

# San Miguel Basin Forum

## COMMUNITY

### Nucla Transfer Station to close end of Feb.

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Many in the West End have used the Nucla Transfer Station, located at 26745 AA Rd, to drop garbage or other unwanted materials. Over the years those that used the facility chatted with Lynn Ertel, and gave his dog Buttons a pat, or spoke with the late Tom Antonelli, both of whom helped manage the check in, traffic flow and paperwork of the station. But, on Jan. 19, Montrose County officials sent out a notice to the public that the Nucla Transfer Station, and also the Paradox Transfer Station, currently managed by Waste Management, were closing due to “continued lower use.”

The closures happen at the end of February.

The notice was issued by Montrose County and signed by Public Works Director Keith Laube, but the order didn't come from the county. Montrose County is simply the messenger.

“The county was not involved in this decision or the management of the transfer station,” Katie Yergensen, county communications director, told the Forum last week, “but recently sent a letter to make residents aware of waste disposal options in the area.”

The decision was made by Waste Management, not to be confused with Bruin Waste Management of Naturita. Waste Management has been operating the facilities to keep them open but will no longer continue to do so. The Forum called the company Jan. 26 to speak more about the issue. The call center at Waste Management in Colorado had no record of a Nucla Transfer Station. The Forum has attempted to reach Katie Hawkins, who oversees the stations, but has failed to reach her.

What are the options for people if they need to dispose of waste?

The letter states that individuals can work with Bruin Waste to set up an account for residential trash. Bruin can be reached by calling 970-864-7351.

People can also haul trash to Broad Canyon Landfill in Naturita, located at 30120 HH31 Rd. Broad Canyon is open Monday through Friday and can be reached by calling 970-258-2014.

Additionally, there's the San Miguel County Waste Transfer Station in Norwood, located 1100 W. Co. Rd. 35, though it's only open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. and also Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Cont. on Pg. 3*

## WEST END

### Trustee candidate results are in; NNACC gears up for awards

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

In local communities, some will hold municipal elections this spring. In Naturita, Town Clerk Diana Starks said five people will vie for three seats. Running for those trustee board member positions are Susan Kelley, Harold Cowles, Brock Benson, Kenith Kirby and John Gist.

In Nucla, Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire said while five people picked up packets to run for a

board seat, only four returned those and another one was not qualified. Since there are now three people interested in the three seats available, Lampshire will cancel Nucla's municipal election. The three that submitted qualified packets will be announced after a resolution is passed, Lampshire said.

In Norwood, Town Clerk Amanda Pierce said that pending signature verification and other statutory requirements, three people — Jaime Katherine Schultz, Shawn Fallon and Michael Grady — are

running for the two open seats.

Elections will happen April 2. All trustee seats in local towns are unpaid and volunteer. Monthly or bi-monthly meetings are required, along with some outside reading and preparation to stay informed of municipal issues.

And, the Nucla Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce (NNACC) is working on its annual awards presentation that will take place at the annual chamber dinner in February. Chamber officials have had

*Cont. on Pg. 3*

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Flying Bear to reopen Feb. 1, hosts special events

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Flying Bear Pizzeria at Naturita Bicycle Company has been closed for the month of January, for no other reason than to do some needed servicing and maintenance. Co-owner Virginia Ericson told the Forum likely the Flying Bear will close annually for a bit in this way, just to perform deep cleaning and work on the ovens and coolers.

Now, Naturita's pizza place (with a bike shop inside) opens again Feb. 1 — and with some menu updates.

“We have reworked a few recipes to make the menu even more robust,” Ericson said. “There are some physical changes too.”

And, she's excited Flying Bear will co-host and offer a space for the Ridgway International Film Festival's (RIFF) tour stop. On Feb. 10, RIFF will feature one and a half hours of outdoor short films. The event begins at 7 p.m. Films are about three minutes in length.

“It's just a fun get together of outdoor film,” Ericson said.

There will be folding chairs on site, and RIFF representatives are bringing a projector for ease of viewing.

As of press time Tuesday, there was no lineup announced. RIFF's executive director Arielle Bielak is planning that.

There will be judging of the short films by Craig Childs, Daiva Chesonis and Jim Hurst, all of whom have been involved with RIFF in the past.

Ericson said half of the \$5 cover charge for the evening will support Rimrocker Historical Society. She said the Rimrocker ladies are potentially submitting a short film of their own too.

And on Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., Childs will come back to the Flying Bear to give a talk, based on a bike ride he completed. Childs is a renown author currently living in Norwood who writes about nature, ecology and the human experience.

Last fall he biked from the strip in Las Vegas, NV and rode north out into the deep desert. And, he's writing another book about that experience of taking a bike trip from the brightest place in Nevada to the darkest spot.

“It was farther than I thought,” he told the Forum. “My companion and I only used red or green lights to preserve our night vision, and I took light quality measurements along the way.”

*Cont. on Pg. 4*



Calving season is here

This image shows an Angus cow and one of the first calves of 2024 born at Bray Ranches. (Photo by Kerian Bray)

## EDUCATION

### DEEEP seeks help from teachers, librarians

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The DEEEP (Dominguez–Escalante Expedition Education Project) is asking for help from teachers and librarians to create teaching packets to be used with DEEEP's website in preparation of the 2026 celebration of the Dominguez and Escalante Expedition of 1776.

The packets and website are a gift to the schoolchildren of Colorado. The website is being designed using Esri Story Maps, which will have a map showing the location of the route through Colorado. By clicking on a spe-

cific day's location, the story for that day will be told.

DEEEP is asking for volunteer teachers and librarians to create a team using their expertise and knowledge that will provide teaching tools in preparation of the 2026 celebration.

DEEEP's website will be up and available by the end of 2024. The volunteer team will have access to DEEEP's research, maps and photos for the teaching packets. The story map software provides access for persons with disabilities. It is hoped the team will involve their local students by asking what they want to learn

about the expedition.

DEEEP's Esri license provides use for students in grades K-12, as well as the general public.

The America 250–150 Commission has been created in preparation of celebrations in 2026. Local communities along the 1776 expedition route are invited to use DEEEP's website and teaching packets for their community's celebration. The expedition in Colorado traveled near the following towns: Arboles, Ignacio, Durango, Hesperus, Mancos, Dolores, Dove Creek, Edgar, Naturita, Nucla, Pinon, Montrose, Olathe, Delta,

*Cont. on Pg. 3*

## TIPS FROM THE WEST END POSSE

## Rust

By MARK RACKAY

My first experience with the heartbreak of oxidation occurred when I was around 12 years old. I had saved enough money from working a paper route and assorted farm chores to purchase a single shot 20-gauge shotgun. That shotgun was my pride and joy, a declaration of independence, so to speak.

When I was not hunting with that little shotgun, I was cleaning it, meticulously. I kept every part of it cleaned, polished, and well lubricated. Except once. Once was all it took. An afternoon hunt afterschool.

I was walking a tree line, hoping to jump a rabbit, when the snowstorm hit. The temperature dropped 20 degrees, and the wind whipped a torrent of wet snow. It took me an hour to navigate my way back to the house, whereupon my arrival, I was greeted with "you're late for dinner, wash up and get back down here," by an angry grandmother.

The beloved shotgun was hastily placed in a case and put under my bed. I had every intention of cleaning and oiling the gun immediately after a bite of supper. Life got in the way, and it was a full three weeks before I opened that case. What I discovered was a total rust job, complete with pitting, all over my beloved shotgun.

Rust is hydrated iron oxide and is caused when iron reacts with oxygen and water, the chemical reaction called oxidation. Rust isn't particularly harmful to humans, aside from seeing it ruin a beloved piece of outdoor equipment. It can add a bad taste to a cooking utensil, but a small amount probably won't make you sick.

As a kid, we were warned about stepping on rusty nails, causing a puncture wound that could lead to tetanus. While you can get tetanus from a rusty object, it's not the rust that causes it. Instead, it is the bacteria that may be on the rusty object that makes you sick.

Many people use stainless steel equipment, firmly believing that stainless will not rust. These good-minded folks have obviously never lived near the sea. Ask any boater or saltwater angler how well stainless holds up. You will probably have to cover nearby children's ears when you get the answer. In the saltwater world, you don't own anything. The salt just lets you hang onto it for a while.

Rust has two enemies that I know of: oil and dry air. Both inhibit oxidizing but must be used and applied properly. Let's start with dry air.

Fortunately for us, Colorado is reasonably dry. When your equipment spends a day with you out in the elements, like rain and snow, be certain to dry it completely before stowing it away. Wet equipment stored in cases, duffel bags, gun cases or tackle boxes is an open invitation for rust. The rust will begin to form almost immediately. If possible, store equipment in open air always, or if it must be packed away, be sure it is fully dried first.

Swamp coolers are especially detrimental to prized outdoor equipment. Ask anyone who has ever left a cased shotgun in a dark closet during the summer months. Coolers add moisture to the air, somewhat stoking the fires of rusting.

Lots of people think good old WD40 is the answer for rusting, but it is not. WD40 helps displace water from an object, like a fishing reel or the action of a gun, but it does nothing to lubricate or prevent rust. Petroleum-based solvents will not prevent rust either; it takes a coating of good old oil.

Once you have dried your equipment, make sure the surfaces are free of dirt, dust and other contaminants left over from your excursion. The surfaces should be clean, paying attention to any hidden nooks and crannies. At this point, a light coat of oil can be applied.

There are lubricants that can be sprayed, but I usually wind up getting the oil spray everywhere else, like the floor and kitchen table. This "mess" usually leads into an interruption in marital bliss, so it is best to avoid the situation.

I have found that synthetic oils do not evaporate nearly as fast as regular oil. This is important for items that may be stored for longer periods of time. If something is to be stored for a very long period of time, consider a coating of grease. Unlike oil, grease has a thicker consistency and tends to stay where you put it. Tools, jacks and other equipment stored in truck boxes are perfect candidates for the protection of grease.

A preventative measure I have had success with is a coating of wax. Before I head out on a trip where I know the elements will be harsh, such as a late season elk hunt, I coat my rifle, knife blades, optics and other susceptible equipment with a coat of wax. I have found that Renaissance Wax or Rejex from Corrosion Technologies Corp. work really well in this area.

Better to prevent than learn the lesson the hard way, which is my usual way of learning.

## History: Rimrocker Historical Society Flour mills come to the West End, Part 1

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

By 1911, the West End communities were enjoying the fruits of their labor getting water onto their farmlands. The Gurley Ditch was flowing onto Wright's Mesa, The Lilylands Canal and Reservoir were showing some promise, there was talk of bringing more water to the Paradox Valley, and of course the Colorado Cooperative Company had brought plenty of water to Nucla. The country and the state of Colorado were promoting the growing of wheat in these new western areas in order to further their hope to become the leader in the world of wheat production.

In March of 1911, a flour mill was being encouraged for the Naturita Valley and was to be built in Norwood, Redvale or Coventry. The Mowrys from Cortez were the leaders of this endeavor and had successfully operated a mill there for eight years. J. F. Mowery and his son J. D. Mowery were willing to put up the funds to build and run the mill, as long as the area farmers promised to plant plenty of wheat.

The farmers had to write a letter of commitment to say how many acres of wheat they were willing to plant, and the first of those promises were for 600 to 700 acres. By the end of April, the site for the Mowry flour mill had been settled and was to be built on the Redlands townsite. The location was six blocks southeast of the record office, which is still standing in Redvale. It is the little building across the highway from the Redvale Community Center and for some time was also the old Redvale post office. (The town of Redvale was originally called the Redlands, but the name had to be changed because there was already a U.S. Post Office with the town name of Redlands.)

According to the Montrose Enterprise of May 29, 1911, of 'Interesting Items from The Naturita Valley Record' ... "J. D. Mowery, the junior member of the firm of Mowry & Son, millman of the Montezuma Valley, arrived at Redvale Friday evening, and Saturday selected his location for a 26 x 40, three-story flour mill ... The structure will be three stories high at its greatest eminence, or 40 feet, the two lower stories of which will measure 29 feet from the ground to the eaves. The engine room annex will occupy 26 x 26 feet at its base.

One load of lumber was hauled from Norwood Monday, and Tuesday the excavation work on the basement was completed.

The older Mowry has purchased \$13,000 worth of machinery of an Iowa firm, and this does not include an engine, the promoters of the enterprise having lately decided to buy a new one, and not put in one that has seen service.



This image shows E. L. McKee in front of his land office in Redvale circa 1920. (Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

In grinding capacity, the mill will be what is commonly designated as a 100-barrel concern.

It is planned to have everything in place and ready for business in the early fall, although the gist for the first year will be limited because the coming of the mill at this time was not a certainty, until it was too late for the wheat growers to increase their acreage.

The founders of the first flour mill in the Naturita-Paradox Valley are known as men of character and ability in their line throughout the large area of the western slope."

Back in those days there were no government hoops to jump through, so things moved pretty quickly. Mowery arrived on Friday night, picked his spot on Saturday, and by Tuesday had the basement excavated! The men of those times got busy and moved forward without dancing around and talking things to death.

By the beginning of June, the foundation for the flour mill was completed, and a few thousand feet of lumber were on the ground. At the end of June, the structure was "going up into the air like a bird on a wing." In mid-July, the two top stories had been added, the roof was on and the

mill was fully enclosed.

The young J. D. Mowry "made an overland start for Cortez, expecting to return to the scene of his activities as soon as he could load his wife and her belongings into a wagon. They will make Redvale their home in the future."

The future looked bright for the farming of wheat and the new flour mill.

To be continued ...

(Article taken from *The Montrose Enterprise* May, 29 1911, *Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection*, *Colorado State Library*.)

Note from Jane Thompson: *Important news sources of the West End at this time were the Redvale Record and the Naturita Valley Record. Those newspapers were great at publishing the news of the area. Unfortunately, these newspapers have been lost to us, as well as The Nucla Independent. The Rimrockers are in possession of a very few of each, but much of the local news from these papers was reprinted in the Montrose Daily Press, The Montrose Enterprise and even the Telluride Journal. I have done all of my research from these newspapers, which are accessible from the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, Colorado State Library online. We are very fortunate to have this resource, and to their credit I have learned much about our area.*

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This image shows the Nucla Transfer Station, which will close at the end of February. (Photo by Rusty Scott)

## Transfer Station to close

Cont. from Pg. 1

Chris Tooker, owner and operator of Tooker Electric, agreed he was “bummed.” He’s used the Nucla Transfer Station to haul construction trash away from his job sites, as well as the Vestal House, now called Amy’s Place, that he and his wife own. He said he’s used it about once a month on average for work-related business.

“I would agree it could affect a lot of people,” he said.

Tooker has seen other construc-

tion employees fill trailers from job sites and head to the Nucla Transfer Station. He also knows there is an uptick in use of the facility during springtime, when people do general cleanup.

Tooker said he, like others, will make do and find another option.

But could the closure lead to more illegal dumping of trash in the local area?

Paula Brown, founding member of the West End Wild and Free of Trash Coalition, said her personal opinion is “no.”

“The people who are using it are responsible and will continue to be responsible,” she said. “It’s worrisome, but they’re not the ones dumping on our public lands.”

Brown added it would be great for the West End if Bruin Waste of Naturita could keep the Nucla Transfer Station open and operate it. She also said she wished there were recycling opportunities for West End communities. Laube told the Forum Bruin has “no interest” in keeping the Nucla Transfer Station open.

## NNACC gears up for awards

Cont. from Pg. 1

an online nomination system for the Citizen of the Year Award and two other awards, the Community Star and the Business Star. Nomination forms have been circulating through email and social media.

The chamber will present its long-time Citizen of the Year Award to a community member who “through their personal/organizational involvement, leadership abilities, and selfless giving of their time and talent over the previous 12 months, has positively affected the community and the lives of its citizens.”

Chamber officials said the award honors one whose community contributions “have been both a recent effort resulting in a substantial benefit to the community, and a steady,

reliable long-term history of service to the NNACC community.” Officials have said they are also looking for “honesty and integrity.”

The chamber said a selection committee will sort through the nomination forms and look for involvement in community organizations and/or civic enterprises. They’ll also look for examples of leadership qualities and a history of community service, along with evidence of a nominee’s contribution to positive community benefit.

Nominees only have to be mentioned by one person to be considered. Being nominated several times doesn’t bear weight in the selection process. Last year, Aimee Tooker was the Citizen of the Year. In the past, the following have been honored: Deanna Sheriff (2022),

Tonya Stephens (2020), Sara Bachman (2019), Mike Epright (2018), Jane Thompson and TJ Jones (2017), Bryan Littlejohn (2016), Dawna Morris (2015) and Gayland Thompson (2014). There was no award in 2021, due to the chaos of the COVID pandemic.

Nominees cannot receive the award twice in the same 10-year time period. For a complete list of past Citizen of the Year Award winners, the NNACC has a record dating back to 1990.

The chamber will also present the Community Star Award and the Business Star Award on Feb. 17 at the annual banquet. Last year’s winners were Paula Riley and Bachman Law, respectively.

Entry deadline for all chamber nominations is Feb. 8.

## DEEEP

Cont. from Pg. 1

Austin, Hotchkiss, Paonia, Collbran, De Beque and Rangely.

The expedition came into Colorado from Santa Fe, NM, on Aug. 5, 1776, near Carracas. They traveled through what is now called the Western Slope of Colorado and entered Utah near Rangely on Sept. 12, 1776. The expedition’s purpose was to find a route from Sante Fe to the missions of California. The expedition was made up of Franciscan Father Dominguez and Father Escalante, and a crew of eight. They were gone for

159 days (39 days in Colorado) and traveled 1,700 miles.

Members of DEEEP come from all four states that the expedition traveled through. DEEEP is a group of more than 60 volunteers who are ranchers, archeologists, historians, biologists, educators, geologists, engineers, librarians, business owners, local historical groups, museums, universities, state and federal agencies. They have come together to preserve this important but often forgotten part of Colorado’s history.

All are welcome, and there are

no dues. All are asked to simply share their skills, knowledge and/or desire to help make DEEEP Colorado an excellent resource for all those who want to learn about the 1776 expedition.

Anyone who would like to support DEEEP with their time and/or who is interested in making a donation should contact Carol Hunter, DEEEP’s coordinator at DEEEP-Colorado@gmail.com. Donations can be made to DEEEP through the West End Economic Development Corporation, and those donations are tax-deductible.

# San Miguel Basin Forum

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Design Team: Rick Bickhart & Tori Sheets

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**RECIPE**

# McCabe family makes lime-rice beef bowls

By KEIRAN BRAY, *Forum Intern*

A quick and easy meal, the McCabe family loves to make lime-rice beef bowls in the middle of a busy week.

Brandie McCabe uses the Instant Pot to prepare black beans before she leaves for her workday.

First, she sautés the onion and garlic, using the “sauté” setting on the device. She likes to add chili powder, garlic salt and coriander with a couple bay leaves to this step as well.

Then, she adds a cup of black beans with a cup vegetable broth and 2 cups water to the Instant Pot and puts it on “high” for 40 minutes. The device will release afterward and sit on “low heat” all day, until ready for the rest of the meal.

(For those that don’t have an Instant Pot, a crockpot could work,

or you could simmer canned black beans on the stovetop, too, for a shorter amount of time.)

For the rice, the McCabes prefer to use jasmine rice, since it has a nice flavor and is quicker to cook up over other rice. Brandie recommends cooking according to package, but she likes to use chicken broth instead of water. She also adds lime juice to the liquid to cook into the rice. When rice is finished, she adds basil, salt and cilantro and stirs to combine.

She then cooks up ground beef on the stove with 1/2 tsp. coriander, 2 tsp. chili powder 1 tsp. cumin and 2 tsp. garlic salt. (Local beef is always available in the West End, but chicken could also be substituted.)

When all is complete, the family prepares their own bowls. Depending on what’s in the kitchen, that’s

what goes in the bowls for the week. If the family has fresh bell peppers and onions, they sauté those. Sometimes they also make quick queso with Velveeta cheese and tomatoes to add another layer to the bowls. (You could simply use shredded cheeses, of course.) Chopping up lettuce and adding salsa and sour cream are always a part of this meal.

“These are the best for families to make with their kids,” Brandie McCabe shared. “Our kids enjoy building their own bowls and adding the ingredients they prefer. It helps accommodate the many needs when it comes to feeding a household.”

With busy careers, sports and children, it’s no wonder the McCabe family has lime-rice beef bowls in their list of menu options.

## Flying Bear hosts special events

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

His gathering at the Flying Bear will be in preparation for the upcoming work he’s tasked himself with.

There will be a \$5 cover charge at Flying Bear for Child’s event, and 50 percent of that will support West End Trails Alliance (WETA). Ericson said the Childs event will likely include

discussions of bike touring, in general. No doubt, the Dark Sky enthusiasts will also appreciate the talk.

Food and drink will be available during both evening events, but Ericson said it’s best if people arrive early and get their orders in. There have been some bottleneck issues recently with orders being placed at the same time

when an event is starting. Ericson said she wants to ease the congestion for guests.

The winter hours for Flying Bear continue. Throughout February, the shop is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; the kitchen closes at 8 p.m., however. Ericson said the hours will expand sometime in March.



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**BUSINESS**

# Chamber celebrates Norwood local businesses, A-Z

**CHERYL JERABEK,**  
Norwood Chamber of Commerce  
of Wright's Mesa

The Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright's Mesa has begun spotlighting current business members. This week, the chamber is celebrating Bachman Law, LLC, BackCountry Catering and BackCountry Inn.

Bachman Law, LLC is situated in the heart of the West End at 140 E. Main St. in Naturita. The business was established in 2016 when Sara Bachman, a Nucla native, returned to her hometown to practice law.

Bachman provides legal support for local communities. She specializes in estate planning, business formation and real estate transactions. Services provided include wills, trusts, powers of attorney and guidance on long-term care planning.

She also collaborates with farming and ranching families on business succession plans and assists individuals in establishing new companies. In the real estate realm, she handles various aspects, including purchase and sale agree-

ments and easements.

Bachman actively supports many local nonprofit organizations and missions, in keeping with her strong commitment to the communities of Norwood, Nucla and Naturita.

BackCountry Catering is owned by Redvale resident Jeff Rossi. His culinary journey began at the age of 14 and led him to various renowned establishments across the nation, including Telluride. He moved back to the area and relocated to Redvale in 2018 to start BackCountry Catering with his wife and business partner, Stefanie Rossi.

With his best friend and fellow chef Brian Batten, Rossi won Telluride Top Chef in 2019 and again in 2022.

He specializes in farm-to-table cuisine with a focus on local game and fresh, seasonal ingredients. BackCountry Catering offers a customized and diverse menu that accommodates allergies, dietary restrictions and personal preferences.

The Rossi family said they enjoy it.

"We love the fact that we get to

live and work in such an amazing place," Rossi told the chamber.

And, at 1160 W. Grand Ave. in Norwood is BackCountry Inn. Owned by Telluride Ski & Golf and managed by Norwood resident Chris Bentler, the inn caters to business travelers, construction crews and tourists. The rooms are budget-friendly, but equipped with all the essentials.

Beyond lodging, BackCountry Inn is deeply involved in the community, supporting events like the rodeo, 4-H, and Halloween.

"We try to be involved in as many things as we can throughout the year," Bentler told the chamber.

While the inn gained some recognition as a setting in the Netflix series "The Ranch," fame isn't what the folks at BackCountry Inn are after.

"We enjoy the personal touch," Bentler explained stated. "We like getting to know our guests and helping our community out whenever we can."

Future plans for the BackCountry Inn include expanding and upgrading the premises and continuing to serving the community.



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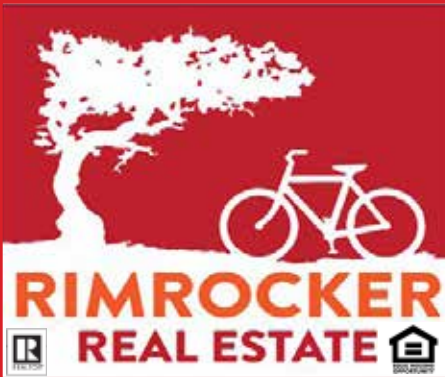
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**\$106**



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# West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

**1/22/2024**  
 1148 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31000 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a traffic hazard.  
 1514 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 24200 block of Highway 90 near Naturita for a medical assist.  
 2 school zones

1 VIN inspection  
 1 warrant attempt  
 1 directed patrol in Nucla  
**1/23/2024**  
 2144 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street in Naturita for an information report.  
 1 school zone  
 2 VIN inspections

premise.  
 1 school zone  
 1 follow up report  
**1/25/2024**  
 1129 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a fraud report.  
 1624 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29300 block of 3050 Road near Nucla for a report of smoke in the area.

cy assist.  
 1148 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a fraud report.  
 1606 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 91

near Naturita for an information report.  
 1816 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28700 block of DD Road near Nucla for a 911.  
 1 school zone  
 1 VIN inspection

## Delayed

Dear Editor,

The reopening of the community center in Nucla will be pushed back, as the space can't be ready by Feb. 2. Details will soon be announced.

Melissa Lampshire, Town Clerk  
 NUCLA

**1/24/2024**  
 0122 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Elm Street in Naturita for a medical assist.  
 0834 Hours - Deputy conducted court security in the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla.  
 1149 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 26000 block of Z26 Road near Nucla for an abandoned vehicle.  
 1731 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Main Street in Nucla for an unsecured

1722 Hours - Deputy took a civil matter report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.  
 1838 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 8500 block of Highway 90 near Bedrock for a disturbance.  
 2018 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of HH31 Road near Naturita for a theft report.  
 1 school zone  
 1 VIN inspection  
 1 directed patrol in Nucla

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### INVITATION TO BID - LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is currently accepting bids for the lease of livestock grazing on Jim Otterman- Lone Cone State Wildlife Area in Dolores County, Colorado. Bid forms will be available by contacting Trent Bertamus at [trent.bertamus@state.co.us](mailto:trent.bertamus@state.co.us) or (970)-209-0590. The deadline for bids is 5PM April 1st, 2024. Leases will be valid for one year. All bids must be marked "sealed bid".

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 31 & February 7, 2024

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to §38-26-107, C.R.S., that on February 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., final settlement with the following companies ("Contractors"), Aces Energy Solutions, Donner Steel Works, Elite Storage Projects, Laboratory Design, Overhead Door of GJ, Premier Window and Door, West End Mechanical, Phaze Concrete Inc. will be made by the West End Public Schools ("District"), for its New PK-12 School Project at 225 W 4th Avenue, Nucla, CO 81424, subject to satisfactory final inspection and acceptance of the Project by the District. Any person, co-partnership, association of persons, company or corporation that has furnished labor, materials, sustenance, or other supplies used or consumed by such Contractors or its subcontractor in or about the performance of the work on the Project or that has supplied laborers, rental machinery, tools or equipment to the extent used in the prosecution of the work whose claim therefor has not been paid by the Contractors or subcontractor, at any time up to and including the time of final settlement for the Project, may file a verified statement of the amount due and unpaid on such claim at the District Administration Offices located at 225 W 4th Avenue, Nucla, CO 81424. Failure to file such verified statement of claim prior to final settlement will release the District and its employees and agents from any and all liability for such claim and for making final payment to said Contractors.

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

## 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 - SW ¼ and NW ¼ SW ¼  
 Section 36 - The NW ¼ W ¼

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 II 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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### FILING APPLICATION FOR PHASE I BOND RELEASE OF A PORTION OF THE NEW HORIZON MINE SITE (SL-27)

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 Bond Release of a portion of the New Horizon Mine site. The application is denoted as SL-27 and pertains to the New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008 (approved April 6, 1983) 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 New Horizon Mine is located approximately 2 miles west of Nucla, Colorado.

The 85.5 acres of Phase I bond release area applied for are reclaimed dryland pasture, irrigated pasture, and prime farmland. The bond release area is shown in detail on Map 1 within the application. The status of the areas being applied for is consistent with the requirements of the reclamation plan, which includes backfilling and grading to the approved post-mine topography. Listed below is a general legal description of the area:

SW ¼ and SE ¼ E ½ of Section 36, Township 47 North, Range 16 West of the 6th P.M.

The New Horizon Mine currently holds a surety bond in the amount of \$2,512,434, which includes the above listed area. With this application, the New Horizon Mine will be requesting relinquishment of 60% of the bond held for this parcel.

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 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 2024

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*Sara Bachman*  
 -Attorney at Law-

970.865.2440  
[sara@bachmanlawllc.com](mailto:sara@bachmanlawllc.com)  
[www.bachmanlawcolorado.com](http://www.bachmanlawcolorado.com)

**NOTICE FROM THE SAN MIGUEL BASIN FORUM**

We have to raise subscription rates a bit, only to be able to cover the postage. For the last year, we didn't break even on the mail.

This year, subscriptions will go to \$45 for Montrose/San Miguel Counties and \$55 for those out of the territory.

We're sorry for any inconvenience.

**1/26/2024**  
 0904 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 8500 block of Highway 90 near Bedrock for a civil standby.  
 1012 Hours - Deputy conducted a ride along in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.  
 1203 Hours - Sheriff Holland, 43, was contacted in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for driving a defective vehicle.  
 1744 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for an animal problem.  
 1853 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a trespassing report.  
 2018 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27600 block of CC Road near Nucla for a civil matter.  
 1 school zone  
 1 follow up report

**1/27/2024**  
 1638 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1000 block of Main Street in Nucla for an animal problem.  
 2 follow up reports  
 1 civil process attempted/served

**1/28/2024**  
 0943 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an information report.  
 1046 Hours - Perry Rutter, 69, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita and cited for speeding.  
 1106 Hours - Deputy conducted a ride along in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.  
 1352 Hours - Stacie Hornak, 36, was contacted on Highway 141 mm 60 near Naturita and cited for speeding.  
 1545 Hours - Joshua Johnson, 45, was contacted on Highway 141 mm 60 near Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.  
 1600 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Park Drive in Naturita for a theft report.  
 1606 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 141 mm 60 near Naturita for a welfare check.  
 1643 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Highland Drive in Naturita for a civil standby.  
 2 follow up reports  
 1 civil process attempted/served

**1/29/2024**  
 0939 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for an agen-

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

© StatePoint Media  
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

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

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**

THEME: SUPER BOWL

**ACROSS**

1. Desert bloomers
6. Request for tailor
9. Paul Bunyan's companion
13. Delivered by plane
14. Boiling emotion
15. Match play result?
16. Like the North vs. the South war
17. Bag, ‡ Paris
18. Nymph of lakes and springs
19. \*Team that never made it to Super Bowl
21. \*Last year's Super Bowl winner
23. \*Safety value
24. Disfigure
25. \*Birthplace of NFL
28. Roofed colonnade
30. Dr. Seuss' Yertle
35. Auctioneer's final word
37. Sea eagles

39. Popular winter boot brand
40. Largest ethnic group in Rwanda
41. User's destination
43. Like Twiggy's skirt
44. Former anesthetic
46. Not all
47. Death notice
48. Like r in American English
50. Luau souvenirs
52. Opposite of WSW
53. Vatican's head
55. Cattle prod
57. \*AFC's top seed
60. \*Host state of this year's Super Bowl
63. Like allergy spray
64. Second person of be
66. Pleasant odor
68. Fervent
69. Grazing ground
70. "When pigs fly!"
71. Modeling material
72. \*NFL Honors' announcement
73. Trento's Council of \_\_\_\_\_

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

**DOWN**

1. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
2. Alight, past tense
3. Boat mooring spot, e.g.
4. Short for betwixt
5. Wife's parents
6. Serpenterium noise
7. Time period
8. Hajj destination
9. Hillside, in Scotland
10. "Dream on!" (2 words)
11. Constricting snakes
12. \*\_\_\_\_\_ zone
15. Bad blood
20. Post-it user
22. Not miss
24. Street opening
25. \*Half-time show entertainer
26. Compass point
27. In spite of the fact, arch.
29. Loads from lodes
31. \*CBS announcer and former QB
32. Native American group
33. Famous Bolshevik
34. \*Like the Super Bowl players
36. Sonny & Cher, e.g.
38. Ditto
42. Neutral shade
45. With mature appearance
49. Bamboozle
51. Learned one
54. Religious song
56. Defier
57. Not top-shelf
58. On the ocean
59. Deviate
60. Type of tide
61. Peace symbol
62. End of grace
63. \*49ers' conference
65. Short for one time around
67. Short for Arthur

<b>CROSSWORD</b>																		
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12					
13						14				15								
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44									45			46			47			
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									57	58	59				60		61	62
63									64	65					66			67
68									69						70			
71									72						73			

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**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT**

Office Space available in the Vista Realty building at 212 East Main Street, Naturita. Call Debbie @ 970-865-2525.

**BOARD VACANCY**

The San Miguel Basin Fair Board has a vacancy for an alternate member for a 2-year term.

To apply go to: [bit.ly/4b3VTfg](https://bit.ly/4b3VTfg). For more info contact Janet Kask at 970-369-5469/janetk@sanmiguelcountyco.gov

**HELP WANTED**

**Town of Nucla now hiring for a Janitor.**

Flexible part-time schedule The beginning rate of pay is \$14.42/hour.

**ACCEPTING RESUMES - Montrose West Recreation (MWR) is accepting resumes for the position of Executive Director.**

The Executive Director of MWR is the lead individual that represents the organization to the community, donors, constituents, and other key stakeholders. The Executive Director provides leadership, reports to the board, directs the organization, and manages staff to further the organization's mission and goals. This is a part time position and compensation depends on experience and qualifications. Position open until filled. Apply online @ <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezKs4SfzrTOtYXVQPekT9ZuC3yacxt6tgeelxVISpyXudzg/viewform>. Job description included within the link. MWR is a non-profit organization (501c3), EOE.

**Hoof & Paw has a part-time position available at the animal shelter.**

Job duties include walking dogs, cleaning cat condos, feeding and watering animals, medications as needed, cleaning shelter areas, and paperwork. If you love working with animals and are interested in applying, please call or text Tonya Stephens at 970-426-7568, drop off your resume at the Hoof & Paw Thrift Store in Naturita, or contact us on Facebook.

**Aggregate/concrete ready-mix foreman.**

Williams Construction is hiring a full-time, permanent, Aggregate/Concrete Ready-mix Foreman for our gravel pit / batch plant located in Redvale, CO. The ideal candidate will be career minded, a class B CDL is encourage but not required, Ready-mix concrete plant experience helpful, mechanical abilities, computer skills, good attitude, work well with others, the willingness to head up new projects and help streamline our operations. Please e-mail your resume to [darbie@williamsconstruction.biz](mailto:darbie@williamsconstruction.biz), fax a resume to 970-327-4157, fill an application out on [williamsconstruction.biz](http://williamsconstruction.biz) or come by the office at 35550 CR 4000 in Norwood.

**Flying Bear Pizzeria in Naturita seeks full-time and/or part-time cooks.**

Competitive pay, unique benefits. Fun pizza kitchen. Will train the right candidates. Hiring process begins Feb. 1. Come in for application or to drop resume.

## DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.00-3.20	300-400# HEIFERS	2.80-2.90
400-500# STEERS	2.80-3.00	400-500# HEIFERS	2.70-2.80
500-600# STEERS	2.35-2.50	500-600# HEIFERS	2.25-2.66
600-700# STEERS	2.38-2.64	600-700# HEIFERS	2.15-2.42
700-800# STEERS	2.25-2.36	700-800# HEIFERS	2.15-2.28
800-900# STEERS	2.15-2.22	800-900# HEIFERS	1.90-2.05
Top bulls	High of 1.27	Medium bulls	1.00-1.08
Young Cows	1.05-1.40	Top cows	.99-1.04
Medium cows	.86-.98	Low-yielding cows	.85

**NEXT WEEK: Special Feeder Sale & Bred cow sale. Early**

**consignments - 35 bred cows, 30 1<sup>st</sup> calf heifers, 200 feeder calves, 120 mixed feeders, 40 feeder steers, 110 mixed feeders.** Along with our usual dock run of 200-300

**UP COMING SALES**

Next special Horse sale – Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

NEXT SPECIAL SHEEP & GOAT SALE THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>.

# Mustang sports



Shay Snyder plays good defense. The girls, who are on a roll, beat DeBeque, 38-22, Saturday, and Telluride, 49-25, last Thursday.



Here, Lantry Galley goes for the layup.



The guys fell to DeBeque in a close game, 55-58, and also lost to Telluride, 42-53. Pictured here is Daniel Zunich.



No. 14 Slade Gillen is not throwing away his shot.



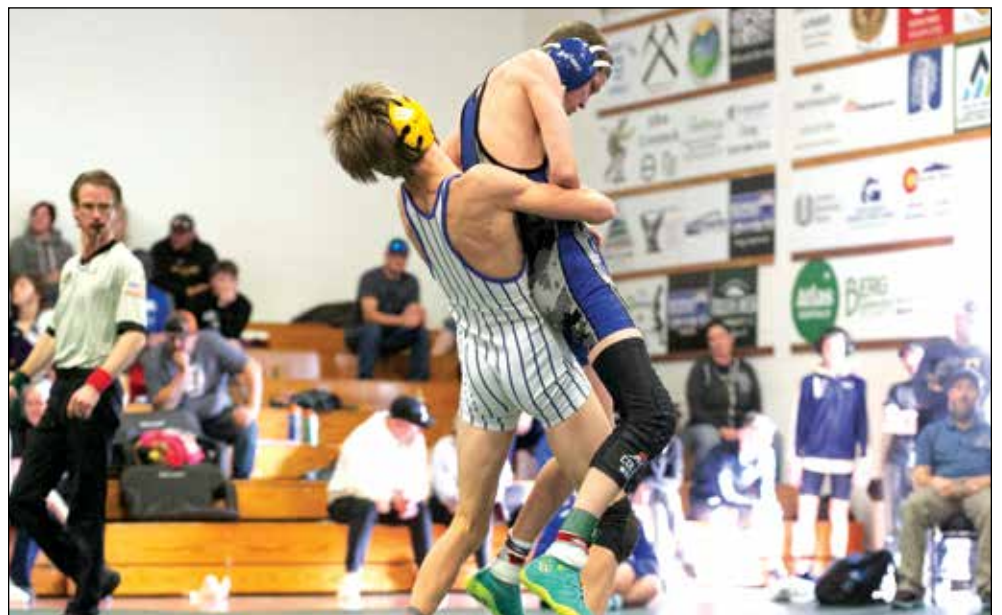
Head coach Rob McCabe and assistant Lars Nasland are keeping the wrestling program on track. The guys finished in the Top 10 of teams this last weekend, for the third week in a row.



Wrestling traveled to Center and took ninth overall. Arthur Connelly took second place.



JW Nasland was also second in his class.



Jackson McCabe, pictured here, was fourth. In sixth place in their respective classes were Derrick VanDellan, Paxtin Caruso and Cole Bray. (Photos by Brandie McCabe)