

San Miguel Basin Forum

HEALTH CARE

Basin Clinic laments loss of funding

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Representatives of the Basin Clinic reached out to the Forum last week with disappointment. That's because they say Montrose County budgeted \$250,000 for the Naturita medical center for 2024, an amount approved in December, but that money won't be released.

Christina Pierce, executive director of the Basin Clinic since 2021, said last week that a board meeting happened Feb. 20. Then, Commissioner Roger Rash appeared before the clinic's board of directors. Rash told those present it didn't look good for funding and that commissioners could not agree to it.

Pierce said the explanation was that the funds were "discretionary." Though, the clinic did receive the \$250,000 last year, and in 2022 it received \$100,000.

Pierce said the decision seems unjust, since voters passed a ballot initiative in 2007, effective 2008, that includes rural medical clinics in the language of the measure.

"The clinic needed that funding to help sustain us through the next year and work on improving processes and improve revenue," Pierce said.

Pierce added revenue is something people don't always understand. According to her, people might get medical bills they have to pay, but that's because the clinic gets maybe half of medical costs reimbursed by insurance companies. She said for Medicaid and Medicare patients, the Basin Clinic only gets \$139 for the visit, regardless of what happened in the appointment. The government only reimburses for a Medicaid or Medicare patient the \$139, even if the needs were urgent and involved various treatments.

And, for a nurse's visit, for a Medicaid or Medicare patient, the clinic gets no reimbursement. That's because the nurse's visit is related to a "previous appointment." That includes blood draws.

On the board of directors for the clinic now are Chris Daniel, Doylene Garvey, Don Colcord, Ruth Reams, Peggy Case and Kathryn Adkins. They came to a decision to sell the property the clinic owns by the airport. Pierce said while the property was the site purchased in 2020 to plan for the future and build a new clinic, they have to give up on that for now. The clinic will make a bit of a profit from the real estate, approximately \$20,000, but it won't solve this year's problems.

Pierce said Montrose County

Cont. on Pg. 4



Approximately 250-300 people attended the Naturita meeting, opposing a national monument on the Dolores River. (Photo by Tanner Nelson)

WEST END

Monument opposition grows

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Sean Pond might have moved to Nucla to live a life of solitude, but that changed two weeks ago with the controversy of a national monument in the West End. Pond, who doesn't consider himself a public speaker, is now leading the Halt the Dolores Monument group, and on stage whether he wanted to be or not. An engineer by profession, he's worked in the nuclear and oil industries. Now, a West End business owner, he's also adjusting to his new role of leading the monument opposition in the public eye.

Approximately 125 to 150 people

attended the meeting at the Gateway Community Center Feb. 27 he organized. There, Pond, along with Aimee Tooker and Makayla Gordon, spoke at the event that lasted about one and a half hours. There was time for questions, and the first person from the public addressed the crowd and asked who in the audience knew about the monument proposal previously.

Only one in the Gateway meeting raised a hand. The rest appeared unaware.

On March 2, approximately 300 people attended a similar session in Naturita. There, Pond, Tooker and Gordon spoke again, but so did Montrose County Commissioner Roger Rash, as did former Dolores

County Commissioner Larry Don Suckla and cattleguardian Janie Van Winkle — all opposed to the monument.

Katey Herland, of the West End, also spoke and told the crowd her family property would be swallowed by the monument. It's her childhood home, her dad's ashes are there, and her sister still lives there.

After the session on Saturday, Pond shook many hands, including those of ranchers, who are terrified of what the future holds for their grazing permits.

"They don't know if they can survive this," Pond said. "It's wiping out who they are."

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PEOPLE

Haylee Smith astounds medical professionals with progress

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Haylee Smith, Nucla High School senior, is astounding medical professionals with her progress. She's been at the Craig Hospital, a neurorehabilitation center located in Englewood, the Denver area, since Nov. 2 after a car accident left her with life-threatening injuries.

Smith broke her C5 vertebrae in the crash, an injury that only a small percentage of people are able to recover from. Haylee has been working approximately eight hours every day to try to heal. She gets up and starts by 8 or 9 a.m. She has

physical therapy, occupational therapy and sees various medical practitioners until as late as 4:30 p.m.

Her mom Austin Smith said there's no choice; it's what they have to do right now.

The mother-daughter team, who were close before, are even closer now because they're spending 24 hours a day together, in order to get Haylee the help she needs to make a comeback.

Austin Smith said the people at the Craig Hospital are incredible. She said she can't even explain it. There are maybe 100 patients in the medical center, which focuses only on traumatic brain injury and spinal

cord injuries.

"We are like a family," she said. "We've made lifelong friendships."

The Smiths have made strong connections with both patients and medical professionals over the last four months. Austin Smith agreed there are some patients around Haylee's age that have been through similar, very tough situations, but they've even had lunch dates with certain nurses or other medical providers.

Austin Smith joked that Cimmy Alexander, of Norwood, who's been to visit Haylee at Craig Hospital, said she anticipated Haylee to

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COMMUNITY

People on Medicaid may qualify for SNAP

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork) is prepared to assist individuals in enrolling in and also understanding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is commonly known as the "food stamps" benefit. Tri-County representatives said last week in a press release that it's worth noting people who already have Medicaid might also be eligible for SNAP.

Many community members who receive SNAP benefits are not aware that they might qualify for other programs too. Some do not believe they meet SNAP eligibility criteria for various reasons. However, individuals and families with incomes of up to 200 percent of the poverty line (which translates to \$2,430 for an individual, and \$5,000 for a family of four) may qualify for SNAP. The maximum benefit amount is \$291 for a household of one, and \$973 for a household of four.

Additionally, SNAP opens the door to many other programs to support families, such as the Free/Reduced School Meals Program, the Summer Meals for all Children Program, and the Common Ground Kids Aid Montrose Program — plus more.

The following are programs that community members might be eligible for: the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Sharing Ministries Food Bank, Double-Up Bucks, Montrose Recreation District Youth Scholarships for programs or passes, the Amazon Prime Membership for \$6.99 program, the free cell phone program, the Low-income Internet Discount Program, LEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program), the Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCCAP), the Weatherization Program and more. There is also a free seed program for beginning a garden.

TCHNetwork representatives said team members can assist English and Spanish-speaking individuals, with or without documentation status, by appointment to see if they qualify for any of the aforementioned programs in San Miguel, Ouray, Montrose and Delta counties. The offices can be contacted by phone at 970-708-2660 or by email at enrollment@tchnetwork.org.

Tri-County Health Network was formed in 2010 and exists as

Cont. on Pg. 2



This image shows Dilyn Alexander, of 4-Stars Livestock, showing a beef project. The 4-H programs in the San Miguel Basin are gaining momentum in preparation for the annual fair. (Courtesy image)

COMMUNITY

You're invited to sample project clubs

By **ANNIKA KRISTIENSEN**,
4-H Coordinator

As the spring season approaches, the local 4-H community is buzzing with anticipation for a series of exciting events and updates. Mark your calendars for the much-anticipated, Back to 4-H Dance, set to take place on March 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hosted at community hub The Livery, this lively gathering will feature music that promises to keep everyone on their feet, complemented by delicious pizza from Nucla's Saucy Mama's.

Current 4-Hers and anyone interested in learning more about 4-H, including family and community members, are invited.

In addition to the dance, the Lone Cone Library in Norwood will be hosting a month-long series of 4-H "Project Taster" classes every Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. in March. This interactive initiative aims to provide participants with a taste of various 4-H projects, fostering interest and engagement within the community.

On Monday, March 4, the Introduction to 4-H Shooting Sports took place. Prospective 4-Hers met San Miguel Basin's 4-H Shooting Sports leader, talked safety and learned about what the program entails. Exciting news on the leadership front includes the introduction of Jarred Garcia as a new 4-H leader of this club. With a passion for .22 rifle and shotgun disciplines, Garcia is eager to mentor youth, offer guidance and support, and lead kids to various area shooting sports contests and events throughout the year.

Going forward, people are welcome to join us for any or all of the following:

Monday, March 11, is the Introduction to the 4-H Crochet Project. Join San Miguel Basin 4-H Program Coordinator Annika Kristiansen as she offers the basics of crochet and shares the details of this 4-H project.

On Monday, March 18, is the Introduction to 4-H Leathercraft, and folks can meet San Miguel Basin's 4-H Leathercraft Leader and make their own leather key-chain. Randy Crawford will be guiding this club and helping members in preparing projects for the San Miguel Basin Fair's General Projects Day.

Monday, March 25, is the Introduction to 4-H Cooking 101. Come decorate your own cupcakes and learn what it takes to enter your own baked goods into the San Miguel Basin Fair, with the possibility to go on to the state fair.

We are also excited to welcome back our Horse Club Leader, Katey Herland, who will once again be preparing participants for the San Miguel Basin Fair's Horse Show.

In addition to these amazing volunteers, we have club leaders who organize monthly meetings for livestock and general projects in the Naturita/Nucla area, in Telluride and in Norwood.

The San Miguel Basin Extension Office is also pleased to welcome Jacqueline Hudson, who will be taking over the role of administrative assistant from the esteemed Mary Watson who left this winter after four decades of service. Hudson is eager to connect with the community and continue the excellent work carried out by her predecessor.

For those looking to unwind and center themselves, the Lone Cone Library will be hosting weekly donation-based yoga classes with 4-H Coordinator Annika Kristiansen too. It's a wonderful opportunity to relax, rejuvenate and promote health and wellbeing.

As a reminder, the deadline for 4-H registration is April 15. Don't miss out on this chance to be a part of an incredible community. Feel free to reach out with any questions or inquiries.

Here's to another year of growth, learning, and community spirit with 4-H and the Extension Office in San Miguel Basin.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society The Nucla flour mill, Part 1

By **JANE THOMPSON**, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

Flour mills had come to the West End, and wheat crops were flourishing. By 1916 the Norwood flour mill had been built and was handling most of the area's wheat crop. They were definitely having problems with equipment and money issues but seemed to be working through the issues. The town of Redvale had lost their flour mill to a horrible fire leaving the community reeling from that tragedy.

In March 1916, along came an article from the Montrose Daily Press: "Nucla is to have a flour mill at last." ... It read, "Mr. Logan tells us that at last everything is in apple pie order for the building of a new flour mill that will have a capacity of 35 barrels a day. John Reindl is the man behind the enterprise, who is an experienced miller. The people of Nucla have gone in to aid him and have subscribed very liberally toward the enterprise. It will cost about \$6,000 and will be ready for the 1916 crop, which is estimated will reach 10,000 bushels."

The article went on to say that the mill would be built on land at the northeast edge of town, donated by the town. It would be run by water power about seven months of the year and by steam the remainder of the year. Since the ditch goes right past the site, this would make sense. The site of the old flour mill is where Paul and Renee Koski's home sits today.

By May 1916, John Reindl was excavating the basement for the flour mill. Some of the locals helping were Marshall and Lafe Veatch, Jake Dobler, William Price and Emil Nauman.

The Telluride Daily Journal of May 17 states, "The basement and reservoir for the Nucla flour mill are about completed."

NUCLA FLOUR MILL A SUCCESS
The Nucla Flour Mill is running seven days in the week and has weeks of grinding ahead of it. It is almost impossible to walk around in the mill on account of the sacks of wheat stored waiting to be ground.
The flour has been tested by dozens of families and it is better flour than any shipped in from the outside. In fact the demand is away beyond the supply. The machinery for the first few days gave some trouble but everything has been adjusted and the whirl of the wheels can be heard from seven in the morning until six in the evening. So once more is a Nucla enterprise making good.—Nucla Independent.

This image shows the Montrose Enterprise of Dec. 14, 1916.

(Image courtesy of Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, Colorado State Library)

The Aug. 3 Montrose Enterprise says, "... a force of carpenters have been busily engaged for the past week on the new flour mill just above town. Mr. Reindl expects to have the building up and machinery installed in time for fall grinding."

From the Aug. 21 Enterprise: "John Reindl, the Nucla flour mill man ... is installing a boiler in the new mill. Part of the mill machinery has arrived and before long we will have real Nucla-made flour on the market."

By the end of August and beginning of September, newspapers all over Colorado were reporting, "The Nucla flour mill is nearly completed."

The Enterprise had an article on Nov. 27: "Mark Shultz was in Nucla Saturday evening and Sunday, and while here purchased a

sack of flour from the Nucla flour mill. Mark claims that this sack was the first one sold, and he carried it around over town like it was a lost child. Mark has not taken unto himself a cook, so he will probably eat this sack of flour without cooking, or else sell it to the Norwood girls for face powder."

The Nucla flour mill had gotten started with cooperative efforts from neighbors Nucla, Naturita, Bedrock and Paradox. This seemed to be the way these things went back then.

We'll see how this goes.

(Note: Every newspaper spells John Reindl's name differently. When I write about him, I will spell it the way it was spelled in his obituary. Articles are quoted from Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, Colorado State Library.)

SNAP

Cont. from Pg. 1

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. TCHNetwork operates more than 25 community outreach programs that they say serve a vital role in pro-

moting the health and well-being of everyone in the local region.

"We are committed to increasing access to care, building health equity, and eliminating health

disparities," representatives said in last week's press release.

For more information, the public is encouraged to visit www.tchnetwork.org.



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Haylee Smith

Cont. from Pg. 1

become the “face” of the hospital. Indeed, that happened after hospital administration asked the 18-year-old blonde beauty to do a photo shoot for some marketing materials recently. Haylee is now appearing in some Craig Hospital ads — yes, because of her attractive appearance, but also because of the major progress she’s made at the facility. Some of the pictures were action shots with hospital staff; some were with the therapy dog on site.

Haylee said the work in relearning to walk is her favorite part of the rehabilitation. She’s now using a walker, but working to transition

to arm crutches. The strength training — core and leg work, but also lifting weights and balance practice — is the most challenging.

The 18-year-old admits she’s a strong person. She thinks it probably comes from a lifetime of competing in sports, but also from her parents. Now she’s doing what most with her circumstances have been unable to do. Austin Smith said the physical therapist has been repeatedly shocked. Haylee keeps positively changing so much. First she was able to move her toes, then a foot, then the legs.

She now has about a month left at Craig Hospital. Then she’ll continue her work from home.

And, she was just home for a quick weekend to watch the regional high school basketball tournament. So many friends and loved ones ran to hug her, thrilled to see her in person.

It’s not been easy for the mother and daughter. They have their “rough spots.” Austin Smith said they have times where they have to just stop and cry or get angry, but they have to get back to work and focus on Haylee’s recovery.

They thank everyone for the continued support: the prayers, the texts, the phone calls, the cards. It means a lot to them during this time.

“It’s all been amazing,” Austin Smith said.

San Miguel Basin Forum

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Advertising Manager: Tanner Nelson

Design Team: Rick Bickhart & Tori Sheets

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Basin Clinic

Cont. from Pg. 1

has expressed an interest in buying the property.

Pierce said commissioners don't believe the clinic is sustainable. She said they mention "turn-over." But, Pierce said she'd like to explain that commissioners asked the staff to be reduced by 10 percent. And, Angela Miller only left to pursue her "dream job" in pain management.

The Forum asked Pierce about grant writing, and Pierce confirmed she is writing grants. She said she just wrote another one for \$50,000 that was approved. It's for equipment and supplies, however, and Pierce said many grants can't be used for operating costs.

She wishes the commissioners would say more about why they won't fund the clinic this year. She

said it's sad for the local people of the West End. Pierce doesn't want them to have to drive elsewhere, to Utah or San Miguel County. She said they don't deserve it.

She also said they'll end up shopping where they do their doctor's visits, and that negatively impacts the local economy.

On Monday commissioner Sue Hansen replied to the Forum. While she was disappointed that the clinic administration or board weren't coming to her directly and were instead discussing the decision in the public arena, she said commissioners had good reason in holding the funds. Hansen said at a recent board meeting, the Basin Clinic board stated they were exploring selling the clinic.

In this way, Hansen said it doesn't make sense to spend taxpayer money on a clinic that could be

sold soon. At the same time, she said the conversation on funding had also not been closed.

"I'd rather have a certain future," she said.

Hansen also said she strongly urges the Basin Clinic to consider a merge with UMC to operate as a satellite clinic to the Norwood site that is federally funded and receives ample support. She's talked with UMC's CEO Chuck Porth in Norwood, and he's open to the idea.

Hansen said the county has given the clinic \$4.6 million in the past. She said she does support the West End. She's facilitating the West End Solutions Group, serving on other committees and regularly meeting with community leaders in Naturita and Nucla.

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Bringing the cheer

The Mini Poms help with school spirit in the new Nucla gym. (Courtesy image)

Monument opposition

Cont. from Pg. 1

George Glasier also ceased work on the Sunday Mine and sent all his employees, paid, to the meeting to listen.

The Halt the Dolores Monument Facebook group got more than 1,000 followers in less than two weeks, but by last weekend, Paula Brown's personal Facebook page had been suspended. That's because she created the page for the opponent group. She was unable to then moderate the Halt the Dolores Monument Facebook page, as a result.

And, Pond's wife, Danielle, also had her Facebook page suspended. It's discouraging for Pond, who says he's on a mission to simply educate people and have conversations.

So far, the petition he started had 2,400 signatures by March 3. A similar group, the Blue Ribbon Coalition, had gathered 3,000. Pond doesn't want to duplicate those.

He's gotten support from all over the state, including Boulder, and received messages from out of state too. Last week he got a call from Washington, D.C., which gave him hope, but also left him disappointed. At the national level, lawmakers aren't aware of what's going on or clear about what they can do to help.

Needless to say, Pond is working to notify elected officials now.

He's also scheduling upcoming meetings for Montrose and Grand Junction. And, the Republican House Committee Chair in Dolores

has requested a session down there.

Halt the Dolores Monument has been registered as a nonprofit and is accepting donations.

There is no timeline being discussed by proponents of the monument (the Forum was unable to verify a timeline in a discussion with proponents two weeks ago), and Pond is still waiting on a map. He thought he had a monument boundary map, but that map has since been rescinded.

He told the Forum he would be willing to sit down and speak directly with Amber Clark, of Dolores River Boating Advocates and who is pushing for a monument.

Pond does not believe any monument advocates have attended his group's meetings.



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800-900# STEERS	2.10-2.28	800-900# HEIFERS	2.00-2.20
Top bulls	1.20-1.30 top of 1.39	Medium bulls	1.00-1.18
Young Cows	1.30-1.80	Top cows	1.10-1.20
Medium cows	1.00-1.10	Low-yielding cows	1.00 down

SPRING SALES EVERY WEEK IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY!

NEXT WEEK: Thursday MARCH 7TH -12 Angus X young cows (fall cavers), , 45 steers, 12 mixed calves, 12 butcher cows, 9 butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 200- 300 head.

SATURDAY MARCH 9TH. Western Colorado Annual Angus Assc. Sale . One of the oldest PAP – tested registered Angus bull sales.

UPCOMING SALES

Next special sheep & goat sale Thursday March 28th

NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE Saturday APRIL 6TH

SPRING BULL SALE

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

Thursday April 11th. All Breeds Bulls Sale.



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 31-TFN-NC

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

2/14/2024
 0804 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.
 1227 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a harassment report.
 1620 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 34400 block of 3575 Road near Redvale for a fire.
 1636 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30000 block of 3575 Road near Redvale for an agency assist.
 1716 Hour - Austin Sullivan, 28, was contacted on Highway 145 mm 114 near Redvale and cited for driving under revocation and expired plates.
 2 school zones
 1 follow up report
 1 directed patrol in Nucla

2/15/2024
 1258 Hours - Matthew Redding, 39, was arrested in the 300 block of Adams Street in Naturita on 3 outstanding warrants.
 1438 Hours - Paul Haining, 47, was arrested in the 28200 block of 2810 Road near Nucla on an outstanding warrant.
 1625 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 21500 block of 600 Road near Paradox for an unwanted person.
 1 school zone
 1 directed patrol in County

2/16/2024
 0734 Hours - Lily Briggs, 26, was contacted at the intersection of Highway 145 and HH Road near Redvale and issued a warning for speeding.
 0921 Hours - Randy Helkey, 42, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita and issued a warning for no license plates.
 1355 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Heron Street in Nucla to relay a message.
 1518 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Main Street in Naturita for a welfare check.
 1807 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla for a citizen assist.
 1951 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35400 block of Highway 145 near Redvale for a traffic hazard.
 2258 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Highway 97 for a citizen assist.
 2323 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the Nucla area for a welfare check.
 2 directed patrols in Nucla
 1 directed patrol in Naturita

2/17/2024
 0151 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita for a traffic hazard.
 1225 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a disturbance.
 1412 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30700 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a medical assist.
 1 follow up report
 2 directed patrols in Nucla
 1 directed patrol in Naturita

2/18/2024
 0201 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection on Highway 145 and 41AA Road near Norwood for a motorist assist.
 0727 Hours - James Rankins, 45, was contacted at the intersection of Highway 145 and 4000 Road near Norwood and issued a warning for speeding.
 1008 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 24300 block of X7 Road near Bedrock for a medical assist.
 1115 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Elm Street in Naturita for a medical assist.
 1150 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a littering report.
 1456 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.
 1 directed patrol in Naturita

2/19/2024
 2120 Hours - Deputy was dis-

patched to the 31400 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a welfare check.
 2125 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 90 near Bedrock for an accident.
 1 school zone
 1 follow up report
 1 directed patrol in Naturita
2/20/2024
 0706 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Payson Street in Naturita for an information report.
 1359 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the Redvale area for an information report.
 1640 Hours - Deputy took an information report 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.
 1734 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a welfare check.
 1803 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Main Street in Naturita for suspicious activity.
 2 school zones
 1 VIN inspection

A history lesson

Dear Editor,

The Ute Trial Study Club will meet on March 13 at noon in the Redvale Community Building. This month we will be bringing our own sack lunches and desserts for a quick meal and a quick meeting, before carpooling to Norwood for a guided tour of the Norwood Museum by Barbara Youngblood, current curator. This should be quite interesting for all you history buffs out there. Bring your own history stories of our area to share, and get a load of amazing facts and great artifacts to ponder from our local historians. Bring a friend and enjoy the visit to our museum. See you all there!

Rebecca Rogers
 NORWOOD

LEGAL PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NATURITA - ORDINANCE 293

An ordinance for the Town of Naturita, Colorado, Adopting Ordinance 293 Annexing certain Enclaves and Municipally owned lands

Public hearing was held on February 27, 2024.

Published in San Miguel Basin Forum March 6, 2024

LEGAL PUBLICATION

SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, INC. NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS NOTICE OF RIGHT TO NOMINATE DIRECTORS

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (Cooperative) will hold its Annual Election of Directors to be concluded on Thursday, June 6, 2024. Two directors will be elected; one from each of the following districts:

District #1 – Four-year term: includes Parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores Counties including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale, Slick Rock and Uravan.

T40N R13-14W, T41N R13-18W, T42N R11-18W, T43N & T44N R12-19W, T45N R12W Sections 31-36, T45N R13W Sections 18, 19, 30-36, T45N R14-19W, T46N R10-19W, T47N R10-20W, T47N R10-20W, T48N R16-20W

District #4 – Four-year term: includes Parts of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties including Colona and a portions of Log Hill Village and Telluride.

T43-45N R9W, T46N R8W Sections 1-12, T46N R9W, T47N R8-9W

Please see your bill or contact SMPA to verify the District in which you reside.

Nominations may be made only by petition, which must be signed by fifteen (15) or more members certified from the district in which the election is being held. In order to be nominated for director, you must be a member of SMPA and live within the district you are seeking to represent. You must also meet the qualification requirements for a director of SMPA. (See www.smpa.com/content/elections.)

Petition forms and information concerning qualifications for prospective nominees and petition signers are available at any public SMPA office. A digital packet may be requested by emailing alex@smpa.com. Information can also be obtained by telephone during regular business hours at (970) 626-5549 (Ridgway) or (970) 864-7311 (Nucla) 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and at www.smpa.com.

Such petitions must be received at SMPA during regular business hours, on or before 5:30 p.m. April 4, 2024.

Petitions may be mailed to P.O. Box 1150, Ridgway, Colorado 81432. SMPA will not be responsible for lost, slow, or misdirected mail. Petitions may be hand-delivered to one of the following offices of SMPA: Nucla, Colorado at 170 W. 10th Avenue or Ridgway, Colorado at 720 N. Railroad Street. Digital copies of the petitions, including scanned copies of signatures may be emailed to alex@smpa.com. See <https://www.smpa.com/content/elections> for acceptable alternatives to handwritten signatures. Notarized documents must be mailed or hand-delivered.

Doylene Garvey, Secretary/Treasurer
 San Miguel Power Association, Inc. Board of Directors

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum March 6, 2024

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

LAND FOR SALE IN NUCLA, CO

For Sale by owner: 11.5 acres unimproved land near Hopkins Field Airport in Nucla, \$60,000; for more information, please call 970-864-7498 or 970-596-0649.

HELP WANTED

Town of Nucla is now taking applications for a full-time code enforcement/animal control officer.

Full benefits. Apply at Town of Nucla 320 Main Street, application can be found on our website townofnucla.colorado.gov. Contact Melissa for more information.

ESTATE SALE

March 8th and 9th from 9:00 to 5:00 and March 15th and 16th from 9:00-5:00
35252 II Rd. in Redvale, CO
- Eddie Porter's place.
Lots of miscellaneous items and collections dating back a long time. Prices will be what the customer feels is fair, we need to clean everything out.

TOWN OF NUCLA - ACCEPTING BIDS

The Town of Nucla will be accepting sealed bids for the construction of a 10' x 30' storage space at the Nucla Community Center.

Please contact Melissa at the Nucla Town Hall, 320 Main St., or call 970-864-7351 to schedule a site visit.

Bids are due Mar. 12, 2024, at 5 p.m. Town Board will open the bids at the regularly scheduled meeting on Mar. 13, 2024, at 7 p.m.

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LEGAL PUBLICATION

FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR PHASE I, II, AND III BOND RELEASE OF A PORTION OF THE NEW HORIZON MINE SITE (SL-28)

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, II, and III Bond Release of a portion of the New Horizon Mine site. The application is denoted as SL-28 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 Phase I, II, and III bond release areas are made up of five backfill monitoring wells and seven exploratory drill holes. All the backfill wells have been plugged and abandoned and the exploratory drill holes were mined through and reclaimed as part of larger reclamation areas at the New Horizon Mine. The bond release areas are shown in detail on Map 1 within the application. The status of the areas being applied for is consistent with the requirements of the plugging and abandoning the backfill wells and reclaiming the larger area for the exploratory drill holes. Listed below is a general legal description of the area:

The five backfill monitoring wells that are requested for Phase I, II, and III bond release are located within the following locations:

Township 47 North, Range 16 West of the 6th P.M. New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Montrose, State of Colorado
SE ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼ of Section 36
SW ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 36
SW ¼ NE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 36

Township 47 North, Range 15 West of the 6th P.M. New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Montrose, State of Colorado
SW ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 31

Township 46 North, Range 15 West of the 6th P.M. New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Montrose, State of Colorado
NW ¼ NW ¼ NW ¼ of Section 6,

The seven in-pit exploratory drill holes that are requested for Phase I, II, and III bond release are located within the following locations:

Township 47 North, Range 16 West of the 6th P.M. New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Montrose, State of Colorado
SE ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 36
SE ¼ SW ¼ NE ¼ of Section 36
SE ¼ NE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 36

Township 46 North, Range 16 West of the 6th P.M. New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Montrose, State of Colorado
NE ¼ NE ¼ NW ¼ of Section 1
NE ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼ of Section 1

The New Horizon Mine currently holds a surety bond in the amount of \$2,522,994, which includes the above listed area. With this application, the New Horizon Mine will be requesting relinquishment of 100% of the bond held for these locations.

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 March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2024

Fun Corner

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS

- 1. Window addition?
- 6. Huge software company

- 9. Spill the beans
- 13. Watcher
- 14. Acronym, abbr.
- 15. Words to live by
- 16. Ocean-dwelling ____ ray

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				

- 17. Polynesian necklace
- 18. "Once upon a midnight dreary" bird
- 19. *Fill-in-the-blanks, March Madness style
- 21. *"One ____ Moment"
- 23. Like jalapeño
- 24. Give off
- 25. Bean counter?
- 28. *Dominate opponent, slang-ily
- 30. * ____-elimination tournament
- 35. Bricklayers' carrier
- 37. Wood sorrels
- 39. Jeweler's unit
- 40. Alight, past tense
- 41. Swings around
- 43. Spice Girl
- 44. Bubonic plague carriers
- 46. Away from wind
- 47. D'Artagnan's sword
- 48. *Elite Eight, or the ____ round of tournament
- 50. Bono's bandmate, with The
- 52. Make a mistake
- 53. Landlord's due
- 55. Small lump
- 57. *State Farm Stadium state
- 61. *Not pro
- 65. Chocolate substitute
- 66. Hot temper
- 68. Derived from oats

- 69. Cuckoo
- 70. Sir George Ivan Morrison's stage name
- 71. Baby at a recital
- 72. Have supper
- 73. Young newt
- 74. Many affirmatives

- 45. Dance club neighbor
- 49. Female chicken
- 51. Speech at a dime
- 54. Lacking guile
- 56. What speakers do
- 57. LSD, e.g.
- 58. Indian princess
- 59. Turkmenistan's
- 60. *Type of defense
- 61. One tenth of a
- 62. Airline postings,
- 63. Type of pool
- 64. What means justify
- 67. Churchill's "so

DOWN

- 1. Brush alternative
- 2. Culture-growing turf
- 3. Long forearm bone
- 4. Satyr
- 5. City in Poland
- 6. *Delta Center location: ____ Lake City
- 7. Hole-in-one
- 8. Type of polyhedron
- 9. Raisin's breakfast companion
- 10. Denim innovator
- 11. Port in Yemen
- 12. Toker's pipe
- 15. Professional reviewer
- 20. Not pathos
- 22. Not hers
- 24. Shoulder rank display
- 25. Winnowing left-overs
- 26. Chicken in Mexico
- 27. Farewell in Paris
- 29. *School with most NCAA basketball titles
- 31. Back of the neck
- 32. Search blindly
- 33. Lightsaber beam
- 34. Olden days anesthetic
- 36. * ____ player
- 38. Garden starter
- 42. D.S., in sheet music

Solution to Last Week's Crossword

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

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

© 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

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

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AG TALK

FFA presents Ag Elementary Education Day

By KEIRAN BRAY

February contains a very special week in the FFA (Future Farmers of America) world. Do know why? National FFA Week is celebrated in February, and FFA organizations all over the nation take a week in February to celebrate the importance of agriculture, not only to the world but to the FFA organization itself.

This year, the Nucla FFA Chapter celebrated FFA week by participating in dress-up days to show our school spirit, asking an ag trivia question every morning to test students' knowledge about agriculture, making a teacher appreciation breakfast for our amazing teachers, and finally teaching the elementary school students the importance of agriculture.

As agriculturalists, we try to look into the future to see what agriculture might look like in 10, 20, or even 30 years. The world is constantly changing, and with each new generation comes new ideas and opportunities. As the older generations start to retire and hand down their work to the younger generations, it's important to educate them on what worked, what didn't, and why we did certain things that might not make sense to them.

You want the upcoming generations to do their best, so what do

you do? You educate them. That's exactly what the Nucla FFA officer team does every year with the elementary school students. The purpose of Elementary Education Day is to explain that FFA is an organization that you can be a part of in high school. It helps you create a path to being a good leader, growing your skills and talent and finding a career all while getting to take classes where you learn about plants, animals, wildlife, woodworking and welding — and all relating to agriculture.

This year the FFA officers — (me) Keiran Bray, Shania Joseph, Drake Long, Lantry Galley, Sydney Tomlinson and Cole Bray — with the help of some FFA members — JW Naslund, Derrick Vandellan, Nolan Cressler, Paxtin Caruso, Austin Garvey and Jackson McCabe — decided to educate the students on how agriculture relates to the Super Bowl.

Our FFA chapter likes to say, "If you wear it, eat it or drink it, agriculture produces it," and all these things happen during the Super Bowl. To try and help explain this to students, we had them make beaded bracelets, each bead having a different meaning.

For example, a cow bead represents the beef that is used to make footballs for the games, a purple bead represents cotton used



Sydney Tomlinson works with children for the Ag Day event. (Photo by Keiran Bray)

to make the players' jerseys (and is dyed to be the team color since cotton is naturally white), and a brown bead represents wheat used to make the buns for hamburgers or hot dogs on game day. A white bead represents dairy which is needed to make the milk for the ice cream and nacho cheese served at the game, a yellow bead represents corn used to make tortilla chips for

nacho chips and the bubble in your soda, a pink bead represents pigs used in the hot dogs and finally a green bead represents soybeans used for oil to fry foods and can be found in turf football fields.

I see students wearing their bracelets all the time, excited to show their friends and family what they made, and why they made it. I think that having some-

thing to take home with you, that you made yourself, leaves more of an impact on the topic at hand, something that they can look back on and remember why we made them and their importance.

I hope that now these students understand a little bit more that agriculture is everywhere, even in something as big as the Super Bowl.

YOUTH

Mustang sports



The girls went into overtime, with a score of 28-28, in their regional competition.



The guys hosted regionals at home and beat Prairie High School, 51-38. The Mustangs fell Saturday night, 55-67, to Flatirons. (Photo by Brandie McCabe)



The final score was 31-39, a loss for the girls to Kiowa. (Photos by Misty Galley)



Colorado Parks and Wildlife hosted a pheasant hunt for kids Feb. 25. (Courtesy image)