

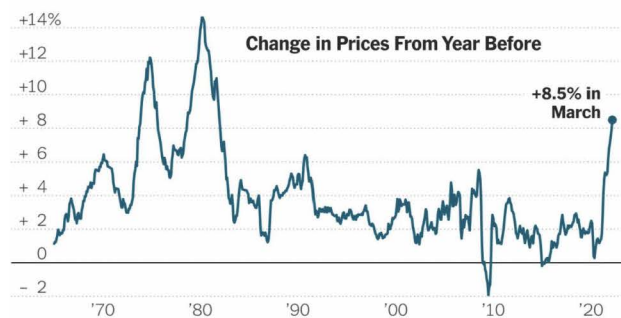


From the Director's Desk -

Market Update: We Are Entering a Dangerous Time

Celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the creation of the Brush Creek Valley Ranch open space and trails project, warrants a look back at how it came into being.

When Colorado Private Equity partners [Chad Brue](#) and [Geoff Baukol](#) invested in the mountains instead of their "usual" commercial work on the Front Range it was a big deal locally. They purchased and turned around [Frost Creek](#) outside of Eagle and came to speak to the town the day afterwards. Eventually they made other key real-estate investments in the Brush Creek Valley, one of which led to selling a long fought-over agricultural property to the county Open Space Program that fulfilled years of wishful Comp Plan language such as preserving view corridors, rural feel and agricultural land at the edge of town. Recently they entitiled the largest rental property development ever in Eagle and sold it to a builder. Their PE firm has proven one of those elusive things, a developer aligned with a community's land use goals. They replaced a landowner in Fred Kummer and Adam's Rib which the community fought vehemently for 30 years against their plans to remake Eagle and the Brush Creek Valley into a massive, gated resort with 5 golf courses and a ski area. The positive community outcomes that seemed impossible since the 1980s turned on a dime with their entry.



These transactions are a reflection on cooperative land use and the reminder that it is not always an adversarial relationship.

I mentioned Brue and Baukol above because they are the principals of an extremely successful PE firm with their fingers on the pulse of market drivers. Their firm hosts periodic Market Updates; the most recent update included two book recommendations. The update and book contents so closely expanded upon themes brought up by the State Demographer at our

Recent Economic Summit from an investor's perspective. There really is a shortage of workers. Globalization has displaced a whole lot of the workforce. Wealth inequality is structurally disruptive. We are in a debt cycle making our economy much weaker than the stock market or other traditional indicators make it appear. In short, we are entering a very dangerous time that is driving populism (though the structural issues have little to do with much of what is so hotly contested in the current Culture Wars). Their update and the books have me seeing the news quite differently:

- CPI is at a 40-year high of 8.5% - meaning of course, the prices paid by consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services is also at a 40-year high
- Corporate profits are at a 50-year peak – which means the rich are getting richer
- The “dependency” rate (unproductivity) in America is rapidly increasing – costs for providing services to our dependents (dementia patients, elder care, medical care, etc.) is rapidly increasing.
- Blame inflation on war, the President, the Saudis, but it is a structural, long-term cycle
- Only a handful of corporate and governmental policy actions can alter these trends

The term populism is often used while not always understood, refers to range of political stances that emphasize the idea that the issues of ordinary people are disregarded, often pitting these same people against the ‘elites’. When compared with the takeaways from above, it is no wonder many people feel disenfranchised and angry.

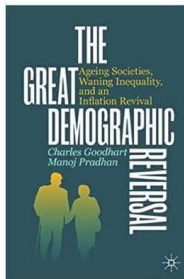
The books recommended by Brue and Baukol highlight these and other issues along with noting that it is possible to leverage populism to protect our democracy with well thought out policy decisions. I urge you to add these books below to your reading list. Our future depends on it.

For an expanded discourse on the books and their implications, check out [my blog here](#).

Jon Stavney

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Suggested reading:

Brue & Boukol Recommendation:

The Changing World Order: Why Nations Succeed and Fail - Ray Dalio

The Great Demographic Reversal: Ageing Societies, Waning Inequality and an Inflation Revival - Economists Charles Goodhart and Manoj Pradhan

Other related resources:

How Civil Wars Start - Barbara F. Walter

How Democracies Die - Stephen Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt

January 6th Committee Addresses Intimidation of Local Election Officials



As much press as the one person harassing a Supreme Court Judge has rightfully received—intimidation & harassment of public officials performing their duties has arrived at the local level. Such actions are against U.S. norms and law, and are a direct threat to the rule of law. Not enough focus has been put on how much pressure was put on election workers to commit fraud during and after the 2020 election. That pressure was directed by those falsely accusing those very workers of fraud. Yes, truth has turned inside out lately.

The January 6th Committee’s Tuesday June 21 hearing focused on the direct intimidation of election workers. The condemnation of such activities (or ignoring of it) is of broad importance to ALL local governments, most of whom manage elections and have done so ethically for years using citizen volunteers to augment capacity of

professional staff. Colorado has been among the most highly rated election processes. That fact may not deter those wishing to intimidate workers in coming elections.

Unfortunate efforts to actively overturn a lost election by the past President have extended to his supporters. It has enabled those who would destabilize our country. Harassing local and state election workers including showing up at their homes, leaving death threats to volunteers, staff and family members appears to be becoming normalized with one single election. Between the November election date and January 6th that intimidation has succeeded in some of the intended results. It did not change the election result, but it has caused many good people to think twice about doing work that requires thousands of citizens across the country each election to operate successfully.

Election fraud has been extremely rare. The norm of respect for this work, and for harassment of those carrying out official duties has now been damaged. It appears from the hearings that none of those individuals during the 2020 election succumbed to the intense pressure placed on them from the nation’s highest office to disobey their oaths and duties, but many of them have since quit. Below are some quotes from the hearing and coverage of the hearing. For any of you who think this is something in the past that is no longer important, you must think again. Local law enforcement and government agencies

will have to be on heightened alert during what used to be routine public elections that for centuries have quietly anchored our Constitutionally an anchored our Democracy. Those who step forward to volunteer now, or to work in those roles will have to muster courage that was unimaginable for what used to be a few days of relatively boring public service operated often by elderly citizens looking to serve their country. We must look after them just as vigorously as we protect any Supreme Court Justice. Some quotes from the Thursday June 21, 2022 January 6th Committee Hearings:

"Do you know how it feels to have the President of the United States target you? The President of the United States is supposed to represent every American, not to target one. But he targeted me."

Ruby Freeman, Georgia Local Election Worker testifying to January 6th Committee, she was advised by the FBI to leave her home for two months because it wasn't safe for her to be home

"When Ronald Reagan described it as a kind of miracle in the eyes of the world. He was exactly right. Other countries use violence to seize and hold power. But not in the United States, not in America.... And when he used the power of his Presidency to put the enormous pressure on state and local election officials, and his own vice president, it became downright dangerous. On January 6th, that pressure became deadly.... In city councils and town councils, school boards and election boards from the Congress to the Courts, dedicated public servants are leaving their posts due to death threats to them and their families. This is not who we are."

Closing comments 6/21/2022, Representative, Adam Schiff

"No one who truly believes they are right threatens to hurt anyone for expressing a contrary view. The snarling threat of violence never comes from people who calmly believe they are in the right. It is always the instant resort of the bully who feels the hot flush of shame rising in the cheeks and the cold rock of fear dropping in the pit of the stomach."

Tom Nichols, contributing writer for NYT on "Secret Doubt"

This matters to all of us.

NWCCOG and The Insight Collective: a conversation continues



COL-LEC-TIV-IST:
A disciplined and cooperative work focus, based on the greater good.

Great conversations continue between NWCCOG and the team at The Insight Collective this week, our second follow up since their presentation at our Economic

Summit which I summarized in the second story in the [May e-news here](#). Comprised of long-time Destination Management experts who advise DMOs and quite many resort towns, the TIC members present at our recent Summit were Ralf Garrison, Barb Taylor Carpender, Chris Cares, Tom Foley, Carl Rimbaudo and Dave Belin. Their Think-Tank expands upon work in NWCCOG's Mountain Migration Report, identifying many Forces at Play which they [blog about](#). You may have read one of these in a local mountain paper as they were reprinted in many in recent months.

The group is pivoting to advise Municipal and County Managers in how to translate those trends into actionable policy, and not just for places that historically self-identify as resorts. It is one thing to identify that one's a community from a place made up of "locals" that happens to support a nearby resort to one that is fast on the way to being dominated by recent forces. If you have thoughts about how NWCCOG could partner with TIC to advise, create tools, strategies or policy for you, please let me know.

Vintage in the news



Spruce up Colorado

NWCCOG staff helped clean up a section of Highway 9 as part of The Colorado Department of Transportation's Spruce Up Colorado program. In just half a mile, staff packed 19 bags with roadside trash and removed pounds of additional trash that was too big to fit in bags (tires, igloo lids, buckets, and lots of lumber). Some of the treasures cast aside included a pair of Levi jeans, two license plates, dozens of pairs of work gloves, one face mask, and hundreds of alcohol bottles. Staff agreed that you can make a big difference in a short amount of time and encourage others to take a little time and clean up some trash the next time you take a walk (or join NWCCOG on

our next clean up day!). In the wise words of Oscar the Grouch, "Just because you're trash doesn't mean you can't do great things. It's called "garbage can", not "garbage cannot."



Lenka's Loving Care Receive Funds for A+ Certified Home Care Agency Certification through Vintage

Vintage applied for SB290 funds on behalf of Lenka's Loving Care, Summit County's in-home, non-medical home care agency, to complete a three-year, "A+ Certification Program" through the Home Care Standards Bureau. The 2021 Colorado Bill allocated fifteen million dollars to Area Agencies on Aging to assist and support the health, well-being, and security of Older Coloradans. According to a 2021 report from PHI, the nation's leading authority on the direct care workforce, "the need for [paid caregivers'] assistance is increasing precipitously as our population grows older and the

supply of family caregivers diminishes." Lenka's Loving Care not only provides the instrumental support needed for Summit County residents to age in place, but without these services, our community members would have to leave the county to receive the assistance they need. The Certification will allow Lenka's Loving Care to reach more of the older adults in our community.



Tina receives Professional Advancement Certificate in Gerontology from UCCS Gerontology Center

Long Term Care Ombudsman and Vintage team member, Tina Strang, completed an 82-hour course at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, in Gerontology. The program is designed to enhance the understanding of aging-related issues by providing the most recent information and research findings in the field of gerontology. Congratulations, Tina!

Additional Funds to Expand BEECH



The NWCCOG Energy Program is in the news again with a June 8th [article in the Vail Daily](#). This article announced the expansion of funds for the Beneficial Electrification for Eagle County Homes (BEECH) for an additional 125 homes to have significant energy improvements made by 2027. As mentioned in previous articles and [newsletters](#), this program is a partnership between the State, Eagle County, and the NWCCOG's Energy Program to help qualified renters and homeowners receive modifications to their homes to help reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.

Doug Jones, program director of the Energy Program is excited about the opportunity. As quoted in the Vail Daily article, he says, "We've always been good at saving energy and helping people in need, but Eagle County really inspired us to do more, and we started looking at how we could add an electrification package and save more on greenhouse gases." The expansion of this program, plus additional funding will mean adding staff to the organization. Plans are underway to open a new operational center in the very near future. Expect announcements in the next newsletter. Stay tuned.

Photo: Doug Jones with constituents at Dotsero Mobile Home Park - Site of BEECH trial program

Carmen Flores – Readiness and Response Coordinator – Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition

Carmen has been working in Emergency Preparedness & Response since



2018. In her role as a Regional Emergency Preparedness & Response Specialist at Mesa County Public Health, she had the opportunity to work with public health and emergency preparedness partners in the Northwest and West Regions of Colorado, and lead the Regional Operations Branch of the COVID-19 Response. After 1.5 years of COVID-19 Response, Carmen transitioned into the role of a Community Health Planner at Public Health, where she led strategic planning with stakeholders to achieve large-scale systemic change to reduce substance abuse, prevent child maltreatment, and address the mental health crisis in Mesa County. She is a socially inclined professional who believes in positivity, professionalism and fostering meaningful connections to those around her. She is happy to return to the Emergency Preparedness & Response community to support the Northwest Region of Colorado.

To contact Carmen: nwrhcc@nwccog.org 970-623-6422

The Infrastructure Summit - July 11

The Infrastructure Summit will help local governments navigate the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunities.

About this event

This one day hybrid summit is designed for local governments and will include the following topics:

- An overview of IIJA funding opportunities
- Capacity support the State is building to address local needs
- The opportunity for local governments to ask project specific questions to State and Federal representatives
- Unveiling of IIJA State Match program

Both virtual and in person options are available. Please note the in person option does have a capacity limit

Please follow this [link](#) to register

Northwest All Hazards Emergency Management Regional Coordinator - Position Opening

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) is seeking a qualified individual to serve as the coordinator for the Northwest All Hazards Emergency Management Region (NWAHEMR). This is a part time, contract position.

The NWAHEMR is a ten-county region located in the northwest corner of the state. It is comprised of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit counties. An Executive Board, made up of each county's Emergency Manager, meets on a regular basis to develop strategies to improve the emergency preparedness of the region through the use of homeland security grant funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. NWCCOG provides fiscal management and program coordination for the NWAHEMR. This is a part-time, contracted position at the hourly rate of up to \$60/hour and the estimated amount of (yearly average) time required is 10- 15 hours/week.

For complete description [click here](#). Proposals will be accepted until close of business on July 12, 2022. To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, and a list of professional references to: office@nwccog.org

Next Council Meeting - Thursday, JULY 7, 2022

Full Council Meeting, EDD Board Meeting

Location: Zoom Conference Call, On-site location TBD

Time: Council 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - EDD 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Primary Agenda Items: Approval of 2023 Membership Dues; discussion re: Annual Planning Meeting agenda; approve May minutes