

# San Miguel Basin Forum

## SOLAR

### Norwood community comments on draft solar regs

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

San Miguel County held a joint meeting in Telluride and Norwood, a work session with a Zoom option too, on March 27. Approximately 10 people met live in Telluride, 40 in Norwood and at least another 42 on Zoom for the 9:30 a.m. session to discuss the solar draft regulations that lasted several hours.

First, planning director Kaye Simonson gave a presentation of the current draft regulations, explaining some of the details. Commissioners and the planning commission also asked questions, and then the public made comments.

Simonson explained the moratorium on solar development (not small-scale though) lasts until May 2024, a full year from its implementation in 2023. On April 24, though, the county may vote to extend the moratorium, since the solar regulations won't be adopted until June 26.

Planning commission board member Josselin Lifton-Zoline inquired about the potential to incentivize "lifetime" for solar projects, not assume projects will have a 30-year lifespan. She said these things should continue to be useful.

And, the commissioners and staff discussed the idea that the county has to have a permitted use to be able to mitigate solar. Simonson further explained this to the Forum on Friday.

"If we don't have regulations that are specific to solar facilities, then we would have to resort to using the existing generic special-use permit standards in our land-use code, which are much less detailed," she said. "The full answer with all the 'whys' and legal requirements is actually much more complicated (an upper-level planning and land-use course), but that's the gist of it."

Commissioner Anne Brown said she worried solar energy isn't compatible with Norwood's master plan at all. Simonson said applicants must demonstrate visual impacts.

Commissioner Kris Holstrom encouraged considering an "extra-large category" as an upper limit. Lee Taylor, chairman of the board, mentioned an industrial category at the top that could be excluded from the county's plans altogether.

County representatives also discussed there being not much room on Wright's Mesa for solar anyway, and that the BLM has many restrictions already. Brown asked why the county should be less restrictive

Cont. on Pg. 4



Shirley Barnes and Monica Odom serve at the senior meals luncheon in Nucla March 27. (Photo by Regan Tuttle)

## NUCLA

### Senior luncheon program thrives

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

The senior meals program in Nucla is thriving with an average of 50 people coming to both Wednesday and Friday luncheons. While the Volunteers of America had been running the program previously, it was paused during the COVID pandemic. In 2022, it began again with just one meal monthly. With True North Youth Program's assistance, the program was reestablished.

Then, the board, Nucla-Naturita Senior Citizens, decided to facilitate the luncheons themselves.

With the support of grants and donations, the meals have become one of the biggest recurring events in the West End. Sometimes a few from Norwood attend; Others from Paradox also come.

On the board currently are John Nelson (president), Monica Odom (vice president), Terri Jamison (secretary) and Sherry Craig (treasurer), along with Carla Holder, Nanette Hibbert, Nancy Long, Lynn Ertell and Rodney and Janice Allen. They're working together to produce the weekly luncheons, and they're grateful for grants that enable them to get items from the FRESH Foundation in Norwood.

Additionally, they make trips to a grocery in Montrose or Grand Junction — not special trips, but when a board member is going.

Mostly, the work is done through local volunteerism, though the cook's position is paid. Hibbert has been cooking but aims to step down, and the board is seeking her replacement.

Doors open earlier on Wednesdays and Fridays at 386 Main St. in Nucla, and usually the seniors gather to socialize at 11 a.m., though the meal is served at noon.

"They enjoy visiting," said Craig in an interview March 27 during a

Cont. on Pg. 5

## MONUMENT

### Advocates answer questions; Pond gets hacked

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

The San Miguel Basin Forum had a virtual meeting Monday with Amber Clark, of Dolores River Boating Advocates, and Mason Osgood, of Sheep Mountain Alliance. The Forum asked a few questions in light of the ongoing disagreement of a potential national monument along the Dolores River.

**How can we advocate for boating when there is no water in the river?**

Clark said the previous national conservation area (NCA) work that

has been done includes flow and native fish. She said a collaborative forum was established, and then a fish monitoring team. She said the group has gathered science and worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Fort Lewis College to have conversations that best utilize water in the years that the Dolores River runs. She said there's a desire to address native fish.

Osgood said his group is focused on the tributaries that go into the river from monsoonal flows. He said that's sometimes all the fish need. He said climate is impacting the watershed, but it's still full of life.

**Are you against uranium?**

Clark said the last monument draft map was meant to be a discussion draft, and advocates are interested in learning about concerns that could influence a proposal map.

"We are looking at places of high concern or other issues folks are thinking about," she said. "We are not anti-mining or anti-uranium. We believe a balance can be struck."

Osgood said his group maintains 89 percent of productive mining claims, or those close to production, are outside of the boundary.

Cont. on Pg. 3

## MUNICIPAL

### New trustees, influx of dogs, upgrades nearly complete

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Tuesday, April 2, was election day for municipalities, but two of three local towns cancelled their elections altogether, since they were not necessary.

In Norwood, Jamie Schultz was running for a trustee seat, but dropped out of the race last week. As a result, Shawn Fallon and Michael Grady will be seated on Norwood's Town Board of Trustees.

"Both are declared elected since they are now running unopposed," Norwood Town Clerk Amanda Pierce told the Forum last Friday, after she'd made the announcement that the election had been cancelled.

Fallon has been serving the Norwood board already; Grady will be a new trustee. Schultz had been mayor pro tem, so now a new mayor pro tem must be chosen in Norwood.

Schultz told the Forum she and her husband are updating their business hours for Dark Sky Pie, which will conflict with board meetings.

In Nucla, Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire cancelled the election weeks ago when the number of official candidates equaled the available trustee positions. To be seated in Nucla are Timothy W. Pierce, Penni E. Berry and Thomas Scott Barnes.

"Tim has been serving for the last two years, Penni since 2017," Lampshire said.

Barnes has not served before. "We will swear them in on the 10th at the beginning of our meeting, and then we will get down to business," the clerk added.

For Naturita, it was a real race, with John Gist, Kenith Kirby, Susan Kelley, Harold Cowles and Brock Benson vying for three trustee seats available. They'd participated in a candidate Forum two weeks ago.

In other election news, communication specialist for San Miguel Power Association Alex Shelley told the Forum he will announce the candidates for the power cooperative's board election on April 24. At least two will be running for election in the West End territory.

**Hoof & Paw receives influx of canines**

Susan Kelley, representative of Hoof & Paw, the animal shelter and nonprofit in Naturita, told the Forum that the organization just renovated its cat room.

Cont. on Pg. 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Why the disconnect?

Dear Editor,

After three hours of impassioned public testimony to the San Miguel County joint workshop on solar development, one resounding message rang clear: While there is support for solar development, Wright's Mesa is not the optimal location for large-scale industrial projects. The community's plea is simple: Remove Wright's Mesa Rural Agriculture from consideration for such endeavors — an idea initially championed by former County Commissioner Art Goodtimes.

Despite echoing sentiments from both commissioners and planning board members, San Miguel Planning Director Kaye Simonson and staff persist in listing Wright's Mesa Rural Agriculture for large-scale solar development. The rationale offered — that such designation would shield the area from potential solar projects on adjacent federal lands managed by the Forest Service and BLM — raises legitimate questions about the applicability of county regulations to federal development.

Concerned citizens rightly question the integrity of this argument, especially considering the exhaustive NEPA process already mandated for federal lands, complete with robust public comment periods and expert reviews. This diversionary tactic, intentional or not, fails to address the community's core concerns.

Our ask remains unchanged: Remove Wright's Mesa Rural Agriculture zoning from consideration for large-scale industrial solar projects.

Thank you,

Protect Wright's Mesa  
Community Coalition  
NORWOOD

## Thank you

Dear Editor,

The Nucla-Naturita Senior Citizens would like to thank the communities for their ongoing support. Our senior lunch program, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon, relies on additional donations to keep us providing nutritious food and social opportunities for an average of 50 people per meal. So to all our contributors who have come through this year, a big "thank you," including West End Pay it Forward Trust, Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, Kenneth Goldman Family Foundation, Fresh Food Hub, Towns of Nucla and Naturita, NNTC, W.E. Mechanical, Vista Realty, My

Place, Trinity Baptist, Reams Construction, Naturita Sales, Walk-In Liquor, Family Market, Bachman Law, and the many individual supporters who donate money, goods and time.

Board of Nucla-Naturita  
Senior Citizens  
WEST END

## To Whom It May Concern

Dear Editor,

Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC) has read with interest recent articles concerning funding regarding the Basin Clinic. UMC initially felt this was a topic of discussion between the Basin Clinic and Montrose County Commissioners. Therefore, UMC respectfully chose to not enter the discussion at that time.

Recent articles, however, have reported statements, attributed to UMC, which were not accurate and compel a response. For example, we can state that reports that UMC has limited capacity to see additional patients are not accurate. Additionally, we note the quote from someone who has not worked at UMC for three years. UMC would like to share that we indeed have capacity, as reflected by recent recruitment of both a second board-certified family medicine physician and a certified registered nurse practitioner (in addition to our certified physician assistant) and have incorporated into the UMC strategic plan recruitment of additional staff as necessary.

In service to the local community, last year UMC treated between 30% and 46% of the residents in West Montrose County. We also have a behavioral health specialist on staff and operate urgent/emergent services.

UMC wishes to recognize that the information that has been reported regarding UMC is not the full story. Please see the attached letter to the Montrose County Commissioners in February outlining UMC's experience. UMC believes that delivering health care in the frontier is an honor and remains ready to talk with all appropriate stakeholders on this topic. UMC will continue to serve the community with nationally regarded quality care and innovation in heartfelt service throughout our entire service area, including West Montrose County:

Staff & Board of Uncompahgre  
Medical Center

Cont. on Pg. 8

### Correction

In last week's edition of the San Miguel Basin Forum, the story "Basin Clinic to receive \$250k from county" reported Nichole Long's view that UMC in Norwood couldn't handle an influx of new patients. While this was mentioned in the Basin Clinic board meeting March 20, UMC representatives let the Forum know last week that Long hasn't been at UMC in three years, and the quote was outdated for the purpose of the story.

# History: Rimrocker Historical Society A poem for Paradox Valley

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*



This 1975 photo shows Bob and Emma Proctor, longtime Paradox Valley pioneers. (Image Courtesy of the Rimrocker Historical Society)

Sometimes I just have to go back and revisit Marie Templeton's history columns. Marie Templeton wrote the articles for the San Miguel Basin Forum for 20 years. She was a wonderful historian. I will never be able to fill her shoes, but I do enjoy going back and looking through her stories for inspiration.

I found a great poem about Paradox that Marie used in her column in the July 26, 2001 issue of the Forum. I thought it was fitting for the times. Paradox has lost a lot of things in the last few years and will lose a lot more if this new monument is proclaimed. They lost their school and their library, a big loss to their sense of community. They recently lost their transfer station for their trash. There are other things that they have lost, but I'll let someone else talk about those things. When you look into the history of the Paradox Valley, there have been other downturns for the valley folks, and they always rise above and persevere right through. They will this time too, but I thought I'd share this poem this week and give us all some encouragement.

According to Marie, "Emma Proctor gave this poem to me. She said that Orville Hopper gave it to Marguerite Colombo and that somehow, she and Bob ended up with it."

It's not clear if Mr. Hopper wrote the poem or got it from someone else.

Paradox  
Shut in by giant ribs  
Of nature's masonry,

Lies as big a little valley  
As one could hope to see.

With distance so deceptive  
It looks like a little place,  
But try to go across it  
And you find a lot of space.

There's a contagion of enchantment  
In that rim's enormity.  
Where massive rocks keep beckoning  
To vistas wide and free.

A community set so wide apart,  
As if nature tried to spare  
The way of life and customs  
Of the people living there.

After all, there's lots of living there  
Even though the place is small.  
When there is a party at the schoolhouse,  
There is room enough for all.

The school and church and banquet hall  
Are covered by one roof.  
The way the system works,  
I think, is far above reproof.

The feeling that one has a place  
In each civic scheme or plan  
Has a tendency to bring out  
What good there is in any man.

No idle rich are here  
To mar the simplicity of the place.  
The town is scarce a town at all,  
It doesn't fill much space.

The poor ones there are working  
To make their living sure,  
But the rich ones work the hardest

To keep from getting poor.

The "Open Forum" is the bench  
There in the village store.  
Where the pros and cons get airing,  
Then get discussed some more.


Of course, folks know your business  
Just about as well as you.  
But if you're really on the square,  
What's the difference if they do.

There are no cops or courts of law,  
There really is no need.  
Where honesty's the custom  
And "Fair Play" is the creed.


Democracy has slipped a bit,  
But I believe it's plain  
There is still a lot of hope for it,  
While such communities remain.  
— Author Unknown

Our little communities of Paradox Valley fit this poem to a tee. Things have changed a little bit over the years since this was probably written. As I mentioned, they no longer have their school, library or a place to hold a large event. They sure have worked hard to preserve their historic little red church as a community center, and I hear it's worth a trip for breakfast there once a month. They don't have a grocery store or gas station, so they have to plan out where they get their next gallons of milk and gas. You don't want to run out of either one! But they are upbeat and hopeful and a more cheerful and kind lot of people you'll probably never find.

Hats off to those hearty valley folks.



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RECIPE

# A twist on my family's Midwestern ham sliders

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

My family has made a version of ham sliders for years. It's something we might fix for a family

gathering, some informal celebration. While the original recipe — I don't know where it came from — called for King's Hawaiian rolls, I buy Udi's gluten-free hamburger buns, and substi-

tute. However, I have heard that Sprout's Market in Grand Junction does carry a gluten-free pack of Hawaiian rolls. I serve with chips and dip, and usually pickles and olives.

## Marinated Ham and Swiss Sliders

### Ingredients

A package and a half of Udi's hamburger buns (or one package of King's Hawaiian rolls)

- 1 pound of deli ham, shaved
- 1 pound of Swiss cheese, thinly shaved
- 1.5 stick of butter, melted
- 1.5 tsp. Grey Poupon or

- dijon mustard
- 1.5 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1.5 tsp. Dried onion, minced

### Directions

With the butter melted, stir in the dijon, Worcestershire and onion. Mix. Lay the bottom halves of buns in a 9X13 baking dish. (Set tops to the side. If using King's Hawaiian rolls, take a knife to cut off the top in one big slice.)

Layer the ham, then the cheese on the bottom halves of buns. Place the top halves of the buns/rolls back on. Drizzle sauce mixture over top of the finished sandwiches evenly. Cover with tin foil. Refrigerate overnight, or at least for several hours. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Use a spatula to separate for serving.

# Advocates answer questions

Cont. from Pg. 1

He added he's spoken with Makayla Gordon, of West End Economic Development Corporation, and understands there's a new world of reclamation technology that can clean up and harness tailings. He said he knows there's money to be made and a lot of unreclaimed mines exist.

**Are you referring to Disa Technologies? (Disa Technologies, Inc. uses an ablation method to isolate target minerals and mitigate environmental impacts.)**

Osgood said he was, along with other tech companies that reclaim. He said he knows there's an economic benefit, and reclamation is allowed within national monuments. He said it's exciting for the community.

Clark said existing rights continue, as her fact sheet explains. She said protected under monument status are valid, existing leases. She said companies and people are protected, as is happening in Canyon of the Ancients, where 85 percent of leases are held in production.

**What about access, though? With a monument, people are concerned access is limited.**

Clark said access remains available.

"If you have a valid, existing right, it's the same as private property, surface land — you have a right to access that," she said. "A claim is the same thing, you have right to access."

**Do you know about small-scale nuclear reactors, in light of the mandates for clean power and the coal market being diminished, and the push to move away from fossil fuels?**

Osgood said he's been tracking it. He said he knows one has been approved in Idaho, and Utah is

engaged in the conversation.

"I don't know enough details to comment," he said.

He added there are many local conversations about solar energy, something he said is exciting for building resiliency.

**Is the NCA dead in the water?**

Clark said she didn't think so. Though, she distinguished between the southern NCA that is moving through the process in the state Congress. She's waiting to hear on the House side, after it unanimously passed in the Senate. She said the Montrose and Mesa counties issue is completely separate, however, as the NCA moving through the House has to do with San Miguel, Montezuma and Dolores counties.

**Can the commissioners of Montrose and Mesa counties change their minds and revisit the NCA for the north?**

Clark said that's "tricky." The southern part of the Dolores is moving through the NCA process, and it's already been tried in the north. She said that's why the monument designation is on the table.

**But wasn't that because the NCA boundaries included the Uravan Mineral Belt, which created a stalemate in negotiation?**

Clark said advocates tried to look at boundaries with the Western Small Miners Union and Montrose County. She said the miners union was supportive, but the commissioners were not. She's not personally interested in "recreating or rewriting history" with the NCA in the north. She still doesn't fully understand Montrose County's abrupt decision to pull out.

**On the other side**

Sean Pond, of Nucla, and leading the Halt the Dolores River Monument group, told the Forum Sunday

his webpages were hacked Easter weekend, including his business page West End Equipment Rentals, his personal Facebook page, and also the opposition group's Facebook page. He said it seemed suspicious, and because Paula Brown and Katey Herland, who've been vocal in the monument opposition, have also been hacked.

Pond spoke to approximately 230 people in Montrose on March 30 for an opposition meeting. There George Glasier, of Western Uranium and Vanadium, spoke. On Tuesday, Pond, Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen and Aimee Tooker, of the Just Transition Advisory Committee, did a podcast on monument opposition. Pond did a radio broadcast afterward with Lou Stark, running for commissioner District 1 in Montrose County.

This week, he's also headed to the GOP assembly in Pueblo to speak to 3,000 people, testifying, and asking for a vote of opposition with regard to the monument.

The Forum asked Pond if he would support an NCA, if the monument came off the table. Pond said monument opponents believe adequate protections are already in place, and the Dolores River Valley doesn't need anything else. But, the NCA is the "lesser of two evils," and he would support that as a compromise.

He's not giving up just yet that the idea of an NCA for the north — Montrose and Mesa counties — is over.

He added he's met John Whitney, Senator Michael Bennet's aide, and that he's asking to revisit the conversation about the NCA. He's also speaking to commissioners in Mesa and Montrose counties too.

Pond would like to avoid the monument for all. He said it would be less restrictive and a relief to stakeholders.

# San Miguel Basin Forum

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Approximately 40 people met live in Norwood for the joint county work session on draft solar regulations. (Photo by Regan Tuttle)

## Draft solar regs

Cont. from Pg. 1

than the BLM to accommodate solar. Many agreed.

County manager Mike Bordogna said some landowners might choose to have solar projects in the future to keep revenue incoming. He doesn't want to trump private property rights.

After more than an hour and a half, the public was welcomed to comment.

Dr. Bob Grossman, of Norwood, warned against light pollution.

"This could take away one of our most precious resources," he said.

Tami St. Germain, of Norwood, said locating solar projects in close proximity to a transmission line

is advantageous to the developer. That's a cost savings to the solar company, which avoids further federal permitting.

Zach Snyder, originally of Norwood, said "rural communities have a deep emotional connection to the land that cost-benefit analyses can't measure." He added solar companies are a "dime a dozen," and that a county, if it is going to permit solar installations, must work with the best of them and the least impactful.

"Don't sacrifice Wright's Mesa because it looks easy on a map," Snyder said.

President of Norwood Fire Protection District Jim Wells said the chemical used in fire suppression

of the solar installations is one of the most toxic in existence. He said it's dangerous to the animals, soils, first-responders and the watershed.

McKay Belk, of Telluride and Norwood, said the evidence that constituents have amassed supports removal of large-scale solar from the draft regulations. He also said the public must see the next copy of the draft regulations before they're adopted. He added bald eagles are roosting on his property, next to One Energy's proposed 640-acre solar project.

Others echoed similar sentiments, urging commissioners to cancel large-scale solar development on Wright's Mesa.



**A HUGE SHOUT OUT**

To all the businesses that advertised in the 2024-2025 NNTC Telephone Directory

With the internet these days, we know a lot of people no longer use the telephone directory to look up numbers, but we know several in our communities that still rely on our book. We would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone that makes it possible for us to still publish the NNTC Directory. We sincerely appreciate each of you!

5th Avenue Grill  
AT's Meatblock  
Basin Clinic  
Bruin Waste Management  
Co-Op Country Store  
Community Bible Fellowship  
Hoof & Paw Thrift Store  
Huntem Tire Service & Repair  
Kenny's Tires

Moore's Mining  
My Place  
Packrat Minnie Storage  
Redd's Mercantile  
Rimrock Hotel  
San Miguel Power Association  
West End Equipment Rentals  
West End Family Link

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# Municipal elections

Cont. from Pg. 1

“Which was awesome, kitten season is coming,” Kelley said. “Kat Burroughs ran the cat room renovation. She found a grant for it and did quite a bit of the work.”

Unfortunately, or fortunately (depending on how you view the situation), Hoof & Paw did have someone recently come to the shelter and surrender eight dogs from a single-family household. Kelley said she wasn’t sure what to say regarding the surrender.

While the dogs are in good care now, the West End community is

small, and adopting the animals out will not be easy. The eight new canines will require much volunteer work, including walking, feeding, cleaning of kennels and more. Food costs are another issue. Anyone interested in adopting an animal and giving it a forever home should contact representatives of Hoof & Paw directly.

Kelley said Hoof & Paw is also starting its spay and neuter clinics back up, an important community support service that helps control the West End pet population. Details will soon be announced.

## System upgrades near completion

Those in Nucla last week witnessed the diversions on Main Street, since crews from Williams Construction were patching the street there, starting at about 5th Avenue toward 8th Avenue. Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire confirmed the patching does indicate that the waterline and sewer upgrades are finished for the time being.

“Yes, they have an extensive list of items that they will be working on,” she said. “Other than that, they are done.”

# Senior luncheon program

Cont. from Pg. 1

senior luncheon.

On March 14, the sixth-grade class from the Nucla school attended, which brought the total to 81 that day. Craig confirmed the building’s capacity is 85. She hopes more school classes will attend in the future.

The third Saturday of each month, too, the board is serving a breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. with pancakes, biscuits, gravy, eggs, bacon and sausage. Craig said usually about 25 people attend. The Saturday breakfasts are a fundraiser for the board.

The organization is a 501c3 nonprofit, and the board is still pursuing grants and other donations for next year. They welcome contributions each luncheon, and those cover about one-third of the total costs. They’ve submitted an application to the Food Bank of the Rockies, an organization that

could help offset food costs. The board interviewed March 22, and they’re hoping they’re awarded the discounted rate. Craig said it could help with sustainability.

Nobody has to RSVP for the luncheons. All are welcome, even those who aren’t senior citizens. Donations are always appreciated, but not required, like in years past.

“It’s important for people to know that it is available and open and welcome,” Jamison said. “This is all donation-based and whoever can come.”

The board wants the public to know they follow all health and safety requirements. The kitchen has been health-inspected and approved by the state. Moreover, the kitchen help have food handler permits. There’s another class some volunteers are attending April 15 for food handling and management.

They’re keeping track of their data too, recording attendance and

maintaining finances — something the board knows is important for grants and funding.

The board is grateful for all of the support, including the young Mormon volunteers who clean up afterward, sweeping, mopping and taking out the trash. They appreciate All-Points Transit, too, for dropping off seniors, so they can attend.

The monthly menus always thank the donors who participated, and in April that is West End Pay it Forward Trust, Citizens State Bank, Region 10, Telluride Foundation and FRESH Foundation.

In the future, the board would like to figure out how to bring back meal delivery for the home-bound. Anyone who’d like to apply to be the new cook may reach out to Craig at 970-322-1000 or Jamison at 970-361-6518.

The seniors center building was established in the 1990s and has only existed for that purpose.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**This Sunday morning**

Dear Editor,

Dr. Sherlock Bally will be at New Hope Church this Sunday morning at 10 a.m., and Sunday through Wednesday evening services starting at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Sherlock Bally believes in the "Harvest of Souls," in these days of opportunity. Many pastors from around this nation and the world have spoken of the thousands of souls that have been born into the kingdom under Sherlock's ministry. His passion to see the lost saved is fervent and forceful. Along with this is his heart for pastors and for leadership. Sherlock does several seminars around the country, concerning church order, church government, and the position that leadership must maintain to headship. Many pastors testify to the blessing of Dr. Bally's leadership seminars and how these seminars have helped in the refocusing of leadership and the prioritizing of spiritual life. Sherlock's passion is to reach the lost, and educate the saved, to launch into the harvest.

Dan Williams  
WEST END

**Bring your suggestions**

Dear Editor,

The Ute Trail Study Club will be hosting a chicken dinner with all the trimmings on April 10 at noon at the Redvale Community Building. This meeting will be an organizational meeting to discuss our upcoming fundraiser, as well as the future of our club and it's various obligations, leaders and intentions towards community involvement. We'll be discussing our past endeavors, as well as new. Our guest speaker will be announced at the meeting, as we're not sure of the commitment yet. Please bring your suggestions and ideas, as well as your wonderful side dishes to share. Our enrollment is improving, and we welcome new members to help us move forward with our goals and community services. Thank you and see you all there!

Rebecca Rogers  
NORWOOD

OBITUARY

**Marianna Rice**

Nov. 7, 1936 — March 21, 2024



Marianna Rice.

Marianna Rice passed away at her home on Thursday, March 21, in Grand Junction at the age of 87. She was born on Nov. 7, 1936, in Nucla to Arthur and Kittie Mae Enstrom. She grew up on the family ranch with her brother, Herbert Enstrom.

Donald Rice and Marianna were married in 1956. She graduated Western State College in elementary education and received a master's in education from Colorado State University in 1981. Don and Marianna purchased the family cattle ranch from his parents, and there they raised three children: Christine Villard (Lynn), Michele Bergmann (Steven) and John Rice (Tammy). Marianna worked alongside Donald on the cattle ranch herding cattle, helping with hay season, feeding ranch hands and going back and forth to cow camp on the 47 Ranch.

Due to Don's health, they sold the ranch and moved to Fort Collins, then to Craig, and finally settled in Grand Junction after their retirement in the early 1990s.

As well as living and working on the ranch, Marianna taught first grade for many years while living in both Nucla and Craig. She also had the role as a reading specialist in both Craig and Grand Junction. She was an innovative teacher and helped to implement numerous initiatives for advancing literacy instruction during her years as an educator. After

retirement, Marianna enjoyed volunteering in local elementary schools, continuing to help children attain literacy skills. In 1987, she was awarded Colorado Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Colorado State Board of Education.

Marianna was an accomplished musician, playing the piano and organ. In both Nucla and Craig, she was involved with the church community, playing for most Sunday services, holidays, weddings and funerals. She was the accompanist for numerous community musical events and groups, as well as a piano instructor.

Marianna was an involved member in her community and participated in multiple organizations. She belonged to the International Reading Association, the Colorado Reading Association and local reading councils in both Nucla and Craig. She was an active member of the church community and served various roles in the Nucla Congregational Church, the Fort Collins Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ in Craig and the Redlands United Methodist Church in Grand Junction. She was an active member of PEO in Craig and Grand Junction.

Marianna enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, developing strong and lasting friendships wherever she was. She liked to play bridge and dominos, sew quilts and do small crafts. She was an avid reader and loved learning. She and Don were drawn to the outdoor beauty of Colorado, spending time at the family cabin in the mountains.

Marianna is preceded in death by her husband, Donald; her brother, Herbert Enstrom; and her great-granddaughter ClairLynn.

She is survived by three children; six grandchildren, Sean Villard (Amanda), Amy Villard (Cody Tennant), Deanna Bergmann, Mikayla Bergmann, Katie Rice and Spencer Rice; five great-grandchildren, Logan, EvaMarie and Felix Villard and Ashley and Luke Rhodes; sister-in-law, Nancy Enstrom; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ensign Skills Center, which provides services for individuals with vision impairments and loss through the Center for Independence ([ensightskills.org](http://ensightskills.org)).

Services will be held at the Redlands United Methodist Church in Grand Junction on Friday, April 12, at 1 p.m.

**West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter**

3/16/2024

1023 Hours - Jose Camargo-Gonzalez, 27, was arrested in the 100 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla on two outstanding warrants.

1307 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a disturbance. Duane Carl, 49, was arrested for domestic violence and third degree assault. Nicole Welsh, 35, was arrested for a protection order violation.

1423 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a protection order violation.

1646 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 112 near Redvale for an accident.

1 directed patrol in Naturita

3/17/2024

1141 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a theft report.

1709 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a civil standby.

2027 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 25200 block of Z26 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

2149 Hours - Deputy was dis-

patched to the area of West Main Street and West First Avenue in Naturita for a 911.

2325 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of 3000 Road near Nucla for an alarm.

2 directed patrols in Nucla  
1 directed patrol in Naturita

3/18/2024

0655 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29100 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for an animal problem.

1129 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 33700 block of Highway 145 near Redvale for a trespassing report.

1402 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla to relay a message.


1421 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an unwanted person.

1514 Hours Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Cascade Circle in Naturita for a welfare check.

1854 Hours Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 97 and DD Road near Nucla for a welfare check.

1912 Hours Austin Sullivan, 28, was contacted in the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita and cited for failing to stop at a stop sign and operating an unregistered ATV without a driver's license.

2011 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29100 block of

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# West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Highway 97 near Nucla for an animal problem. Clint Cloud, 51, was cited for harboring a barking dog. 1 civil process attempted/served  
**3/19/2024**

0939 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Heron Street in Nucla for an information report. Tyler Stewart, 33, was arrested for

domestic violence, harassment and third degree assault.

1210 Hours - Austin Sullivan, 28, was contacted on Highway 141 mm 58 near Naturita and cited for driving with a revoked driver's license and operating an ATV on a state highway.

1228 Hours - Deputy was dis-

patched to the area of Highway 141 mm 83 near Naturita for an information report.

1251 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the Nucla area.

1501 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 35300 block of Highway 145 near Redvale.

1709 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.

1834 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1000 block of Main Street in Nucla for an information report.

2106 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for a theft report.

2127 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of Payson Street and Wilson Street in Naturita for a disturbance.

2 VIN inspections

1 directed patrol in Naturita

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### SPECIAL MEETING - MONTROSE COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Montrose County Planning Commission has scheduled a Work Session in the Public Works Building 63160 LaSalle Road, Montrose, Colorado, on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to review and discuss a portion of the draft Montrose County Master Plan. No formal action will be taken on any items discussed.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum April 3, 2024

## LEGAL PUBLICATION

### TOWN OF NUCLA, STATE OF COLORADO ORDINANCE 2024-002

AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE 20' EASTERN SECTION OF BIRCH STREET SITUATED BETWEEN 4TH AVENUE TO THE NORTH AND 5TH AVENUE TO THE SOUTH

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum April 3 & 10, 2024

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: EUROPEAN CAPITALS

#### ACROSS

1. Parting words
6. Broadcasting acronym
9. Taj Mahal city
13. Ernest, to mommy
14. "Fat chance!"
15. Fits of shivering
16. Rundown
17. Historical period
18. "\_\_\_ its weight in gold"
19. \*Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
21. \*\*The City of a Hundred Spires"
23. Financial assistance
24. Bird's groomer
25. Pod nugget
28. Fountain order
30. Duck dish a certain way
35. Picture on a coat
37. Feline vibration
39. Stocking fiber
40. Stink to high heaven
41. Cocoyam, pl.
43. Pelvic bones

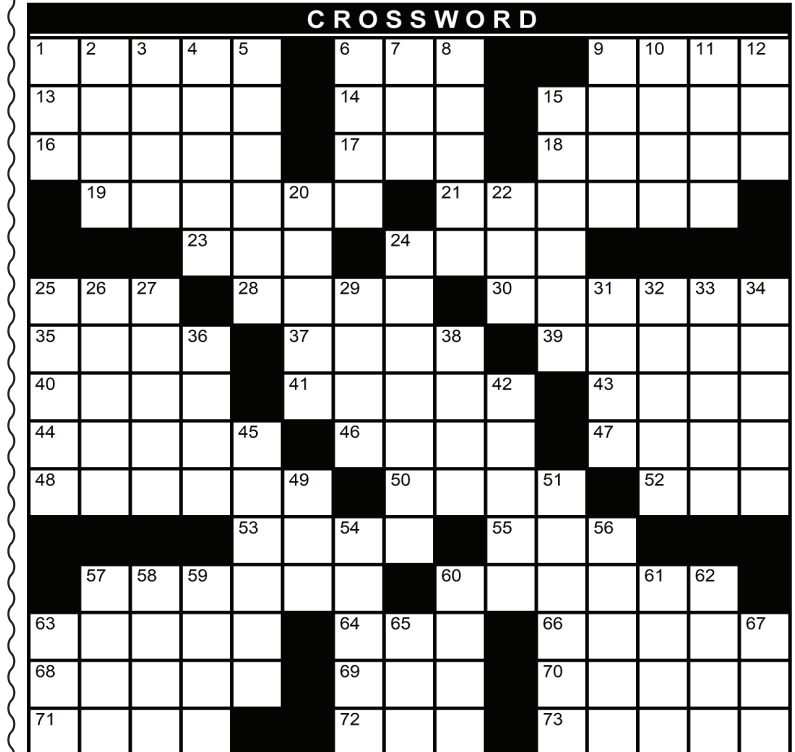
44. Frost over (2 words)
46. Stew bean
47. Sleeveless garment
48. Predicament
50. Snakelike fish
52. Hi-\_\_\_ monitor
53. Toothy wheel
55. \*Street, in capital city in #38 Down
57. \*On the Danube
60. \*On the Thames
63. Virtue, in Italian
64. \*Street, in capital city in #25 Down
66. Dashboard instruments
68. Beside, archaic
69. Geological Society of America
70. Type of heron
71. Parks or Luxemburg
72. Pecking mother
73. Like oboe's sound

#### DOWN

1. "\_\_\_ the land of the free ..."
2. Cold one



3. Peruvian Empire
4. Miss America topper
5. Blood infection
6. Prepare to swallow
7. \*Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple \_\_\_"
8. Parallelogram, e.g.
9. All excited
10. Spiritual leader
11. Network of nerves
12. Certain something in a tray
15. Rouse
20. Take puppy from a pound
22. "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
24. Great \_\_\_ Reef
25. \*On the Seine
26. Not slouching
27. Arabian chieftain
29. Like Roman god Janus
31. \*Also the most populous city in Ukraine
32. More ill
33. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful \_\_\_"
34. Annoying tiny biters
36. Arctic jaeger
38. \*Located in boot-shaped country
42. Sound of artillery
45. Kind of hickory nut
49. Jack's inferior
51. Like a Grammy nominee
54. Frustration, in print
56. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
57. Source of veritas
58. Wraths
59. Volcano in Sicily
60. Ground beef description
61. Fairytale giant
62. "All You \_\_\_ Is Love"
63. Variable, abbr.
65. Put to work
67. Hog heaven



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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
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Young Cows	1.45-1.80	Top cows	1.18-1.40 top of \$1.40
Medium cows	1.10-1.18	Low-yielding cows	1.00 and below

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**Thursday April 11th. All Breeds Bulls Sale.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# To Whom It May Concern cont.

Although we regret we were not able to attend your Feb. 5, 2024 work session, we were able to listen to its recording and were particularly interested in the exchange between the Montrose County Commissioners and representatives of the Basin Clinic. We hope to amend that discussion if possible, especially since inaccurate statements were made about UMC. We would be willing to discuss any part of this with you at a future convenient time.

To start, I (Mr. Chuck Porth) would like to recognize that my name came up several times during this meeting in a professional manner. I appreciate those generous comments. We would, however, like to note what I believe to be relevant historical facts. After overtures from UMC, Mr. Porth was invited to attend the Sept. 19 Basin Clinic Board meeting, which was both professional and contained some open discussion on collaboration. We're hopeful that Ms. Christina Pierce feels the same about the UMC board meeting she joined on Sept. 27. We were, however, a little disappointed when it appeared the Basin Clinic used a part of what they heard at the Sept. 27 meeting in a Facebook post, implying there was better access at Basin Clinic than at UMC.

Still, it is my impression that the sentiment at and after both meetings was that both boards wanted to move forward exploring mutually beneficial initiatives. To that end, a business associate's agreement (BAA) was created and jointly signed by both organizations, and we moved into discussing the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was to include a confidentiality agreement.

We also agreed that the best way to move forward was to create a series of meetings outside both organizations' regular board meetings to discuss this initiative. This brings us to the end of October 2023.

On Nov. 14, 2023, we received an MOU from the Basin Clinic (sent in an email from Christina Pierce). It contained the obligations of both UMC and the Basin Clinic, specifically the following:

“OBLIGATIONS OF UMC: UMC agrees to perform the following under this MOU:

1) UMC will provide consultation services through the CEO Chuck Porth, as he is able to assist Basin Clinic's Director, Christina Pierce, with questions relating to FQHC formation and/or discussions on other process improvement procedures at Basin Clinic. Nothing in this paragraph should be read to require a specific amount of time dedicated to these consultation services, nor is UMC guaranteeing any result from the services indicated herein.

2) UMC will share information with Basin Clinic for the purpose of process improvement or to otherwise negotiate a business arrangement between the parties. The parties both agree that any such discussions will not include discussions to affect market prices or wages within the area to the

detriment of any competition in the area. Rather, the focus of the exchange of information shall be to discuss process improvement at Basin Clinic or to otherwise discuss entering into a business relationship. Business relationship under this agreement shall mean a merger, acquisition, joint venture, partnership, or other legal entity that the parties may agree to create in the future.

## OBLIGATIONS OF BASIN CLINIC

• Basin Clinic will share information with UMC for the purpose of process improvement or to otherwise negotiate a business arrangement between the parties. The parties both agree that any such discussions will not include discussions to affect market prices or wages within the area to the detriment of any competition in the area. Rather, the focus of the exchange of information shall be to discuss process improvement at Basin Clinic or to otherwise discuss entering into a business relationship. Business relationship under this agreement shall mean a merger, acquisition, joint venture, partnership, or other legal entity that the parties may agree to create in the future.”

This was discussed at UMC board meetings, and several attempts were made, by UMC, at revising the wording, which was felt to be too one-sided. We also didn't feel it was part of our mission to just help the Basin Clinic survive, but rather to help ensure the residents of West Montrose County had access to high-quality health care. We are not sure the two goals are mutually inclusive.

So, on Dec. 21, instead of sending a revised MOU, we responded that UMC wanted to continue this discussion when the Basin Clinic “is committed to being acquired by UMC.” It further stated UMC did not intend to offer any staff time to the Basin Clinic, as long as it remained a free-standing entity, nor would it support any effort by the Basin Clinic to become a competing FQHC within the UMC service area.

Subsequently, we received a letter, dated Jan. 10, 2024, from the Basin Clinic, stating that they too agreed to the processes put in place at the beginning of our discussions, but were now rescinding the BAA. They went on to note that there “appears to be a lack of communication on all sides.” Their letter closed by noting they would be happy to begin open communications with UMC on mutual interests.

In the meantime, we have heard comments from patients who live in the Nucla/Naturita area of very negative public comments made about us by Basin Clinic board members. We are also aware that the Basin Clinic has reached out to other FQHCs for help.

Both of these items create a dampening effect on moving forward. They have not reached out to us since the Jan. 10 letter, nor have we reached out to them.

The above is my and UMC's

board chair's perception of where this initiative currently sits. I hope it helps put this issue in perspective.

Respectfully submitted,

CHUCK PORTH, CEO, AND EMILY HAIGHT, BOARD CHAIR, UMC  
NORWOOD

## Meeting is April 4

Dear Editor,

WEDSA is meeting Thursday, April 4, at the Naturita Community Library at 6:30 p.m. We are discussing the upcoming Dave Muller Astrophoto Art Show (April 25 at the Naturita Community Center) and other proposed events for the summer and fall. Also we will be talking about requirements for a new certification from DarkSky International for a “DarkSky Accommodation.” Colorado will have a chance to see four out of five eclipses happening in 2024, the most popular event being the solar eclipse April 8. From our area, we will see approximately 40-50% totality. For eclipse glasses, go to our visitor center in Nucla. They can be found in the WEDSA display area. Be sure not to hurt your eyes, as it could be permanent damage. Earth usually sees two lunar eclipses each year, while some years there are none at all. A solar eclipse usually happens two times each year, but can happen as many as five times, as in 1935! The question is, where on Earth can it be seen?

Enjoy the view!

Find us at [westenddarkskyalliance@gmail.com](mailto:westenddarkskyalliance@gmail.com) and [facebook.com/WestEndDarkSkies](https://www.facebook.com/WestEndDarkSkies).

DEB STUEBER  
NUCLA

## Souls of dreamers

Dear Editor,

Have you ever wondered where souls go when they are not good enough to go to heaven but too good to go to hell? I know where a good number of them are. Go into the old sections of town, where the old Victorian homes are. If you are endowed with an imagination, what you are sensing is the presence of those souls that reside in those old beautiful homes. As you drive into Telluride or Ouray, you may feel that something is different, there is something spiritual. It is not just the awesome scenery or the world-class skiing. It is something beyond that. What you are feeling is the presence of the many souls that came before you. The men and women who got up from comfortable chairs and left the warmth and safety of their homes and followed their dreams. They put their dreams into action and began searching for the proverbial end of the rainbow. They endured bitter winters, hunger and thirst, and many other hardships but their dreams kept them warm and their bodies sated. Where else would their souls be but where

their dreams lead them? There is no need to fear them, they were not bad people. They had their share of faults and were a bit more selfish than normal, but most of them just wanted what we all want.

There are many types of dreams, too numerous to list, but high on that list is being able to enjoy freedom from tyrannical societies. Peoples of the world simply want to be able and allowed to have dreams and to pursue them. But I get ahead of myself, that should be part of the conclusion of this missive.

In the west ends of San Miguel, Montrose and Mesa Counties men have followed their dreams up into the hills where the ancient Jurassic rivers once flowed. When I see a lone Blue Heron fly down a present-day river, looking for a good place to fish, I imagine how those old rivers would look. They would be similar but the animals and vegetation would be different. The banks would be more sandy and more shallow, and the heron would certainly belong there.

When I come across a pile of old rusted tin cans, fallen down tarpaper shacks, bits of purple glass, dugouts and holes in the ground, I can feel the souls of the men that came before me. I can feel the presences of the souls of miners, the fathers dreaming of finding radium during Madame Curie's time, the sons looking for vanadium to strengthen the hulls of dreadnoughts and others ships during the first war, the grandsons recently home from the horrors of the second looking for the material to stop communism from engulfing the world, and great-grandsons, during my time, to provide the electricity to allow us the comforts and the time to dream. Perhaps we are now reaping the benefits of the dreamers that came before us.

I ramble, but the ultimate point I wish to make is that you may dream of another national monument, but please do not destroy our dreams and our souls by that doing. My favorite philosopher once said, “Do not live your life to serve others nor ask others you serve you.”

DON HEMME  
REDVALE

## The delicate balance

Dear Editor,

San Miguel County in Colorado is known for its stunning natural beauty and abundant natural resources. With the growing demand for renewable energy sources, the county has been exploring the potential of solar energy as a sustainable solution. However, it is crucial to carefully consider the impacts of solar energy development on the delicate balance of the county's natural environment, particularly its agricultural lands and water resources.

Solar energy projects have the potential to have significant impacts on the landscape, particularly when large-scale installations are placed on agricultural lands. In San Miguel County, where agriculture plays a vital role in the local

economy and provides essential food production, it is important to minimize the impact of solar energy development on these lands. By employing proper siting practices and prioritizing the use of degraded or non-agricultural lands for solar installations, the county can help preserve valuable agricultural resources while still promoting renewable energy development.

One of the primary concerns regarding solar energy development on agricultural lands is the loss of productive farmland. Conversion of agricultural lands to solar installations can result in the loss of valuable soil resources, disrupting local food production and threatening the sustainability of the agricultural industry in the county. To mitigate this impact, careful planning and collaboration between energy developers, farmers, and local government authorities is essential. By identifying suitable locations for solar installations that minimize disruption to agricultural activities, such as using marginal lands or implementing dual land use practices, the county can support both renewable energy goals and agricultural sustainability.

Additionally, the water resources in San Miguel County are a crucial element of the local ecosystem and agricultural practices. Solar energy developments have the potential to impact water availability and quality, particularly if they require significant water usage for construction or operation. It is important to consider the water footprint of solar projects and implement water-efficient technologies and practices to minimize the impact on local water resources. Collaboration with local water authorities and stakeholders can help ensure that solar energy development in the county is conducted in a way that protects and conserves water resources for future generations.

Another important consideration when it comes to limiting the impact of solar energy on agricultural lands in San Miguel County is the visual impact on the landscape. The county's scenic beauty and natural resources are valued by residents and visitors alike, and large-scale solar installations have the potential to alter the visual character of the area. By implementing appropriate design and landscaping measures, such as using native vegetation or screening techniques, solar projects can be integrated into the landscape in a way that minimizes visual impact and preserves the county's natural beauty.

In conclusion, as San Miguel County explores the potential of solar energy as a sustainable energy source, it is essential to prioritize the protection of the county's delicate natural resources, particularly water and agricultural lands. By employing careful planning, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable design practices, the county can promote renewable energy development while ensuring the preservation of its valuable natural assets for future generations.

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