

San Miguel Basin Forum

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Conflict divides folks in local communities

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Last Wednesday, April 24, Norwood's sanitation district board met in a special meeting, with a resolution up for vote. That resolution read "no confidence" in the Norwood mayor.

The resolution resulted after Norwood Town Manager Deana Sheriff, who reports to the sanitation board, released an email. That email, apparently protected by attorney-client privilege, showed Norwood Mayor Candy Meehan had inquired about the dissolution of Norwood Sanitation District. Meehan has said she was investigating catastrophic incidents, and the town's liability, if the sanitation district went bankrupt. Some sanitation board members have said they believe the mayor intended to dissolve their district. However, Bernice White, on the sanitation board, objected to voting on the resolution, drafted by board member Mike Grafmyer.

Attorney Jenny Russell, in the audience, said the mayor's legal conversations were "legitimate" and "good government." She added Norwood's new legal counsel is the best in the region for municipal law.

"Your job is to run sewer systems," Russell told the sanitation board, "not to decide if you have confidence or no confidence in the town mayor."

Russell also said she wasn't sure the sanitation district qualified as a special district and she would be looking into it.

Several citizens spoke out in the mayor's favor. Many of the comments were spoken with anger and used foul language. Commissioner Kris Holstrom was in attendance and said she had concerns about the way the meeting was being run, alluding to lack of following meeting norms.

The mayor asked the sanitation board why she wasn't contacted with questions before being accused of dissolving the district. Board member Tom Kyle said they'd tried, but were denied information because of "attorney-client privilege." Kyle also remains concerned that the mayor allegedly threatened to fire the town manager over the email release.

Grafmyer said the sanitation board has insurance and reserves, and that the inquiry was not justified. He said the mayor should have approached the sanitation board first.

At the end of the meeting, the board passed the resolution of "no

Cont. on Pg. 2

MONUMENT

Hickenlooper visits Naturita, listens to objections

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Hundreds of people flocked to Naturita on Friday afternoon, April 26, for U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper's visit to the West End. There, in the old elementary school gym, the senator appeared to listen to concerns from locals in the community who have an opinion on a potential monument along and beyond the Dolores River Canyon.

In a community of people that often feel unheard, and who also have been repeatedly disappointed

that decisions are made on the Front Range and greater U.S. that affect them, the listening session was established to give folks a voice.

As of press time, Hickenlooper had not taken a position on the issue, as was stated at the opening of the meeting by former Republican leader Don Coram. Coram added Hickenlooper is typically fair and does listen to his constituents.

When Hickenlooper took the mic, he said that he's spent time visiting the West End during his eight years as governor of Colorado. He said he cares about future generations.

Sean Pond spoke first. Pond

started the petition opposing a monument on Feb. 20 this year, after hearing about its proposal. He expressed disappointment that the West End people hadn't been included in the discussions about it, since it directly affects them. He continued that the "multitude of tourists" are not here, and the land is already protected.

Various speakers, from the region, took to the mic and brought up the need for keeping access to the resources in the mineral belt, including geologist Bob Larson, of Ouray.

Clifford Chiles, a rancher and a

Cont. on Pg. 3



Hundreds flock to the old elementary school gym in Naturita for Sen. Hickenlooper's listening session regarding the proposed monument. (Photo by Tanner Nelson)

ELECTIONS

Bette Nickell, Tom Loczy run for SMPA board (Part 2)

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Bette Nickell and Tom Loczy are running against each other for a seat on San Miguel Power Association's (SMPA's) board of directors. The two are vying for a seat in District 1, the largest district in the SMPA territory, which includes parts of both Montrose and San Miguel counties. Previously, Doylene Garvey served District 1 for 12 years.

Loczy's background includes proudly serving in the U.S. Navy after he graduated high school, from 1969 to 1973. He was then an optician in Solon, Ohio, from 1973 to 1977. After several trips

to the local area since 1969, he fell in love with the West End and officially arrived.

"In 1977, I moved to Nucla, buying into a hardware business in Naturita," he told the San Miguel Basin Forum.

Later, he was hired by SMPA as their first warehouseman, entering into what would become a decades' long career with the electric cooperative. Loczy progressed into the position of journeyman meterman. He then worked and completed the requirements to become a lineman, eventually moving up to lead lineman. He worked for SMPA for more than 30 years before he retired. In total,

his career with the power cooperative lasted 1981 to 2012.

He's got leadership experience too, and he also gives back to his community. Loczy has served on the West End Public Schools District's board of education and the Mustang Water Board. Currently, he volunteers for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse's search and rescue team. He also helps unload the food bank truck on Friday mornings, and he is the commander of the local VFW, Uranium Post No. 9058. Additionally, he assists the local game warden, teaching hunter safety classes, and he helps groom

Cont. on Pg. 4

EDUCATION

Peyton Porter commits to Ivy League school

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Peyton Porter, a senior at Norwood High School, got an offer to attend an Ivy League school for her college career, something that college counselor Rick Williams said is rare for the remote and rural high school demographic there.

Porter had previously received the Chang-Chavkin Scholarship Program Award her junior year. Through the award, she will receive \$60,000 over four years for any college she wants to attend.

She'd already committed to Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

But, she'd previously applied to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, a prestigious Ivy League school known for its medicine programs and research. The acceptance rate for Cornell is just 7 percent.

Porter knew about Cornell and visited as a little girl. Her grandmother was enamored with the university too. When she found out April 24 she'd been admitted, she accepted the offer immediately.

She'll still attend CSU for her first year. Cornell is requiring she do some general education study for her freshmen year elsewhere. But, after a successful first year at CSU, she will then move to Ithaca to complete her last three years of study at Cornell.

Porter's passion is animal science.

At CSU, she will focus on equines. At Cornell, the study will be broader.

She said it's taken work for the plan to come together. She did score a 1330 on her SATs, and she maintained her grades and took college classes in high school.

She said she had a lot of support from her teachers. She's grateful to all who've been behind her.

"— To my grandparents for always pushing me to be my best, and Rick Williams for helping me with things I wouldn't have done if I didn't have him, and Valene Baskfied for always pushing me and helping me know what to do through the Chang-Chavkin program," she said.

Porter's entire college career is already paid for. In addition to the Chang-Chavkin, she's been awarded additional scholarships, too. She said she's relieved to know her college will be debt-free.

How does it feel for the small-town Norwood girl?

"It's kind of fulfilling, for sure," she said. "It proves it was all worth it."

In the next year, Porter said she'd

Cont. on Pg. 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We are opposed

Dear Editor,

My name is Deb Stueber, and I am vice president of the Western Slope Dark Sky Coalition, as well as a representative of the West End Dark Sky Alliance. Frankly, we are opposed to the creation of the Dolores Canyons National Monument, as it will corrupt our dark sky resource in this region. Instead, we encourage you to continue to work on and finalize the national conservation agreement that has been in the works for 15 years.

There is a concentration of certified DarkSky International places in this region, and a Dark-Sky International Reserve application is being written right now in San Miguel County. Successful dark sky preservation efforts have been going on since 2015 in our immediate area and in other areas of Colorado, too. There will be approximately 40 or more certified DarkSky International places in Colorado by 2026, and more are lining up all the time. We are in the process of trying to preserve a swath of dark sky from southeast Colorado to southeast Utah. Please don't thwart that momentum!

Large-scale development, by its very nature, will destroy our night sky and nocturnal ecosystems. The proposed site of the Dolores Canyons National Monument is a place of world-class night sky. There are other places on the planet like this, but most of them are not hab-

itable. In fact, 80 percent of the world's population can no longer see the Milky Way. Please don't ruin this beautiful, rare, ancient heritage for those of us who cherish it beyond words. Once destroyed, you can never get it back. It is a precious resource that needs protection, not exploitation.

A national monument will attract the wrong kind of development. Any time a new place is designated, it shines a spotlight on it. More people equals more lights: headlights, convenience stores, gas stations and all the amenities and concessions needed and wanted by visitors. Not only are these developments detrimental to the night sky, the delicate and aging infrastructure in place cannot support these types of developments.

Also of grave concern are proposed solar power plants, especially one that is slated to be built just outside of Norwood. Large-scale solar power plants have light footprints the size of suburbs. These light domes are detrimental to preserving the night sky, and would destroy the International Dark Sky status hard-earned by the Town of Norwood.

Colorado is becoming a Dark Sky state. Please don't ruin that momentum. Instead, lean in and help us preserve more of our ancient heritage.

Deb Stueber
NUCLA

Conflict

Cont. from Pg. 1

confidence in the mayor of Norwood." Grafmyer, Kyle and Kerry Welch voted in favor. White voted no, as did Brad Campbell, though Campbell said it was the language of the resolution he didn't like.

In Nucla, a series of school board meetings took place that were also upsetting in the West End community. At the April 23 meeting, the West End Public Schools board discussed salaries and positions, inquiring about duties and the need for two administrators in the pre-K through 12th grade school.

Elementary school principal Sara Bray spoke in defense of her workload, explaining her role's duties. Middle school-high school principal Malisha Reed was questioned on her being both leader of the FFA program and an administrator. Reed said she preferred being a principal, if she had to choose, and had earned a master's degree to work in that capacity. Both principals expressed the need to keep their positions for the district to function properly.

When asked if a data entry person could help relieve their workload, the principals explained that specific administrative knowledge was required to complete the rigorous computer work of sched-

ule-building and reporting, which is in addition to their many duties that include discipline, engaging with families and more.

Board member Stan Galley said he had concerns regarding Reed, which could be discussed in executive session. Reed said they could discuss openly. Galley said he was displeased with her professionalism and coaching hires.

The meeting became tense thereafter, with Reed leaving and announcing resignation, followed by superintendent Clint Wytulka, which led to an adjournment.

On Thursday, Nucla's school teachers staged a "walk out" for the day, they said in support of the administration. The Nucla school was closed as a result, and the Naturita Community Library offered to take kids with planned activities to help working parents.

The school board met again Thursday afternoon, April 25, and a list of teachers, staff and community members appeared. They told the board the walk-out was not because of salary, but because they wanted to support the administration. Many requested publicly the board resign that evening.

A third meeting was set for April 30, again to revisit approving teacher and administrator contracts.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society

A story of some Tabeguache pioneers, the Sly family, Part 2

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

"They eventually got the 'ditch', as they called it, completed.

It is an engineering feat, which is unsurpassed in skill and foresight — a canal winding for 35 miles [not quite that long, but about 20 miles] around steep mountains, with the world's highest wooden irrigation flume across a canyon, and a huge pipe constructed to make use of siphon principles across another canyon. This was all accomplished without the benefit of any machinery other than horses, scrapers and, largely, manpower and pick and axe.

Bitter factions arose over various aspects of the still-undeveloped region. One bitter feud arose over the proposed location of the opera house. They had visions of a vast metropolis, the center of which was to be Nucla — the name derived from the word 'nucleus,' meaning 'the center.' Life was to be on such a perfect plane that there were to be no lawyers, preachers or saloons. Lawyers and preachers came, but no saloons.

Today, Tabeguache Park is a satisfying monument to the hardy men who had the vision of its possibilities. In the ensuing years, prosperous farms and ranches developed, with cattle and sheep raising as major industries. Although the vast metropolis is still to materialize, the fact that Nucla has turned out to be the center of the present 'Uranium Boom' is something the old timers' rosier dreams could never foresee.

Daddy's family made one of the first homestead entries filed, and built a home where they lived for many years. It was to this home that he brought his young wife soon after their marriage.

Before Daddy was married, he carried mail between Naturita and Disappointment — two small neighboring towns. The mail was put in saddle bags and taken on horseback. One hot day he was going into the wild, isolated Disappointment Valley, a favorite refuge for outlaws. The day was hot, and Daddy was half-asleep and half-heartedly hitting the horse with a length of rope, trying to



This image shows Fred and Gertie Sly. (Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

hurry him. The rope caught under the horse's tail. Instantly, he came to life and bucked his hapless rider to the ground, leaving him to walk 20 miles to the nearest habitation. He was plodding wearily on when he noticed two mountain lions following him at a distance, slinking through the brush and trees along the trail. It wasn't too bad as long as it was daylight, but when night fell, and all he could see were two pairs of yellow eyes glowing in the dark, he got a prickly sensation on the back of his neck. The darker it became, the bolder the lions got and the closer they came, so it was distinct relief when he spotted a rancher's light and the lions slowed up as they neared human habitation.

In this same territory, on a trip Mother and Daddy were making between Nucla and Cortez, they became lost, and stopped at a small cabin to inquire the right way. No one came to the door at first, but it was finally opened by a man pointing a gun in their direction. Daddy went ahead and asked his way, and the man looked out and saw Mother with him, so seemingly deciding they were not revenue agents looking for stills or such, he relaxed a little and told him how to go on.

During his lifetime, Daddy has had experience in various kinds of

work, one of which was logging and sawmill work in the mountains during the summer. One incident his children always liked to hear was his story of saving a man's life while working at a sawmill in a logging camp. It was his day off, but he was sitting on a hill watching the activity of the mill, when he saw a large log rolling down toward the flimsy building where the sawyer was busy sawing logs. It was only about 20 feet away, and Daddy grabbed a cant hook (a tool for handling and rolling logs) and snagged the log. Under ordinary circumstances, one man would have been unable to move the log alone. However, from some source he was given the necessary strength to hold the log until the man could escape, even though it tore the muscles in his arm, which were a long time in mending (and even today make the one arm different from the other one)."

Fred's father, George Sly, joined the Colorado Cooperative Company in October of 1896, bringing his family from Cripple Creek. Fred joined in April of 1898. Both were talented carpenters and built many homes and businesses in Pinon, Nucla and the surrounding area. Fred Sly began building the home of the new museum in Nucla in February 1913. It would be the original Nucla Pharmacy.



Family traditions

Kaden Donnellon with brother Waylen, fifth-generation ranchers, help work sheep for Snyder Ranches. (Photo by Shelley Donnellon)

EVENTS

NPRD holds dance party

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

On May 11 at The Livery, Norwood Park and Recreation District (NPRD) is throwing a dance party, complete with lights, decorations, refreshments and a live DJ spinning tunes from the 1960s, 70s, 80s, 90s and beyond. This all-ages event includes a photo booth complete with the 80s balloon arch, and prizes for best dressed from each decade.

Music will be provided by Marcus Kirkwood, a.k.a. DJ High-grade, a world-experienced DJ and music producer, who recently relocated to Norwood. If there's a genre you can dance to, he plays it. Born in Detroit, he has taken music from the East Coast to the West Coast and across Europe.

This community dance is a celebration and fundraiser for the

Park and Rec District to support the programs and facilities that provide public space for fitness, sport, play, creative and social gatherings throughout the year. With the reduction in property-tax revenue that all Colorado special districts have experienced, the district is hoping this event will help fill the gap and be fun for everyone.

Tickets are \$20 per person ages 21 and up, \$10 under 21, and they are available for pre-purchase online at tickettailor.com/events/norwood-parkandrec-district/1211616.

There will be popcorn, goodies, sodas, party punch (spiked or not), beer and malt beverages available at the cash/card bar. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., with the DJ in full-swing from 8 to 11 p.m.

To find out more about the Norwood Park and Recreation

District, the public may visit the website norwoodparkandrec.org. For the latest programs, events and activities, all may follow NPRD on Facebook at facebook.com/norwoodrec and Instagram and Norwoodparkandrec.org. People may also contact NPRD by emailing Play@norwoodparkandrec.org.

NPRD's mission is to provide diverse year-round recreation and arts opportunities through the creation and maintenance of high-quality parks, trails, facilities and programs. The district encompasses approximately 418,500 acres and is the only active recreation district in San Miguel County. The Livery, a cozy events locale and playhouse located at 1555 Summit St. in Norwood, was purchased by NPRD in October 2018 through fundraising efforts and town and county support.

Hickenlooper visits Naturita

Cont. from Pg. 1

mining company co-owner, referenced the need for clean power for the future of the U.S. He said the monument also threatens grazing for cattlemen, but also rights for all stakeholders in the area.

"Let's leave it the way it is," Chiles said.

Tony Adkins, another geologist with 40 years' experience, spoke. Adkins said it doesn't make sense to lock up the prolific minerals that exist in the local region. As an expert in the field, he's already required to meet rigorous standards to do his job, and he's fully bonded.

"There are plentiful protections in place," he said.

He continued to explain the phrase "valid, existing mining claims" is quite litigious and hard to define in court. He said the statement is essentially meaningless.

He called for definition of maps and terms about the proposed mon-

ument to have a discussion, but he thinks proponents so far have acted in an overbearing manner.

Those from Norwood showed up in opposition to the monument, and Mayor Candy Meehan spoke her concerns about solar energy projects too.

Doylene Garvey spoke on behalf of her family's centennial ranch, and other legacy ranchers, explaining the perseverance of the West End, reiterating that coal has been shut down and that people have been watching the price of uranium and the changing market.

Carla Reams said the monument was a threat to the local livelihood, and that locals are already stewards of the land. She asked for legislators to listen to "those who will be affected most, not those who will be merely passing through."

Richard Craig, former mayor of Nucla, repeated that nobody came and talked to the West End

about their "backyard."

Sarah Lavender Smith, of Telluride, showed up to support the monument. Her grandfather helped establish the Club Ranch (which later became Uravan), and she wants to see the West End move beyond the "boom or bust" economy. She thinks a monument would support that.

Roger Rash, Montrose County Commissioner, expressed disappointment that nobody from Montrose County has been contacted "about such a large land grab." He said commissioners negotiated for a national conservation area for nine years for protections — but to no avail.

The listening session was mostly professional and organized, though impassioned. Lavender was booed for her statements, however. The few interruptions that happened were silenced, so people could finish their comments.

San Miguel Basin Forum

PO Box 724 · Nucla, Colorado 81424

Owner and Editor: Regan Tuttle · regantuttle@gmail.com · 970-864-7425

Advertising Manager: Tanner Nelson

Design Team: Rick Bickhart & Tori Sheets



Southwestern Construction
 Bryan Littlejohn
 Bus: (970) 327-4096 Cell: 428-4096
 P.O. Box 422, Naturita, CO 81422



BRUIN WASTE

31186 Highway 145
 Naturita, Colorado
 (970) 864-7531
www.bruinwastemanagement.com

Residential, Commercial, Recycle, Portable Toilets & Roll Off Dumpsters

We now offer luxury portable toilet rentals for all of your event needs!

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:
 Nucla, Naturita, Redvale, Norwood, Telluride, Ridgway, Log Hill, Delta, and Montrose

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
 1 & 2 bedroom apartments, Family Living at an affordable price.



Nucla Family Housing
 300 East 3rd Street, Nucla, Colorado
 (970) 864-2262



Landmark Management: 712-276-1735 • TTY: 800-659-2656

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

AFFORDABLE BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

Deborah Snell (Owner)
 E-Mail: affordablebkpingervices@gmail.com
 Cell: (970) 209-1661 • (719) 371-3734
 Office: (719) 430-5631
 Mailing: PO Box 433, Westcliffe, CO 81252

QuickBooks, Accounts Payable & Receivable, Sales Tax Assistance, Small Business Set Up, Personal & Business Assistance, Personal & Small Business Income Tax Preparation, Complimentary Consultations, Farm & Ranch Assistance

606 MAIN ST
 NUCLA, CO 81424
 OFFICE 9708642158
 CELL 9704281666

HUNTEM TIRE SERVICE AND REPAIR
 LOCAL AFFORDABLE GREAT SERVICE

DAVID JOHNSON
 OWNER




H N H Sign Company, LLC
 844-464-7446

VINYL ALUMINUM WRAPS BANNERS TEE SHIRTS HATS PRINTS ...AND SO MUCH MORE

HOODIES MUGS ENGRAVED WOOD PLASTIC STICKERS CUSTOM GIFTS

YOUR COMPLETE SIGN SHOP
 OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8-5
 395 MAIN STREET, NUCLA
 WE HAVE 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN CUSTOM DESIGN AND CAN CREATE A LOGO AND BRING YOUR BRAND TO LIFE!



May is Mental Health Month

Mental wellness is essential for peak cognitive and physical performance. You can help maintain good mental health by getting enough sleep, eating nutritious foods, exercising and staying connected socially.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988.

Basin Clinic
 For all your medical needs, call Basin Clinic to schedule your appointment.
 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 421 Adams Street, Naturita, Colorado (970) 865-2665

Mary Kus, FNP · Carol Scott PA-c
 April Randle, MD – Medical Director
 (EEOIC patients please schedule with our MD)
 For help with medical situations after hours, call 865-2665 and follow prompts.



Serving our communities since 1913

970-865-2255

Located in Naturita at the corner of Highway 114 & 97 P.O. Box 160 Naturita, CO, 81422

CITIZENS STATE BANK
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Sam's Service

Phillips 66

Your Service Station

- Offering Phillips 66 Proclean Fuel 24-7 with Credit Card
- Convenience Store
- Brand name Tires & Service
- Lube-Oil Service
- Computer Diagnostics
- Light Mechanical

James Keeton
1685 Grand Ave, Norwood, CO • 970-327-4447



Christopher Tooker
Master Electrician
Electrical Contractor
Phone: 970-864-2321
tookerooffice@gmail.com
www.tookerelectric.com

New Construction
Residential
Commercial
Service

Retail Cannabis 21+ years old

Keep it SIMPLE!

NORWOOD LOCATION
OPEN MON - SAT
11am - 7pm Everyday

FARM FRESH FLOWER
GROWN IN
NORWOOD, CO



970.728.1834 · 1630 Grand Ave · Norwood, Co. 81423


* NOW SERVING YOUR AREA *

Four Seasons Gutter Systems
QUALITY SERVICE IN WESTERN COLORADO SINCE 1989

- SEAMLESS 5" & 6" K-STYLE
- HAND CUT, SINGLE SEAM MITERS
- STEEL, ALUMINUM, & COPPER
- UP TO 10-YEAR WARRANTY

10% MILITARY & SENIOR DISCOUNT

(970) 858-1347 ~ FOURSEASONGUTTERSISTEMS@YAHOO.COM
WWW.FOURSEASONGUTTER.COM



RIMROCKER REAL ESTATE

ENJOY 4 SEASONS IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO'S OUTDOOR JEWEL!

Nora Davis (Owner)
(970) 428-2236
Call for an appointment
E-mail: rimrockerrealestate@gmail.com



UPPER CUT CARPENTRY LTD.

Upper Cut Carpentry LTD.
CUSTOM HOMES AND REMODELS

Tryllen Richards - Owner
970-296-4870
upcutcarp@gmail.com
Also on Facebook

SMPA board election

Cont. from Pg. 1
the snow for the local snowmobile club. What's more is he serves the Town of Nucla as their municipal court judge.

Regarding electric cooperatives, he said he has knowledge.

"Thirty-plus years of experience working with SMPA in many capacities is significant in serving the consumers and the coop," he told the Forum. "Working outages and building lines, I know SMPA's system. I furthered my on-the-job education by attending Rocky Mountain Meter School and Mesa Hot Line School."

Loczy also taught classes at both places as well. He said he's also able to communicate with the public.

"With confidence, I can answer most any question about SMPA's power system and customer usage," he said. "I've handled cus-

tomers complaints in the field and resolved issues."

He told the Forum he wants to serve on the board for many reasons.

"I look to the future with good common sense and great hope," he said. "However, I do not have too much faith in present technology."

Loczy said neither solar energy nor wind energy are the long-term answer for the future of power. At the same time, he said he is not limited in his thinking, believing that reliance on fossil fuels is the only answer.

"If elected as District 1 board of director, I believe I have the knowledge to be instrumental in working with the manager and sitting board members," he said, "especially now, as electric companies and coops are encountering current environmental and political pressures. I enjoyed my career at SMPA, and

now I want to give back to the coop and consumers."

And, there is more about Loczy he's willing to share with the community.

"I believe District 1 is basically a conservative group of people: farmers, ranchers, blue collar workers, miners, mechanics, equipment operators, teachers and skilled labor. I am one of them," he said.

Loczy said he has worked hard his whole life, and he believes in a strong work ethic. He added "status quo" is not in his vocabulary.

"I am not a politician," he said. "I am honest and speak my mind with facts to back it up. I will represent the people of District 1 to the best of my ability."

Results of the SMPA board election will be announced June 6. Ballots must be received online or in-person by June 5.

Meet Our Providers!



Dr. Kelley Prince



Dr. Andrew Baker



Robin Richards, PA-C



Scott Hunter, FNP



Tommy Terwilliger, LCSW



Nichol Bray, Hygienist



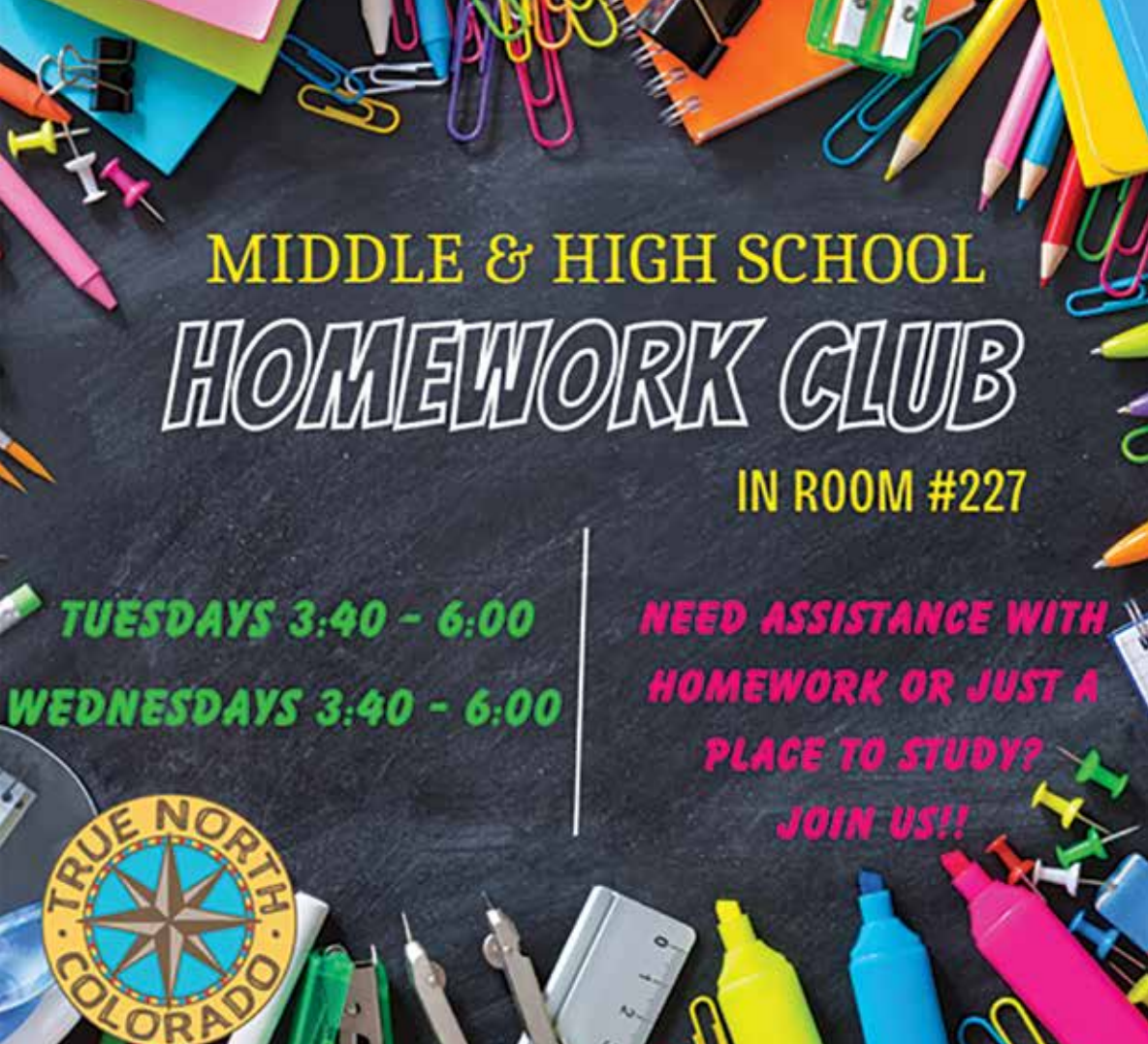
Our services cover your whole family's needs:

- Healthcare
- Behavioral Health
- Dental
- Pharmacy with Mail Service
- Medicaid Enrollment Assistance
- Financial Assistance for All Services

Call for an Appointment! (970) 327-4233, (970) 327-0527 (Dental)
Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Same day appointments & extended hours available. Call for availability.

Se Habla Español

We are committed to providing quality, cost effective, accessible healthcare to all in the San Miguel River Basin.




MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB

IN ROOM #227

TUESDAYS 3:40 - 6:00
WEDNESDAYS 3:40 - 6:00

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH HOMEWORK OR JUST A PLACE TO STUDY? JOIN US!!



TRUE NORTH COLORADO



For the love of baseball

The Mustangs celebrate on the field. The guys recently beat Ignacio, 7-1, but lost, 15-0. Against Rangely, they lost, 5-4, but won, 12-9. The JV guys lost, 11-5, and also won, 26-11, versus Dolores. (Photo by Brandie McCabe)

Peyton Porter commits to Cornell

Cont. from Pg. 1

like to make it to Ithaca and visit before she moves to the campus. Already, though, through Chang-Chavkin, she's been connected with students there, something she said has been helpful.

This summer, before she heads to CSU, she will continue working her job at Clark's Market of Norwood. She'll also visit with her high school

friends and make the most of her time left on Wright's Mesa.

The Norwood college counselor told the Forum he's happy.

"I am super proud of Peyton and her accomplishments in Norwood High School," Williams said over the weekend. "She has always been extremely motivated and willing to work hard for what she wants,

which has landed her all of her successes in her life thus far. She is a student with unlimited potential."

Porter was also named Norwood High School prom queen this year on April 20, which she said was also surprising.

Stryker Lane, of Redvale and the son of Gwen and Larry Lane, attended Cornell University also.



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!

**Nucla-Naturita Telephone Company
NNTC Wireless, LLC**



Uranium Price
April 22, 2024 - \$89.75

Looking to Place a Classified?

And have thousands of people see it?

Place an Ad in the **San Miguel Basin Forum**
Call (970) 864-7425

Aggregate & Redi Mix Supplier

Call for a Quote or to Schedule a Delivery
SATURDAY DELIVERIES AVAILABLE

(970) 729-1085 (970) 327-4218

We advertise on the following websites:
Zillow, Realtor.com, Homes.com, Trulia, and Homes and Land

**212 East Main Street
Naturita, Colorado 81422**

Office: 970-865-2525

Debbie: 970-428-2364
Michele: 970-417-5103

We are always available to help you with your REAL ESTATE needs!

BICYCLE OUTPOST & SERVICE SALOON

205 E Main St. Naturita, Colorado
970-275-8310 · paradoxcycle@gmail.com

TIMBERLINE HARDWARE
Locally Owned and Operated

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

NORWOOD
1920 Grand Ave
970-478-7868

TELLURIDE
200 E Colorado Ave
970-728-3640

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Clark Herbert Cross, Deceased

Case Number 23PR30134

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative at the address below or to the **District Court of Montrose County, Colorado at 1200 N. Grand Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401** on or before or August 19, 2023 or the claims may be forever barred.

/s/ Sara Bachman

Personal Representative's Attorney, #50363

Bachman Law, LLC

PO Box 158, 140 E. Main Street, Naturita, CO 81422
970-865-2440

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum May 1, 8, and 15, 2024

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, May 9, 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 May 1, 2024

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

4/11/2024

0916 Hours - Deputy took a found property report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1411 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

1426 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a protection order violation.

1456 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 59 near Naturita for an agency assist.

3 VIN inspections

4/12/2024

0800 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist in the 300 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

2043 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 2000 block of 43ZN Road near Norwood for a welfare check.

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

4/13/2024

1107 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29300 block of DD31 Trail near Nucla for a fire.

1458 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a 911.

1721 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a fire.

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

4/14/2024

1435 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27600 block of DD Road near Nucla for an agency assist.

1626 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a trespassing report.

1747 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30200 block of EE30 Road near Nucla for a fire.

1944 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

2024 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28400 block of 2700 Road near Nucla for a civil matter.

4/15/2024

0900 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Mourning Dove Trail near Norwood for a traffic complaint.

0927 Hours - Deputy took a lost property report in the 100 block of

West Main Street in Naturita.

1008 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a civil matter.

1623 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Grape Street and West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a traffic complaint.

1 VIN inspection

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

4/16/2024

1325 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28400 block of 2700 Road near Nucla for a civil standby.

1 VIN inspection

4/17/2024

0038 Hours - Deputy was dispatched

to the 27600 block of DD Road near Nucla for an agency assist.

1032 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a civil matter.

1204 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 141 and Highway 145 near Naturita for a traffic complaint.

Austin Sullivan, 28, was arrested for reckless driving, driving under revocation, expired registration, and no insurance.

1919 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Fox Street in Nucla for an agency assist.

1 school zone

1 VIN inspection

1 directed patrol in Naturita

1 civil process attempted/served

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An apology

Dear Editor,

Uncompahgre Medical Center submitted a letter to the editor which was run in the April 3 edition of the San Miguel Basin Forum. Since then, I have reviewed documents associated with that letter to the editor and need to correct the record, regarding the noted memorandum of understanding (MOU). UMC's position now is that our statements regarding this MOU were made in error, that the noted MOU was not received from Christina Pierce, Chris Daniels, nor anyone else at the Basin Clinic, and that it was not written by Christina Pierce, Chris Daniels, nor anyone else at the Basin Clinic. I am retracting everything in that published letter that pertains to this memorandum of understanding and apologize to Christina Pierce, Chris Daniels, the Basin Clinic, its board, and the residents for this mistake. I am also sending this retraction, and apology, to the Montrose County Commissioners.

Chuck Porth, CEO of Uncompahgre Medical Center
NORWOOD

Come on May 8

Dear Editor,

The Ute Trail Study Club will meet on May 8 at the Redvale Community Building. This is our traditional combined birthday celebration for all of us! We'll be having a pot luck, tea-party type luncheon, along with a fashion show of clothes from various secondhand stores, and telling the stories to go with them. We'll also be confirming nominations for three board positions, creating committee members, going over history of past events in study club, as well as addressing all of the suggestion sheets for next year's agenda.

A big thank you goes out to all the folks that came to our fundraiser dinner! We're getting our maintenance money together, and good food always works! Stay tuned for our next event later this summer!

Rebecca Rogers
NORWOOD

We Meet Your Tire Needs
We Appreciate & Thank You for Your Business



We are looking forward to Serving you.
Great Tires - Great Deals
29492 Hwy 97, Nucla, CO
(970) 864-2287



West End
EQUIPMENT RENTALS

120 East Main Street - Naturita, Colorado | Propane Sales
(970) 865-2408 • westendequipmentrentals.com | Now Available

Need a Ride?
All Points Transit can help!



Local Medical, Shopping, Errands & More
Regional service to Montrose & Grand Junction

Call 970-249-0128 to Schedule
www.allpointstransit.org



Bachman Law, LLC
Estate & Medicaid Planning, Probate, LLC Formation, & Real Estate Transactions

140 E. Main Street
PO Box 158
Naturita, CO 81422

Sara Bachman
-Attorney at Law-

970.865.2440
sara@bachmanlawllc.com
www.bachmanlawcolorado.com

"Your One Stop Shop For All Your Communication Needs"

NNTC
Wireless 864-7335

The San Miguel Basin Forum is now taking ad sponsors for the graduation issue.

Sponsors are welcome to participate for Norwood and Nucla graduations.

Call the Forum at 970-864-7425.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 1960s

ACROSS

- 1. "Odyssey" author
- 6. Time in NYC
- 9. Pay as you earn, acr.
- 13. Avoid paying taxes
- 14. Also
- 15. Rolled up, on a farm
- 16. From distant past
- 17. News channel acronym
- 18. Very angry
- 19. * ___ Invasion
- 21. *Vostok I pilot
- 23. Spring water resort
- 24. Talcum powder ingredient
- 25. Muted order
- 28. Sports award
- 30. Doled out, as in soup
- 35. Future atty.'s exam
- 37. Engage for service
- 39. In all sincerity
- 40. * ___ Preminger, director of "Exodus"
- 41. Petri dish jellies
- 43. DDS exam
- 44. Gordon Gekko: " ___ is

good"

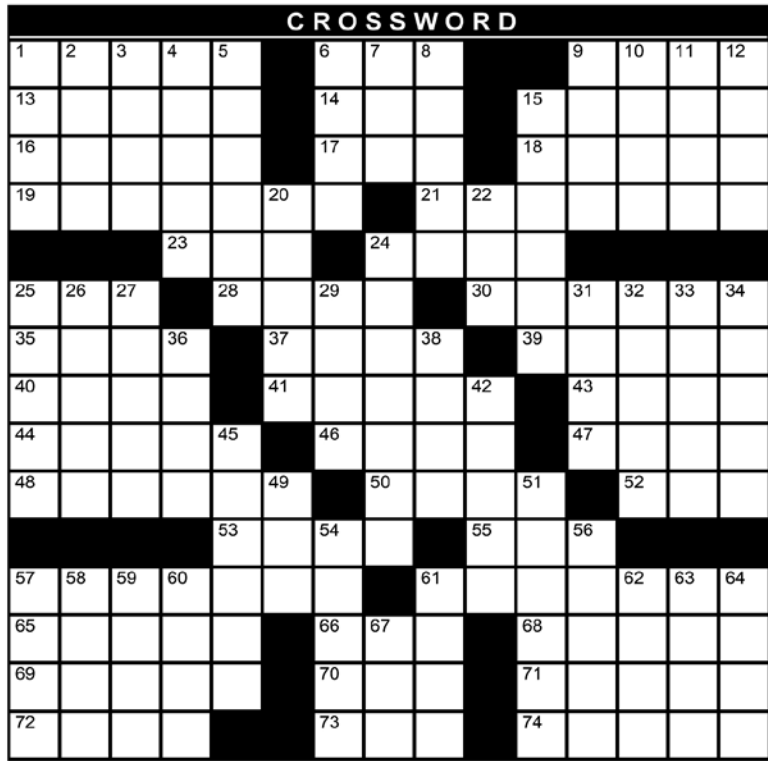
- 46. Barbershop sound
- 47. Bread pocket
- 48. Rumor
- 50. Whiskey straight, e.g.
- 52. Cubby hole
- 53. One-horse carriage
- 55. *#29 Down invasion coordinator
- 57. *TV's Tony Nelson's "dream"
- 61. *#8 1/2" and "La Dolce Vita" director
- 65. Lake scum
- 66. Toothpaste type
- 68. Baited
- 69. Thorny
- 70. Anger
- 71. Last eight in college basketball
- 72. Kill
- 73. Lamentable
- 74. Bob Marley, e.g.

DOWN

- 1. * ___ Alpert & the Tijuana Brass
- 2. Last word over walkie-talkie



- 3. Algeria's southern neighbor
- 4. Written corrections
- 5. Chef's guide
- 6. * ___ A Sketch toy, launched in 1960
- 7. *Just one of "My Three ___"
- 8. Polynesian kingdom
- 9. Prefix with trooper or legal
- 10. Resembling wings
- 11. Abominable humanoid
- 12. *#57 Across actress
- 15. Large feline (2 words)
- 20. The Obamas' daughter
- 22. *"A Man for ___ Seasons" movie
- 24. Political repression
- 25. Nordic gl hwein
- 26. * ___ Turf
- 27. Man behind Windows
- 29. *Bay of ___ Invasion
- 31. *"Turn on, tune in, ___ out"
- 32. Shockingly graphic
- 33. Fill with optimism
- 34. *"The Times They Are A-Changin'" singer-songwriter
- 36. Three on a certain sloth
- 38. It's between Ohio and Ontario
- 42. *#21 Across - first man in ___
- 45. *"Mary Poppins" producer
- 49. Not Beta or Kappa
- 51. Farm tool
- 54. Front of cuirass
- 56. Spurious wing
- 57. Kickboxing moves
- 58. Twelfth month of Jewish year
- 59. City of Taj Mahal
- 60. " ___ a soul"
- 61. Ran off
- 62. Purple flower
- 63. Not gross
- 64. Brainchild
- 67. E in B.C.E.



SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: **CZ590**

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

Classified Ads

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

COOK WANTED

Enjoy cooking for others? We have an opening for a part-time lunch cook for a great group of folks at the Senior Center in Nucla. 18-20 hours per week. For more details, call Sherry (970) 322-1000 or Monica (970) 361-6518.

46-2T-C

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Norwood School District is willing to pay for CDL training and certification. Must pass a Class B CDL with S&P endorsement, CDL Drug Test & Physical. The full job description is 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".

47-8T-C

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

SAN MIGUEL WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT APPOINTING 1 MEMBER TO NORWOOD WATER COMMISSION & SEEKS LETTERS OF INTEREST.

Priority to those who live outside of Town of Norwood and own water tap, but anyone living in NWC district encouraged to apply.

See <https://www.norwoodtown.com> or <https://sanmiguelwcd.colorado.gov> for full notice.

48-3T-C

NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING

- PK-12 Principal
- 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

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLD 1082165 NSCD 0062999 0063445

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

© StatePoint Media

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

Solution To Previous Sudoku

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

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	2.30-2.70
700-800# STEERS	2.40-2.55	700-800# HEIFERS	2.25-2.35
800-900# STEERS	2.20-2.34	800-900# HEIFERS	1.90-2.10
Top bulls	1.30-1.48	Medium bulls	1.20-1.30
Young Cows	1.45-1.80	Top cows	1.18-1.40top of 1.40
Medium cows	1.05-1.12	Low-yielding cows	1.00below

SPRING SALES EVERY WEEK IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY!

NEXT WEEK: 5 grasses calves, 8 mixed feeders, 2 older pairs, 10 butcher cows 3 butcher bulls, Along with our usual dock run of 100-200.

UP COMING SALES

SATURDAY MAY 4TH -Special Alternative Animal Sale- 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
Complete dispersal of 75 Highlander cows . 10yrlyng bulls, 10yrlyng heifers, 10- 2 yr old open heifer, 9- 2 yr old steers, 30 running age cows, 2 pairs , 3 bulls. 6 Watusis (2 cows, 2 hfrs, 2 str.) , 1 mini herford bull, 1 mini herford pair, 6 mini herfords pairs, Jersey cow ½ mini.

MAY 29TH - Regular Cattle Sale. Early consignment of 8 Angus / Gelv. Pairs.

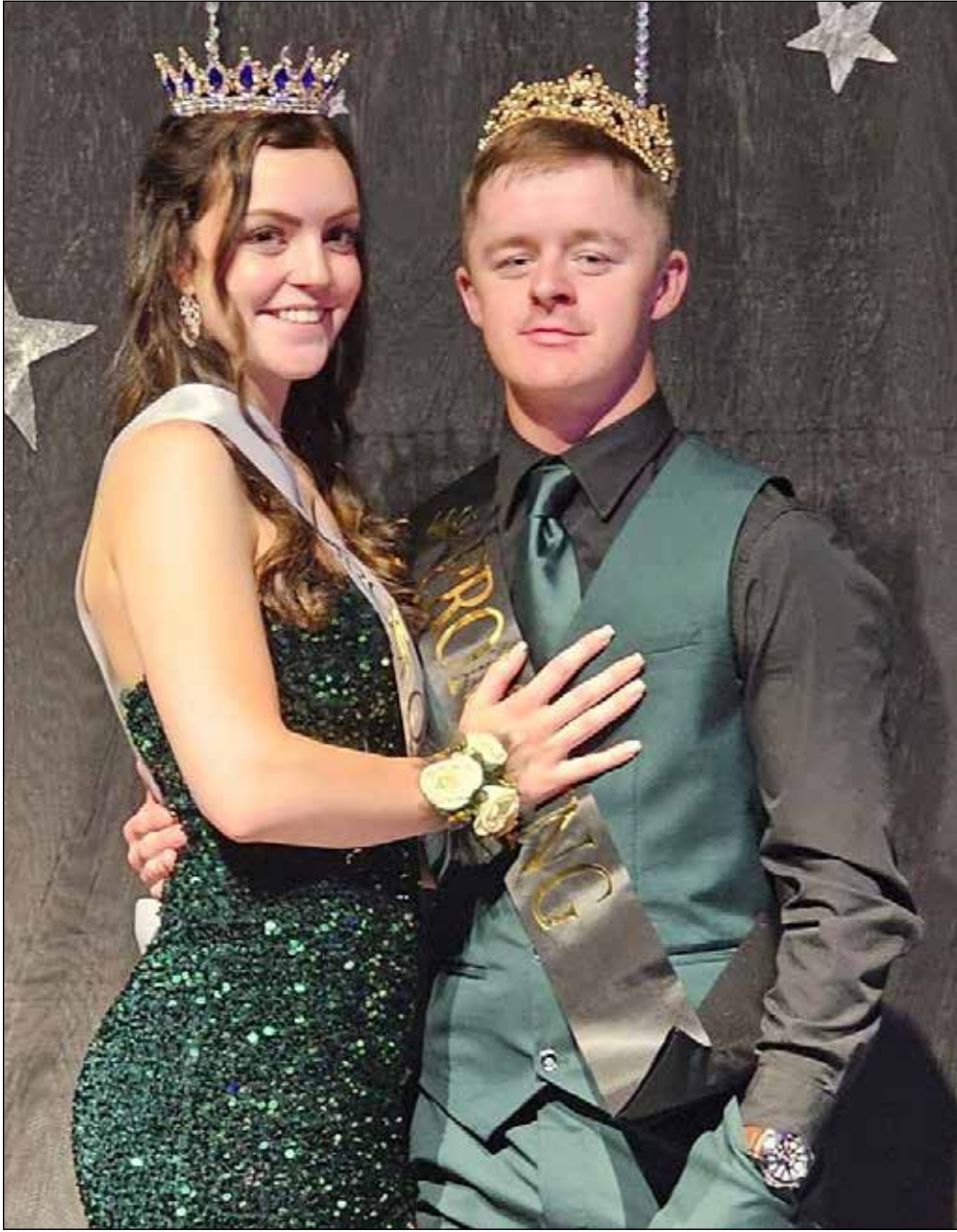
MAY 30TH -NEXT SPECIAL SHEEP & GOAT SALE

JUNE 1ST -NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE

YOUTH

It was a starry night at Nucla High School

By KEIRAN BRAY



Shania Joseph and Hemmy O'Brien are the NHS prom queen and king. (Photo by Darla Joseph)

On April 27, the Nucla High School junior class transformed the high school cafeteria into a bright, starry night for this year's prom. The event theme featured blue, black and purple colors, illuminated by yellow and blue lights, with pine trees to replicate a starry night out in our country.

The dance DJ, drama teacher Mr. Brock Benson, set the mood with a diverse playlist created by Viviana Zunich, featuring a mix of music genres including country, slow-dance songs and pop hits. Line dance favorites, like the "Cupid Shuffle" and "Church Clap," had students hitting the dance floor with excitement.

When they weren't dancing the night away, students were enjoying the variety of treats provided for the function. Those included snack-type foods, meat and vegetable trays, fruit platters, and chocolate pudding cups with whipped cream. Refreshments included water and punch with Sprite to help keep everyone hydrated throughout the night.

After about two hours of dancing, eating and picture-taking, it was time for the grand march. Grand march is a long-standing high school tradition where the prom attendees walk in pairs or small groups across a designated area. For this year's class, it was the new stage in front of the band room. Each couple or group in the grand march is announced by name as they make their way to the stage, allowing everyone to admire outfits and celebrate the occasion together. Parents and friends from within the community come and support the students and get to

see all the formal outfits.

This year's fashion showcased long, sparkly dresses with slits up the leg, a popular choice among the girls. While some girls opted for heels, tennis shoes were a favored footwear for the dance.

After all the students made their way to the stage, it was time to announce the 2024 prom king and queen. In Nucla, only senior attendees are allowed to participate on the court. This year's queen candidates were Shania Joseph, Destiny Spor, Paige Spor, Ileeia Squires, Kaila Beckwith, Carmen Goodsell, Akyma Ralstin and Jessica Wilhelm.

This year's king candidates were Hemmy O'Brien, Nolan Cressler, Derrick VanDellen, Levi Meeks, JW Naslund, Arthur Connelly and Dradell Ketchum. After anticipating the king and queen's announcement, it was announced that the 2024 prom king and queen were Shania Joseph and Hemmy O'Brien.

When the grand march came to an end, students started to disperse out to their after-parties. While this year the school did not offer a school-sanctioned after-party event, students went to friends' houses to end the night.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated teachers who attended prom. Mrs. Debbie Wytulka, Mrs. Nancy Booth, and Mr. Rob McCabe and Mrs. Brandie McCabe chaperoned the event, ensuring a safe and enjoyable evening for all, while Mrs. McCabe captured memorable moments as the photographer.

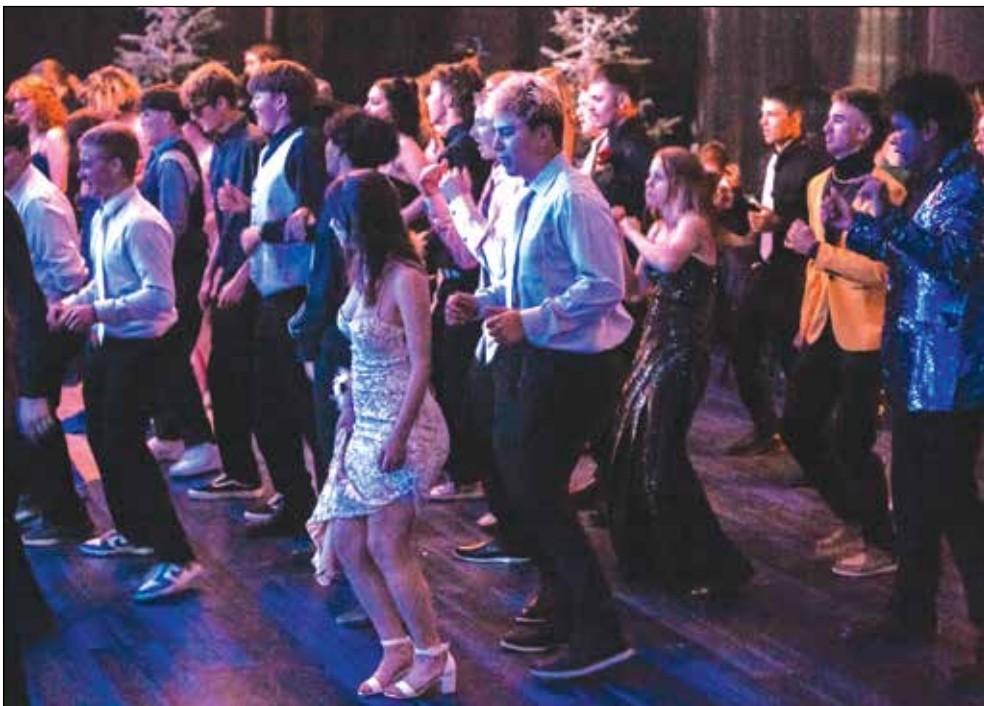
Students thank the hard work of the junior class and their sponsors, Mrs. Wytulka and Mrs. Reed. This starry night prom is sure to be remembered as a magical evening for Nucla High School students.



Students dance at the 2024 prom.



The theme was starry night.



Line dancing remains popular.



The guys make the most of their big night out. (Photos by Brandie McCabe)