbance beyond casual prospecting, demanding exhaustive submissions dealing with transportation, noise limits, blasting restrictions, dust mitigation, wildlife habitat, vegetation, water drainage and erosion plans, and proof of financial and technical expertise. Exploration and mining activities will face public hearings before the Planning Commission and County Commission. Adjustable financial bonds to cover reclamation, with permits expiring after three years of inactivity—extensions requiring further hoop jumping. Violations risk revocation and bond forfeiture, potentially transforming even the smallest operations into an administrative quagmire.

It appears that a Boulder law firm is guiding the draft of the latest iteration of the regulations. Although they're removed some of the direct conflicts with state and federal laws, they are using the vaguely defined "Impact Area" to leverage future court actions and delays to forestall new mining and make it prohibitively expensive. This legal chicanery extends county oversight to virtually any location where impacts are deemed "adverse" by whomever defines them as such. This forces a two-step review process that empowers opponents to repeatedly demand excessive details, while forcing applicants to foot the bill for county-selected consultants and provide exhaustive reports on everything from vehicle emissions and wildlife habitats to

plant life monitoring and light pollution mitigation in remote, sparsely populated regions. Ultimately, these overreaching rules invite unqualified County inspections and lawsuits against permittees, crushing the industry and squandering the potential economic windfall that uranium mining could provide.

This framework doesn't regulate; it effectively bans, catering to Telluride's second and third-home owners and eco-tourists who view resource extraction as an affront to their idyllic retreats, while ignoring the concerns of rural blue-collar communities in San Miguel's Norwood, Egnar, and Redvale, and neighboring Montrose County's Nucla and Naturita, and Dolores County's Dove Creek, towns populated by ranchers, miners, skilled tradesmen and small business owners. These areas, far from luxury enclaves, built their economies on the Uravan Mineral Belt during the 1950s and 1970s, when this area yielded 11% of America's uranium and 80% of its vanadium during the Cold War.

Veteran Colorado and Utah uranium exploration and mining men have decried the impact of these burdensome regulations, warning that they will destroy any possibility of reviving uranium and vanadium mining in the southern end of the Uravan Mineral Belt.

Adam Eckman, President of the Colorado Mining Association (CMA), has been unequivocal in his criticism. In testimony, he stated that the draft regulation grants the county unlawful "veto authority" over Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) approvals, creating "purposely duplicative" hurdles that conflict with federal mandates under the BLM and DOE. Eckman further warned that these measures "function as a veto to state issued permits," undermining DRMS's jurisdiction without enhancing environmental protections. He highlighted the national stakes: "The Department of Energy has been charged with developing a secure domestic source of uranium to supply the nuclear fuel that will power the expansion of the electrical systems America must have to meet the demands of the AI Revolution." If these regulations are passed, San Miguel risks federal preemption, as courts have invalidated similar local bans on oil and gas. As Eckman urges, a collaborative multi-agency memorandum of understanding could integrate protections with economic growth, avoiding the "dangerous and potentially costly game" the county is playing. Instead, the rules silence communities like Egnar and Redvale, where residents crave "good, honest local jobs" without the trappings of Mountain Village's beau monde mansions.

Passage of the mining regulations seems inevitable, but repercussions will be swift. The CMA, alongside claim owners and industry allies, is poised to file federal

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lawsuits immediately, alleging takings under the Fifth Amendment and preemption. Damages could reach into the billions, and Eckman foresees legal defense fees bankrupting the county, diverting funds from essential services like roads and schools. "The San Miguel County Commissioners must vote no, or brace for the suits that will potentially bleed us dry," as articulated in public calls. Rural residents deserve to have their taxpayer dollars protected from unwinnable court battles.

Telluride was one of Colorado's oldest and most productive mining towns, but a new mining boom would have very little effect on Telluride as it is today. Nevertheless, good mining jobs would bring a flowering of prosperity to all the struggling towns also situated in San Miguel County. The mining regulations aren't protection—they're privilege masquerading as virtue. The Commissioners can either heed the warnings or face a harsh reckoning that could cost the County amounts of money that would leave even Telluride's nouveau riche bewildered.



Marjorie Haun

Managing Editor, Research, Content Creation

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SPOTLIGHT :

Four Doves Women's Foundation

It's wonderful when there's an unfilled need in a community, that can be met by individuals stepping up and creating new mechanisms to fill the void and cooperate with established support systems. In Dolores County, Dove Creek, the newly formed Four Doves Women's Foundation is just that. It is a faith-centered nonprofit created to support women, children, and families facing substance use, trauma, instability, and educational disruption in the Four Corners region. Founded by local residents Delia Howard (daughter of Doug and Linda Funk) and her daughter, Cortney Ogas, the organization was formed in response to growing community needs and a desire to help individuals navigate difficult systems with dignity, guidance, and hope.

"Our community has changed, and we need to circle the wagons and protect one another," Howard said. "Four Doves exists to help people take a positive step forward, whether that means substance recovery, family restoration, safe housing, or education."

The foundation is structured around four service pillars, each addressing a critical area of need while working together to support whole families:



- * Substance Abuse & Recovery
- * Behavioral Health & Family Restoration
- * Resources & Safe/Sober Living
- * Child Care & Academic Advocacy

Four Doves is currently operating entirely by volunteers, with leadership personally funding operational costs. The organization works to utilize existing systems, such as helping people find insurance and community-based programs, while advocating for individuals who need guidance navigating those resources.

The foundation is actively seeking volunteers to assist with peer support, administrative tasks, mentoring, child care and academic support, and community outreach. Financial donations are also needed to expand services, reduce the financial burden on volunteers, and increase the foundation's ability to connect families with critical resources.

Transparency and accountability are central to the organization's structure. The foundation's Chief Financial Officer is based out of state providing objective financial oversight and helping to ensure ethical stewardship of all funds. Four Doves Women's Foundation emphasizes collaboration not the replacement of existing services. Its role is to help individuals find, understand, and access current resources with support and advocacy.

Community members interested in volunteering, donating, or learning more about Four Doves Women's Foundation are encouraged to reach out directly to the organization. Find them on Facebook/four doves - Email Us@FourDoves.Care or call: 970-564-3783



Courtesy Photo Delia Howard
Four Doves Women's Foundation Logo

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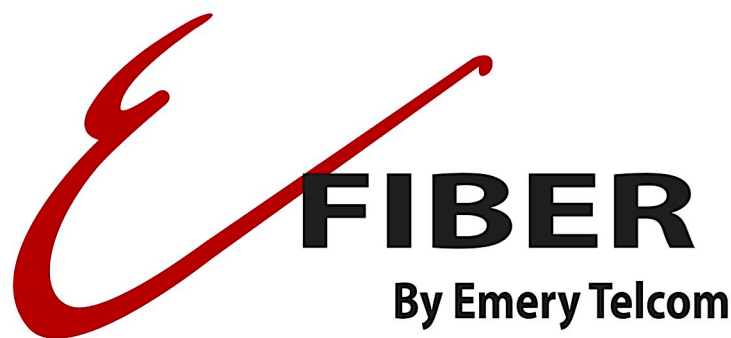


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