

# San Miguel Basin Forum

## MINING

### San Miguel County approves Slick Rock drill holes

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

On May 15, San Miguel County approved a special-use permit at Slick Rock, on Highway 141, for the exploratory purpose of drill holes. Alex Kreile, a project geologist, working on behalf of Highbury Resources Inc., is seeking to verify and validate old claims of uranium and vanadium from the 1950s. Kreile told county officials that Slick Rock did contribute to the Manhattan Project.

The land to be drilled totals less than half an acre and is on federal land. The drilling of holes has already been permitted by the state and federal government. The company has identified 27 holes, but will only drill 20 of those.

At the May 15 meeting, Kreile went before San Miguel County commissioners with maps and a presentation. Kreile noted that some plants — Gypsum Valley Cateye and Naturita Milkvetch — are of concern, but not located at the drill sites. He added there are no raptor nests within a half mile of sites either. Ecological surveys were completed by two different companies for the permits.

Additionally, any cultural resource discoveries would be reported to the BLM.

The drill work is permitted for May 1 to Nov. 30, but will only last a small portion in that window, maybe two to three weeks.

Sheep Mountain Alliance voiced opposition, as did Great Old Broads for Wilderness and the Cachuma Ranch. Still, San Miguel County Planning Commission had already approved the special-use permit beforehand 3-2 in April.

Some of the controversy has to do with three sites closer to the Dolores River. Another site sits within the proposed national conservation area (NCA), though the NCA does not yet exist.

Regarding the sites closest to the river, Kreile said he doesn't believe they will drain into the river. At the same time, he agreed that his crew would use best management practices for stormwater, though he doesn't believe that will be an issue, due the flatness of terrain. His crew will implement straw wattles for erosion control. He added the drill holes use nontoxic fluid: water, clay and a type of polymer.

Kreile said his outfit intended to use a local contractor for drilling, Tri-Park, out of Nucla.

Additionally, he said that the drill holes would need to look at hydrological data to determine

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## WEST END

### WEEDC requests ambassadors for sustainability plan

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Leaders of the West End have convened to create the West End Sustainability Plan. As previous press releases have indicated, Makayla Gordon, Executive Director of West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC), with Melissa Lampshire, Nucla Town Manager;

Jessica Davis, Nucla Deputy Clerk; Amanda Pierce, Norwood Town Clerk; Becky Hannigan, Norwood Deputy Clerk and Norwood Chamber of Commerce Vice President; Paula Brown, Executive Director of Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce and Nucla Town Trustee; and Sue Hansen, Montrose County Commissioner, have been working to create a long-lasting, community, value-driven sustain-

ability plan to continue to transition away from the coal industry.

The mission of the West End Sustainability Plan is to balance economic, environmental and social needs of the West End, allowing for prosperity for now — and future generations. The purpose is to identify a set of cohesive, community-led, regional values that will provide a foundation

*Cont. on Pg. 5*

## EDUCATION

### Norwood students excel for 2023-24 school year

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Norwood High School guidance counselor, Rick Williams, said in a press release that he would like to share with surrounding communities all the great things that have happened and continue to happen with regard to counseling programs within the district.

"We continue to focus a lot of our effort on preparing our students for success beyond our school and community," he said.

This year, seven of the eight seniors were offered admissions to 41 colleges and post-secondary programs throughout the United States. The Norwood seniors earned a total of \$2,249,700 in scholarships and grants, and they will apply \$654,800 of that toward their selected colleges, starting this fall.

Three of these seniors have earned fully funded four-year college educations. And, this year Dilyn Alexander is the valedictorian, and Peyton Porter is salutatorian for the Class of 2024.

"Their successes correlate directly to their academic involvement in school, their college examination scores and their participation in extra-curricular and athletic activities," Williams said.

The senior class' financial aid completion rate was 75 percent this year, far exceeding the state average of 34 percent.

Coupled with the senior's accomplishments this school year, many other students at Norwood High School have also earned leadership and academic opportunities over the summer and into the next school year. In the ninth grade class, Maria Camacho was selected to attend the Emerging Rural Leaders Course, a fully funded program at the University of Chicago this summer. In the sophomore class, Darcy Bray and Brycen Rummel were selected to represent the school as Hugh O'Brian Youth Leaders (HOBY) this summer at the University of Denver.

In the junior class, Cadence Shaw and Mikah Wareham were selected as Pinhead Interns and will be working in the fields of journalism and veterinary sciences, respectively, this summer. Shaw also received the Chang-Chavkin Scholarship Award. Additionally, Kendra McCluer was selected to attend a fully funded Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education (SWAHEC) Center Summer Health Careers Camp at Fort Lewis College, and she also completed the certified nurse assistant program with the Technical College of the Rockies this year. And, Amber Bockrath was selected to attend the

*Cont. on Pg. 4*



### Honoring a hero

Nucla-Naturita Volunteer Fire Department's Chief Chester Riley had his name added to the Colorado Fallen Firefighters Memorial May 18. The memorial in Lakewood displays the names of 172 firefighters killed in the line of duty. The ceremony included a procession with one vehicle from Naturita near the front. This image shows the Riley family after the ceremony last weekend. (Photo by Ken Jenks)

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### 'Voodoo' is now on duty in the West End

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

It's true that former deputy Mimi Savage had a K-9 working in the West End. Many people loved that the dog, "Jocko," was on staff for Montrose County Sheriff's Office. Savage left a few years ago, but Deputy Marcelino Mendisco kept the thought of having another K-9 in the area.

Mendisco, West End deputy for the last five years, made the request for another K-9 in October. He knows how effective having a dog trained in drug detection can be, and the people of the West End have repeatedly requested more law enforcement for that specific issue. After some discussion last fall, the request for a K-9 was approved for 2024.

In late March, Mendisco traveled to Denver for the K-9 training. After a day of classroom work, he

*Cont. on Pg. 3*



Voodoo is working alongside Deputy Mendisco. (Courtesy image)

## NONPROFITS

# Awareness and action during Sexual Assault Awareness Month

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). SAAM calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in the community. SAAM aims to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. San Miguel Resource Center (SMRC) is your local nonprofit organization that helps those who have, or are affected by, domestic violence and/or sexual violence. SMRC wants to share with you the theme for this year: building connected communities.

SMRC also wants community members to enhance their personal knowledge of what sexual violence is and learn how to take steps to build connected communities. Community is so powerful. Community creates a sense of belonging for people and reminds us of how our beliefs, choices and actions impact one another. We're asking you to join us in building connected communities that promote equity and respect, as our connections to one another have an impact more significant than just ourselves.

To start, let's identify sexual violence. "Sexual violence" is an umbrella term that includes any type of unwanted sexual contact — including sexual assault, harassment and abuse.

Forms of sexual violence include rape or sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, unwanted sexual contact/touching, sexual exploitation and trafficking, exposing one's genitals or naked body to others without consent and nonconsensual image sharing, as well as words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will and without their consent.

SMRC understands that our voices have power, and SMRC recognizes that how we talk about sexual violence significantly impacts survivors, their families, local communities and society.

"As such, we must strive to create strong, connected communities that take care of one another and make decisions to ensure the safety and well-being of others to end sexual violence, because when one of us does not feel safe or respected, we are all affected," representatives said in a press release.

What does it take to build connected communities? Building connected communities is about fostering a culture of respect, empathy and accountability within local communities. It's about creating spaces where everyone feels safe, valued and empowered to speak out against injustice. At the center of building connected communities is ensuring our communities are safe, inclusive and equitable. Racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, ableism and other forms of oppression contribute to higher rates of sexual harassment, assault and

abuse. We must address all abuses of power to prevent sexual violence, whether it is in our relationships, communities and/or society.

Building connected communities helps us reduce the likelihood of sexual abuse, assault and harassment in communities. Any space where people come together is a community, whether in neighborhoods, workplaces, campuses, organizations or even online spaces.

"We are all a part of a community, often many, even when we may feel disconnected or apart from them," representatives said. "In a connected community, we can look out for one another and make choices to promote health, safety and well-being."

Sexual harassment, abuse and assault can have short- and long-term physical, emotional and psychological effects on a person's well-being and impact an entire community, from the culture and connections between people to the economic toll. Preventing sexual violence means all must address deep-rooted abuses of power that contribute to inequities in health, safety and well-being. Building connected communities can also bring us closer to the goal of health equity.

Health equity has been a big topic in our area for a while now as the Basin Clinic struggles to find ways to keep the doors open for all of us. Health equity means that everyone, no matter their situation, has a chance to achieve their best possible health, creating a fair and just opportunity for all to reach their highest level of well-being. A health equity approach to preventing sexual violence means understanding and addressing the factors that contribute to violence and safety.

Addressing the social and structural determinants of health, such as education, income, employment, community safety and social support is crucial to improving the conditions in which we live, learn, work and play. Community-level risk factors for intimate partner violence and sexual violence are poverty, lack of economic opportunities, high unemployment rates, general tolerance of sexual and intimate partner violence within the community, a culture of silence or a "this doesn't happen here" culture, and weak community sanctions against those who use violence against others.

"Community environments — where people live, work, and play — are places where we can push back against root causes of violence," representatives said. "For example, looking at where we work, we can support economic security and commit to addressing sexual violence as a workplace issue."

Addressing underlying risk factors and promoting protective factors can help influence the entire community's experiences, exposures and behaviors; this then will

*Cont. next column*

## History: Rimrocker Historical Society Museum celebrates grand opening this weekend

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

On July 25 of 1966 a group of interested people met to form a historical society in the west end of Montrose County. Mrs. Naff, of Redvale, was the chairman pro-tem for that first meeting and was one of the original ladies in the area to have a vision of a historical society and a museum. An article from the San Miguel Basin Forum of July 28, 1966, stated, "...cooperation, plus much work, will enable this community to leave a record of its activities for a new generation to appreciate and enjoy. Plan to be present for the next meeting and give your voice and help to this worthwhile project."

The next meeting, Aug. 25, the group chose their name to be the Rimrocker Historical Society of Western Montrose County. The folks chosen to be on the board of trustees were Leonard (Buzz) Zatterstrom, Phyllis McClellan and Pat McKannon, all of Nucla; Sue Ray and Maurice Cotter, of Naturita; Estelee Silver, of Uruvan; Irene Gramlich, of Paradox; and Mary Naff and Ethel Howe, of Redvale.

I have always heard that it was Mr. Zatterstrom who chose the name of "Rimrocker" for the society. Folks from the West End were often portrayed in a bit of a negative light from some of our neighboring areas. The term "rimrocker" of old times was a word used for the outlaws that hid out in the rimrock mountains surrounding our area. The rimrockers were considered a rowdy, rough bunch who lived on the edge and didn't quite fit the norms of polite society. I've always thought it was fitting that Mr. Zatterstrom would choose that name for the local historical society. He was a bit of a rimrocker himself, and it turns out that over the years, many of the folks who have taken on the Rimrocker Historical Society have been the type to have "lived on the edge."

As the Rimrockers grew their society, they were always looking for a building to house a museum collection. In 1972 the school dis-



This image shows the museum's kitchen display in 2024. (Courtesy image)

trict offered the old Naturita school building to the Town of Naturita for free, if they would move it. The town didn't have the funds to move the building, so they approached the Rimrockers to see if they would like to have the building for a museum to share with the library and the town. The Rimrockers embraced the idea and pursued it diligently.

The society was able to raise \$6,940, \$200 over their goal, with the state historical society granting \$3,720 to the cause. In August of 1975, the group began planning the big move. In February of 1976, it was time for the move to the Naturita Town Park. The move was successful, but more money would need to be raised by the Rimrockers to rebuild and remodel the building.

The group began cataloguing the items donated to the museum, and it would be 1982 before the museum would actually be finished and ready to move into. The collections that we have today are the items donated by those folks with the

vision to preserve the local history.

This past year, we have moved this collection to Nucla into the old Nucla Pharmacy building at 470 Main St. It was a big job for very few people. We believe it will be a good place for the Rimrockers to sustain the vision of sharing our history into the future.

This Memorial Day weekend, we will be celebrating the grand opening of our new home. There won't be a lot of fanfare, but we welcome all of you to stop in for a visit. There will be many people in town for the 2024 Nucla High School graduation ceremonies, as well as folks in town for the Memorial Day ceremony honoring our veterans who died in service to our country — and those who come back to decorate the resting places of their family members at our local cemetery.

The Rimrockers will have the museum open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. Drawings will be held throughout the weekend. There will be free popcorn and ice cream for sale. We look forward to seeing you all there to celebrate the next chapter of the Rimrocker Historical Society.

## SAAM

*Cont.* lessen the likelihood of sexual violence — and communities can begin to address power inequities and oppression. Through connected efforts, communities can demonstrate willingness to act on sexual violence as a community issue and together reshape the culture.

Communities can and are building collective power and challenging long-standing power inequities.

It's about a health-equity approach that is elevating community leadership and resilience, creating spaces for healing in prevention efforts, facilitating internal organizational change, addressing underlying factors that contribute to violence and safety and partnering across fields and movements.

The health-equity approach is complex and requires time, but taking these types of actions can help ensure that the movement to prevent and end sexual violence continues to foster equity and safety.

Join SMRC and other community members in the fight against sexual violence for all of us.

SMRC offers prevention and education through a variety of ways for all ages, including three advocate training classes per year that can be used for personal growth or to become a certified advocate in Colorado. Once certified, many opportunities for volunteering and assisting fellow community members are available. Those interested should call 970-728-5660 or 970-428-2275 to talk to an advocate today.

# 'Voodoo' is on duty

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was able to meet the dog he was assigned to, Voodoo, a German Shepherd born in Mexico with extensive training.

Mendisco and Voodoo spent more than a month in places like Kersey, Greeley, Platte Valley and Wiggins, Colorado throughout the month of April. They trained together in lifelike scenarios.

Voodoo lives with Mendisco full-time. Different than a pet though, Voodoo has been thoroughly trained to work. Mendisco agreed the dog takes his job quite seriously, and his drive to go to work is very high.

They're together 24/7, and Mendisco can respond to surrounding agencies, if assistance is needed. The dog is already working, and in the short time he's been in the West End he's successfully helped with two drug arrests. The dog has also been to San Miguel County to work and has assisted the state patrol.

Voodoo has a kennel at home

and at the office (the old Naturita Elementary School) he rests in, and he has a special kennel in the car too. The dog is trained to ride along and is very comfortable.

Commander Schmalz told the Forum he's pleased. He confirmed the goal in having Voodoo is to help with the drug issue. But Voodoo can do more too. He's trained to track. That means if the West End Sheriff's Posse needs help with search and rescue, or a suspect is on the loose, the dog can step in and go to work.

It's safe to say that Mendisco and Voodoo have bonded. While the Montrose County Sheriff's Office owns the animal, the deputy and K9 live together, and Mendisco is the sole responsible person. Their contract together is for three years, but Mendisco said he can't imagine giving up him after that time.

"I'm not going anywhere, and I don't want to give him up," Mendisco said last Friday.

The German Shepherd's job

will last until he is approximately 7 to 12 years old. Then the dog is eligible to retire. Mendisco told the Forum many law enforcement employees are allowed to purchase their dog after it retires, something he'd like to do. For now, his intention is for a great career together and to work alongside each other as long as they can.

Mendisco said the overall K-9 experience has been very good. And, his wife, a sergeant for Montrose County Sheriff's Office in the West End and who is also on patrol, is also content with the situation. At the same time, the family does have other dogs as pets, and all had to quickly establish that Voodoo is no pet and can't be treated like one. He's a working animal.

From now on, Mendisco and Voodoo will complete certifications every six months, which is the standard for working K-9s. They'll be out in the public eye more often in the future. Voodoo is still young though, 22 months, and he's learning to socialize.

# Slick Rock drill holes

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whether they'd like to seek permits for groundwater monitoring wells, potentially four of them.

Regarding the site within the NCA boundary, Kreile said it's not first priority, since it's not easy to access. However, a representative from Highbury Resources, Doug Beahm, said that accessing the site in question was part of the point, to explore before an NCA is established.

"It sounds like you're wanting to find out if we need to pick a fight later," Commissioner Lance

Waring said.

Regarding any uranium contamination from the drill holes, Kreile said it's undetectable at the surface, maybe .2 percent for a good hole. As far as traffic goes, he said that it won't be a big operation. Noise shouldn't be a big factor either, since it's just the water truck and the engine on the drill rig, which is attached to another truck.

Some comments have expressed concern that Slick Rock could be the site of future uranium mines. Kriele said the permit in question is only for exploration, the verifi-

cation and validation of previous work that has been done. He said if Highbury were to submit an application for mining, there would be plenty of opportunity for the public to comment in the future.

While San Miguel County cannot bar approval for the site within the proposed NCA boundary, commissioners did approve the special-use permit with the "request" to avoid it.

Planning director Kaye Simonson told the Forum last Friday there are more exploration permits coming, one in the Big Gypsum Valley.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# The reasons

Dear Editor,

As mentioned in an earlier letter to the editor, the Norwood Fire Protection District (NFPD) will be seeking a mill levy increase next November. Chief John Bockrath would like you to know the reasons the NFPD is reaching out to the taxpayers for the mill levy increase. This is the first of, hopefully, bi-weekly letters. The NFPD will also be holding community information and comment meetings in June, August and October.

Currently, the department has two full-time employees, supplemented by a dwindling volunteer crew of 13. During the day, the respond-

ing staff/members is typically 3-4. Evening may not necessarily see an increase in first-responders. There is only one paramedic, Chief Bockrath, with the rest being EMTs, the difference being advanced life support (ALS), as opposed to basic life support. With the closest hospital being 1.5 hours away, ALS can be a matter of life or death. The cost to hire a paramedic has greatly increased since the advent of COVID with the average salary in Colorado being \$50,000 per year. A firefighter/paramedic is \$86,500. The NFPD requires all new personnel to be trained as firefighter/emergency medical responder at minimum. Bockrath conducts all training in-house, which is a huge

monetary savings, but still expensive and time consuming.

Remember, the NFPD responds 24/7/365 to an area of 800 square miles, regardless of holidays or weather. The NFPD is trained in structure and wildland firefighting, emergency medical, technical rescue, including vehicle extrication, hazardous materials response and special incidents. The next letter will examine these specialties and qualifications.

This letter will also be posted on the fire district's Facebook page. Bockrath encourages questions, comments and concerns.

Members of NFPD  
NORWOOD

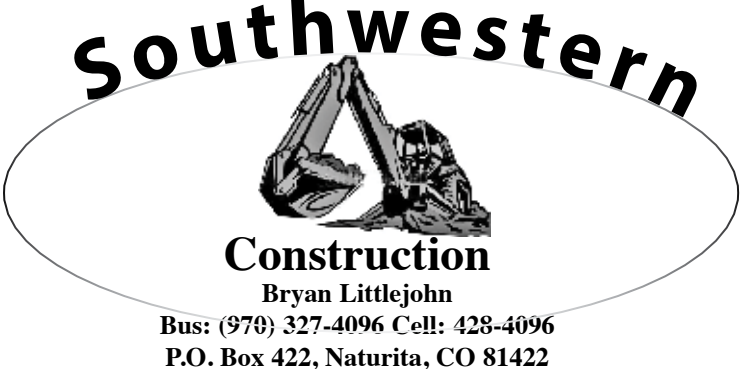
# San Miguel Basin Forum

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**OBITUARY**

# Russell D. Neesham

Feb. 23, 1941 – Feb. 16, 2024

**R**ussell D. Neesham, a life-long resident of Nucla, passed away Feb. 16 with his loving sister, Donna, by his side. Russell D. was born at the Neesham place in Nucla in 1941. Russ was a brilliant, authentic, intelligent man, uniquely his own, and will be deeply missed by many. He began working in the mining industry with his father when he was only a teen, and he continued mining in the area for many years. Russ was a geologist, served in the U.S. Army, and retired from the Nucla power plant.

He is preceded in death by his



Russell Neesham. (Courtesy photo)

father, Glen; mother, Doris; and nephew, Greg. He is survived by his only child, Teresa Darhl; grandchildren: Kattie, RJ and David; and great-grandchild, Micah. He is also survived by his nephew, CB (Don); brothers: Ken, Matt, Josh, Buzz and Rick; sisters: Donna, Pat, Deb and Dru; and countless nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on June 1 at the Redvale Church. Sharing of memories will follow after at the Redvale Community Center. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Ute Study Club, PO Box 63, Redvale, CO 81431.

**OBITUARY**

# Thomas Mark Colander

March 4, 1964 – May 6, 2024

**T**homas Mark “Tom” Colander lived a life committed to his faith and family, with deep appreciation for the splendor of God’s creation. Tom, age 60 and of Redvale, passed away unexpectedly, on May 6. Tom graduated to heaven, after a head-on wreck in San Miguel Canyon.

Tom was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on March 4, 1964. He grew up in a loving family with his parents, an older brother and two younger sisters. Tom completed majors in business administration and computer science at North Park University in Chicago, IL, in 1986.

Lynn and Tom met at church in 1980 and were married in 1986. They enjoyed raising two beautiful daughters. Tom and Lynn were profoundly in love for 42 years.

Tom had a dream to run a guest ranch in the mountains, nestled on a lake. In 1997, they moved near



Thomas Colander. (Courtesy photo)

Norwood and started Wing Shadow Ranch on the Gurley Reservoir. They bought an existing outfitting business, Colorado Trophies. In this career, he was able to combine his love of the outdoors with his passion for Christ. Over the last 27

years, he lived out his dream job and built many lasting friendships.

Tom is survived by his parents, Donald and Gretchen Colander; his siblings, Dr. Timothy (Lora) Colander, Sheryl (Todd) Slechta and Sarah (Todd) Engels.

He is survived by his wife, Lynn Colander; his two daughters, Michelle Colander and Kristina (Jonathan) Barstad; and three granddaughters, Allison, Brooklynn and Caitlyn Barstad.

Tom’s love for his family and friends was paramount. Tom had a servant’s heart and positively impacted so many lives and will be deeply missed.

The celebration of life service and reception will be on June 22 at 1 p.m. at Celebration Church in Montrose. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Samaritan’s Purse under the Tom Colander Memorial Fund.

# Students

Cont. from Pg. 1

summer seminar with the United States Air Force Academy this summer. Finally, Grace Harris earned the University of Colorado-Boulder’s Outstanding Colorado High School Student Award Scholarship valued at \$4,000 over four years.

In addition to these accomplishments, 19 high school students successfully completed college coursework this year through Colorado Mountain College, representing 41 percent of high school students who were enrolled in college classes, while still in high school this year.

“Our staff and our school are doing remarkable things to help prepare our kids for a future with options and choices, and our students are stepping up to these challenges and excelling,” Williams said. “As a community, we should be very proud of all that our students are accomplishing — and comforted in knowing that our students are being prepared to successfully compete for opportunities that will continue to open doors for them while attending Norwood Public School, and more importantly, once they leave our school and community.”

Editor’s note: Nucla High School’s year-end story runs next week.

# Save the Date: Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

► **In Person:**  
SMPA Nucla Office  
170 West 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.

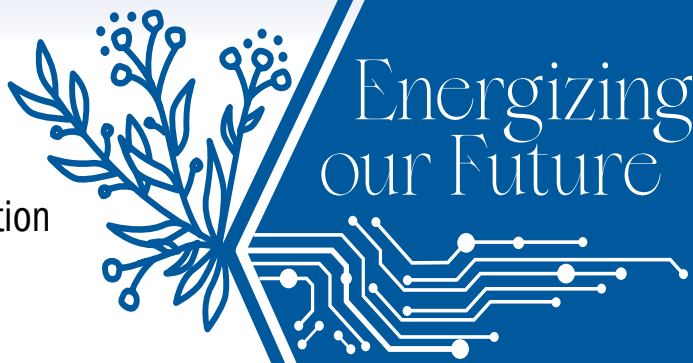
► **4:30 PM:**  
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► **5:30 PM:**  
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# Sustainability plan

Cont. from Pg. 1

for growth planning.

As the West End faces many outside pressures, the community is at a crossroads to create a plan that will guide the region for generations to come. The objective and scope of the plan is to robustly engage the West End community. This is to learn about and better understand what matters to people in the West End, to protect the West End's unmatched natural resources that sustain traditional livelihoods and provide ample outdoor recreation. It's also about creating a more locally self-sufficient economy with access to nearby services, expanded health care opportunities, and locally-made products, and to replace lost coal revenues and jobs with a variety of business and industries.

The previously stated press releases explained the beginning of the process as the team attended the Community Builder's Building Better Places training. At that train-

ing, leaders recognized the need for a greater regional plan to guide the West End through the generations and to consolidate the many plans that have already been completed into a singular plan to assist with funding seeking.

The West End was also accepted into the Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities Action Challenge, hosted by the National Association of Counties, as mentioned in the previous press release. That action challenge will create a fund opportunity plan to accompany the greater West End Sustainability Plan, which will focus mainly on the coal transition portion of the sustainability plan.

In May, the West End was also accepted into Community Builder's Technical Assistance program. The technical assistance provided by Community Builders will provide very thorough community engagement to ensure that the values and heritage of the community

are captured to share for generations to come. Community Builders will also assist with the creation of the total plan as facilitators. The leadership of the West End Sustainability Plan would like to have as much community involvement as possible and will not be adding anything to this plan that our community cannot support.

This process will take 12-18 months to complete, and our community can expect many opportunities to engage in this process. The leadership team is also seeking members to serve on the ambassador team. The ambassador team will begin to meet regularly starting later this summer.

Most importantly, the leadership team wants to hear from the public. All are asked to email Makayla Gordon with their thoughts about the plan or ask their questions via [mgordon@chooswestend.org](mailto:mgordon@chooswestend.org). She can also be reached at 970-865-2499.

## Meet Our Providers!



Dr. Kelley Prince



Dr. Andrew Baker



Robin Richards, PA-C



Scott Hunter, FNP



Tommy Terwilliger, LCSW



Nichol Bray, Hygienist





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## 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.*



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# *Congratulations To The Class of 2024*



**KAILA BECKWITH**  
*(Nucla High School)*



**NOLAN CRESSLER**  
*(Nucla High School)*



**CJ GARZA**  
*(Nucla High School)*

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# *Class of 2024*



*San Miguel Power Association Congratulates  
Shania Joseph of Nucla High School - Summa Cum Laude*



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# CLASS OF 2024 *Congratulations*



**Derrick VanDellen**  
*(Nucla High School)*



**Joseph "JW" Naslund**  
*(Nucla High School)*



**NUCLA COUNTRY CO-OP 970-864-7323**

# *To the* CLASS *of* 2024 *Congratulations!*



*Paige Spor*  
*(Nucla High School)*



*Destiny Spor*  
*(Nucla High School)*



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# *To the* Class of 2024 *Congratulations!*



**Carmen Goodsell**  
*(Nucla High School)*



**Dradell Ketchum**  
*(Nucla High School)*



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# *Congratulations*



# *To the* Class of 2024



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# Basin Clinic Congratulates THE Class of 2024



**Kiley Rutter**  
(Nucla High School)



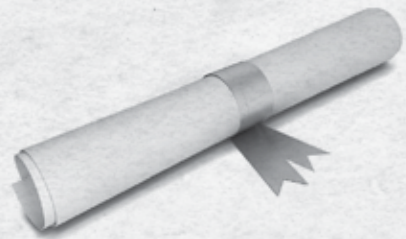
**Ileeia Squires**  
(Nucla High School)

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Bachman Law, LLC

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**Dilyn Alexander**  
(Norwood High School)



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# Congratulations to the Class of 2024



**Levi Meeks**  
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**Hemmy O'Brien**  
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**Akyma Ralstin**  
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Class OF 2024



**Steele Arnold**  
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**Destiny Spor**  
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— — — — —  
**Congratulations**  
**Class of 2024**  
**Graduates**



**Arthur Connelly II**  
*(Nucla High School)*



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*Class of 2024*



*Galley Ranch Congratulates*  
*Haylee Smith of Nucla High School*

**GALLEY RANCH**

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# Congratulations! TO THE Class OF 2024



**Owen Dinsmore**  
(Norwood High School)



**Joseph Casillas**  
(Norwood High School)



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(Nucla High School)



**Arthur Connelly II**  
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# CLASS OF 2024



***NNTC Congratulates***  
***Shania Joseph (Nucla High School)***  
***Joseph "JW" Naslund (Nucla High School)***



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*To the Graduates  
of the  
Class of 2024  
Congratulations!*

**4 KNEE**  
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**To the  
Class of 2024  
Congratulations**



**Damian Utter**  
*(Norwood High School)*



**Jai Sanchez**  
*(Norwood High School)*



**Mario Dawson**  
*(Norwood High School)*



970-864-7531 · Naturita · Colorado

*Congratulations!*  
**CLASS OF 2024**



**DILYN ALEXANDER**  
*(Norwood High School)*



**HANNAH BROWNING**  
*(Norwood High School)*



**PEYTON PORTER**  
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**HAYLEE SMITH**  
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# Congratulations to the Class of 2024



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# TO THE CLASS OF 2024

## Congratulations!



HAYLEE SMITH  
(Nucla High School)



KEIRAN BRAY  
(Nucla High School)

## San Miguel Basin Forum

NUCLA · COLORADO · 970.864.7425

### YOUTH SPORTS

## Mustang track wins medals at state



Drake Long took eighth place in the 110-meter hurdles.



The 4 x 800-meter relay took sixth place. On the relay team were Sydney Tomlinson, Cadence Shaw, Keiran Bray, Kielely Shepardson with Amber Bockrath as alternate.



Keiran Bray took sixth place in the 800-meter run. (Photos by Sara Bray)



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**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             | Moore's Mining               |
| AT's Meatblock               | My Place                     |
| Basin Clinic                 | Packrat Minnie Storage       |
| Bruin Waste Management       | Redd's Mercantile            |
| Co-Op Country Store          | Rimrock Hotel                |
| Community Bible Fellowship   | San Miguel Power Association |
| Hoof & Paw Thrift Store      | West End Equipment Rentals   |
| Huntem Tire Service & Repair | West End Family Link         |
| Kenny's Tires                |                              |

**THANK YOU!**



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**MONTROSE COUNTY MASTER PLAN UPDATE**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

Come chat with us about the Montrose County Master Plan update. All county residents are welcome to join!

**TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2024  
4PM - 6PM**

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### DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.80-4.20	300-400# HEIFERS	3.50-4.00
400-500# STEERS	3.50-3.80	400-500# HEIFERS	2.90-3.35
500-600# STEERS	2.95-3.35	500-600# HEIFERS	2.75-2.90
600-700# STEERS	2.65-2.75	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	1.45-1.50high of 1.59	Medium bulls	1.40-1.44
Young Cows	1.45-1.80	Top cows	1.20-1.45
Medium cows	1.10-1.22	Low-yielding cows	1.00below

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**UPCOMING SALES**

MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> -NEXT SPECIAL SHEEP & GOAT SALE

JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> -NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE

# West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

4/29/2024

0646 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Park Drive in Naturita for a civil matter.  
 0940 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Park Drive in Naturita for a civil matter.  
 1328 Hours - Brandy Brickley, 25, was arrested in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita on an outstanding warrant.  
 1558 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Juniper Street in Nucla for an agency assist.  
 1853 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a 911.  
 2212 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 90 mm 24 for an abandoned vehicle.  
 3 VIN inspections  
 1 directed patrol in Nucla  
 1 directed patrol in Naturita

4/30/2024

0334 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Wilson Street in Naturita for a 911  
 1600 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a theft report.  
 1615 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Wilson Street in Naturita for a 911.  
 2 directed patrols in County

5/1/2024

0329 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 39700 block of Eagle Drive near Norwood for a 911.  
 1036 Hours - Deputy conducted court security in the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita.  
 1142 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a welfare check.  
 1410 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30700 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a fire.  
 3 civil process attempted/served

5/2/2024

1229 Hours - Deputy conducted a search warrant in the 35300 block of II Road near Redvale.  
 1309 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for an animal problem.  
 1628 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 32200 block of County Road 90 for an animal problem.  
 1907 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.  
 2018 Hours - Leonna Hernandez, 19, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita and issued a warning for a headlight violation.  
 1 directed patrol in County

5/3/2024

0014 Hours - Deputy conducted a motorist assist on Highway 141 mm 76 near Naturita.  
 0848 Hours - Keith Little, 64, was

5/4/2024

contacted in the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.  
 1110 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for found property.  
 1444 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30700 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a medical assist.  
 1849 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Main Street in Nucla for a 911.  
 2003 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27700 block of CC Road near Nucla for a medical assist.  
 1 VIN inspection

0510 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.  
 1006 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street in Naturita for a disturbance.  
 1021 Hours - Marie Kiser, 62, was contacted in the 400 block of Pine Street in Naturita and cited for driving without a valid driver's license.  
 1808 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a report of threatening.  
 1906 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East

### NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL IS HIRING

- Spanish/English Language Learner Teacher
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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".

- School Bus Drivers.

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

**We will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until positions are filled.**

### WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING

West End Public Schools RE-2 located in Nucla, CO is currently hiring the following positions:

**Certified Teachers:**

- Kindergarten Teacher
- 6th Grade Teacher
- K-6th Grade Math Interventionist
- Secondary Agriculture Teacher
- High School Science Teacher
- Special Education Teacher K-12
- Music Teacher K-12

**Classified Staff:**

- Early Childhood Preschool Lead Teacher (full-time, school yr.)
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50-1T-C

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### HELP WANTED

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

Application is available on our website [townofnucla.colorado.gov](http://townofnucla.colorado.gov) or at 320 Main Street, Nucla, CO. Starting wage \$15.00- \$20 based on experience and knowledge.

50-2T-C

**Town of Naturita is currently hiring for the town treasurer position.**

Work schedule is Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Position has good benefits and 11 paid holidays. Job duties include accounts receivable and payable, grant management, court clerk, interaction with the public on a daily basis, and acting as the building, zoning and development department. Computer literacy and accounting skills are required. Full job description can be found on our website, [townofnaturita.org](http://townofnaturita.org) or at Naturita Town Hall, 222 East Main st, Naturita, CO 970-865-2286. Applications can also be picked up at Town

Hall. Resumes can be emailed to [thnaturita@nntcwireless.com](mailto:thnaturita@nntcwireless.com)

51-2T-C

### VETERAN MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO

Memorial Services for Veterans - Contact Tom Loczy

and VFW at: (970) 428-2268.

### CHANGE TO OBITUARY COST

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

### 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](mailto:nntc@nntcwireless.com).

44-TFN-C

**WANT TO SEND IN A LETTER, AD, OR CLASSIFIED?**  
CONTACT US AT: (970) 864-7425

## West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Continued from Page 14

Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a disturbance. James Wilkerson, 28, was cited for menacing.

1 directed patrol in County  
1 directed patrol in Naturita  
**5/5/2024**

1107 Hours - Irmela Koehler, 84, was contacted in the 300 block of West Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

2318 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of Heron Street and West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a traffic hazard.

1 directed patrol in Nucla  
2 directed patrols in County  
2 directed patrols in Naturita  
**5/6/2024**

0744 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 20900 block of 550 Road near Paradox for a suspicious circumstance.

0854 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 97 and DD Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

1112 Hours - Deputy took a report for a civil standby in the 28400 block of 2700 Road near Nucla.

1849 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1 directed patrol in Nucla  
**5/7/2024**

0903 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1106 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of DD31 Road and DD30 Road near Nucla for a traffic hazard.

1701 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28200 block of 2810 Road near Nucla for an information report.

1800 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Payson Street in Naturita for an animal problem.

1845 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a weapons offense.

3 VIN inspections  
1 directed patrol in Nucla  
**5/8/2024**

0909 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Fox Street in Nucla for a medical assist.  
1449 Hours - Deputy took a fraud report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

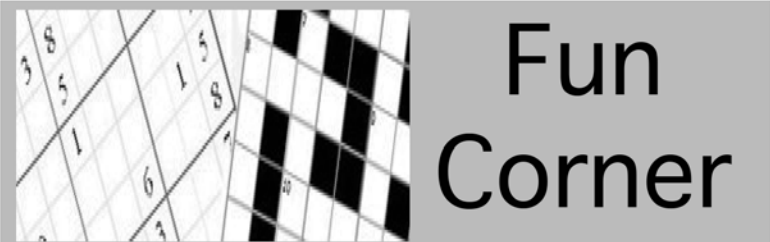
1824 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1100 block of Lookout Drive in Naturita for a traffic complaint. Debra Twitchell, 67, was issued a warning for speeding.

2123 Hours - Zoey Brady, 19, was contacted at the intersection of Highway 97 and DD Road near Nucla and issued a warning for expired registration.

2148 Hours - Austin Sullivan, 28, was contacted at the intersection of West Main Street and West Second Avenue in Naturita and cited for fictitious license plates, driving under revocation, and no insurance.

2152 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

2 VIN inspections



## Fun Corner

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: AT THE THEATER

#### ACROSS

- Bottomless pit
- Paper or plastic one

- Mercantile establishment
- \*Ticket agent's cubicle
- Kimono sash
- Cautious gambler
- Tidal bore

CROSSWORD												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16					17				18			
19				20			21	22				
		23				24						
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39		
40					41			42		43		
44				45		46				47		
48					49		50			51		52
				53		54		55		56		
57	58	59	60				61			62	63	64
65					66	67		68				
69							70			71		
72							73			74		

- \_\_\_-been
- Get together
- \*Movie preview
- \*Daytime attraction
- Rubber substitute
- 1960s \_\_\_ boots
- Good times
- No problem
- \*Box \_\_\_
- Deli side
- Jerk, in Yiddish
- Cell dweller
- \*Common theater admonition
- Blows a horn
- Be inclined
- Community spirit
- Stuff for sale, sing.
- Not manual
- \*Traveling entertainer's helper
- Cutting tools
- "Reap what you \_\_\_"
- Sail holder
- Ostrich-like bird
- \*Snack in a tub
- \*Blast from the past venue
- Bulb in produce aisle
- Zoo's Primate House inhabitant
- Telephone company portmanteau
- Like an uncomfortable mattress
- Not in good health

- Alleviated
- Law school prerequisite, acr.
- Sodium hydroxide
- Musher's ride, pl.

#### DOWN

- Drive a getaway car, e.g.
- Wild swine
- Vinyasa workout
- Landing road
- Put on hold
- Physicist Niels
- Lawyers' grp.
- Contraption
- Adjective for #9
- Blood-related
- Network of nerves
- Standing pose in #3 Down
- Postpone (2 words)
- E-wallet content
- Don McLean: "A long, long time \_\_\_"
- Simone Biles, e.g.
- \*Theater guide
- Mickey Mouse's pet
- Alexander, for short
- \*Opera or movie
- Sheep's milk cheese
- Intestinal obstruction
- What contortion and contour have in common
- Furnish with a fund
- Who would
- Creole cuisine staple
- Waste conduit

- Bribery, to a
- Burden
- church official
- Type of cotton
- ENT's first
- Native Egyptian, concern?
- in Roman times
- Afflicts with a
- Expunge
- blow
- \*At concession
- Symbol of stand: "Anything slowness \_\_\_?"
- Relating to
- Not hot, at a coffee shop
- fee shop
- Gallup's inquiry
- Nonverbal OKs
- Layer

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

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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 Last Week's Sudoku								
3	5	2	6	7	8	4	9	1
1	6	8	4	9	2	3	7	5
4	9	7	1	3	5	2	6	8
6	8	4	2	5	7	1	3	9
5	1	3	9	4	6	8	2	7
2	7	9	3	8	1	5	4	6
8	3	6	7	1	4	9	5	2
7	4	1	5	2	9	6	8	3
9	2	5	8	6	3	7	1	4

Solution to Last Week's Crossword

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

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