

San Miguel Basin Forum

SOLAR

Why does SMC still OK Wright's Mesa rural/ag for large-scale solar?

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Since May of last year, 10 months of meetings have passed with residents of Wright's Mesa emphatically declaring they don't want a solar factory sitting at the bottom of Lone Cone. The community has been coming together to voice their opposition to a 640-acre solar project that One Energy, of Denver, has said it would like to establish.

First came the months-long moratorium on energy development to give San Miguel County time to plan. Various meetings followed with community discussions and strategies to halt such a project. Recently, county meetings happened Jan. 4 and also Feb. 24 to address the solar draft regulations the county will officially adopt.

Wright's Mesa citizens and organizations have attended those, communicated with commissioners and sent comments to planning commission. They've repeatedly requested that Wright's Mesa land zoned rural/agriculture be omitted from large-scale solar use.

A March 13 email from the county sent a link for the draft solar regulations, sanmiguelcountyco.gov/781/Renewable-Energy-and-Natural-Resources, and Wright's Mesa ag land was listed.

And, the most recent draft of the solar regulations, as of March 22, has it remaining.

The citizens of Wright's Mesa want to know why.

A note was added by county officials to the regulations March 22: "There was some discussion regarding removing Large-Scale Solar from the Wright's Mesa Rural Agriculture (WMRA) zone district. Staff has chosen to keep the WM zone district in the draft, due to the need to locate facilities in close proximity to transmission lines (see attached map). Additionally, with the proposed reduction to 10 acres for the largest medium-scale solar project, there may be large-scale projects that can be located and designed to adequately mitigate impacts within the WMRA zone district."

The note in the draft solar regulations continues: "In the WMRA zone district, additional restrictions apply to development within Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat, and within the Wright's Mesa Source Water Protection Area. It should be noted that the majority of the West End (WE) zone district is BLM land.

Cont. on Pg. 4

HEALTH CARE

Basin Clinic to receive \$250k from county

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

The Basin Clinic held a board meeting March 20 with commissioners of Montrose County in attendance.

The meeting began with an open discussion of the recent challenges the clinic has faced.

Commissioner Sue Hansen in the meeting said she was hoping to see some financials and inquired about a plan, the state of the clinic and patient counts and services.

Basin Clinic is averaging 16 to 18 patients daily. Two weeks ago, 21 patients were seen in one day. Some

are calling for same-day appointments, and it's getting more difficult for the clinic to accommodate those. If the clinic had two full-time providers, it could potentially see as many as 30 patients per day.

The clinic is unique in that it sees emergencies. Whether the clinic treats an emergency, or transports the patient, urgent situations do disrupt the flow of the schedule. Still, provider Mary Kus said most people are understanding.

Some days do entail as many as two or three ambulance patients. By law, Basin Clinic is required to see emergencies during operating hours. Some come with cardiac

issues; others have fractures. Dr. April Randle, the medical director, has seen some patients reluctantly come in with open wounds containing maggots. Randle agreed the emergencies were serious at Basin Clinic. She added that some are in denial of diabetes or mental health issues too.

Hansen asked for a breakdown of disease statistics. Executive Director Christina Pierce said she had a grant coming that would support that data analysis. The \$45,000 is coming from the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley and the state's Department of

Cont. on Pg. 3

MUNICIPAL NEWS

Town meetings get tense in Naturita, Norwood

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

A meeting in Naturita March 19 got heated during a forum introducing candidates for trustee seats. Then, Susan Kelley, Harold Crowles, John Gist, Brock Benson and Kenith Kirby — all on the ballot for the April election — were there to respond to questions asked by community members.

Leslie Ament, of the Naturita Public Library, was there to moderate — only the meeting became unruly. Many people saw the thread on social media afterward. For those that attended in person, they witnessed a few community members complaining about Benson's accusations of there being meth users on Payson Street. Benson, who lives on Payson Street, has repeatedly vocalized complaints that meth or opioids are a problem in Naturita.

Some are worried Benson might be painting the West End in a bad light, but he said he's seen the issue first-hand. He told the Forum he continues to speak out because there are good people in town, and somebody needs to stand up to the chaos.

Ament tried to settle the forum. She said questions needed to be asked, rather than complaints stated. And, all candidates are supposed to respond to questions.

The consensus at the meeting was resources and support for the addicted could help the situation. Benson said while he agreed, resources have been presented to those arrested, and it doesn't seem like folks want to reform on their own. He also said Commander Bruce Schmalz and other deputies have asked him to continue watching and speaking out.

In Norwood, on the same night, trustees there held a special meeting for the purpose of making a decision on whether to support or oppose a national monument along the Dolores River. The agenda included presentations, public input (limited to three minutes), questions from town trustees to the presenters, plus discussion and then a motion and a vote.

After the presentations from Mason Osgood, of Sheep Mountain Alliance, and Natalie Binder, of Camp V, in support of a monument, but also Aimee Tooker, of the Just Transition Advisory Committee, and Makayla Gordon, of West End Economic Development Corporation, in opposition, the public commented for approximately an hour.

Then, Norwood Mayor Candy Meehan thanked everyone for their remarks and the Norwood Town

Cont. on Pg. 5



Ranch life

Zandon Bray brings in a calf from the field and reunites it with its mother March 22. (Photo by Keiran Bray)

DOLORES RIVER

Community comments on proposed monument in Norwood meeting

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Last week, the town of Norwood held a work session and then a public meeting March 19 for the purpose of discussing the proposed national monument along the Dolores River Valley. While Mason Osgood, of Sheep Mountain Alliance, and Natalie Binder, of Camp V, spoke in favor of a monument, Aimee Tooker, of the Just Transition Advisory Committee, and Makayla Gordon, of West End Economic Development Corporation, spoke in opposition.

Afterward, community members had no more than three minutes for public comment. Virginia Ericson, of Naturita, spoke and said she'd

like to see all parties come to the "table," where they can discuss the idea of a monument. She said a monument could further diversify the economy and there's an opportunity right now for the West End.

Allie Sutherland, of Nucla, said she's against it. Her favorite dog is buried up on a mesa that would be encompassed. She learned to drive a truck up there within the proposed monument boundary. She wants her children to have similar experiences she did and doesn't want the West End to be the next Moab or Fruita.

Scott Braden, of the Colorado Wildlands Project, said the proponents are working on version number 11 of the proposed monument map. He said he wants to have civil

conversations about the issue.

Commissioner 3 for San Miguel County Kris Holstrom said she's pleased that people are coming together to have such discussions.

Tawnia Welch, of the West End, said she's worried about access to firewood and hunting. She also has concerns about Highway 141 being a two-lane and people stopping to take pictures. She doesn't want to live in a place that's overcrowded like Arches National Park in Moab.

Kenny Heldman, of Nucla, wonders if the people pushing the monument have ever seen Sew-Em-Up Mesa. He's lived in the basin a long time and feels the current controversy is another example of people

Cont. on Pg. 5

TIPS FROM THE WEST END POSSE

A brief history of the Zippo

By MARK RACKAY

When my grandfather smoked, it was Chesterfield Kings. I am convinced that Chesterfields were made from barn floor sweepings and rolled up in newspaper, but he sure enjoyed them. I tried one once — once. The dry heaves lasted a mere two hours, only to be replaced by the world's worst headache. Lesson learned.

Whenever Pa lit up a smoke, he grabbed his Zippo lighter. A flick of the wheel produced a flame that ignited the cigarette, and then extinguished the flame by closing the lid which did so with a satisfying clack sound. He carried that lighter all across Europe during the war.

A gentleman by the name of George Blaisdell created the Zippo lighter in 1932, in the town of Bradford, Pennsylvania. He received the patent in 1936. Blaisdell was an oil engineer who wanted to make a pocket-sized lighter that would operate in windy conditions. He named the lighter "Zippo," because he really liked the sound of the word "zipper." I guess every genius has an eccentric side.

Anyway, the Zippo was classified as a windproof lighter, and was able to stay lit in most moderate wind conditions. The Zippo is no match for some of the newer butane-operated lighters available today. Some of the newer lighters are actually a pocket-sized blow torch.

Zippo lighters have a tiny fuel tank that was stuffed with a cotton-type fluff, so the liquid fuel did not spill out in your pocket. The fuel used was good old white gas or lighter fluid, consisting mostly of naphtha, a flammable, liquid, hydrocarbon mixture that is generally odorless.

All the parts on a Zippo are replaceable. A wick brings the fuel to the flame by capillary action. There is a wheel you roll with a thumb that makes sparks from a replaceable flint. The flints are replaceable and were sold in a pack of five. Most folks carried a couple extra flints inside the fuel compartment of the lighter. If I recall correctly, a flint was good for about 3,000 lights.

You needed to keep a can of lighter fluid around when you used a Zippo. The fuel would evaporate from the lighter in about two weeks, rendering the empty lighter useless. A fresh fill was enough to take care of most survival and campfire needs. We carried some kitchen matches as a backup.

Zippo lighters were a high-quality item. The company offered a lifetime guarantee, that if it ever broke down, no matter how old, the company would repair or replace the lighter for free.

The real popularity for Zippo lighters came during WWII. The silver-colored lighter was standard gear for just about everyone in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. During that time frame, all Zippo lighters produced went to the Allied war effort.

During the war, brass was needed for ammunition casings, so Zippo had to make their casings from stainless steel. Once the war ended, the Zippo lighter went back to the traditional brass case.

Zippo lighters maintained their popularity during the Korean and Vietnam wars. It is estimated that 200,000 Zippo lighters were used by military personnel in the Vietnam War. There are several war stories floating around about a Zippo carried in a shirt pocket stopping an enemy bullet.

The usefulness as a survival tool for an outdoor person was somewhat limited with the Zippo. While it was a reliable tool for the fire-starting business, you were limited by the fuel supply. It was necessary you remember to fill the lighter before every trip, or carry an extra can of fuel with you. It was best served with a backup of something else.

The famous Zippo lighter was the king of the heap until 1973, when something new pushed them down the hill. In accordance with the "disposable society," Bic introduced the disposable butane lighter. The "Flick My Bic" can produce 3,000 lights before you have to pitch it.

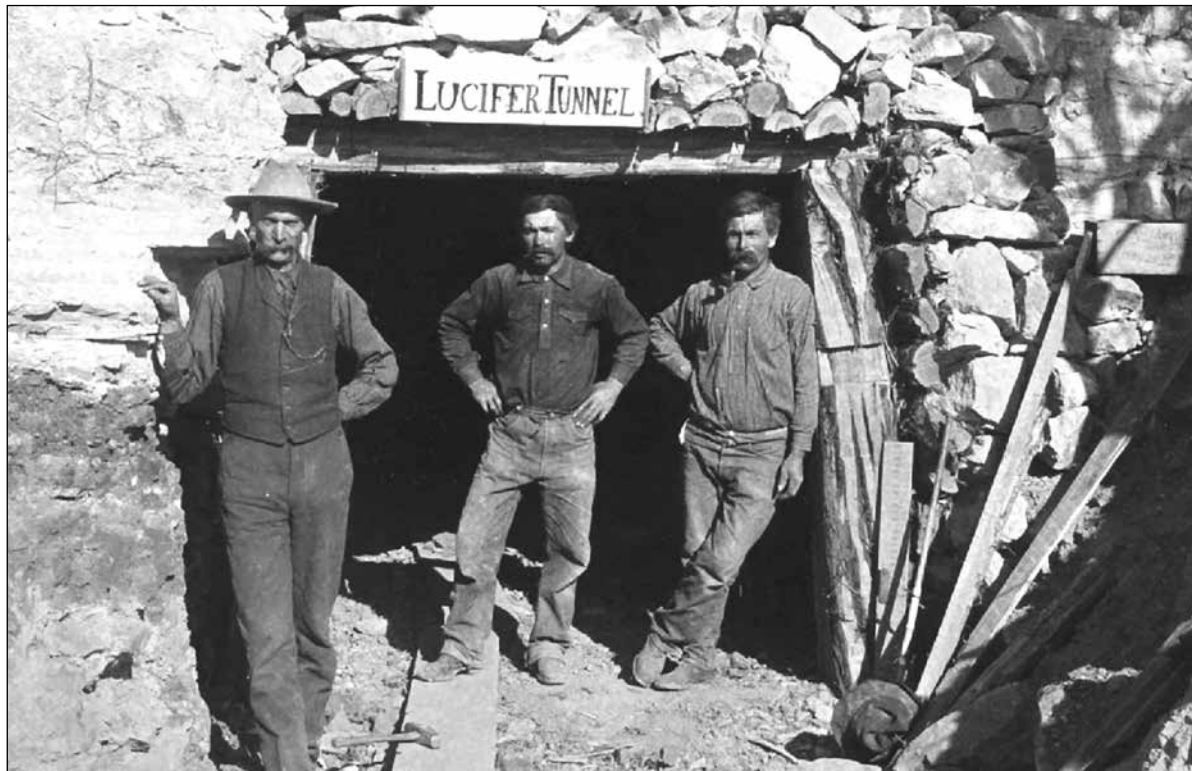
I have seen 10-packs of the Bic knockoffs for a couple bucks. For what a good Zippo and a can of fuel will cost you, you can buy a shoebox full of disposable lighters.

The disposable lighter is cheap enough that you can carry a handful with you when you head to the woods. I have them in several places in my pack, in my first-aid kit, and a couple in my pocket. The one drawback to butane is that it does not work in extreme cold weather.

You can still buy a Zippo today, but their popularity is almost nonexistent. I never did buy a Zippo for myself, nor did I take up smoking Chesterfield Kings. I guess I learned something along the way.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society The Nucla flour mill, Part 4

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*



This image, circa 1900, shows John Reindl, center, one of the builders of the Lucifer Tunnel. (Image Courtesy of the Rimrocker Historical Society)

A feature article from the San Miguel Basin Forum of May 30, 1985, written by Kelly Ludeman, tells a little more of the story of the Nucla flour mill: "The story of the old flour mill adds romance to the history of the Nucla area. However, in the early days it was an important industry. People came from many surrounding areas to purchase flour in Nucla. ... The flour mill was located at the north end of town. It didn't have any electricity so it was powered by steam. The steam that was released from the mill ran into a large pond.

John Reindl, a bow-legged German man, was probably the most successful in the 20 years that he operated the mill. John called the flour from the mill 'Bakers' Joy.'

Reindl made many other products from grain purchased from the Weimers. These included breakfast cereal, bran, cracked wheat, corn meal, barley, chicken feed and rolled oats, which were used to feed the stock.

For a \$1.20 one could buy 50 pounds of flour. Twenty-five pounds of wheat cost only 30 cents. If there wasn't money to pay for merchandise, Reindl would make some kind of a deal with the purchaser.

To many people John had a

heart of gold, because he seemed to care so much about people. One way that he showed how much he cared was by loaning money, a scarce item at that time. John loaned Mary Puderbaugh \$15 dollars, so that she could go to school. Mary agreed to pay him back, plus interest. She milked a cow and faithfully took a quart of milk to John every day for nine months. As it turned out, the interest was only a hug and a kiss.

In 1940, two men, Fred Starbuck and Dr. Gilliatt took over the mill. They called the flour "Columbine." After they ran the mill for several years, another man took it over but was unsuccessful. The mill closed permanently in 1965.

The flour mill was one of the most useful businesses because it provided a real service for the local people. Nowadays going to the store doesn't compare to the excitement of seeing the actual grain ground into the flour."

The Nucla flour mill can be counted as one of the longest running businesses in the West End. Ludeman rounded out the history of the flour mills in the West End very well. We are lucky to have at the museum empty bags of both Bakers' Joy and Columbine flour. I've really enjoyed learning about

the flour mills of the West End.

John Reindl came to the area as a young man to become a part of the Colorado Cooperative Company and helped build the ditch, as well as help build the Lucifer Tunnel on the ditch. He had donated a book to the library at Pinon called "Lucifer." The Ladies Aide Society banned the book from the library, so he, in turn, named his new tunnel after the book. Those early visionaries were a rebellious lot.

Reindl stayed with the Colorado Cooperative Company and lived out his life in Nucla. He built the Stone House at 281 Fox Street. The house, now owned by James Johnson, is designated as a Montrose County Historical Landmark. Johnson was adamant that the house be preserved and have that important designation. It has been undergoing renovations this past year by a local contractor, Thompson Builders LLC, for Mr. Johnson.

Reindl died in December of 1962 at the age of 87. His obituary states that "he came here from his native Bavaria." Reindl was survived by two sisters. According to friends who knew him, he came to America at the age of 19. I'd say the West End was lucky that he made his way to this part of Colorado.



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Basin Clinic to receive \$250k

Cont. from Pg. 1

Local Affairs. It will also support education for staff and the board, and strategic planning.

Pierce also applied for a diversity, justice, equity and inclusion grant of up to \$75,000 last Friday. While that would help with addressing the demographic and its needs, it doesn't support operations. In fact, most grants can't be awarded for operations, Pierce said.

Hansen asked clinic representatives about opioid abuse and mental health. Kus agreed it's an issue in the West End. Hansen said there's money available from the Southwest Colorado Opioid Regional Council, and she'd like to see the Basin Clinic get some of that funding. She said it could help rebuild the clinic.

Tri-County Health Network has a patient navigator working for the clinic. That position

is also funded through a grant. Indeed, the clinic seemed to have some solid plans in place.

However, clinic representatives revealed they only had reserves to last about six more months of operations — due to rising costs of care and decreasing revenue and reimbursements.

Hansen said the clinic board needs to work with the towns of Naturita and Nucla to include Basin Clinic in its master planning process. Although, county commissioners then agreed to fund Basin Clinic \$75,000 — and possibly more after some further discussion.

"We are sensitive to your situation," Hansen said. "We wanted to get an update and see where it's going and what the plan was."

Randi Latham, representative of Tri-County Health Network, said she was worried about the implications of the clinic shutting

down. She said the costs of emergency room visits and transportation, including helicopter rides, to get to other facilities would be far greater than the costs to fund the Basin Clinic.

Additionally, the clinic board shared that UMC rejected the idea of working with Basin Clinic. Nichole Long, of UMC, had shared the Norwood clinic couldn't handle an influx of patients.

Moreover, Pierce is working as many as 80 hours weekly without overtime pay. No raises have been awarded at Basin Clinic in four years.

Hansen explained to the board that the public health safety tax, which many have been discussing, can be used to fund the clinic, but that's not mandated. The Montrose County Sheriff's Office does claim the majority of that tax. Clinic funding is just one option for the funds.

By the weekend, though, commissioners did inform the Basin Clinic board it would release the \$250,000 this year it had budgeted for back in December.

Basin Clinic is averaging 16 to 18 patients daily. Two weeks ago, 21 patients were seen in one day.

RECIPE

Throw leftovers in the pot for beef stew

By MELISSA BRAY via KIERAN BRAY

This recipe evolved from cooking for large crowds in hunting camp, utilizing the leftovers, plus adding additional ingredients. You can either

use leftovers from a large dinner or "build" the stew over time by putting your leftovers in a container in the freezer and adding to it. Best of all, there is no measuring.

An easy beef stew with leftovers

Directions

Start with a beef roast, size dependent on your needs for a dinner, plus the leftovers used for the stew. Mix in a bowl equal salt, coarse pepper and sugar. Rub your mix onto the meat. This seasons the meat and tenderizes whatever cut you have. You can also serve the roast as a main entrée, and then use the remaining roast to start your stew.

For the Stew

Chunk up the meat in a large pan or crock pot. Add leftovers that appeal to you (or use what you have been putting in the freezer.) Examples

are green beans, any kind of potatoes — mashed, fried, au gratin, sweet. (Mashed potatoes help to thicken your soup.)

Add additional fresh veggies that you like: carrots, celery, onion, green peppers. Add a can or more of diced tomatoes. Add beef broth (how much depends on how big your stew needs to be). Add some water. Simmer to blend flavors.

The salt, pepper and sugar, along with the beef and veggies, create a delicious flavor. Feel free to add additional spices, although it's good just like this.

San Miguel Basin Forum

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Track season begins

Nucla High School students Brylea Butler, Drake Long and Keiran Bray set personal records over the weekend in track and field events. Here, Butler is pictured with the shot put. (Photo by Sara Bray)

Solar

Cont. from Pg. 1

The BLM's draft Updated Western Solar Plan (currently in the public comment period) show limited opportunity for solar development on public lands in the WE zone, due to constraints and resource considerations. If the BLM plan is adopted largely as drafted, this will leave a small number of BLM parcels and a few private parcels available for solar development in the WE zone."

Terri Lamers, community leader and local rancher, is not happy.

"I'm extremely frustrated with our planning director and the commissioners," she said. "I feel like why did we have their open house? We spent four hours in

meetings Feb. 24 thinking we accomplished something."

Like others, Lamers has been working since May on the issue.

"We're back in the same place we were ... only some of us put in many, many hours to try and make a difference," she said.

Anne Brown, Commissioner for District 1, told the Forum she advised Planning Director Kaye Simonson to take Wright's Mesa rural/ag out.

"We did," she said. "She left it in for now because she changed size of large scale to (less than) 10 acres and thought we might want to permit something that size in WMRA. As you likely know (commissioners) and (planning commission) meet Wednesday to discuss this second draft. I will strongly advocate to make this right and expect other commissioners to do the same. In the meantime, I'm sorry the com-

munity is confused and upset — as I am myself."

The joint work session on March 27 is to review the draft solar energy regulations. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The public can participate in one of three ways: join by Zoom (link in agenda), attend at the Sheriff's Annex in Norwood, or attend in person at the Miramonte Building in Telluride.

Staff and commissioners will be present at both locations. Seating may be limited for in-person attendance at both locations.

Simonson responded to the Forum's questions Monday afternoon.

"This is not the final draft," Simonson said. "The BOCC and CPC will be discussing this on Wednesday and we will then make changes as they direct."



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Proposed monument

Cont. from Pg. 1

coming in and trying to roll something over on the West End people. He also worries about the desalination plant in Bedrock.

“Let’s have Norwood, Nucla and Naturita work together and not jam it down somebody’s throat,” he said.

Cody Perry, of the Rig to Flip group, was on Zoom and said he appreciated the “table” metaphor. He said the meeting was a public space where people could talk. He said he admired many of the messages he’d heard that evening in the meeting.

Former Mayor of Norwood Kerry Welch told Norwood Town Trustees to take it all into consideration.

“Take your time,” she said. “Work on it.”

Jacob Gordon, of Redvale, is part of the Farm Bureau and a

rancher. He said he feels advocates are pushing the monument too hard. He said if people really want to know who takes care of public lands, it’s cowboys. He said cattlemen protect the environment, not the people in Washington, DC.

Sarah Franklin, of Norwood, grew up with a father in the uranium industry. She said the West End is sacred to her and other families. She said the West End doesn’t need a monument status to “give (us) (our) land.”

“It’s already our land,” she said.

Mike Grafmyer, of Norwood, said people need to be more involved in current affairs. He said he wasn’t aware that the national conservation area morphed into a monument discussion. He said the rafters who are pushing for a national designation don’t live

locally. He also said there’s not enough water in the river and wonders why people are supporting it.

Jesse Dudley, of Norwood, said he has a great love for the Dolores River. His daughter’s middle name is Dolores. He hunts, cuts woods and rafts. Generally, he’s a conservationist, but he said the monument discussion is too premature for Norwood to take a stance on. He said questions need to be answered, and there’s not enough information. He likes the idea of community having a seat at the “table” and is concerned about the impact of increased recreation.

The mayor, Candy Meehan, thanked the public for comments. Then, the board had questions and a discussion. No decision to oppose or support the monument was made March 19.

Tense town meetings

Cont. from Pg. 1

Board of Trustees were invited to ask presenters questions. Trustee Sean Fallon said he had many questions and didn’t think they could be addressed. For that reason, he chose not to ask anything.

Trustee Morgan Rummel asked what Sheep Mountain Alliance (SMA) would gain from the monument. Osgood said the roots of SMA are in conservation. He said that’s their goal, and especially because of climate change and development.

Trustee Jaime Schultz asked about a written proposal that she could read. Osgood confirmed there is not one. He said SMA is on draft No. 11 of the monument map. Though, he said his group is basing

their ideas off of decades of “what monuments are and aren’t.”

Rummel asked if the proposal was already on President Biden’s desk. Osgood said it was not. He said his group is building support to present to the executive branch.

Schultz asked about the length of time. She wondered how long the process would take. Osgood said that’s not within his group’s “hands.” He did admit the election looks unclear and SMA is trying to build support as quickly as possible.

Rummel asked about the 440,000 acres being included that folks on the river cannot reach. Osgood said it’s about the ecosystem, wildlife and historical objects.

Meehan asked about the monument taking water rights. Osgood said water rights were not included. The mayor asked if the “wild and scenic” designation could be taken off the table.

Schultz said she had questions about tourism impacts but she wasn’t sure how to phrase them.

Meehan said local towns should have master plans laid out to see what “this saturation would look like on them.” ... “Is this even feasible?” she asked.

At the end of the meeting, trustees agreed to table the discussion, because they say there was no written proposal in front of them to view, though Rummel admitted he felt uncomfortable with “neutrality.”



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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

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.35-3.60	300-400# HEIFERS	3.10-3.30
400-500# STEERS	3.00-3.25	400-500# HEIFERS	2.85-3.10
500-600# STEERS	2.80-3.12	500-600# HEIFERS	2.70-2.85
600-700# STEERS	2.60-2.70	600-700# HEIFERS	2.30-2.70
700-800# STEERS	2.40-2.55	700-800# HEIFERS	2.25-2.35
800-900# STEERS	2.20-2.34	800-900# HEIFERS	1.90-2.10
Top bulls	1.36-1.45 high of 1.45	Medium bulls	1.15-1.25
Young cows	1.45-1.80	Top cows	1.18-1.40 top of \$1.45
Medium cows	1.10-1.18	Low-yielding cows	1.00 and below

SPRING SALES EVERY WEEK IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY!

NEXT WEEK: Thursday MARCH 28th – SHEEP & GOAT SALE

1-7yr old Jersey Cow due to freshen June 15, 2024, currently milking; 1-dapple boer billy goat (go to our Facebook and see pictures of both)

UP COMING SALES

NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE Saturday, APRIL 6TH

Special Alternative Animal Sale – Saturday May 4th. Zebu; Yak; Highlanders; Mini Hereford, Dexter; Lamas; Lowline's; Mini donkeys; alpaca; Water buffalo etc. If you would like to consign for this sale, please call the office @ 970-874-4612

Thursday APRIL 4th

Where 2 Trails Meet – Limousin /Angus Bull Sale.

Bred Cows, Pairs and Feeders: 5pair of Blk Cows
3-6 years old (calves born Jan/Feb.); 6 Blk First Calf Heifers; 40 Feeder Calves

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

3/8/2024

0751 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 110 near Redvale for an animal problem.

0833 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a suspicious vehicle.

1013 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28400 block of 2700 Road near Nucla for a disturbance.

1053 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.

1953 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for an information report.

2145 Hours - Wade Karo, 18, was contacted in the 800 block of Grape Street in Nucla and issued a warning for speeding.

1 VIN inspection

3/9/2024

0456 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of 3000 Road near Nucla for an alarm.

1120 Hours - Austin Sullivan, 28, was contacted in the 100 block of Porter Street in Naturita and arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, driving under restraint, expired registration and no insurance.

1520 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30600 block of DD30 Road near Nucla for a fire.

2110 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a traffic complaint.

3/10/2024

1130 Hours - Patrick Drew, 47, was contacted at the intersection of DD Road and 3000 Road near Nucla and issued a warning for speeding.

1429 Hours - Deputy took a civil matter report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.

1742 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West First Avenue in Naturita for a theft report.

1756 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a 911.

1 VIN inspection

3/11/2024

0648 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 61 near Naturita for an animal problem.

1323 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a criminal mischief report.

1714 Hours - Asa Carter, 44, was contacted in the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita and arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

1936 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

1 VIN inspection

1 follow up report

3/12/2024

0941 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.

2301 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.

2 school zones

1 VIN inspection

1 follow up report

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 civil process attempted/served

3/13/2024

1124 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 73 near Naturita for a traffic hazard.

1928 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a welfare check.

2051 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Main Street in Naturita for suspicious activity.

1 VIN inspection

3/14/2024

0712 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 36000 block of 3700 Road near Redvale for a trespassing report.

1228 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35300 block of II Road near Redvale for a theft report.

1741 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of 3700 Road and Highway 145 near Redvale for an accident.

1947 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a theft report.

1 VIN inspection

1 follow up report

3/15/2024

0709 Hours Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 105 near Norwood for an accident.

1113 Hours - Shalyn Seislove, 28, was contacted on Highway 141 mm 67 near Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

1618 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 97 mm 4 near Nucla for a utility problem.

1650 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.

1748 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of East Fourth Avenue and Ash Street in Nucla for an animal problem.

2009 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for an animal welfare report.

1 directed patrol in Nucla

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Breakfast Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

WG: Whole Grain / EC: Early Childhood

Monday, April 1

Soft Pretzel (WG), Oranges, Milk, Juice (K-6)

Tuesday, April 2

Blueberry Muffin (WG), Mixed Fruit, Milk, Juice (K-6)

Wednesday, April 3

Pancake on a Stick (K-6), Animal Crackers (WG) (EC), Peaches, Milk, Juice (K-6)

Thursday, April 4

Waffle (WG), Strawberry Bowl, Maple-Yogurt Dip, Milk, Juice (K-6)

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Lunch Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

WG: Whole Grain / EC: Early Childhood

Monday, April 1

BBQ Sandwich, Fries, Salad Bar, Milk, EC/PK (Peaches)

Tuesday, April 2

Chicken Strips, Roll, Salad Bar, Milk, EC/PK (Pears)

Wednesday, April 3

Chili, WG Chips, Salad Bar, Milk, EC/PK (Mixed Fruit)

Thursday, April 4

Chicken Parmesan, Roll, Salad Bar, Milk, EC/PK (Oranges)

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BIDS WANTED FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

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 Street or call 970-864-7351 to schedule a site visit. Bids are due April 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Town Board will open the bids at the regularly scheduled meeting on April 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER WANTED

Town of Nucla is now hiring a part time animal control officer.

Application is available on website townofnucla.colorado.gov or at 320 Main Street, Nucla, CO. Wage range 14.42-18.00 based on experience and knowledge.

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Fun Corner

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SHAKESPEARE
ACROSS
 1. Type of help center
 6. Fake tooth

9. What geysers do
 13. Lagoon wall
 14. Acronym, in brief
 15. Syrup producer
 16. Papal court
 17. It often comes with Aloha!

CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
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64					65	66			67				
68								69					
71										72			
											73		

18. External
 19. *Richard III: "A horse! A horse! My ___ for a horse!"
 21. *Romeo and Juliet: "Parting is such sweet ___"
 23. Animal's nose
 24. Fail to mention
 25. Capone's family
 28. *Hamlet: "O, this is the poison of ___ grief"
 30. Soap froth
 35. Iris holder
 37. "He ____, She Said"
 39. ___ Apso
 40. Cheap form of payment?
 41. Bert's roommate
 43. Not in favor
 44. Hipbone-related
 46. The Destroyer, in Hinduism
 47. Thomas the Engine's warning
 48. "Heart of Darkness" author
 50. Brewer's kiln
 52. Beer choice
 53. Not a verb
 55. Comic cry
 57. *The Tempest: "We are such stuff as ___ are made on"
 60. *As You Like It: "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely ___"
 64. Primatologist's concern, for short
 65. "This land is your land?"
 67. *Macbeth: "Our ___ master's murder'd!"
 68. Scoundrel
 69. Hi ___ monitor

Solution to Last Week's Crossword

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

70. Wombs
 71. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning
 72. Teacher's favorite
 73. Got ready for a close up

DOWN

1. Nordstrom's outlet
 2. Purse for the red carpet
 3. Cape on Tierra del Fuego
 4. Set straight
 5. Like a knife
 6. Comes before a storm?
 7. The "place with the helpful hardware folks"
 8. Spectrum maker
 9. Wild ox of India
 10. Plotting (2 words)
 11. Multitude
 12. Having Everything Revealed, singer and songwriter
 15. *Hamlet: "When we have shuffled off this ___ coil"
 20. Corpulent
 22. Tin Woodman's "medicine"
 24. "Two cents"??
 25. *Twelfth Night: "If ___ be the food of love, play on"
 26. Convex molding
 27. Nigeria's western neighbor
 29. Listening devices
 31. *Hamlet: "To be, or not to be: ___ is the question"
 32. Capital of Vietnam
 33. Bar by estoppel
 34. Indian restaurant condiment
 36. Petri dish filler
 38. Prima donna
 42. Artist's tripod
 45. High tea sandwich

49. P rignon's hon- orific
 51. Destroy a docu- ment (2 words)
 54. Seize a throne
 56. City in Japan
 57. Type of sailing vessel
 58. Capital of Latvia
 59. Outback birds
 60. "Blast from the ___"
 61. "The ___ of Tammy Faye," movie
 62. Uncommon
 63. Went down slippery slope
 64. Cathode-ray tube
 66. *Merchant of Venice: "But love is blind, and lovers cannot ___"

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

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Thank you

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Basin Clinic board of directors and clinic staff, we want to thank those who have shown up by letter and in person in support of the need for the clinic, and to the Montrose County Commissioners for reconsidering their funding decision and, in fact, approving the full amount budgeted for 2024. To the communities — our friends and neighbors — we pledge to continue serving you and providing exceptional health care. We're here for you, and we wish you well. Have a happy and blessed Easter.

*Chris Daniels, Basin Clinic
board of directors
WEST END*

Just leave it unique

Dear Editor,

You're welcome to explore off the beaten path and uncover hidden gems, escaping the hustle of your everyday life. You're welcome to appreciate the tranquility, authenticity, and beauty of these places without a map, without crowds. You're welcome to witness what the locals cherish, love, and strive to preserve from becoming another designated destination. Just leave it as you found it. Just leave it unique.

One negative impact of tourism in rural areas is the potential harm to the values and cultural heritage of communities. When rural areas see a sudden overgrowth of visitors, there is a risk of cultural dilution and the erosion of traditions and values that have been passed down for generations. Tourists often bring their own customs, behaviors, and expectations, which may clash with the local way of life. This can result in a profit-driven display of cultural practices, where traditions become exaggerated or performed solely for the entertainment of tourists, rather than being genuine expressions of the community's values.

The demand for tourist accommodations, services, and attractions can put economic pressure on these small communities. To meet these demands, local businesses may prioritize monetary gain over the preservation of traditional practices, further diluting cultural val-

ues and authenticity. The increase in tourism activities can disrupt the social fabric of these tiny communities. As more visitors flock to these areas, residents may feel overwhelmed and intruded upon, leading to a loss of privacy, potentially causing societal tensions and breaking down community bonds.

Tourism has its benefits; it also has non-monetary impacts. The exploitation of traditions, dilution of local customs, and disruption of community dynamics can all contribute to a loss of cultural identity and authenticity — diminishing the charm of these rural areas and turning the undiscovered into the mundane. Just leave it unique.

*Jessica Davis
WEST END*

Wouldn't it be great if ... ?

Dear Editor,

The west end of Montrose County is at the epicenter of the proposed Dolores River National Monument. The West End is a Colorado Just Transition Tier One Coal-Affected Community. Community support of the mining industry is probably why we are not being given sufficient consideration to our monumental concerns. The area lies in the middle of the Uravan Mineral Belt (Uranium and Vanadium found in the same ore) and the Department of Energy's Uranium Reserve and contains outstanding existing and unexplored "Critical Mineral and Material Resources."

Colorado's commitment to the West End

With the signing of H.B. 19-1314, Governor Polis and the Colorado General Assembly made a "moral commitment to assist the workers and communities that have powered Colorado for generations" by supporting a "just and inclusive transition" away from coal. The Colorado Just Transition Action Plan was established in 2020 to "empower communities with resources to drive their own economic transitions."

• Governor Polis has signed H.B. 23-1247 in order to study and assess advanced energy solutions (including gas generation with carbon capture and storage, geothermal, clean hydrogen, advanced nuclear,

wind, solar coupled with storage, long duration storage and transmission) specifically in northwest Colorado, western Montrose County and southeast Colorado to aid the transition to producing new energy sources and provide job opportunities to skilled workers from coal transition communities.

• The Colorado Office of Just Transition Advisory Committee has approved advanced energy solutions as a community strategy to be included on the updated version of the Colorado Just Transition Action Plan.

• Excel Comanche 3 Coal Plant in Pueblo (another Tier One) Innovative Energy Solutions Advisory Committee Report January 2024 is recommending a nuclear power transition to replace coal. Wouldn't it be a great transition story if a fellow Tier One community could provide uranium for zero carbon emissions?

A clean energy transition and domestic supply for critical minerals

• Critical Minerals Executive Order 13817 — Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals is "to reduce the nation's vulnerability to disruptions in the supply of critical minerals."

• Vanadium is a critical non-fuel materials determined in the Department of Energy's 2023 critical materials list. Uranium (fuel-material) was assessed for criticality under this methodology because of its risk, due to foreign reliance.

• Department of Energy's Feb. 24, 2022 America's Strategy is to secure the supply chain for a robust, clean energy transition. That DOE report includes over 60 actions to enhance supply chain resiliency, spur domestic manufacturing capacity, and create millions of good-paying jobs for American workers.

• H.R. 2670 National Defense Authorization Act 2024 must identify potential partnerships with U.S. allies and partners to reduce dependence on critical minerals from covered countries. Uranium imports can come to a screeching halt with the stroke of Putin's pen. Is that something the U.S. is willing to risk? I think not.

Saving our Heritage

The Protect the Dolores Coalition is in clear ethics violation of

the eight principals of conservation that President Biden has laid out in his America the Beautiful Initiative. The Antiquities Act of 1906 states the President is to reserve the "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." The proposed map deviates from those principles and is an indication of the intent, which is to shut down ranching, mining, and exploration in the Uravan Mineral Belt and to eliminate our way of life all together. The coalition has first gone hundreds of miles away to solicit support, and for known reasons the West End and the community of Gateway have been last to be solicited for input and avoided all together. That is the definition of "civil discourse."

Stay tuned for more facts, data and truth from the Halt the Dolores River National Monument. Don Coram said it best. They woke the sleeping bear.

*Aimee "Mama Bear" Tooker
NUCLA*

I personally don't think it's too late

Dear Editor,

The Honorable Don Coram is right to point out deficiencies in the consultation with and input from Montrose and Mesa County residents regarding the proposed Lower Dolores National Monument. But there's more to the story.

We need to go back a dozen or so years in time to when BLM District Manager Barb Sharrow initiated the Wild & Scenic River process to determine the suitability of all the BLM streams that would be eligible for Wild & Scenic designation in the region. The San Miguel and the Dolores Rivers were both deemed "suitable." That suitability process alarmed ranchers and hunters, as well as mining and water interests, even as many enviros and protectionists applauded. Those of us in government, concerned with balancing all of these competing interests (local, state and national) got everyone to sit down and start negotiating.

After over two decades of meetings, on the ground tours and compromises, everyone realized that

an Upper Dolores River National Conservation Area could provide protection for the river without destroying local economies or rural uses of the river corridor. Out of that process came the bipartisan bill that Sen. Bennett and Rep. Boebert are currently supporting in Congress.

Montezuma, Dolores and San Miguel Counties and their citizens all participated.

Unfortunately, in spite of repeated invitations, Montrose and Mesa Counties turned the NCA discussion group down and refused to negotiate or to allow the Lower Dolores River corridor to be included in the NCA negotiations (this was not a top-down process but a bottom-up one and all parties had to be willing to participate).

Having seen Montrose and Mesa Counties' failure to address the issue, now national and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are pushing for a more restrictive protection for the Lower Dolores — a national monument. And as long as we have a willing president, a monument can be named without all the process of an NCA and without the input and shaping of local interests. Now it's a national political football, where locals have very limited say or sway.

While I have always fought for local input and consultation on the management of public lands, I recognized that citizens all over the country also have a say. What say the locals have is best exercised before proposals are slapped down on the bargaining table. So, it would seem, the failure of Montrose and Mesa Counties to negotiate on an NCA was not a wise strategy and now has led to an even more restrictive proposal for the Lower Dolores.

That said, I personally don't think it's too late for Mesa and Montrose Counties to work with water, mining and ranch interests as well as boaters, fishers, hunters, OHV users, local enviros and NGOs to hammer out a Lower Dolores National Conservation Area proposal. It won't happen fast. And may not happen at all. But working towards protection for the Lower Dolores — without the restrictive policies of a National Monument or a Wild&Scenic River — still makes good sense to me.

*Art Goodtimes
WRIGHT'S MESA*

AG TALK

What it means to feed a 'bum calf'

By KEIRAN BRAY

Have you ever heard a rancher or rancher's kid say, "I have to feed my bucket calf," or "bottle baby?" You probably thought, what does that mean? What's a bucket calf, or a bottle baby? Well, a bucket calf, or bottle baby, is a baby calf that no longer has a mother and needs to be fed by hand, meaning through a baby bottle, made for calves, or a bucket.

It's that time of year when cows are having babies left and right. Every rancher hopes for a smooth birthing season with no casualties, but unfortunately, that is not the case most of the time.

There are many reasons ranchers get bottle babies throughout the season. For example, their mother could be sick, or she could have died giving birth. Some cows when they have twins only take care of one baby and not the other, and sometimes the baby is just not strong enough to eat from its mother. These are only a few scenarios that lead to having a bottle baby.

When something like this happens to our calves, we now call it a "bum calf," meaning it no longer has a mother to take care of it. In this situation, we take the bum calf and start bottle-feeding it, until it is old enough to eat grass and hay. My

family uses calf bottles, much like baby bottles, but bigger, to feed our bum calves. I know some ranchers use buckets to feed their bum calves. There is nothing wrong with either technique.

Our family prefers bottles over buckets because sometimes calves when drinking from a pail at such a young age tend to aspirate, or inhale, milk into their air passageways and even into their lungs. Using the bottle helps prevent the babies from inhaling too much milk at one time.

Cows milk comes with lots of nutrients for the baby, and when it can no longer drink its mother's milk, it doesn't get all the nutrients it

needs to help it grow big and strong. Much like a human baby, they need their nutrients. So, ranchers feed the baby supplement milk, again much like for human babies. This supplement milk contains the most important nutrients and vitamins the baby needs to grow. However, it is not a full fix for not getting the mother's milk. The supplement can only go so far, so our family likes to add a little extra vitamins for the baby.

Years ago, I got a bottle baby to take care of. Along with the supplement milk, I fed her certain grains to give her the rest of the nutrients and vitamins she needed.

Because these babies are not

getting natural milk from their mothers, bum calves don't tend to grow as big as calves who are drinking natural milk. This is why we add grain to their diet. It helps them grow a little bit more. My bottle baby is now all grown and has had four babies, all healthy.

You might wonder, why go to all this trouble for a baby calf? Each cow and calf is important to a rancher. It's how we make a living. Raising and selling animals. Taking the time to bottle-feed a baby cow is well worth it in the long run. While it may seem inhumane, we are helping these babies grow, so they too can one day have a calf of their own.