

Pinto BeanTM

MARCH 2026

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

Activities and News Along the SWAC & Four Corners

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Spotlight on our Food & Farmers

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 03



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PINTOBEAN.CO
ONLINE



Always New
Monthly
Rabbit Hole



Agri Biz and Your Health

By Kendra Cook

RFK Jr had remained silent on glyphosate to make American healthy again? Past warnings must have been campaign rhetoric - as he was formerly involved in lawsuits around the toxicity of glyphosate use. The recent administration announcement landed just on the heels of Monsanto under Bayer who purchased the company, disclosing the Roundup settlement agreements in nearly 100,000 Roundup lawsuits - paying out approximately \$11 billion dollars. This covers about 2/3 of the total, with new lawsuits filed regularly. A single California jury handing down a \$289 million verdict seven years ago has evolved into one of the most significant product liability lawsuits in U.S. history. As with any good corporation, Bayer has spent the years since, working to contain the fallout. It has fought thousands of cases in court, secured multi-billion-dollar settlements, and advanced legal theories aimed at shielding it from future claims. And then, Feb 19, 2026, Pres. Trump invokes the Defense Production Act to label glyphosate-based herbicides and elemental phosphorus as critical to national defense. Within this decree, he directs the USDA, working with the Defense Department, to prioritize domestic supply and, if needed, steer production and distribution. The extra directive that has stirred up much animosity, is this also expressly sets out to protect domestic producers that follow federal directives by granting legal immunity, so that the USDA is commanded to keep rules and regulatory pressure from "threatening the corporate viability of the companies that make these chemicals". All this occurred after the Supreme Court took up the case on implications from the long running

Roundup litigation in January of 2026. Coincidence or Agri Biz timing, when many find much of our food sources too toxic to eat, while the companies are again, too big to fail.

Farmers have been led down this path to utilize and become dependent on big agri products and chemicals with the promise of greater return on their crops. But at what cost? Glyphosate has been used in combination with patented seeds themselves, as well as in the process of a unilateral field desiccant to 'kill' a wheat crop for example, equally and quickly, to assist in getting the grain out of the field instead of waiting for the crop to dry out and die out on its own. What studies have found, is that the application of the chemical remains on the grain and thusly continues into the food chain at high levels as it makes its way to breads and other food products. This happens in corn and soy crops as well.

In the administration comments, they would have you believe farmers could never meet the food demands without the chemicals - patented for herbicide use in 1971, Monsanto trademarked "Round up" and introduced it to the broad market in 1974.

"Glyphosate is completely banned in Vietnam, Togo, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Using it as a desiccant (drying agent to quicken the harvest) is illegal in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, the Czech Republic and the entire EU. Yet, somehow all those countries still manage to produce food for their citizens. What we do need to grow nutritional food, is a healthy combination of carbon dioxide, sunlight, water and healthy soils with minerals, nitrogen, warmth and time" wrote The

CONTINUED ON Page 3...



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

Mar 3 MS Wrestling @Norwood
Mar 4 Career Fair
Mar 5 Mid Term
Mar 6-7 HS Basketball Regionals
Mar 6 FFA District III Quiz Bowl, CCM,
Parliamentary Procedure Contest @Pagosa
Mar 7 MS Wrestling @Delta
HS Track @Durango
Mar 12-14 HS Basketball State
Championships
Mar 13 HS Track @Bayfield
HS Baseball @Shiprock
Mar 15 FFA State Proficiency Award Apps
due
Mar 18 HS Baseball @Cortez JV
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Mar 19 HS/MS STUD Mental Health Day
Quarter Awards
Mar 20-21 MS Wrestling State
Mar 21 HS Baseball @Nucla
Mar 23 - 26 SPRING BREAK
Mar 28 Track @Bayfield
Mar 31 Spring Pictures
HS Baseball (H)Ignacio
ARP 2 DCE Easter Parties
APR 3 HS Baseball (H) Monticello
APR 4 MS Track @Durango
HS Track @Ignacio
APR 7 HS Baseball (H)Dolores

The Pinto Bean on Facebook shares the school news and sports from the surrounding areas as well as Dove Creek, the home town from which this publication started.

Town of Dove Creek
2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar



Month	Workshop (2nd Tuesday)	Regular Board Meeting (4th Tuesday)
January	January 8, 2026	January 22, 2026
February	February 10, 2026	February 24, 2026
March	March 10, 2026	March 31, 2026
April	April 14, 2026	April 28, 2026
May	May 12, 2026	May 26, 2026
June	June 9, 2026	June 23, 2026
July	July 14, 2026	July 28, 2026
August	August 11, 2026	August 25, 2026
September	September 8, 2026	September 22, 2026
October	October 13, 2026	October 27, 2026
November	November 10, 2026	November 24, 2026
December	December 8, 2026	December 22, 2026

Workshops are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Regular Board Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Dates may be adjusted due to holidays or special circumstances with proper notice in accordance with Colorado Open Meetings Law.

Participate! Your Town and County need You!

More than ever, your local governments need your input, your attention to keeping things transparent (not pointing any fingers) and your help if you have skills or insights that could help them. It should not be 'us' the residents, and 'them' the elected and appointed officials. On the Pinto Bean facebook page, we share the meeting dates, the agendas when possible, but it ultimately is up to YOU to follow what's happeneing in your community if you care about the direction of your future.

Once again, most regional counties have their meeting available through zoom live, and on youtube to replay. Towns may or may not have that option, but it's up to you to find out and be more involved online.

Speaking of everyone needs to work together, this is a mid term election year, with some big seats up in the state of Colorado, as well as local counties and town positions. Be sure to check with your local government to find out what and who is on the ballot. For the Republican and Democratic caucuses and assemblies, most will be held the beginning of this month, March, why not be involved this year!

Once we get to the primaries, the PintoBean.CO website will have a listing of who is running for what in the region. See page 12 of this Bean for the links to the County BOCC meetings, and more on the caucuses. Online our website is <https://PintoBean.CO>



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Farm Bill - Food not Feed

The US Farm Bill has some parts still ‘in play’, and a group called Farm Action, has a platform to change policies that could shift power, strengthen food systems, and better serve farmers and the public they say. What that means, is to focus on the federal food procurement supporting local and regional producers in place of funding going to large corporations. Along those lines, they are working towards rebuilding regional processing and distribution as well. They are looking to improve the risk management tools for diversified and specialty crop farmers. Along the smaller farming operations, finding ways to help rebuild healthy soil and cut the chemical dependency has not been well addressed.

The House Agriculture Committee has delayed the new draft until March 3 - Chairman GT Thompson’s proposal includes controversial provisions to exempt California’s Proposition 12 and provide pesticide liability protections for companies like Bayer (see front page story). The 2018 Farm Bill remains extended through September 30, 2026, such that any changes are not yet law while they signal the direction of federal support for agriculture. The bill spans 12 titles and emphasizes risk management, credit access, conservation, rural infrastructure, and disaster aid. While



Farm Action is a nonpartisan, farmer-led watchdog pushing for government and corporate accountability in food and agriculture.



Farm Action



it includes strong commodity and specialty-crop provisions that often favor larger operations, several sections offer targeted help for small family farms and ranches, beginning farmers, and rural communities.

Key benefits for small rural operations include: Easier credit and farm transitions (Title V), Stronger disaster protection (Title I), Rural development investments (Title VI), Conservation and working lands tools (Title II), and supporting specialty crops and meat/poultry processing grants. Overall the 2026 proposal could bring some meaningful ‘wins’, but there is a long road ahead.

Continued from Page 1 - Glyphosate

Health Ranger, Mike Adams; quoting this in recent coverage of the new ‘legal immunity’ move that feels exactly like the protections in place for big Pharm.

As the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen, the good news, is that once you are aware of what you are consuming that may not be healthful - there are ways to help you ‘detox’. Natural News offers a four pillar approach: Replenish your sulfating pathways, eating sulfur rich foods to reboot your body’s natural ability to expel toxins (like broccoli) - Heal the gut as glyphosate acts as an antibiotic, probiotics and fermented foods cultivate good gut bacteria - Reclaim your minerals as Glyphosate was a descaling agent before it was a pesticide - consume mineral rich leafy greens, nuts, seeds etc. and use natural binders to neutralize the product out of your body - and Enhance organ function and strategic elimination by supporting your liver and kidney functions. In addition to empowering yourself in a poisoned world - filter your water and avoid products that may contain high levels of glyphosate. The take away should be that by taking personal responsibility for your own well being, with greater knowledge of what you eat, you can take better care of your own health.

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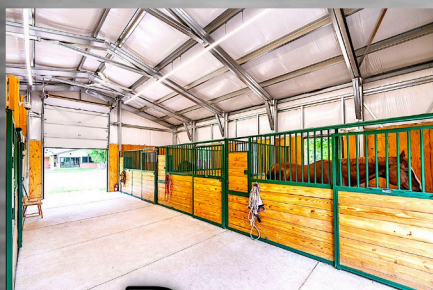
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Fairgrounds
Cortez CO

Barndominiums

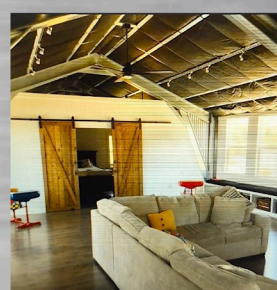
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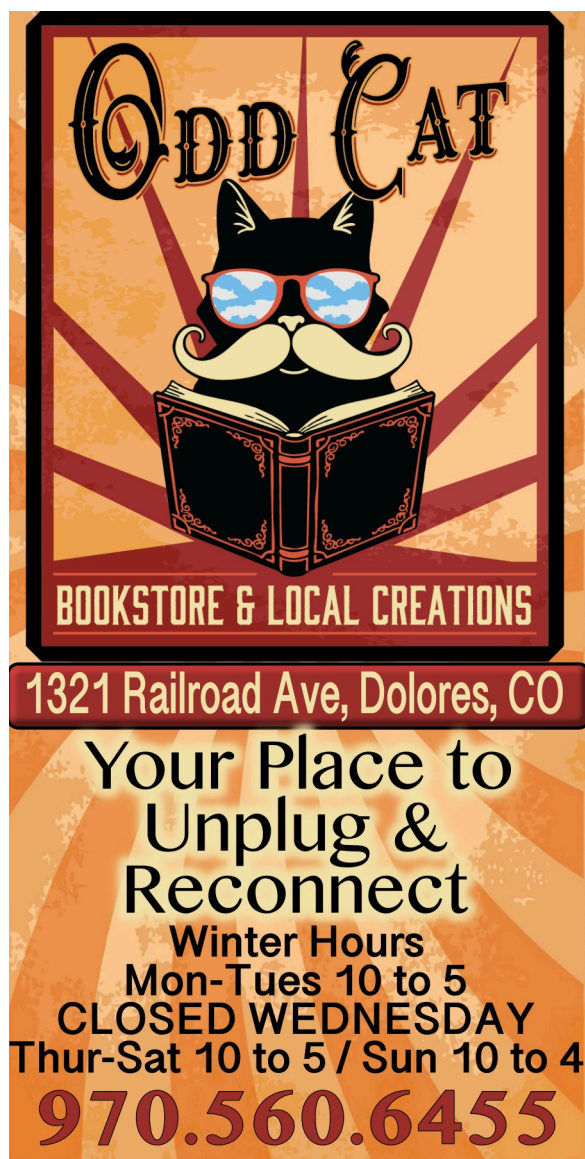


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From Odd Cat Angie B.

Hello and welcome to March! Time to start thinking about what seeds you'd like to plant! I always enjoyed browsing through the seed catalogs, dreaming of all the lovely things I might grow. Speaking of seeds...

Our minds are akin to the soil we sink our hands into each Spring, fertile and awaiting the seeds of our choosing.

If our minds are like the soil, then words might be considered the seeds. Words and thoughts and ideas become the vegetation of the mind. It seems to me that we are constantly having our "mindsoil" sewn with the seeds of invasive species. They are broadcast from every corner of the globe now- podcasts, coworkers, television, neighbors, social media, and any sort of "news" you may be subjected to. These seeds take root quickly, like the peskiest of weeds, running rampant with negativity, anger, despair, and the urge to withdraw from nearly everything. We are all aware of this poisonous garden growing at the edge of our control, but how to fight it?

Thankfully, the seeds mentioned above can be stunted and occasionally, outright eradicated- no herbicide necessary. Plant your own seeds of perseverance, curiosity, patience, clarity, and love to make those parasitic seedlings shrivel up and die.

Where do we find these magic seeds? Anywhere there is a gathering of the greatest, wisest, most accessible minds- wherever there are books. Bookstores and libraries are abundant with uplift, encouragement, inspiration, and hopeful ideas. Tales abound of persistence and victory, struggle and success. Purchase nothing, check out nothing, the seeds will still cling to your coat as you leave, perhaps to take root later, when the sun is warmer on the soil of your mind.

See you at Odd Cat- an inviting space to discuss which seeds you're interested in trying this season.

PINTO BEAN BOOK CORNER

PTSD: Time to Heal

Author Cathy O'Brien

If you're not familiar with the name Cathy O'Brien, when you do learn about her journey and read what she's written about to help others, you will truly be amazed.

"She was born in 1957 in Muskegon, Michigan, is a nationally and internationally recognized US Government Whistleblower on the subject of MK Ultra mind control and healing from it. Knowledge is our defense against mind control, and Cathy's experience empowers her insight into far reaching effects of mind control on society today and what you can do to reclaim, protect, and expand free thought.

In 1995 when the US National Security Act was invoked on her testimony for US Congressional Permanent Select Committees on Intelligence Oversight, that testimony was released through her book *TRANCE* Formation of America, written with Mark Phillips.

As detailed in *TRANCE*, Cathy became a 'candidate' for MK Ultra mind control due to a dissociative disorder developed from incest. Cathy's pedophile father Earl O'Brien sold her into MK Ultra due to his illicit connections into a local Michigan Mafia child pornography ring sanctioned by local politician Gerald Ford. As Ford's political career escalated to heading the Warren Commission that covered up the Kennedy Assassination and to becoming President of the US, Cathy's victimization rose proportionately.

Through systematic torture and well documented NASA/military mind control programming, Cathy was forced to do the "unthinkable" and participate in CIA Black Ops and White House/Pentagon level operations during the Reagan/Bush Administration. In 1988, intelligence insider Mark Phillips rescued Cathy and her then 8-year-old daughter, Kelly. Using methods gained in mind sciences, he taught Cathy how to remember what she'd been programmed to forget and reclaim control over her own mind and life. These methods are detailed in both *ACCESS DENIED* For Reasons of National Security and *PTSD: Time to Heal*. It is within you to heal."

TIME TO HEAL

You have, within you, the ability to heal from any level of trauma, abuse, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), torture and/or mind control. It is your birthright to consciously realize your own truth and know where you've been in order to know where you're going. It is about time for you to reclaim control over your own mind and life, and stop your past from intruding on your present.

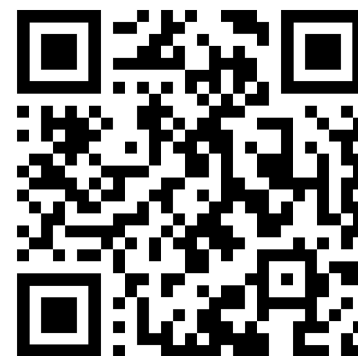


Whether you experience intrusive memory, repressed memory, night terrors, or a subconscious undermining of your goals and intentions, today is the day to gain peace/piece of mind and ultimately the freedom to live true-to-soul on purpose!

I know abSOULute healing is possible based on personal experience after 3 decades of robotic MK Ultra mind control. Born into multi-generational sexual abuse, I became targeted, conditioned and programmed for TOP SECRET US Government White House/Pentagon level covert operations.



Find this book, the other's she's written along with more good resources by following the QR code on her website



Trance-Formation.Com

This book is written in a concise manner to empower you to know your own truth without having to wade through mine. Within these pages are healing methods you can apply to your self just as I did. I am living proof that these otherwise secret intelligence methods of deprogramming do indeed work. This book is yours. There is no level of PTSD that is insignificant. Whether you suffer from PTSD, torture, trauma, religious manipulation, social engineering or the kind of robotic mind control I endured, it is within you to heal your self. It is within you to know your own truth. This indeed is truth that makes us free."



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The Pinto Bean (tm) is currently a monthly newsprint publication, free to the public, distributed in the four corners southwestern corridors and online [PintoBean.CO](#)
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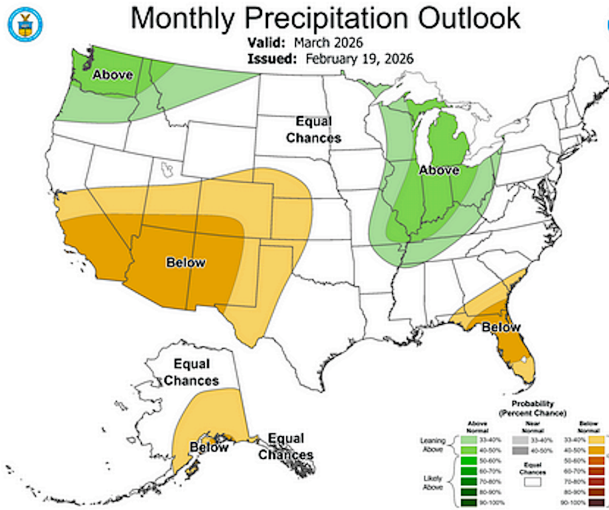
Come join us online at our Facebook page @ThePintoBean

As of print we have 2.6K followers and continue to grow, as we cover stories in between the Bean - from political issues, land and hunting, recreation, arts and music events, the latest road issues, weather, what's happening in Dolores County Colorado, San Miguel, Montrose west end, La Plata, Montezuma, and Grand and San Juan Counties Utah.

Follow us as we share something new every day!

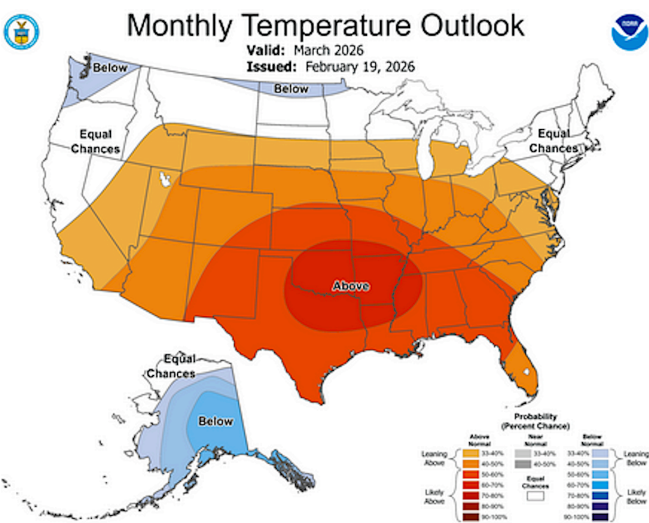


We are sponsoring the 6th Big Truckin' Car Show in June - if you'd like to be a sponsor or vendor please contact us. Vehicle Registration \$10 8am on 6.27.26 The Flyaways will be the feature musical group playing - family event in Cahone Park, right on Highway 491 10 miles from Dove Creek



MARCH WEATHER
March brings official 'spring' but where was winter? Expecting warmer temps, and below normal rain. Drought levels may persist as Feb saw 50-60s% of average SNOTEL (snow water equiv).
Listen to the weekly "Global Alert News" radio show from GeonengineeringWatch.Org it will answer some of your questions on weather whiplash. Saturday afternoons.

Maps from Weather.gov





Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.
Did I tell you about the time I tied my shoelaces with the power of my mind?
Thought knot.

The invention of the shovel was a ground breaking discovery. But the invention of the broom was the one that truly swept the nation...
Why is it a bad idea to iron your four-leaf clover?
Cause you shouldn't press your luck.



MARCH WHAT'S UP
Birth Flower - Daffodile
Birth Stone - Aquamarine
Zodiac Pisces - Aries

- Mar 1 Natl Pig Day
- Mar 4 March Forth day
- Mar 8 Daylight Saving Time
- Mar 11 Natl Immune System Day
- Mar 12 Natl Popcorn Day
- Mar 14 Natl Pi Day
- Mar 15 Natl Ag Week
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19 Natl Chocolate Carmel Day
- Mar 20 Equinox - Spring Day
- Mar 23 Natl Tamale Day
- Mar 27 Intl Whiskey Day
- Mar 29 Palm Sunday
- Mar 31 Natl Farm Workers Day



Moon Phases	
MAR 19	- New Moon
MAR 03	- Full Moon
MAR 22	- Perigee
MAR 10	- Apogee



I am not what happened to me,
I am what I choose to become.

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- Monida Oats**
- Potato Seed expected in late March**

Business Hours for March - Easter
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED: All day on Saturdays & Sunday
Back to regular Saturday Schedule after Easter
CLOSED: Good Friday, April 3 - Easter Sunday

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Commentary By
Aimee Tooker

“Aimee’s Toxic Cleanse”

This week I sat down on my Facebook page and unfollowed and unfriended dozens of people and pages. I am calling it my spiritual and inspirational cleanse. The uneducated rhetoric was giving me a welt on my forehead from banging my head against the wall. So, if you find that we are no longer friends, it means I removed your toxicity from taking up space in my gut and in my heart. Following only those that inspire me to be better and pages that have meaningful dialogue and solutions to problems is my new social media goal. I am sure I will "fall off the wagon" once in a while but I am vowing to myself and to my readers to try and stay on.

For this month's commentary, I was going to write a whole narrative on conservation easements and the Endangered Species Act, but an interesting turn of political events diverted my attention.

I don’t know about you, but I would hope that you would want less of a yes man and more of a defending the constitution man. I believe that adherence to the Constitution's core principles is essential for all elected officials, regardless of whether I voted for them.

It is essential to demonstrate unwavering commitment to the foundational principles set forth by the United States Constitution, rather than aligning with transient individuals or policies that emerged long after its inception. Adherence to the Constitution remains paramount in preserving the core values and integrity of our governmental system.

On my desk sits a pocketbook of the Constitution, which I received at the Turning Point USA event in Grand Junction last fall. This pocket Constitution serves as a constant reminder of the foundational principles that now guide my decision-making process. By referring to its text, I ensure that each policy under consideration aligns with its values and incorporates its guidance into the broader narrative framework. This document should serve as a foundational guide for all public officials and American citizens. When these standards are not upheld, it is necessary to examine the reasons for such deviations.

Would you rather have someone who is unwavering in their commitment to defending our nation’s founding document, or someone willing to compromise those values to join the "cool kids" club?

My preference is loyalty to the U.S. Constitution—not allegiance to transient presidents or contradicting policies established long after its creation. Do your homework and choose wisely because our liberty and freedom depend on it.



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Nervous System
Manipulation by Monitors



(13) **United States Patent**
Loos

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,506,148 B2**
(45) Date of Patent: **Jan. 14, 2003**

(54) NERVOUS SYSTEM MANIPULATION BY
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS FROM
MONITORS

6,238,333 B1 5/2001 Loos 6009
OTHER PUBLICATIONS
N.Wiener "Nonlinear problems in random theory" p.71-72

How much time do you spend in front of any type of ‘screen’ - computer monitor, smart phone, or TV? Would you be surprised to find out that screens are biologically interfacing with YOU? Look at a U.S. patent titled: “Nervous System Manipulation by Electromagnetic Fields from Monitors.” Let that sink in.

Anthony Cabral in California, a health coach online, had a take on what this means. “This isn’t fringe. This is documented recognition that electromagnetic fields and pulsed signals from screens can interact with human physiology.

Now zoom out. We have: Children on tablets for hours, Blue light exposure from sunrise to midnight, WiFi saturation in homes and schools, Pulsed frequencies surrounding developing nervous systems

And we’re shocked at: ADHD, Anxiety, Sleep disorders, Aggression, Dopamine dysregulation The brain is an electrical organ. Neurons communicate through voltage gradients.

Circadian rhythm is light-timed. Melatonin is light-regulated. Dopamine is light-regulated.

You cannot flood a developing nervous system with artificial frequencies and expect zero biological effect.

This isn’t about fear. It’s about physics. The modern environment is electrically and optically mismatched to human biology.

The solution isn’t panic — it’s awareness: Morning sunlight, Darkness at night, Reduced screen exposure, Outdoor time, Grounding, Nervous system recovery, Blue light blocking ADHD isn’t just behavioral. It may be environmental. The question isn’t “Is tech bad?” The question is: How much artificial input can a developing brain handle before its terrain shifts? This is the conversation we should be having.



Southwestern Adventure Guide

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Find out the St. Patrick's Day Fun Spots by following the Pinto Bean on our Facebook page! @ThePintoBean We'll share what's happening in the SWCO SEUT areas for loads of fun



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

EVENTS IN THE FOUR CORNERS

Green River

March 28-29 10th Annual Millsite OFF Ice Fishing Tournament
@ Millsite State Park Utah

Moab

Mar 6-7-8 Moab Run The Rock
Mar 7 Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo Queen Contest
Indoor Arena & Conference Room
Mar 14-17 Moab Skinny Tire Festival
Mar 21 Canyonlands Half Marathon
Mar 28 Behind the Rocks Ultra Trail Race
Mar 25 - Apr 4 Easter Jeep Safari 2026

Monticello

Mar 6 Dark Sky anniversary of Natural Bridges National
Mar 29-30 Monument Valley Photography Excursion

Blanding

Mar 4 Blanding Community Seed Exchange
Blanding Library

Bluff

Mar 7 Celebrate Bears Ears

Dove Creek

Mar 13th 11:00am Carolyn McCuskey Services 1st Baptist Church

Cortez

Mar 30 High Desert Conservation District Spring Seeds Sale

Mar 1 Rico Trails Alliance 8th annual Fat Bike Bash (postponed)
Mar 6 Over The Hill Gang Cortez Car Club
Mar 4-5 Four States Ag Expo Montezuma County Fair Grounds

Dolores

Mar 6,13,20 Live Music Dolores River Brewery
Sundays Odd Cat Writing Group

Mancos

Mar 1 Fenceline Anniversary Party
Mar 2 Mixed in Mancos
Mar 6 Live Music Mancos Brewing Horizon

Durango

Mar 1 Wolf Creek Mardi Gras Fun Road
Mar 1-2 Cascade Canyon Winter Train
Mar 4 Mardi Gras Party Parade Purgatory
Mar 5-9 Durango Independent Film Festival
Mar 17 Shamrock Express D&SNG
Mar 22 Purgatory St Patrick's Day Festivities
Mar 27-28 Durango Celtic Festival Ft Lewis
Mar 28-29 Spring in the Rockies Are Crafts
Mar 31 Wolf Creek Ski Area Local's Day

Pagosa Springs

Mar 2 Live Music @ Coyote Moon Lounge
Mar 4 - 9 Bamboo Fly Rod Building Class @ PJ's Fine Bamboo Rods

Farmington

Mar 1 A Health and Wellness Fair
Mar 7 San Juan College Planetarium, for AstroFriday
Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day Lunch Bonnie Dallas Senior Center
Mar 14 Moonrise Cross Country Ski @Cloman Park
Mar 20 Legally Blonde Farmington Civic Center

Telluride

Mar 1 Telluride Gay Ski Week
Mar 1 Goose Chase Scavenger Hunt
Mar 21 -22 Burlesque Show - CHEAP THRILLS

Norwood Naturita Nucla

Mar 16 Stories & Poems Naturita
Naturita Community Library Art Goodtimes

Have an event in the arts, recreation, or anything non political - email it in to Editor@PintoBean.CO



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DROUGHT DRAGS ON

By Sarah Toenin

As of early March 2026, southeast Utah and southwest Colorado face one of the most concerning water outlooks in recent memory. A record-setting snow drought across the Upper Colorado River Basin has left snow water equivalent (SWE) at historic lows—around 55-60% of median statewide in both Utah and Colorado, with even poorer conditions in southern basins. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor (released February 26, 2026) shows persistent moderate to extreme drought (D1-D3 or higher) across much of the region, with severe and extreme categories entrenched in western and southwestern Colorado and significant portions of Utah, including the Four Corners area.

Winter precipitation has fallen well short of normal, particularly in southern drainages like the San Juan River Basin. SNOTEL stations report some of the lowest early-season accumulations on record since 1986 monitoring began. February brought limited relief, and while isolated storms hit northern areas, southern Utah and southwest Colorado largely missed out, exacerbating dry soils and below-average snowpack. In the fields, the last snow storm in February provided top soil moisture, with mud still seen across fields and into canyons.

NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center and regional briefings from the Western Water Assessment (February 6, 2026) forecast below-average precipitation and above-normal

temperatures for the critical March-May period across the Four Corners region. The March outlook specifically highlights drier-than-normal conditions near the Four Corners, strengthening the likelihood of drought persistence or expansion. Three-month outlooks continue this pattern into summer, with elevated chances of below-average precipitation in southern Utah and southwest Colorado. This pattern also sets up concerns for wildfires as the chance for winds is always prevalent in our region.

Runoff forecasts from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center paint an even grimmer picture: April-July unregulated inflows to Lake Powell are projected at just 38-43% of normal. This follows a winter where the entire Upper Colorado River Basin started with severe or extreme drought covering nearly the entire watershed. Reservoir levels at Lake Powell remain critically low (hovering near 25% capacity in recent projections), threatening hydropower generation at Glen Canyon Dam later in 2026 and reducing water availability downstream.

Warmer temperatures will accelerate snowmelt (if any substantial snow arrives) and increase evaporative demand, further stressing soil moisture, vegetation, and water supplies during the peak growing and recreation season.

Expected Impacts on the Region

Water Supply and Agriculture: Ranchers and irrigators in areas like Montezuma and San Juan counties (SW Colorado) and San Juan County (SE Utah) can expect reduced streamflows and

reservoir storage. McPhee Reservoir and other local storage are already forecasting much-below-average inflows.

Wildfire Risk: Dry fuels combined with above-average temperatures and potential wind events raise fire concerns, especially as spring green-up is delayed or limited.

Recreation and Economy: Lower lake and river levels could affect boating, fishing, and tourism in places like Moab, Durango, and the broader Colorado River corridor.

Broader Colorado River System: This region feeds critical inflows to Lake Powell; continued low runoff will compound challenges for the entire basin as post-2026 operating guidelines are negotiated.

While short-term wetter patterns could emerge in early March (per some extended outlooks), the overall seasonal signal remains dry and warm, with limited time left in the snow accumulation season. La Niña is transitioning to ENSO-neutral, offering no strong wet signal for the Southwest.

Water managers, farmers, and residents are urged to prepare for conservation measures. The situation remains fluid—late-winter or early-spring storms could provide modest improvement—but current data and forecasts point to a dry spring and summer with ongoing or worsening drought impacts in southeast Utah and southwest Colorado. Monitoring through NOAA, the U.S. Drought Monitor, and local resources like the Western Water Assessment will be essential in the months ahead.

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Life of a Cowpuncher

By Kendra Cook

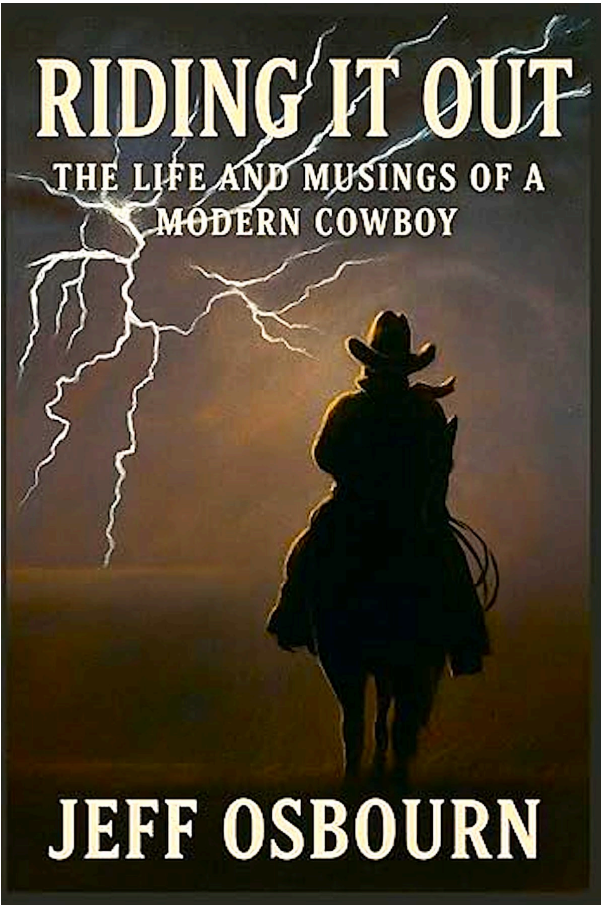
Jeff Osbourn, friend of the Pinto Bean, has lent several of his ‘musings’ on being a cowpuncher to be published in previous issues. After fantastic feedback from readers, we were thrilled to hear that as of Feb 3, 2026, the release of a compendium of a whole load of these stories - related in classic cowboy styling - is now available as a book on Amazon. (see QR code right)

“**Riding It Out: The Life and Musings of a Modern Cowboy** is a gritty, funny, and heartfelt ride through the real West-told by a man who didn't set out to be a writer, just a cowboy who lived enough stories that folks finally said, "You ought to write that down." From the roots of family tradition and early lessons in the saddle, to wild wrecks, hard rides, and the kind of close calls that leave you laughing one minute and thanking God the next, Jeff Osbourn shares a life shaped by horses, cattle, dust, and the wide-open country that raised him. Jeff grew up in historic Llano County in the heart of Texas Hill Country.”

Though Texas is home, he has spent a lot of time in SW Colorado as well, calling him back time and again to the high plains, as well as stints in the desert ranches of Arizona. If you fancy a step back in time to live vicariously through this vaquero - or enjoy reminiscing on similar situations you’ve experienced as an old time cowpuncher working small to large operations, you are sure to find this a heartfelt satisfying journey. God bless the cowboys (and gals) !



Jeff Osbourn
- cowpuncher and now soon to be famous author! Order his book online at Amazon QR code direct





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The Rise and Rapid Fall of Fake Meat

By Hayden Pate

"Beyond" first hit grocery shelves in 2013, selling \$10 packs of meatless patties branded with a cartoon cow in a cape. By 2019, the company had become the face of the globalists' "meatless future," hailed as the climate-friendly replacement for cattle farming.

Its IPO stock price soared more than 350 percent, with fast food giants scrambling to test the craze: McDonald's added Beyond patties, Dunkin' launched a breakfast sandwich, and Burger King hyped the "Impossible Whopper."

But reality soon bit back.

Consumers rejected the products, citing taste, price, and distrust of their heavily processed nature.

It also emerged that the products were up to twenty-five times worse for the environment than real meat, putting off the industry's target customers.

McDonald's and Dunkin' quietly dropped the options after sales collapsed. Only Burger King still offers its plant-based Whopper.

World Economic Forum

The failure of Beyond Meat is also a blow to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) so-called "Great Reset" agenda.

The WEF has openly promoted replacing traditional meat and dairy with synthetic proteins and even insects...

For years, the WEF has urged governments and corporations to steer consumers, away from beef and pork and toward lab-grown "meat," plant-based "substitutes," and insect-based proteins, pitching these so-called "foods" as a "sustainable" solution to "climate change" Fake Info.

When you can clearly see that the alien overlords have an agenda, of a planned obsolescence of all humankind.

Agenda 2030 is their goal post in time to wipe out 2/3rd of the world's population.

SPILL THE BEANS.....

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR / PUBLISHER

Kendra Cook

Short month of February wraps up with a big splash on the world wide news scene - words like historic, long time coming, regional to world war scope - this long drawn out situation with the middle east with military force, is not a surprise. As I write, it is continuing with a whole host of potential ‘who what and where’ gambles... the why with regime changes fills loads of books. Many point to what happened in 1979 to understand the bigger context. Although this is last minute for getting the March issue to print, this particular military involvement has been in the works, and publicly talked about. What the common American might not have known or thinks about, is that authorities have been talking about ‘ sleeper cells’ in locations all across the US, that could be activated against Americans - whether they are foreign cells, or an opportunity for a ‘false flag’ act of violence. Without panicking, March will be a perilous time for leadership to make the best decisions and actions to come through this with the least devastation possible. The way forward is critical thinking based on actual facts, without getting pulled into emotional responses. (for you older ones out there, 1980 Dr. Demento released his satirical song “Bomb bomb bomb, Iran” to the Beach boys tune of “Barbara Ann” - again, an indication this has been on the table for a long time - history rhymes).

What are we to do? In my humble opinion, not fueling the fires of this side vs that side on social media, or in actual interactions is important. No one is a winner in war. Additionally, we only know certain amount of details - not close to the whole story. The globalists are being challenged on many fronts - from what countries are aligned with each other, where the resources for their populations can come from, what currency is being used for what, and which ‘powers’ are actually determining the path forward. Their struggles trickle down to the common man’s problems, in all countries, when these effect energy, food pricing, possible localized violence, and general distrust and distress. In this particular scenario - it feels different. Hold on, stay with your connection to faith and God, and continue your already good preparations and bolster your ability to weather a storm.

Meanwhile, what I was going to editorialize about, was titled, ‘What do you know about clones?’ Sci Fi whoie? Depending on how old you are, you might recall almost 30 years ago now, “Dolly” the cloned sheep from 1997... stunning, the sheep was the first “official” mammal that was cloned from an adult somatic cell (named after Dolly Parton due to it being cloned from the cell of a mammary gland). Since then, almost 30 years, the technology is way more advanced,

but the general public is not given that news and information. Are you aware of “Clonaid”? American based human cloning organization in the Bahamas. With the revealing of some of the “Epstein files”, the general public has been shown what seems like a lot of crazy ‘stuff’. On the ‘good’ side of cloning, one might consider getting your own organs cloned to replace something that is failing - a kin to the use of pig heart valves in humans. But on the ‘bad’ side of cloning, there are a lot of ethical challenges to do with one’s ‘spirit’ or ‘soul’. Overall, if you haven’t read anything about people drinking blood, abuse of not just younger than 18 year olds, but children and babies, and cloning techniques - then the fall out from the Epstein mess may go over your head and just think ‘orange man bad’, and ‘demon crats’ bad - which, I feel is completely missing the 'big picture' mark.

The ‘island’ is interesting, and horrid, and so much we’ll never know, but the Zorro ranch in New Mexico is a whole other level of what you might say is ‘crazy’. The more people start to look into all of this, his cloning projects, the more the light is shone on those doing horrible things to humans, and the more the truth will emerge. Keep an open mind, think critically, but be aware there is a lot more at play in all of the ‘news’ than we are able to learn. Stay safe everyone.

Hear ye Hear ye

Local newspapers are closing at an alarming rate, more than two per week in the United States. As of 2026, over one-third of the nation’s newspapers have vanished since 2005. The primary reasons include:

- Loss of Advertising Revenue: Traditionally, advertising is 80% of a newspaper's revenue. Loss to: Google, Facebook, and TikTok etc...
- Corporate Ownership: Large investment-backed conglomerates have purchased many local outlets. Yes Buy Outs, To Truncate The Truth.
- Digital Disruption: Readers use online social media, AI search summaries. NOT Local Truth
- Rising Operational Costs: Increasing Costs: printing, paper, distribution & more.
- Succession Challenges: Rural independently owned family papers closing cannot find successors to take over the business. Any Offers?
- Declining Subscriptions: Yes The PintoBean is Free! Younger generations are less likely to develop the habit of paying for or reading traditional print news. So what do we see here @ The PintoBean.Co We feel like the Bean is a type of Paul Revere of our time!



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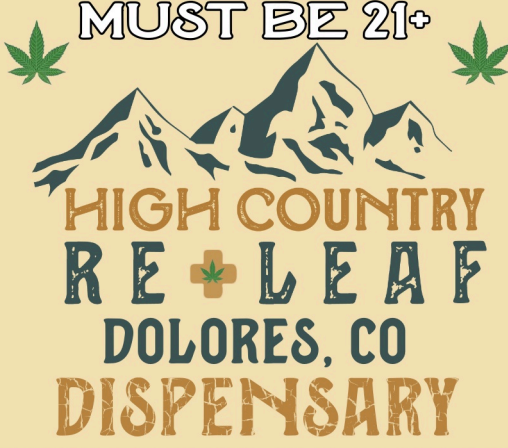
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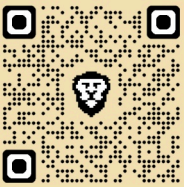
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ELECTION CAUCUS INFO - CHECK FOR ANY CHANGES ON THEIR WEBSITES

Dolores County, CO

Democrats

- Combined Caucus & Assembly: Saturday, March 7, 2026 (2pm) at Methodist Church, Dove Creek. Combined format for electing delegates to county/district assemblies.

Republicans

- Precinct Caucus: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. (credentialing likely starts earlier) at Dolores County Public Service Center. Elects precinct officers and delegates to county assembly (TBD mid-March).

Montezuma County, CO

Democrats

- Combined Caucus & Assembly: Saturday, March 7, 2026 — Virtual meeting. Pre-register at the Zoom link on coloradodems.org/caucus /schedule (or montezumadems.org) Credentialing/ start time typically early morning (e.g., 8:30–9 a.m. per local site).

Republicans

- Precinct Caucuses: Thursday, March 5, 2026 — Credentialing 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. Locations (subject to change): • Precinct 1: Pleasant View Fire Department, 15235 CR CC, Pleasant View • Precinct 2: Dolores Public Library, 1002 Railroad Ave, Dolores • Precinct 3: Lewis-Arriola Fire Department, 21145 Rd S, Cortez (Additional precincts listed on montezumagop.com)
- County Assembly: Saturday, March 21, 2026 — Credentialing 5:00 p.m. at Lewis Arriola Community Center.

San Miguel County, CO

Democrats

- Combined Caucus & Assembly: Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at Telluride Library, 100 E. Pacific St, Telluride. Register via coloradodems.org/caucus /schedule.

Republicans

- Precinct Caucus: March 7, 2026
Norwood Town Hall 1670 Naturita Street
Registration: 8:30 am Caucus: 10:00 am Colorado GOP caucus locator (caucus.cologop.org) for your precinct. County assembly follows (by March 28).

La Plata County, CO

Democrats

- Combined Caucus & Assembly: Saturday, March 7, 2026, 1:30–4:30 p.m. at Durango Public Library. Pre-register at the Google form on coloradodems.org/caucus

Republicans

- Precinct Caucuses: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 — Check-in begins 5:30 p.m. at various locations throughout La Plata County (details forthcoming per party announcements). Check laplatacountyrepublicans.org or Colorado GOP caucus locator for exact precinct sites. County assembly follows (by March 28).

San Juan County, UT

Democrats

- Caucus Night: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 6:00–8:00 p.m. — Virtual. Registration link coming soon via utahdemocrats.org/caucus or mobilize.us (San Juan County event page).

Republicans

- Neighborhood/Precinct Caucuses: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 — Credentialing begins 6:00 p.m. (standard statewide time). Locations are precinct-specific (homes, community centers, or public buildings). Register and find your exact location at utgop.org (caucus registration page). County convention follows.

Grand County, UT

Democrats

- Caucus Night: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 6:00–8:00 p.m. at The MARC, 111 E 100 N, Moab, UT 84532. Register via utahdemocrats.org/caucus or mobilize.us (Grand County event).

Republicans

- Neighborhood/Precinct Caucuses: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 — Credentialing begins 6:00 p.m. Precinct-specific locations; register and locate yours at utgop.org.

ALL DATES AND TIMES AND LOCATIONS
COULD CHANGE - CHECK THE WEBSITES



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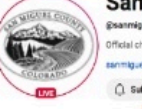
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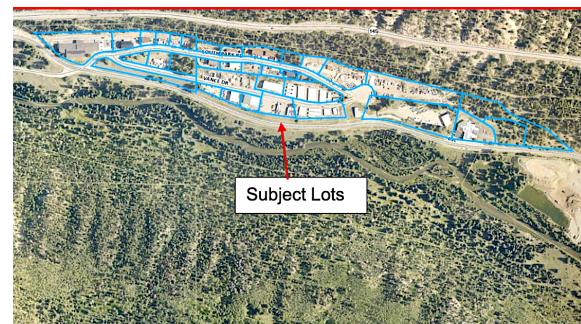
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San Miguel County CO, like so many counties, struggles with affordable housing near tourist centric areas. There have been many proposal discussions, the latest gaining attention is a planned unit development (PUD) called Ilium Industrial Park. Within the scope is up to 20 residential units, a variety store limited to 1000 sq ft, along with business spaces. Deed restricted housing under the County’s R-1 designation, brings up some concerns on how this will be implemented. In addition, the proposal by Ilium Park Owners Association, includes ‘flex space’ but will not allow a brewery or distillery due to the water demand for that type of business.

This proposal follows further discussions on the “East End Master Plan” for that region. The priority for this area remains the existing industrial uses.

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BLANDING UT

Major Drug Seizure During Traffic Stop

On February 13, 2026, around 6:00 PM, the San Juan County Major Crimes and Drug Task Force conducted a traffic stop in Blanding for equipment violations. A K-9 unit named Nyx alerted to narcotics, leading to a search that uncovered:

- Over 25 pounds of suspected methamphetamine
- Over 1 pound of suspected fentanyl powder
- Over 51 grams of suspected heroin
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The total estimated street value was approximately \$300,000.

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ARCHES NATIONAL PARK UT

The Southeast Utah Group of National Parks and Monuments announced that the timed-entry reservation requirement at Arches National Park is being lifted through 2026.

The Utah office of Tourism is encouraging visitors to plan ahead, arrive early to avoid peak visitation, and build flexibility into their itineraries. To help distribute visitation and foster a deeper connection with the local community, visitors are encouraged to explore the broader region, including nearby state parks and to consider hiring a guide. They are committed to continuing their collaboration with the National Park Service and local partners.

GRAND COUNTY UT

The Grand County UT Commissioners recently approved new impact fees that cover transportation, sheriff services and parks, to be implemented May 18 2026. This ordinance will set rates below the maximum allowable amounts that were shown in a recent impact fee study. These one time charges for new development, facilitates raising capital specifically to be used for growth related infrastructure from separated accounts. Increasing impact fees is usually seen as ‘anti development’ as the price increase impacts budgets, however the funding will help with the infrastructure maintenance and development costs.



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MOAB UT

The proposed development southwest of Moab formerly known as Kane Creek development, is now called the Echo Canyon development. Two advocacy groups have sued the developers, the development and Utah’s Lt. Gov. Deidre M. Henderson in her formal capacity, in Utah’s 7th Judicial District Court with concern to the “preliminary municipality” zoning and land use authorization saying the shift away from the elected county officials being responsible is unconstitutional. The two listed groups are Friends of the Abajos dba Kane Creek Development Watch, and Living Rivers.

The main objection is pursuant to Utah’s SB258 which became law in 2024, wherein a pathway for large scale developments to create “preliminary municipality” status on unincorporated land, before resident occupation has taken place. Echo Canyon was the first development to get approval for this unique status in June of 2025.



Photo Moab Sun

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Commentary by Linda Cunningham

Clean foods, good health and wellness seem to be at the forefront of most American’s minds these days. I don’t know if it’s happening more often now or I’m just more aware, but recalls on everything from foods to cookware are an everyday news item. Most recalls are due to salmonella, listeria, botulism and labeling ingredients that either aren’t there or are there and not listed. People with severe food allergies need to know! Contaminants like bugs and bug-parts are certainly a concern, but did you know the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) actually allows a certain amount of contaminants in our foods? Yes, you read that right, they ‘allow’ it. The FOOD DEFECT LEVELS HANDBOOK is available on the fda.gov web site and is a horror story to read. When you read what is allowed in store bought food you’ll question everything you buy. Things allowed— foreign matter, to include sticks, stones, burlap pieces, cigarette butts and more. And then there’s infestation to the list that includes - bugs, fly eggs, maggots, rodent hair, insect filth (aka fecal), and of course molds and larvae. Is this a case of “what you don’t know won’t hurt you” or the excuse of, “it hasn’t killed me yet”, scenario? I’d rather not eat rodent hair, not to mention their poop, thank you very much. Fresh produce bought either at your local market or better yet the Farmers Markets should all be rinsed well before eating or cooking. Sometimes it’s hard to find fresh veggies this time of the year so vegetables bought in a can should be drained of all liquid and rinsed well. It’s ok to be picky about what you eat... it could just extend your life.

“The doctor of the future will no longer treat the human frame with drugs, but will cure and prevent disease with nutrition”.
Thomas Edison

“The food you eat can either be the safest and most powerful form of medicine or be the slowest form of poison.”
Ann Wigmore



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

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

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

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

Learn about Project Blue Bean
https://bibliotecapleyades.net/sociopolitica/esp_sociopol_bluebeam.htm

Tesla’s Cybercab Just Became Reality
<https://dallasexpress.com/business-markets/no-wheel-no-pedals-teslas-cybercab-just-became-reality/>

News with Views - Truth vs. Treachery?
<https://newswithviews.com/truth-vs-treachery/>

Coming changes in the Monetary System
<https://www.globalresearch.ca/>

Overview of the Saturn Cult in cult-ure
<https://bibliotecapleyades.net/mistic/religionsplanetearth229.htm>

For the Love of Food

By Kendra Cook

The Lovely Lemon Bar - or lemon squares, are basically a shortbread base with a lemon custard or curd topped with powdered sugar. Where did these “Grandma made” fan favorites come from? The U.S. claims first rights just in the 1960s! Perhaps for America that is the short history of their coming of age - however, lemon curd dates back to England’s 12th century, made by curdling fresh cream with lemon juice and straining off the whey. The earliest recipe appears in an 1844 Cookery Book - with the shortbread element birthed out of Scotland in the 12th century that we know of - the sweet crumbly version took form in the 16th century. The Lemon began substantial cultivation in Europe in the 15th century, and supposedly was introduced to America with various explorers bringing seeds. But back to the lemony fresh desert - we still see reference to a Chicago Daily Tribune recipe in 1962 by a Mrs. Eleanore Mickelson, followed by a revisited concoction in Betty Crocker’s Cooky Book the following year. (which is actually still in print).

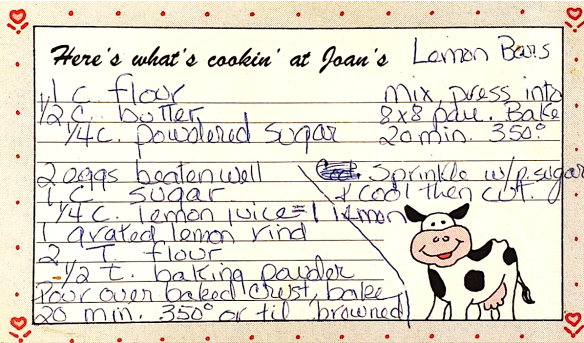


How I miss Francie's lemon bars from the old Wild Coffee shop in Dove Creek!

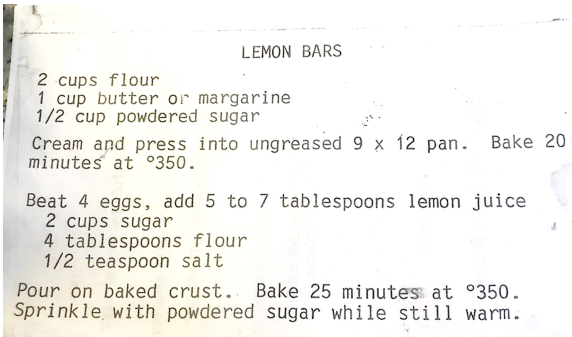
First cream together the 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of softened butter, and 1/2 cup of powdered sugar until light and completely combined. Take a greased 9x12” pan and press the mixture to be equal to each corner, then bake in a 350°F oven for about 20 minutes. For the lemon filling/topping, whisk together 4 eggs, 6 tablespoons of lemon juice (or to taste, and zest can also be added), 2 cups of sugar, 4 tablespoons of flour, and 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Once the crust is cooked, allow it to cool slightly, then pour the lemon mixture on top. Bake for another 25 minutes still at 350°F. Most often cooks like to let the pan come to room temperature, then refrigerate, cut into squares and sprinkle the bars with powdered sugar to serve.

Ingredients

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 cups flour plus 4 tbs | 6 tablespoons |
| 1 cup butter | lemon juice |
| 1/2 cup powdered sugar | fresh zest if desired |
| plus more for topping | 2 cups sugar |
| 4 eggs | salt |



What a great memory of grandma's recipe box - with all of the hand written kitchen favorites, this one above is credited to "ciao lavinia" the "lemon bar craze" burst onto the Internet through Reddit several years ago, but remains a top commented thread as everyone has their own idea of the 'best' recipe! Below is the original post.



What's your favorite desert for a spring gathering? Do you have a recipe that's 'the bomb' for springtime using locally sourced goods? Feel like sharing a family recipe? Easter dinner suggestions too - or a favorite "Easter camp" food to share with a group of RVers in Disappointment Valley

We'd love to share what our readers are creating in their kitchens - if we choose your submission, you'll receive some cool Pinto Bean swag including the classic coffee mug Email: Editor@PintoBean.CO

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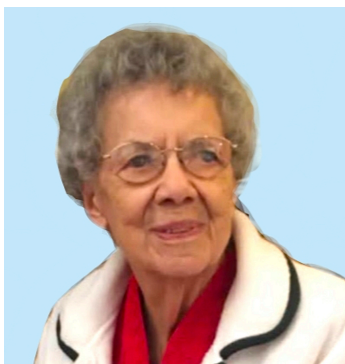
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LOCAL OBITUARY



Edith Ragsdale Gooch
July 10, 1925 - February 6, 2026

Edith Ragsdale Gooch, 100 years old, formerly of Dove Creek, CO and most recently of Moab, UT, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 6th, 2026.

Edith was born July 10th, 1925, the last of eight children born to Samuel Martin Bogue and Cora Jane (Rosson) Bogue, of Spalding, Missouri. She graduated from Rensselaer High School in Ralls County, Missouri. She was employed in the garment industry in Missouri and later moved to Arizona. While living in Prescott, AZ she met and married Clifford Ragsdale of Salt Lake City, Utah.

While living in SLC they had two daughters, Karla and Marta. Edith was a stay-at-home mom, room mother, class volunteer, cookie baker and made special birthday cakes. She was a devoted wife and mother.

Edith was an active member of the Gilead Baptist Church, holding offices of treasurer, Sunday school teacher and leader of the W.M.S., VBS and Girl's Club/Blue Birds.

The family moved to Dove Creek, CO in 1972 after Clifford was medically retired from the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, after 28 years. Clifford passed away in 1988. In 1995 Edith married Joe Gouch, Sr of Cahone, Co. She was blessed with a wonderful and caring stepson, Joe Gooch, Jr. The next year, in 1996, Joe Sr. passed away on their visit to Oklahoma.

After moving to Dove Creek and then Cahone, she and Clifford were instrumental, along with others, in building the Fellowship Baptist Church in Cahone, where she served as treasurer, secretary, and taught Sunday school for several years.

They were also involved in the beginning of the Cahone Rec Hall, which, when it closed, Dove Creek gained the Dolores County Pioneer Center, where she enjoyed meals, bus trips, bingo, activities, friends and fellowship.

Edith was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, and sisters, Viva, Lillie, Trudy, Grace, brothers Walter, Robert, and Clarence.

Edith is survived by her two daughters, Karla (Junior) Wood, of Clarksville, TN, Marta (Dan) Lamont, of Moab, UT, and stepson Joe (Claudia) Gooch, Jr., of Claremore, OK. Nieces, Judy (Danny) Boston, Page, AZ, Deanne (Loyd) Knuckles, Dove Creek, CO, Shirley Deters, Bowling Green, MO, RuthAnn (Robert) Landman, Hannibal, MO, and nephew Doug Ragsdale, Dove Creek, CO.

Seven grandchildren, Kristi (Nate) Linboom, Polo, IL, Janise (Jamie) Dyer, Charleston, SC, Janelle Schenck (Cameron), Chandler, AZ, Jimmy (Dondi) Schenck, Cedar City, UT, April (Mark) Martin, Anchorage, AK, Samantha (Levi) Lenhart, Fairbanks, AK and David (Brittany) Wood, Clarksville, TN. Thirteen great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren,

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eight step- grandchildren, and numerous extended family and beloved friends.

Edith lived a life full of love and faith in her Savior, Jesus Christ. She enjoyed visits from everyone, loved travelling, and had been to each of the fifty states and two countries, (all without being able to drive). Her hobbies were word puzzles, plastic canvas, and other crafts.

Services were Feb 17 2026 followed by Interment at the Dove Creek Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers Edith wished that, donations be made in her memory to the Pioneer Center, PO Box 678, Dove Creek, CO 81324 or Fellowship Baptist Church, PO Box 148, Cahone, CO 81320. Her family wishes to thank the staff and caregivers of the Canyonlands Care Center of Moab, UT, in providing love and comfort in her last days.

Pallbearers: Jimmy Schenck, David Wood, Colton Griffin, Nate Linboom, Jamie Dyer, Van Lamont. Officiants Rev. Travis Randolph and Junior Wood. Arrangements are entrusted to the Spanish Valley Mortuary, Moab, UT.

 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. \$2/ additional lines. Ask about Agency Notices.

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CPW OUTDOOR SPACES



Colorado Parks & Wildlife

In Colorado - House Bill 26-1008 is making its way through the process to create nine new positions for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, for regional groups that would help drive the local decision making for 'outdoor spaces'. CPW would develop these groups made up of stakeholders from the actual residents using those lands, including agricultural representation, wildlife and natural resources advocates as well as private land owners.

The lands in question would be those outside of existing state parks. CPW would be required to keep records and give this new mechanism for community partners a place in the decision making for 'outdoor spaces'.

According to the text of the bill, Outdoor Recreation contributes more than \$65 billion to Colorado's economy and supports more than 400,000 jobs.

So far HB 26-1008 has passed the House Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee. It has a ways to go to be signed in by the Governor.

WHERE'S MY WATER?

By Dexter Gill

The current water news is about the panic over the Colorado River flow receding, which brings into question provisions of the multi State Compact on water use rights between upper basin “producers” and lower basin “users”. As western States were formed shortly after the uncivil war, accessible water was a critical resource for survival. Colorado was formed in 1876, with the West Slope being the largest contributor of water flow into the upper Colorado River. As new States were formed, Arizona being the last in 1910, some agreement needed to be formed for water use sharing, so a “Compact” of seven (7) States was formed in 1922: Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nevada, California and Arizona. The typical assumption was that the River was a constant inexhaustible source of water. Now, one hundred four (104) years later, which is not very long, a lot of changes had taken place, including the river NOT being inexhaustible. Is the river drying up? No, but delivering less than it has in the past in comparison to what Use demands have developed. What has happened?

In 1881, John Wesley Powell, of Colorado River, Grand Canyon fame, became Director of USGS. He conducted massive “irrigation” survey of the river systems which resulted

in his declaring most of the new western lands “unsuitable” for farming, due to inability to access water from the deep steep walled rivers, therefore, the lands should not be open for settlement. In his Arid lands Report, he did state where irrigation was possible that cooperative groups of ranches or farms within County lines, based upon watersheds, would be acceptable, all other land should be left unsettled. That obviously did not happen.

This was the beginning of today’s federal land issue. The new arid west land was viewed as limited in good soil, and sufficient water access to farm and create economy. This resulted in the Federal government not disposing of much of the Territorial lands within the new defined States, to the public for private ownership. This left the new States, not fully a State, with control over its land, water and natural resources for creating economy. With later technology and equipment, the “River” water has been accessed and used (about 80%) extensively for Agriculture to meet the food needs of the Country. Today, society and technology has increased using more water for non-agricultural uses such as “Data Centers” and “Recreation”.

Today’s dilemma of declining water begs the question, how to apportion what is available. We are not going to “make” more water, but we can make better use of water



while reducing waste of water and re-using it in all areas to support life and create economy. Second, the watersheds producing the water must be returned to active resource management at the local County stewardship level. That would be in accord with the principle of the best governance at the smallest local level. In 1976, by passing the Federal Lands Policy Management Act, the federal government became “trustee” of the lands and resources previously designated in the Statehood compact of 1876, for the peoples of the Counties within the State, for their use and future economic opportunity. Or did the federal government become the “Landlord”, controlling /preventing the peoples access and use of lands and resources for economy?

This water issue has exposed the damage caused to governance, natural resources, economies, national security and foundational principles of the United States, in the past fifty (50) years. What happens now?

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DOLORES COUNTY SHERIFF’S
OFFICE ACTIVITY REPORT:
01/01/2026-02/22/2026

01/2/2026 -Search and Rescue called out for an individual stuck on a county road. Parties were rescued and tow company responded.

01/02/2026-A female party trespassing on a county property was asked to leave. Female refused courtesy ride from deputy and walked north from the residence.

01/02/2026-Report of a woman screaming around the Dove Creek post office. Deputy investigated and did not locate or hear any individuals who were screaming.

01/02/2026-Summons served on Leonardo Gomez-Valencia for driving 94mph in a 65mph zone.

01/03/2026-Trespass Notice signed by Dollar General was given to an individual for erratic behavior.

01/03/2026-A report of possible poaching was reported. The deputy made contact and determined that the party of 4 had permission to be hunting on that land.

01/04/2026-A three vehicle accident was reported on the highway with multiple injuries. A paramedic traveling through our county assisted with life-saving efforts. Multiple deputies were dispatched. Dove Creek Fire Department was dispatched for extrication. Dove Creek Ambulance was dispatched as well as a medical helicopter for transport. Emergency management was also dispatched for assistance with landing the helicopter.

01/06/2026-A fight in progress was reported. Multiple deputies were dispatched and calmed the situation.

01/07/2026-A domestic disturbance involving a juvenile was reported. Deputy talked with all parties involved and everyone was okay and the situation was resolved.

01/11/2026-Two summons served on Annie Decker for reckless driving and driving 70mph in a 35mph zone.

01/12/2026-An individual of our county reported a scam that led to theft. The caller called the account a “KALSHI” account, and the individual had \$1938.44 stolen. Multiple text messages were given as evidence. No further information at this time.

01/26/2026-Caller reported a white horse loose. Deputy located the horse and was unable to catch it. The owner noticed the post on Facebook and called the Sheriff’s Office. The owner was missing the horse and 2 mules. All of the animals were located and the owner picked them up.

01/26/2026-Westfork Fire department reported several vehicles abandoned on FS RD 38. One vehicle was upside down and one was in the ditch. The vehicles were there for multiple days. CSP was notified and updated with information.

01/27/2026-Town workers reported a possible break in at a building in Dove Creek. Deputies investigated and found possible signs of a break in. The break in led to the pipes in the building bursting and the town workers had shut off the water. Due to weather conditions, the neighboring business’s cameras could not pick up when the break-in occurred. Nothing appeared to have been stolen.

01/28/2026-A report of a deer stuck in a fence was made. Deputies arrived and got the deer removed from the fence. The deer appeared healthy and ran off.

02/03/2026-Camper trailer was reported stolen. Deputies located the camper trailer and confirmed it was the reported stolen vehicle. The vehicle and property were returned to the owners. A warrant for arrest was approved for David Gaston.

02/06/2026-A report of a child custody issue was made. Deputies made contact with the other party and the juveniles were brought to social services. As the incident first occurred out of state, the state

with jurisdiction will handle the case.

02/06/2026-A report was made by a witness of a semi truck side swiping another vehicle. No injuries were apparent, and CSP took over the scene when they arrived.

02/10/2026-Received a report regarding a logging truck rolled over on it’s side. CSP was notified and the company was already sending a vehicle to get it recovered.

02/12/2026-Search and Rescue called out for an individual stuck near Groundhog Reservoir. Search and Rescue got the vehicle unstuck and followed the individual out to ensure they didn’t get stuck again.

02/14/2026-Received a report of a possible violation of protection order. Multiple text messages were sent on behalf of the restrained party. It was found that the protection order was served later than this incident.

02/15/2026-A routine traffic stop for speed revealed the driver had a warrant for Failure to Appear. Wyattte Jones was arrested on the warrant.

- We have had many slide-offs due to the weather. Please remember to adjust your driving to suit the weather and keep the roads safe for everyone.

This information is put together for a Sheriff’s office activity report;
That is description of calls.
- Sheriff Don Wilson
Dolores County Colorado



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sources: Business Insider / tradingeconomics / CSU & Local Producers

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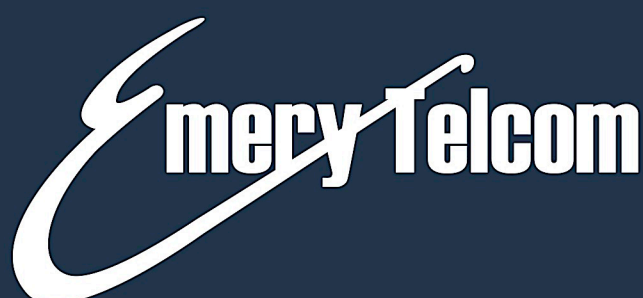


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