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June 15 2023

Dove Creek, Colorado - "Pinto Bean Capital of the World!"

Activities and News

TURN UP THE SUMMER HEAT

Volume 23 Issue 06



Dove Creek's Troy Young VFW Post 5181 led the community in a heartfelt Memorial Day ceremony at Dove Creek Cemetery. The Post leads the Pick n Hoe parade on July 4th - open to everyone, line the street from the airport to Weber Park and enjoy your Independence Day Celebration!

Saturday July 1st 10-2pm
3rd Annual - FREE
 Lots of Categories - RC demo
 Custom Trophies - Vendors...
see more on Page 7



Summer time fun is in full swing! The Theme for this year's 67th annual Pick n Hoe is "Small Town Heroes" - and as you read on page 6, it is meant not only for all of the service individuals that keep our community safe - from peace officers to emergency medical personnel, but it is also acknowledging the many individuals who help one another, every day, whether during a major medical incident, or simply a shoulder to lean on, being a 'hero' has many faces. Thank You to Everyone for continuing to put Kind, in Humankind!



67TH ANNUAL PICK N HOE PAGE 6

DC Care & Share behind the VFW M-F 12-2pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- Water Rights
- Rico School Kids
- Neighborhood Watch
- Local Seeds
- Graduation
- End of School Sports
- Events and Notices
- Groundhog
- Border Invasion
- Cattle Future
- Big Truckn' Car Show

PINTOBEAN.CO ONLINE



DOVE CREEK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 Saturday Mornings 9-12 noon
 Parking Lot in front of new DC Town Hall
 Come over & Visit! Manager@DoveCreekChamber.com

Get Ready for the Weekly Market in Dove Creek
 Growing our Community

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Online the 10th of each month - Printed release in town by the 15th
 Confirm Articles or Ads by Deadline the 1st of each month

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Deadline for ad spots are the 1st of each month.



What's Up Dove Creek / Dolores County



These Graphics are called "QR" codes (left and right) with a 'smart phone' you can point the camera at it and then click the link that is shown - it'll bring you directly to the Websites

Town website QR Code

County website QR Code

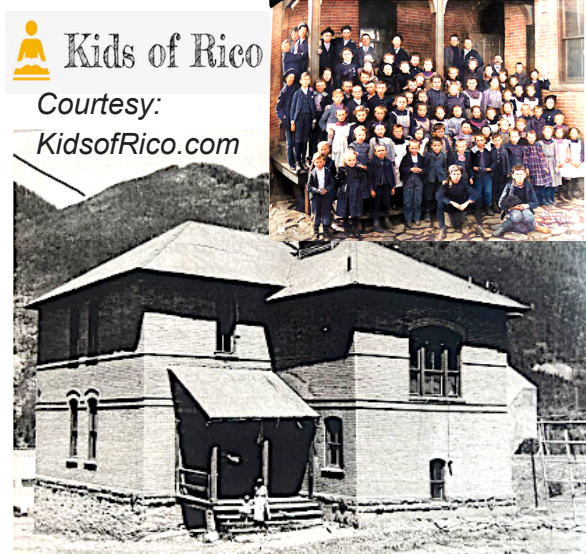
SCHOOL DISTRICTING - Kids of Rico

The Rico Reorganization Planning Committee has been meeting and working diligently to respond to the current situation for Dolores County resident students living in Rico and attending school in Telluride since the school building in Rico was closed this last time in 2018. A draft reorganization plan was adopted May 30 2023 and is available to view online at KidsofRico.com

When this is approved by Dolores County School District and Telluride School District voters, detachment and annexation would alter the border between neighboring school districts to move the area around the Town of Rico, currently in the Dolores County School District, into the Telluride School District according to their website. Rico school property-tax rates would be reduced since the Telluride School District mill levy rate is lower than the Dolores County School District rate. The per pupil school funding follows the student. Since Rico students have been attending school in Telluride in the recent years already, there would be no change seen from last year.

Dove Creek Elementary School Bond Question

Their site states, "Legal research conducted by the school districts indicates that a reorganization plan can be written to either include Rico residents continuing to pay the bond for its full life, or not. Even if Rico residents continued to pay the school bond for the Dove Creek Elementary School, Rico residents would still see a decrease in their school property taxes because the mill levy is lower for the Telluride School District."



Rico School (1892-1948)

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The existing property in Rico is under a 25 year lease with the Town and Dolores School District, which would be modified to account for ownership of the Town Park and Playground by the Town of Rico, as the town had been integral in creating that space. Distribution of assets to provide for the educational needs of Rico pupils shows four points, summarized as a portion of the property with improvements to transfer to the Telluride School District, estimated value of the transferred property is \$2,500,000, Rico area will continue to pay property taxes to the Dolores County School district for repayment of the bond for the Elementary School over 20 years around 8%, and Rico area will pay additional property taxes to the Telluride School District with 11.5 years left.

After a special election on the November 7, 2023 ballot, when accepted by a majority vote, it will be implemented July 1 2024. See the side bar for upcoming public meetings.

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RICO SHUTTLE

Rico Trustees approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Montezuma County for twice-monthly seniors shuttle service to Cortez for medical appointments and grocery shopping at its May 17, 2023 monthly meeting. Cost of shuttle service listed in the IGA to be paid by Town of Rico to Montezuma County is \$500 per month.

DOLORES COUNTY / DOVE CREEK

Senior and Public Transportation provides a Demand Response Transit service for area residents. Service hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and for prescheduled special events. A 24-hour notice is requested to schedule rides. Scheduling of rides is determined on a first call basis. Transportation is provided from Dove Creek to surrounding communities of Cahone, Egnar, Pleasant View, Cortez, and Durango in Colorado, and to Monticello and Moab in Utah, and to Farmington, NM. A set fare schedule for public clients and a suggested donation schedule for senior clients is provided. Call 970-677-2787

Call before you Burn
Dolores County Sheriff Office
970-677-2257

The winter's moisture will increase weed and brush growth, as conditions dry out, please be careful with burns.

Telluride School District session

June 20, 6 to 7 p.m.
Telluride Elementary School cafeteria
447 W Columbia Ave., Telluride 81435

Dolores County School District session

June 21, 5 to 6 p.m.
District Office Boardroom
425 N Main Street, Dove Creek 81324

Town of Rico session

June 21, 6 to 7 p.m.
Rico Town Hall
2 Commercial Street, Rico 81332

Seed Library GROWING



A seed library is different from a seed bank.... "A seed library is where the seeds get used, planted, and saved and shared. The focus of a bank is on protecting the genetics, not on sharing the seeds," said Yvette Henson, county director of the Colorado State University-Extension Office in Telluride, as she delivered the community seed library to the Lone Cone Library. "Seed libraries are fun, and they also serve important roles in our communities," wrote Henson in the CO-Horts Colorado State University (CSU) blog. "The most important role, in my opinion, is to support a more resilient local food system."

In an interview with the Telluride Daily Planet, she added, "Seeds that are propagated, saved and replanted in a local growing system will often do better than store-bought seeds, because they've adapted to the local conditions."

In Dove Creek, at Main Supply, an early spring Seed Exchange offered gardeners the chance to meet and share collected seeds, Arcadia Farms gave away quite a few varieties to share with the community.

The Saturday Local Market at the Dove Creek Town Hall parking lot, 9-12 noon, offers a local gathering place to share, trade, sell, local products or just hang out and meet people. Stop by, set up a table or a tent, cottage market products, home based businesses, and everyone is welcome (no yard sale). It's a grass roots concept, not owned or operated by anyone, simply coordinating a time and place for people to get together.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The only way law and order works, is when everyone participates in the same system with equal application. That shouldn't mean that individual citizens depend wholly on our governing bodies for our lives, since they actually work for the population in our Representative Republic called the USA, not the other way around. Good common sense dictates that everyone should be responsible for their own actions. With the case of individual safety, spread out rural areas and small towns in particular, have tended to look after one another, and themselves, even beyond kin... we check in on elderly when snow piles up, if something looks suspicious, we get involved to check that all is ok. As is said, better safe than sorry is usually a way of life.

Too often in recent times, people are being separated, divided, and pitted against one another through intentional propaganda and the media. But don't despair. Old fashioned values have not gone out of style! And it's time more than ever, to stand up for morals and values, and help those around you for better, safer, living. Enter, the Neighborhood Watch.

Dove Creek Dinner Bell



Breakfast Lunch Dinner


Come and Get it

970-677-2211

546 West HWY 491

Dove Creek CO

Sounds corny, but Dove Creek area residents are meeting to coordinate what a neighborhood watch could mean, and how to implemented one in conjunction with local law enforcement, in and around town. If you are interested in participating, or finding out more, you can stop by NAPA Auto on Fridays after 6pm for the RC/DC remote radio controlled fun runs out back, and catch up with the local efforts and meeting times. Through locals taking an active role in making their community healthy, and crime free, the objective to maintain or improve the quality of life is literally, right around the corner.



RC Dove Creek Remote Control Club for ALL ages - bring out your racer, or rock crawler, let's have some fun!!

FRIDAY NIGHTS
6:30pm behind NAPA

DK AG & AUTO

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COLORADO RIVER WATER RIGHTS

So many water stories; while the twenty years of drought in the southwest plagues the management of the Colorado River, as it has increasingly supplied reportedly 40 million people in seven states with drinking water and irrigating over 5.5 million acres of farmland, management has determined to cut back ... temporarily, particularly paying farmers 1.2 Billion not to grow livestock feed such as irrigating alfalfa and Bermuda grass acreage (funds coming out of the Inflation Reduction Act funds).

The May 2023 agreement between the collective of interests, resulted in a 13% reduction in river water use for California, Arizona and Nevada. All of this still needs to be finalized.

The water flows across the border into Mexico as well, with the 1944 water treaty entitling 1.5 million acre feet per year, recent years have seen losses continue downstream. Gzero reported "The loss of river flow has already led to an 80% loss of Mexico's Colorado River Delta's forest and wetlands, which devastated the animals and indigenous communities that lived there. Mexican farmers are geographically last on the river's path, and politically last when it comes to its water rights, which will make their jobs a lot harder as the mega-drought continues."

The Department of the Interior will conduct a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) study before officially accepting the proposed states' plan.



SCHOOL YEAR ENDS - CLASS OF 2023 - ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to the Boys Track and Field Team for winning Runner Up at the CO State Championships 2023! The entire girls and boys team did a great job at State and throughout the season, many athletes finishing the year with lots of hardware to show for their efforts and training.



WHAT A YEAR!
See you Back at School
August 16, 2023



Courtesy Photo Leslie Huskey

Graduation ceremonies are bitter sweet - amazing achievements and a reminder of time flying by. This year's seniors were awarded a cumulative \$261,290 in scholarship funds, with Valedictorian Trista Barnett granted over \$100K, and Kade Hankins and Alexa Gray receiving over \$60K each. As they head out to higher education, the workforce, or starting their own journeys, the senior motto will help them through "The hardest battle you will face in life is to be no one but yourself in a world which is trying its hardest to make you like everybody else."



KG Action Photos

Six Dove Creek Bulldogs played hard on the CO All State Southern 8-man Team on June 2nd - with Coach Shane Baughman and Jesse Poole guiding the team. Literally the last hurrah for the senior graduated athletes to show their courage and strength one more time, at the Gilpin County Stadium.



Dove Creek 970-677-2264
 119 W. HWY 491
 Dove Creek, CO 81324

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TOOL SALE
15% Off All Tools
July 1-31




Group photo at the old 7th Street Elementary that so many of the class started at years ago. The building will be demolished once the new Elementary School facility is built in the upcoming year.

MEETINGS GOV. & ORGS

*Town of Dove Creek Board Meetings the first and third Thursday 6:30pm at the Town Office in person/zoom
 *DCDC Meetings monthly second Wed. 11-1pm CSU office in person/zoom
 *Dolores County BOCC meetings first and third Mondays and as schedule additions noted on their webpage. PSC meeting room. In person/Zoom

*Dolores County School Board meeting third Wed. Dist. Office 6pm.
 *DCVFD Every Wed at the firehouse
 *Dolores County Ambulance Third Mon 6:30pm Ambulance Barn
 *Get your Senior Newsletter in your mail every month! Call 970 677-2787



2023 Rodeo Dates

June 24 & 25
 July 15 & 16
 July 22 & 23
 August 12 & 13



Dolores County Jr Rodeo is ready for 2023, June 24-25 July 15-16 July 22-23 and August 12-13 at the Dolores County Fairgrounds off HWY 491. Sign up or for more information contact the Dolores County Fair Board, **970-677-2283** dcweed@fone.net It's set to be another great year of all around cowboy and cowgirl activities from pole bending to barrels, flag races to goat rodeo, and adorable stick horses too! Family friendly Jr. Rodeo is great for everyone to enjoy.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING

Dolores County Children's Library on Tuesdays, June 6 through July 25th 2023, Reading Crafts Snacks and Fun Activities
FREE TO ALL KIDS K-5th grade
 Register at the Library or call 970-677-2356
 "All Together Now"
 DC Excel Summer Program!
 Monday's 11-12! We will have Snacks, Fun Activities, and Crafts!!!

Library Summer Hours:
 Adult Library:
 Monday and Wednesday 9am-5pm
 Children's Library:
 Tuesday and Thursday 10am-4pm



June 18 Father's Day
 June 21 Summer Solstice
 July 1 - Truck Show in Cahone
 July 4th Independence Day
 Pick n Hoe July 1-4 Weber Park

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Schedule of Events

Activities in 2023

- Water Fun Days
- Canyon County Discovery Center Activity Days
- Game Days
- Cooking Days
- Outdoor learning with the Department of Wildlife
- Science and STEM Activity Days
- Arts & Crafts
- And more!


 Community Center and Recreation Department

The Summer Activities Program for youth will begin on June 13, 2023 and end on July 27, 2023. Activities will take place every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Dove Creek Community Center (Weber Park). Tuesdays will begin an hour later at 2:00 pm to accommodate those youth that attend the library reading program. Schedule is subject to change as necessary. For weekly schedule of events please check out our Facebook page, or the recreation department's website DoveCreekRec.com





CORTEZ
AQUATICS

CityofCortez.com

Cortez Pool Open! Mon-Sun open swim 1-4:50pm

Flock your Friends

Dove Creek High School Volleyball Team Fundraiser...




Send a flock of pink flamingos to a friend's yard... flocking arrangements call Kalie 970-739-6186

(In Dove Creek CO only)



67TH ANNUAL PICK N HOE CELEBRATION

DOVE CREEK CO - WEBER PARK

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - JULY 1 - 4TH 2023

Contact:

Teresa Martin

PicknHoe@USA.com

Facebook: Dove Creek Pick-n-Hoe

Saturday July 1

10am DCVFD Beer Tent Opens

1pm Washer Registration

2pm Washers Tournament

3pm DJ Music DJ BunnyHED

7pm Live Music by Dulce duo

Sunday July 2

7:30am Volleyball Registration

9am Volleyball Tournament

10am DCVFD Beer Tent Open

10am Horseshoe Registration

11am Horseshoe Tournament

1pm Meat Pit Volunteers

5pm DJ Music

6pm Memorial 5K Color run/walk



Monday July 3

9am Softball Registration

10am Softball Tournament

10am DCVFD Beer Tent Open

Food Vendors All Day

7pm Dance at the Tennis Courts

Live Music Kamino Cowboys

NOTICE: Individuals participating in any of the activities, must inherently understand that the individuals enter at their own risk. Please be courteous, and use the garbage cans provided and pick up after children. **NO DOGS** allowed in Weber Park. We ask you to be respectful to our Park neighbors, regarding noise and garbage. There is no alcohol allowed in Weber Park (except in areas where permits have been established). (Schedule could change)

After four years of service, Kendra Cook handed over the torch to Teresa Martin for 2023 to take on the Chairperson position to run the annual Pick n Hoe celebration in Dove Creek CO. Teresa has been working hard to bring together the local volunteers that keep the tradition alive. **This year's Theme is "Small Town Heroes"** - showing the power of unity!

She is excited to be re-instating activities such as the meat pit & cook shack **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Thanks to so many who will be recognized in the July issue.... Make plans to include July 1- 4 activities into your Independence celebration!



Meat Pit & Cook Shack are Back!

TUESDAY JULY 4th

8:30am Parade Entries @Airport (free)

9am - Community Parade from Airport to Weber Park

ALL AT WEBER PARK :

DCVFD Beer Tent Open and Food and Crafts Vendors All Day

9:30am - Awards, Royalty, Honors and Color Guard

10am - Kids Games Begin

10:30am - Greased Pole Begins

11:30am - Adult Games Begin

11:30am Meat Pit & Cook Shack Open for Seniors 65+ first

12pm Meat Pit & Cook Shack

2pm - Pig Chase Begins

3pm - Corn Hole Registration

4pm - Corn Hole Tournament

6:30pm - Live Music (Football Field)

Ray Young w/Country Feedback

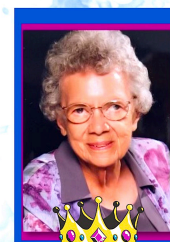
9:30pm - DCVFD FIREWORKS

"Small Town Heroes are not only the first responders and military, who endlessly fight to keep our great community safe and healthy, but also those that fly under the radar, give endlessly, always think of others, and never stop helping to keep our small town going strong. We've been hit hard with tragedy, loss, and hardships. Heroes helped those struggling this winter to get out of their driveways, delivering food, whatever it takes to help their neighbor make it through this tough year. So many have helped with fundraisers for those in need from unforeseen events as well. We are all blessed to live in such a beautiful and giving community.

I want to recognize all the heroes, and say thank you for showing me what the power of unity can truly do for a community!!! Let's celebrate together and have a wonderful 67th Annual Pick-n-Hoe this year!"

~ Teresa

2023 DOVE CREEK PIC N HOE ROYALTY CANDIDATES



Pioneer Queen Edith



Pic N Hoe Queen Emma



Pic N Hoe Princess Julip



Little Miss Raelyn



Little Mister Trapper

Royalty Fundraisers and the Quick Draw Softball are Back!

Quick Draw Softball





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SATURDAY JULY 1 2023



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Dove Creek



**Lingo Lone Wolf
Trucking**

Cahone Park
52367 Hwy 491 Cahone CO

8AM REGISTRATION
10-2PM PUBLIC FREE



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The American Southwest is a region known for its stunning natural landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture. There are numerous adventures to be had in this diverse and captivating part of the United States.

For an adrenaline rush, consider whitewater rafting in the Colorado River that carves through the canyon. Visit Monument Valley: Located on the border of Arizona and Utah, Monument Valley is famous for its iconic red rock formations and breathtaking vistas. Take a scenic drive along the Southwestern Adventure Corridor, which winds through the towering buttes and mesas. For an unforgettable experience, consider booking a guided jeep tour or horseback ride through the valley. Discover the ancient ruins of Mesa Verde: Located in Colorado, Mesa Verde National Park, home to the well-preserved cliff dwellings of the Ancestral Puebloans. Embark on a guided tour to explore these remarkable archaeological sites and gain insights into the lives of the indigenous people who inhabited the area over 700 years ago.

Remember to plan your adventures in advance, check for any necessary permits or reservations, and be mindful of the natural surroundings and local regulations. Enjoy your adventures in the American Southwest!



Telluride Colorado - July 6-10, 2023

The Ride Festival will return in venues around Telluride! The festival, which was formerly in Town Park, has been revamped as four nights of intimate shows in Telluride's finest historic venues. The 2023 lineup features Black Pistol Fire, Holy Spirits with Jay Buchanan of Rival Sons and Tyler Bryant and the Shakedown.

Bears Ears Ultra

Bears Ears Ultra
30k, 50k, and 50 Mile
June 24, 2023 Monticello, UT
Bears Ears Ultra is a 50 mile, 50K, 30K event hosted in the quiet Abajo Mountains of Monticello, Utah. The course treats runners to views overlooking Canyonlands National Park and the Bears Ears National Monument. Runners see as far as Colorado's San Juan Mountains.

Cortez Cultural Center
Native American Dances
Monday - Saturday
7-8pm
25 N Market Street
Cortez CO



SWAC.TV developing the Southwestern Adventure Online Stop to cross promote your business, and provide an excellent view into your travel planning! So much to do, where to start? Check out the continuing updated videos, and coming this summer, a weekly broadcast covering activities and



opportunities for your amazing experience in South West America! Click on the QR Code to the left to bring you to the YouTube channel - Adventure Safely - and Start Making Memories!

Southwestern Adventure Corridor TV
@SWAC-TV 1 subscriber 18 videos
All You Need To Know. >

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Videos ▶ Play all

- MoabOpoly 1:10 MoabOpoly Moab Adventure Game
- RCDC A New RC Offroad Track Club 0:42
- Moab's High Point Hummer 0:58 3 views • 22 hours ago
- Wild Expeditions Featured Adventure Profile 0:32
- Moab Featured Adventure Company - Outlaw Adventur... 0:22

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on Your
Mind?

Spill
the
Beans

THOUGHTS FROM
THE EDITOR ~
PUBLISHER

Kendra Cook



Socialism for Capitalism to Collapse Societies, Everywhere....

In recent years, Colorado democratic leaders in the capital, have expressed their openness to accept illegal migrants into the capital area, that is, until they started receiving reportedly more than 400 people a day coming in on busses; in need of food, clothing, housing and care - and depleting the State's funding to handle the situation.

No doubt America and Americans have been receptive to aiding those in need, but as the world has so much of the population in need of a better future, including many in our own country, the open border policy is on schedule to burden existing sanctuary cities imminently, and to the point of collapse. But perhaps there is a global agenda (read UN Agenda 2030) to accomplish just what is happening. And more.

So far this year, Gov. Polis said his administration is 'helping migrants' get to destinations that may fit their needs better, such as New York and Chicago (according to a quote from Mayor Adams of NY). As of May 10th numbers, Denver had served 10,062 immigrants, notably declaring Central and South American origin, many from Venezuela specifically.

Where do all these human beings go, when we already have an affordable housing crisis for our existing population? The answer may be camps. Combat correspondent Michael Yon, has been all over the world in war torn countries, and following the trail of humanity coming in to the US through the southern border. He's filed numerous reports on the horrible conditions of human trafficking coming up through the Darien Gap. Nationalities of many of the single military aged young men include unvetted Chinese, Russians, Afghans and more he says. Recently, he has set his research on exposing the camps setup in the southern countries as well as what is being established here in the US. He's also been working with medical personnel following the increase in diseases being transported by people into our country, from TB to scabies; Coming to a community in the US this summer. The 'trail' systems to our border, are being funded by international orgs such as the IOM, International Organization for Migration, supported by American funding. For examples, take a look at Eagle Pass Texas, where 'fighting age' single males are seen firsthand staying in camps.

The "invasion" is in part coming to our country via big white busses. Groups are taking over empty schools, hotels, and other facilities not designed for this influx of illegal immigrants until they go through the court process (with court dates up to 3 years out). Additional resources you might find interesting: AgueroforTexas and Real Muckracker two other first hand sources of video from the border, @BidenInvasion handle on Twitter hosts a multitude of sources posting reports. Also research Christie Hutcherson of Women Fighting for America, for her journalism covering what is happening.

Being a compassionate person does not start by giving away your country that so many fought so hard to create to offer so many incredible opportunities - it is called the American Dream. Don't let it become the American Nightmare.

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Classifieds

\$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. Two month commitment. \$2 additional lines.

Jobs Jobs Jobs - go to our Facebook page for the latest updates "In Between the Bean" - local area job postings and notices are available at @ThePintoBeanDoveCreekCO

FOR SALE ITEMS... Contact the Bean by the First of Each Month to insert a For Sale item, or share a news or event notice 970-394-0410

Looking for Alternative News and Info resources online? Try Banned.Video for weekday LIVE streaming programming and interviews M-F.

Help with the effort to sound the alarm on the critical climate engineering issue. Share the free materials, geoengineeringwatch.org and watch the DVD - The Dimming

Congratulations
50th July 7th
Anniversary



Kenny and Donna Brackett

From your children
 Chris Cara Cory & Family

Happy Birthday Celebration Jean Magness for her 90th Birthday

Come Celebrate
 with Friends and Family
 at the Senior Pioneer Center
 8450 Road 7.2 Dove Creek CO
 12-2pm July 9th
 (please no gifts)



WATERING AND XERISCAPING

June 21st is the official first day of summer, yet hot temps have already crept up. The city of Cortez is one of our area populations under a water restriction rule; Ordinance No. 1013, established in 2004, restricts the watering of lawns between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. from May 15 to Sept. 15 each year. More details can be found online at the Cortez Public Works Water Restrictions page. Enforcement starts with a warning, and could result in the water being turned off to a residence, with a fee for reconnection. Interestingly, there is a lawn permit fee that can be acquired for having to water during those restrictive hours for new seeding or sod installations. The town recommends using more water friendly and resilient varieties of grass such as "fescues, wheat grasses, and blue Grama".

In Monticello UT, the plentiful water run off has resulted in an April assignment to a stage 1 conservation level, with secondary water available May to October, subject to change dependent on pond levels during the summer months. Their website alerts that "no airborne watering is permitted between 10am and 6pm" In Dove Creek, responsible water use is encouraged, but no official restrictions are in place.



"Xeriscaping" is a term describing a combination of common-sense gardening principles that save water while creating a colorful landscape. Area greenhouses, such as the Four Seasons (courtesy photo above), offer local plants, shrubs and flowers that work well in tolerating the heat, our winter cold, and offer an abundance of low maintenance beauty for your landscape.

It does not necessarily mean no grass at all, however the integration of gravel and rocks can reduce the amount of water used for yards. In and around Dove Creek, you'll see a lot of lovely plants that offer color and convenience and are native species.

Some perennial suggestions include: Yarrow, Daylily, Zauschneria, Winecups, Viola, Veronic, Sunrose, Sundrops, Sedum, Sage, Rudbeckia, Rose Campion, Pussytoes, Phlox, Penstemon, Pasqueflower, Oriental Poppy, Flax, Iris, Hollyhock, Primrose, Columbine, Baptisia, Baby's Breath or Lavender.



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Groundhog Reservoir Season Open

All reservoirs and lakes and ponds have been filling up this spring with the intensive run off, and for Groundhog, last November's completion of a new hydraulic outlet system, that allows repairs and maintenance without draining the lake in the future, couldn't have been better timed. Brandon Johnson, general manager for Montezuma Valley Irrigation Co, said last year, "it's a total remodel". The old equipment and gates herald back to the 1930s, this new technology will help tremendously moving forward.

The Groundhog Lake RV Park and Campground recreational businesses is also preparing for an improved season for 2023. Last year, reportedly they experienced a drop of over 50% in business, with canceled reservations directly due to the water being drained. They offer camping, cabin rentals, boats and a camp store on the water front.

RAFTING & BOATING

McPhee and the Rivers

Rafting Colorado is also the buzz this spring, as experts are looking to see if Cataract Canyon on the Colorado river between the confluence of the CO and Green rivers and Lake Powell, will peak and flood like it did in 1983-1984. The Dolores River below the dam, is flush with active rafters enjoying the high level releases, and unique wild location. Rafting is expected to continue well into June.

McPhee Reservoir is open with enthusiastic water recreationalists enjoying the ample water.

Operational hours for the main McPhee boat ramp are: May 1 - September 19: 6:00 am - 8:00 pm

Operational hours for the House Creek boat ramp are as follows: May 1 – October 1 - 6:00 am - 8:00 pm; Friday – Monday Current boat registration is required to launch a vessel on the reservoir. Registration information can be found at Colorado Parks and Wildlife's website. Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspectors will be on-site to conduct pre-launch inspections of trailered and motorized boats launching on to the reservoir to help stop the spread of zebra or quagga mussels and other invasive species. Boaters who need a full inspection and decontamination are urged to visit the lake during the weekday when



The reservoir is located 32 miles north of Dolores via Forest Road 526/Road 31, also called the Dolores-Norwood Road, which was reopened for the season in May. Montezuma Valley Irrigation is a mutual ditch company that was incorporated as a 501(c)(12) in Colorado on Oct. 18, 1920. The company owns, operates and maintains a system that provides irrigation water to its members. It operates Groundhog, Narraguinnep and Totten Lake reservoirs and has storage rights in McPhee Reservoir. It has the most senior water rights on the Dolores River.

Unfortunately, Groundhog will not receive all of the run off anticipated, as a ditch along the canal influx, collapsed, spreading water to unintended areas, diverting runoff from its designed destination.

Groundhog Reservoir is restricted for boating due to the threat of aquatic nuisance species invasion.

In accordance with Colorado Parks and Wildlife regulations, the following watercraft are allowed on the lake without inspection: Kayak, Canoe, Raft, Belly Boat, Windsurfer Board, Sailboard, Float Tubes, Inner Tubes, and Paddle Boards.



Facebook Photo Valerie Sharp

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visitation is lower than the weekend. Boaters who have tags from last year's inspections on McPhee will be able to enter the lake quicker than boaters who need inspections. For more information, please visit the San Juan National Forest Boating webpage or contact the Dolores Ranger District at (970) 882-7296. Dolores Water states, McPhee is currently releasing 1,200 CFS downstream. June 2nd, releases increased to 1,500 CFS returning to 1,200 CFS for a while. Depending on the rate at which McPhee is filling, flows may increase again. When McPhee is near full (6924 FT water surface elevation) releases will begin mimicking the pattern of inflow into the reservoir minus diversions (which are predicted to be about 700 CFS) in order to keep the water surface elevation stable. The duration of raftable flows after June 2nd is unknown, but for planning purposes, raftable flows (1,200 CFS or more) are expected to continue for approximately 10 days, and may extend longer. Check back at DoloresWater.com for current updates.

A little secret... I have an addiction. Yes, it's cast iron. Once I found out how amazing and essential it is to cook with cast iron, I had to have the next size, the dutch with and without

Cast Iron Cooking.....



Cooking in a dutch oven, first heat it in coals, with a light cover of oil, sear the meat of choice, and season to taste. Add your liquid - broth, wine, beer, or a mix, and veggies like cut carrots, potato pieces, or for a chili based dish, with beans, tomatoes and peppers, and a bay leaf for good flavor. Put the top on and add some pieces of charcoal on top to provide a lot of heat. Or for a dessert dish, the simple and delicious dump cake works every time: pie filling or your favorite fruit mix goes in the bottom, followed by a yellow cake mix blended with a can of lemon lime soda, spread on top, with twice as many coals on top as on the bottom, bake about 20 min, and enjoy! Don't forget your Ove Gloves!

feet, I even have a cast iron WOK... I did not have grandma's 12" super seasoned skillet, so I started with Lodge, over compensating for not growing up with them!

Twenty years later, I have an assortment of names and models, but recently I've found cast has become 'trendy', such that a hand cast made in the USA Butter Pat Industries 10" skillet goes for \$245. Shocker. No thank you. I'm sure it's beautiful, but I'm happy with the array of metal I already have, and the extra \$ goes to the cost of groceries to cook in them.

For a summer cook out, grilling is great, smoking is super, but don't forget the wonders of a dutch oven cast cooked meal. Of course you'll need one for the chuck roast, and one for the dessert... And don't forget your breakfast skillet for bacon and eggs in the morning if someone is up to restarting the fire. Of course cast cooks well on your inside stove too. And, it keeps your forearm muscles in top shape. Like all addicts have excuses, I also figure the cook ware can do double duty as a defense weapon in the kitchen, just in case.... *Enjoy your Summertime Cast Cooking, send in your photos of amazing BBQ, Backyard grills, or fire pit fun. We'll put a montage in the July issue and on The Pinto Bean facebook page! info@TPIProductionZ.com*

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on those cattle producers to find safe areas in which to evacuate their calving herds. Alberta is the largest cattle producing region in Canada with about 5 million head. In SW Colorado, ranchers continue to put their heads down and work as hard as they do every year. Hopefully all the elements will align to keep that critical family food business going strong.

June 11, 2023 will bring additional changes to how antibiotics can be purchased by livestock producers. On this date the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM) discontinued "Over The Counter" purchases of injectable livestock antibiotics from your local feed store, farm supply, co-op or any other entity without a veterinary prescription. The rule comes after a 2018 FDA-CVM study on antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary settings. The rule is for medically important antibiotics, those used from both human and animal health, and is intended to decrease or keep bacteria from becoming antibiotic resistant. Will this help or not, time will tell.

CATTLE OUTLOOK

What's up for area ranchers? Obviously the heavy winter moisture and spring run off has created both lush pasture grass feed as well as full irrigation water for a rebound of the amount and quality of projected hay produced in 2023. Many prayers and fingers crossed. Corporate agriculture outlets state that there may be a bit of a positive note for cattlemen, as a Federal bipartisan bill is being presented that would amend the Animal Health Protection Act, Legislation that could provide additional funding for Vaccines, Veterinary Countermeasures Bank, the national animal disease preparedness and response program along with the nation health Labs. These were



programs initiated in 2018 that attempt to mitigate potential disease issues, particularly from foreign animals. Whether or not National programs such as these, are really trusted to be in the best interest of small ranchers or not, has yet to be seen.

Ever hopeful for a healthy and prosperous year of running a herd, any cattleman/woman can hit a variety of obstacles along the way. Looking to the far northern Rockies, in May, the wildfires in Canada's Alberta province have put a huge hurt



Courtesy Photo: Little Angel

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