

San Miguel Basin Forum

EVENTS

Water Days is June 28-29

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Water Days, a two-day event, happens June 28-29 this year, and the festivities begin with a Main Street block party in Nucla at 6 p.m. that Friday. The Water Days committee — made up of Tina Carver, Linda Adkins and Dana Saxton — have gotten a street closure approved through the town from 4th to 5th Avenue.

That evening will feature live music with the 3-4-9 Band, and the Rimrocker Historical Society will be having their annual ice cream social. Carver told the Forum the Nucla-Naturita Fire Department typically has a barbecue fundraiser too. She added other businesses will be open late.

“We encourage people to bring a lawn chair, sit in the street, listen to music or dance, and have a nice visit with your friends and neighbors,” she said.

This year’s theme for Water Days is “130 years of the Colorado Cooperative Company and 120 years of Water on the Park.”

“B.L. Smith founded the Tabeguache Park in 1894, and the Colorado Cooperative Company was incorporated at that time,” Carver said. “The ditch was finished, and water came to the park on July 4, 1904, 120 years ago, and was celebrated on July 4, 1904 — which is why we celebrate Water Days.”

On June 29, the Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce will do the pancake breakfast at the Nucla Community Center from 7 to 10 a.m.

The parade begins at the usual time Saturday morning, 11 a.m., and this year will feature a car show display afterward, though not judged, in the Nucla Town Park. Chris Daniels is handling that part.

At least three food vendors will be on site for Water Days on Saturday, and arts and crafts tables will be there too. The bounce castle will happen, as will the tradition of the fire department cooling everyone off in the name of celebrating water. The splash pad will of course be running.

Another band, called Slim Pickins, will play in the park that day. The annual horse shoe tournament will be happening at the same time.

The San Miguel Basin Forum is holding a photo contest. All are encouraged to take photos of the 2024 Water Days celebration and to send their best one to the Forum by emailing regantuttle@gmail.com. Action shots are preferred. The best photo will be featured on the front page of the July 3 issue, and the winner will receive a free pizza from Saucy Mama’s, of Nucla.

Fireworks will be shot off at dark on the “N” hill in Nucla.

Cassandra Farmer, of Art at the

Cont. on Pg. 8



As many as, or more than, 550 people attended Senator Michael Bennet’s listening session June 9 in Nucla. (Photo by Regan Tuttle)

MONUMENT

Crowds flock to Nucla for Sen. Bennet’s listening session

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The San Miguel Basin Forum estimates that as many as, or more than, 550 people attended Senator Michael Bennet’s listening session at the Nucla school June 9, regarding the proposed national monument along the Dolores River. There, 400 chairs were stationed and filled, and people lined the sides of the gym walls; others stood in the lobby.

Many of the advocates wore blue T-shirts; most of the opposition wore black.

John Reams moderated the session, drew numbers for ticket holders to speak and ran the three-minute timer.

Sen. Bennet said the large turnout meant democracy wasn’t dead. He thanked the crowd for coming and said he wanted to listen to as many opinions as possible.

Not all ticket holders were afforded a chance to speak, since the meeting stretched to two hours and was finally cut.

Katey Herland, of the West End, voiced concerns about grazing rights being bought back or expiring under monument status. She

said water improvements could be disallowed, and thousands of acre feet for ranchers has already been cut in the Great Basin.

JJ Fletcher, Mesa County Commissioner candidate, said his family came to the region in the 1880s when the Utes and buffalo were here.

“See how well it went for them when the federal government took control?” Fletcher asked. “If we designate, we lose local control. ... We define conservation in so many ways. If we designate, wait and see how many will come and erode

Cont. on Pg. 8

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

O’Brien, Arnold and Gabriel return from all-state baseball games

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Hemmy O’Brien and Steele Arnold played in the Colorado all-state high school baseball games last week, where more than 1,000 kids came together at Riverdale Ridge High School in Thornton, CO. Head coach for the Mustangs Randy Gabriel had submitted recommendations for the two recent Nucla High School graduates, and the Dugout Club did select them. They also slated Gabriel to help coach the all-state games.

Gabriel is a member of the Dugout Club, and he told the Forum the organization runs nearly every-

thing for baseball in Colorado.

O’Brien and Arnold played their first game June 2 with approximately 30 other kids in 1A and 2A baseball. O’Brien had two base hits with RBIs. The guys played again June 3 for the Western Slope team against the Frontier league. Arnold played seven different positions in that game.

On June 5, Arnold also played in the Top 50 game against, and with, the best players in the state — some from 5A schools. Full of players committed to D-1 colleges this fall for baseball, Gabriel said the Top 50 game showcased incredible talent with pitchers throwing at 90 miles an hour or

more.

That game, Arnold played left, right and center outfield. He almost had a great catch, and he did get a hit that game too.

While he met a lot of new people, Arnold also saw friends he’s had for years.

“I met old club teammates, and it was cool to meet and talk to all those guys and figure out where they’ll go,” he said.

The San Miguel Basin Forum congratulated Arnold on his last baseball games, only Arnold said baseball may not be over for him just yet. While he’s signed a commitment to play for Ottawa Uni-

Cont. on Pg. 5

FIRE

Fire season arrives; NNFD works 3 grass fires

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

West End first-responders were on site for three different grass fires the first week of June.

“This annual occurrence is precipitated with green leaves turning brown and unpredictable afternoon winds,” Ken Jenks, local firefighter and EMT, told the San Miguel Basin Forum Monday.

Jenks, a firefighter since 1983, started with Nucla ambulance as an EMS volunteer in 1999, and later joined the Nucla-Naturita Fire Department in 2010.

He told the Forum the first fire of June was in Broad Canyon. The second was in Paradox. About six first-responders went out for each of the calls, and the fires were promptly extinguished.

“In both cases, owners had already done some mitigation, had cleared weeds,” he said. “It would have been worse, if owners had not kept clean yards. Both of them were near structures, and one was near a propane tank.”

While the first two fires were called in, the third involved Fire Chief Bryan Keeton coming back from Grand Junction with others and stopping to help the BLM for a grass fire. That was considered an agency assist situation.

Locally, there’s much mutual aid with the BLM. Jenks agreed the agency is a big resource, as is Norwood Fire Protection District, and sometimes the departments in Gateway and La Sal.

Jenks said fire mitigation is key to saving lives and property.

“Weeding, mowing grass and weeds, removing flammable objects and keeping wood piles neat and tidy can be important,” he said.

He referenced the Moab fire that took place a few years ago, when eight houses were destroyed from a single bottle rocket landing in tall weeds. He added firefighters often feel a bit of stress seeing high fuel loads, weeds and flammable materials, in local West End yards. And, trash barrel fires have burned houses in the West End before, he said.

According to him, the “light and flashy” grass fires are the biggest threats to residents and firefighters and that controlled burns in these parts should really be done in February and March, rather than in summer — though

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Navigating the path of pre-hospital care in rural Colorado

Dear Editor,

In rural Colorado, where the nearest hospital may be hours away, the role of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) is pivotal. In San Miguel County, where the terrain varies from high desert to towering peaks, the training requirements for EMTs are rigorous and varied, reflecting the diverse challenges we face.

In Colorado, EMT training is structured into several levels, each with its own set of responsibilities and training requirements:

1. EMT-Basic (EMT-B): This entry-level certification equips individuals with the fundamental skills needed to provide basic emergency medical care. Training includes up to 195 hours of coursework in anatomy, physiology, medical terminology and hands-on clinical experience.

2. Advanced EMT (AEMT): Building upon the skills acquired at the EMT-Basic level, Advanced EMT training delves deeper into patient assessment and treatment. This level includes additional training in advanced airway management, intravenous (IV) therapy, EKG interpretation and medication administration, and requires additional clinical hours.

3. EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P): The highest level of EMT certification, EMT-Paramedics receive extensive training in advanced medical procedures and interventions. This includes cardiac monitoring, advanced pharmacology and advanced airway management techniques. In total, they spend an additional 1,200 hours in the classroom and in clinical training.

The training requirements for EMT certification in Colorado are overseen by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Key components of the training process include:

1. Completion of an approved training program: Prospective EMTs must complete a state-approved training program corresponding to their desired certification level. These programs are offered by community colleges, vocational schools and other accredited institutions.

2. Clinical experience: Hands-on clinical experience is a crucial aspect of EMT training. Trainees must complete a specified number of clinical hours under the supervision of experienced health care professionals. This hands-on experience allows students to apply their knowledge in real-world settings and develop proficiency in patient care. For Norwood, prospective EMTs and paramedics must complete their clinicals and ride-time hours at Montrose Regional Health and with the Montrose Fire Protection District.

3. National Registry Examination: Following the completion of training, individuals must pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination to become certified. The NREMT exam assesses cogni-

tive knowledge and clinical skills, ensuring that certified EMTs meet national standards of competence.

4. State Licensure: In addition to national certification, EMTs in Colorado must obtain state licensure through the CDPHE. This licensure process may involve submitting proof of training, passing a background check, and fulfilling other state-specific requirements.

Once certified, EMTs must engage in ongoing continuing education to maintain our skills and stay abreast of advances in emergency medical care. Colorado requires EMTs to renew our certifications every two to three years, depending on the certification level, and complete a specified number of continuing education units (CEUs) during each renewal cycle.

To meet the required number of CEUs to maintain our certifications, Norwood EMTs have EMS-specific training once a month, where we run through scenarios, talk through calls and practice skills related to specific health emergencies. In 2023 we logged 765 hours dedicated to EMS training.

Our training doesn't stop there though. Because we are a small department with limited resources, we must all have the skills and knowledge to handle whatever we are paged out to — a vehicle in the river, a vehicle off of Norwood Hill, a hunter injured on the Cone, etc. To keep our rescue skills sharp, we also have fire/rescue training once a month and set aside several Saturdays in the spring to practice working off of Norwood Hill and to practice extrication techniques while simulating patients stuck in vehicles.

Between EMS and fire/rescue training, we logged a total of 1,511 hours last year refining our skills so that we can better serve our community. This is on top of responding to calls (which average at least five hours each if we have to transport to Montrose), attending meetings and conferences, public education and events, working full-time, and maintaining our homes and families.

As our volunteer numbers dwindle, more and more pressure is being placed on a small number of dedicated department members, but the reality is that we are tired and burning out. By voting in favor of our mill levy in the fall, our community would be giving us the opportunity to hire current volunteers as full-time employees with livable wages and hire fresh employees.

The demand for medical services in this area will continue to grow, but we will not be able to continue to meet those demands with our current budget and staffing level. We are at a critical juncture, and our future is now in the hands of the voters.

Shannon Armstrong, NFPD firefighter/EMT and Emergency Manager for San Miguel County
NORWOOD

History: Rimrocker Historical Society Celebrating Nucla for 120 years

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

Over the next few weeks, I will share with you some of the highlights of the history of Nucla, as we come to the culmination of the Water Days celebration of 130 years of the Colorado Cooperative Company and 120 years of finishing the ditch and getting water to Nucla, the founding of this new town.

"The Spell of the Tabeguache," by Ellen Zatterstrom Peterson, is a great book about the beginnings of Nucla. Ellen was born in 1888 in Minnesota and came with her family to Pinon in 1900 as part of the original Colorado Cooperative Company pioneers. She writes, "It was my father who came under the spell of the Tabeguache. It had him by remote control long before he had ever set foot upon the enchanted land. My mother, on the other hand, set up a resistance which only direct exposure was able to break down. How my father contracted the enchantment is still a mystery. Possibly he got it from his friend, S. P. Rosenquist in St. Paul, who was similarly smitten; or, perhaps, it was blown north-eastward by the prevailing winds and, finding his pioneer heart susceptible, lodged there. More likely, however, it was carried by the Altrurian that he learned about the C. C. Company, as it was popularly called."

She goes on to tell of a group of 10, nine men and one woman, who met at the home of Charles E. Smith in Denver in 1893 and who were the founders of the company. The company was incorporated on Feb. 16, 1894, under the laws of Colorado, with the main headquarters established in Denver. A board of nine directors was elected: Judge P. A. Simmons, state senator; Cora Glasgow Smith; Charles E. Smith; Truman O. Smith; Hon. F. E. Moody; C. B. Cramer, state engineer; J. H. Brammeier, organizer of the state Farmer's Alliance of Colorado; Henry Walker; and J. S. Bartow. All were the original founders, as well as Ben L. Smith, but he was not elected to the board. The company issued stock in the amount of 1,000 shares at the par value of \$100 per share. Only one share of stock was to be issued to a member, giving him one vote, and no more, regardless of his stake in the company.

Ellen Z. Peterson continues to write, "B. L. Smith, who in the summer of 1894 set out with team and wagon, in search of a spot with enough irrigable land to support a good-sized community, found no suitable tract east of the Rockies.



This photo shows Ellen Zatterstrom Peterson, author of "The Spell of the Tabeguache." (Photo courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

... Finally, in a remote section not far from the Utah line, he was directed by settlers to Tabeguache Park as a possible site.

"The park was actually a mesa containing thousands of acres of sagebrush-covered land sloping to the south. Lying several hundred feet above the San Miguel River, it overlooked the entire San Miguel Basin, stretching eastward to the snow-capped San Juans, southward over wooded mesas to the stately Lone Cone, then westward to the blue La Sals in Utah. To the north the timbered slopes of the Uncompahgre Plateau formed a blue-green backstop. No person beholding this panorama of grandeur needed any sorcery to induce a spell of enchantment. Mr. Smith knew he had found the 'promised land.'

"When a preliminary survey showed that the park could be irrigated by a canal taken out of the San Miguel River 13 miles above, the members were unanimous in the decision to make this their

project.

"Mr. B. L. Smith proved his faith in the Tabeguache Park by being the first to move into the area. In the fall of 1894, he moved his family to Naturita, a small settlement on the San Miguel River at the foot of the park. Here the first camp was established. By the end of the year, most of the membership, which now numbered about 20, had moved to the Naturita Camp."

This would be the beginning of the building of the ditch. It would not be until the 4th of July, 1904, when the water would reach the park and the colonists would celebrate their success and begin building the Town of Nucla. The 10 years that it took was full of hardship and success, but the determination of these folks was real.

"The Spell of the Tabeguache," by Ellen Zatterstrom Peterson, can be purchased (for \$10, plus shipping) at the museum in Nucla, at the Visitor Center in Naturita, as well as at www.rimrocker.org.

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West End winner

Jim Link congratulates Tom Loczy on winning the District 1 seat in the San Miguel Power Association board member election. (Courtesy image)

POLITICS

Civility big topic for West End Dems

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Civility in politics was a big theme for a new organization, the West End Dems of San Miguel and Montrose Counties, as they held a candidate meet-and-greet session at the Lone Cone Library in Norwood June 8. With a fair number of uncommitted voters among the more than 70 people who attended, the nine candidates spoke about trying to bridge the partisan divide that's become so huge in this country.

Democrat Adam Frisch, running unopposed for Colorado's third congressional district in the June 25 primary, said politicians have to move past what he called "anger-tainment" and talk to people in the center.

Frisch drew laughter when he quipped, "It's hard to be a flaming moderate," going on to say, "85 percent of the country is between the two 40 yard lines, and I can guarantee you that after 50-thousand miles of talking to people, there's a lot of people who just feel left out of the conversation."

Almost 42 percent of registered voters in the 3rd District are unaf-

filiated with either party, and other speakers at the event joined Frisch in stressing the need to reach out to them.

"We're working together on things we're passionate about," said Norwood Town Mayor Candy Meehan, who is running as an uncommitted candidate for the San Miguel County Board of Commissioners.

"We are willing to look past our differences to build common ground," said Democrat Galena Gleason, running against Meehan for the commissioner seat.

Kathleen Curry, running for Colorado State Legislative House District 58, noted political divisiveness is a big problem, not just in Washington D.C., but also at the state level in Denver.

"The citizens, at least the ones in western Colorado, have about had it with all of the nonsense," she said.

Among the unifying issues the candidates identified as their top priorities were ensuring that Colorado's Western Slope will have sufficient water to meet future needs, providing affordable housing in areas where property values have

skyrocketed and improving the quality of rural health care.

Curry has a degree from Colorado State University in water resources and management and works as a lobbyist for water utilities.

"We need legislation to protect our interests," she said, as states along the Colorado River struggle to negotiate new agreements to reduce water usage and maintain the river's health.

"This is the number one issue that affects both of us in southern and western Colorado," echoed Frisch, who pointed out that Colorado, with eight U.S. representatives, is badly outnumbered compared to California, the biggest consumer of Colorado River water, with 52 representatives. As for Colorado, "Who do you want sitting in that seat?" he asked.

Primary day for both Democrats and Republicans is June 25. Ballots were mailed out to voters earlier this month by the Secretary of State's office. The West End Dems say that as the election season heats up, they plan to stage more events for people in the rural parts of San Miguel and Montrose Counties.



The West End Dems met June 8 in Norwood. (Courtesy image)

San Miguel Basin Forum

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All-state baseball



Head coach for the Nucla Mustangs Randy Gabriel stands with Hemmy O'Brien, Kelly Arnold and Steele Arnold at the Colorado high school baseball all-state games in Thornton. (Courtesy image)

Cont. from Pg. 1

iversity in Ottawa, Kansas, this fall for basketball, there is now a chance that he can play baseball there too.

"I would definitely do it," he said.

When the Ottawa baseball coach returns home from the college world series this week, he'll know more.

Gabriel, who also coached the Top 50 game, said the all-state game experience was a great one. He knows many of the coaches, like Rocky Rockwell from Limon, who's been to four straight championships, and Dayne Eaton, of Holly.

"The baseball crew is close," he said. "It's like a fraternity, and we are there for the kids. And, it's less stressful than some other sports."

Gabriel added he's grateful to Kelly Arnold for taking this year's all-state players around during their childhoods to play club baseball. He said those experiences provided an avenue for the guys.

Arnold agreed he was grateful that he worked hard in his younger years, and his advice to aspiring players is to play summer baseball and join club. He said it's worth it.

"It could be a pretty penny, but if you want that exposure, and to hang with those guys, you have to be able to play at that higher level," he said. "If you don't play summers, you could stay stagnant."

Arnold confirmed he and O'Brien are great friends. O'Brien leaves for the U.S. Marines July 8.

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NNTC currently has in service 2 Emergency phones, one at the Uravan Ball Park and one at Mesa Creek near the intersection of Rimrock Trail and Highway 141, with more to be installed soon.

Gateway-Unawep Fire Department is currently working with CDOT to provide signage along the Highway in Mesa County for each Emergency 911 Phone Box.

NNTC is providing this complimentary service within our service area to help Montrose and Mesa County First Responders to get to accident and fire scenes quicker.



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600-700# STEERS	2.65-2.80	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
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Young Cows	1.45-1.82	Top cows	1.28-1.51
Medium cows	1.10-1.22	Low-yielding cows	1.00below

Please remember to take baby animals home as soon as possible, especially in this summer heat.

NEXT WEEK: Thursday June 13th Regular Cattle Sale. 4 - 2 week old baby calves, 5 bred cows, 6 pair, 8 grass calves, 10 butcher cows & 9 butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 100-200.

SUMMER SALE SCHEDULE

Remember this sale has been moved up 1 week. We will be taking the June 27th and July 4th off.

Thursday June 20th Special sheep & goat sale, along with regular cattle sale.

No sale June 27

No sale July 4th

Thursday July 11th Regular sale

No sale July 18

Thursday July 25th Special Goat and Sheep Sale Along with Regular Cattle Sale

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West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

5/22/2024

0803 Hours - Deputy conducted court security in the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla.

0957 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1003 Hours - Cory Dozier, 39, was arrested in the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla on an outstanding warrant.

1557 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla.

2251 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a theft report.

1 VIN inspection

5/23/2024

0729 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1000 block of Montana Street in Nucla for a report of suspicious activity.

1027 Hours - Jessica Wilhelm, 18, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 3 near Nucla and issued a warning for speeding.

1111 Hours - Patricia Taber, 54, was contacted 1100 block of Cedar Avenue in Naturita and cited for driving with a suspended driver's license.

1309 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Porter Street in Naturita for an agency assist.

1515 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 90 mm 18 near Naturita for a fire.

1623 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35900 block of Highway 145 near Redvale for a civil matter.

2300 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 90 and 600 road near Paradox for a welfare check.

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

5/24/2024

1303 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a traffic complaint.

1332 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an accident. Louise Barker, 59, was cited for careless driving.

1457 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Ivy Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

1616 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of West Seventh Avenue and Heron Street in Nucla for an abandoned vehicle.

1806 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main

Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

2106 Hours - Deputy was dis-

patched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a dis-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Senator Bennet's listening session

Dear Editor,

Sunday's meeting was well attended. The system for taking turns worked rather well, and both sides had plenty of speakers. Although a lot of people did get a chance to speak, not enough time was available for everyone to have their voices heard. For a democracy to work well, both sides have to come together, talk things through and reach agreements. For a democracy to become a fallacy, one overpowering side rams their ideas and views down the other's throat.

Here on the Western Slope, the reality of that has come true. Our voices here in the West End are easily put aside. Statewide voting has a direct effect on the locals. The majority of the people in Colorado live on the Eastern Slope. The other part of the population lives in Grand Junction or Montrose. They get to decide what happens in our backyard.

People come to visit this area and see something they like. Then they decide to move here because of that. They moved away from where they were living because they didn't like it anymore. Now they want to change it into something that was lost from where

they were before. In so doing, they are now causing that which they were seeking to become lost.

I did not get a chance for my voice to be heard. I speak not only for myself, but for others as well. They have given me permission to voice their choice as well.

I speak for the Tabeguache Trail Riders, a horse-loving club that was established in the 1970s. Our organization stands at over a hundred voices.

I speak for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Uranium Post 9058. We were chartered in 1947. Our membership is small but mighty at 22.

I speak for myself and my family. Like many other families here, my great-grandparents pioneered this area in the 1890s.

Do not come here and force us, who have been here longer than you have been alive, to change our way of life just because it suits you!

Our voices are unified. We do not want, nor need, a national monument.

John D. Reed, pioneering family, Quartermaster/Adjutant VFW Uranium Post 9058, VP Tabeguache Trail Riders NUCLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

BASIN CLINIC, INC. NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION OF DIRECTORS BOARD VACANCY

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO ELECT DIRECTORS

Basin Clinic, Inc. will hold its annual meeting and election of Directors on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Nucla Hopkins Field, located at 27696 DD Rd, Nucla, Colorado (Zoom attendance available by emailing Christina Pierce, cpierce@basinclinic.org). **Two Directors' positions are up for election and will serve a three-year term.**

Nominations may be made by writing a letter of intent to serve on the Board for the Basin Clinic, Inc. In order to be nominated for director you must be a registered voter and a member/user of Basin Clinic, Inc.

Such letters must be delivered to the office at the Basin Clinic, Inc. or mailed to P.O. Box 14, Naturita, CO 81422. They must be received by Basin Clinic, Inc. on or before 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 21, 2024.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum June 5, 12, & 19, 2024

SAN MIGUEL BASIN FORUM PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your best photo of 2024 Water Days to San Miguel Basin Forum at regantuttle@gmail.com. Winner will be published front-page July 3 and win a free pizza from Saucy Mama's.



PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF NATURITA - AMENDING ORDINANCE 212 SECTION VI-1-6 CONCERNING FENCES

Passed and adopted May 28, 2024

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum June 12, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE**NOTICE OF BUDGET-PUBLICATION 22-44-109, C.R.S
NOTICE OF PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of West End Public Schools, RE-2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and has been filed in the district office located at 225 W. 4th Avenue in Nucla, CO 81424 where it is available for public inspection. Such proposed budget will be considered for adoption at the regular meeting of the Board of Education of said District at the West End Public School library on June 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Any person paying school taxes in said District, may at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget, file or register his/her objections thereto.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

West End Public Schools RE-2
Clint Wytulka
Superintendent

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum June 12, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION**

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety proposes to approve Technical Revision Application No. 25 (TR-25) for the New Horizon North Mine (Permit No. C-2010-089), submitted by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC submitted a Technical Revision, TR-25, to incorporate the as-built for the Garvey and Company Pond 1 into the permit.

The New Horizon North Mine is a/an surface coal mine located in Montrose County, approximately 2.5 miles NW of Nucla. Coal interest is private, and the surface affected is private land. The permit area encompasses approximately 234.60 acres.

This proposed decision is based on a finding of whether the proposed operation will comply with all requirements of the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act, Section 3433101, et seq., C.R.S., and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

The revision application, as well as all other permit documents, can be viewed at <https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx> by searching C2010089 in the "Permit No" field. A user guide is available to help first time users of the imaged document system and can be viewed at https://drive.google.com/file/d/118OUdf_Mpjo3kxIHKp5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view.

Persons with an interest that may be adversely affected by the proposed decision may request a formal hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board on the proposed decision. Such request must be made within ten (10) days of the date following initial publication of this notice, must be in writing, and must state with reasonable specificity the reasons for the request and the objections to the proposed decision.

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St, Rm 215
Denver CO 80203
303-866-3567

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum June 12, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION**

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has issued a proposed decision to approve Bond Release Application No. 4 (SL-4) for the New Horizon North Mine, Permit No. C-2010-089. The Division proposes to approve Phase I release on 35.2 acres. 34 acres were back-filled and graded in the western, southern and eastern portions of the permit area to support the post mining land use of dryland pasture. The remaining 1.2 acres are associated with a light use road and a discharge pipe underneath AA Road in the southwestern permit area that are approved to remain as permanent post mining features at the request of the landowners. The Division also proposes to approve the Phase II and Phase III release on 1.2 acres associated with the light use road and discharge pipe underneath AA Road in the southwestern portion of the permit area. The surface operation is operated by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC under the provisions of the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act of 1979. The bond release application was submitted by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC on January 11, 2024. Elk ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC is requesting Phase I bond release on 34 acres of reclaimed sediment control structures. Phase I, Phase II and Phase III bond release requests were also made for 1.2 acres associated with a light use road and a discharge pipe that routes water under AA Road and are permitted to remain as permanent structures to support the current post-mining land use. The affected area is located in Montrose County, approximately 2.5 miles Northwest of Nucla.

Copies of the proposed decision are available for review at <https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx> by searching C2010089 in the "Permit No" field. A user guide is available to help first time users of the imaged document system and can be viewed at https://drive.google.com/file/d/118OUdf_Mpjo3kxIHKp5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view.

Any person who has an interest which is or may be adversely affected may request an adjudicatory hearing regarding this proposed decision. Requests for a hearing must be made in writing within thirty (30) days of the date following initial publication of this notice, and shall state with reasonable specificity the reasons for the request and objections to the proposed decision.

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St, Rm 215
Denver CO 80203
303-866-3567

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum June 12 & 19, 2024

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

**West End Montrose County
Sheriff's Office Blotter**

turbance.

2339 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 31400 block of EE26 Road near Naturita.

1 VIN inspection

1 directed patrol in Nucla

3 directed patrols in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

1 civil process attempted/served

5/25/2024

0603 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 105 near Norwood for an accident.

0922 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29000 block of 3000 Road near Nucla for an animal problem.

1159 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a welfare check.

1351 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for an agency assist.

1703 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31700 block of FF31 Road near Naturita for a fire.

1944 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of DD31 Road and DD30 Road near Nucla for a traffic complaint.

2150 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for an information report.

1 VIN inspection

1 follow up report

1 directed patrol in Nucla

2 directed patrols in County

5/26/2024

0126 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31400 block of EE26 Road near Naturita for a disturbance.

0513 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35600 block of Highway 145 near Redvale for suspicious activity.

1119 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a harassment report.

1146 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a traffic complaint.

1251 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a trespassing report.

1337 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a harassment report.

1521 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 88 near Naturita for an accident.

1754 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a welfare check. Joe Norris, 37, was arrested for second degree assault and disorderly conduct.

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in County

5/27/2024

1340 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of West Seventh Avenue and Grape Street in Nucla for suspicious activity.

2140 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a harassment report. Rudi Barbee, 62, was cited for light trespass.

5/29/2024

1155 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a theft report.

1542 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West

Main Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

1830 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31400 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for an alarm.

2106 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Fox Street in Nucla for suspicious activity.

5/30/2024

0948 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for suspicious activity.

1130 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 900 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a criminal mischief report.

1733 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a civil matter.

2031 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a disturbance.

1 VIN inspection

1 directed patrol in Nucla

2 directed patrols in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

1 civil process attempted/served

5/31/2024

1235 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Nucla for an abandoned vehicle.

1618 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of West Fourth and West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for an abandoned vehicle.

1823 Hours - Deputy conducted a motorist assist in the 400 block of Main Street in Nucla.

1841 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

2002 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a traffic complaint.

2353 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of 3575 Road and Highway 145 near Redvale for an animal problem.

1 civil process attempted/served

HUGE YARD SALE IN REDVALE, CO

Starts this Friday, June 7th, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Will continue until everything's sold. Lots of kitchen items, gardening equipment, and tools, both new and used. Located at 35154 3575 Rd Redvale, CO. Turn south at post office and follow the signs.

L-2TC

NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL IS HIRING

- Spanish/English Language Learner Teacher
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- Paraprofessionals (1/2 or Full-time)
- Activity Driver

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".

- **Small Bus Drivers (Non-CDL Bus Driver Position)**

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."

47-8TC

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

**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



Aimee Tooker asked Sen. Bennet to honor the commitment the state has made to the West End. (Photo by Regan Tuttle)

Listening session

Cont. from Pg. 1

what we have. ... Leave it alone, or support the NCA (national conservation area)."

Aimee Tooker, of the West End, said there's a house bill declaring a moral commitment to the local community for a "just and inclusive" move away from the coal industry. She said there's an action plan and a committee, so the West End can drive itself.

"We don't want to be force-fed a single-recreation economy," she said. "Or wiped off the map. ... Please honor the commitment the state has made to this community."

Ron Hanks, Colorado Republican Representative, said the area will stay better protected and preserved if it's not a monument.

"Nobody locks up land better than the federal government," he said. "Like the timber, they lock it up and watch it burn. ... It's a 30x30 globalist land grab."

African-American Michael Graves, who grew up in the West End, said no locals want a monument.

"These monuments destroy," he said. "Monuments direct people with a big neon sign to come here in masses."

He suggested if advocates want to protect or save something, they should do work on the Front Range, where urban sprawl is creeping into the plains and development is out of control.

"The Front Range consumes everything," he said.

Paul Koski, of the West End, asked for the senator not to turn the area into another Moab.

"Put a pause on the monument proposal," he said.

Curtis McCracken, candidate for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, said the Antiquities Act should be repealed. He said monuments should be designated by Congress, rather than the president.

Tony Daranyi, of Norwood, said he's confused.

"I don't really understand how it is we even got here," he said. "There's been no planning involved in the designation of this monument. ... Bennet, you're at the tail end of a process that never existed."

He added the monument proposal should be looked at like a development proposal. He said the infrastructure — highways, EMS and water — can't support a national monument.

Many from the advocacy were from places like Cortez, Durango, Montrose and the Front Range. Jim Ramey, a wilderness advocate, said

he's worried about the landscape and wants to bring permanent protections.

Tia Lato, a self-described "Gen Z" voter and who said she worked to get Bennet elected, said the Dolores River Canyon is a special place. She wants to see all people have the opportunity to enjoy it. She wants Bennet to help create a sustainable future for young people like her.

A representative from the Great Old Broads for Wilderness said that the people of the West End would have the ability to write their own alternative management plan under monument status. She said the existing BLM management plan is outdated anyway, possibly from 1995, and needs updated.

Charlie Seevers, of Montrose but a Nucla graduate, said people are coming to the West End — regardless. He said crowds will find the local area.

"What made this place so great is that it was so isolated," he said about his childhood in West Montrose County.

Seevers said the land needs protected now. He also said he'll have to see how many West End friends he has left, after coming out as an advocate, but he does support a national monument.

Others advocating for a monument said that the BLM is seeing increased use and that a monument could help plan with signage, resources, ecological monitoring and thoughtful planning for recreation, along with managing visitors.

Several people living in close proximity to Canyon of the Ancients said they were pleased with their local monument. They said over-development hadn't happened, and that the area is mostly used by locals.

Bennet ended the session after two hours. He told the crowd he didn't want the West End to turn into another Moab. He said he wouldn't support a monument that affected grazing or people's water rights and that he was on the agriculture committee in Washington, D.C. He complimented the beauty of the new Nucla school and said he was pleased that a rural area was able to see such improvement.

Regarding a national monument, he suggested seeing "where we can get" and "how far it can go."

He said it's about finding "a way to do our job together, what this all ought to look like, if we work together ... or leave things as they are."



Representing the San Miguel Basin

Students from Nucla and Norwood traveled to Pueblo for the state FFA conference last week. This photo shows Keiran Bray (center), with Grace Harris (right of Bray) and Brenna Morlang (next to Harris). FFA teachers Malisha Reed, of Nucla, and Catherine Kolbet, of Norwood, took 8 students for the conference. (Courtesy image)

Water Days

Cont. from Pg. 1

Apothecary, told the Forum that the Nuclear Quilters are also giving away a log cabin quilt for Water Days in a raffle.

"Art at The Apothecary is raffling off a beautiful American-flag-inspired quilt. Proceeds from this raffle will be used in its entirety to

fund the purchase of equipment and supplies needed to support classes at Art at the Apothecary," she said.

Tickets are \$2 each, or five for \$8. Those are available at the studio and at other supporting businesses in Nucla and Naturita.

Farmer said all may stop by the studio and see the quilt at 480 Main

St. in Nucla Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The drawing will happen at 3 p.m. on June 29 during the studio open house that lasts all day.

"Stop by, meet the artists, visit and explore the class schedule while enjoying some refreshments out of the sun," Farmer said.



This image shows firefighters behind a spray of water during a June 7 grass fire in the West End. (Photo by Ken Jenks)

Fire season

Cont. from Pg. 1

he said that be challenging sometimes for ranchers.

He said regarding wildland fires, people should watch out for dust devils, a bad sign. Dust devils were seen the morning of one of the early June grass fires. Jenks said they're a warning of unsettled weather conditions and a dangerous catalyst for grass fires.

"They suggest the possibility of unpredictable gusts of wind that can move a flame front faster than anyone can react to.

Evacuation may be difficult and last-minute defense impossible," he said.

Jenks said escape plans can save lives, and are especially necessary for those with mobility challenges.

The Nucla-Naturita Fire Department, the Montrose County and West End Sheriff's posses and the Nucla-Naturita Emergency Medical Service are all seeking volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering should stop by the Nucla Fire Hall during normal business hours and inquire about those oppor-

tunities. For the Sheriff's Posse specifically, contact Jack Lee at 970-428-4400 or chiefjlee@gmail.com.

Jenks said starting as a volunteer with the fire department can turn into a lucrative career. He said there's money to be made in summer for wildland firefighting. For a young person who's ready to travel and make money, he said it can be rewarding. Anyone who'd like to explore wildland firefighting should speak to representatives of the West End Sheriff's Posse or Fire Chief John Bockrath in Norwood.