

San Miguel Basin Forum

NONPROFITS

Trust celebrates success of Resiliency Grant funds

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Almost four years ago, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., entrusted \$500,000 to the West End Pay it Forward Trust (WEPIFT) for the purpose of awarding grants to community organizations which would promote resiliency and economic development in the West End. On Saturday, April 13, WEPIFT and Tri-State hosted a celebration at the Nucla Community Center to celebrate the success of those grants and the great work achieved by 22 organizations to support West End communities.

“It’s been an honor to administer the Resiliency Grant funds on behalf of Tri-State, and we are proud of all the organizations, which have benefitted and the effort they have made to help sustain this community,” said Sara Bachman, trust board president.

On Saturday evening, the Nucla Community Center was decorated for the celebratory occasion, and Resiliency Grant recipients and representatives from the WEPIFT board and Tri-State were treated to a special dinner catered by Saucy Mamas of Nucla. Several grant recipients spoke about how they used grant funds to better serve the West End community. Paula Brown, executive director of the Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce, emphasized how the chamber’s original grant for Visitor Center operations in 2020 allowed them to keep the doors open during a tough year.

“Our community is extremely lucky to have the West End Pay it Forward Trust. This board is top notch in my book. Thank you, Tri-State, for trusting them to administer the Resiliency Grant funds to lift up our community,” Brown said.

Resiliency Grants were intended to promote economic development and resiliency in the West End, following the closure of the Tri-State power plant and New Horizon Coal Mine. WEPIFT received the \$500,000 donation from Tri-State in 2020, following the early closure of the power plant. In addition, the Telluride Foundation (which manages and invests WEPIFT’s endowment fund) is committed to matching Tri-State’s donation with an additional \$500,000 investment in the West End communities over four years through its Community Grants, initiatives and other programs.

Cont. on Pg. 4

MONUMENT

Norwood opposes monument, tables solar letter

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

At Norwood’s town meeting April 10, which lasted more than three hours, Shawn Fallon was sworn in again for another term as town trustee. Michael Grady was also sworn in for the first time.

In public comment, Tom Kyle urged trustees not to support the Dolores River Monument. The town’s new attorney, J. David Reed of Dufford Waldeck Law, was present by Zoom and told Kyle not to

speak about agendized items, until they came up in the meeting.

A letter for support of the Dolores River Monument was the third item on the agenda, and when it came time, Aimee Tooker, of the Just Transition Advisory Committee, and who had already presented in Norwood on the issue the month before, said since there was no proposal or paperwork the board could see, she’d like the board to write a letter of opposition, based on those facts.

Tooker said too many questions have not been answered, especially for the West End, and she asked the

board to take that into consideration. She said the Norwood community did speak and was adamantly opposed — as is the West End.

Makayla Gordon, of West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC), said she echoed Tooker’s statements. She said WEEDC has taken a more neutral stance, but requests monument proponents have more community input. She’s worried about mining access, and time to allow for infrastructure development, as well as strategic planning.

She said WEEDC was submitting

Cont. on Pg. 5

NATURITA

Library announces spring programming

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Raena Wedel-Grindle, program coordinator for Naturita Community Library, told the San Miguel Basin Forum last Friday there’s much happening at the library for April and May. She hopes the community will come out and take advantage of the free programs available.

On April 19 at 1 p.m. is the teen-adult craft day, recurring the third Friday of every month. This month, the craft focuses on making stained glass, using glass water bottles or glass vases.

On Sunday April 21 at 11 a.m., as part of the ongoing Sunday Socials, the Stories & Poems program, sponsored by Talking Gourds, will host Bill Wilson and his segment on wolf stories.

April 23 is the monthly book club date for adults. Anyone who wishes to participate should contact library staff to sign up. This month, readers have their hands on “Brave the Wild River” by Melissa Sevigny. In addition to the book club meeting, folks can also meet the author. She will be on site April 28, coming from New Mexico. The library will have her books for purchase for the event, and those can be signed.

Naturita Community Library is partnering with West End Dark Sky Alliance and the West Slope Dark Sky Coalition for the April 25 astro-photography art show and presentation. Held at the Naturita Community Center, doors open at 4 p.m., and the talk starts at 6 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Glade Hadden will conduct a petroglyph hike in Rock Creek April 27. As always, those who sign up will receive a history lesson on the hike.

“He knows what the petroglyphs are, he’s worked with tribes and has knowledge,” Wedel-Grindle said. “We have more of those hikes coming for May too, and November. We will schedule more based on interest. It’s the second year of having him do these petroglyph informational hikes.”

He’ll do another May 4, also in Rock Creek.

On May 5, the library will host another author talk. Local woman Jaime Allred will present her book “Alchemizing Your Pain,” sharing her story of chronic pain and ways she’s learned to manage it. Allred is also giving a workshop on the benefits of using guasha, a tool used in Chinese medicine for health and skin care.

On May 7, the library will host a sound bath event, for which guests can bring yoga mats and lie down, or bring chairs to rest in. The sound

Cont. on Pg. 5



Cheering on an NHS alumna

Keiran Bray and Cadence Shaw cheer on former Nucla High School athlete Lisa Sutherland in Grand Junction. NHS students were in Grand Junction, where Sutherland was competing for Colorado School of Mines.

(Photo by Sara Bray)

NORWOOD

Tension high at Norwood town meeting

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

The monthly town meeting in Norwood became heated April 10, regarding an agenda item — the agenda was amended three times — listed as “Intergovernmental Agreement between Town of Norwood, Norwood Water Commission, and Norwood Sanitation District.”

It appeared the town administrator’s (now town manager’s) salary was being discussed, as it is paid for by all three districts. That is set up currently as the town paying 40 percent, the water commission paying 35 percent, and the sanitation district paying 25 percent.

Two attorneys for the town were

present via Zoom from Dufford and Waldeck, the town’s new legal team, and one was also present from the Norwood Water Commission. Norwood’s counsel advised holding an executive session to discuss the intergovernmental agreement.

New trustee Mike Grady said he’d researched that the town has spent nearly \$7,000 in attorney fees this year alone, and the town has only budgeted \$10,000 for 2024. He said the “clock is running,” and the board should be able to discuss such items publicly.

“We need to be careful with how much we are spending on this,” he said. “We have potholes we could be putting money toward.”

Some members of the sanitation

board were present and expressed upset that a memo was sent from the town attorney to the mayor, regarding dissolving the sanitation district. The mayor said in the meeting, however, she was trying to get clear understanding of the creation of the sanitation district and how it functions. She said there was no intention to dissolve the district.

Mike Grafmyer, of the sanitation board, questioned the mayor’s inquiry into the dissolution. The mayor said she she wanted to know what would happen if the sanitation board failed because of repairs. Grafmyer said the board had insurance and money on hand. He said the mayor should have discussed her concerns with the sani-

Cont. on Pg. 3

HEALTH CARE

UMC's Robin Richards talks appointments

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

more accommodating.

Representatives of Uncompahgre Medical Center have been busy brainstorming how to be more present in the community and be more in touch with patients. Personalized interviews with UMC providers could be a good place to start. A lot of people forget that health care providers don't live on site at UMC. So, what do they do when they aren't at the clinic?

Robin Richards has been with UMC the longest, and she's possibly the most beloved provider.

Q: With UMC being so small and rural, what attracted you to the area and made you want to provide here? How did you hear about UMC?

A: I am actually from here. We moved here when I was a year and a half old. I went to school in Telluride. I moved away and couldn't wait to move back to the area.

Q: What is your approach to health care in such a small community?

A: I feel like the patient's health is in their hands, and we are here to guide them with what to do with their health. My biggest goal is to provide what their options are and to educate them.

Q: What are some challenges you have seen with being in such a rural community?

A: Access to care, especially specialty care. We live an hour and a half to three hours away from specialists — and coordination of transportation, timing, etc. is an issue for all. We do the best that we can to work with specialists from afar.

Q: Has tele-health helped?

A: It really feels like it has, especially with those who can't come into the clinic. It feels like the specialists are finally starting to understand the restrictions we and our patients face and have been

Q: What do you hope to accomplish with your patient base at UMC?

A: Education, and good health and well-being. Knowing how to take care of ourselves is the biggest thing. Continuing to offer the best care we can. I am a big proponent of nutrition. I try to empower my patients with nutrition and lifestyle changes that will help them.

Q: On a more personal note, what are some of your hobbies?

A: I love running, hiking, biking, camping, skiing, really anything outdoors. My children, dog and husband are a big part of my life. I like to play the guitar, and I like cooking and baking.

Q: Do you have a favorite book, movie or TV show?

A: Any documentary, particularly anything to do with health and longevity. "Breakfast at Tiffany's" has been a favorite movie forever. Most recently, the best novel I have read would be "Where the Crawdads Sing."

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: What free time (with laughter)? I like to go for a good run or learn a new song on the guitar.

Q: In your career, what is something that you have accomplished that you are proud of?

A: Being able to work in the community that raised me. I feel like I am giving back.

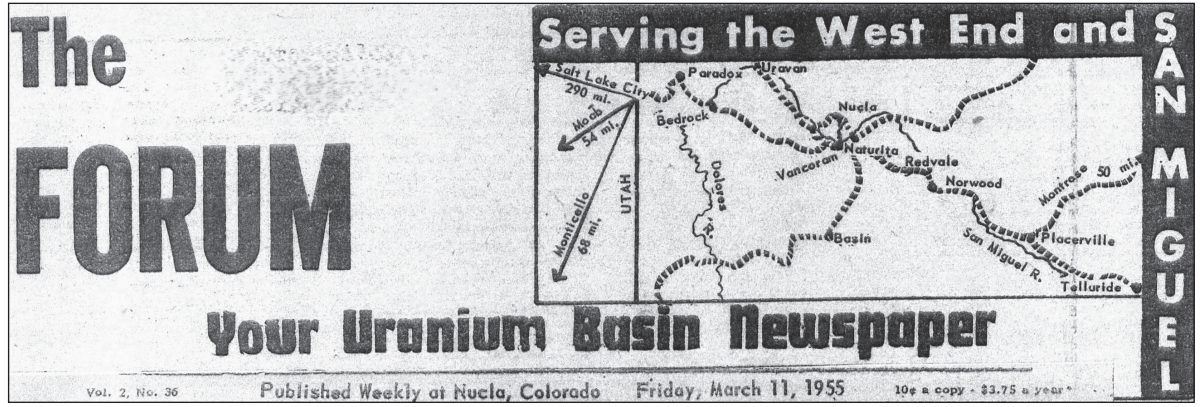
Q: How far out is your schedule right now? Are you available for same-day appointments?

A: I am available for some same-days. Right now, my schedule is roughly two weeks out.

Anyone wishing to schedule an appointment to see Robin Richards or another provider should call UMC directly at 970-327-4233.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society The West End's booming economy in 1955

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*



This image shows the banner for the old Forum in 1955. (Image courtesy of the Rimrocker Historical Society)

It's always fun to run across an article in the old newspapers that makes me pause and just shake my head. I thought this one was worth sharing. This comes from the Forum, as it was called back then, of March 11, 1955: The Forum, Your Uranium Basin Newspaper, Serving the West End and San Miguel. The headline blasts the news, "WEST END SALES UP 55%: BIGGEST INCREASE IN STATE." The Forum must not have had a percent sign, because it was obviously drawn into the headline.

"The West End has the fastest growing economy in Colorado, according to figures released last weekend by Colorado University. This fact was contained in a study of retail sales put out by CU's Bureau of Business Research.

West End Up 55%

Sales in Montrose County OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF MONTROSE boomed 55% from 1953 to 1954. With Olathe and other East End communities suffering from low farm prices, all of this increase probably came in the uranium-rich West End.

Montrose Business Off

The town of Montrose dropped 3% of its sales during the same '53 to '54 period. This contrasted with Grand Junction's 18% increase and Delta's 1% gain. Colorado as a whole saw a 3% increase in sales.

San Miguel county outside Telluride is shown with a 4% loss — remarkably little in view of the Telluride mines shutdown.

West End Trend Up

The West End increase — about \$2 million in retail sales over '53 — continues a well-established trend. 1950 to 1954 has seen a 115% boom in retail sales in Montrose County, excluding the town of Montrose.

The retail sales figures for 1953 and 1954, according to the CU Bureau of Business Research are as follows:

	Thousands of Dollars	
	1953	1954
State of Colorado,	\$1,591,865	\$1,640,103
Montrose County, Excluding Montrose	\$3,653	\$5,655
Town of Montrose	\$11,728	\$11,459
San Miguel County, excluding Telluride	\$937	\$1,075
Town of Telluride	\$945	\$912
Town of Delta	\$7,915	\$8,022
Grand Junction	\$36,452	\$43,040

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Allow more time, please

Dear Editor,

The ultimate goal of West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC) is to create a balance of industries in our community to create a sustainable economic future for the West End, while honoring the independence and traditions of the West End.

As WEEDC represents a wide variety of businesses and differing community interests, WEEDC will not be taking a formal position on the issue of the Dolores River National Monument at this time with the information gathered. WEEDC will serve as a clearing house for information, as well as ensure that the West End is included in any decision-making effort. As such, the purpose of this document is not to state a position "for" or "against," but rather to provide information that WEEDC has gathered, as it has closely followed the proposed monument.

From research conducted by staff and conversations had with members of the community and the Protect the Dolores Coalition, WEEDC wants to highlight the timing in which this proposal is projected to be introduced to the president for designation and the concern of whether our communities can seamlessly integrate a conservation model of this size.

With only a dozen meetings held with various community stakeholders in a six-month period, WEEDC board and staff are concerned with the minimal amount of outreach to the West End community in the drafting of the map and the proposal. It is concerning that, due to

this lack of community engagement, the proposal is anticipated to be submitted to the president for designation before the end of the calendar year. There have been many questions asked, and minimal answers and reassurances have been provided by the Protect the Dolores Coalition. Is a national monument the right conservation for this area, or are there other methods available to protect the Dolores River, and allow balance for all of our area industries to thrive as well?

Members from WEEDC, the towns of Naturita, Norwood and Nucla, Montrose County, and both the Nucla-Naturita and Norwood chambers of commerce are actively working to update our sustainability and strategic plan for the West End to have a successful transition away from the coal industry. As we work through this process, we are cognizant of the balance that is needed to diversify our economy, while capitalizing on our natural and historic resources, which include the mining, agriculture and outdoor recreation industries. Part of this strategic planning process also includes overlaying all of the studies and plans that are currently in place for each individual municipality, and the community as a whole, into one to leverage as much funding as possible for needed upgrades. We anticipate this work to be completed within the next 18 months and to provide guidance on growing the region.

There is a lot of research showing that monument designations could lead to increases in the number of business establishments and

jobs in the region. Outdoor recreation and tourism is a significant piece to our economic diversification. While our small businesses can benefit greatly from an increase in traffic through the region, our current infrastructure cannot handle growth yet. Each town has available water and sewer capacity. However, each municipality has pipes that are more than 50 years old. Almost anytime someone taps into the system for growth, whether for housing or business, there is a water main break.

Nucla was lucky enough to receive funding to construct a brand new school. The same week that students attended school in that new building for the first time, the Town of Nucla had a water line break, causing some businesses to close their doors for two days while necessary repairs were made for quality water.

At this time, the WEEDC board and staff ask proponents of the proposed Dolores River National Monument to allow more time to adequately engage the West End communities, provide better opportunity for the West End community to have input on any conservation model the community views as appropriate, and to allow the West End municipalities to complete their strategic planning for infrastructure upgrades and other growth before submitting a proposal to the president for designation of a national monument in the West End.

*Makayla Gordon,
WEEDC Executive Director
WEST END*

Town meeting

Cont. from Pg. 1

tation board first.

Town trustees did not know about the mayor's inquiry of dissolving the sanitation district. Town staff, the water commission and the sanitation board did know about the inquiry, though, because new town manager Deana Sheriff forwarded the email to members of entities, since she works for all three. She said in the meeting the mayor threatened to fire her for forwarding the email. Meehan denied that.

Former mayor of Norwood Kerry Welch, now serving the sanitation district, spoke and said she'd obtained records indicating the mayor had

more than 10 conversations with the new town attorney about dissolving the sanitation district and spent town money doing so. Welch said the invoices' billable hours are proof and added she doesn't trust the mayor anymore.

The town attorney attempted to rein the meeting back in and told those in attendance they'd "drifted way outside the stated agenda."

Nancy Hrupcin, who's served on the Planning & Zoning board, said it's worth the three boards having an intergovernmental review. She said the existing document is 32 years old.

Toward the end of the meeting, the mayor gave a check to Town

Clerk Amanda Pierce in the amount of \$2,743 for reimbursement of some attorney fees. Additionally, the mayor returned an uncashed check for \$1,000 the town had granted her for her upcoming Harvard leadership training.

The board was set to go into executive session at the end of the meeting, but Grady said he felt uncomfortable spending additional monies on attorney fees, and because he felt the topic of the executive session should be disclosed beforehand. He argued with town attorneys and nearly recused himself, but the meeting was adjourned because the town manager felt ill.

San Miguel Basin Forum

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Resiliency Grant funds

Cont. from Pg. 1

Tri-State allocated \$100,000 to WEPIFT's permanent endowment, ensuring WEPIFT will always be able to give annual grants. The additional donation of \$400,000 was awarded as Resiliency Grants over the four years.

"When we announced the plant retirement in 2016, we recognized that WEPIFT was the right organization to administer our \$500,000 donation to support economic development and resiliency, and to promote the overall well-being of the community," said Sarah Carlisle, Tri-State Senior External Affairs Advisor. "WEPIFT has leveraged our donation to do impactful work. I am honored to serve on the WEPIFT board and admire the grit and tenacity of the West End of Montrose County."

From 2020 to 2023, WEPIFT awarded 26 grants (some organizations received multiple grants) totaling \$361,228. Grants ranged from \$50,000 for the West End Public Schools District to reduce the new school mill levy ... to \$1,000 for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to provide for free books for West End toddlers. Grants have funded a variety of resiliency and economic development projects and organizations, including Nucla-Naturita Visitor Center, for general operating and building improvements; Apple Core Project, for general operating; Confluence Events, for the

Hanging Flume Ultra Race; Tabeguache Trail Riders, for upgrades to the Nucla Arena; True North Youth Program for a West End youth coordinator and space; Paradox Pipeline Co., for a water filtration system; Nucla-Naturita Senior Center, for new appliances, serving ware and the cook's salary; West End Sheriff's Posse, for search and rescue equipment; Nucla High School, for technology upgrades and the archery program; West End Economic Development Corporation, for general operating; Rimrocker Historical Society, for Ball Park improvements; West End Trails Alliance, for trails master planning and NEPA studies; Town of Nucla, for community center upgrades; Dominguez-Escalante Expedition Education Project, for website improvements; Town of Naturita, for a water mister for Town Park; Paradox Community Center, for new metal siding; Paradox Cycle, for student apprenticeships; and Nucla/Naturita Fire Department, to purchase wildland fire gear.

WEPIFT was created in 2013 with the mission to improve the West End communities now and for future generations. Its purpose is to create and grow a permanent, locally controlled endowment fund to support community and economic development projects. Interest generated from the endowment supports community projects and charitable causes. WEPIFT's policy states that it will use 5 percent

of the total endowment each year for grants to the community. Starting with only \$400 in July of 2015, the WEPIFT board has now raised more than \$300,000 to date.

WEPIFT will continue raising funds for its endowment, so that it can support the community for many years to come. To make this possible, the trust hopes to increase the number of donors who give monthly. Currently, WEPIFT is collecting approximately \$700 monthly from donors who pledge a donation through Citizens State Bank of Naturita, the trust's primary bank, or their credit/debit card online.

The board has said donations of \$10 per month make a huge difference. WEPIFT is a simple and lasting way for residents of the West End to make a difference in their community by paying it forward to help the community now and for future generations.

Currently, WEPIFT's board includes Jane Thompson, Kendra Ballard, Doylene Garvey, Sara Bachman, Troy Masters, Erin Jones, Barb Olander and Sarah Carlisle (non-voting). April Montgomery of the Telluride Foundation serves as an ex-officio member.

Anyone interested in learning more about WEPIFT should contact westendpift@gmail.com, look for the trust on Facebook, or visit westendpayitforward.org. Anyone interested in joining the WEPIFT board should send letters of intent to westendpift@gmail.com.



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Spring programming

Cont. from Pg. 1

bath includes singing bowls, and the effect is relaxing for the nervous system. Wedel-Grindle said it's a calming experience.

May 17 is another adult-teen craft night, and details are soon to be announced.

May 18 is a do-it-yourself water filtration activity. Then, participants

will learn to make their own water filters at home.

On May 21, the adult book club continues. (The book for May will be announced at the earlier April meeting.)

Hadden will lead a petroglyph hike again May 25, and the location is Healing Ledge.

And, the library staff are in the planning stages for a family dance,

happening tentatively May 30. The dance will likely be 1980s themed. Those details will soon be announced.

Also in the works is the summer reading program, and this year it includes many local organizations. Anyone with questions or who wishes to sign up for programs should visit the Naturita Community Library and speak with staff.

Norwood opposes monument

Cont. from Pg. 1

a letter to monument supporters and she was happy to share that.

Kyle was given time to comment on the monument and said when he served as Norwood trustee, the Dark Sky advocates came to the town, and now the group is costing the town money.

"Be careful what you endorse," he said, "their ideas and philosophies."

Mike Grafmyer said when Bears Ears became a national monument, the government promised nothing would change. Now, they're trying to close Arch Canyon to ATVs.

"If you can't vote no, don't say anything," Grafmyer said to trustees.

Finn Kjome, a well-known "Jeep guy" in Norwood, asked trustees not to support the monument. And, Randy Harris is concerned about mining.

"If that becomes a monument, mining will go away," he said. "That is their end goal. I highly recommend you do not endorse this."

Mayor Candy Meehan said she

hadn't gotten clarity on the issue, and that it was "difficult to get precise answers." Fallon said he didn't like the idea of a monument for multiple reasons, including looking out for people in the West End. He said he was ready to sign a letter of opposition.

Niven Drybrough said he echoed what others had said.

"I'm suspicious of things like this," Drybrough said. "I don't think it's a good idea. We are losing our sovereignty, one cut at a time."

Trustee Morgan Rummel said he was ready to sign a letter of opposition last month.

"It will harm us more than it will help them," he said.

Grady said he supported the opposition, and it was apparent the community didn't want a monument in the West End.

Because the agenda was worded to vote on a letter of support, first trustees had to do that. They voted not to support a monument. Then, they voted on a letter of opposition. That passed unanimously.

Trustees also had a letter of opposition for solar development on their agenda. Rummel asked why solar was still being considered.

"Are they listening to the community?" he asked.

Mayor Meehan said she thought the government was trying to remove rights for counties to object to solar on agricultural land. She said another moratorium was likely coming.

The mayor said while she had a letter of opposition, she felt it didn't have "enough teeth," and she requested to table the vote for a month to allow for more of a "foundation."

Grady asked what the benefit of tabling was; The mayor said she could give more credit to the letter. Grady said it would be good to get the town's response out and get it "behind us."

"I don't want to linger too long when we can keep moving," the new trustee said.

A motion was made to table the letter of opposition for solar energy on Wright's Mesa; That motion passed.



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

THANK YOU!

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**WEST END
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Breakfast Menu**

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

WG: Whole Grain / EC: Early Childhood

Monday, April 22

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

Tuesday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

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 22

Hamburger on Bun, Pork and
Beans, Chips, Salad Bar, Milk,
Peaches (EC)

Tuesday, April 23

Fajita Chicken Wrap, Sweet
Red Peppers, Salad Bar, Milk,
Pears (EC)

Wednesday, April 24

Sausage Pizza, Bread Stick,
Marinara Sauce, Salad Bar,
Milk, Mixed Fruit (EC)

Thursday, April 25

Mac & Cheese with Ham, Roll,
Salad Bar, Milk, Oranges (EC)

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

3/28/2024

0833 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31500 block of 90 Road near Nucla for a lost property report.

0903 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita for an animal problem.

1345 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Montana Way in Nucla for a welfare check.

1529 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29600 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a missing person.

1848 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 34800 block of Highway 145 near Redvale for found property.

1901 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist on Highway 145 mm 115 near Redvale.

1 civil process attempted/served

3/29/2024

0927 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Sunny Circle in Naturita for a welfare check.

1047 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

1403 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Second Avenue Naturita for a

report of threatening.

1600 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of DD Road and 3000 Road near Nucla for an animal problem.

1745 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to 25 Mesa Road mm 44 near Nucla for an accident. Wyatt Elder, 21, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, open container, no driver's license, and no insurance.

1 VIN inspection

1 follow up report

1 civil process attempted/served

3/30/2024

1315 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an animal problem.

1 follow up report

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

1 civil process attempted/served

3/31/2024

1236 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31400 block of Mailbox Road near Redvale for a welfare check.

1 follow up report

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

4/1/2024

1139 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31100 block of 90 Road near Nucla for a smoke

complaint.

1243 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27200 block of Fifth Road near Nucla for a fire.

1620 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 33000 block of Mailbox Park Road near Nucla for a welfare check.

1710 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Main Street in Nucla for a noise complaint.

1 school zone

2 VIN inspections

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

4/2/2024

0655 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

0927 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1201 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1100 block of Montana Street in Nucla for a welfare check.

1354 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1000 block of Main Street in Nucla for a criminal mischief report.

1355 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to relay a message in the 8500 block of Highway 90 near Bedrock.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ELK RIDGE MINING AND RECLAMATION - TECHNICAL REVISION 25 (TR-25)

Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC, P.O. Box 628, Nucla, CO 81424 has filed with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety an application for Technical Revision 25 (TR-25) to the New Horizon North Mine, Permit No. C-2010-089. TR-25 provides the as-built for a post mine stock pond named Garvey and Company Pond 1.

The New Horizon North Mine office is located at 27646 West 5th Street, P.O. Box 628, Nucla, Colorado. The permit area contains tracts of land located in Section 25 and Section 36, Township 47 North, Range 16 West of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, Montrose County, Colorado being more particularly described as follows:

A portion of the West 1/2 of Section 25, Township 47 North, Range 16 West of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, containing 230.0 acres, more or less. Additionally, within Section 36, Township 47 North, Range 16 West of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, an area of 1.3 acres encompassing the discharge flume of Pond 001, a road corridor of 1.0 acres and an area of 2.3 acres encompassing a portion of the New Horizon Mine 1 Pond 001. In total, the New Horizon North permit boundary contains 234.6 acres, more or less. The above mentioned tracts of land are located on USGS 7.5 minute Nucla Quadrangle map.

A copy of the complete technical revision application is available for public inspection at the Montrose County Courthouse Annex, Nucla, Colorado. Written comments or objections to the application may be submitted to the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, Colorado 80203, Telephone (303) 866-3567. The stock pond in this technical revision is within 100 feet of AA Road and 2600 Road, directly adjacent to the intersection of both roads. A public hearing may be requested by the public or affect landowners for the purpose of determining whether the interests of the public and affected landowners will be protected by the stock pond proposed in this technical revision. Should a public hearing be requested, it will be held in the locality of the proposed mining operation. A hearing may be requested by contacting the Division in writing within 30 days after the last publication of this notice.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Form April 17, 2024

April is National Donate Life Month



Instituted in 2003 and celebrated
in April each year, we at Basin
Clinic encourage you to register as
organ, eye and tissue donors and
to celebrate those that have saved
lives through the gift of donation.

*You can be someone's hero too - go
to donatelife.net and register today!*

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Basin Clinic

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Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Carol Scott PA-c
Mary Kus, FNP
Tiffany Ordonez, MD - Medical Director

(EEOIC patients please schedule with our MD)
For help with medical situations after hours,
call 865-2665 and follow prompts.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: GRADUATION

- ACROSS**
- Accumulate
 - Popular pickup
 - Johnny Depp's 2001 biopic
 - Jousting pole
 - Mozart's "L' _____ del Cairo"
 - Figure of speech
 - Oak nut
 - Be off base
 - Less typical
 - *Graduating class
 - *S in BS
 - *Graduating NCAA player's goal?
 - FedEx, verb
 - "I Want My _____," television channel
 - Daytime drama
 - Online business
 - Fleur-de-lis
 - Dart
 - Planktonic tunicate

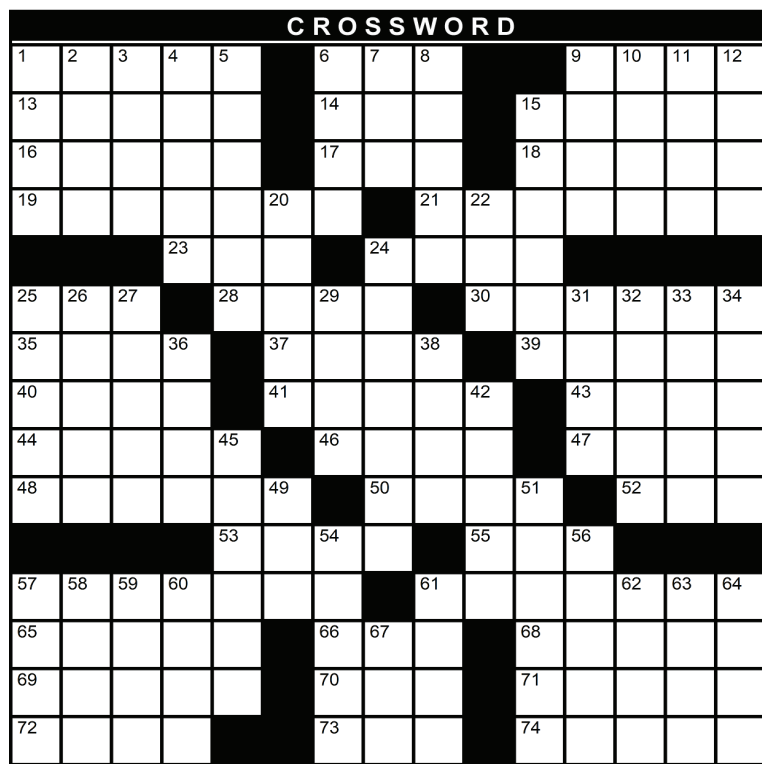
- Not naughty
- Break of day
- Last row
- Verdi's opus
- Lion's do
- D.E.A. agent
- Sell again
- Penny
- To the _____ degree
- Prep for certain potatoes
- Metered ride
- *Final reward
- *Academic _____, a.k.a. Cap and Gown
- Gibson garnish
- Rocks, to a bartender
- Angry
- Lieu
- Not solid or liquid
- Post-it user
- Of two minds
- Bldg unit
- Opposite of friend

DOWN

- "Oh, woe!"



- Riot spray
- At another time, archaic
- Substitute for tender
- Misters in Spain
- Fish eggs, pl.
- Acronym, abbr.
- Wet land
- Highlands hillside
- Forsaken
- Oil org.
- "The Way We _____"
- *Finals at Cambridge University
- Building toppers
- El _____, Spain's national hero
- Popeye's fuel
- *Major's partner
- Beef _____, dim sum choice
- Moral weaknesses
- *Grad
- Mountain lake
- As a whistle?
- 1960s abstractionism
- *"Pomp and Circumstance," e.g.
- Dried up
- Adjust the pitch, with "up"
- Previous VP
- Marcona nut
- Skedaddle
- Moroccan spiced stew
- Eurasian antelope
- Sacha Cohen's middle name
- Olden days "do", second person singular
- Sean Penn's movie "_____ the Wild"
- Embarkation location
- *Student aid
- Catch one's breath
- Not on time
- One on a list
- Bald eagle's nest
- *Graduation garb topper



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THANK YOU

WEST DIVISION MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE

We truly appreciate all the generous 2024 Fund Drive Donations we have received from our West End citizens and businesses. Also, thank you to individuals and businesses that sent donations from outside of our area. Your donations will be put to good use in keeping the West Division Montrose County Sheriff's Posse operating.

46-1P

VETERAN MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO

Memorial Services for Veterans - Contact Tom Loczy and VFW at: (970) 428-2268

TEN

CHANGE TO OBITUARY COST

We will no longer charge for black and white obituaries under 500 words.

TEN

NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING

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- Kindergarten Teacher
- Spanish/English Language Learner Teacher
- 5th Grade Teacher
- 6th Grade Teacher
- Paraprofessionals (1/2 or Full-time)

The full job postings are located on our website, please follow the link/URL <https://www.norwoodk12.org/domain/181> and click on "Click here for job listings and to apply online".

46-4T-C

NUCLA-NATURITA TELEPHONE COMPANY
HELP WANTED - FIELD TECHNICIAN



Nucla-Naturita Telephone Company is looking for a Field Technician to join our team. The applicant will conduct such work

as installations, repairs, and maintenance throughout our service territory. Normal work schedule is Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but applicant must be willing to work after hours, overtime and to be on call. Other duties and responsibilities, such as locates, may be assigned. Applicant must be willing to do pre-employment drug screening.

Job Requirements:

- High School or Equivalent Certificate
- Valid Driver's License and Good driving record

Applications are available for pickup at 421 Main Street, Nucla and can be returned to the Business Office or you may send a resume to nntc@nntcwireless.com.

44-TPN-C

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.50-4.05	300-400# HEIFERS	3.35-3.95
400-500# STEERS	3.20-3.65	400-500# HEIFERS	2.90-3.35
500-600# STEERS	2.85-3.20	500-600# HEIFERS	2.75-2.90
600-700# STEERS	2.60-2.70	600-700# HEIFERS	2.30-2.60
700-800# STEERS	2.35-2.50	700-800# HEIFERS	2.20-2.30
800-900# STEERS	2.15-2.30	800-900# HEIFERS	1.90-2.10
Top bulls	1.40-1.55high of 1.62	Medium bulls	1.20-1.30
Young Cows	1.45-1.80	Top cows	1.25-1.50top 1.50
Medium cows	1.15-1.24	Low-yielding cows	1.15 & below

SPRING SALES EVERY WEEK IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY!

NEXT WEEK: April 18th - 40 replacement heifers 825# ,bangs vaccinated, 9 mixed feeders, 8 butcher cows & 5 butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 100-200.

UP COMING SALES

Next Special Goats & Sheep Sale: April 25, 2024

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

NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE Saturday, JUNE 1ST

Consignment Auction April 19 @ 5pm AND April 20&21 at the Yellow Jacket Livestock Auction 19245 Road X Lewis, Colorado (15 miles north of Cortez)

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution To Previous Sudoku

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

YOUTH

Galley still at work



Last week's edition of the Forum stated incorrectly that Lantry Galley was named second team for basketball, all-conference. She was actually first team. And, the Nucla High School freshman is continuing her time on the court with the Valley Basketball Club, a regional Western Slope team that players must try out for. Last weekend, the girls won their tournament. (Courtesy image)

MONUMENT

Hickenlooper will travel to Nucla April 23

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Senator John Hickenlooper is coming to Nucla on April 23 at 1:30 p.m. to the community center for the purpose of hearing the opposition to a national monument that's been proposed along the Dolores River. Sean Pond, leader of the Halt the Dolores Monument group, told the San Miguel Basin Forum on Monday he's pleased that the Colorado senator will come to the West End.

Pond had wanted to speak with lawmakers about the issue, including Senator Michael Bennet, who with Hickenlooper, sponsored the national conservation area (NCA) in the local region. Hickenlooper

had also traveled to Washington, D.C. with monument advocates in December, pressing the issue, since a monument can be designated by a U.S. president.

Pond said Hickenlooper's office, specifically Sarah McCarthy, called him Monday to discuss a monument meeting. Pond requested it not be private, but involve stakeholders and a listening session. He said Hickenlooper's office agreed to the open meeting and that Pond could spread the word.

On Monday, April 22, the night before the Nucla meeting, Hickenlooper is scheduled to engage with the public in Grand Junction, at the Colorado Mesa University ballroom. Pond will attend that session

too.

He's really encouraging West End folks, though, to attend Tuesday's West End session. He said it's important.

"This is the opportunity for people to speak, ask their questions and voice their concerns," Pond said.

The meeting will last about one hour, according to Hickenlooper's office. While it's open to all, only those that RSVP in advance may speak at the session. Pond intends to speak and already completed his RSVP on Monday. To be safe, it might be best to register for the event online, using the link that posted Monday: <http://nuclahickenlooper.eventbrite.com>. Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire told the

Forum Tuesday morning, the community center's capacity is approximately 180.

"My biggest thing is to get people at the meeting," Pond said. "A member of the senate sponsoring this bill, here to listen to stakeholders, is a goal. It's what we have been fighting for."

He said he imagined Aimee Tooker, of the Just Transition Advisory Committee, would also talk. He said Makayla Gordon, of the West End Economic Development Corporation, might also.

Pond has heard that people from Cortez, Dove Creek and Montrose are also set to attend the Nucla session.

"If people don't show up, they're

missing their opportunity. This is our chance to make our voices heard," he said.

Over the weekend, Pond spoke at a Halt the Dolores Monument meeting in Yellow Jacket. There, a representative from Lauren Boebert's office attended and then invited him and wife Danielle Pond to lunch to listen to concerns. Pond said it was validating, and he thinks someone from Boebert's office might attend the April 23 Nucla session.

Pond's Halt the Dolores Monument speaking engagement in Grand Junction is still in the works. He said Monday it's been confirmed for the fairgrounds there in Mesa County, but he's still awaiting confirmation of the date.

WATER

Court case settled

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Sheep Mountain Alliance and San Miguel County recently settled a water rights case filed by the San Miguel Water Conservancy District (SMWCD) regarding a water project conceived in the 1950s and known as the San Miguel Project. While this project was never constructed, approvals had remained in place that could have diverted up to 675 CFS (cubic feet per second) of water from the main-stem of the San Miguel River and its tributaries.

The project was envisioned to include three reservoirs, the largest of which would have flooded a large stretch of the San Miguel River, as well as parts of Placerville and Highway 145.

With the settlement of this case, Sheep Mountain Alliance, San Miguel County and SMWCD

agreed to the cancellation of most of the water rights, in order to preserve the health of the San Miguel River and guarantee that the reservoirs will never be built. In addition, a small portion of the project's water rights have been made available for potential future use by the Town of Norwood and Wright's Mesa and/or to further augment the San Miguel River.

The San Miguel Project, a participating project under the 1956 Colorado River Storage Project Act, was authorized for construction under the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act. The water rights were decreed as "conditional" in 1950. With conditional water rights, the owner — in this case the San Miguel Water Conservancy District — must demonstrate to the water court every six years that they are diligently developing the project

for which the water rights were decreed. Once a project is developed, and the water rights are put to their decreed uses, the water rights become absolute and no further court filings are needed. If, on the other hand, the water rights owner does not prove that it is diligently developing the project, the water rights can be canceled.

Given that the San Miguel Project was not being developed, Sheep Mountain Alliance and San Miguel County worked closely with the SMWCD over six years to negotiate what the future of these water rights would look like. Sheep Mountain Alliance, represented by Norwood and Telluride-based water lawyer Jenny Russell, was concerned about the project's potential impacts to the San Miguel River.

If these rights as originally decreed were put to use, they

would stymie seasonal flow patterns (such as spring run-off), compromise riparian habitat and further endanger three critical fish species in the San Miguel River. San Miguel County, represented by staff and water attorney Mark Hamilton of the law firm Holland & Hart LLC, shared these concerns for the river and was also interested in preserving portions of the original decree for the long-term benefit of the Town of Norwood and the Wright's Mesa area.

The settlement helps ensure a sustainable future for the San Miguel River, as well as a viable pathway for additional water supplies for Wright's Mesa residents. The settlement cancels all of the project water rights except 9,000 acre-feet of the Saltado Reservoir water right and a 5 CFS right in the San Miguel River. Importantly, the remaining water rights cannot

be used for a reservoir located on the San Miguel River, but must be stored off the main-stem of the river. Of the remaining 9,000 acre-feet storage right, 4,500 acre-feet are allocated to recreation and environmental purposes, 4,000 acre-feet to domestic and municipal uses within the Norwood Water Commission service area, and 500 acre-feet to river augmentation purposes.

Five CFS is also allocated to domestic and municipal use within the Norwood Water Commission service area. SMWCD will convey these remaining rights to the county, and there will be a limited timeframe for developing the water rights for domestic, municipal and augmentation uses.

The balance of the conditional water rights were canceled, which protects Down Valley communities and the San Miguel River.