

NONPROFITS

Hoof & Paw to trap cats June, July

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Hoof & Paw, the West End nonprofit dedicated to helping stray animals, is working on a trap, neuter and release (TNR) program for cats to be implemented this summer. Laura Denny, of Naturita and a long-time volunteer for Hoof & Paw, is the coordinator.

The program will happen in June for Naturita and Nucla, and in July for Norwood.

“That’s what I am hoping,” said Denny, though she’s waiting on confirmation from the Town of Norwood for its portion.

The program is made possible by the Telluride Foundation, which gave Hoof & Paw \$5,000 of the \$7,000 that was requested. Kat Burroughs and Susan Kelley wrote the grant. Denny told the Forum the funds are wonderful, and money that the West End nonprofit didn’t have.

Local municipalities contributed to the award for a matching grant. In this way, Nucla pledged \$1,500, Naturita pledged \$500 and Norwood said they’d like to give \$1,000. The amounts correlate to the number of cats which can be treated.

Cats have to be kept overnight for two nights. The first night is to prepare for the spay or neuter procedure. The second night is for safety after the surgery. Denny said it’s important to note that cats can’t regulate their body temperatures well, and they must be protected after surgery, not simply turned out.

For this round of trap, neuter and release, Hoof & Paw will be using Second Chance of Ridgway for services, due to cost savings. Sometimes Hoof & Paw uses the Moab vet, and sometimes the Norwood vet too.

What if someone’s pet cat gets trapped though?

Denny said it’s possible, but volunteers are working to not have that happen. She recommends cat owners collar their cats with identification. Some free break-away collars will be available at Hoof & Paw, at the thrift store, the week before the trapping, and those collars will be free.

“I deeply apologize if we trap your house cat,” Denny said. “We want to give plenty of notice. Your house pets should be safe.”

Volunteers look, though, for signs of ownership, spay or neuter. And, they check for ear-tipping. Cats who’ve been through the TNR program previously have their right ears tipped. Denny said she wants people to know the ear-tipping is not painful for the

Cont. on Pg. 2

MONUMENT

Pond attends regional meetings, continues fight

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Halt the Dolores Monument group and the hotly debated issue of a potential monument along and beyond the Dolores River has been in regional newspapers since February. In the last week, coverage even appeared in the Huffington Post, a national publication, and also on msn.com. Pond said he’s happy that the issue is circulating, and that conversations are taking

place openly and not behind closed doors. He wants people to be aware of the issue.

Last week, he and Aimee Tooker, of the Just Transition Advisory Committee, were featured on Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen’s podcast expressing opposition to a national monument on the Dolores River. He was also asked to go to Grand Junction to speak to the Mesa County Republican Women’s Group last week and did so.

Saturday, May 11, he was at the

Norwood Community Center for a meet and greet with Larry Don Suckla and Ron Hanks, who are both running for political office. Approximately 30 people were there, and it’s the first time since Feb. 20 that Pond asked a crowd who in the room had not yet heard of a monument and nobody raised their hand. He said it’s a sign that people are learning about the issue.

For the last three months, Pond has worked consistently on educating the public and trying to get

Cont. on Pg. 5

NORWOOD

Controversy persists in town meetings

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Norwood’s monthly town meeting on May 8 saw more controversy. Mike Grafmyer, of Norwood Sanitation District, went before trustees with additional concerns about Mayor Candy Meehan. In the last month, town and sanitation meetings have been heated, regarding the mayor’s inquiry into the sanitation district and its future.

Grafmyer said his records prove that conversations took place between the mayor and the town’s attorney. Those conversations, he said, show the mayor was trying to dissolve the sanitation district.

The mayor has said repeatedly she was trying to determine what the liability for the town was, should the sanitation district go bust. She has said it’s her job to research and know these things.

Grafmyer said the documents he’s obtained show the mayor was speaking about a dissolution before she had consent from town trustees to seek counsel.

Sanitation board chair Bernice White was at the town meeting and said she continues to disagree with the greater sanitation board’s feeling. She added she signed the sanitation board’s recent resolution of “no confidence” in the Norwood mayor “under duress,” as she was advised to do by attorneys.

The Norwood Town Board is still in the process of finalizing town manager Deana’s Sheriff’s job description, another point of contention, though for now it’s simply an agreement that can remain as it is. Attorneys are set to get involved in the discussion, since the job is funded by the Town of Norwood, the sanitation district and the water commission.

The bigger issue for the town seems to be locating the intergovernmental agreement that outlines the roles of those three entities and how they work together. Town staff said they’ve been searching in a file cabinet so full it makes the floor upstairs in Town Hall sag. Grace Harris is on a mission digitizing files for the town and looking for the document.

Trustee Niven Drybrough asked if the state had any record of the intergovernmental agreement. The town manager said they’re understaffed at the state level and cannot find it.

In the May 8 meeting, Grafmyer said he had an original

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A rare sight to see

Due to a solar flare storm last weekend, the Northern Lights appeared in places not usually visible. This image shows the Nucla night sky illuminated with color on May 10. (Photo by Tanner Nelson)

WEST END

Naturita Days is June 1, Bette Nickell is queen

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Diana Starks, Naturita’s town clerk and committee member for the Naturita Days celebration, is looking forward to this year’s event. Happening June 1, it’s the second annual Naturita Days, since the festival was resurrected — after going on hiatus sometime in the 1970s, Starks said.

In the old days, the event had rock drilling contests and boat races on the river. Starks said the committee — made up of her, Sharon Different, John Gist, Jennifer Locke, Hank Miller, Bryan Keeton, Victoria Allen and Gene

Greenwood — is working to bring some of the old activities back, like horse shoes, corn hole and more. The Riley family will have gold panning for the kids and rides on the train they constructed.

Softball teams will travel to the local area, from the greater region, and tournaments will be happening at the ball field there at Naturita Town Park. Starks said depending on the number of entries, the softball portion could last into Sunday.

Paradox Cycle will be there at the celebration with West End Trails Alliance and will have some bike activities. And, a community dance is scheduled for 9 p.m. on the concrete area at the park. Brock

Benson, of Paradox Cycle, will DJ the dance.

Starks said it will be an all-day event, and should be successful. Last year saw great attendance.

The Naturita Days committee selects a queen to oversee the festivities, and Bette Nickell holds the title this year. Split Rock Printworks, of Nucla, created and donated the queen’s sash, which Nickell will be presented along with a crown.

“She’s done a lot for us,” Starks said of Nickell.

Nickell is a respected community leader. Starks said she and many others are pleased at Nick-

Cont. on Pg. 4

AG TALK

The importance of moving up the mountain

By KEIRAN BRAY

It's getting close to that time of year when ranchers start moving their livestock up to the high country. Why not keep the livestock home, where you can easily watch and take care of them? What's the point of moving your livestock up to the mountain for a little amount of time and then moving them back down?

Moving livestock up to the high country in the summer is an important practice with numerous benefits for the livestock and the environment.

Moving to the high country during the summer allows the livestock to access fresh, nutrient-rich grasses that are all over the mountain. The diverse range of plant species found in the high country provides a more varied and higher quality diet for the animals, which contributes to their overall health and well-being. With the abundance of nutrients the livestock have to choose from, their overall diet will start to improve tremendously. This is when they start to get fat for the winter with better grasses. This access to a more nutritious diet also helps to improve a better reproductive system, which, in turn, can create healthier livestock for your herd.

In addition to the nutritional benefits, moving livestock to the high country helps from overgrazing on a rancher's land. Overgrazing in lower elevation areas can lead to soil degradation, reduced vegetation cover and decreased water-retention capacity. Rotating livestock to higher elevations allows for better management of grazing resources and promotes the recovery and regeneration of lower-elevation pastures.

In the summer down in the lower

country, the temperature is a lot higher. The cooler temperatures found in the high country contribute to the overall health and productivity of the cattle. High temperatures can cause heat stress in livestock, leading to reduced feed intake, lower weight gain and increased susceptibility to diseases. Moving cattle to higher elevations provides relief from the heat and reduces the risk of heat-related health issues. Additionally, access to clean water sources in the high country reduces the risk of waterborne illnesses and ensures that the livestock remain adequately hydrated.

The presence of livestock in the high country can have positive environmental impacts. Grazing by livestock can help manage vegetation, reduce the accumulation of dry grasses, and reduce the risk of wildfires. Controlled grazing can also promote healthy ecosystems by preventing the dominance of invasive plant species and encouraging the growth of diverse, native vegetation.

So when you ask the question, "why do ranchers move their livestock to the mountain country in the summer?" ... This is why. There are numerous benefits for the animals, and while they are all up on the mountain, the ranchers have time to get the lower country ready for when they come back in the winter.

The tradition of moving livestock up high in the summer not only ensures the well-being of the animals, but also plays a significant role in maintaining the balance of natural ecosystems. Not only do livestock help feed our world, they also help protect and grow our lands and ecosystems. If they just stayed in one place year-round, the lands we live on would be destroyed.

Trap cats

Cont. from Pg. 1

cat and is standard practice.

If anyone is concerned their cat has been trapped, they can come to the base camp where cats will be waiting for their surgeries. Volunteers can help cat owners identify a cat that doesn't need to be treated.

Regardless, all cats will be released to the original place they were trapped after the second night.

Anyone with questions should contact Hoof & Paw. Denny said they can also call her personally at 970-729-0970.

Denny said the trapping program is important. She agreed it helps control the cat population and reduces the number of hungry, sick and inbreeding animals. She said while in the past, the feral cats, or stray cats, were not a priority, local communities have

come to see that treating these cats is a real need.

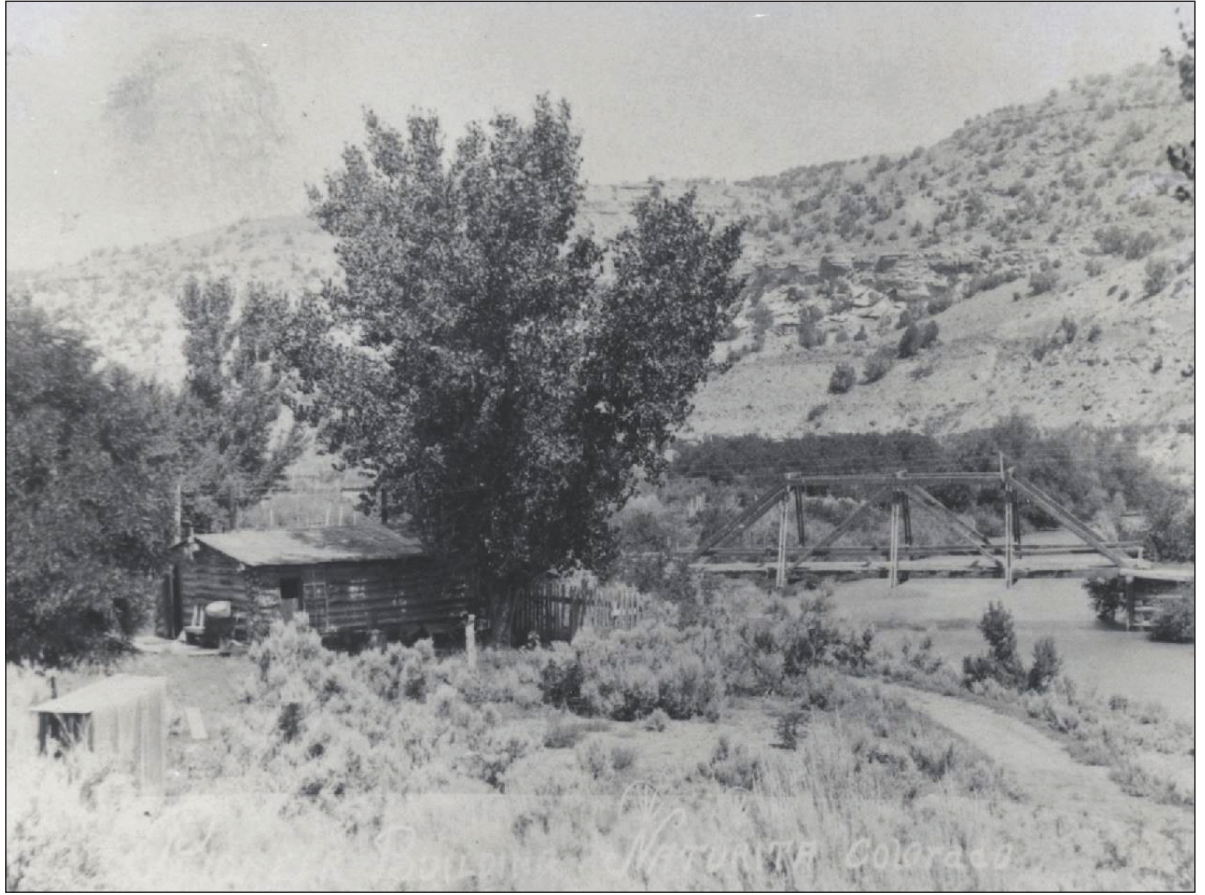
The last West End spay and neuter clinic (not the trapping program) saw 23 cats and 15 dogs, for which owners brought pets in.

"The community is aware and supporting us, and we appreciate them," Denny said.

Hoof & Paw is a volunteer organization. Denny said nobody is paid, and so many people help. She's been involved since 2008, the nonprofit's inception, along with Tonya Stephens and Britta Harris.

She added the thrift store has been a game-changer for the nonprofit's success, though she misses the old days when the chili cook-off and auction brought in funds. She said Hoof & Paw might hold another chili cook-off for fun — and fundraising.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society 'Uncompahgre Frontier' by Wilson Rockwell — Naturita

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

This image shows the Payson Cabin and bridge on the banks of the San Miguel River c. 1881. (Photo courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

Wilson Rockwell wrote a very interesting book about the area many years ago, and the Rimrockers were gifted a signed copy by him in 1974. It is a difficult book to find in print these days, so I thought I would share some of his writings about our area. He interviewed a lot of the old pioneers and shares their stories of the settling of our beloved "Uncompahgre Frontier."

NATURITA

"A man by the name of Payson built the first cabin at Naturita in 1881. The following year, Rockwood H. Blake and his family preempted a ranch nearby, building an adobe house in the east end of the present town. Then came the Golden family and the Warner family in the order named. Others followed, settling along the San Miguel River where they could get water to cultivate their land. Fruit, vegetables and alfalfa were raised, and nearly every resident of the area had a few head of cattle.

The remoteness from a railroad and market made it impractical to sell fruit and vegetables commercially, so the producing of cattle became the primary source of income since they were not a perishable commodity. Cattle could be driven to the railheads at Montrose or Placerville on the hoof and be shipped to the central markets. In going to the Montrose railhead, the cowboys followed a

trail over the Uncompahgre Plateau now taken by Highway 90.

The Naturita ranchers grazed their small herds during the summer months on the Tabeguache range just north of the present town, and during the winter they were pastured in the lower country along the San Miguel River and in the East Paradox Valley.

A log cabin, located on the bank of the San Miguel River directly north of the present Yellow Rock Café and Naturita Trading Post served as the town's first school in the early 1890s ...

As more families settled along the river, a new schoolhouse was built in 1894 on the north side of the river about one-eighth of a mile east of the present bridge ... After 1894 Montrose County began helping Rockwood Blake support the school ... In 1905 there were 25 pupils attending the school from the surrounding region.

By the end of the century, there were a sufficient number of inhabitants within a radius of 30 or 40 miles to have dances and other social activities, and these were held at the schoolhouse. The first religious services in the area were conducted here also by Father Clark, a traveling Baptist missionary who included the San Miguel Basin in his extensive circuit.

In 1900 Naturita was primarily a stopping-off place for freight wagons transporting copper ore from the Cashin Mine near Bed-

rock to the railroad at Placerville. At this time, Naturita consisted of a post office in a private home, a school, a general store, and a blacksmith shop.

Mrs. Rockwood Blake, who was generally known as 'Grandma,' gave the post office and town its name of Naturita. 'Naturita' means 'little nature' in Spanish. Grandma Blake, who was of Spanish descent, was a great lover of nature, and she so designated the place with this unusual name because of its beautiful setting beside the river, which contrasted sharply with the surrounding barren country."

What a beautiful little oasis Naturita must have been back then as the area settled all around it. Naturita has gone through ups and downs, but is shining bright today and is still that "stopping-off place" for travelers passing through. Mr. Payson, being the first settler there, now has a street in Naturita named after him. Payson convinced B. L. Smith to come and check out the Tabeguache Park above Naturita for his cooperative community, and there began the birth of Nucla and the home of the Colorado Cooperative Company.

We should never take for granted the difficult times these strong people persevered through, so that we could live in this amazing place we call home. Thank you, Mr. Rockwell, for preserving these stories of our communities.

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Meeting the candidates

Tom Loczy and Bette Nickell, running against each other for a board seat for San Miguel Power Association, were in a candidate forum May 7.

(Photo by Nola Svoboda)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fire and EMS seek help

Dear Editor,

The Nucla-Naturita Fire and EMS, which includes Paradox, would like to ask for our community's help. We would like the citizens of our area to help us out by putting visible house numbers on their residences and properties. When we are responding to a call, whether it be fire or medical, upon arriving to the area, we've had a hard time finding the right place. This is due to not being able to see house numbers or addresses of any type.

This can cost us, and has cost us, several minutes of looking and driving, trying to find where we are needed. This can lead to life-changing situations for all of us. Please be aware of this and help us out by putting house numbers in a very visible place. In turn, hopefully we can have a quicker response to the person or persons that really need our services.

The Nucla-Naturita Fire and EMS department, along with our other first-responders, appreciate it very much that you have taken time to read this. We hope it hits home for all of us.

Bryan Keeton,
Nucla-Naturita Fire Chief
WEST END

There is enough for 6.8 years

Dear Editor,

There is enough potential uranium within the boundaries of the proposed Dolores Canyon National Monument to provide all the electricity that Colorado consumes for 6.8 years.

During these exceptionally trying times, there is no room for false modesty or for shrinking from one's moral obligations. Those obligations include not letting wrongs go unchallenged or to sit by and watch as our country is slowly being destroyed from within. It seems, sometimes, that we are all inmates in an asylum where the insane are the ones in charge.

Keeping those thoughts in mind, I am a uranium geologist, and I have been for the last 49 years. I am a practical geologist, rather than a theoretical one, since I have worked in

the exploration, developmental and production phases of uranium mining for that entire period. I like to think that I was very good at what I did and what I do.

Of that 49 years, 46 have been focused exclusively in the Uravan Mineral Belt. If there is anyone more knowledgeable of this area, I would certainly like to meet them. I cannot say that I know where all the uranium deposits are, but I know a good many of them. Also, I do not know where the undiscovered uranium deposits are, but I know where to look.

It is true; I have been retired for some time, but one never stops being a geologist, and I have never stopped being a uranium geologist. One of my favorite pastimes, since retiring, has been exploring old, historical mining sites that have, up until then, eluded me.

There is a proposed 390,000-acre Dolores Canyon National Monument that encompasses most of the historic Uravan Mineral Belt.

The Uravan Mineral Belt Mines produced almost 14 million tons of ore, averaging 0.24 percent U3O8 and over 356 million pounds of vanadium oxide (Colorado Geological Survey).

Based on my experience, conservatively, there is enough uranium remaining within the boundaries of the proposed monument to provide all the electricity that Colorado consumes for 6.8 years. That number is based on the total current Colorado consumption of 56 million MWh per year.

There has been significant mining in that area, and there remains significant potential for yet-to-be-discovered ore deposits.

Don Hemme
REDVALE

NFPD to seek mill levy

Dear Editor,

The Norwood Fire Protection District will be going to the polls next November to ask the community for a mill levy increase. Currently, the fire district receives \$425,000 in property tax revenue to run the fire district. This is the only guaranteed income for the district. Chief John Bockrath has and continues to investigate other options for increased

revenue. Chief Bockrath started a wildfire team four years ago to help bring in extra income to the district. The Norwood Fire Wildland Team is deployed across the country and has received accolades, not only from the U.S. Forest Service and BLM, but from the local fire districts they have helped protect. Even though the team is deployed five to six months a year, the added income to the district has only averaged about \$75,000 per year.

The district makes approximately 400 calls to service per year, and had an increase of almost 100 calls over last year. Our fire district members need to be trained for all types of emergencies: structure fires, wildland fires, hazardous material incidents, vehicle extrication, water rescues, wilderness rescues and EMS calls (which are 83 percent of the calls we respond to). Initial minimum training takes months of time and effort. The members then need to do a certain amount of continuing education each year to maintain their certifications. This training and the time and costs involved will be discussed in upcoming letters.

As mentioned, EMS is a majority of the calls to service the district responds to. It is interesting to note that EMS (emergency medical services) is not an essential service in the State of Colorado, or most states for that matter. Law enforcement and fire suppression are considered essential and must be provided by each town and/or county. However, EMS does not have to be provided. This translates into limited or no government funding.

Colorado only offers two grants for EMS: one for education, and one for equipment at 50 percent matching funds. For example, a new ambulance averages \$300,000. If awarded a state grant, the fire district must still pay \$150,000 toward that ambulance, not to mention outfitting that ambulance costs another \$85,000 in equipment.

The Norwood Fire Protection District strives to provide a well-trained and professional service to the 800-square-mile community we serve. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to provide the service and protection our community deserves without going to the voters for a mill levy increase.

Members of Norwood Fire
Protection District
NORWOOD

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Naturita Days

Cont. from Pg. 1

ell's service as the municipal judge for Naturita. She said Nickell is doing a great job and helping the mayor, Gene Greenwood, in getting the community cleaned up.

Nickell also attends the West End Solutions Group meetings and is running for the San Miguel Power Association's board of directors.

Starks said Nickell wants to give back and is involved in most everything in town that goes on.

Now, the Naturita Days committee is looking for a convertible car for Nickell to ride in during the parade. Afterward on June 1, she'll be mingling with the crowds — for as long as she's able, until she needs

a break and to rest.

Vendors have confirmed they'll be on site for the day. At least three food trucks will be serving, and there will be booths with arts and crafts, jams and jellies, candies, jewelry and beauty products.

The festivities begin at 9 a.m., and anyone who'd like to drive their car, truck or motorcycle in the parade should pre-register at Naturita Town Hall in advance. Benson told the Forum he will have face-painting and balloons for kids who want to participate in the bicycle group for the parade.

Starks said Gist is also trying to produce a car show for Naturita Days, and anyone wanting to par-

ticipate should contact him.

She hopes people come out and enjoy the day. Last year's celebration saw great weather, and she hopes that's true for 2024.

Those with questions should email town hall at clerk@townof-naturita.org, or stop by and speak with Starks or Kathy Cooper, the town treasurer. The number for town hall is 970-865-2286.

Benson also said the kick-off for Naturita Days happens Thursday evening with the first community movie gathering in the park. The EMS crew will do a fundraiser, selling hotdogs and hamburgers. The first outdoor movie of the season is "Barbie." All are invited.

Town meetings

Cont. from Pg. 1

copy, and he produced one to trustees, which seemed to be a relief to all — only the document was not signed. Town staff and the mayor said it had to be a signed copy.

The three entities in Norwood are aiming to sit down together and have a work session, and Sheriff has even submitted dates for possibilities, but the boards might wait until they have the intergovernmental agreement they need to proceed.

The Town of Norwood also had an agenda item approving a letter in opposition to solar energy on Wright's Mesa. Mayor Meehan asked the board to table that, since

she'd been to a county commissioner meeting that day. She said she wanted to wait until July and that efforts need to be directed to the state's land board.

She said San Miguel County has taken large-scale solar off the table and is listening to constituents. The letter of opposition, she said, was a "moot point."

New town trustee Mike Grady said he felt the letter was still important and could be reviewed, toned down. He said people have been worried about the proposed 640-acre solar project, and it's important to "give Norwood a voice."

"I'm not sure how I feel about not putting anything out, or waiting

till July," he said.

Meehan said the objections to solar had been addressed and a third moratorium is set to happen.

Still, Grady said a new letter could say something that isn't aggressive but that expressed community concerns.

Trustee Niven Drybrough said he agreed with Grady. So did trustee Morgan Rummel.

In other news, Norwood Public School is still looking for a superintendent, but may seek an interim superintendent for the time being. Norwood is also set to find out about its status in the BEST grant process.

Trustee Shawn Fallon was voted in as Norwood's mayor pro-tem.



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!

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Pond attends meetings

Cont. from Pg. 1

West End voices — who mostly object to a monument — heard.

Monday, May 13, after work, he was scheduled to be in Grand Junction for a group, Stand for the Constitution, that invited him to speak. On Tuesday, May 14, he was supposed to be back in Grand Junction the next morning for the Mesa County Commissioners meeting starting at 9 a.m.

There, at the county meeting, monument advocates alongside the opposition were to speak. Pond's intention was to ask for a letter of opposition.

He's also scheduled a big meeting for the Halt the Dolores Monument group on Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. at Mesa County Fairgrounds, and it will be advertised with radio, TV and billboard ads.

Pond knows that advocates for a national monument on the Dolores River want President Joe Biden to sign for it now using the Antiquities Act. Still, he'd like to believe Senator John Hickenlooper's statement about "being undecided" on the monument and that he's still listening. Pond said Sen. Hickenlooper left the Grand Junction listening session a few weeks ago expressing hope that something could be worked out, a sort of compromise.

While Pond doesn't believe a national conservation area (NCA) is needed along the Dolores River, since the land is already protected, he'd be willing to negotiate for an NCA to avoid a full-blown monument. He has no idea how that talk would start, since monument advocates and John Whitney, aide to Sen. Michael Bennet, will not meet with him personally.

When asked if he might be tired, Pond said he has the energy to continue. He said he and the West End can't afford to be tired. According to him, the advocates have millions of dollars in funding, and the common, local folks may be busy working, but they can't forget. He compared it to a "David versus Goliath" battle.

He said it's not just him volunteering. He said Tooker and Kendra Ballard, the Garvey family and others are trying not to let the energy die, all while working and tending to families. He hopes citizens in the West End will stay motivated, keep sharing the petition and come to meetings. He said the monument proposal isn't going away right now.

"They'll keep coming after this," he said.

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.

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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	1.45-1.50	Medium bulls	1.40-1.44
Young Cows	1.45-1.80	Top cows	1.20-1.45
Medium cows	1.10-1.19	Low-yielding cows	1.00below

SPRING SALES EVERY WEEK IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY!

NEXT WEEK: 2 – 2yr old Jerseys with calves (can be hand milked), 12 mixed feeders, 4 older pairs, 8 butcher cows with 4 butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 100-200.

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MAY 30TH -NEXT SPECIAL SHEEP & GOAT SALE

JUNE 1ST -NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

4/25/2024

0056 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of King Street in Nucla for suspicious activity.

0655 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

0854 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 113 near Redvale for an accident.

1111 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a harassment report.

1536 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West First Avenue in Naturita for an information report.

1553 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita.

1619 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a harassment report.

2030 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Wilson Street in Naturita for a 911.

1 directed patrol in County

4/26/2024

1250 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Montana Way in Nucla for a medical assist.

1338 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 114 near Redvale for an animal problem.

1429 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1529 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Ivy Street in Nucla for a fire.

4/27/2024

1155 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.

1706 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35600 block of Highway 145 near Norwood for an agency assist.

2136 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

4/28/2024

1613 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.

1633 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35700 block of Highway 145 near Redvale for a medical assist.

1739 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 21500 block of 600 Road near Paradox.

2204 Hours - Deputy was dis-

patched to Highway 141 mm 63 near Naturita for an accident.

2252 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29600 block of Highway 97 for a welfare check.

1 VIN inspection
1 directed patrol in Nucla

LETTER TO THE EDITOR You're invited

Dear Editor,

VFW Uranium Post 9058 will be performing the Memorial Day service at the Nucla Cemetery at 10 a.m., on the 27th of May. Following that, we have a grill out at the local park, honoring our vets and their families. Grilling starts at 11 a.m. Come out and join us, as we do a time-honored tribute and remembrance of all of our fallen veterans.

*John Reed, QM Uranium Post 9058
NUCLA*

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 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

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Breakfast Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

WG: Whole Grain / EC: Early Childhood

Monday, May 20

Cook Choice, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

Tuesday, May 21

Cook Choice, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

Wednesday, May 22

Cook Choice, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

Thursday, May 23

Cook Choice, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Lunch Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

WG: Whole Grain / EC: Early Childhood

Monday, May 20

Cook Choice, Salad Bar, and Milk, Peaches (EC/PK)

Tuesday, May 21

Cook Choice, Salad Bar, and Milk, Pears (EC/PK)

Wednesday, May 22

Cook Choice, Salad Bar, and Milk, Mixed Fruit (EC/PK)

Thursday, May 23

Cook Choice, Salad Bar, and Milk, Oranges (EC/PK)

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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.

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED AD RATE:

Per-Week: \$12.95 for 25 words and 20¢ for each additional word.

HELP WANTED

Town of Nucla is now hiring a part time animal control officer. Application is available on our website townofnucla.colorado.gov or at 320 Main Street, Nucla, CO. Starting wage \$15.00- \$20 based on experience and knowledge.

50-2T-C

Norwood School District needs 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

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.

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NOW 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.)
- District IT Support Technician & Network Manager (full-time, yr. round)
- Maintenance/Grounds Worker (full-time, yr. round)
- Special Education Paraprofessional (part-time, school yr.)
- School Social Worker (full-time, school yr.)

Benefits include:

- Health, Dental, Vision & Life Insurance
- Aflac Supplemental Insurance (optional)
- PERA Retirement
- PERA 401K (optional)
- Paid Time Off

For more details on each open position and who to contact, applications, & salary schedules, please go to www.westendschools.org/employment. We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

50-1T-C

NUCLA-NATURITA TELEPHONE COMPANY HELP WANTED - FIELD TECHNICIAN



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

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

Job Requirements:

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

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

44-TFN-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

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



Fun Corner

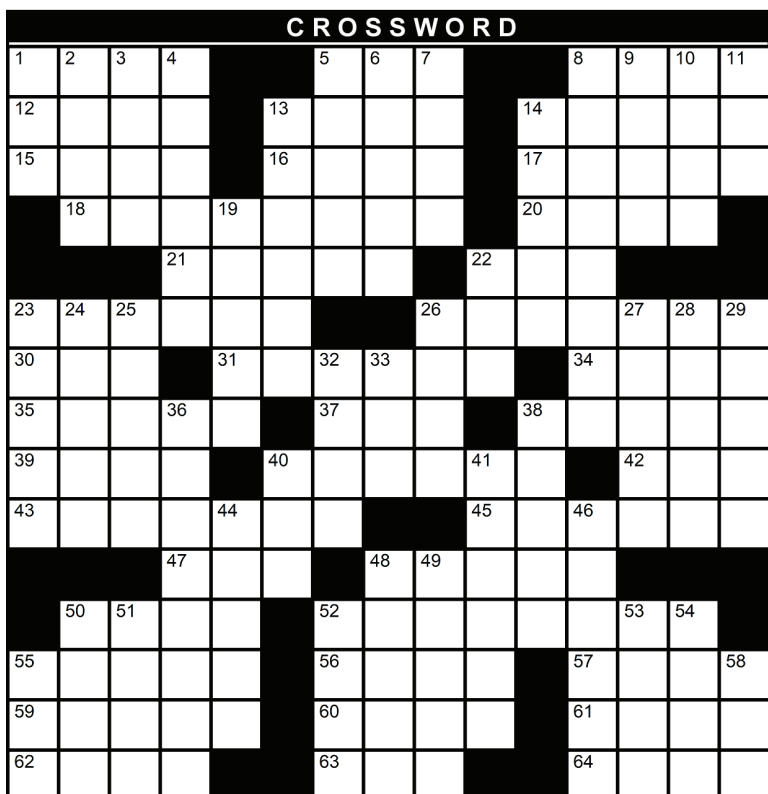
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: OPPOSITES

ACROSS

1. Clothing joint

5. *Opposite of good
8. *Pre-
12. Guesstimate (2 words)
13. Sudden impulse
14. Group dice game



15. Stead
16. Naive person
17. Fancy necktie
18. *Compass point opposites (2 words)
20. A pinch between the cheeks
21. Earth tremor
22. Before skip and a jump
23. Constantly worry about something
26. More infinitesimal
30. Catch a wink
31. One weber per square meter, pl.
34. *Pre-recorded
35. Deed hearings
37. Cribbage piece
38. Bread spreads
39. Plural of focus
40. Making the way, in a way
42. "I Like ___," 1952 campaign slogan
43. Of somber color
45. *Like bride's accessories (2 words)
47. 60 mins., pl.
48. Indiana ball player
50. One of Three Bears
52. *Day periods (2 words)
55. Vernacular
56. Part of church
57. Soap bubbles
59. Type of small salmon
60. Bound

61. Domingo, Pavarotti and Carreras, e.g.
62. Nicholas II of Russia, e.g.
63. Key next to spacebar
64. Where users review

33. Tolstoy's given e.g. name, in Russian
36. *Irwin Shaw's entry title opposites (2 words)
38. Checked out
40. Pimple fluid
41. Marked
44. Speak like victim
46. *Not airtight
48. Teacher's pet,
51. Muslim honorific
52. Facts
53. Donned
54. Nervous biter's
55. College assessment test, acr.
58. Janitor's tool

DOWN

1. Fa follower
2. Between Ohio and Ontario
3. *Opposite of on land
4. Fluffy dessert
5. Hillside in Scotland
6. Anti-seniors sentiment
7. *Opposite of awkward and clumsy
8. *Door instruction (2 words)
9. Fairy tale opener
10. Flat-bottomed boat
11. Bambino
13. Not like #26 Down
14. Popular breakfast item
19. MCAT and LSAT, e.g.
22. *Hers
23. *Switch positions (2 words)
24. Louisiana swamp
25. Glasses, for short
26. Three biblical sages
27. A logical connection (2 words)
28. Extract a memory, e.g.
29. Stitch again
32. R&R spots

Solution to Last Week's Crossword

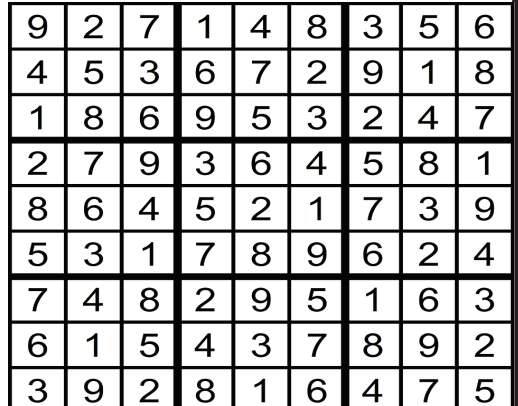


SUDOKU



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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



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YOUTH

4-H shooting sports program takes aim at positive development

By Annika Kristiansen,
Colorado State University-
Extension Office

In the serene landscapes of the San Miguel Basin, a new initiative is blossoming, dedicated to equipping youth with skills, discipline and responsibility. The 4-H shooting sports program has emerged as a beacon of opportunity, providing a platform for young individuals to learn safe firearm handling, foster their passion for marksmanship, and develop essential life skills within a supportive community environment.

Embedded within the ethos of 4-H and supported by the Colorado State University (CSU)-Extension Office, shooting sports has been reintroduced to San Miguel and West Montrose counties, complementing the already established 4-H program. This return to shooting sports underscores a commitment to holistic youth development, tailored to the specific realities of the area.

For decades, 4-H has been synonymous with nurturing leadership, citizenship and personal growth among young individuals. By rein-

tegrating shooting sports into the local chapter's offerings, new avenues are opened for youth to explore their interests while embracing core values of safety, sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Under the dynamic leadership of volunteer leader Jarred Garcia, the San Miguel County 4-H shooting sports program has flourished, attracting 24 enthusiastic participants in its inaugural year. Garcia's dedication and vision promise an enriching journey for the youth involved. Emphasizing safety protocols, skill-building and mentorship, Garcia ensures that every participant experiences growth, both on and off the shooting range, as he echos the 4-H standards.

"We are making champion kids, not champion shooters. Positive youth development is our main focus," he said recently. "This means promoting high standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behaviors, but also supporting the development of stronger families, and helping youth to cultivate good character."

As a CSU-certified instructor,

Garcia leads program participants through a structured curriculum, adhering to stringent safety standards. While Garcia currently oversees .22 rifle and shotgun disciplines, plans are underway to expand leaders and certifications to encompass more disciplines by 2025. Each discipline, from archery to muzzleloading, offers unique educational material that broadens youth perspectives beyond the shooting range.

"The vision for our new and growing shooting sports program is to keep youth involved and accomplishing shooting goals throughout their lives," Garcia said. "Helping our youth to construct a positive view about firearms by learning to use them as tools is key. My hope is that this early-on respect will follow them throughout their lives."

But, 4-H extends far beyond shooting sports, offering a diverse range of projects and activities that cultivate well-rounded skills in communication, teamwork and problem-solving. Participants engage in hands-on learning experiences, from tending to livestock



Jarred Garcia helps Max Fehrenbacher insert a CBI into a .22 rifle.
(Photo by Annika Kristiansen)

to mastering public speaking. Such immersive opportunities foster confidence, resilience and a sense of responsibility, preparing youth for adulthood with poise and purpose.

As the summer season approaches, excitement mounts for the upcoming San Miguel Basin Fair and with it, the first San Miguel Basin Shooting Sports Championship. Scheduled for Sunday, July 7,

at 10 a.m., the championship promises to showcase marksmanship prowess and sportsmanship spirit. It will highlight the diligent efforts put forth by local 4-Hers. Hosted at the esteemed 10 Ring Gun Club in Nucla, the event will bring together participants from across San Miguel and West Montrose counties to compete, collaborate and celebrate their achievements.

In the tranquil valleys of the San Miguel Basin, a new journey begins — a journey fueled by passion, guided by principles, and illuminated by the promise of youth empowerment. As the new voyage of the 4-H shooting sports program unfolds, it heralds a new chapter in the rich tapestry of community development, where every shot fired echoes with the aspirations of our local, rural generation poised for greatness.

For more information on San Miguel Basin's local 4-H chapter or the shooting sports program, contact Annika Kristiansen, San Miguel County's 4-H coordinator, at annikak@sanmiguelcountycogov.

YOUTH

Youth at work



The Mustangs are defeated at high school baseball regionals by Merino, 10-2, but leave in good spirits. (Photo by Jennifer Dinsmore)



Cadence Shaw, Sydney Tomlinson, Kielely Shephardson and Keiran Bray with Amber Bockrath celebrate the girls relay team making it to the state track meet this weekend. (Photo by Sara Bray)

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

NATURITA COMMUNITY CENTER
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