

San Miguel Basin Forum

EDUCATION

Upper grades settle into new Nucla school

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The upper grades — the middle school and high school — in West End Public Schools' new facility are settling in and enjoying life in their new learning environment.

"We are sincerely thankful for the opportunity to have this new school, and it's heartening to witness the transformative impact it has had on both our staff and students," Malisa Reed, principal for the upper grades said over the weekend. "The air is filled with a sense of pride, and a newfound spirit of success permeates our halls."

She added the smooth transition into the new building is a testament to the dedication and collaboration of the entire school community. According to her, it's amazing to see how everyone has come together to make the school site transition nearly seamless, creating an environment that fosters growth, learning and a sense of belonging.

Amongst all the building changes, there is a new addition to the staff. Kolin Tomlinson has joined the team as a teacher and athletic trainer.

"We are very fortunate to have his talents in the classroom, as well as in the gym," Reed said. "His expertise is already making a positive impact, and we're thrilled to have him on board."

And, with the new year, comes scholarship season, which is well underway. Valene Baskfield, the Director of the Chang-Chavkin Scholars Program, took the opportunity to present to the junior class in Nucla this past month about the Chang-Chavkin scholarship program.

The regional program aims to support and empower students in their pursuit of higher education — those in rural communities and who are first-generation college students. Students who meet the criteria have the opportunity to apply for funding.

Ms. Erin Squires, who teaches middle school math, science and also high school biology, brought in a guest speaker, and the school was honored to have Dr. Jut Wynne on campus in January.

Wynne is an accomplished cave scientist and conservation ecologist with a background in wildlife ecology, entomology, statistical modeling and remote sensing. Wynne's work extends far beyond the planet, and has contributed significantly to the understanding of caves throughout the solar system.

Over the past two decades,

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ENERGY

George Glasier talks uranium

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

George Glasier carved out time from his busy schedule to sit down with the San Miguel Basin Forum and discuss uranium, the market, and his plans for the future. Glasier, who formed Energy Fuels in 2006, was going to build a uranium mill in Paradox about a decade ago, but the license ran into litigation, something he fought for five years. He'd spent \$10 million when the the State of Colorado wanted him to start the process over, but he decided not to. Now, he's building

a uranium mill in Green River, UT. It will be the only operational mill in the U.S. The one in Blanding, UT is not processing uranium but rare earths elements, which are used in modern technology for things like smart phones and vehicles.

Glasier (Pinion Ridge Mining) owns the Sunday Mine, formerly owned by Union Carbide that supplied the uranium mill in Uravan. There are about 20 people working there now, at what Glasier said is probably the best mine in the world. It produces both uranium and vanadium, which is very unusual.

Many people are watching

the market and know uranium is climbing. In 2007, the price went to \$130, but didn't stay because of supply and demand. Now, though, demand is exceeding supply, something that will be the case for years, Glasier said. The world hasn't mined much recently, because it didn't make sense. According to Glasier, Russia and Kazakhstan wanted to capture the world market on uranium, and they purposely drove prices down.

Things have changed, and the price is now more than \$100 per pound. The market is growing, but anyone mining doesn't have a

Cont. on Pg. 5

DARK SKIES

WEDSA urges participation in county survey

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The West End Dark Sky Alliance (WEDSA) adopted its bylaws unanimously at its January meeting, and reviewed the finances and upcoming events for 2024.

They also discussed potential lighting issues on county land around Nucla and Naturita. WEDSA's president Deb Stueber said the threat of solar power plants, windmills, extractive mining and other inevitable development out in the west end of Montrose County warrants responses to the survey about the Montrose County Master Plan and county land-use code changes.

"We must express our desire to preserve our night skies in Montrose County," she said. "Lighting policies must be adopted that are dark-sky friendly, while also accommodating mining, industry, energy production, agriculture and tourism." WEDSA members agree smart lighting will protect night skies while creating safety on industrial job sites, and in residential developments.

"We must convey that we want our beloved dark skies to remain as they always have been as much as possible," she said. "They are our heritage and a signature feature of this area. Once gone, dark skies are hard to recapture. They are integral to a healthy ecosystem, which keeps us all healthy too. So, go online to Montrose County and fill out the Master Plan survey."

Stueber said survey participants should stress they're providing input about the West End, as the questions are geared toward the Montrose area and the east side of the Uncompaghre Plateau.

Stueber closed the recent WEDSA meeting by reading her letter of resignation. She said she feels confident someone will take her place who can keep up with changing times and technology. She added the organization is set up and has achieved much already.

Despite leaving her leadership role, she said she'll continue as an advisor and negotiator for public lighting for both Nucla and Naturita and with SMPA.

"I will also tend to other loose ends that must be done to maintain our DSI certification status," she said. "Each of you is tasked with helping maintain our certification status as well, by documenting events with photos, verbal descriptions, news articles and anything else that supports keeping our stars bright."

Stueber said the documentation

Cont. on Pg. 2



Stories & Poems program comes to West End

The Naturita Community Library has teamed up with the Talking Gourds Poetry Project to host a new Stories & Poems performance series on the third Sunday of each month starting at 11 am. beginning Feb. 18 with Norwood storyteller Bob Mckeever, pictured right. All are invited. (Photo by Art Goodtimes)

COMMUNITY

County looks into buying old elementary

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Officials from Montrose County are looking into the possibility of the county acquiring the old Naturita Elementary School. The inquiry comes after Citizens State Bank backed out of the purchase in January. Chairman of the bank Doug Price had told the Forum in January after his announcement of not completing the closing that too many red flags related to costs were involved and more partnerships were needed. While Price and West End Public Schools District Superintendent Clint Wytulka were discussing another option — one that has not been made public — another development is unfolding. Katie Yergensen, Montrose

County Communication Director, confirmed with the Forum that Montrose County is looking into the possibility of purchasing the old school. But, that's all Yergensen could say as of press time.

"Montrose County is excited to explore the possibility of purchasing the Naturita Elementary School. At this time, the county is conducting due diligence on the property," she said. "This transaction presents a tremendous win-win opportunity for the West End community and county. If acquired, the school building would be used to consolidate county operations. Concurrently, the county would look to collaborate with West End partners to make the gymnasium available for public and community use. The

county is carefully assessing feasibility and financial implications of this project, ensuring it aligns with long-term goals. We are grateful to superintendent Clint Wytulka and the school board for their assistance in this process."

Nucla

Nucla Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire told the Forum three individuals will be sworn in on April 2 as town trustee. They are Timothy W. Pierce, Penni E. Berry and Thomas Scott Barnes. Regarding the Nucla Community Center, Lampshire said it will be open in time for the Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.

"We are excited," she said Mon-

Cont. on Pg. 5

AG TALK

Why artificial insemination?

By KEIRAN BRAY, Forum Intern

The breeding of cows is a bigger process than most people might think. There are many techniques that ranchers use to get their cattle bred and ready for the next breeding season, one of those ways being artificial insemination (AI).

Artificial insemination is “the process of depositing semen into a female reproductive tract by artificial techniques rather than natural mating” (Science Direct). This technique has become a big tool for ranchers when breeding livestock, and here’s why. With AI a rancher can enhance genetic traits, meaning they can pretty much hand pick what breed, size, color and other genetics they want an animal to have.

With AI ranchers can select high-quality bulls with characteristics they want, such as increased milk production, improved disease resistance, meat quality or even increased birthing rates for when the animal is older. Now, a rancher doesn’t have to AI a whole herd. Cattlemen could just do a few cows, and over time that could open up an opportunity for more genetic diversity within the herd, ultimately leading to one’s dream herd.

AI can be a safer way for animals to have babies. On my ranch, Bray Ranches, we like to AI our heifers, the first-time calvers. This, one, helps the cows hopefully have an easier birth their first time, and,

two, this allows us to help them genetically, so then the baby isn’t too big for the cow and there aren’t any problems at birth. Some people might say that this is dangerous for the animals, or that we are intruding on their rights as animals, but that is far from the truth. In the long run, AI is much safer for the animal.

AIing one’s cattle could help significantly with a herd’s overall health. By using semen from tested and disease-free bulls, ranchers can minimize the risk of transmitting diseases or genetic defects to the whole herd. When breeding naturally, there is a higher risk of disease and genetic defect to spread through a herd. If a rancher were to AI just a few of their cattle, over time that risk will decrease, because they have hand-picked their genetics throughout the herd. Now, this does not mean there will never be disease or defects. We won’t be able to completely get rid of those things, especially because these animals are outside and in nature constantly, but we can surely decrease the chances.

Artificial insemination is the better option, both in the short term and long term for ranch animals. Personally, I would not AI all of my cattle every year, because it’s very expensive, but also because natural breeding is also important. But, AIing a few cattle for the betterment of the herd is great for their overall health and production.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resignation

Dear Editor,

I hereby resign as president of West End Dark Sky Association (WEDSA), effective April 1. I can no longer perform as effectively as I should at my job, and after five years it is time for me to step down and support a new president for this organization, and move forward with some changes in my personal life.

It has been so gratifying to have worked with all of you who helped build this organization and accomplish so many goals. There are still “irons in the fire,” and I plan to help with the transition to a new leader for our organization. I will also advise and suggest ways to meet Nucla and Naturita’s requirements and agreements to maintain their official joint Dark Sky International Community Certification. This is an exceptional designation and opportunity for both towns, especially looking down the road.

I am content and pleased to leave a “turn key” core organization. After two years of meeting rigorous application requirements, WEDSA achieved world-class status for Nucla and Naturita as official Dark-Sky International Communities.

The organization thus far has established a mission statement, Facebook page, bank account, bylaws, equipment for events, educational brochures and holders at 40 area businesses, a popular logo and logo merchandise, an educational display and retail space at the Nucla-Naturita Area Visitor Center and, finally, membership in the Western Slope Dark Sky Coalition which

provides fiscal sponsorship, liability insurance, grant writing support and a website with a page for WEDSA.

With a great organizational core, the time has come for me to step down and for WEDSA to continue on and maintain itself in the preservation and protection of our area’s very precious dark sky resource. Thank you, everyone, for contributing to our successful organization and helping support me as first president of WEDSA. Keep looking up!

Deb Stueber
NUCLA

You are invited

Dear Editor,

The Ute Trail Study Club meeting is on Feb. 14 at noon at the Redvale Community Building. Our guest speaker this month is Barbara Youngblood, current curator of the Norwood Historical Museum. She will be giving us a presentation on the history of Norwood Hill, its builders, the importance of it for commerce, and the trials and tribulations of the project with many local names involved. We will be serving a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Bring a little side dish or dessert, or not, and grab a friend, as possible new members are always welcome to enjoy a great luncheon and good company. Our theme will be for Valentine’s Day, of course! Thank you, and see you then!

Rebecca Rogers
NORWOOD

History: Rimrocker Historical Society Flour mills come to the West End, Part 2

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*



This image shows grain shocks, the old-fashioned way of bundling grain in a field so that it can dry.

(Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

The decision had been made; the new flour mill of the West End would be built at Redvale. This new flour mill would be able to service farmers from Wright’s Mesa to the Lilylands and to Paradox Valley. Hopes were high for the prospect of hundreds of acres of wheat being grown and milled locally.

The Montrose Enterprise of July 17, 1911, stated, “Harry Johnson has a fine stand of spring wheat on new ground. And, John Mock on old ground has a few acres of winter species that promises to surpass any previous effort of his at growing the bread-making cereal.”

The Hardman brothers Wade and Frances ordered a J8 M Rumley steam plow and set out to clear a thousand acres on the Lilylands. The machine would ship from Denver to Dolores and then drive on its own power to the Dry Creek Basin and plow 200 acres, and then on to the Lilylands. It would prepare the soil there for the large planting of winter wheat. Can you imagine seeing something like that coming across the Basin? I wonder what ever happened to it.

While the farmers were preparing new and old fields for planting wheat, the Mowrys were busy shipping in the machinery for the

new mill. According to the Redvale Record, quoted in the Telluride Journal of August 10, 1911, “Six carloads of machinery and a boiler and engine make a little over 70,000 pounds of freight to be hauled from Placerville to the Naturita Valley mills. The owners expect to start making flour about the first of October.”

Can you imagine that much freight being hauled by wagon through San Miguel Canyon and up Norwood Hill? What a process. The article also explained that there was a high demand for seed for Turkey Red winter wheat. This seemed to be the best winter wheat for making flour, and farmers were worried there would be a shortage.

But there didn’t seem to be much to complain about. The farmers were happy with all of their crops in August 1911. As well as their wheat, they were also producing good crops of oats, rye, barley and potatoes. The future looked good for the farmers, and they felt “the only thing the West End needs is a railroad, and if we could get that in some way, we could show western Montrose County as the garden spot of the State of Colorado.” Again, there is the railroad that never came!

Not until May 1912 would it

finally be announced in the Montrose Enterprise, “The Redvale flour mill is running. Bring in your wheat.”

Farmers were rushing to get their wheat harvested and into the flour mill. The farmers of Nucla had a bumper crop of wheat, but the Redvale mill was having a hard time keeping up with the demand. They were complaining that they would have to take their wheat to the Montrose mill and trade for flour. In the meantime, the Mowrys built an addition onto the mill for storing the wheat, so that they could take care of all of the farmers.

Business was booming at the Redvale flour mill. The farmers were having good luck with all of their wheat crops. Farmers across the West End were selling their wheat at \$1.50 per 100 pounds to the Redvale mill, which was the same price that the Montrose mill was paying their farmers. The whole enterprise was considered a success.

By the end of 1912, there was suddenly talk of a new mill to be built in Norwood. Farmers were planting more wheat, so perhaps there could be enough business for another mill. Time would tell if the Norwood people could get a mill built as quickly as Redvale had.

County survey

Cont. from Pg. 1

will be used at the end of 2024 when writing the annual DSI report. She said every contribution helps. That includes every light bulb changed, shade mounted, light fixture changed, educational opportunity taken, or event participated in — it must all be documented.

“Anything you do to promote dark skies will help our report,” she said. “Please send the info to me so it is not lost or forgotten.”

She’s also helping the Western Slope Dark Sky Coalition establish a San Miguel County Dark Sky International Reserve that will encompass the entirety of San Miguel County with the core of darkness being Thunder Trails and the Lone Cone areas. The application is underway. The West End could be attached to the possible reserve, as could other counties. It would be the third in the U.S. and 22nd in the world.

Now there are 15 Dark Sky

places in Colorado with 29 more “in the pipeline.” Colorado will soon have 44 International Dark Sky places certified. WEDSA members said tourism is burgeoning and that state residents do not want growth and development to destroy the beauty of the night skies.

Editor’s note: *The Montrose County survey for master planning seems to be not taking additional responses this time.*

NORWOOD

Bittner retires from Norwood Public School

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

After 25 years of public service and working within the public education system, Todd Bittner has decided that it is time to focus more on his health and spending quality time with family. He will retire June 30 after wrapping up the school year.

Bittner, along with his wife Deb, made their way to the Norwood Public School (NPS) District three years ago. His wife served one year as the school librarian, while Bittner has led the charge as superintendent.

He has developed many friendships with staff, community and neighbors of the district through his positive outlook, experience and knowledge in public education.

Bittner has been an integral part of directing the many pieces necessary in applying for an opportunity for "BEST" funding with the Colorado Department of Education in order to move in the direction of a new K-12 school for the district. Last year, the district missed the funding by one selection. Through board direction, he will again travel to the Eastern Slope to present a case on behalf of the district in hopes of solidifying the funding, and then the district can go for a bond in November and achieve

success in obtaining the remaining funds necessary to begin the project.

While at NPS, one could say that Bittner's inherent theme is "building trusting relationships." He has led several changes within the district, including making security a priority and building strong relationships with the San Miguel County Sheriff's Office. Daily, the presence of the sheriff's office is seen by way of Damian Nieblas, working as the on-site security resource officer, and with Michael Donnellon subbing for students on his days off from the county. And, Blayde Harrigan, also a deputy, assists in coaching the Maverick Football program during the season.

"Since my employment we have increased our capital assets, including purchasing a home through the Pinion Park Project, allowing the district to more easily recruit and retain staff," he said. "Through cooperative relationships with the Town of Norwood, we were able to purchase 17 acres of property in town. We have also re-established close working relations with the West End School District, Telluride Foundation, Norwood Fire Department and the Lone Cone Library. Each of these relationships bring a more solid foundation to the

district because of their continued support in one way or another."

Bittner's plan is to remain in the area and continue ownership and operation of the Giggling Goat Farm.

"We look forward to building more personal relationships within the community as small farmers and citizens of Norwood. This community, and school district as a whole, invited us in to be part of the family, and we have embraced this community as our own," he said. "The foundation that has been established over the past three years has left the district in a strong financial position and has created a culture that will continue to grow, even become more inspiring. We have outstanding staff at this district."

Principal Sam Ryan issued his sentiments.

"I have never had the opportunity to have worked alongside such an incredible leader. Working with Bittner these past three years has been an incredible journey for me and our school community," he said. "His retirement will be an immeasurable loss to our school community; however, I thank him greatly for his leadership, service, and learning experiences. I wish him nothing but the best in his retirement."

NONPROFITS

Website workshop is Feb. 22

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

To help nonprofits and community organizations navigate web accessibility principles, the Telluride Foundation is hosting a "Website Accessibility" workshop. Taught by Alley Rubadeau of Chair 9 Marketing, it will be held via Zoom Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free, this event will explore ways to make an organizational website more accessible to people with disabilities. Participants can expect to learn about legal compliance and "Web Content Accessibility Guidelines," inclusive design practices, including responsiveness and content creation, search engine optimization implications of accessibility,

testing and user feedback, and educational resources.

"Website accessibility is crucial because it ensures that people with disabilities can access and use online content without barriers," said Rubadeau. "It promotes inclusivity by catering to diverse needs, such as providing alternatives for visual or auditory impairments. Improving accessibility not only enhances user experience for a broader audience but also aligns with legal and ethical considerations, fostering a more equitable and socially responsible digital environment."

Rubadeau, the founder of Chair 9 Marketing in Boulder and with a long history in Telluride, boasts a decade of marketing expertise with a keen focus on analytics. She's played

a pivotal role in helping businesses of all sizes achieve their technical marketing goals and has a track record of successful entrepreneurship, having launched several ventures.

The workshop will be held via Zoom and will be recorded. Participants must register to get access to the Zoom link and attend: us06web.zoom.us/j/9708642158

Participants can also access the link by going to telluridefoundation.org and clicking on "Upcoming Nonprofit Workshops" under "What's New" on the home page. For more information or help registering, the public may contact April Montgomery at 728-8717 or april@telluridefoundation.org.

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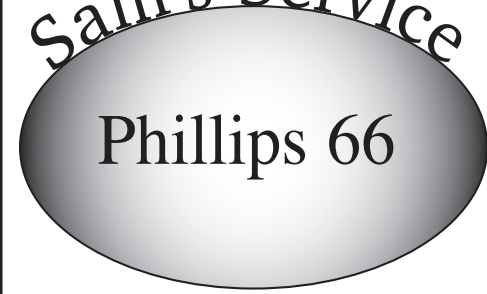
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Students work on pre-algebra in Ms. Aurianna Sandifer's eighth-grade math class in Nucla's new school. (Photo by Malisha Reed)

Nucla school

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Wynne has led more than 80 cave science expeditions to various locations, including Belize, Chile, China, Spain, Rapa Nui, Hawaii and throughout the American Southwest. Notably, he carried the prestigious Explorers Club flag on 20 of these expeditions.

Reed said talks from experts like

Wynne are important for Nucla students.

"We are excited about the enriching experiences and opportunities that these new classes and guest speakers bring to our students," Reed said. "The change in our physical surroundings has translated into a positive change in the attitudes and outlooks of both staff and students."

Reed said the pride the school community feels in the new building continues to grow. She's pleased with the level of enthusiasm and what the future holds.

Editor's note: A report on how the pre-K and elementary students have transitioned into the new combined school space, along with their recent celebrations, is forthcoming.

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George Glasier

Cont. from Pg. 1

place to take ore. That will change when Glasier opens his Utah mill. He said he'll take ore from everywhere, and buy from small miners.

He said the mill he's building will be state-of-the-art, much better than 1980s technology, and better for the environment with more efficiency. Still, he said his mill is two years away from completion.

At the same time, he said that's part of the reason that uranium companies are establishing themselves in the West End. At \$100 per pound, there's money to be made, and especially when his Utah mill will be open.

Regarding the small-scale reactors people are discussing, Glasier said they're the future of nuclear power. He said they can be built in a factory, cut costs and are safer.

He said the new technology does require though that the uranium product be enriched to 20 percent. The older, larger plants require 4 percent to make fuel. Russia has the only mill capable of producing the new type of fuel.

But, the small-scale reactors aren't the only thing driving up the market price. He said there's not enough product to power the existing plants. He said the world is not producing enough to fuel what's now operational, and China is building a large-scale plant every month. He said China has big plans for nuclear power energy, but they have no uranium. They're buying all the product they can.

Glasier said until a better source of energy comes along, uranium is where it's at as the world moves away from coal and oil and gas. He said many who've objected to

nuclear fuels are now acknowledging it's a better plan than climate change. He said nuclear will fuel the next few decades. And that could mean big things for the West End.

"This area is a big supplier of uranium," he said. "It could be an economic boom for this area, and it's good for climate change. It will fuel the carbon (reduction) industry."

Mike Rutter, vice president of operations for Pinion Ridge Mining, agreed the market uptick was good for the local area. He told the Forum they want to hire local people, and won't look outside the region unless they have to. Some outside employees, like geologists or engineers, might have to be recruited, but Glasier and Rutter agreed they can hire and train many people from Nucla and Naturita.

News roundup

Cont. from Pg. 1

day. "It is just taking longer than I had hoped. We will plan a community opening for the first part of March."

Norwood

Norwood Mayor Candy Meehan is running as an Independent for San Miguel County Commissioner for District 3. She's not sure if she is running unopposed.

Last week, she traveled with Norwood Town Manager Deana Sheriff to the Colorado Water Congress in Denver. They explored funding for Wright's Mesa as a whole and "made some fantastic

contacts," Meehan said. They plan to attend next year too. Meehan also starts another Harvard leadership training, a 15-week program, this week. She's in the process of attaining Harvard's executive leadership certificate.

Todd Bittner announced he will retire from his position of superintendent of Norwood Public School District. He told the Forum he's looking forward to the next chapter of his life with his wife Deb Bittner.

"We have spent a combined, as a couple, over 50 years of public service and will continue to do so through the efforts of the Giggling Goat Farms nonprofit. Norwood

has become our home, and we are embracing its rural, agricultural roots," he said. "The Norwood School District is in good hands with the current board. We have made significant progress over the past three years and will continue to do so with a solid foundation. Keeping our focus on staff retention and student achievement should be the district's primary goal."

Regan Snyder also resigned from the Norwood School Board last week. She told the Forum she's too busy with her own family, her work and her ranch to continue with the level of work the board will need to accomplish in the next few years.



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Wed, Feb 7 - Wed, Feb 21

125 N Spruce St
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Courtroom 9

Tina Peters.us

NO COURT Mon, Feb 19

We will draw attention to and spotlight unconstitutional activities, since Tina can't talk about this during her trial. Hundreds needed inside & outside the courtroom each day. Live Feed of trial available. Invite your favorite influencers. Food options nearby. Focused gathering spot for lunch & dinner. Text Dee for details or to RSVP 720.507.1813.

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West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

1/30/2024

0931 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

1025 Hours - Daina Love, 26, was arrested in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla on an outstanding warrant.

1545 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Wilson Street in Naturita for a disturbance.

2214 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29800 block of 3000 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

1 school zone
1 warrant attempt

1/31/2024

1002 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

1012 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29100 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for an animal problem.

1335 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a juvenile problem. Two juveniles were cited for underage possession of tobacco.

1533 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30000 block of DD Road near Nucla for an information report.

1 school zone
2 VIN inspections
1 follow up report

2/1/2024

0954 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.

1338 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 35300 block of II Road near Redvale.

1505 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Highland Circle in Naturita for a civil standby.

1640 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29100 block of Highway 97 for an animal problem. Clint Cloud, 51, was cited for harboring a barking dog.

1735 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a 911.

1 school zone
1 VIN inspection
1 warrant attempt
2 civil processes attempted/served

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Lunch Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

Monday, Feb. 12
BBQ Sandwich, Fries, Salad Bar, and Milk

Tuesday, Feb. 13
Chicken Strips, Roll, Salad Bar, and Milk

Wednesday, Feb. 14
Chili, WG Chips, Salad Bar, and Milk

Thursday, Feb. 15
Chicken Parmesan, Roll, Salad Bar, and Milk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Completion and a Request to Release Financial Warranty for a Designated Mining Operation of the Hawkeye Mine, DRMS permit M-1978-311. Submitted by Gold Eagle Mining, Inc. PO Box 3007 Montrose, CO 8102

The location is 23 miles North of Dove Creek, CO and 1/2 mile East of Slickrock, CO on Highway 141 and 39 miles South of Naturita on Highway 141.

All reclamation has been completed as requested and properly revegetated. Public comments concerning the appropriateness of the requested release should be sent within thirty (30) days of the date of publication to:

Colorado Division of Reclamation
Room 215
1001 E. 62nd Ave.
Denver, CO 80216

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum February 7, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

ELK RIDGE MINING AND RECLAMATION - APPLICATION FOR TECHNICAL REVISION No. 108 (TR-108)

Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC, P.O. Box 628, Nucla, CO 81424 has filed with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety an application for Technical Revision No. 108 (TR-108) to the New Horizon Mine Permit No. C-1981-008. TR-108 proposes to revise the post-mine topography on the Johnson Property to allow for excess use of topsoil, and TR-108 also proposes to reduce the mine permit boundary to remove Phase III release areas from the permit boundary.

The New Horizon Mine office is located at 27646 West 5th Street, P.O. Box 628, Nucla, Colorado. The permit area contains tracts of land located in Section 6, Township 46 North; Range 15 West; Section 31, Township 47 North, Range 15 West; Section 1 Township 46 North, Range 16 West; Section 36 Township 47 North, Range 16 West, of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, Montrose County, Colorado. The above-mentioned tracts of land are shown on USGS 7.5 minute Nucla Quadrangle map.

A copy of the complete technical revision application is available for public inspection at the Montrose County Courthouse Annex, Nucla, Colorado. Written comments, objections, or a request for a public hearing to determine the interests of the public and affected landowner by this technical revision can be submitted to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado 80203, Telephone (303) 866-3567. Should a hearing be requested, it will be held within the locality of the New Horizon Mine. All comments, objections and request for public hearings must be received by the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety within 30 days after the last publication of this notice.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum February 7, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF NUCLA - ELECTION CANCELLATION

The Town of Nucla's regular election to be held on April 2, 2024 is cancelled as provided for in CRS 31-10-507 and Article III section 2-72 of the Town of Nucla Municipal Code.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum February 7, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE - INVITATION TO BID - LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is currently accepting bids for the lease of livestock grazing on Jim Olterman- Lone Cone State Wildlife Area in Dolores County, Colorado. Bid forms will be available by contacting Trent Bertamus at 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

ELK RIDGE MINING AND RECLAMATION - 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 description of the area:

SW 1/4 and SE 1/4 E 1/2 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

XEROX WORKCENTRE 7125 FOR SALE

Xerox WorkCentre 7125 for sale. Working scanner and can print up to tabloid (11x17) paper. Includes a few toner replacement cartridges. \$250, call (505) 795-4283 or (970) 864-7425 for more info.

31-TFN-NC

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.

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY & RATES: Rates for each issue: \$12.95 for 25 words and 20¢ for each additional word, **Box Frame:** \$5.00, **Tear Sheet:** \$1.00, **Bold Heading and Text:** \$5.00

FOR SALE

1993 79 Passenger School Bus. As is not road worthy. Sealed Bids to be turned into West End Public Schools District office by 10:00 am February 20, 2024

HELP WANTED

Town of Nucla is now hiring for a janitor.

Flexible part-time schedule, the beginning rate of pay is \$14.42/hr.

truck lettering, magnetic signs, steel & aluminium signs. Over 30 years of experience. Custom orders welcome! Contact Cynthia Sampson (970) 864-7927 Nucla, Colorado.

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. For more info contact Janet Kask at 970-369-5469/janetk@sanmiguelcountycolorado.gov

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.10-3.30 1 set @352.50	300-400# HEIFERS	2.85-3.00
400-500# STEERS	2.80-3.00	400-500# HEIFERS	2.70-2.80
500-600# STEERS	2.45-2.70	500-600# HEIFERS	2.30-2.68
600-700# STEERS	2.38-2.64	600-700# HEIFERS	2.25-2.50
700-800# STEERS	2.22-2.38	700-800# HEIFERS	2.15-2.28
800-900# STEERS	2.15-2.25	800-900# HEIFERS	1.95-2.15 1 set 830# @2.20
Top bulls	1.18-1.25	Medium bulls	1.00-1.18
Young Cows	1.05-1.45	Top cows	.99-1.07
Medium cows	.86-.98	Low-yielding cows	.85 down

NEXT WEEK: February 8th. 12 butcher cows & 6 butcher bulls, 12 mixed feeders, 4 feeder steers, 6 feeder heifers. Along with our usual dock run of 200-300

UP COMING SALES

NEXT SPECIAL SHEEP & GOAT SALE THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29TH. SPRING BULL SALES

SATURDAY MARCH 9TH. Western Colorado

Annual Angus Assc. Sale . One of the oldest pap-tested registered Angus bull sales in Colorado

Thursday April 4th . Where 2 Trails Meet – Limousin /Angus Bull Sale.

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS - JOB OPENINGS

Part-time Custodial Position

West End Public School District RE-2 is currently seeking a part time, Custodial position immediately.

Salary: Starting minimum wage

Benefits include:

-Paid leave

-Retirement

Applications can be obtained and viewed on our district website at www.westendschools.org and dropped off at our district office located at 225 W. 4th Avenue in Nucla, CO 81424. Please include resume with your application. Applications and resumes may also be sent to Candelera Franklin, Business Manager at cfranklin@westendschools.org and Clint Wytulka, Superintendent at cwytulka@westendschools.org. Please direct any questions to Clint Wytulka, Superintendent by calling 970-864-7350 or by email.

We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Grounds/Maintenance Position

West End Public School District RE-2 is currently seeking a full time, Grounds/Maintenance position immediately.

Salary: Starting @ \$17.00

Benefits include:

-PERA Retirement

-PERA 401-K

-Health Insurance

-Life Insurance

-Vision Insurance

-Dental Insurance

Applications can be obtained and viewed on our district website at www.westendschools.org and dropped off at our district office located at 225 W. 4th Avenue in Nucla, CO 81424. Please include resume with your application. Applications and resumes may also be sent to Candelera Franklin, Business Manager at cfranklin@westendschools.org and Clint Wytulka, Superintendent at cwytulka@westendschools.org. Please direct any questions to Clint Wytulka, Superintendent by calling 970-864-7350 or by email.

We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Fun Corner

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: LOVE

ACROSS

- 1. Zagreb native
- 6. Not St. or Blvd.

- 9. Tucked in
- 13. Whatchamacallit
- 14. Robert Redford's Sundance
- 15. In a cold manner

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

- 16. Tiny island
- 17. Mad King George's number
- 18. Hearing, e.g.
- 19. *Love's late Nirvana husband
- 21. *Star-_____
- 23. *Air Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing at _____"
- 24. Elementary particle
- 25. Tire meas.
- 28. Land of Israel
- 30. *Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes: "Love lifts us up where we _____"
- 35. Ladder crosspiece
- 37. Frenzied
- 39. London's Thames, e.g.
- 40. _____-European language
- 41. Call it quits
- 43. Very bright star
- 44. What procedural and epidural have in common
- 46. Crosby's and Still's partner
- 47. Mountain valley
- 48. Final words
- 50. Future J.D.'s hurdle
- 52. Food scrap
- 53. Tax
- 55. Pen point
- 57. *"All You Need Is Love" band, with The
- 61. *Letters to Juliet destination
- 64. Habituate
- 65. NHL surface
- 67. Ancient marketplace

- 69. Like many bathroom floors?
- 70. Blunderbuss, e.g.
- 71. Entrenched (2 words)
- 72. Whirlpool
- 73. Volleyball court center
- 74. English homework assignment

- star
- 36. Hockey score
- 38. *True Love's Blyton
- 59. Old, in Scottish
- 60. Three pointer
- 61. Heater outlet
- 62. Wooden pegs
- 63. Rigoletto's "La
- 64. "Peace" with donna mobile," e.g. fingers (2 words)
- 66. Pool tool
- 68. One or some

DOWN

- 1. Computer-related imaging acronym
- 2. CISC alternative
- 3. Capital of Norway
- 4. Single-cell protozoan
- 5. Bottom lines
- 6. Similar
- 7. One of the Tudors
- 8. Authoritative proclamation
- 9. Single pip cards
- 10. The Container Store purchase, pl.
- 11. "What _____ can I say?"
- 12. T-shirt, after tied
- 15. Chemical cousin
- 20. Homer's epic
- 22. Actor Lowe
- 24. Deviation from the norm
- 25. *U2's "In the Name of Love" song
- 26. First light of day
- 27. Lemur from Madagascar
- 29. Damien's prediction
- 31. Ding-a-_____
- 32. Convex molding
- 33. *"Love means _____ having to say you're sorry"
- 34. *"Love Actually"

Solution to Last Week's Crossword

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

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

© 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 Last Week's Sudoku

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

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Mustang sports



Top left: Brycen Rummel (11) launches a three-pointer over Telluride's Will Metheny (5) and others during the Mustangs' 53-42 home loss Jan. 25.

Left: Nucla's Steele Arnold (2) leads a fast break away from Nieto.

Above: Daniel Zunich (1) shoots over Telluride's Alex Nieto (12).



Above: Watched by teammate Viviana Zunich (32), Bray (1) receives congratulations from McCluer (5) and Cadence Shaw (14) after scoring a basket, plus drawing a foul.

Right: Kendra McCluer prepares to try a tough shot against Telluride's Gia Neyens. **Left:** Nucla's Keiran Bray (1) fires a three-pointer over Telluride's Kendal O'Callaghan (5) during the Lady Mustangs' 49-25 home win.



Left: Junior David Quigley tries pinning Dolores sophomore Jacob Stepp during the 157-pounders' match. Quigley finished the event a runner-up 1-2 Feb. 1 at the Dove Creek-hosted 2A San Juan Basin League Championships.



Nucla senior Derrick VanDellen ponders how best to defeat Dolores sophomore Nathan Hill during the 132-pounders' clash. VanDellen won by pin 1:36 into the first two-minute period, and finished the event a runner-up 4-1 at the weight. Overall, the Mustangs totaled 71 points and trailed only Mancos (99.5) in the six-team standings. NHS also competed Feb. 9-10 at the 2A-Region II Championships in Cedaredge. (Photos courtesy of Joel Priest, Southern Ute Drum)