

COMMUNITY

Trustee seats open; high school sports resume

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The towns of both Nucla and Naturita are looking for people who have a desire to serve as town trustee. Serving as town trustee is an unpaid, volunteer position, one which helps make decisions for the good of the town and its future. The position does require attending monthly meetings.

At the end of last week, Melissa Lampshire, Nucla's town clerk, said that she has had one citizen pick up a nomination petition packet. The completed packets are due Jan. 22.

"We will see if we have more than three people pick up a packet," she told the San Miguel Basin Forum. "Then we will have an election. If we have three or less, we will cancel the election."

Town Clerk for Naturita Diana Starks had a similar story for Naturita. She'd given out one packet at the end of last week. Three people are needed to serve there as trustees too, and packets are due Jan. 22.

"We will see how the next couple of weeks go," Starks said.

In other community news, high school sports resumed over the weekend, though the Nucla High School kids don't continue their classes until Jan. 15.

The guys wrestled in Pagosa Springs on Saturday. Then, Arthur Connelly took first place in his class, JW Nasland was third, Jackson McCabe was fourth, Paxtin Caruso took sixth and David Quigley was also sixth.

The guys took 11th place overall in the Pagosa Springs tournament with 92 points. There were 16 teams overall, consisting of 3A and 2A teams.

The guys wrestle again this weekend. Head coach for the Mustangs Rob McCabe was trying to organize a dual for Friday night, but wasn't sure he could get a team. On Saturday, Jan. 13, the Nucla tournament begins at 9:30 a.m. in the new gym, and seven to 10 teams will be on site to wrestle.

The guys basketball team just traveled to Ouray to face the Trojans on the court. Head coach for the Mustangs Kelly Arnold said on Sunday evening that it was a close game the varsity guys lost, 55-65.

Brycen Rummel was high scorer with 21 points, and Steele Arnold had 10. Slade Gillen put up nine points, and Daniel Zurich had seven. Owen Dinsmore and Hemmy O'Brien each had three points, and Joseph Casillas had two.

The JV boys team did have a

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COMMUNITY

Library expands, reorganizes, adds new programs



Darrel Jensen, with boys Levi and Henry, enjoys a quiet Sunday at the Naturita Community Library.

(Photo by Amanda Scott)

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Staff at Naturita Community Library are looking back at 2023 and acknowledging they "had so much going on." Amanda Scott, library branch manager, told the Forum they reorganized the interior, so the layout is now different. She added patron response has been positive.

With the closing of the Paradox Valley School last year, library staff in Naturita incorporated 60 percent of Paradox's materials. Integrating their collections required revisioning the Naturita

library's space.

Scott added that since the Paradox community lost access to library materials, the Naturita library, as part of the Montrose Regional Library District, will be sending out a book mobile, beginning as early as next month. The book mobile will offer home delivery, but also community programming too.

Staff expanded at the Naturita library. Leslie Ament continues as the community resources coordinator, but now full-time. Raena Wedel-Grindle is the program coordinator and also full-time. Cliff Allred is working in collec-

tions development, and Sterling VanWagoner is in charge of facilities, maintenance and custodial operations.

Scott announced a new program that began over the weekend. The community had requested an expansion of library hours, and now the library is open seven days each week, with a "Sunday Social" that includes food, drink and games in the community room. Scott said it's a time to gather and simply enjoy community.

Behind the scenes, staff are working on community grant

Cont. on Pg. 4

HORSES

Locals head to San Juan Skijoring

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Several from the West End have competed in recent years in the San Juan Skijoring, an "extreme winter sport" event held in Ridgway. A corporate-sponsored competition and also part of a greater circuit, two-member teams run a course with one person galloping a horse, while also pulling a skier (or snowboarder) behind them. That skier has to complete a course with gates (specific turns) and jumps. Different levels of competition in the skijoring exist, from novice to open (professional).

Sam Rich, Blaine Tedder, Michelle Zurich and T.J. Haskell, all of the West End, have entered the event for at least five or six years. In the past, Rich has been a skier, but this year she's riding one of her horses and pulling her daughter Morgan Wallace. Blaine Tedder is set to pull Mont Zurich.

Rich has a string of horses —



T.J. Haskell pulls a skier in a past San Juan Skijoring. (Courtesy image)

Martini, Roper, Copper, Carl, Al, Max and Red to name a few—and most all of them have done the skijoring. They're pack horses, part of an outfit, and they don't mind having a taut rope rub against their sides or hind ends, since they already know how to pack dudes

or animals. They also don't mind the chaos that is part of skijoring. Rich's horses are basically what horsemen call "bomb proof." They regularly ride in parades from Telluride to Norwood and Nucla. Rich said the horses actually enjoy skijoring.

Cont. on Pg. 5

NONPROFITS

Telluride Foundation announces Community Grants

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Telluride Foundation's Community Grants provide an annual financial boost to regional nonprofits, supporting critical services for individuals and families, as well as programs that enhance community. Early childhood centers, watershed groups, medical clinics and arts programming represent the breadth and diversity of the organizations that received grants this December.

The Telluride Foundation recently announced 2023 Community Grants, awarding \$1,100,000 to regional nonprofits. The grants will be distributed to organizations working every day to improve the quality of life in the communities of Nucla and Naturita, Norwood, Telluride, Rico, Ridgway, Ouray and everywhere in between.

"Although the number of applicants decreased from last year, this year the grants committee faced the largest amount ever requested at almost \$1.8 million. In addition, we had four large capital requests," said Megan McManemin, Telluride Foundation board member and chair of the grants committee. "It was certainly a challenging year for the committee, but due to the increased generosity of foundation donors, we were able to award \$1.1 million, which is a \$100,000 increase over the last few years. Add that to the \$4.4 million the foundation has contributed to the community through initiatives and other programs already this year, and the total impact throughout the workforce region is \$5.5 million for 2023.

In its 2023 Community Grants cycle, the foundation received 81 applications seeking almost \$1.8 million. Of the \$1,100,000 awarded, \$135,000 will support capital projects, including restoration of the historic depot into a new Telluride Science & Innovation Center, a new water source for the Ouray Ice Park, and renovation of the Hispanic Affairs Project's Center for Immigrant Integration. Grant awards ranged from \$500 to \$157,500, with 33 percent funding health and human services; 29 percent to early childhood development and education; 21 percent to arts and culture; 9 percent to the environment/animals; and 8 percent to athletic groups. This distribution, with an emphasis on health and human services, has remained relatively constant over the foundation's grant making history.

The Telluride Foundation's

Cont. on Pg. 3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Running for commissioner

Dear Editor,

My name is Candy Meehan, and I am the current mayor-elect of the Town of Norwood. I am running in the 2024 election for the county commissioner seat representing District 3. Geographically, it is the largest district in the county — and very diverse. It is important for all voters to have a sense of who I am in order to make informed choices. Community — and community service — is incredibly important to me. I have been on the Norwood Town Board for more than eight years, including six years as mayor pro tem and two years as mayor. I am excited to work to bring my local experience to District 3 representation and the county as a whole.

I've been in San Miguel County for more than 10 years. I became interested in local issues and local government when I was approached by a Norwood town employee who thought that I had the wherewithal to make a difference. Little did I realize that public service would ignite a passion in me. But being enthusiastic is only a very small portion of what it takes to represent a region well. Patience and perseverance are absolutely necessary when working toward goals that benefit all parts of San Miguel County. In realizing that simple fact, I dedicated myself to learning more about our area and the unique set of challenges that we face on a daily basis.

I have a professional background in business, including helping run our family business, Earth Tech West, as the controller and administrator. We are a heavy civil construction company, and I work with all facets of it. Having the opportunity to understand the engineering, implementation and costs associated with large-sale infrastructure projects allows me a unique insight into long-term planning. Over the years, I have been involved in increasingly important water issues including participation with local, regional and state-level water groups. I understand the importance of planning for current and future uses and challenges.

Over the next few weeks and months, you will be able to read more about me as I address issues in our county and communities. I'll be sharing thoughts on various topics as we move forward to the election. Next up, I'll address transportation issues, including plans for Highway 145, CDOT projects for 2024, the Galloping Goose and All Points Transit, as just a few key parts of our local transportation scene.

I encourage you to visit my website at www.meehan.life to learn more and will be asking for your vote this coming fall. I encour-

age all to reach out to me directly at smc@meehan.life, if there are specific questions or issues of concern to you. Let's work on making San Miguel County's future sustainable, mindful and collaborative together.

Candy Meehan
NORWOOD

Happy New Year from WEDSA

Dear Editor,

2024 looks like a promising year for our organization and the region. West End Dark Sky Alliance's (WEDSA's) street light upgrades project for both Nucla and Naturita is progressing, and a Certified Dark Sky International Reserve — supported and guided by the Western Slope Dark Sky Coalition — is entering the application completion phase. Although this reserve will encompass just San Miguel County at first, WEDSA is helping to set the stage for the West End of Montrose County to be added onto the certified reserve in the near future.

As part of our two year's long Dark Sky International (DSI) certification application process, (2019-21), both Nucla and Naturita agreed to finish changing the rest of their nonconforming public street lights to DSI-approved street light specs, like they partially did in 2014. Both towns saved enough energy from those changes to pay for their upgrades. Starting May 6, 2021, the towns had five years to make the rest of their street light retrofits. Norwood is also making these changes. The three towns are hoping to team up to save money on the fixtures and installations.

These changes help make all three towns DSI Reserve-compliant, as well as help them fulfill lighting plan commitments they made to keep and maintain their unique status as a certified Joint Dark Sky International Community, the 25th certified DSI Community in the U.S — the 32nd in the world!

Dark skies don't have boundaries, so tell Montrose County land use officials you want them to be good neighbors and help maintain our historic and world-class bright stars! With Montrose County's cooperation, we can begin the process to be part of a regional DSI Reserve. The current DSI Reserve will be the first in Colorado, third in the U.S., and 22nd in the world. The benefits of this will affect circadian rhythms of all flora and fauna to keep us and our region

all healthier and happier. It will also help the economy!

To start the year off, WEDSA wants to uphold its mission: "To preserve our dark sky resource and reduce light contamination through public education and advocacy." To do this, we need money to help make these street light changes, buy DSI seal-of-approval light fixtures and light bulbs, and fund our nonprofit organization. Many of you know that small nonprofits are just like small businesses with needs like hiring help, paying for website expenses, office supplies and printing brochures, merchandise, insurance, gas, vender fees, etc.

Now is the best time to become a new active or supportive member of WEDSA, or renew your current membership. To get an application, stop into the Nucla-Naturita Visitor Center, located in Naturita, on Highway 141, across from the Family Market. Or, simply email westenddarkskyalliance@gmail.com and leave contact information.

The 2024 annual membership dues are \$25, but if you want to get a quarterly Astronomical League Reflector magazine (highly recommended), annual dues are \$30. Members enjoy special perks during the year. Meetings are usually held at the Naturita Community Library.

While at the Visitor Center, check out the new "Earth At Night" poster on the wall. There is also free educational information from both DSI, Dark Sky Colorado, and a general WEDSA donation QR code available.

Remember, preserving dark skies begins with a flick of a switch or a change of a light bulb. You can make a difference. Keep looking up!

Deb Stueber
NUCLA

Thank you

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, food, love, prayers, flowers and compassion in the passing of our father, grandfather, great-grand father, brother and friend.

Your love was such a blessing to us.

We have planned internment services at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Grand Junction for March 29 at 1 p.m. A celebration of life will be held in Nucla at the Fire Hall on March 30 at 1 p.m.

The family of Ralph (Jim) Scheetz
WEST END

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History: Rimrocker Historical Society The dream of a road from Paradox to Grand Junction, Part 1

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*



This image shows West Paradox Valley looking toward Sinbad, taken about 1920. (Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

Paradox Valley was one of the earliest settlements in the West End. They were ahead of the game in growing their orchards and gardens, and cattle ranching was prospering in the valley. By 1911, Buckeye Reservoir was providing much needed water to irrigate even more of the valley, and land was for sale throughout the vicinity. Radium and vanadium mining was coming into existence in East Paradox with the promise of a mining boom. Roads were still very primitive, and what everyone really wanted was a railroad into the valley. It had become a very competitive dream between Montrose and Grand Junction, as both towns wanted a piece of the action of the boom thought to be coming to Paradox Valley.

I've written before about the desire to build the train route to Montrose, but I recently ran across this very eloquently written article in the Montrose Enterprise by James F. Walker, taken from the Grand Junction News. He writes about what we all know as "paradise," the amazing West End of Montrose County:

"Paradox wants outlet: Essential to development of Rich Section by James F. Walker in the Grand Junction News ...

To one who is familiar with the country and its possibilities, it gives no small degree of satisfaction to note the persistent interest you take in boosting for a railroad or at least a wagon road into the West Paradox country. The Paradox people are desperately in earnest in wanting an outlet to Grand Junction, and they are going to have it if possible. The Buckeye Reservoir, as you are aware, with a large acreage of land in Paradox Valley has recently passed into the hands of a new management which is taking hold of the matter in such a way as to stimulate new interest and give increased confidence to the people of the community. The Hartman Brothers, who are the new purchasers of the above interests with their engineer, H. L. Daniels, and several representative citizens of West Paradox have carefully investigated the possibilities of a wagon road from Paradox to Sinbad Valley and pronounce it entirely feasible. This will connect with the

wagon road built into Sinbad a few years ago by the Pyramid Mining and Milling Co. at a cost of over \$20,000. This would bring a large and new volume of business into Grand Junction. It would tap the rich deposits of vanadium and uranium on La Sal creek that at present have to be taken by pack trains many miles to reach the wagon road and then hauled to Placerville. It would cross Rock Creek only a few miles above the point where the first shipments of uranium were made from this section of the state to Germany and attracted the attention of foreign capital to the vast deposits in this part of the world and last, but not least, the building of this 12 miles of road would be in direct line to the vast country to the south and southwest of the La Sal Mountains, where are some of the richest copper deposits of the state of Utah and which are now practically inaccessible other than by saddle and pack train. This is a practical proposition and will be of interest to everybody along the line to the southwest or clear to the Henry Mountains and Bluff City. Never before has the time for such a move as this been as opportune as at present. Never has a route been proposed that is as feasible and that will require as little expenditure and outlay of capital as the present. The value of this road can hardly be overestimated. To be able to build a road that can be as serviceable for traffic as this can and at the same time be as scenic a road for automobile tourists as this will be is a rare opportunity."

The next part of this article will go into the beauty and majestic views of what we now call the Unaweep Tabeguache Scenic Byway, Highway 141. Most of us who grew up here learned to drive on the road to Grand Junction. Now many of us split our travels between this drive and the also beautiful drive to Montrose. The competition was on between these two cities as to who would build the best road to Paradox Valley and hopefully a railroad. I'll share the rest of this article next week.

(Article taken from The Montrose Enterprise Dec. 7, 1911. Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection. Colorado State Library.)

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RECIPE

Slow cooker beef brisket tacos are easy to make

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Colorado beef is synonymous with flavor, nutrition and tradition. The largest economic export from the state, the Colorado beef industry supports the economy with \$86.1 billion annually. This is a major endeavor and worthy of some praise for our hard-working ranchers. In honor of the National Western Stock Show this month, the Colorado Department of Agriculture is celebrating with savory slow cooker beef brisket. Beef offers many nutritional benefits. It is a red meat and also a top

source of vitamin B12. Consuming beef in moderation (3 ounces per serving) provides important essential nutrients and protein that can contribute to a healthy diet. The same serving size of cooked lean beef provides around 22 grams of protein. Beef has an array of important nutrients including iron, choline, vitamin B6 and B12, phosphorus, zinc, niacin, riboflavin and selenium, all of which contribute to an overall healthy diet.

Colorado farmers, ranchers, feeders and processors, alongside the beef industry, are continuing to find more ways to be as productive

and sustainable as possible, while maintaining quality products. Like the research team at AgNext at Colorado State University, their mission is to find sustainable solutions for animal agriculture through resiliency, efficiency and regeneracy.

We encourage you to make your shopping local and know where your food comes from in 2024. Find your closest local farmer, rancher or butcher on ColoradoProud.com. In the meantime, try this delicious recipe from Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack and make your next meal memorable.

Slow Cooker Beef Brisket Tacos

By YVETTE MARQUEZ-SHARPNACK,
My Bueno Recipes and Stories

Yield: Serves 12-24 tacos
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 8 hours, 5 minutes

Ingredients

2 to 4 pounds beef brisket
2 ounces marinade of choice, per pound of meat
2 bay leaves
2 garlic cloves
12 ounces beer (light or NA recommended)

Directions

Place the brisket, marinade

sauce, bay leaves, garlic cloves (if using) and beer in a slow cooker. Cook on low for 8 to 10 hours. Remove the brisket, shred the meat and discard fat pieces. Serve inside your choice of taco shells with fillings: diced tomatoes, lettuces, cheese, salsa and guacamole.

MENTAL HEALTH

Free NAMI Family-to-Family Classes are starting

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family-to-Family is a free, eight-session education program for family, friends and significant others of adults with mental health conditions. NAMI Family-to-Family provides information about anxiety, depressive disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other mental health conditions. Other topics covered include communication, problem-solving, treatment and recovery.

The course is designed to increase understanding and advocacy skills while helping participants maintain their own well-being. The program is taught by trained family members who have a loved one with a mental health condition. NAMI Family-to-Family is an evidence-based program. For information on the research base for the program, all are welcome to visit nami.org/research.

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health

organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI San Miguel & Ouray is an affiliate of NAMI Colorado. NAMI San Miguel & Ouray and dedicated volunteer members and leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy and support group programs for people in local communities with mental health conditions and their loved ones.

Both in-person and virtual classes exist. To join, email j.hurst@tchnetwork.org.

Community grants

Cont. from Pg. 1

Community Grant award recommendations were drafted by a 10-member Grants Committee, all of whom sit on the foundation's executive board or leadership council. The committee evaluated the grant requests against a rigorous set of criteria and then forwarded their recommendations for funding to the full executive board for review and final approval. The Grants Committee is comprised of Megan McManemin (chair), Arnie Chavkin, Sara Bachman, Kim Fulton, DeeDee Decker, Danny Craft,

Liliana Racine, Steve Raymund, Ximena Rebolledo-Leon and Ross Valdez. Their recommendations were reviewed and approved by the board of directors at its meeting on Dec. 28. The foundation's next round of Community Grant applications will be accepted in the fall of 2024 and announced at the end of December 2024.

"This year's awards, combined with other programs and initiatives, brings the total invested in our region in 2023 to \$5.5 million. Since our inception in 2000, the Telluride Foundation has provided over \$85 million in grants

and other financial support to the Telluride region. All of this without a traditional endowment structure," said Jason Corzine, Telluride Foundation president and CEO.

The foundation's generous donors not only enable its annual Community Grant awards but have also allowed the foundation to expand the reach of its impact initiatives, including equity and inclusion; community housing; Telluride Venture Network; education; local food; Tri-County Health Network; local climate resiliency; and strong neighbors.

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The new Sunday Socials at the library started last weekend. (Photo by Amanda Scott)

Library expands

Cont. from Pg. 1

writing services now too. Scott said the work is for nonprofits and essential community organizations. This fall, library staff (Scott specifically) supported the Nucla-Naturita Fire Department in writing a grant for expanding the Paradox fleet. The grant was successful. The grant writing is a free service, and library officials are able to help research types of grants and do the reporting. Scott has been grant writing for the last nine years and has a 97 percent success rate. She's ready to teach the greater library team to now do the same work.

Additionally, story time for small children continues, but that will be revamped in some way. Wedel-Grindle has hosted it at the library and also at the preschool. The community will be

informed of the changes as soon as possible.

The archeological walks in Paradox Valley with expert Glade Hadden continue. Scott said people have traveled from as far as Montrose, Grand Junction and even Colorado Springs to participate. Hadden will add some kids programming now, called "art-cheological walks," through which children will gather bones on their walks (planted by Hadden) and then create sculptures afterward.

The adult book club with Allred carries on, the third week of every month. For more information on that, or other programs, the public should contact library staff.

"It's been a great year," Scott said. "The growth and expansion, the reorganization. Exciting things are happening."

Scott and Ament told the

Forum they're also establishing a community resource hub that includes a working calendar of all meeting and event dates. They'll be doing outreach to gather information on food, medical and veteran resources, but all nonprofits are invited to share meeting dates and more with library staff for the compilation.

Both Scott and Ament are pleased with the recent Susan Rice Community Compassion Award that will be officially presented in February at the chamber's annual meeting. The award was the "brainchild" of Ament and will continue annually. The library is sponsoring the \$500 award, designed to be given back to nonprofits of the recipient's choice. Allen chose to split the \$500 between Hoof & Paw and also West End Family Link.

Community news

Cont. from Pg. 1

win, 58-29.

The Lady Mustangs did not have any basketball games over the weekend, but both the girls and the guys team were scheduled

to play Tuesday, Jan. 9, against Cedaredge. Both teams are also set to play Dove Creek on Thursday, Jan. 11.

Additionally, in Nucla, the Water Days fundraisers are starting back up after a holiday hiatus. The first

Navajo Taco Night of the year will be Jan. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Nucla Fire Hall. Credit and debit cards are accepted. All orders are packaged and ready to take out, and gluten-free options exist for those who cannot eat the fry bread.



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San Juan Skijoring

Cont. from Pg. 1

Rich, too, loves everything about the event.

"It's too much fun," she told the Forum last week. "The first year we did it, we fell in love with it."

Riders in every class have to execute jumps of some sort; Open competitors jump a full-size truck. Contestants will be permitted to walk the course beforehand and see the layout. Riders can also take their horses up and down the course. No teams, though, are allowed to practice pulling the skier until their go.

The skijoring starts Friday, Jan. 12, with the novice and runs through Jan. 14. There will be a beer garden on site and food vendors, plus a hospitality tent for competitors.

Rich and her crew are ready to have some fun this weekend. Every year, either she, her horses, or her skijoring partner have won money. She's not won a buckle yet in the skijoring, but perhaps this could be her year. The closest she's gotten in the past is second place.

For Rich and the other West End riders, part of the fun is also connecting with some of the people they've met on the circuit. Some competitors will trailer their horses down from as far as Montana and Wyoming for the skijoring. Many of them will also do the Leadville or Silverton skijoring events too.

There will be new entries this year. In fact, another contestant with ties to the West End will be



Sam Rich stands with Sabra Grierson at a previous skijoring in Ridgway. (Courtesy image)

competing. Elizabeth Foley, of Norwood and a working cowgirl, has entered with teammate Cayley Odell, also a working cowgirl. Foley and Odell might be novice in the skijoring, but they're both experienced hands when it comes to horses, and Foley is also a ski instructor part-time.

The San Juan Skijoring event, produced by Rich Weber, welcomes people to come watch. Tickets are available online or at the event. Admission is free on Friday. Rich also said she believes the event is live-streamed, or televised, for people who want to watch from home.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

FILING APPLICATION FOR PHASE I-III BOND RELEASE OF A PORTION OF THE NEW HORIZON NORTH MINE SITE (SL-04)

Pursuant to the Rules and Regulation of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board published August 1980, and pursuant to the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act 34-33-101, et seq., notice is hereby given of the filing of an application for Phase I-III Bond Release of a portion of the New Horizon North Mine site. The application is denoted as SL-04 and pertains to the New Horizon North Mine, Permit No. C-2010-089 (issued June 20, 2012) by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC, P. O. Box 628, Nucla, Colorado 81424, filed with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (CDRMS), Colorado Department of Natural Resources, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203.

The Phase I bond release areas (34 acres) were backfilled, graded, topsoiled and seeded in 2023. The status of the reclamation is consistent with the requirements of the approved reclamation plan which includes backfill and regrading to the approved post mine topography, topsoil replacement, and seeding with the approved seed mixtures. The Phase I through III bond release areas (1.2 acres) are permanent structures that will remain post-mine. All areas being applied for bond release are shown in detail on Maps 1 and 2 within the application. Listed below is a general legal description of this area:

Township 47 North, Range 16 West of the 6th P.M. New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Montrose, State of Colorado
Section 25 - SW¼ and NW¼ SW¼
Section 36 - The NW¼ W¼

The New Horizon North Mine currently holds a surety bond in the amount of \$500,000, which covers the above listed areas. With this application, the New Horizon North Mine will be requesting relinquishment of 60% of the bond held for the Phase I parcels being applied for; 85% of the bond held for the Phase III parcels being applied for, and 100% of the bond held for the Phase III parcels applied for release in this application.

A copy of the bond release application is on file at the Montrose County Courthouse Annex, 300 Main Street, Nucla, Colorado and the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety at Department of Natural Resources, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203.

Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference concerning this bond release application should be addressed to the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, Department of Natural Resources, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203.

Comments must be filed within thirty (30) days from the last date of this publication, or within thirty (30) days of the completed inspection by the CDRMS, whichever is later.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 10, 17, 24, & 31, 2024

LEGAL PUBLICATION

INVITATION TO BID - COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN NORWOOD

San Miguel County is requesting proposals/bids from qualified fencing contractors to replace the perimeter and cross fencing at the County Fairgrounds in Norwood. Bid packets are available at the County website <https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/Bids.aspx> or DeeAnna Burbridge 970-327-4321, deannab@sanmiguelcountyco.gov. A mandatory pre-bid conference to be scheduled by appointment. Proposals must be received by 3:00 PM on Wed, 2/7/24 at the Fairgrounds Coordinators Office, 1165 Summit Street, Norwood or emailed to smcfairgrounds@sanmiguelcountyco.gov.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 10, 17, & 24, 2024

LEGAL PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NATURITA - NOTICE OF ELECTION

Town of Naturita Voter

The Town of Naturita Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. This election is a Poll-Ballot Election. There are three (3) Trustee positions; 4-year terms for Trustee Positions.

Nomination petitions will be available at Naturita Town Hall for circulation beginning Tuesday January 2, 2024, and must be filed with the Town Clerk's office by Monday January 22, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Candidates must be at least (18) eighteen years of age on election day; must be a registered elector and must have resided within Naturita Town limits for a minimum of twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date of election.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum December 27, 2023, January 3, and January 10, 2024

LEGAL PUBLICATION

DELAY OF MAILING PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS

Montrose County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy announces delay of mailing property tax statements

Legislative changes enacted by the Colorado Legislature to accommodate property tax relief will delay the certification of the county tax rolls. The new deadline for the tax roll certification is Jan. 24. The reason for the delay is to give taxing authorities sufficient time to certify their mill levies and to give county assessors more time to gather data.

Please be aware that these changes do not alter the first-half payment due date, Feb. 28. The Colorado Legislature chose not to extend the payment deadline to ensure that special districts like fire departments, school districts, health districts, hospitals and other public entities have the revenue to continue to operate.

Once the tax roll process is complete, property owners will receive their statements by mail in early February. The property tax amount will be available after Feb. 1 at montrosecounty.net/treasurer by clicking on "SEARCH PROPERTY TAX RECORDS." Contact our office at 970 249-3565 or email etreasurer@montrosecounty.net for assistance.

The treasurer's office, along with the assessor and GIS offices, will be moving to temporary locations in January. The old Montrose County Courthouse will close for restorations beginning Jan. 22. Assessor and GIS offices will reopen Jan. 29 at 949 N 2nd St. (next to Friendship Hall). Treasurer and public trustee offices will reopen Feb. 5 at 1001 N 2nd St. (southwest entrance of Friendship Hall).

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 10 & 17, 2024

LEGAL PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION (SL-26)

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has issued a proposed decision to approve Bond Release Application No. 26 (SL-26) for the New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation has requested Phase I release of 0.1 acres associated with the C-15 Ditch. ERM also requested Phase II release of 1.8 acres; 0.1 acres for the C-15 Ditch and 1.7 acres for the SP-2 Stock Pond. ERM requested Phase III release for 1.8 acres; 0.1 acres for the C-15 Ditch and 1.7 acres for the SP-2 Stock Pond. The surface operation is operated by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC under the provisions of the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act of 1979. The bond release application was submitted by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC on August 15, 2023. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC is requesting Phase I, Phase II and Phase III release on 0.1 acres associated with the C-15 Ditch, and Phase II and Phase III release of 1.7 acres associated with the SP-2 Pond. The affected area is located in Montrose County, approximately 1.7 miles Northwest of Nucla, Colorado.

Copies of the proposed decision are available for review at <https://dnrwebblink.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx> by searching C1981008 in the "Permit No" field. A user guide is available to help first time users of the imaged document system and can be viewed at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1180Udf_Mpjo3kx1HkP5hMH-w7MeBtx7/view..

Any person who has an interest which is or may be adversely affected may request an adjudicatory hearing regarding this proposed decision. Requests for a hearing must be made in writing within thirty (30) days of the date following initial publication of this notice, and shall state with reasonable specificity the reasons for the request and objections to the proposed decision.

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St, Rm 215
Denver CO 80203
303-866-3567

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 10 & 17, 2024

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

12/21/2023

0911 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 21500 block of 600 Road near Paradox for a civil matter.

1158 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 8200 block of V Road near Paradox for a theft report.

1948 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Lincoln Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

3 VIN inspections

2 warrant attempts

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

6 civil processes attempted/served

12/22/2023

1728 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

2018 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 145 and 3575 Road near Redvale for an animal problem.

2 directed patrols in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

12/23/2023

2 follow up reports

1 civil process attempted/served

12/24/2023

1852 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highland Drive in Naturita for a welfare check.

1932 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a civil matter.

12/25/2023

0046 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35300 block of II Road near Redvale for a 911.

1218 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an unsecured premise.

1340 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of DD Road near Nucla for a harassment report.

1744 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

2159 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a disturbance.

12/26/2023

1808 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29500 block of 2800 Road near Nucla for a fire.

1945 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of DD Road near Nucla for a report of threatening.

12/27/2023

1309 Hours - Deputy took a report for a welfare check in the Nucla/Naturita area.

2 follow up reports

12/28/2023

0907 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for an unwanted person.

1134 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 58 near Naturita for a motorist assist.

1430 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a welfare check.

1738 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a medical assist.

1810 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

12/29/2023

1415 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a fraud report.

1453 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.

1539 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for an information report.

1810 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Adams Street in Naturita for an animal problem.

1814 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a trespassing report.

1925 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for a civil matter.

1935 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 900 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a juvenile problem.

1949 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a harassment report.

2201 Hours - Deputy was dispatched

to the area of West Third Avenue and Payson Street in Naturita for a report of fireworks.

2 follow up reports

ing. 1 civil process attempted/served

12/31/2023

1418 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

1510 Hours - Heidi Hickman, 48, was contacted on Highway 141 mm 58 near Naturita and cited for careless driving, driving with a denied driver's license, fictitious license plates, no registration, and no insurance.

1511 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a trespassing report.

1827 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

1946 Hours - Harley Naff, 21, was contacted in the 200 block of Highway 97 in Naturita and issued a warning for no license plates.

1952 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

2213 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita.

2229 Hours - Nicholas Calvillo, 34, was arrested in the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita on 3 outstanding warrants.

2343 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

1 civil process attempted/served

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.00-3.20	300-400# HEIFERS	2.80-2.90
400-500# STEERS	2.70-3.00	400-500# HEIFERS	2.70-2.80
500-600# STEERS	2.35-2.50	500-600# HEIFERS	2.15-2.25
600-700# STEERS	2.15-2.35	600-700# HEIFERS	2.00-2.15
700-800# STEERS	2.20-2.31	700-800# HEIFERS	1.80-1.99
800-900# STEERS	2.00-2.09	800-900# HEIFERS	1.75-2.05
Top bulls	High of 1.10	Medium bulls	.95-1.05
Young Cows	1.05-1.35	Top cows	.90-.94
Medium cows	.84-91	Low-yielding cows	.80 down

NEXT WEEK: January 11th. 10 feeder calves, 5 butcher cows, 6

butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 200-300

UP COMING SALES

Thursday January 18th, Stock Show Special Feeder Sale.

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Next special Horse sale - Saturday February 3rd.

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	3				8			
7	6					4		9
			6	2		5		
	2	8		4				
		9	8		2	1		
				7		9	2	
		7		5	1			
5		3					7	1
			9				4	

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution To Previous Sudoku

5	2	8	9	7	3	6	4	1
7	4	6	2	8	1	9	3	5
1	9	3	5	6	4	2	8	7
4	5	9	8	2	6	7	1	3
6	8	1	4	3	7	5	9	2
2	3	7	1	5	9	8	6	4
9	7	5	3	4	8	1	2	6
3	1	2	6	9	5	4	7	8
8	6	4	7	1	2	3	5	9

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: GEOGRAPHY 101

ACROSS

- Village People's "_____ Man"
- Certain tray content
- Little bit, in Mexico
- Ammo in a quiver, sing.
- Geological Society of America
- Young eel
- Song of praise
- Snowy _____ or great horned _____
- Must-haves
- *Strait between Russia and Alaska
- *Smallest of the Great Lakes
- Crime scene evidence
- Peter the Great, e.g.
- Consumer-protecting org.
- Skiing helmet manufacturer
- Mother-of-pearl, pl.

- Type of sail, pl.
- #29 Down anagram
- Like Raphael's cherubs
- Face shape
- Tie with a morning coat
- Dwarf buffalo
- Short version
- "At _____, soldier"
- Supposed giant Himalayan
- Drool
- Swimming hole
- D.C. V.I.P.
- Jim Acosta's announcement
- *Baltic _____
- *Of latitude
- *Bay east of India
- Cuban dance
- John Keats' "To Autumn," e.g.
- Fortune teller's card
- Jeered
- China's drinkable export
- Bird-related
- Dick and Jane's dog
- "Slippery" tree
- Lean, past tense

S	O	U	P	S	A	F	C	E	S	P	Y	
O	P	T	I	C	S	E	A	C	A	N	O	E
S	T	A	L	E	H	E	R	O	R	A	L	S
S	H	A	N	T	Y	P	L	U	N	G	E	
F	I	R	B	I	A	S						
C	P	A	C	O	C	A	H	I	C	C	U	P
O	R	B	S	T	O	R	N	N	O	R	M	A
C	O	A	T	H	A	R	E	M	W	E	I	R
O	F	F	A	L	L	A	V	A	L	E	A	K
A	S	T	R	A	L	G	E	N	T	D	K	A
T	Y	P	E	O	H	M						
G	L	O	V	E	S	T	R	O	I	K	A	
A	L	I	B	I	A	T	E	R	A	I	L	S
K	O	R	E	A	L	E	A	N	O	R	S	E
A	W	A	Y	M	A	R	Y	U	K	O	N	

DOWN

- *Atlas page
- Speedy steed
- First Nation nation
- Squirrel away
- Possessing
- Full of excitement
- *Opposite of NNE
- Saintly rings
- Guilty, e.g.
- Last word on walkie-talkie
- Ghana money
- Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
- Catch in a snare
- Nigerian money
- A Bobbsey twin
- Steel on boots, pl.
- *Inlet in Norway
- Abalone seeker
- Olden day calculators
- *Compass _____
- TV personality Aiken
- Ancient Scandinavian characters
- What actors do
- *Iberian Peninsula country
- Serb or Croat
- Comme ci, comme Áa
- Past or present
- Group of five
- Actor DiCaprio
- Like floss
- "That's all she _____"
- Tequila source
- Work units
- Wisecrack
- Rounded protuberance
- Aid in crime
- Show pleasure
- Cantatrice's offering
- Student aid
- *Tierra _____ Fuego
- Big bang maker, acr.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20			21	22					
		23				24							
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39			
40				41				42		43			
44			45		46					47			
48				49		50			51		52		
			53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60				61				62	63	
64				65	66			67					68
69					70				71				
72					73				74				

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TOWN OF NUCLA - HELP WANTEDS

Town of Nucla is now taking application for a full time code enforcement/animal control officer. Full benefits. Apply at Town of Nucla 320 Main Street, application can be found on our website townofnucla.colorado.gov. Contact Melissa for more information.

32-IT-C

Town of Nucla is now hiring a Deputy Clerk. Competitive salary, 4 day work week, health, dental and vision, PTO and Vacation Application can be found at TownofNucla.colorado.gov, email to manager.nucla@mail.com or apply in person at 320 Main Street Nucla

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YOUTH

Mustang wrestling begins new year



Arthur Connelly took first place in Pagosa Springs.



David Quigley took sixth place in his class.



Derrick VanDellan gave it his all.



Jackson McCabe took fourth place.



JW Nasland was third.



Nolan Cressler wrestled tough.



Paxtin Caruso ended up in sixth place.



Assistant coach Lars Nasland and head coach Rob McCabe are in it for the guys to win it.
(Photos by Brandie McCabe)