



January 19th, 2026

Issue #21

### **“Buy All The Things”**

There is a refrain being reiterated among investors these days: “Buy All The Things, Not the Paper.” What this means is that people with money are trading their paper assets (stocks, bonds, and other promissory notes) in exchange for physical assets: land, commodities, precious metals, etc.

In case you haven’t noticed, the price of silver has spiked some 200% in the past year. It doubled, then doubled again. Under \$20/ounce, it is now over \$100/oz., at least in the Asian markets.

This is a spectacular advance which some people think is a bubble, but with every attempt by the banks in recent weeks to smash the price of silver, it marches on.

Why is that?

Partly, it is because the price has been suppressed for many years. It is just catching up to monetary realities of decades of inflation.

The other part is that silver has become the queen of metals because of its new found industrial uses: 1) stable batteries, beating out the volatile lithium, 2) efficient solar panels, 3) the new generation of cell phone technology, 4) anti-microbials in medicine, and 5) missile guidance systems.

As of the 14th of January, the President has declared silver a strategic mineral for national security purposes. That announcement has

created a permanent price floor to end the years of price suppression . . . and EPA meddling.

Expect that the mines in the Silver Valley corridor (Wallace, Kellogg, etc.) to be reopened. Environmental fanatics made operating the mines unprofitable. Those days are over. The boom is back.

If you are like most people, we may not benefit directly from this new situation. Most of us don’t own much silver and Benewah County does not have any defunct silver mines. But we will benefit from the trickle-down effect.

Back to “buying all the things,” to beat the scarcity which inflation causes, consider stockpiling your living supplies. A lot of us did that anyway during the pandemic. You might consider making that a permanent life-style choice.

Got a spare bedroom? Use it for food storage instead. Build an extra storage shed to store supplies for car and property maintenance.

“A penny saved is a penny earned.”

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### **The County CAFR 2024**

As expected, the 2024 CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) offered no clues on the current County fiscal crisis. We won’t see that until the 2025 CAFR which will likely come out in 2027, conveniently after the next election.

Did you notice this is an election year? County and state positions are up for reelection. Do you think they are doing a good job?

Don't forget. This is a one party state. The opposition party is 1/3 the size of the ruling party. The election will be decided in the May primaries, not in November. The November election is just a rubber stamp on what was decided in the primaries. If you want your vote to count, you have to vote in May.

### Harvest Reports

Area farmers are doing well. But for most of us in our little "McCroskey Township," small-scale farming, gardening and animal husbandry are the principal interests.

Did you notice my unharvested pumpkins this year? They will have to become compost, but at least I have learned that I can grow them well.

There has been some discussion on setting up a farmer's market in town. If you are interested, drop us a note. Highway 95 is an important corridor. When we had the Pick-Your-Own strawberry patch many years ago, it was a big hit. I think a permanent outlet in town would do well in marketing the surplus of local gardeners.

Give it some thought.

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## ***The McCroskey Agrarian***

1435 Desmet Rd.  
Desmet, ID 83824



## **Are They Rewriting Local History?**

Did you notice the two new highway signs at the Desmet trucker's turnout?

Gone is the old sign about the DeSmet Mission and gone is the sign about McCroskey State Park.

What have they put in its place? Check it out and let me know how you feel about it. More next month.

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## **Volunteers Wanted: Clearing Debris in McCroskey State Park**

The wind storms have left a lot of downed trees blocking the Skyline Drive that runs through the park. This is too much for one person to deal with. It makes winter use of the park impossible. **Contact Lisa if you want to help: 208-750-5306**

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*The McCroskey Agrarian* (©copyright, 2026) is a newsletter for the McCroskey Territorial Agrarian Society. It is published monthly and after a two-week delay, it is published to the [savebenewahcounty.com](http://savebenewahcounty.com) website.

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**Next Issue: Local History, Setting the Record Straight, Celebrating America's Sesquicentennial and more local news.**

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*If you missed the previous newsletters, you can find them at [savebenewahcounty.com](http://savebenewahcounty.com).* James Stivers, Editor/Publisher [jwstivers1@gmail.com](mailto:jwstivers1@gmail.com). Let us know if your postal carrier failed to deliver your copy.

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