

# San Miguel Basin Forum

## WATER

### The ditch water is on

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

As it's happened every year for more than a century, thanks to the pioneers that made the diversion from the San Miguel River to bring water from Pinion to Nucla, the ditch water has been turned on. While that might seem like an overnight accomplishment, there's more to it for the Colorado Cooperative Company than flipping a switch to get farmers, ranchers and gardeners the water they need to survive.

Stan Galley, of Galley Ranches, told the Forum on Monday the work starts at the end of March or beginning of April in preparation — “as soon as the weather lets us,” he said.

Dean Nasland, the ditch superintendent and his crew, make sure the ditch is clear from pinion. They have to make sure the laterals are clean, and patch any trestles that need repair. Any structure related to the ditch must be fixed before the water is let out.

“We've got 16 miles of ditch before it gets from Pinion to the Park,” Galley said, “and, 22 miles of laterals — We have to make sure everything is ready to go.”

This year, there were many rocks that fell in the ditch that the crew had to get out. Galley said the ditch company owns a front-end loader, bulldozer and backhoe, and most of the work is done with that equipment, though sometimes the board does have to hire an excavator if it's a major job.

There's additional work for Nasland in “setting all the boxes” and making sure people are getting the shares they rent or own. Nasland spends a good amount of time out in the field supervising the ditch.

Galley said there are 3,250 shares in the system available. He agreed many of those shares are the oldest rights on the San Miguel River.

He said it should be a good water year. There has been above average snowpack for the high country, and as long as that snowpack melts slowly, it should run off and feed the watershed. Galley said unfortunately, the snow can sometimes melt off too rapidly when temperatures get very hot and windy early in the year, and in that case the water mostly evaporates and doesn't necessarily feed the river.

He said he's glad there was moisture last fall, which helps the conditions. He's now hoping for a slow thaw in the high country.

The Colorado Cooperative Company has monthly meetings, held in the antique building at the

*Cont. on Pg. 4*

## EDUCATION

### Tension is high in Paradox due to closure



PVS is set to close, and some are angry about it. (Courtesy image)

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Paradox Valley School is set to close this year, due to low enrollment numbers and ongoing financial trouble. The school held a community town hall April 20, and head of school Heather Gunn said the energy was tense.

She said it's evident that people in Paradox want someone to blame. She said there are families who previously sent their kids to

the school now upset that it's failing. Gunn said those the most outraged are not involved in PVS now.

Gunn moved to Paradox last year. She said closing the school and working herself out of a job wasn't her goal. She said she's spent her own money relocating, and also strained her family relationships to try and help PVS thrive. A closure wasn't her intention.

Gunn told the Forum, “you don't know what you don't know,” and that was the experience she had stepping in to lead the charter

school, and the experience of the new school board, too.

Prior to Gunn's onboarding, the school was already operating in reserves. She said the last head of school donated and lent money to the school to try and help it succeed. Covering payroll was a challenge before Gunn ever arrived, and that's something angry people in Paradox are overlooking. There was also a mass exodus from the school in 2021, when many teachers left and so did students.

*Cont. on Pg. 2*

## ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

### The Mendocino woodworker makes tensile tables

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Paul Koski has been a woodworker his entire life. After he got out of the U.S. Navy, he went back to the Bay Area to be a part of the “land movement” and environmental activism. He purchased property in Mendocino with money he'd saved in the service and lived off the grid 25 miles from the coast.

Koski's grandfather was a cabinet maker, which impacted him. He was also influenced by the older people in Mendocino, too.

When he moved to Nucla, he continued woodworking. In fact, he worked for John Herndon and Spydor Wood Products for a decade, refining his craft in cabinetry and doors — very high-end work. He had a small catalog business over the



Paul Koski shows one of his tensile tables. (Courtesy image)

*Cont. on Pg. 3*

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

### Baseball coach aims for wins this week

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Nucla Mustang baseball team, a combined team of Nucla and Norwood high school kids, had a record of 7-8 as of press time Tuesday morning, but head coach Randy Gabriel was hoping for wins later on Tuesday afternoon against Ignacio. The guys were set to play their last home game of the season in a double-header at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

This Friday, the guys head to districts to again face Ignacio, which is considered a tough team.

“Yes, they're pretty good,” Gabriel said.

The Mustangs were slated to play Antonito in district play, while Dove Creek had a bye. Still, there was a chance that Dove Creek could have to face Centennial. Assistant coach and athletic director Kelly Arnold was working on the details of that other game, but it was not known as of press time. Gabriel said there was some organization issue with teams in the valley.

The winner of this Friday's game, Nucla versus Antonita, will play Dove Creek — or the winner of Dove Creek versus Centennial.

Incidentally, Dove Creek is the only 1A team that Nucla plays.

Gabriel has said repeatedly this season the Mustangs are a young team. The hitting has improved, and they guys are not striking out as much. They are putting the ball in play at least.

“We are starting to play better,” he said “We still make too many errors.”

Coach said the Mustangs need to play about 50 games this season — not just 15.

Starting pitchers are P.J. Hulst and Steele Arnold, with Brycen Rummel and Jake Hulst as relief. Catcher is Owen Tackett. Paxtin Caruso is first-baseman.

Gabriel said he was hoping for two wins on Tuesday and two wins on Friday.

“We'll see which team shows up,” he said.

If the guys advance this weekend in district play, they'll compete in the regionals next weekend. The Top 4 teams then go to four different sites for a total of 16 teams competing at a chance for the state tournament. Coach said the Mustangs will have to win both games, or their record won't be good enough to move on.

Regardless, Tuesday's game was the last home game for senior P.J. Hulst.

“We appreciate him traveling every day from Telluride,” Gabriel said. “It's a huge commitment. We

*Cont. on Pg. 4*

TIPS FROM THE WEST END POSSE

# Time change

By MARK RACKAY

Anybody who hunts, and to a lesser extent fishes, has their day afield geared around sunrise and sunset. Game laws in most states allow legal hunting hours as early as a half hour before sunrise, ending a half hour after sunset. Some states do not allow the extra half hours, so you best check the latest regs.

When I was a kid, we did not have the cell phones or computers to tell us when sunrise and sunset was. The times were printed on the back of the Colorado license. It based the time on a place in eastern Colorado, and you were to add one minute to the sunrise or sunset for each 12.5 miles you were west of that point as the crow flies.

That took a lot of figuring for a kid that was not particularly doing that well in school. The chart assumed I knew how many miles we were away from the starting point, or knew how to read a map. I possessed neither a map nor a watch, so I winged it.

Today, there are special apps downloadable to your phone that can give you exact times for the precise place you are standing. An internet protocol, called the Network Time Protocol, automatically updates and synchronizes your cell phones and computers to the time changes.

I miss the old way.

To complicate matters, we just had yet another time change. Spring forward and fall backward. We have been told all kinds of reasons for this ridiculous shifting of the hours, but most of them are false. I might point out, the correct term is "daylight saving," not "savings," time.

In 1916, Germany became the first country to officially adopt DST. The idea was an effort to conserve coal during WWI, and the UK and a handful of other European countries quickly followed suit. The U.S. adopted DST in 1918, during the war, but ceased observation after the war ended.

The oil embargo of the 1970s kicked off a nationwide energy crisis, and in 1974 DST was brought back during the winter months in an effort to save energy. Critics of the plan argued they did not want their kids walking to school or the bus stops before sunrise.

Studies have shown that the time change does not really save any energy. Changing the clocks can save folks on lighting expenses, but the cost of heating and air conditioning tends to rise. The extra hour DST provides only works if people spend the time outside.

People think that it was farmers who wanted DST, but they actually lobbied against it. The people who supported it were local chambers of commerce and various industries. In 1986, when DST was extended from six months to seven, the grill and charcoal industry said they gained 200 million in gross sales.

Department stores were one of the biggest supporters of DST. They lobbied that more daylight means more business, because commuters leaving work while the sun was shining were more inclined to shop on their way home.

DST was extended to eight months because of massive lobbying by the candy industry. Previously, it ended on the last Sunday of October, before Halloween and all the trick-or-treaters. The National Association of Convenience Stores lobbied that the extension would result in more candy sales, because of the added daylight for the kids, and in 2007, the extension went into effect.

Today, there are 71 countries using DST. This represents about 40 percent of the world. Countries around the equator experience very little fluctuation in the amount of daylight throughout the year, and as a result, most do not use DST. Thirty-eight countries in Africa alone have never used it.

The months of DST keeps growing with Congress having extended the length three times. Today, it runs for eight months, but that may change too. Congress is kicking around the Sunshine Protection Act that would make DST permanent, meaning no more time changes twice a year.

Colorado is officially part of the growing coalition of states to stop changing the clock twice a year. Gov. Jared Polis signed HB22-1297 last June, for Colorado to have permanent daylight saving time. It may not happen, because the caveat is that at least four other states in the Mountain Time Zone have to adopt similar laws. Between the Feds and the individual states, it looks like permanent DST is coming.

*Mark Rackay is a columnist for several newspapers, as well as a feature writer for multiple salt-water fishing magazines. He is an avid hunter and world-class salt-water angler, who travels around the world in search of adventure. He serves as a director and public information officer for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. For information about the posse, call 970-986-1071 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org.*

## History: Rimrocker Historical Society The Vestal House, Part 5

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

Cornelius Cooper and Lincoln Vestal, along with the other colonists, were busy building up the town of Nucla. Mr. Cooper had a thriving hardware store and sawmill business providing lumber and merchandise for building the new homes in Nucla, and Mr. Vestal was selling furniture for all of these new homes. They were both involved in the administrative efforts of building a new town and in the social activities of the community. Articles from the newspapers show that both these men, as well as others, were confident in this new utopian community. But then ... one of many disasters that befell the growing town happened to the Cooper family.

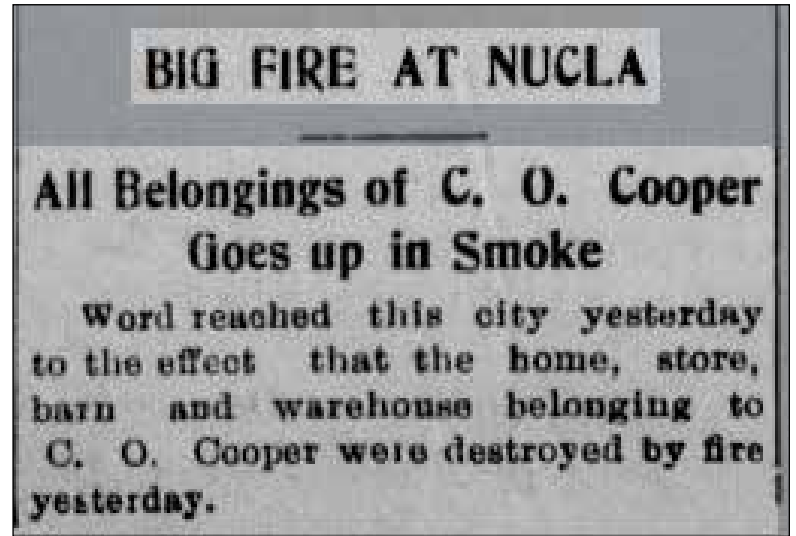
This headline from the Montrose Daily Press of Aug. 28, 1911: NUCLA VICTIM OF A \$12,000 BLAZE, FIRE IS THOUGHT INCENDIARY.

"News reached Montrose Sunday evening to the effect that C.O. Cooper of Nucla suffered a \$12,000 loss from a fire which destroyed his lumber yard, hardware store, barn, buggy shed and dwelling late Friday night.

At about 11:30 p.m. someone discovered that a blaze had sprung up in the buggy shed, which was situated about 15 feet from the house, and an alarm immediately brought everyone to the seat of the fire.

Before an organized brigade could get to work, it was found that nothing could save the shed, so attention was immediately turned toward the saving of the house. Then, a peculiar thing happened.

Although the barn was situated about 100 feet from the burning building, and there was not enough wind stirring to carry much burning material, it was discovered that the barn was on fire. Attention was now turned in that direction, but in spite of all that could be done, it was soon apparent that nothing could save the second building from destruction. The fire then spread rapidly, and it became apparent that the entire property of Mr. Cooper was



The 1911 Nucla fire was tragic. (Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

doomed.

The hardware store was soon blazing, and the heat in the vicinity became so fierce that nothing could be done but to prevent the brands from setting adjoining property on fire.

Some goods were rescued from the store and house, but the amount saved did not total more than \$100. The entire loss was estimated at \$12,000, and only a small portion of this was covered by insurance.

The peculiar fact about the occurrence was that the fire apparently started from both the shed and the barn at the same time, and this leads Mr. Cooper to believe that the conflagration was of incendiary origin."

A little more of the story (and eloquently written) came from the Naturita Valley Record and was carried in the Montrose Enterprise of Sept. 7, 1911:

"Thursday night, a week, misfortune, with no compromise to offer, overtook C.O. Cooper and his family in Nucla. The force that destroyed a remunerative mercantile business and the cozy home of the Coopers was fire, and was first seen by G. Chrisman, who was Mr. Cooper's nearest business neighbor, and who, report says, first discovered a blaze under the front entrance platform of the commodious building well-filled with general merchandise. At about the same time, it is said, flames were seen to leap up from a small hay-

stack at the rear of the store, and a third blaze broke out from a small building located on the rear of the premises. The well-furnished home of the Coopers adjoining the store structure made it hard to determine which of the two buildings first yielded to the gluttony of the flame. The alarms given by Mr. Chrisman brought the members of the Cooper household out in scant attire.

Volunteer firefighters assembled with the sounding of the alarm, but lacking in proper armament, it was impossible to stay the on-rushing foe which quickly made bleak, black and bare the patch of ground erstwhile occupied by the monuments of energy and business thrift.

Fire's inventory included a large stock of merchandise, four buildings, household furniture, clothing and jewelry. Practically not a dollar's worth was saved. The loss is placed at about \$12,000, with \$3,000 insurance.

In this great financial loss, Mr. Cooper has the sincere sympathy of many friends. The opinion is freely expressed that the fire was set, and was the dastardly act of someone who sought vengeance for some real or fancied injury."

What a tragic loss for the Cooper family and for the community, too. Would he bounce back, and what would Nucla do without a hardware store?

To be continued ...

### FREE LEGAL AID

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## POLITICS

# Rep. Catlin's ag workforce bill is now law

## SPECIAL TO THE POST

Colorado State Representative Marc Catlin saw HB23-1094, Extend Agricultural Workforce Development Program, become a law. The law extends the terminal date the program will exist. Also, the law allows for the agricultural workforce development program internships to last for one year, instead of just a six-month period.

The program was created in 2018 for Colorado's agriculture industry to find and train interns to help build a well-trained workforce. The development program financially incentivizes farmers, ranchers and ag businesses to hire and provide hands-on training to individuals who would like to pursue a career

in agriculture. The online information for the ag workforce development program can be found online at [ag.colorado.gov/markets/agricultural-workforce-development-program](http://ag.colorado.gov/markets/agricultural-workforce-development-program).

The law was signed by Governor Jared Polis on April 25 and received 93 percent approval from all state legislators. The prime sponsors in the Colorado House of Representatives were Meghan Lukens (D-HD26) of Routt County and Marc Catlin (R-HD58) of Montrose County. The prime sponsors in the Colorado Senate were Dylan Roberts (D-SD8) of Eagle County and Rod Pelton (R-SD35) of Cheyenne County.

"This is legislation that will help build the bench of agriculture in

the state of Colorado," Rep. Catlin said. "Agriculture has remained on the outskirts of town, quietly doing its job providing for communities. This legislation recognizes the farmers' 401K is their land and way of life. This law is one way to protect their investment. Colorado should be proud of its agricultural community."

Rep. Catlin represents the eight counties of Dolores, Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel. He vice chairs the Agriculture, Water, & Natural Resources Committee, is a member of the Capital Development Committee and is ranking member of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.



Koski built the booths in the old Robo's Bar on Main Street in Nucla. (Courtesy image)

## Mendocino woodworker

Cont. from Pg. 1

years, too, that was also "semi-successful." At some point, he bought the old Nucla theater from the late Dale Williams to turn it into a shop.

When he got it, there were 200 seats on a rotten, sloped floor, which used to hold Williams' auctions. The building was built in WW2 when no steel was available. It was constructed of 1x4 local pine boards in 32-foot arches. Koski redid the interior, put in a concrete floor and set up shop.

During his time in Nucla, Koski has learned other skills: drywall, roofing, concrete. But woodworking is his passion. Now he's finally retired and can "putter around" in his space, which he describes is like being inside of a boat.

He's made so many different things. He was fascinated by geodesic dome houses in California and built three of them there. In Nucla he's done projects like custom kitchen and bathroom cabinets and a Finnish sauna. He built the

booths in what was formerly Robo's Bar (now the liquor store) on Main Street in Nucla. A few people still have some of those old booths. He did work inside the Vestal House, too, and made the trophy case at the Nucla Fire House. He's made other household items like chests and signs for people.

Now, he's crafting tensile tables, structures he said that are more artistic than anything. He's been experimenting with cables, angles and attachments to create an illusion of a floating platform. When Art Goodtimes, of San Miguel County, saw the tables, he immediately thought they should be in a gallery in Telluride where people could admire or purchase them. Koski said he's just making them on his own accord, to experiment, rather than sell.

"Because it's more fun than anything," he said.

He hasn't exactly perfected the tensile table, but the process brings him joy. He tested one recently with the weight of a pet cat, which did

show him that the structure could collapse if the weight on top isn't carefully distributed. The physics of the work interests him.

Koski never went to college. He's just a high school graduate who loves design work and has learned a lot in his trade.

For him, life in the West End has been "a great ride," though Nucla has changed a lot over the years. In 1979, he said it was a hopping place; so was Naturita. There were dances every weekend, live bands, and probably four watering holes. He said the communities were filled with young people ... until it changed overnight when the bottom dropped out of the uranium industry. Many of his friends have left, though some of them, specifically geologists, have returned to the area to retire.

He's also enjoying retirement. He has a home, the Mendocino Wood Shop and a water share for his garden. Carving wood is something he'd like to do more of in the future.

## Paradox closure

Cont. from Pg. 1

Gunn said the school's financial records and board meeting minutes are open to the public. She believes in transparency, and all are welcome to examine the budget and ask questions. So far, nobody is really asking, however.

Gunn said she, the board and teachers are "getting a hard time" right now. One Paradox citizen stood up at the community meeting and requested the school board members all resign now, because they'd failed the school and community.

But with only 18 kids in PVS, how can it work?

Gunn said they need like 90 or more kids to make the school function. At this point, she could probably only get 10 from Paradox. The rest have to be bussed in from Naturita or Norwood, and that requires more costs for transportation and drivers.

Gunn said the Town of Paradox is in decline. She said there is no growth, no new homes and if the school cannot transport kids in, then it's out of money.

"It's not financially feasible," she said. "It doesn't work operationally."

As head of school, Gunn also had to work answering phones, subbing for the kitchen cook, mowing the yard, and doing other things like patching the roof and capping pipes for plumbing issues. She said the school has basically looked abandoned, and nobody has stepped up to ask what they can do to help.

More importantly, Gunn said nobody is asking what is best for kids. Not one community member would serve the school's accountability committee, which is another requirement for operation.

Gunn said the PVS closure has nothing to do with incompetence of the board, staff or administration. Though, she always asks the question, "What could we do better for a better outcome?"

Gunn added she has a good working relationship with Clint Wytulka, superintendent of West End Public Schools, the charter's authorizer. She said PVS has been out of compliance since 2019, and Wytulka has had the power to shut the school down since then. She said the superintendent has tried to give them a chance.

"Clint could have put the kabash on this year before it even started, and he didn't," she said.

## San Miguel Basin Forum

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| Co-Op Country Store        | West End Family Link              |
| Community Bible Fellowship | West End Spa , LLC                |
| Hoof & Paw Thrift Store    |                                   |



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The young Mustangs have a come a long way, but have room to grow. (Photo by Amanda Pierce)

## Baseball coach

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

will miss him.”

Gabriel said all the guys have done a lot of growing up along the way this year.

“Yes, they work hard,” he said. “And we will have everyone back next year.”

He said the team is now just going with “what they’ve got” for the end of the season and will not

make any excuses.

Coach’s son, Will Gabriel who is a pitcher for UC-Colorado Springs also finishes his season this weekend. UCCS will have to win three of four games this weekend against the Colorado School of Mines to advance to their tournament in college baseball.

In his free time, coach watches the Colorado Rockies.

“I’m a home state guy,” he said.

## Ditch water

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

corner of 5th Avenue, an old, original Pinion home that was brought to town years ago. Nine people sit on the ditch board, with Aimee Tooker serving as secretary. The board also holds its annual meeting in January.

It should be a good year for hay. Galley expects to get three cuttings of alfalfa, and two of grass. He

said cows traveling up to the high country should get plenty of grass, when it warms up and things start to grow.

His lineage goes back to the ditch’s origin. His grandmother had a step-father, Miles Bowen, who worked on constructing it. His family has been farming and ranching since then. Galley’s children are fifth-generation ranchers.

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## Roger Knuckles

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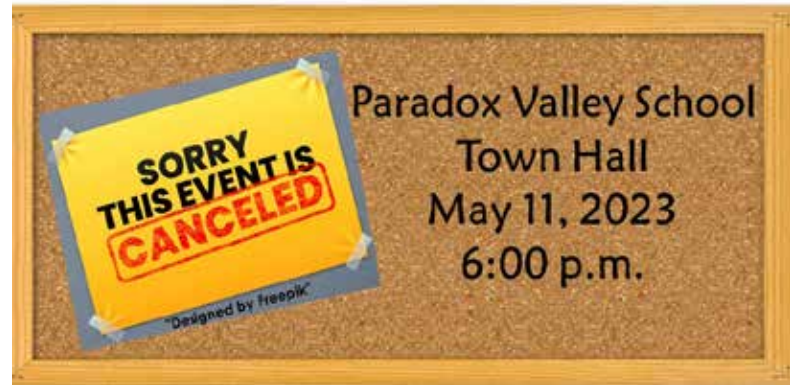
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# NHS practices hands-on learning



**Top:** Jen Nelson and Melanie Eggers from the Apple Core Project teach tree grafting.  
**Middle:** Science class holds a lab.  
**Below:** FFA conducts district officer interviews. (Photos by Malisha Reed)



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## DELTA SALES YARD MARKET REPORT APRIL 27, 2023

300-400# STEERS	2.35-2.70	300-400# HEIFERS	2.40-2.70
400-500# STEERS	2.25-2.60	400-500# HEIFERS	2.20-2.38
500-600# STEERS	2.10-2.45	500-600# HEIFERS	2.05-2.15
600-700# STEERS	1.85-2.15	600-700# HEIFERS	1.85-1.93
700-800# STEERS	1.80-2.02	700-800# HEIFERS	1.65-1.75
800-900# STEERS	1.75-1.90	800-900# HEIFERS	1.55-1.68 top 1.83
Top bulls	High of 1.18	Medium bulls	1.10-1.14
Young Cows	1.00-1.31	Top cows	.96-1.04
Medium cows	.85-.95	Low-yielding cows	.88 down

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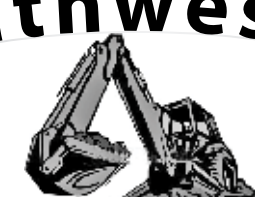
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## West End Montrose County

### Sheriff's Office Blotter

4/18/2023

0317 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a disturbance.

1203 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for an information report.

1853 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of 25 Mesa Road mm 44 near Nucla for a suspicious vehicle.

2008 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an information report.

2028 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a fire.

2332 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 26800 block of FF26 Road near Naturita for a civil standby.

1 follow up report

4/19/2023

0709 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a fire assist.

1133 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

1341 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for an information report.

1533 Hours - Doris Vanness, 66, was contacted in the 500 block of Main Street in Nucla and issued a warning for speeding.

1755 Hours - James Benton, 66, was contacted in the 400 block of Adams Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

2211 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29500 block of 2800 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

1 directed patrol in Naturita  
1 civil process attempted/served

4/20/2023

0812 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29700 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a civil standby.

1048 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31200 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a medical assist.

1153 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.

1529 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla for an alarm.

1653 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 21500 block of 600 Road near Paradox.

2153 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an information report.

2206 Hours - Deputy reported a fire in the 28200 block of 2810 Road near Nucla.

2310 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.

2342 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29800 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a juvenile problem.

1 follow up report  
1 directed patrol in Naturita  
1 civil process attempted/served

4/21/2023

0020 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla for an alarm.

1018 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a civil standby.

1131 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a trespassing report.

1228 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35900 block of Highway 145 near Redvale for a harassment report.

1406 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35100 block of 3575 Road near Redvale for a welfare check.

1 directed patrol in Nucla

4/22/2023

1239 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a theft report.

1503 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Heron Street in Nucla for an accident report.

1523 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of County Road 44ZS near Norwood for an agency assist.

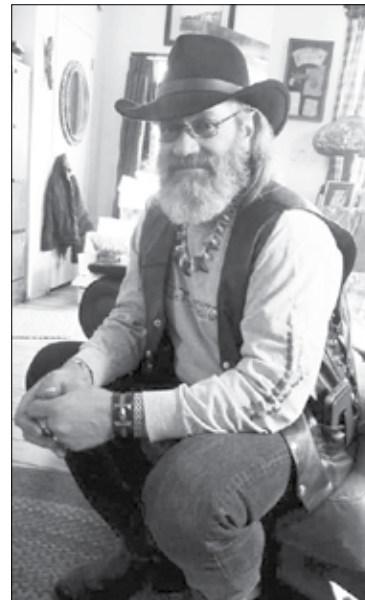
1556 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1400 block of Pine Street in Norwood for an agency assist.

2138 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29700 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a fire.

## OBITUARY

### Roger Wayne Knuckles

Aug. 3, 1964 — Dec. 20, 2022



Roger Wayne Knuckles — son, brother, nephew, father, uncle, cousin and friend — passed Dec. 20, 2022.

He was born Aug. 3, 1964, the son of Richard Wayne Knuckles of Dove Creek and Betty LaDawn Gano (now deceased).

He is survived by his father, younger brother, his ex-wives and his loving girlfriend Minda, and her daughter Josie.

He's also survived by daughter, LaDawn, of Nucla, mother to grandson Elijah, who is father of great-grandson Jon and great-granddaughter Lila; as well as grandson Skyler, of El Paso, Texas. He's survived by son Roger (Melissa) of Billings, Montana, the parents

of granddaughter Kimi, grandson Wyatt, and granddaughters Ariella and Grace; and also his step-daughter Chrystal (Jonathan) Hale of Montrose, Colorado, who are the parents of adopted grandson Tyamren James and granddaughters Roselyn and Violet; and step-son Jeramy (Aspen) Estep of Olathe, Colorado, who are the parents of granddaughters LeiAuna, Brooklyn (deceased), Serenity and grandson Braxton; and also daughter Shayla Knuckles, of Grand Junction, who is the mother of grandson Remington James.

He raised most of them at some point or another.

He was well known to be a jack of many trades, even master of some. He had a love for working with his hands and being very creative. Whether stitching leather work, welding fabrication, he was known as one of the best "blade hands" this side of the Rocky Mountains. I heard about it having dinner with a friend in Steamboat Springs. They heard my last name and immediately went on about my father's blade skills.

Part cowboy and mechanic, he spent many years in construction, trucking and mining, which was also a true passion. He hated rocks in his garden, but had the same love for them too. Just ask anyone that spent time hiking with him.

Never much of a churchgoing man, but he believed in the good Lord above. He loved being outdoors on a hunting trip, camping, fishing, hiking, motorcycle riding and modifying his trucks.

He was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge, now lost by all of us. If something were going on in the shop, Dad was the first to come to mind for coming up with some out-of-the-box fix, which he was extremely good at. Coming up with something out of nothing was his knack.

He was known as a "chicken whisperer." If your chickens wouldn't lay an egg, Dad could generally get an egg out of 'em.

Most anything was sought as treasure. Just ask his family and friends: everything had a use.

There's truly no right way to express who he was in just words. You just had to know.

There was honestly nothing much a warm fire, stiff drink or a good meal couldn't fix.

Growing up in the Four Corners, he raised his family in the middle of everywhere, and the West End. There weren't many that didn't know my father, or the passion for life and fixing things he had. No matter what was going on, the man got up and made it to work, whether he'd had too much fun the evening before, or was sick. He stuck through it and showed up. Owing most everything he had, minus the land he lived on, he worked really hard for it all. He worked trying to make everything better than before.

His love will never be matched in this lifetime. May he rest in peace. We know that life just won't be the same without his chuckles, bear hugs or helpful knowledge. We all deeply miss you, Dad.

Squishy hugs to all.

All are invited to visit the Dignity Memorial Funeral Home in Grand Junction online and view his obituary and add memories.



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## VETERAN MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO

Memorial Services for Veterans - Contact Tom Loczy and VFW at: (970) 428-2268

TEN

## CHANGE TO OBITUARY COST

We will no longer charge for black & white obituaries under 600 words.

TEN

## Study Club meets May 10

Dear Editor,

The Ute Trail Study Club will meet May 10 at noon in the Redvale Community Building. Our speaker this month is Jane Thompson, speaking on the history of Paradox. This should be a great presentation by one of our best local historians. This is also our combined birthday celebration for all of our members. We will celebrate with a dinner of sloppy joes, salads and lots of cake. We will also have a hat contest, so decorate a hat or wear something you have hanging around, in the spirit of spring time.

Our regular meeting will be held after Jane's presentation.

The Redvale Community Building Board meets on the first Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. in Redvale. These meetings discuss the work on the building and the grounds in an effort of constant improvement. Please attend if you want your voice heard.

Thank you, and hope to see there.

Rebecca Rogers  
REDDVALE

## LEGAL PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NUCLA, STATE OF COLORADO  
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS WITHIN TOWN LIMITS. THIS ORDINANCE SUPERSEDES ORDINANCES 2022-02 IN ENTIRETY AND ANY OTHER LAWS OR ORDINANCES CURRENTLY IN EFFECT THAT WOULD CONTRADICT THE REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS ORDINANCE

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum May 3 & 10, 2023

## LEGAL PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NUCLA, STATE OF COLORADO  
ORDINANCE 2023-05

AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE ALLEYWAY WEST OF IVY STREET AND WEST OF JUNIPER STREET, SOUTH OF 5TH AVENUE AND NORTH OF 6TH AVENUE

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum May 3 & 10, 2023

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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: TV MOMS

### ACROSS

1. Rodeo garb
6. Roman numeral 7
9. Spring occurrence
13. Like Corgi
14. Get a sum
15. Garlic mayo
16. Poet's concern
17. Mail-back request, acr.
18. Handrail post
19. \*Lionel Jefferson's mom
21. \*Keith and Laurie Partridge's mom
23. Watson's, Crick's and Franklin's concern, acr.
24. Big-ticket \_\_\_\_\_
25. #38 Down follower
28. Potter's oven
30. Get by
35. Wyatt Earp's card game
37. Wooden pegs
39. Measuring tool with a bubble
40. Copycat

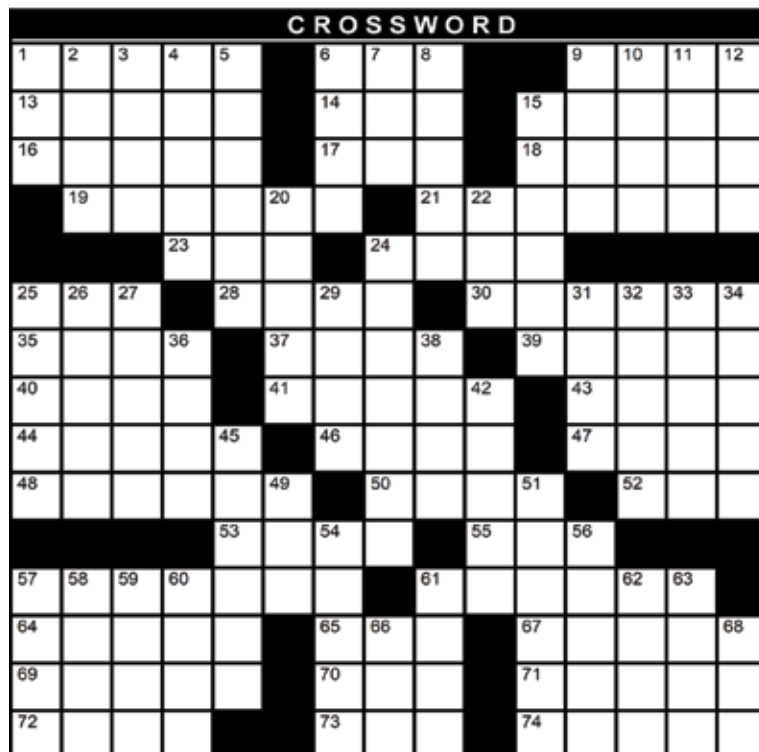
41. All-season \_\_\_\_\_
43. Like certain people's glasses
44. The Great \_\_\_\_\_, Muppet
46. 1 year older than frosh
47. Treat without respect
48. \*Samantha Stephens' mom
50. Four Corners state
52. Unidentified Jane
53. Summit location
55. Like tuna tartare
57. \*Rory Gilmore's mom
61. \*Hilary and Carlton Banks' mom
64. Motionless
65. Actress Thompson
67. Island off Manhattan
69. Skeleton, archaic
70. Lt.'s subordinate
71. Yemeni's neighbor
72. Marines' toy recipients
73. Banned insecticide, acr.
74. Nostrils

### DOWN

1. Basin, without vowels



2. Last piece of a loaf
3. Lowest female singing voice
4. Elvis's blue shoes
5. Harrison Ford or Jason Segel in "Shrinking"
6. Bud holder
7. \*Rhoda Morgenstern's mom
8. "That is" in Latin
9. Wedding cake layer
10. Famous Allen Ginsberg poem
11. Away from wind
12. Skilled in deception
15. G. Orwell's "\_\_\_\_\_ Farm"
20. Valentine, e.g.
22. Bottom line?
24. Inner circle
25. Old enough (2 words)
26. Neutered rooster
27. Influencer's creation
29. \*Meg, Chris and Stewie Griffin's mom
31. Egghead
32. "\_\_\_\_\_ like the plague"
33. Canvas primer
34. \*Alex and Mallory Keaton's mom
36. Pasta option
38. Virgo and Libra mo.
42. \_\_\_\_\_ Lewis, Lamb Chop puppeteer
45. By word of mouth
49. What catastrophe and rata-touille have in common
51. Wear (2 words)
54. Treated with EVOO
56. \*Pebbles Flintstone's mom
57. Law school entry requirement, acr.
58. First name palindrome
59. Civil disorder
60. They're on Freddy's street
61. Widespread
62. Relating to armpit
63. 3 squared
66. Tight one in football
68. Bro's counterpart



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				4				1
		3			5	8	9	

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8	1	7	6	9	4	2	5	3

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<b>3/5</b> Food Club 5 ct. In Water Chunk White <b>Chicken Breast</b>	<b>\$2.79</b> Food Club 64 oz. Select Varieties Apple Cider or <b>Apple Juice</b>	<b>\$3.79</b> Kellogg's 8.6-18 oz. Select Varieties <b>Cereal</b>	
<b>\$2.79</b> Kellogg's 8 ct. Select Varieties Rice Krispies <b>Treats or Pop-Tarts</b>	<b>\$3.49</b> General Mills 5-8 ct. Select Varieties <b>Snack Bars</b>	<b>2/4.99</b> Lu Crix 12 ct. Select Varieties <b>Sparkling Water</b>	
<b>\$3.49</b> Santitas or Pappadums 5-7.75 ct. Select Varieties <b>Snacks</b>	<b>\$2.29</b> Food Club 8-10 ct. Select Varieties <b>Hot Cocoa</b>	<b>2/5</b> Food Club 5-8 ct. Select Varieties <b>Cooking Spray</b>	
<b>2/5</b> Food Club 18 ct. Select Varieties <b>Spread</b>	<b>2/5</b> Fruitables 8-10 ct. Select Varieties <b>Fruit Snacks</b>	<b>\$3.49</b> Arizona Golden Select Varieties <b>Tea</b>	
<b>\$3.49</b> Silk 32 oz. Select Varieties Almond <b>Coffee Creamer</b>	<b>\$2.99</b> Food Club 64 oz. Select Varieties <b>Orange Juice</b>	<b>\$1.99</b> Nocci 8 oz. Select Varieties <b>Yogurt</b>	
<b>2/7</b> Food Club 48 oz. Select Varieties <b>Ice Cream</b>	<b>2/7</b> Food Club 18-25 ct. Select Varieties Frozen <b>Pasta</b>	<b>\$7.99</b> Wild Mike's 26.5-37.67 ct. Select Varieties <b>Pizza</b>	
<b>2/7</b> Crown's Flavor 8 ct. Select Varieties <b>Fruit Bars</b>	<b>\$1.79</b> Tollman's 15 ct. Select Varieties <b>Pizza Rolls</b>	<b>\$3.79</b> Mountain High 32 oz. Select Varieties <b>Yogurt</b>	

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<b>2/7</b> Food Club 48 oz. Select Varieties <b>Ice Cream</b>	<b>2/7</b> Food Club 18-25 ct. Select Varieties Frozen <b>Pasta</b>	<b>\$7.99</b> Wild Mike's 26.5-37.67 ct. Select Varieties <b>Pizza</b>
<b>2/7</b> Crown's Flavor 8 ct. Select Varieties <b>Fruit Bars</b>	<b>\$1.79</b> Tollman's 15 ct. Select Varieties <b>Pizza Rolls</b>	<b>\$3.79</b> Mountain High 32 oz. Select Varieties <b>Yogurt</b>

<b>\$2.49</b> Belly Cracker 5-10 ct. Select Varieties <b>Fruit Snacks</b>	<b>\$3.49</b> General Mills 8.9-12.3 ct. Select Varieties <b>Cereal</b>
<b>\$1.19</b> Chef Boyardee or Hunt's 14-7.5-18 oz. Select Varieties Manwich or <b>Pasta</b>	<b>\$1.09</b> Bangor 7-11.88 oz. Select Varieties <b>Meals</b>
<b>\$6.99</b> Coca-Cola 8 ct. Select Varieties <b>Sports Drinks</b>	<b>\$3.49</b> Fritos or Tostitos 9-13 ct. Select Varieties <b>Chips</b>
<b>\$3.79</b> Lays 8-12-13 ct. Select Varieties <b>Party Size Chips</b>	<b>\$2.79</b> Cheez-It 7 ct. or Keebler 8 ct. Select Varieties Sandwich <b>Crackers</b>

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<b>\$3.99</b> Boneless Beef <b>Sirloin Tip Roast</b>	<b>\$11.99</b> Bone-in Beef <b>Ribeye Steaks</b>
<b>\$1.99</b> Boneless Whole (In a Bag) <b>Pork Loin</b>	<b>\$2.49</b> St. Louis Style <b>Pork Spareribs</b>
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<b>\$3.59</b> Hormel 5-8 ct. Select Varieties <b>Pepperoni</b>	<b>\$4.29</b> Jaliscoville 10-13.5 ct. Select Varieties <b>Sausage</b>
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<b>4/5</b> Hot House <b>Cucumbers</b> or 1 per Red Grape <b>Tomatoes</b>	<b>\$1.29</b> Ripe Red or White-Jumbo <b>Onions</b>
<b>\$1.69</b> Pink Lady <b>Apples</b>	<b>2/6</b> Wholly 7.5 oz. Select Varieties <b>Guacamole</b>

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<b>3/5</b> Don Julio 6-10 ct. Select Varieties <b>Flour Tortillas</b>		<b>3/5</b> Food Club 6-8 ct. Select Varieties <b>Cheese</b>	

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