

# San Miguel Basin Forum

## EVENTS

### Gymkhana season begins June 6

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Representatives from Tabeguache Trail Riders told the San Miguel Basin Forum over the weekend that the club's gymkhana series — western riding events, rodeo-style, and usually done with speed — will be starting back up at the Nucla arena on Thursday nights beginning at 6 p.m. Entry forms will be available at 5 p.m. on gymkhana nights, and riders are encouraged to come early to get their paperwork done. The first gymkhana of the season is June 6, and the dates continue with June 13, June 20, June 27, July 11 and July 18.

Held at what's been known as the Cal Sanders Arena in Nucla, people from the West End and Norwood, as well as surrounding areas, are invited to participate. As always, the gymkhanas will feature barrel racing, pole bending and a third event, the latter of which changes each week but is also timed.

This year's third events, in the order that they'll be run, are "bleeding heart," the "big T," speed barrels, the bowtie jump, the trail/obstacle course, and finally, the flag race.

Brandie Richardson, president of Tabeguache Trail Riders, told the Forum that club membership fees are \$30 for a household. And, entry fees for gymkhana events are \$2 for members, and \$5 for non-members.

"We hope to see everyone there, and we are looking forward to another great season," Richardson said Saturday.

This year, John Reed is vice president of the club, and Destiny Reed is secretary. The greater board consists of Tina Barrett, Blaine Tedder, Michelle Zunich and Sam Rich.

The gymkhana series tracks points for the season, and riders and their horses are eligible for prizes at the annual awards banquet. Divisions are as follows: ages 6 and under, ages 7-10, ages 11-14, ages 15-18 and ages 19 and up.

Recently, the horse club had a barbecue event to get people thinking about the summer gymkhana season. There, on May 17, folks came out and rode their horses in a type of "play day" — essentially gymkhana practice. Barbecue was served for a fundraiser, and Richardson said the May event went well for the club.

"The barbecue and practice was good," she said. "I am glad that we were able to do it, because we ran into a bit of a kink with some equipment that we use, and this gives us a little time to get that all worked out."

Club dues help the Tabeguache Trail Riders pay for what it takes to produce the gymkhana series. That includes insurance, facility rental, the technology and more.

Last year, concessions were available at all of the gymkhana evenings,

*Cont. on Pg. 5*

## EDUCATION

### Nucla Middle/High School celebrates accomplishments

By MALISHA REED,  
*Nucla High School*

This year has brought many accomplishments to the students of Nucla Middle and High School. Both the middle and high school students each had their own nights of celebration, during which students were recognized for their academic and athletic accomplishments. Many students were actually recognized for both.

The top middle school student, Jace Bonacquista, was given the

"Made For Excellence Award," which is given to a student who exhibits excellent traits of character, academic performance and outstanding citizenship. The high school outstanding junior boy and girl award, which is given to the top all-around students in the 11th grade, was presented to Brody Zunich and Viviana Zunich.

The last week celebrated eighth-grade continuation speeches, which meant every eighth-grade student gave a speech that was their personal memoir. Students reflected on the trials and tribulations of middle

school, the lessons learned, and they thanked those who had helped them along their journeys.

The Nucla FFA chapter had their annual banquet and recognized many students for their accomplishments in FFA. The Star Greenhand Award went to Cole Bray, who demonstrated the most dedication and knowledge of the FFA organization. The Star Chapter Farmers Award went to Keiran Bray and Shania Joseph, for their outstanding supervised agriculture experience projects. Keiran Bray will also be

*Cont. on Pg. 5*



#### The many accolades

For the San Juan Basin League, Brycen Rummel was named first team all-conference, Hemmy O'Brien was also, as was Steele Arnold, who was also named the league's Player of the Year. Arnold and O'Brien will play in the Colorado Dugout Club All-State Game on June 24 at Riverdale Ridge High School. Arnold was selected to also play in the Top 50 All-State Game on June 5 as well, and then he will play in the All-State Basketball Game in Pueblo on June 11. This image shows Arnold in one of his last high school baseball games. For all-conference track, recognized were Cadence Shaw, Kieley Shepardson, Steele Arnold and Keiran Bray. (Photo by Brandie McCabe)

## EVENTS

### Jeep tour is June 8; Pond says rec stands to lose under monument status

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

This year the Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce's annual West End 4x4 Jeep Tour event takes place on June 8. A Saturday, the event has nearly met capacity, with 28 of the 30 spots filled. According to chamber president Paula Brown, that's nothing new. The jeep tour has been an esteemed event, and it typically fills up. Last year, it sold out in two weeks.

Open to licensed drivers, participants must bring their own jeeps or 4x4 trucks, something similar to a Tacoma. Each year, the trail runs a different route, which is decided by a community-led committee.

The jeep tour will leave the West End around 9 a.m. that Saturday, and local Glade Hadden, beloved archeologist, will lead the group with stories, history and culture. His talks are different every year, and tailored to the trail's course. Brown said those who've been on the tour before really enjoy what Hadden brings to the experience.

Participants will be out all day, on Atkinson Mesa this year, past Uraivan. Brown said the trail is moderate, though portions might be "jeepy," or bumpy. Sometimes water crossings happen. There could very well be rocks and rugged areas, since the terrain varies, but Brown said no vehicle modifications are necessary.

At the end of the tour, all come back to town for dinner and eat as a group.

Those joining the tour are from places in the region like Montrose, Craig, Grand Junction, and from as far as Missouri. Brown said a few people return to join the tour every year, and most are out-of-towners. The cut-off remains at 30 vehicles, and that's plenty according to her. As of press time, only those two spaces remained.

This year, the major sponsor of the event is the Halt the Dolores Monument group. The Rimrocker Trail is a mid-level sponsor. Brown said she's grateful for all the support.

She agreed that it's good to get

*Cont. on Pg. 2*

## NORWOOD

### NWC refuses vote on agenda item

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

There's been contention in Norwood meetings the last few months, mostly between the Norwood Sanitation Board and the Norwood Mayor, Candy Meehan. In April, the Norwood Sanitation Board passed a resolution of "no confidence" in the Norwood mayor, since some members believe she's desired to dissolve the sanitation district in the last year.

Sanitation is its own special district, but shares the Norwood Town Manager, as the existing governmental agreement indicates. Sanitation also shares other employees too, from Norwood Public Works.

Previous records indicate the mayor had private conversations with the Town of Norwood's attorney, and the subject of some of those discussions was the sanitation district.

The mayor has repeatedly said she was trying to research what might happen if the sanitation district had a catastrophic event — and what the Town of Norwood's liability might be. She has said that it's her responsibility to be aware of these things.

Still, sanitation district board members — with the exception of Bernice White, who is the chair — are mostly unhappy with the behind-closed-doors meetings that have taken place, and they have said they don't trust the mayor. They've said they need more clear, direct communication. They also don't want taxpayer money to be spent inquiring about the future of their district, while being left out of conversations.

As the rift between the sanitation board and the Norwood mayor has grown, the water commission was in the mix this month too.

On the agenda at the May 14 meeting for the Norwood Water Commission was the item: "Resolution of the Mayor," submitted by Mike Grafmyer. But a resolution of "no confidence" didn't pass in the water commission. It wasn't even voted on. The agenda item was set aside.

Kerry Welch, on the sanitation district board and who is a former mayor for the Town of Norwood, has said she's concerned about the attorney invoice records she's obtained through the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). Welch has said the documents are proof the mayor had conversations about dissolving the district and that she did so before having approval to seek legal counsel.

Welch told the Forum in the last few weeks, she's now doubly concerned because those documents have since been redacted. The details of the town's legal invoices are now blacked out and illegible.

At this point, the Norwood mayor

*Cont. on Pg. 3*



## YOUTH

# Telluride Foundation awards annual college scholarships

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Telluride Foundation has helped students achieve their dream of attending college since its inception in 2000, and this year the foundation awarded a record number of scholarships through its three primary scholarship programs.

At graduation and award ceremonies this spring, the Telluride Foundation awarded almost \$480,000 in scholarships to 37 students.

Scholarships to 2023 Chang Chavkin Scholars included 22 current college students receiving up to \$15,000 per student. This fall, the Chang Chavkin Scholars Program will fund an additional six scholars, as incoming college freshman bring the total number of scholars to 28.

Graduating seniors receiving Chang Chavkin Scholarships include Dilyn Alexander (Norwood) attending the Colorado Mesa University, Ana Asavei (Delta) attending Boston University, Shandra Findley (Montrose) attending University of Colorado-Boulder, Peyton Porter (Norwood) attending Colorado State University with the option to transfer to Cornell University her sophomore year, Angelica Saldin (Telluride) attending California State University-Long Beach, and Tiffany Wu (Montrose) attending Harvey Mudd College.

The Chang Chavkin Scholars Program provides college scholarships, college advising and support to selected high achieving first-generation college students. The scholarship alone provides up to \$60,000 over four years; however, the real aim of the program is to work with students to find the best match school that meets their potential.

"It takes a personalized approach tailored to meet a range of individual needs," said Valene Baskfield, director of the program. "Each year, we gather valuable insights that enable us to fine-tune our program, ensuring it effectively caters to the diverse needs of our scholars, schools, and communities."

Chang Chavkin Scholars receive ongoing college advising and support to ensure they have accurate information and essential resources to attend their best fit school, based on affordability and quality of education. For more information on the Chang Chavkin Scholars Program, the public may visit [changchavkin-scholars.org/](http://changchavkin-scholars.org/).

In addition, the Telluride Foundation awarded two Neil Armstrong Scholarships of \$20,000 each, two Neil Armstrong Merit Scholarships of \$5,000 each and also five \$2,000 Telluride Foundation scholarships.

At KOTO Community Radio's virtual Telluride High School Awards Night on May 21, graduating seniors Angelica Saldin and Loudon Doemland each received the 11th-annual \$20,000 Neil Armstrong Scholarship. Both were selected from a very competitive pool of applicants, and the scholarship committee based their decision on their outstanding academics, strong interest in STEM, perseverance and need.

The scholarship committee also wanted to recognize the STEM achievements of two other Telluride students, awarding them each a \$5,000 Neil Armstrong Merit Scholarship: Jaden Lopez and Samuel O'Dell.

The friends and family of Neil Armstrong created the Neil Armstrong Scholarship Fund to honor the achievements and character of the late American hero and astronaut who died in 2012. The Neil Armstrong Scholarship is awarded each year to a regional high school student pursuing a bachelor of science degree in a STEM field. Students from Telluride, Norwood, Ouray, Ridgway and West End school districts are eligible to apply. New this year, the scholarship committee choose to award a total of four scholarships.

The Telluride Foundation also provides \$2,000 scholarships to recipients who are selected by the administrations of each of the five regional school districts.

Seniors receiving the Telluride Foundation Scholarship include Hannah Browning (Norwood), Steele Arnold (West End), Caleb Crandall (Ouray), Ely Patterson (Ridgway), and Lucy Messier and Aidan Kress (Telluride), who will split the \$2,000 award.

Additionally, the Telluride Foundation partners with several organizations and committees that provide scholarships to deserving students, including the Sparky/Latina and San Miguel Power Association scholarships.

"Our scholarship programs are some of the most rewarding investments the foundation makes in our region, and we are continually inspired by the scholars' passion and commitment to furthering their education," said Jason Corzine, President and CEO of the Telluride Foundation. "We are also grateful for the generous donors who believe in the importance of empowering the next generation of leaders through these scholarship opportunities."

## Correction

In last week's edition, the story "WEEDC requests ambassadors for sustainability plan" failed to mention that Kathy Cooper, the treasurer for the Town of Naturita, was also part of the leadership team directing the West End Sustainability Plan. Additionally, Makayla Gordon, who is the director of West End Economic Development Corporation, said it's important to note that the towns of Naturita, Nucla and Norwood have all bought in with time and money to support the plan.

## History: Rimrocker Historical Society The Gibbs family history, Part 1

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

We have many great stories from the families who came to be a part of the early years of the Colorado Cooperative Company. These people were hard-working, down-to-earth folks who wanted the chance to have a home of their own. The Gibbs family was one of the families to come to Pinon looking for a better life, and they have a great story that has been passed down through the years. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

"At the turn of the century (1900), Frank Gibbs and wife, Cora, and their three little children, Winona (Nona for short), Everett and Etta, were living with Frank's parents in Plankinton, South Dakota, an unhappy arrangement for all concerned.

Cora Hollinsworth started teaching school there as soon as she finished the eighth grade. Frank Gibbs, being a year or two younger than Cora had not yet finished the eighth grade, and went to school to her. He would go early and start the fires for her. Cora taught there for seven years.

Frank and Cora were married in 1889. Nona was born in 1893, Everett in 1895 and Etta in 1897. So now all they needed was to move into their own home where they could raise their own family, bothering no one.

Frank heard about a group of people in Denver, Colorado, who incorporated for the purpose of building a ditch, which was to run from the San Miguel River, two miles above Pinon to Tabeguache Park, to irrigate that thirsty desert. The company being formed was called the Colorado Cooperative Company. People joined it by buying shares in the company. The great majority of the members worked on the ditch, which had to be built from scratch. After the ditch was finished, members would be able to file on the land.

Frank decided to go and invest-



This photo shows the sawmill at Ute c. 1900. (Photo courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

igate, leaving Cora and the children in South Dakota until he could find a home for them. When Frank got to Denver, he liked what he found. He sent for his family and they came to Ute, Colorado, where a sawmill was being built to saw the lumber for the flumes and trestles the ditch would need. A boarding house was also being built, which Cora would run.

Ute, Colorado was a place of incomparable beauty, where the tall pines, blue spruce, shimmering-quaking aspen, serviceberries, chokecherries, chaparral and manzanita grew in tumultuous profusion. In the deep shady places, the lovely blue columbines bloomed, also the tender mushrooms, white on top and pink on the bottom, which Cora loved to eat and the children loved to gather for her. All this was dispersed with springs and creeks, where deep colored rock abounded. Colorado gets its name from this colored rock. In Ute, it was Red Canyon.

Frank was made general manager, which meant that he would

have to go to all the different camps where they were building the ditch. He moved his family from the sawmill at Ute to Pinon, to Shenandoah, back to the sawmill and finally to the park.

Russell was born in Pinon, Colorado.

One day Everett, who was about three years old, came in and asked his mother if he could go down with the other boys and play in the San Miguel River. She wouldn't let him go, but later she missed him, but they couldn't find him anywhere. The whole camp turned out to help look for him, but they couldn't find him. Cora was sick at heart, so she said that she would go to the house and look upstairs once more. As she was turning to go back down the stairs, she glanced to the side and saw his little hand sticking out from under the curtain of the bedding cupboard. He had crawled in on one of the shelves and gone to sleep."

This history of the Gibbs family was written by LeVonne Gibbs Rowley in 1987.

To be continued ...

## Rec stands to lose

Cont. from Pg. 1

out and enjoy the public lands that abound.

"It's good to celebrate what we have," she said. "Everybody is taking the opportunity to get out and enjoy what we have."

Since February, many have been concerned about access to public lands in western Colorado, especially since a national monument is proposed along the Dolores River encompassing hundreds of thousands of acres.

Sean Pond, of Nucla and the leader of the Halt the Dolores Monument group, told the Forum on Monday his group is proud to sponsor the local jeep tour. He said they've showcased the damages that would happen to ranchers, grazing allocations and the mining industry as a whole. He said his group hasn't talked as much about recreation,

jeep trails and side-by-sides.

"We chose to sponsor that to showcase there are so many people in our community that stand to lose, if this monument designation were to happen," he said. "Literally, in this place there are thousands upon thousands of roads and the opportunity for people to get out."

In fact, Pond and his wife, Danielle, rented a side-by-side for Memorial Day and rode 89 miles of trails within the proposed monument boundaries. They saw only one person the entire day. Pond said people need to know the local public lands are not threatened or in danger, and no monument is needed.

He said people need to look to Bear Ears National Monument in Utah, where under the travel management plan, 1 million acres have complete road closures. He said the same thing will happen in western Colorado.

This Saturday, the Ponds are heading to Fruita, since Halt the Dolores Monument is a vendor at the Rock Junction and Rocky Mountain Off-Road Expo, another jeep tour event that celebrates public lands.

Pond added that the momentum for Halt the Dolores Monument feels like it's subsided a bit recently, since the Mesa County Commissioners officially opposed the monument. He said, though, locals can't sit back and relax.

"The proponents are not stopping," he said. "People need to stay energetic and engaged."

The Ponds have another meeting in Cortez coming right up, and they're planning the Aug. 3 event at Mesa County Fairgrounds. There, they want those unsure and undecided to attend, so people can educate themselves on conservation and see that there's a better way than a national monument.



**YOUTH**

# The benefits of a robust 4-H program in your community

By Annika Kristiansen,  
San Miguel Basin 4-H



Iliana Henderson shows her lamb at the San Miguel Basin Fair.  
(Photo by Annika Kristiansen)

Navigating our rapidly changing world takes an inevitable toll on our hearts, bodies and psyches. However, amidst this chaos, our unique rural-scape offers hope in honoring age-old traditions. In the San Miguel Basin, growing 4-H programming embraces change by grounding itself in timeless wisdom, embracing the philosophy that it is a healthy knowledge of practices of old combined with an observant finger on the pulse of what's to come that will continue to light a hopeful path forward for all.

Our local youth carry a unique burden, straddling old-world, rich, rural legacies of agriculture and community solidarity, while navigating the demands of new-world modern technology and individualism. So it is with pride that we announce the simple significance of our local 4-H programming: we are helping our youth, the leaders of tomorrow, make sense of a world that makes no sense at all.

On Sunday, May 19, 4-H members and their parents gathered to sand and paint benches, gun racks and the tool shed at the 10 Ring Gun Club in Nucla. This service, required by the (mostly unaltered since 1902) 4-H manual, highlights the importance of community, and obligation to the world around us amid declining volunteerism in the United States. For 4-H youth, such activities instill empathy, compassion and responsibility, steering them away from social media's inward pull and toward a more connected and symbiotic existence.

The recent surge in 4-H membership and leadership in our community underscores the program's profound impact. As we look forward to summer activities and the San Miguel Basin Fair, we celebrate 4-H's contributions and welcome new participants with open arms.

**Empowering youth through education and leadership**

At the heart of 4-H is a mission to empower youth through hands-on learning and leadership. Our local program offers diverse projects, from agriculture to cake decorating, blending rural traditions with modern innovation. Carefully crafted curriculum merges academic rigor with real-world application, arming young people with exactly what they need to survive and thrive in a fast-changing world: consistency and practicality, but also a fiery curiosity that will enable them to ask the right questions and form the right ideas as the world spins faster and faster.

"Four-H programming allows

juniors to discover and grow their talents in areas otherwise unavailable to them," parent Ken Lukaszewski said. "The ag projects are especially advantageous for youth to learn about their livestock, take responsibility and raise their animals with rigorous procedure and methods which mimic real-life situations for producers in the area. If we give kids a positive experience, they will embrace and exceed our expectations."

**Building stronger communities**

Four-H programs build stronger communities by teaching children the value of joyfully giving back to, and gratefully engaging deeply with, the places and people that support them. This engagement, supported by dedicated volunteers, cultivates unity and shared responsibility and gives youth a sense of their place and unique strengths and roles within the community.

"Four-H has allowed my daughter to build confidence, learn responsibility, accept that actions can have positive and negative consequences, and learn about real-life budgeting," parent Laurel Henderson said. "It teaches commitment and shows young people what it feels like to be part of a community. Families, kids, neighbors, parents and community members all work together for the betterment of our youth, and it is a gift to be a part of. I can't imagine our town without it."

Four-H empowers youth to take on leadership roles, fostering a new generation of community leaders. Programming, which emphasizes skill development across diverse projects, facilitates networking among members, volunteers and involved community members, promoting collaboration and resource sharing.

Welcoming members from various backgrounds, 4-H celebrates diversity, belonging and acceptance. Its activities and events raise public awareness, showcase youth talents, and highlight community achievements, enhancing visibility, pride and engagement.

**Volunteer opportunities and community involvement**

Volunteers are the backbone of 4-H, essential to the programs' success. The San Miguel Basin seeks to expand programming and invites community members to consider the following volunteer roles: project leaders in areas like agriculture, science, arts or technology to lead groups or workshops, especially for cooking, baking, fiber arts, woodworking, gardening or livestock; club leaders to oversee 4-H clubs, organize monthly meetings, coordinate activities, and support members; and event coordinators to manage logistics, planning and execution of events, activities and competitions.

Longtime local 4-H leader, Cimmy Alexander has seen how 4-H has made a difference for the region's young people.

"Volunteering with 4-H is a deeply rewarding experience, allowing individuals to have a significant impact on the lives of young people," Alexander said. "We all love this place we call home, and supporting the next generation who will also call this place home is one of the best ways to express that love."

For more information on how to get involved, the public may contact the 4-H office or visit the website. Annika Kristiansen can be reached at [annikak@sanmiguelcountyco.gov](mailto:annikak@sanmiguelcountyco.gov) or 970-327-4393, ext. 2, at the Colorado State University-Extension Office.

## NWC refuses vote

Cont. from Pg. 1

has been legally advised not to speak to certain members of the sanitation district board. Meehan said the documents that are in question are protected by attorney-client privilege. The mayor also told the Forum

recently she couldn't comment or say anything else about the matter at this time.


As of press time, the signed inter-governmental agreement that all three entities — Norwood Sanitation District, the Norwood Water Com-

mission and the Town of Norwood — are looking for to help settle some of their concerns has not been located. Though it apparently exists at the state level, it's missing there too. A signed copy is needed for the three boards to move forward.

# San Miguel Basin Forum

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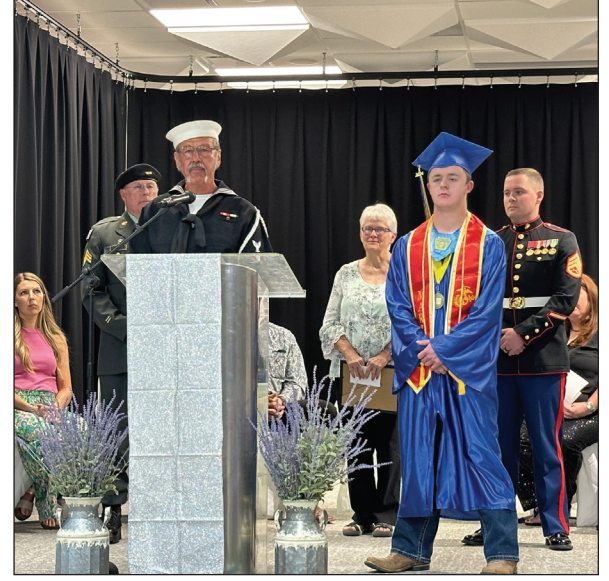
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## Nucla's 2024 graduation



**Top left:** Dradell Ketchum escorts Carmen Goodsell for the ceremony.  
**Top Right:** Hemmy O'Brien will join the U.S. Marines.  
**Left:** Paige Spor is honored with the Al and Joyce Johnston Scholarship.  
**Above:** JW Nasland gets ready for his diploma.  
(Photos by Debbie Wytulka)



**A HUGE SHOUT OUT**

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

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

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

Cont. from Pg. 1

and Richardson said the Tabeguache Trail Riders are planning to do the same this year.

She said all in the community

are welcome to come to the arena, whether they're horse people or not. She said all are invited to spectate, cheer on friends and family and grab dinner.

Anyone with questions, or who'd like to know more about the club should find Richardson on Facebook and like the club's Facebook page.

# Nucla Middle/High School

Cont. from Pg. 1

receiving her Colorado State FFA Degree in Pueblo next month.

Additionally, school administration said they are proud to announce that Merrilee Gallagher will be participating in a Pinhead Internship, through the Pinhead Institute, which is an affiliate of the Smithsonian. A handful of "Pinterns" are selected throughout the region for the prestigious program each year, following their junior years of high school. Gallagher will be traveling to Decatur, Texas, to intern at Outlaw Equine Hospital & Rehab Center. There, she will be working with a team of expert equine professionals learning about what it means to rehabilitate horses at a state-of-the-

art facility that also focuses on the science of reproduction too.

The culmination of the 2023-24 school year came fully with the graduation ceremony. Over the weekend, 20 students walked across the stage and will now begin the next chapter of their lives, pursuing degrees, joining the military and entering the workforce. Five seniors earned a total of \$315,790 dollars in scholarships and grants and will be applying these funds to their chosen colleges this fall.

Nucla High School celebrates the following honors, and these levels are based on the students' cumulative grade point averages (GPA): summa cum laude is a GPA of 4.0 or higher, magna cum laude is a GPA of 3.70-3.99 and cum laude is a GPA

of 3.50-3.69. Shania Joseph and Keiran Bray both graduated summa cum laude, and Hemmy O'Brien graduated cum laude.

O'Brien is also joining the U.S. Marines, and was celebrated on stage during the ceremony.

The administration and staff remain proud of the students at Nucla Middle and High School.

"We have an amazing group of students and are very fortunate to be able to celebrate all of their accomplishments," the administration said over the weekend. "Our staff and school are doing an excellent job of preparing our students for their futures, and we wish all of our graduating seniors the best in their future endeavors."



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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.*



### Basin Clinic

For all your medical needs, call Basin Clinic to schedule your appointment.

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

421 Adams Street, Naturita, Colorado (970) 865-2665

Mary Kus, FNP · Carol Scott PA-c  
 Tiffany Ordoñez, MD – Medical Director  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024**

The **Voter Service Polling Center** located in the **NATURITA COMMUNITY LIBRARY - 107 West Main St, Naturita** is able to assist with all election services during the following hours:

Saturday, June 22 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
 Monday, June 24 - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
 Election Day Tuesday, June 25 - 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

**24/7 (Video Surveillance) MAIL BALLOT DROP BOX  
 NUCLA ANNEX CLERK & RECORDER'S OFFICE  
 300 Main Street, Nucla**

**Montrose County Clerk & Recorder's Elections Office  
 317 South 2nd Street, Montrose, Colorado 81401  
 (970) 249-3362 ext. 3 elections@montrosecounty.net**

Colorado unaffiliated voters are eligible to vote in Primary Elections. Unaffiliated voters will receive both Major Political Parties' ballots, but may cast a ballot for only one.

All voted mail ballots must be **RECEIVED** in the office of the Montrose County Clerk & Recorder by 7:00 p.m. on **Election Day Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

To track your voted ballot visit [www.BallotTrax.com](http://www.BallotTrax.com)

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum May 29, 2024

# West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

**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

**5/9/2024**

0655 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for an animal problem.

0853 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35000 block of 3590 Road near Redvale for a welfare check.

1037 Hours - Deputy recovered a stolen vehicle in the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita.

1132 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 58 near Naturita for found property.

1520 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of Main Street in Naturita.

1601 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 98 near Norwood for an agency assist.

2237 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a 911.

1 school zone

**5/10/2024**

0929 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 5500 block of U Road near Paradox for an animal problem.

1659 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 800 block of Elm Street in Naturita.

2206 Hours - Richard Krafka, 69, was contacted in the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

2217 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29700 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a traffic complaint. Calvin Sutherland, 20, was contacted and issued a warning for speeding.

**5/11/2024**

1219 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

1326 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of 3575 Road and Highway 145 near Redvale for a motorist assist.

1804 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for an assault report.

2253 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Cascade Circle in Naturita for a welfare check.

2316 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 26600 block of 2700

Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

1 directed patrol in County

**5/12/2024**

1042 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 105 near Norwood for an animal problem.

1108 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of EE22 Road and Y11 Road near Naturita for a traffic hazard.

1145 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 40300 block of Highway 145 near Norwood for an animal problem.

1644 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 141 and V19 Road near Naturita for an accident.

1 follow up report

3 directed patrols in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

**5/13/2024**

0843 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 2700 block of Highway 90 near Paradox for a criminal mischief report. Seth Quirova, 21, was cited for defacing, destroying monument or landmark.

1104 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Montana Way in Nucla for a medical assist.

1909 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of West First Avenue and Adams Street in Naturita for a traffic complaint.

1928 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street in Naturita for a disturbance.

1938 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for a civil matter.

2012 Hours - Deputy recovered

stolen property in the 100 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita.

2305 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Pine Street in Naturita for a disturbance.

2 follow up reports

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in County

**5/14/2024**

1435 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Payson Street in Naturita for an information report.

1950 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a noise complaint.

2015 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for a trespassing report.

2038 Hours - Christian Linville, 21, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 4 near Nucla and issued a warning for expired registration.

2 VIN inspections

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

**5/15/2024**

1239 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1303 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1605 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a protection order violation. Richard Van Dellen, 61, was arrested on an outstanding warrant and for violating a protection order.

2308 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla to relay a message.

1 school zone

3 VIN inspections

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education of the West End Public School District is accepting applications from persons interested in serving on the Board of Education from the date of appointment in June 2024 until the next regular biennial school election in November 2025. To be eligible for appointment, each candidate must be a registered elector of the school district for at least twelve consecutive months prior to the date of appointment.

Any person who meets the qualifications and who desires to be considered for the appointment is invited to file a written notice of such intention with the secretary of the Board of Education by (June 20th at 9:00 a.m.) at West End School 224 W. 4th Ave. Nucla, CO. The Board will interview prospective candidates on June 20th at 6:00 p.m. at a public meeting. For further information, contact Shari Nelson at 970-864-7350 /224 W 4th Ave. Nucla, CO / snelson@westendschools.org.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum May 29, June 5, & 12, 2024



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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	2.25-2.38	800-900# HEIFERS	1.90-2.10
Top bulls	1.45-1.50high of 1.60	Medium bulls	1.40-1.44
Young Cows	1.45-1.82	Top cows	1.20-1.48
Medium cows	1.10-1.22	Low-yielding cows	1.00below

**NEXT WEEK:** Special sheep & goat sale. 30 boar x kid goats, 20 nannies, 12 mixed feeders, 5 older pairs, 14 butcher cows, 9 butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 100-200.

**UP COMING SALES**  
**JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> -NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE :** 1 jack; 1 team of mules, 10 geldings, 1 1995 trail west bumper pull with tack room. A lot of tack expected so we will **start early 9:30 a.m.**  
**SUMMER SALE SCHEDULE**

Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Cattle Sale  
 Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Cattle Sale  
 Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> Special sheep & goat sale, along with regular cattle sale.  
 No sale June 27  
 No sale July 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup> Regular sale  
 No sale July 18  
 Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> Special Goat and Sheep Sale Along with Regular Cattle Sale

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# 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](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.

## NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL IS HIRING

- Spanish/English Language Learner Teacher
- 4th Grade Teacher
- 5th 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".

### 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.**

## SUBSCRIBE

### SAN MIGUEL BASIN FORUM

### Montrose & San Miguel Counties:

\$45.00/year

### Everywhere Else:

\$55.00/year

## 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

## Fun Corner

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: FICTIONAL FATHERS

### ACROSS

- Ice cream treat, pl.
- Albanian money

- Desertlike
- Like Bananas Foster
- Paleozoic \_\_\_\_
- O. Henry's specialty
- Printer brand

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			

- Always, to a poet
- Extended family member
- \*"Breaking Bad" father
- \*"The Lion King" father
- Unit of length of yarn
- "\_\_\_\_ Me Maybe"
- \*\_\_\_\_ Anderson, he knew best?
- The Supremes, e.g.
- Subject matter, pl.
- Same as ayah
- Plural of #14 Across
- Like less processed grain
- Kind of shark
- U.S. Airline
- Short for "and elsewhere"
- Opposite of digest
- Flabbergast
- Like Gulf Stream
- Most achy
- Not much (2 words)
- Reggae's cousin
- Rapunzel's abundance
- Maintenance closet staple
- \*\_\_\_\_ Rock of "Everybody Hates Chris"
- \*"Finding Nemo" father
- Golfer's sun protection
- Aloha prop
- Only daughter of Michael Jackson
- Not active
- Emergency Medical Services

- In the cooler (2 words)
- \*Opie's father
- Egyptian boy king, for short
- Button on electrical outlet

- Carl Jung's inner self
- Casual top
- T, in Greek
- Lethargy
- Speck in the list ocean
- Heathrow craft
- Same as ner genie
- Pre-owned
- Atomizer output
- Van Gogh's famous flower
- On Santa's gift
- Roman road
- Down Under run-
- Group of dishes

### DOWN

- Nth degree
- Not many
- Turkish money
- Online trouble-maker
- Mike Brady's children, e.g.
- Malicious look
- Before, in the olden days
- Culture Club 1983 hit "\_\_\_\_ Chameleon"
- Solo at LaScala
- Fish eggs, pl.
- Cuzco valley empire
- Yellow #5, e.g.
- Stream of revenue
- Dog-\_\_\_\_ pages
- Final, abbr.
- Medicated shampoo ingredient (2 words)
- \*\_\_\_\_ Evans Sr. of "Good Times"
- Idealized image
- "Prepare to meet your \_\_\_\_!"
- Wraths
- Exclamation in a stinky room
- Smidgins
- \*"National Lampoon" father
- 1965 march site
- Garden staple
- Half a ticket

### Solution to Last Week's Crossword

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

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

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

Solution to Last Week's Sudoku

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

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**MONTROSE COUNTY MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
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**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  
411 WEST 2ND AVE NATURITA**



Join us at the 85<sup>th</sup> San Miguel Power Association  
**Annual Meeting**  
Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>



**Energizing  
our Future**

► **In Person: 4:30 PM**    ► **Virtual: 5:30 PM**

SMPA Nucla Office  
170 West 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.

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