

Journal #6181 from sdc 2.17.26

The Year of the Fire Horse

Seven US states miss federal deadline for second time to agree on sharing Colorado River water

Tell your story—authentic voices create unforgettable moments.

House farm bill would set hemp testing, pesticide label authority

What the FBI Uncovered When It Went Undercover in Osage County

TCRP Appreciates Make America Beautiful Again 250 Strategy and Migration Announcements

DARK WINDS AIRS AGAIN.....CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE

Colorado River Decisions Will Shape the Future of Fish, Wildlife, and the Southwest

Hickenlooper/Moran/ettersen/Ciscomani Re-into Bill to Help Tribes & Rural Communities

USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2026

A Nevada Public Land Pronghorn Hunt

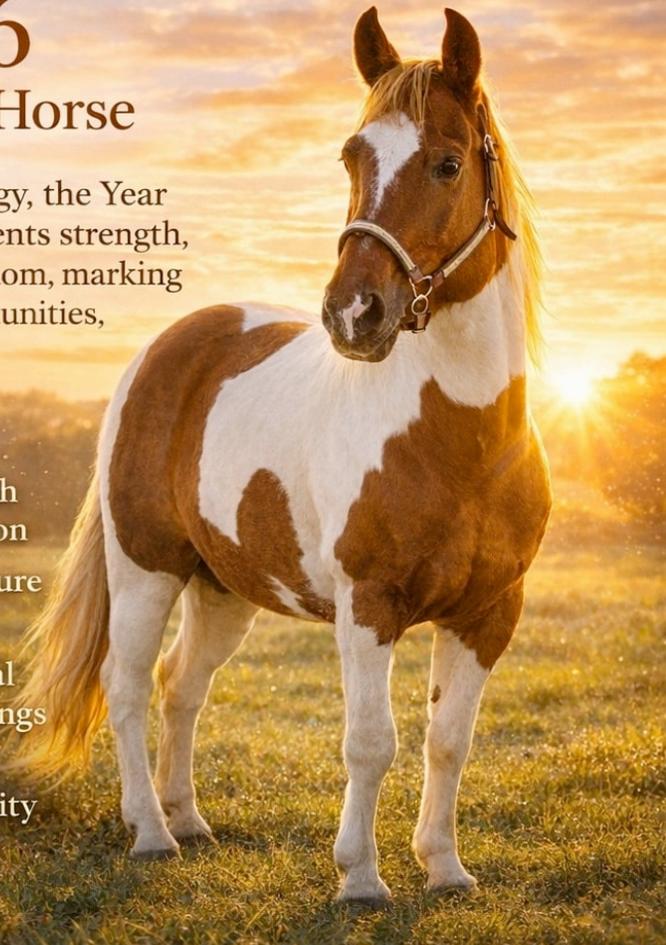
How the Fastest Land Animal in North America Got Its Need for Speed

Trump administration ordered to restore George Washington slavery exhibit it removed in Philadelphia

Bay Area water buffalo cheese business owner trying to secure permanent home for herd

Indian Health Service to phase out dental fillings with mercury

Scholarships with March 15 (TpZ), 16 - 23 Deadlines



2026 Year of the Horse

In Chinese Astrology, the Year of the Horse represents strength, resilience, and freedom, marking a time of new opportunities, positive energy, and vibrant growth.

- ✓ A Year of Strength and Determination
- ✓ A Year of Adventure and Courage
- ✓ A Year of Renewal and New Beginnings
- ✓ A Year Full of Hope and Positivity

Beginning on February 17, 2026 (Lunar New Year) and lasting until February 5, 2027, a period filled with fiery energy, passion, and dynamic change, known for ambition, freedom, and strong spirit, though it carries traditional superstitions, particularly for females born in these years.

Seven US states miss federal deadline for second time to agree on sharing Colorado River water amid ongoing drought and shrinking water supplies ([More](#))

[Humanity](#)

[Tell your story—authentic voices create unforgettable moments.](#)

The 77-year-old Indigenous actor kept forgetting his lines. The director said three words that changed everything: "Tell your story." What happened next made film history.

1976 Filming for "The Outlaw Josey Wales."

Chief Dan George, the legendary Indigenous actor who'd made history six years earlier as the first Native American nominated for an Academy Award, was struggling.

At 77, memorizing pages of dialogue wasn't as easy as it once was. Takes were running long. The script wasn't flowing naturally.

Director Clint Eastwood watched, considered, then made a decision that would define some of cinema's most powerful moments.

"Forget the exact words," he told George. "Just tell me the story the way you'd tell it."

It was more than just practical direction. It was an act of profound respect.

Chief Dan George was born Geswanouth Slahoot in 1899 on the Burrard Reserve in North Vancouver. For most of his life, he wasn't an actor—he was a longshoreman, a father, and in 1951, became chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

He didn't start acting until his 60s.

But when he did, he brought something Hollywood had never seen: authentic Indigenous voice, real authority, lived experience spanning nearly a century of change.

His breakthrough came in 1970 with "Little Big Man," playing Old Lodge Skins opposite Dustin Hoffman. George rewrote some of his own dialogue to reflect actual Indigenous perspectives rather than Hollywood's imagined version.

The performance earned him an Oscar nomination—the first Indigenous actor ever recognized by the Academy.

Hollywood noticed. Not just his talent, but what he represented: the possibility of Indigenous characters portrayed with full humanity rather than stereotypes.

When "The Outlaw Josey Wales" was being cast, George was the clear choice for Lone Watie—a Cherokee survivor of the Trail of Tears who becomes companion to Clint Eastwood's outlaw protagonist.

The role was substantial. Lone Watie wasn't comic relief or mystical guide. He was a fully realized character who'd lost everything to American expansion, finding unexpected family among fellow outcasts.

But age and the demands of memorization were creating challenges on set.

This is where many directors would have demanded retakes, used cue cards, or quietly started recasting conversations.

Eastwood, himself a longtime actor who understood performance from the inside, recognized something more valuable than perfect script adherence.

Chief Dan George carried the actual history of his people. When Lone Watie talked about the Trail of Tears, George wasn't channeling research—he was speaking from generational memory, from stories passed down, from the lived reality of Indigenous survival.

So Eastwood gave him space to find his own path through scenes. To use his natural storytelling cadence rather than Hollywood's written rhythms. To draw on his real voice rather than a screenwriter's approximation.

The result transformed the film.

When George speaks about loss, about survival, about finding humor in tragedy, you hear authentic Indigenous storytelling. The phrasing reflects oral traditions, not screenplay formulas. The quiet dignity comes from someone who's told these stories many times because they matter.

The relationship between Josey Wales and Lone Watie became the film's emotional core—two men scarred by violence finding companionship in shared loss.

Roger Ebert called it "one of the best Westerns ever made." It earned over \$31 million and has endured as a genre landmark.

Chief Dan George's performance is consistently cited as one of the film's greatest strengths—a fully dimensional character bringing humor, wisdom, and heartbreaking humanity to every scene.

But George's significance extended far beyond any single role.

For him, acting was advocacy. Every performance was an opportunity to present Indigenous people as fully human to audiences fed decades of dehumanizing stereotypes. To insist on dignity. To demonstrate that Native Americans were contemporary people with complex lives, not relics of a romanticized past.

He was also a published poet and passionate speaker addressing issues facing Indigenous communities—cultural loss, resilience, maintaining connection to traditional ways while the world changed.

"The Outlaw Josey Wales" was one of his final major roles. His health was declining. He continued working sporadically but knew his time was limited.

Chief Dan George died September 23, 1981, at age 82.

He lived long enough to see his work begin shifting perceptions. To see Indigenous actors claiming more space in an industry that had long excluded them. To know his performances had mattered.

His legacy: proof that working within Hollywood while maintaining integrity was possible. That Indigenous actors could carry major mainstream roles. That authenticity—bringing your real voice, lived experience, cultural knowledge—creates more powerful performances than any script.

The collaboration between George and Eastwood demonstrates what's possible when directors trust actors to contribute their full selves.

When Eastwood said "tell the story your way," he wasn't just solving a practical problem. He was acknowledging that George's voice—his way of telling stories, his lived experience as an Indigenous elder—was more valuable than perfect adherence to written dialogue.

Nearly fifty years later, those scenes still resonate. Moments where you're not watching an actor play a character, but hearing a storyteller share truths that deserve to be heard.

Sometimes the best direction is simply: tell me the story the way you would tell it.

And sometimes that's when magic happens.

Chief Dan George (1899-1981): The longshoreman who became chief. The chief who became actor. The actor who insisted Indigenous voices be heard authentically. The first Indigenous Oscar nominee who proved that real stories, told in real voices, matter more than perfect scripts.



House farm bill would set hemp testing, pesticide label authority

The House Agriculture Committee on Friday unveiled a five-year farm bill ahead of the scheduled Feb. 23 markup of a measure that could divide members across regional lines as much as political ones. [Read more...](#)



[Footprints of The Frontier](#)

What the FBI Uncovered When It Went Undercover in Osage County

During the Reign of Terror, entire Osage families were wiped out so white guardians could inherit their oil royalties.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/what-the-fbi-uncovered-when-it-went-undercover-in-osage-county/vi-AA1R861E?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=SMTS&cvid=699207b109a54e4a9f38e39fc73c8bb6&ei=32>



TRCP Appreciates Make America Beautiful Again 250 Strategy and Migration Announcements

On Wednesday, February 12, the Make America Beautiful Again Commission announced its strategic initiative, MABA 250, which will be used to advance the administration's conservation priorities, including voluntary land and water conservation, species recovery, and increased access for sportsmen and sportswomen.

Additionally, and directly related to the priorities of MABA 250, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced a request for proposals to fund projects that improve the quality of big game seasonal habitat, stopover areas, and migration corridors on federal land and/or voluntary efforts on private and Tribal land. These action related to big game migration corridors reflect continued progress building on an approach established under the first Trump administration through Secretarial Order 3362, and one that also advances the priorities of the MABA Commission.

[Learn More →](#)

DARK WINDS AIRS AGAIN.....CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE



Colorado River Decisions Will Shape the Future of Fish, Wildlife, and the Southwest - TRCP



[Hickenlooper, Moran, Pettersen, Ciscomani Re-Intro Bipartisan Bill to Help Tribes, Rural Communities Access Funding for Water Conservation](#) - Ark Valley Voice



USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2026

This week, the US Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency announced upcoming enrollment periods for the Conservation Reserve Program's Continuous and General sign-ups. Continuous CRP offers will be accepted from February 12 through March 20, and the General CRP signup will run from March 9 through April 17. USDA also indicated that Grassland CRP signup dates will be announced soon.

"Habitat makes opportunity, and no USDA program creates more habitat that benefits both producers and hunters and anglers than the Conservation Reserve Program," **said Aaron Field, director of private lands conservation at the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.** "CRP has a long track record of supporting wildlife, improving water quality, and expanding access to quality hunting and fishing opportunities, while keeping working lands working. We thank USDA for opening this signup as producers make decisions for the year ahead."

[Learn More →](#)



Part I: A Nevada Public Land Pronghorn Hunt



In Part I of this two-part series on public lands in Nevada, Kris Coston, TRCP's Nevada field representative, shares a spot-and-stalk archery pronghorn hunt and focuses on the personal connection hunters have to public lands.

The Nevada archery season opens early and hot on August 1 when the grass and brush is crunchy, the temps are triple digits, and the relative humidity is in the teens. This time of year, water holes are shallow and scarce, providing an excellent opportunity for the patient archery hunter to sit in a blind and wait for the perfect buck to walk within bow range.

[Read More →](#)

How the Fastest Land Animal in North America Got Its Need for Speed

Their speediness was likely an adaptation to dashing around increasingly patchy habitatsExplore

Pronghorn antelopes are the fastest land animals in North America, clocking speeds of up to 55 miles per hour for a half mile, and [45 miles per hour for longer](#). Since they mostly run in response to predators, a longstanding hypothesis is that pronghorn speediness evolved as an adaptation to escape American cheetahs in an evolutionary arms race. Today, you won't find cheetahs in the range of the pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), but from about 2.5 million until about [12,000 years ago](#), cheetah-like cats (genus *Miracinonyx*) roamed the plains of western North AmericaA new [study](#) published in the *Journal of Mammalogy* reports, however, that pronghorn antelopes were already speedy before American cheetahs evolved. University of Michigan paleontologists examined fossils from the Mojave Desert's Dove Spring Formation, which dates from 12.5 to 8 million years ago, during the Miocene. Because the habitat was changing during that time—from continuous forest to patches of forest interspersed with grasslands—the researchers expected to see corresponding changes in the mammal skeletons.

The researchers compared two fossil astragalus bones from pronghorn antelope ancestors to astragali of 38 modern terrestrial mammals with various running capabilities. As expected, the top running speed of a mammal was correlated with the shape and size of its astragalus bones. But the antelope astragali showed no change during the approximately 5 million years spanned by the fossils. So, fossil anklebones show that antelopes were evolving their impressive speed more than 5 million years before American cheetahs lived on the continent.

The study authors conclude that the evolution of antelope bodies for fast running happened independently of cheetahs, giving them high efficiency to dash between forest patches as the climate became more arid and their habitats became patchier. “Our guess,” explained Kort, “is that they could just move around to compensate for this aridification and landscape change.” 🌀

~~~~~

**Read more: “How to Run Across Death Valley in the Summer”**

**“From about 30 million years ago to present, we see mammals becoming increasingly cursorial—i.e., adapted to running,” said study author Anne Kort in a [statement](#). Typically, environmental change provokes adaptations in features such as the bone architecture for movement. For example, animals that run faster have shorter “astragalus” bones, which form the hinge between the ankle and foot. “We expected to see longer astragali in the beginning, and then it would transition to more running-adapted astragali in the end,” said Kort.**

~~~~~  
Trump administration ordered to restore George Washington slavery exhibit it removed in Philadelphia

~~~~~  
“The government claims it alone has the power to erase, alter, remove, and hide historical accounts on taxpayer and local government-funded monuments within its control. Its claims in this regard echo Big Brother’s domain in Orwell’s *1984*,” Judge Cynthia M. Rufe wrote.

~~~~~  
Today in History: In 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president

A NoCal tribe with some land might want to partner.....

Bay Area water buffalo cheese business owner trying to secure permanent home for herd By John Ramos January 21, 2026 / 9:41 PM PST / CBS San Francisco

Sonoma County is home to a lot of dairy farms. But few have a herd quite like Audrey Hitchcock's.

"This girl's gonna give me a hard time," she said, with a sigh, as she climbed out of her battered pickup.

Hitchcock owns Ramini Mozzarella, a line of authentic cheeses made from the milk of water buffaloes, Italian water buffaloes, to be precise. To meet the herd close-up, she said it's safer for a stranger carrying a camera to stay in the pickup bed, up on top of the haybales.

She said it's not that they're super aggressive. They just get a little pushy when the hay truck arrives and avoiding being pushed by a 1,500-pound animal is for the best.

"They're super sweet and super social," she said, as she stood among them, patting one on the back. "They love affection and human attention. They have no intention of harming me, but we're kind of doing this spontaneously, and they haven't been fed. The only danger I face is if I'm in the crossfire of a fight over food."

The whole idea began in 2009 when her husband, Craig, grew disillusioned working in the tech industry. His love of animals and the outdoors led him to purchase five water buffalo to begin a cheese-making business, offering tours to curious visitors. But Craig Hitchcock became sick and died in 2015, leaving Audrey Hitchcock alone to manage the farm.

Eventually, the herd got too big for its location in Marin County, and she moved the buffalo to the temporary site in Sonoma as she desperately searched for a permanent home.

"And my goal is to get it back into production as quickly as possible," she said.

Her commitment is not just to the animals, which she considers to be her family, but also to fulfill the dream of her late husband.

"Given it's the greatest gift he ever gave me, and he's gone, I value that probably more than most," she said. "My heart is completely committed to them. And it would devastate me if I had to give up. A devastation I never want to experience."

She's hoping an interested party may come forward to act as a partner or investor, because the business is a big job for one person to handle alone.

"We need to hang on to this, or it's going to go away," she said. "And it's too special to go away."

She said her dream is for dairies to become destinations for visitors, just like wineries. The ultimate goal for her herd is a new micro-dairy to create the savory cheeses that she said only buffalo can produce. And with it, enough land so her ladies and their children can live a life that most dairy cattle never know.



Indian Health Service to phase out dental fillings with mercury
https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=fc36bc84-f271-4875-b161-3bdafe627cc4&share=true

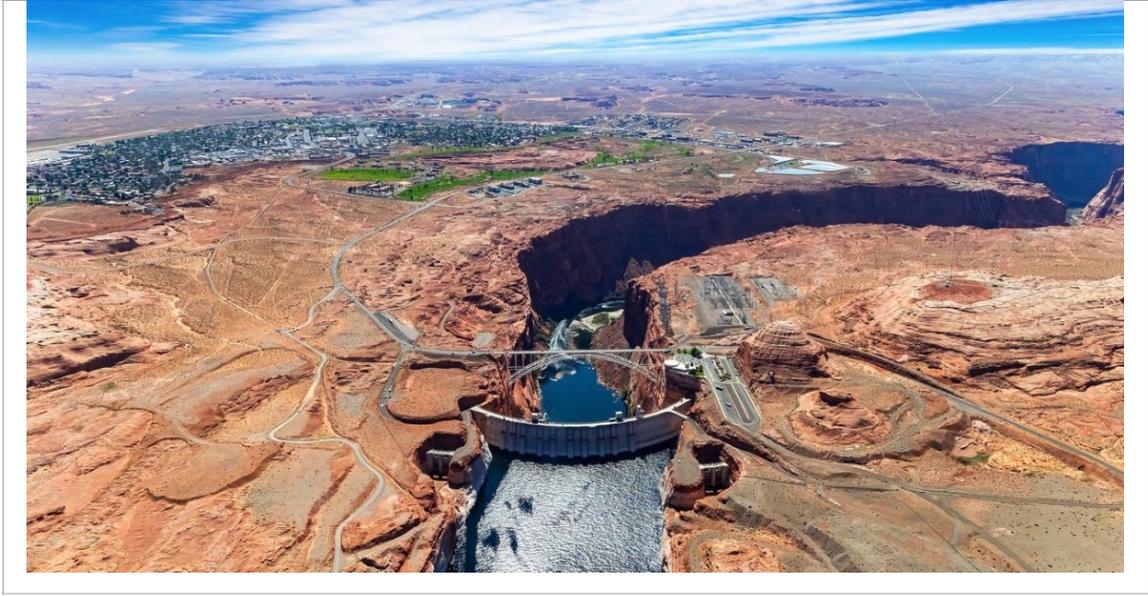
Spirit Science · While some nations ban books, Finland is teaching its children

Tennessee Grocers Education Foundation Scholarship Program	\$500	March 15, 2026
The Winston-Salem Foundation Scholarships	\$2,914	March 15, 2026
Thomas C. Woods, Jr. Scholarship	\$5,000	March 15, 2026
Tom and Mary Lou Friesen Scholarship	\$10,000	March 15, 2026
TREE Fund Scholarships	\$5,000	March 15, 2026
UCB Family Epilepsy Scholarship	\$10,000	March 15, 2026
Yankton Medical Clinic Scholarships	\$5,000	March 15, 2026
Zonta Club of Jamestown Scholarships	\$1,000	March 15, 2026
Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs	\$5,000	March 15, 2026
Austin J. Hart Entrepreneurial Scholarship	\$4,000	March 16, 2026
Becky Burrows Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000	March 16, 2026
Children's Cancer Cause College Scholars Program	\$5,000	March 16, 2026
Community Foundation of the Ozarks Scholarship Program	\$1,789	March 16, 2026
CSWE Carl A. Scott Memorial Fund	\$500	March 16, 2026
DMP Servant's Heart Christian Scholarship	\$2,000	March 16, 2026
Eastern Colorado Scholarship	\$2,500	March 16, 2026
Ecolab Scholarship	\$2,000	March 16, 2026
Greater St. Louis Artists Scholarship	\$2,500	March 16, 2026
Karen Mashburn Environmental Scholars Program	\$10,000	March 16, 2026
Linda Norton Good Neighbor Scholarship	\$2,000	March 16, 2026
Livingston County Spartans Textbook Scholarship	\$1,000	March 16, 2026
Marie Newton Sepia Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000	March 16, 2026
ROTC National Scholarship	Full-Tuition	March 16, 2026
Ruby Newhall Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000	March 16, 2026
NINA Journalism Scholarship	\$1,000	March 17, 2026
Obama-Chesky Voyager Scholarship for Public Service	\$50,000	March 17, 2026
The Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools Scholarship	\$5,000	March 17, 2026

how to identify fake news and propaganda. Let's equip the next generation with

<u>ECF Fellowship Partners Program</u>	\$15,000	March 18, 2026
<u>Gordon Hay Scholarship Fund</u>	\$15,000	March 18, 2026
<u>Mary Doctor Performing Arts Scholarship</u>	\$40,000	March 18, 2026
<u>OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship for Rising College Seniors</u>	\$2,500	March 18, 2026
<u>FWSF Scholarship</u>	\$15,000	March 19, 2026
<u>Sub Pop Loser Scholarship</u>	\$6,000	March 19, 2026
<u>AL Diablo Valley Community College Scholarship</u>	\$5,000	March 20, 2026
<u>AL Diablo Valley High School Scholarship</u>	\$6,000	March 20, 2026
<u>Allwork Scholarship</u>	\$7,500	March 20, 2026
<u>BBB Student Ethics Scholarship Award - Connecticut</u>	\$2,500	March 20, 2026
<u>Timothy L. Correll Foundation Memorial Scholarships</u>	\$750	March 20, 2026
<u>Truman D. Picard Scholarship</u>	\$4,000	March 20, 2026
<u>Georgia WISH STEM Scholarships</u>	\$500	March 21, 2026
<u>NARS Ivan A. Olson Scholarship</u>	\$1,000	March 21, 2026
<u>National Federation of the Blind of Utah Scholarship</u>	\$12,000	March 21, 2026
<u>Ohio Section AWWA Scholarship Program</u>	\$4,000	March 21, 2026
<u>Phillips University Legacy Scholars Undergraduate Program</u>	\$40,000	March 21, 2026
<u>Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference</u>	\$1,000	March 23, 2026
<u>Cary Woman's Club College Scholarship for High School Seniors</u>	\$2,000	March 23, 2026
<u>Pen Air Credit Union Scholarship</u>	\$10,000	March 23, 2026
<u>QuestBridge College Prep Scholars Program</u>	Varies	March 23, 2026
<u>Southern Automotive Womens Forum Scholarship</u>	\$5,000	March 23, 2026

critical thinking skills for a more informed and empowered future.



Unique view of Colorado River
Scholarships with March 15 (TpZ), 16 - 23 Deadlines

