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JANUARY 2026

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

Activities and News Along the SWAC & Four Corners

## Silver and Gold for 2026

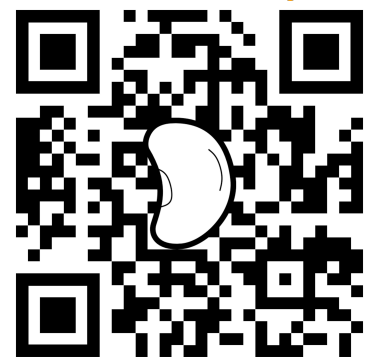
VOLUME 26 ISSUE 01



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Want to see something  
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Want to be a Contributor?  
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Always New  
Monthly  
Rabbit Hole 🙌 🐰



### NEW GLOBAL MONETARY SYSTEM RESET?

By Kendra Cook

Welcome 2026! How the precious metals have soared from 2025 - as of printing, Gold spot price ran from around \$2500 an ounce this time last year, and now is dancing around the \$4300 level. While Silver spot started in the upper \$20s last year, it's taken off to over \$70/ounce to kick off this year. That's around 159% increase for silver, while gold made a 72% increase. There are lots of backend reasons why the big moves, notably consumers are clearly looking at ways to put their dollars into something that will retain value in these uneasy times. But there are many other factors as well that are likely driving this part of the economy into a global monetary reset.

January 1st brought in a new law requiring an export license to ship Silver in China - affecting 70% of the global refined silver. It's logical that the industrial demand is exactly why Beijing would want to keep more of their metal within their country. This could impact prices with the record demands, tight inventories, and a speculative frenzy that's already in the market - precious metals aren't just a currency investment for sure, as particularly silver, is used in so many technology related industries: solar panels, electric vehicles, and AI hardware to name a few. The major fight going on over the silver space, from shorts, to carry trades, and actual valuation, will be overshadowed by the use in electronics as that space continues to grow demand.

Our economy seems to be built on a house of cards - fiat money - many of the ETF trades for silver or gold, aren't real, it's just paper claiming the asset, but they are not. Nothing new under the sun. But when fraud is on top of fraud, the house of cards will eventually fall.

When people want silver that's supposed to be behind that, and there isn't enough, you can see where the pricing is going up up up.

What's up with the Wizard of OZ (brought back as a major meme for 2025-26), OZ perhaps representing ounces - the original shoes weren't ruby but were silver - as they 'follow the yellow brick road' of gold, to get to the emerald city. Interesting timing. Back to current geo-politics - if the US cuts off ships taking south American silver to China, this will be a big deal. With all of the manufacturing uses, not to mention weapons systems, there could be a kinetic war over this. Silver is the blasting cap in the gold... many futures could explode based on the silver trade.

China used to use silver as their currency. We are moving into the Chinese year of the horse after a year of the snake - said to be a symbolic shedding during the year of the snake, being a #9 year, we begin again 2026 = 2+0+2+6=10 which is 1 in numerology, a time to start again with the horse. Last year brought endings, clarity, revealing truths, and an emotional release. 2026 is set for the energy of the Horse - fast forward moving and full of breakthroughs many say. The most prevalent word people use is instincts - trusting your inner gut feelings, no holding back or overthinking. What should we be doing in 2026? (not a financial advisor here...) historically, it's obvious that inflation comes next, then hyper inflation, and a currency reset then happens quickly. When the mainstream headlines are screaming it's that bad - it is likely too late to adjust your assets. This is why many experts say physical gold and silver have to be in place before the collapse happens. Bet on gold or silver for the win, the horses are out of the barn, let the race begin!



**DOVE CREEK  
DOLORES COUNTY  
SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

Check calendar at  
[www.dc2j.org](http://www.dc2j.org)

**JANUARY 2026**

- Jan 6 - School Resumes
- Jan 9 - MS Girls Basketball (H) Ouray
- Jan 9-10 HS Wrestling @Vernal UT
- Jan 10 - HS Basketball @Ignacio
- Jan 12 - MS Wrestling practice starts  
KB Dolores
- Jan 13 - HS Basketball (H) Mancos
- Jan 15 - MS Girls Basketball @Norwood
- Jan 17 - HS Wrestling @NFHS Hotchkiss CO  
MS Girls Basketball @Dolores  
HS Basketball @Ridway
- Jan 19 - 22 FFA National Western  
Stock Show Denver
- Jan 20 - HS Basketball @Monticello  
KB Telluride - League
- Jan 21 - School Board Meeting
- Jan 22 - MS Girls Basketball @Telluride  
MS Wrestling @Monticello
- Jan 24 - HS Wrestling @Ignacio  
HS Basketball (H)Dolores
- Jan 27 - MS Wrestling @Nucla Quad  
MS Girls Basketball (H) Nucla  
HS Basketball @Nucla
- Jan 31 - MS Wrestling @Ignacio Tourn.

**2025 CHSDA Tracey Garchar  
Humanitarian Award**



*Malynda Evans center - courtesy photo*

Congratulations to Malynda Evans, Dolores County Social Services Director for being the recipient of the 2025 CHSDA Tracey Garchar Humanitarian Award. The Dolores County BOCC wrote "Malynda always goes above and beyond and is a blessing and asset to Dolores County! " There is too much to include in full in the paper, you can read all her accolades on the DC BOCC facebook page - Excerpts from the nomination letter: As "the first and only Director of Social Services for Dolores County, Malynda set a tone of teamwork while she built the department from the ground up, determining staffing levels, creating an initial budget, furnishing space, coordinating with our state partners, and creating positive and constructive relationships with the county commissioners." She is "a foundational member of the local Collaborative Management Program. She is the Chair of her county's Interagency Oversight Group and has been for years." She "has taken steps to more closely align the Dolores County CMP and the Montezuma County CMP and has initiated a joint strategic planning effort for next fiscal year. Malynda joined the 22nd Judicial District Best

Practices Court Team" She is "lead on regional projects such as the Behavioral Health grant... and on a regional grant to support a Disability Navigator." "Malynda is a member of the Southwest Opioid Response District, representing Dolores County on this regional alliance."

**Colorado Counties, Inc.  
Distinguished Service Award**



*Jim Candelaria center - courtesy photo*

Congratulations, Commissioner Jim Candelaria - Montezuma County BOCC is proud to share that "Commissioner Candelaria has been awarded the Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) Distinguished Service Award — one of the highest honors a county commissioner can receive in Colorado! This award recognizes commissioners with a long history of public service, strong leadership, and a commitment to the greater good of the county they represent. Commissioner Candelaria has served on numerous CCI committees and task forces, contributed years of dedicated service to county government, and is known statewide for his unselfish commitment to helping others." December 2025.

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# REACTOR PILOT PROGRAM

Deep Fission, Inc. ("Deep Fission" or the "Company"), a pioneering advanced nuclear energy company developing small modular pressurized water reactors placed one mile underground, announced that it has executed an Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to build and operate a test reactor as part of President Trump's Reactor Pilot Program.

The Pilot Program provides a clear pathway for demonstrating the Company's technology and moving it toward future commercial use. The initiative was established under Executive Order 14301, directing the DOE to support the development of qualified test reactors outside National Laboratories.

Pending DOE authorization under the Pilot Program, Deep Fission will build and operate its first reactor under DOE oversight, with clear steps for design, safety reviews, construction, and initial operation. The goal is to prove that the Company's Gravity Nuclear Reactor works safely and reliably in the real world, using a streamlined process that helps first-of-a-kind technologies move faster. While this reactor is for research rather than commercial power, the pilot is designed to prove the technology and lay the groundwork for fast-tracked future licensing.



Deep Fission's proprietary design combines mature technologies from the nuclear, oil and gas, and geothermal industries, while using off-the-shelf parts and readily available, low-enriched uranium (LEU) to simplify supply chains. Each Gravity reactor will be located one mile underground, where the surrounding geology provides billions of tons of passive shielding and natural containment. This approach aims to improve safety and security, minimize surface footprint, and enable a faster, more cost-effective path to deployment.

The Company estimates its model could reduce overall construction costs by 70-80% compared to traditional nuclear plants, targeting a projected levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) of 5-7 cents per kWh. Utah, Texas and Kansas are the first three planned sites for the company's testing of its small modular pressurized water reactors. The exact location for where in Utah this first bore hole would be drilled has not yet been released.

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### SCOUT MOTORS TO SELL DIRECT TO CONSUMERS (Volkswagon Supported)

Scout Motors wins the Colorado license to sell direct to consumer - planning to begin production in late 2027. There is no Federal law mandating auto manufacturers have to sell to dealer to consumers, but there are state by state laws.

Manufacturers decided early on they didn't want to go direct, but wanted a franchise dealer network, because they didn't have the capital to build all those direct dealerships - franchise laws were developed around state regulations. Tesla shook up the market, by saying they wanted to sell directly. This cracked open that market. In Colorado EV only manufacturer without franchise agreement is the precise exemption. (Utah also shows EV only manufacturers without franchise agreements).

# Quotes on Request

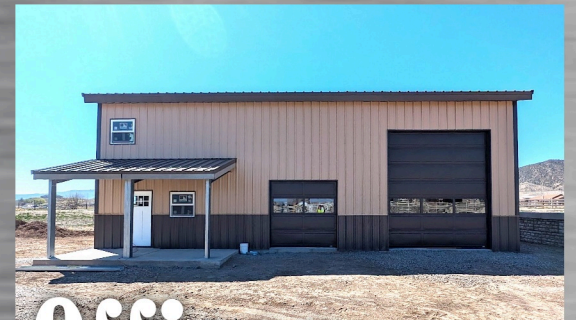
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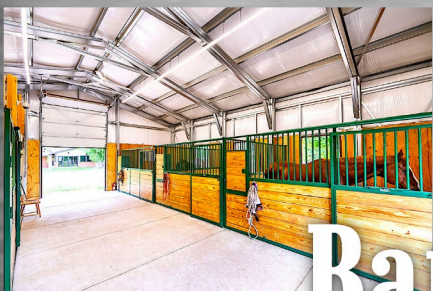
## Barndominiums



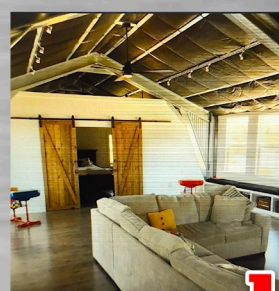
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## Offices



## Barns



## and

## More!



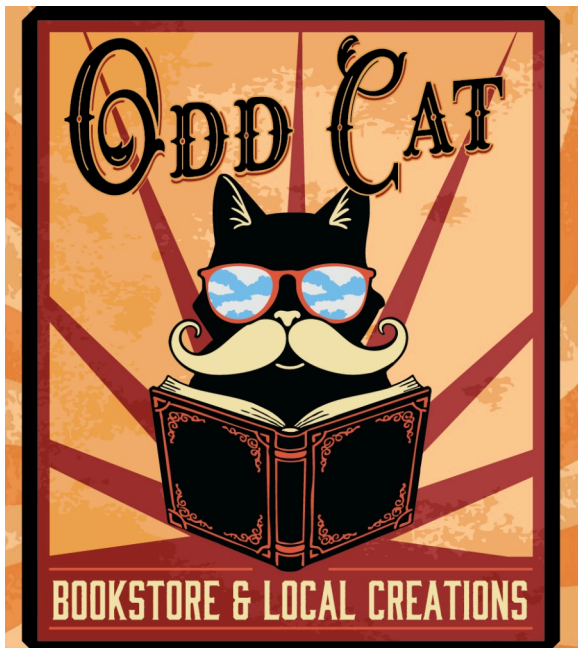
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### Greetings fellow Odd Cats! Commentary and Gratitude from Angie B.



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I hope the holiday season has treated you well, giving you warmth, laughter, and love! Enjoying the holidays is NOT a requirement, by the way, in case you're just plain tired of it all. If anyone asks, I'll write you a humbug note. I've needed several of those throughout my own life, so I completely get where you're at, too!

This was my first Christmas as a small business owner and of course I had high hopes, but no real idea of what to expect. This is where I send a sincerely HUGE thank you to all the lovely people that came through the bookstore. More often than not, people left with smiles on their faces, so happy to have found the "perfect" thing. Biggest surprise so far? I can't tell you how many people have looked me in the eye, serious as anything, and earnestly thanked me for opening a bookstore. They say it with such unexpected solemnity, as if I have done something of great importance and impact. I believe I understand what they mean, but it's so incredibly humbling. I have a long history of service in my home state of Illinois, so I suppose it's only natural to continue the trend! Though I must admit, doing something like running a bookstore is so enjoyable that it doesn't feel like a job at all! Great things coming in 2026, more conversation, more community, more BOOKS!

### BOOK CORNER

By Staff

For 'books that make you go hmmm...' we introduce you to another work by the author Guy Anderson - it's the third he's produced from his vast years of research into topics that many used to disregard - but into 2026, you'd be surprised how many people are opening their minds to the 'unthinkable' in years past. So, here we go with a quick synopsis on "Conspiracy Theories: From Agarthia to Zombies" a 535 page read that is sure to provide some good starting points for you to jump online and do further reading and listening and discerning!

The author writes, "Within this book you will find 87 of the most compelling subjects I have explored and each is accompanied by its own artwork. The range is vast and includes Atlantis, Barack Obama, Princess Diana, Nikola Tesla, Project Mockingbird, Operation Paperclip, The Vril Society, Time Travel and of course, Zombies. Every conspiracy opens a window into a different corner of the unseen, revealing patterns, contradictions and possibilities that push against conventional narratives and chart the theories that have marked my journey into the rabbit-hole. My hope is that the subjects discussed are not seen as random curiosities or eccentric ideas, but as pieces of a much larger picture. When you look closely at how information is presented to the public, then compare it with what is quietly hidden, withheld or eventually admitted, the conclusion is simple - we aren't told the full story and we never have been!" (see more on <https://PintoBean.CO>)



## A Big Thank You to ROCK's GEMS (Giving Every Month)

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**ROCK and the Dove Creek Care and Share want to give a great big THANK YOU** to everyone who helped collect, gather, and donate food for the SNAP emergency. As we all know, there are still uncertainties with the future of SNAP funding. Every group and individual - and all the amazing people of Dolores County truly came through with flying colors. Your generosity, teamwork, and community spirit made a real difference for our neighbors in need.

Southern Baptist Church    Dove Creek Superette    Dolores County Emergency Mngt  
 Assembly of God    Women's VFW    Dolores County Commissioners  
 Dove Creek Church    Dollar General    Dolores County Senior Services  
 First Baptist Church    Family Dollar    Dolores County Social Services  
 Fellowship Baptist Church       Dolores County Public Health

**Congratulations!**  
**RHAU RURAL PROVIDER OF THE YEAR**

**DR. JEANNE WIGANT**

The Rural Health Association of Utah's Rural Provider of the Year Award recognizes an exemplary healthcare professional who has demonstrated exceptional dedication, outstanding clinical skills, and a profound impact on healthcare delivery within rural Utah communities. This prestigious award celebrates the provider's commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by rural populations, showcasing their unwavering efforts to ensure access to high-quality medical care. Through innovative practices, compassionate patient care, and a deep understanding of local needs, the awardee has become a beacon of excellence in rural healthcare. This recognition not only honors their outstanding achievements but also highlights their role as a vital healthcare partner in improving the well-being of individuals and families in underserved areas.

**COME CELEBRATE THIS ACHIEVEMENT, 12/9/2025 @ 5:30 PM, SJH ADMIN BLDG.**

We are a family owned and operated Drive Thru coffee shop with a Walk Up window and seating. Located in Cortez, CO on the way to Mesa Verde, and in Dove Creek, CO next to The Dove Creek Inn.

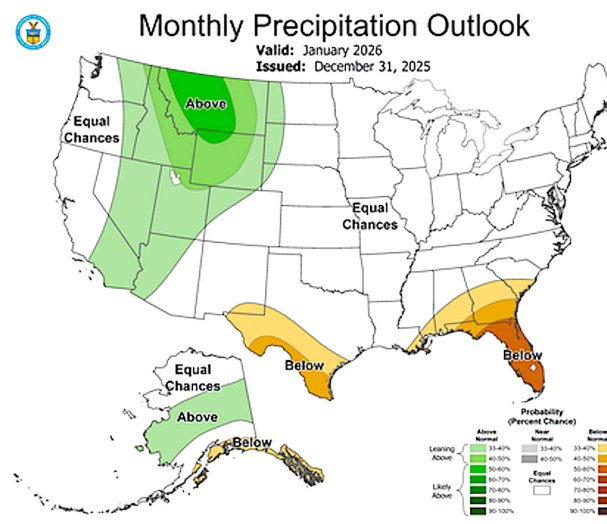
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR** - The Pinto Bean is rolling into it's 4th year this summer - starting in August of 2022 with just 4 pages, we quickly grew to 8 , 12 then 16 pages, expanding from mostly Dolores and Montezuma County coverage in Colorado, to including SE Utah from Green River to Bluff, and sprawling into SW Colorado from the West End over to Durango. We plan to expand again to a full 20 pages in 2026! You can find us online <https://PintoBean.CO> with a new revision on the site this year. You will find our "Book Corner" links and reviews of off the beaten path books of interest, as well as the Deep Dive alternative site links we can't share on our growing Facebook page! Approaching 2.5K followers there, daily posts are engaging and a place to give us tips on sharing news events and information you'd like to see in the Bean!

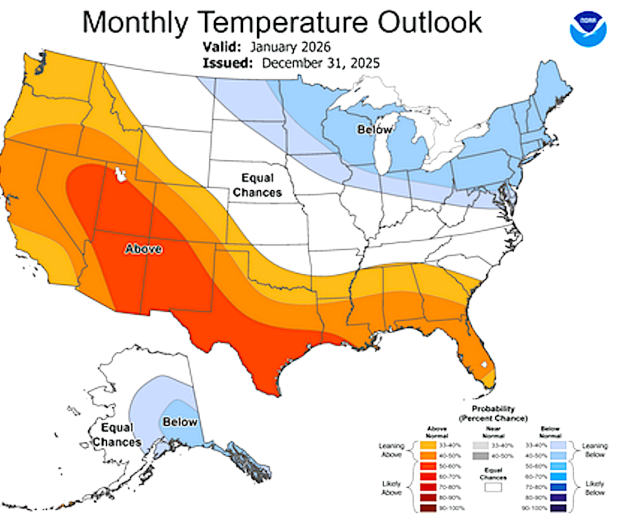


**JANUARY WEATHER**

Snow in the mountains would be great! Year started with rains below 8000', very low SNOTEL snow pack in the mountains of SE UT and SW CO.

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. Also found out the company that produces yardsticks won't be making them any longer.

I'm working on a bunch of jokes about wind. They're currently saved as drafts. Got to name my sister's newborn twins! Welcome to the world, Denise and Denephew!

**JAN WHAT'S UP**

Birth Flower - Carnation  
 Birth Stone - Garnet  
 Zodiac Capricorn - Aquarius

JAN 1 New Year's Day  
 JAN 2 Swiss Cheese Day  
 JAN 4 Earth at Perihelion  
 JAN 6 Epiphany 3 Kings Day  
 NATIONAL BEAN DAY  
 JAN 9 Natl Law Enforcement  
 JAN 14 Orthodox New Year  
 JAN 16 Appreciate a Dragon Day  
 JAN 17 Benjamin Franklins Day  
 JAN 19 Natl Popcorn Day  
 JAN 20 MLK Jr Day (Cheese Lovers)  
 JAN 22 Natl Grandpa Day  
 JAN 24 Natl Peanut Butter Day  
 JAN 29 Chinese New Year Horse  
 JAN 31 Natl Hot Chocolate Day

WOLF MOON

FULL MOON

Moon Phases

JAN 18 - New Moon  
 JAN 03 - Full Moon  
 JAN 01 - Perigee  
 JAN 13 - Apogee

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The most difficult roads lead to the most beneficial destinations

By Kenny Ray

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## Waymo Robo Rides

*Waymo is an American autonomous driving technology company headquartered in Mountain View, California. It is a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc., Google's parent company.*

Waymo Robo Rides coming to Denver? Waymo is branching out - their Metro Phoenix territory includes 315 square miles of Downtown Phoenix, Scottsdale, and parts of Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Talking Stick Entertainment District.

They also currently offer rides in the San Francisco Bay Area and neighborhoods between SF and San Jose. Los Angeles has a 120 square mile region from Santa Monica, to Inglewood, to Downtown LA. Miami and Washington, D.C., are next up on their app, with sights on Denver ramping up as well.

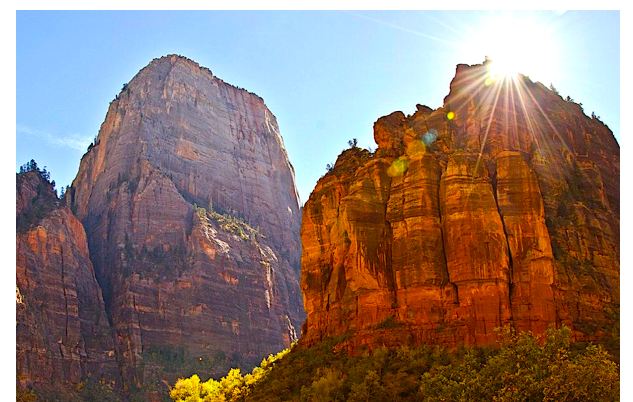
They use all-electric Jaguar I-PACE vehicles operated by the fifth-generation Waymo Driver (we don't know what happened to the first 4 generations of 'driverless drivers'). This started as the Google Self-Driving Car Project in 2009, Waymo has been focused on building the Waymo Driver—The World's Most Experienced Driver™ They claim the reason for the vehicles is to reduce traffic deaths, as 94% of crashes involve human error or choice.

They began testing in September of 2025, and hope to roll out in many more cities across the US. One of the concerns in the Denver area would be the ability to navigate more difficult road conditions with snow ice slush.



Waymo autonomous ride-hailing app Working on rolling out in Denver soon

## PARK ENTRANCE FEES



Zion National Park courtesy photo

Utah parks are seeing a new change for 2026, the launch of a non resident surcharge fee, applying \$100 per person for non residents aged 16 and older for Bryce Canyon and Zion Parks. This is in addition to the existing entrance fee. (children 15 and under are exempt from both surcharge and entrance fees). Commercial tour companies will comply with this fee in addition to their standard commercial tour vehicle fee. The fee is based on the date of entry, not by reservations on any tour. Verification will be accomplished through ID checking (eg. drivers license). If a non resident is an America the Beautiful Pass holder, there is no additional fee.

Details and additional information is available on the website [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

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# “Not a Land Grab”



Commentary By

*Aimee Tooker*

The proposed Dolores River National Conservation Area is a total of 68,000 acres along the river in Montezuma, Dolores and San Miguel Counties and was the result of over 15 years of stakeholder engagement. Despite the remote and beautiful nature of the Dolores River, over a century of coordinated collaboration among stakeholders has determined its optimal usage and management, and those local conversations excluded the use of both Wild and Scenic status as well as a designation as a National Monument. A “Land Grab” would have been a 500,000-acre National Monument signed over by one President. This NCA proposal does NOT include any land in Montrose and Mesa counties and the critical mineral resource known as the Uravan Mineral Belt.



2022 NCA Planning with Sen. Bennet

Federal law requires the federal land management agencies work to make their policies consistent with local plans to minimize conflicts and support economic growth. That coordination law should be a measurable requirement in all land management decisions before, during and after the creation of resource management plans and schedule of proposed actions. While I recognize the federal government's original intent for public landownership (historically, federal holdings were intended to include only Washington D.C. (ten square miles), military bases, and post offices). Given our current circumstances, a key question arises: Should public lands be owned and managed by state or federal agencies? At this point in time (yeah, the wolves/rewilding issues) I am going to lean toward the federal land management agencies WITH mandates and directives that put local municipalities at the table to draft and coordinate those resources management plans. I am not really trusting the state of Colorado at this point in time to coordinate and collaborate the management of lands with the rural communities.

We all love these lands for different reasons, and the resource management plans are not rule books but guidelines for the agencies and for the distinct areas of the offices. Each of the areas that we love to recreate, hunt and play require different

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maintenance and monitoring, and those guidelines should be designed by the local municipalities and local stakeholders.

Do I dare say that if I show up to "Teacup Basin" or if I am kayaking the river and see industrial size operations smack in the middle that I will be pretty upset, especially with all the other areas available and abundant for resource extraction? Please take a step back and think about our backyard and what we would like to see and not see take place there. That is why local coordination and collaboration is so important to our culture, values and future economic development.

The following local municipalities that support the Dolores River Conservation Area legislation including Montezuma County, Archuleta County, San Miguel County, Dolores County, La Plata County, Town of Dove Creek, Town of Dolores, Town of Norwood, and City of Cortez. The legislation is also supported by the Southwest Water Conservation District and the Western Small Miners Association who advocate water interests and the mining industries.

Non-governmental organizations have no responsibility to fund necessary public services, no responsibility to protect the economic stability of the people or the local government. Your civic responsibility is to vote for and elect public officials that do what is in the best interests of the prospective municipalities. They must balance the needs and interests of all their constituents, that will best fit and benefit the multiple use, sustained yield while protecting private property rights. That stewardship requires careful consideration of multiple interests, including recreation,



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resource extraction, conservation, and local cultures. To best represent all the constituents the Congressman and Senators must rely on the area's public officials, including elected county commissioners and town trustees, to recommend the best possible course of action to manage the region's economic development.

Why not advocate for lawfully guided and mandated coordination processes or perhaps rescinding or amending the Antiquities Act of 1906? Is it really that incomprehensible to move past negative assumption rhetoric and work toward meaningful solutions? Not as entertaining, but way more important to balanced progress than false narratives and AI generated negative comprehension.

This QR Code takes you to the Final pdf Senate document on the NCA - in the February issue, we will hopefully be running an article from one of the participants in the NCA community development process from Dolores County.





# Southwestern Adventure Guide

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## JANUARY EVENTS IN THE FOUR CORNERS

### Moab

Jan 24th Putting On The Ritz  
Jan 31 Arches Ultra Run

### LaSal

Jan 17 9am Breakfast w/Firefighters

### Bluff

Jan 16th -18th Bluff  
Jan 1st 15th Cortez Toastmasters Club  
Jan 16th-17th 4 States Jr. Rodeo (3rd Weekend in Jan)

### Dolores

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Dolores Winter Farmers Market @ Four Seasons Greenhouse  
Jan 10 KSJD Teen Hangout Nights at the Cortez Recreation Center 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

### Telluride

Jan 13th Phyphr + 5AM Trio  
Jan 14th The Things We Carry Immersive Exhibition  
Jan 24th Harlem Quartet  
Jan 29th Pressure Drop - Teton Gravity Research Film

### Norwood

Jan 15th Telluride Chamber Music  
Jan 2,10,17,24 Open Riding

### Naturita

Dec 31 8:30am – 12:30pm New Years! (music, dance, fundraiser)  
Naturita Community Center

### Egnar

Jan 25th 1st 1:30-4:30 Egnar Fire Dept Brown Bag Bazaar

### Durango

Jan 17th Durango Wedding Expo  
Jan 23d 47th annual Snowdown Durango  
Jan 30th Snowdown Light Parade

### Pagosa Springs

Jan 17th Winterfest Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon @ Yamaguchi Park  
Jan 30 Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social @ Cloman Park



## 2026 RACE SCHEDULE

FRI	APR 24	7PM	<b>360 SPRINT CAR SPRING NATIONALS</b> <b>ASCS vs 360 WING DESERT SERIES</b>
SAT	APR 25	6PM	Mods, Stock Cars, Sport Mods, Hobby Stocks, Compacts, Dwarf/Mod-Lites & Young Guns Compacts
SAT	MAY 30	6PM	<b>FAN APPRECIATION</b> Mods, Stock Cars, Sport Mods, Hobby Stocks, Compacts, Dwarf/Mod-Lites & Young Guns Compacts
SAT	JUN 27	6PM	<b>JD MINOR MEMORIAL RACE</b> Mods, Stock Cars, Sport Mods, Hobby Stocks, Compacts, Dwarf/Mod-Lites & Young Guns Compacts
SAT	JUL 25	6PM	<b>MONTEZUMA COUNTY FAIR RACE</b> <b>FAN APPRECIATION</b> Mods, Stock Cars, Sport Mods, Hobby Stocks, Compacts, Dwarf/Mod-Lites & Young Guns Compacts
SAT	AUG 29	6PM	<b>BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT</b> Mods, Stock Cars, Sport Mods, Hobby Stocks, Compacts, Dwarf/Mod-Lites & Young Guns Compacts
FRI	SEP 25	7PM	<b>IMCA CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND</b>
SAT	SEP 26	6PM	Mods, Stock Cars, Sport Mods, Hobby Stocks, Compacts, Dwarf/Mod-Lites, Young Guns Compacts & AZ Mini Late Models



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#### 2026 Schedule

(all dates tentative pending IMCA approval)

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- May 5-16 Season Opener
- May 29 Friday Night Lights
- June 12-13 Rounds 5&6
- July 10-11 Mid Season Championship
- July 30-Aug 1 Rounds 9&10
- Aug 28 1st Annual Red Boettler Memorial Race
- Sep 18-19 2026 Championship



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# SPILL THE BEANS.....

Space. The 'Final Frontier' so the Star trek opening starts, the Star Wars 'Empires' in space also show 'wars in the heavens', the Men in Black movie, Frankenstein book - is ALL of this really 'science fiction'? Or do these types of writings, films and TV programming, include elements of a truth known to few. What has become known as science fiction, may have originated out of ancient political and satirical commentaries such as the work of Plato's Republic (375 BC) and Thomas Moore's Utopia (1516), or the fanatical novels of Jules Verne, followed by HG Wells, Hugo Gernsback, Isaac Asimov, Philip K. Dick, up to LR Hubbard, Michael Crichton and beyond (to name just a few authors). The discussion continues that critiquing technology or theoretically unknown workings beyond that known to the common man of the times, is the 'fiction' part of SciFi. But. Ironically, if our historical timeline is not what has actually happened, if there were more advanced civilizations in prior eras that had our current tech info, and possibly more, that was exorcised from books and the earth... that would change our perspective drastically. Looking into Tartarian culture,

# THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR / PUBLISHER



*Kendra Cook*



practically erased forever, more people are researching what that meant, where Tartars lived, and what they created before being terminated. I'll leave you with that to look into on your own.

Back to today, have you read "The Space 2030 Agenda: Space as a Driver of Sustainable Development" - so the United Nations first conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE) was held in 1968, focusing on the vast potential of space benefits for all humankind (they said). The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 prior to that (USA/UK/Russia), declared "No nation can claim sovereignty over space or celestial bodies. All space activity must be conducted "for the benefit of all countries." States are responsible for their government and private entities in space." Fifty years later, the UN held another big gathering in 2018, which resulted in the creation of the 2030 document and agenda along with developing COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space), adopted by the general assembly in 2021. Four core objectives include Space Economy, Society,

Accessibility, and Diplomacy. However 'science fiction' this sounds, it is reality for those thinking about the future, the big picture, not being distracted about indictments, money and politics.

The great 'shape debate' (if you don't know what that is, there are many people questioning the 'science' that portrays earth as a globe or some roundish shape, not that earth is flat like a pancake, but may be based on telluric energy or a frequency based simulation of some sort) is worth taking a look at as well. What we think about reality, fiction, frequencies and 'life' itself, may not be in our individual best interest. Watching all of those starlink satellite chains launch, encasing the atmosphere in a grid above us, should give us pause as humanity. Digital ID to satellite - the system is built, they just need the catalyst to hand over the powers to the sky, to a centralized authority, to one all seeing eye - look up - look up - stop fighting each other, we need to unite and look up where the next battle is coming from - unfolding in the heavens first - the thrown is rising and this may not be science fiction!

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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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## LOCAL OBITUARIES



**AARON BREWER**

**September 2, 1973 - December 6, 2025**

With hearts full of love and gratitude for his life, we share that Aaron Clifford Brewer, age 52, peacefully passed on December 6, 2025. After courageously facing cancer, he returned home and passed holding his beloved wife's hand.

Aaron was born on September 2, 1973, in Monticello, Utah, to Jack and Carol Brewer. He spent his early years on the family farm in Cahone, Colorado, where he developed a lifelong love for the land his family homesteaded. His family later moved to Monticello, Utah, where he met his soulmate, Lynnett Ewart; they were married on June, 15th, 1991. Together, they built a beautiful life and welcomed four sons into the world.

As a young husband and father, Aaron moved with his family to Provo, Utah, where he attended the firefighter's academy. This calling eventually led him back to San Juan County, where he served as the county's wildfire warden. His passion for learning inspired him to earn his bachelor's degree in education from Utah State University, beginning a career dedicated to teaching, mentoring, and supporting the youth of San Juan County. Aaron later earned his master's degree in education administration, which opened the door for him to serve as a principal and eventually as the school district's information technology director. In this final role, he worked tirelessly to bring wireless internet to students on the Navajo Reservation during the COVID-19 pandemic—an achievement that will continue to benefit families for years to come.

Aaron was a proud and active Freemason in the Cortez #133 and Rico #79 lodges and served as Rico's Worshipful Master. He was also an active Scottish Rite member and founder of the Four Corners Scottish Rite Club. His dedication was recognized when he was knighted as a Commander of the Court of Honor in the Orient of Colorado. Through the Scottish Rite, he deepened his love of philosophy, learning, and the esoteric.

Aaron is survived by his beloved wife, Lynnett; his four sons, Samuel, Benjamin, Jonathan, and Shane; and his seven treasured grandchildren. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, service, and unwavering devotion to those he loved. Aaron made an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. He is loved beyond measure and will be deeply missed, yet the hope and light he shared will continue to shine in the lives he touched.



**CAROLYN MCCUSKEY**

**October 1, 1947 - December 23, 2025**

Carolyn McCuskey, 78, a 26 year resident of Dove Creek, CO, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, CO on 23 December 2025. She was born on 1 October 1947 in Parkersburg WV to Clarence (Bud) Gilbert and Mavadell Gilbert (nee Perrine).

She graduated from Parkersburg High School in 1965 then went to beautician school and worked in a salon for several years. After that she became a real estate agent, selling properties until 1982. Her husband, David, discovered her in 1981 while visiting family in Parkersburg. They were married in 1983 in Las Vegas, NV where her husband was a resident. In Las Vegas she was a sales rep for Mead and Crown Zellerbach Paper Companies. Carolyn and her husband moved to Dove Creek in 1999 wanting to enjoy a slower pace. In Dove Creek, she worked for a time for Dan Fernandez and Oma Fleming in the extension office. She started "The Best Li'l Hair House" which later morphed into the "In Style Hair Salon" where she worked with her good friends Jackie Banks and Melissa Gray until she retired in 2023. She was on the local library board and the clerk at the First Baptist Church where she sang in the choir for many years.

Carolyn's daily passion was to get on her tractor, with mower attached, load her tools into the bucket and disappear for most of the day with her dogs. She cut fields, trimmed trees and split firewood. Her goal was to make her property look like a city park. She loved to fish at Miramonte and her knees went weak every time she landed a trout. Her siblings were piston heads, so she grew up around souped up cars and drag strips. Those experiences with her brothers and sister never left her blood and it was in the cards that one day she would be gifted with a supercharged Roush Mustang. Periodically she would back it out of its resting place, wash it and drive alone to her secret patch of asphalt and let that supercharger breathe.

She is survived by brother Ron Gilbert, sister Ann Chenoweth and brother Steve Gilbert, all of Parkersburg WV. Steve's wife, Charlotte, was always Carolyn's best friend and confidant who flew immediately to Grand Junction to be with her through the unexpected end. She had numerous nieces, nephews and their children that she loved. She had a stepdaughter Michelle Hammonds of Clarksville, IN. and a stepson David McCuskey (DII) of Boulder, CO.

In lieu of any cards or flowers she would have liked donations to go to Vibrant Pet Animal Hospital in Cortez, CO or any Australian Cattle Dog rescue. Over the years, she had six of those cattle dogs and they were her only babies. Her little critters, Sheila and Bindi now pine for her.

There is not a memorial planned at this time.

# GASLIGHTING GAS

By Dexter Gill

Colorado to BAN Natural Gas? Colorado to be 100% Electric by 2050? What is going on? Recently it was reported in "The Business Times" that the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) looks to eliminate gas heating. This was regarding a December 1st decision setting greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets for certain natural gas utilities. The new targets are to reduce emissions by 41 % by 2035, from the 2015 baseline. New emission targets will be determined for 2040, 2045 and 2050 no later than Dec. 1 2032. The current approved target is an accelerated amount from the previous planned time, and "suggesting" a change in end target of 100% reduction by 2050.

Wait a minute, most of us never heard of the PUC what is it? What is happening? Well first the PUC is a State Commission created in 1993 under Title 40 of the State Constitution, to regulate utilities with the mandate stating, "must first give paramount consideration to the public interest". This statement from their own Fact Sheet. The PUC is composed of Three Political Appointees, given full regulatory law authority. After 26 years of economic growth in the State, in 2019, Legislative HB19-1261, "Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution" was enacted and gave the "PUC" authority to regulate industries possibly causing "Climate Change pollution". Utilities directly and indirectly impacts Energy, Transportation, Land Use, Building Codes, Air Quality, Vehicles, Local Planning and Agriculture, thus impacting the total economy. In 2021,



<https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/ghg-pollution-reduction-roadmap>

Senate Bill 21-264 required that investor-owned utilities with fewer than 90,000 customers implement "clean heat" plans to meet specific emission targets and advance the statewide goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The legislation set target dates for amount of emissions reduction achievable. In 2024, the "Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap 2.0" came along. You should read that, all 131 pages, to know where we are headed. It is on line and easy to access.

The actions to reduce Methane emissions will impact three suppliers to residential users, those being Atmos Energy, Black Hills Energy, and Xcel Energy. Users of Natural Gas from those suppliers can expect rate increases up to possibly 2.5% as a beginning. This appears to be the beginning of ENDING Natural gas in residential use. Seventy (70) percent of Colorado residential homes depend upon Natural Gas. All electric homes are nice, until the electricity goes off, which is frequent. Is this in the "Public's best interest"?

The issue of "Clean Energy" here-in appears to mean reducing Methane USE which is "Natural Gas". It is claimed that Methane is substantially a higher potential

cause of "Climate Change" than CO2, so it must be reduced even though, when burned in your furnace or stove, the emissions are CO2 and water, both resources necessary in all plant life. The PUC, along with the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), has developed into an "Administrative State" to Regulate the total environment.

This year the CDPHE issued Rule-31 demanding the County landfills must take expensive actions to reduce emission of Methane gas from the landfills, which is in line with the "Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Roadmap 2.0" guidelines. Some interesting info on Methane, consider it is only 0.0002 % in the atmosphere, and is continually recycling, not building up. Methane is a product of ALL decomposition, local wet lands may emit 500 metric tons per year per square mile. The living human body emits one (1) liter of flatus gas per day with 7% in volume being Methane. How many bodies are in the Legislature? Does the "Roadmap" consider control of all Methane generating sources?

We the People have been "Gaslighted" in believing Natural Gas use is destroying the climate, and we can and must do all possible to stop using the resources our Creator has provided for us to use in a world that is continually being recycled by design. Our government knows better than our Creator?

What is "Gas Lighting"? "The act or practice of misleading someone especially for ones own advantage." - MerriamWebster. As the new legislature goes into session, what new regulation will be proposed to further impact Energy and the State's Economy? Stay alert!

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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

County Board of Commissioners 1st and  
3rd Wednesdays 9:30-3pm 333 West  
Colorado Ave 2nd floor Telluride CO

## USDA NATIONAL FARM SECURITY ACTION PLAN

### USDA

As committed to under USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced a number of coordinated actions to continue to emphasize American agricultural research and innovation by ensuring ideas stay in America or among our allies, not with hostile nations and that we are putting American farmers and ranchers first in every USDA program, period.

These historic actions strengthen transparency around foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land and ensure federal programs and purchasing preferences do not support supply chains controlled by foreign adversaries. The actions include opening up an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) to allow the public an opportunity to comment as USDA moves to improve the regulation and strengthening the implementation of USDA's BioPreferred Program to ensure federal programs and purchasing preferences prioritize American producers and manufacturers and rid out foreign adversaries.

"Strengthening national security starts with knowing who owns our farmland and where federal dollars are flowing," said Secretary Rollins. "These actions close long-standing gaps in oversight and enforcement by improving transparency around foreign land ownership and ensuring USDA programs support American farmers and manufacturers, while prioritizing domestic supply chains – not foreign adversaries." AFIDA requires foreign investors who



acquire, transfer, or hold an interest in U.S. agricultural land to report such holdings and transactions to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan (PDF, 1.2 MB) calls for aggressive implementation of reforms to the AFIDA process including improved verification and monitoring of collected AFIDA data.

USDA seeks input on potential regulatory or other changes that may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its AFIDA reporting and filing requirements which will result in improved tracking of foreign adversary agricultural land purchases to the public and will further enhance USDA's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (PDF, 164 KB) with Treasury which memorializes cooperation on CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States) cases involving the transfer of agricultural land.

Foreign adversary linked entities currently control at least 277,000 acres of agricultural land in the United States. Each acre represents a threat to our food supply chains, a vector for agroterrorism, and a potential platform for surveillance and sabotage of our military bases and critical infrastructure.

**BioPreferred**

#### BioPreferred Program Updates

USDA will advance the Administration's efforts to end market-distorting subsidies for unreliable, foreign-controlled energy sources and strengthen domestic supply chains by updating the BioPreferred and Guaranteed Lending Programs, consistent with USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan, to protect the integrity of federal purchasing and ensure American producers come first.

The BioPreferred Program supports domestic manufacturing, increases the purchase and use of U.S. biobased products to spur economic development, create new jobs and open new domestic markets for crops grown by American farmers and producers. Moving forward and effective immediately entities and products from foreign adversary countries are no longer eligible for the BioPreferred Program or USDA guaranteed lending programs. Current participants must comply with audits or risk removal.

The USDA BioPreferred Program is currently funded through September 30, 2026.

Taken together, these actions reiterate USDA's historic commitment to American agriculture as a key element of our nation's national security, addressing urgent threats from foreign adversaries and strengthening the resilience of our nation's food and agricultural systems.

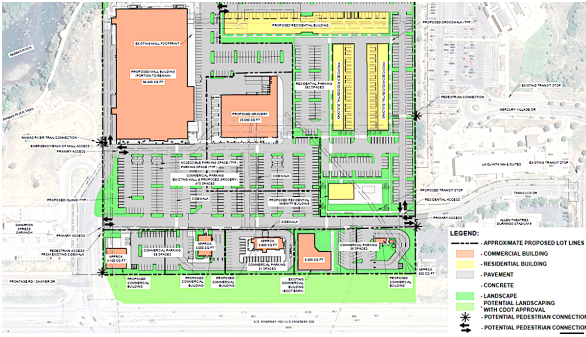
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### DURANGO CO



Durango Mall - the City of Durango is proposing a redevelopment project of the Durango Mall area, to help residents understand the process, they have created a webpage (<https://bit.ly/45brg60>) "The Durango Renewal Partnership is considering the creation of a new Urban Renewal Authority Plan Area: The South Durango URA Plan Area. The South Durango URA Plan Area encompasses Bodo Industrial Park, the Durango Mall and land across the Animas River on Sawmill Road. This new plan area would encompass a significant potential redevelopment of the Durango Mall."



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### Clean Air Act Resources for Data Centers

President Trump's Executive Order 14179, "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence (AI)," boldly calls for America to retain dominance in technological innovation through the creation of the 2025 "America's AI Action Plan."

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the leadership of Administrator Lee Zeldin, is committed to executing President Trump's directive through



More coverage of the Clean Air Act as well as the WOTUS - water acts, will be in the February issue of the Pinto Bean. The EPA is moving on a lot of issues for 2026.

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### SNAP UTAH / COLORADO

In Utah, starting January 1 2026, SNAP benefits will have some new restrictions. Utah residents on the program will no longer be able to use their SNAP benefits to purchase soft drinks. A reflection of House Bill 403 and approved by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. You can buy breads and cereals, fruits and vegetables, meats, fish and poultry, dairy products, plants and seeds to grow food too. But certain items excluded include hot, prepared foods, alcohol, tobacco products, and non food items including pet food, soap and laundry detergent, paper products, cleaning supplies, vitamins and medicines, personal care items and the soft drinks.

In Colorado, the "Healthy Choice Waiver" will go into effect on March 1 2026, changing the beverages that are eligible to be purchased with SNAP. In this case, it will include sodas, pop, cola, soft drinks, sports drinks, certain energy drinks, iced teas and coffees, and juice or vegetable juice less than 50% natural. Both restrictions apply to purchases within each state, regardless of where the purchaser lives.

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### DOVE CREEK CO

Dove Creekers - the Dove Creek Schools are now creating a monthly newsletter, it's available to follow them on facebook, instagram and tiktok or go directly to the webpage if you aren't on any of those platforms. The wrap up from December includes the FFA District ice skating event, with multiple district participation at the rink in Durango. the sports update of the High School Cheer showcase, the boys and girls basketball updates, and the growing wrestling team. Junior and Senior students also attended the Futures Fair along with area students to visit with college reps, learns about STEM careers, first responder info, manufacturing and production jobs, health science professions and much more.

On the Elementary end of the first half of the school year, the Christmas program was a great success, along with all of the class holiday projects. School returns from the midyear break on January 6 2026.

<https://sites.google.com/dc2j.org/bulldog-bulletin>

### UTAH



Utah State University has come up with an alternative way to deterring livestock predation - by giving livestock and ear tag that flashes and is motion activated. Called "FlashTags", reportedly the LED tags are triggered by other movement, and light up in random patterns. These are ear tags similar to the standard cattle or sheep tag. USU worked on this project in association with the USDA, ranchers, and state wildlife agencies. Though initial success has been seen in a season, there will be more research as to what percentage of a herd needs to be wearing these for optimal deterrence, and determine if predators would eventually get used to the flashing lights thus removing the initial impacts.

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## Money Matters

By Miso Poh

The discussion of digital currency becoming a cashless society, is highly debated as to how it will work, who it benefits, and how it can become a control mechanism. The connection of 'money' with value and your 'energy' is important to understand. Money is only as good as at least two parties have trust and agree upon "it" as value. In history, people living in strong communities wherein everyone knew their neighbors, a handshake and a deal was trusted as an agreement or arrangement. As society expanded, people traveled further, guarantee of a debt needed more generalized contracts, assuring compliance eventually via a system of laws. You may not have known that when paper was rare, and literacy low, the creation of a "tally stick" made from hazel or willow, was how people accounted for a transaction. Like a puzzle, the stick would have notches cut in, to show how much was owed, and carefully split in half so that one part with a debtor's seal on the "stock" would be held by the creditor, (known as the 'stock holder'), and the debtor took the "ticket stub". To fulfill the debt, repayment would be provided in gold, silver, goods or services. Tally sticks were used to pay wages, and even taxes. They were basically an IOU that was accepted by the society of the time.

Later in our 'timeline', paper was used for debt contracts, ripped in half, similar to the stick system. These contracts then developed into the current bank notes. Concerns over



New Minted Coin Designs for 2026

just WHO would create more 'money' eventually caused the governing bodies to step in and declare that only the state can produce monetary articles. To ease the transition, tying paper money to a known value - the precious metal gold - provided the perceived trust in the currency. Research the Bretton Woods system if you're not familiar, which ended in 1971 in the US, removing a connection of paper money value (and coins) to the value of gold. There's a lot to study just how the Federal Reserve (not 'federal' government but privately owned), has so much power over the US currency. You might then connect the dots, that the value of your energy (work) your products (cows, corn, creations etc.) and an exchange 'system' moved from individual responsibility to a top down control state. As the controllers of the system manipulate and compete for power, the populous in many ways, is enslaved to their decisions and actions - if we let them.



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<https://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/30-numbers-from-2025-that-are-almost-too-crazy-to-believe/>

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<https://www.theburningplatform.com/2025/12/08/>

Are we sleepwalking toward a Transhuman Future?  
<https://www.americanthinker.com>

Red Wolf missile test  
<https://www.naturalnews.com/2026-01-03-us-marines-long-range-strike-missile-ww3-fears.html>

2025 Look at Fake Meat and Insect Products collapse  
<https://legalinsurrection.com/2026/01/2025-the-year-the-market-for-fake-meat-and-insect-products-began-to-collapse/>

## For the Love of Food

By Kendra Cook

Forget about New Year resolutions - eating and consuming nutritious and actual 'food' is a year round challenge! Potentially you have had your fill of sweets over the holiday seasons, so this month's recipe is a localized hearty dish that's great for those cold nights (though we'd like a little snow here sometime too). Kicking off 2026, is a Green Chili Chicken Stew. It's a bit stew, a bit casserole, and soup.

First step is dice the onion, mince the garlic, and roast and peel chiles if you are so inclined, or chop up a can of roasted green chiles. Chicken gets cut into bite size bits so it cooks up quickly and evenly. Heat some olive oil in a large pot over medium heat, adding the onion to sauté til translucent - clear, which can take about just 5 minutes. Add the garlic for another minute but make sure nothing browns or burns. The chicken goes into the pot next, with your seasonings, browning it on all sides for around 10 minutes. Then the roasted chiles and cumin and coriander get put in the mix and stirred together. Next, add in the broth, bring to a boil and then gently simmer uncovered for a half hour or until you are sure the chicken is cooked through and all the flavors have come together.

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs boneless chicken
- 2 cups roasted green chiles
- 1 medium onion
- 3 cloves garli
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 can of black beans
- 1 can of corn
- Cilantro, Sour Cream to garnish



Some extra alternatives I like to include, sometimes is white beans like a great northern, with oregano, or simply stir in some white rice uncooked and not rinsed to thicken up the broth.

Two wonderful ingredients in this dish for winter are the green chili and garlic. Green Chile offers great vitamins and minerals to the table, one medium Hatch chili is said to provide as much vitamin C as 6 oranges! Any antioxidant and boosting immunity at this time of year is a 'good eat'. Chile peppers increase the enzymes for fat metabolism in the liver - great for post holiday indulgences, while science is looking at the capsaicin to help ease pain by lowering DSP levels found in the joints. And a little garlic goes a long way as a natural antibiotic to fight off more than just vampires, but infections we are more prone to in the cold and darkness of winter days.



No matter how fancy you want to get with adding other elements, the dish is served hot with a dollop of sour cream and fresh cilantro to taste.

## COLORADO 150 US STAMP

2026 - marks the Colorado kick off to the 150 year celebration of statehood - and the US Postal Service is releasing a special stamp. It features a photograph of Jagged Mountain taken by Colorado nature photographer John Fielder. The words "use forever" appear at the top left with the state name in white letters below 1876, the year CO joined the union. You will be able to purchase sheets of 20 on the issuance date of January 24, 2026 issued out of Denver CO 80299.





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GOLD	\$4,216.34	↑	\$4,323.90
SILVER	\$56.41	↑	\$71.91
URANIUM	\$76.45	↑	\$81.65
COPPER	\$11.004.00	↑	\$12,427.83
OIL (wti)	\$58.55	↓	\$57.01
NATURAL GAS (Henry Hub)	\$4.85	↓	\$3.67
Live Cattle	\$2.15	↑	\$2.35
Feeder Cattle	\$3.23	↑	\$3.55
WHEAT (winter)	\$7.50	↑	\$8.00
BEANS	\$28.00		\$28.00

sources: Business Insider / tradingeconomics / CSU & Local Producers

## BOTTOM LINE.. WHAT'S AHEAD?

Headline topics into January feel like we're on a merry go round, not too merry... a new year threw the Epstein 'files' back to that proverbial back burner - again - as the US extricates Pres. Maduro of Venezuela. January 6 there are plans for a mock trial of Pres. Trump in protest. The expulsion of people illegally in the US continues in surges, the Ukrainian Russian situation drags on and on, while the middle east remains its usual hot bed for turmoil. Crazy clamp downs in Europe, and too much to post here. In America, socialist leaders sworn in, and a mess of potential fraud in child care programs with links to the Somalian concerns, all make for another busy news month ahead!



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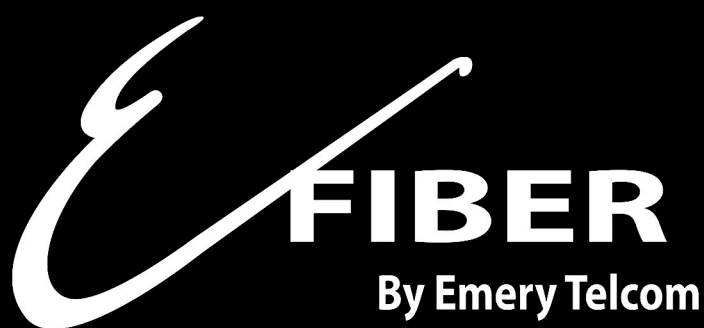
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