

# San Miguel Basin Forum

## NUCLA

### Town needs animal control/code enforcement officer

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Nucla Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire told the Forum the town has been trying to hire an animal control officer since last year when the job was left vacant in August, and she can't fill the job. She's never received a single application. She wants to get someone in the position and said the town is willing to do training and offer a flexible schedule.

Recently, the Nucla Town Board decided to add to the position and have it include code enforcement. Lampshire said now the job is listed as full-time with benefits. That includes fully funded health insurance, plus dental and vision insurance. Families, at the employee's cost, can also be added to the plan. Paid holidays are part of the package, along with eight hours of paid time off and eight hours of vacation time, both accruing each month to make for 16 hours total.

Lampshire said the job is important. There are dogs running at large in town. Sometimes they're chasing kids, cats or other dogs. And, there have been people that have shot at loose dogs. Even the mayor of Nucla had someone shoot at his dog.

The town does have an agreement with Hoof & Paw, the local animal nonprofit, for the holding of dogs who are loose. The new animal control officer would collaborate with them.

She added the code enforcement work is also necessary. Lampshire said the town would like to see fences put up to hide some of the hoarding. She said the whole community needs a face lift. There are illegal vehicles parked in rights-of-ways, and sometimes people are burning trash.

Yes, having a fire pit is allowed, but those have to be no more than three feet tall and three feet wide. Those are for roasting marshmallows, not burning trash.

Lampshire said staff do their best in enforcing code. She tries to get out and send letters, but she has other administrative tasks at her desk. A full-time person who can manage the animal control issues and handle code enforcement is needed now.

The new hire can train in Montrose, or they can train in Nucla with someone coming in to assist.

The new hire can basically create a flexible schedule, as long as they communicate with town officials on how that will work. Some weekend work might be needed for

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## WATER DAYS

### Chuck and Kathy Zunic to be crowned in Nucla

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Chuck and Kathy Zunic, of Nucla, have been chosen as royalty for 2024 Water Days. The king and queen are life-long residents of the West End and embody the pioneer spirit of those hard-working and creative individuals that established the ditch and later Nucla as a town.

Chuck Zunic was born in Telluride in the old hospital, now a museum. His parents were Frank and Irene Zunic, and his dad was a sheep rancher in Redvale.

Kathy Zunic was born in

Colona. Her parents were Orris and Doris (Scott) Kettle. Her dad moved the family to work at the mill in Uravan in 1951.

The Zuniches have lived in the West End their whole lives, both graduated Nucla High School and were married in 1973 at Bridal Veil Falls in Telluride.

Chuck worked for San Miguel Power Association for 20 years, then for Western Fuels for 20 years and retired from the coal mine. Kathy had a flower shop — A Petal Pusher — for 12 years, but worked various jobs too.

Together they had five children.

And, they farmed. They have 40 acres, and in the past raised hay.

Chuck also did custom haying for others in the area. They've had cows and sheep, and still have two goats. At times they've had pigs or chickens too.

Chuck has been active in the Nucla-Naturita Fire Department, the Tabeguache Trail Riders and the the Cattlemen's Association.

In their life together, they've enjoyed being out on trails in their side-by-side. They did the local jeep tour for years, and sometimes have gone to the Moab area.

Chuck had a guide service years ago. He's always hunted and done drop camps. He also spent 35 years

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## WEST END

### Farm and Craft Market continues with Greek food this week

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

While both used to be in Nucla, the West End Farm and Craft Market moved to Naturita, along with Wild Gal's Market, this last year. Now the Farm and Craft markets are on Wednesdays too, rather than Thursdays, and they started earlier this summer season.

This week marks the fourth week of the ongoing markets, which will continue through the summer and only get bigger with the arrival of summer's fresh food.

Last Wednesday, several craft booths were on site with jewelry, jams and freeze-dried candy, homemade sourdough bread and other art, including Cynthia Sampson's paintings. Another booth offered salt scrubs and bone broths.

Wild Gal's Market is still offering produce for the Farm and Craft markets, but owner Galit Korngold is not moving the fresh food out to the patio in the heat. The produce will stay inside, and visitors should step inside to see the fresh food that's available.

Korngold said it's mostly vegetables at this point, and not too much is local. There are some local greens, spring onions and garlic, though other varieties of fresh produce are offered. Local summer squash, like zucchini, is on the way.

"As the season progresses, more local produce will be available," she said.

Anyone who'd like to join in the markets as a vendor may do so easily. There is a fee of \$5, but no hefty paperwork is necessary. She said there's no vendor license required and no cottage food training permit. If someone were to bake, they must simply list the ingredients and put a disclaimer on the package that the item is home-made.

Korngold said vendors are welcome to bring their fresh eggs, market their beef and also offer fresh flowers and starts.

"The more the better," Korngold said. "The more vendors we have, the more people will come."

She added having a pop-up tent or shade of some sort is a great idea for someone participating. There are some shady spots in the area though.

This week, Korngold has a surprise for the community. Wild Gal's will start offering a weekly take-home dinner during the Farm

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TJ Dlubac gives the presentation on the county's master plan update. Comments are welcome through the month of June. (Photo by Regan Tuttle)

## MONTROSE COUNTY

### Master plan update open for comments through June

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

TJ Dlubac, of Community Planning Strategies, held a meeting in the West End June 11 to inform citizens of the county master plan update, a process that began last fall. Dlubac's company and SCJ Alliance Consulting Services are assisting Montrose County. Dlubac gave a presentation at the Naturita Community Center, assisted by Talmadge Richmond, the county's planning and development director.

Now, comments are open for the master plan update through the month of June. The planning commission will then review the draft

in August, and the plan will be adopted in September or October.

Richmond recorded the session for anyone in the West End who couldn't make the meeting, and the draft master plan is on the county website too at montrosecounty.net/1144/Montrose-County-Master-Plan-Update.

Dlubac said the plan looks 20 years into the future. He added that it contains no standards or ordinances, but is a framework that informs zoning and the review process. He also said that the master plan guides incorporated parts of the county.

It's not been updated since 2010, and updates should happen

every five to 10 years.

The county has identified the following as part of its vision and values: natural resources, agriculture, economic development, recreation and tourism, utilities and services, transportation, land use, housing and water. Dlubac said all are in agreement that agriculture is the cornerstone of Montrose County.

Former Mayor of Nucla Richard Craig asked Dlubac if the monument issue had been factored into the master plan update. Dlubac said no. Craig also asked about the senior citizens, and if they'd been included into the planning process. Dlubac said to read the "utilities

Cont. on Pg. 8

## NORWOOD CHAMBER NEWS

# Chamber celebrates EarthTech, Food Hub, Flying Bear

By CHERYL JERABEK

The Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright's Mesa is excited to continue regular columns spotlighting current business members.

For more than two decades, Norwood-based EarthTech West has provided geotechnical engineering services for the local area and beyond. From MSE (mechanical stabilized earth) retaining walls to HDPE pipe-laying and civil earthworks for mining and industrial industries, EarthTech West addresses the needs of its clients, as well as the well-being of the environment.

Although EarthTech West is licensed in five states and extends services internationally to countries like Africa and Peru, the Meehan-family business has a strong commitment, not only to customers but to the community as well.

If you've ever encountered a medical emergency or fire, you may have unknowingly been the recipient of the Meehans' community contributions, which include volunteer EMT and firefighting services. The company also donates to Prime Time Early Learning Center and other local organizations.

"Everything we do for the community is a labor of love," commented EarthTech West administrator/controller Candy Meehan.

And, the FRESH Food Hub holds an important role within local communities, serving not just as a market, but as a foundation for enhancing local food accessibility and supporting local agriculture.

Driven by a mission to bridge food equity gaps and back local farmers, The Fresh Foundation DBA FRESH Food Hub was initially founded by a small group of locals, first as a co-op in 2015 and as a 501c3 in 2020. The "Hub" quickly became a nexus for quality food distribution and community

support, offering seasonal community-supported agriculture and farm markets and the wholesale of local food. It also operates the Norwood Food Pantry, provides collaborative support to other non-profits doing similar work, and runs a pantry plot program that grows produce for donation.

"Our inspiration has always derived from food sovereignty and food equity," stated FRESH Food Hub president Leila Seraphin. "We believe in the power of food to shape and create community."

Finally, whether you're in the mood for pizza or need your bike fixed, Flying Bear Pizzeria at Naturita Bicycle Company has you covered. Located at 202 E. Main St. in Naturita, Flying Bear Pizzeria conveniently operates in the same building as the bike shop.

Owned and operated by the husband-and-wife team Nick Badovinac and Virginia Ericson, the doors to the pizzeria and bike shop opened in June of 2023.

From the start, the businesses have presented a unique blend of culinary and cycling services that cater to both the local community and visiting adventurers. Specializing in what they affectionately call "Rocky Mountain Za," the establishment offers pizzas topped with locally sourced ingredients, a perk for flavor and freshness and for local farmers and producers. Live entertainment is often on the menu, and you can always count on a cold brew being readily available.

"We offer on and off-site catering for groups of all sizes and the Bear can be rented out for private parties," Ericson said.

The Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright's Mesa has monthly membership meetings the second Tuesday of each month at varying locations from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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## History: Rimrocker Historical Society Celebrating Nucla's colony days

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

This image shows the sawmill gang in about 1900. (Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

There were many colonists who left Denver in those late 1890s with dreams of a home of their own in a land of great promise. They were willing to leave everything and everyone behind to make that trek into a future that was not necessarily a sure thing. This is the story of Samuel and Stella Cone.

From Mr. Samuel P. Cone, "Our Colony Days":

"The bright spot in our life was when in 1897, my wife Stella and I were introduced to those interested, as we were, in getting a piece of land for a home ...

In June 1898, with a small capital of two horses, 12 hens, and like Noah, a few pigeons to send out over the water to let us know we had surely found land, we chartered a freight car with our friend, Mr. Hutchins. Since he was going overland with his bunch of dairy cows, it was for me to go with the car containing, besides our household effects, a choice milch cow of Mr. Hutchins, our horses, hens and pigeons. Stella was planning to stay in Denver with friends until I was located, but unknown to her, I had other ideas. When I was loading the car, I loaded the horses, cow and poultry in one end and the furniture in the other end ... When I went back to get the last load of our things, I just loaded in my most valued asset, my wife ..."

Samuel and Stella made it to Montrose and made preparations to freight their belongings over the

mountain and found a family to travel with. Samuel goes on with his story:

"The first day of the trip was all up hill, but what a grand trip it was, especially to city-bred greenhorns. Columbines and buttercups were out in all their glory ... In the evening of the second day, we landed at Sheep Creek Sawmill and were greeted by our Denver friends, the Howards. They had preceded us by six months and were managing the boardinghouse. What a grand supper it was, and how cordially we were welcomed. I shall never forget that first meal of Mexican beans, cornbread, sorghum and coffee, with a few extras put in, honoring the newcomers."

The young couple were fortunate to have an old prospector's cabin to move into, and although it was only 9x12 feet, they set up their home and were happy to have it. Samuel started earning his water stock the very next day, driving an ox team, Bud and Duke.

"I had never seen an ox, let alone driven one, but Mr. Howard gave me instructions. If you want an ox to gee, you hit him on the gee side. If you want him to haw, hit him on the haw side ... I was to haul logs out of the timber to the mill. I arrived in the timber okay and already felt I was an experienced ox driver ... Well, the next thing I knew, my log wagon was upside down in the thick oak brush. I was in a fix! But just at this critical moment my forever

good friend arrived on the scene.

Daddy Gile, in his quiet way said, "Having trouble?" Well, he threw my log chain over the gears, hitched my team on, and in two minutes my wagon was right side up and I was ready to proceed, after a few more simple instructions. From then on, I had no more trouble and continued on that job until Bud and Duke's regular master, Tom Campbell, took over."

Stella had been rather sickly in Denver, but Samuel claims she recuperated rapidly after arriving at the colony:

"She rode her horse each day through the pines and meadows, breathing the fragrance of the pines, which is so health-fixing. She was thrilled with her new environment and was soon able to take her place in the culinary department in the boardinghouse at the new setting on Tumble Creek ... Stella and I were the youngest members, being only 23 when we joined the colony."

What an adventure that must have been for the young Cones. They farmed and raised cattle, "enjoying the place to the fullest until (they) sold out and moved to California in 1920."

They were obviously young enough to start a new adventure in a new place.

More of their story can be found in "The Visionaries," compiled by Marie Templeton, and for sale at the museum in Nucla and the visitor center in Naturita.

## Animal control/code enforcement

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animals, as part of the deal.

Town-wide beautification is something Lampshire said is important. She said people do pass through Nucla, and it would be nice if the yards were picked up. She said people don't have to spend money landscaping. Yards can be left natural, and wildflower

ers are fine. But, the junk should be picked up and the fronts of houses should be made to look presentable. Lampshire said clutter can at least be moved to back yards.

She also referenced the clean-up day that the town has twice each year, budgeted for by town trustees. In May, the Town of Nucla filled 10 dumpsters.

"We pay for it," she said. "We provide those dumpsters and want everyone to participate and do their part to keep things clean."

She said the town will hold another clean-up day in October.

Anyone wishing to apply for the job should contact Lampshire at Nucla Town Hall in person or call 970-864-7351.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# We are going to need a lot more

Dear Editor,

Suppose that a major copper deposit was discovered in the West End on the Western Slope of Colorado. Would the proponents for the Dolores River National Monument be in favor of developing and mining that deposit? Would the people that demand the U.S. get all of its energy from generation of electricity from renewable sources be in favor? Probably not. More likely, hell no.

You would think that everyone would be in favor, because if we are going to be carbon-neutral and create all of our energy from renewable sources by 2050, we are going to need more copper. We are going to need a lot more copper. In a study conducted by the University of Michigan, we are going to need 118 percent more copper than has been mined in all of recorded history.

One could make a similar case for 34 other mineral commodities that are determined to be "critical" by the U.S. government. Not only copper, but uranium and vanadium are also on that list.

If we are going to add more national monuments and eliminate multiple uses of public lands that are rich in these "critical" minerals, then the quality of our lives is going to suffer and our nation's security

will be in jeopardy. Amazingly, our haphazard approach to exploiting domestic natural resources due to stifling regulations and direct opposition has yet to put us completely out of business. Thus, the quality of life still remains fairly high, but there is a breaking point. Perhaps the greatest reason that we haven't reached the breaking point yet is because a large portion of our "critical" minerals are imported.

Forty-five percent of copper is imported. Eighty percent of uranium is imported, as is 100 percent of vanadium. I find it extremely disconcerting that there are 50 million pounds of vanadium sitting in the Uravan Mineral Belt, and it is going to be locked away when the Dolores River National Monument becomes a reality.

Going without, doing without should be a real concern. Certainly, being carbon neutral by 2050 is just not going to happen. We simply do not have a mindset as a nation nor available resources to make that happen. It has been an arbitrary and unnecessary goal from the beginning.

A faction of misguided individuals will continue to oppose and protest any attempt to recover natural resources that enable them to protest and oppose. Otherwise, they will be spending all their time

trying to find something to eat and finding a place to stay warm. That is exactly what our ancestors contended with in our distant past. Then they began using natural resources, and bit by bit, we arrived at the amazing place we are today.

We have full bellies, we are cool when it is hot, warm when it is cold, dry when it wet and then some of us are unhappy because we don't have exclusive access to all the beautiful places. Oh, how blind we have become as a nation.

*Don Hemme  
REDDALE*

## Car show at Water Days

Dear Editor,

Red Rock Rodders is having an open car show on Saturday, June 29, at Nucla Town Park, following the Water Days parade. The show is for displaying your vehicles — no judging or prizes awarded, just show off your baby! Space is limited: first come, first parked! For more information, contact Jack Lee at 970-428-4400 or Chris Daniels at 970-596-0649.

*Chris Daniel  
NUCLA*



## The Rimrockers have apple trees grafted from local heirloom trees.

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# San Miguel Basin Forum

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**OBITUARY**

**Jay Stephen (Steve) McMahon**

*March 27, 1944 – Dec. 27, 2023*

Jay Stephen (Steve) McMahon went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday morning, Dec. 27, 2023, at his home in Montrose. He was 79 years old.

He was born on March 27, 1944, in Mullan, Idaho, to Eloise McMahon (Sparks) and Bill McMahon. He grew up in the mining communities of Ouray and Telluride, graduating from Telluride High School in 1962. He continued his education at Fort Lewis College in Durango and Colorado State University in Fort Collins, earning a bachelor of science in forest management.

He married Sharon McMahon (Johnson) on Jan. 16, 1961, in Meeker, where his ancestors homesteaded. They celebrated almost 63 years together. They lived in Colorado before moving to Louisiana to follow his career

path in forest management. They lived in Louisiana for 45 years, with a year spent working in Afognak, Alaska. They returned to live in Montrose in 2019.

He not only loved his vocation of forestry, but he also enjoyed geology and rock collecting. He collected marbles from his childhood on. He liked camping and duck hunting. He was good at playing the guitar, teaching his grandkids songs like "Animal Fair."

He was a loving and committed father and grandfather.

He gave back to his communities by serving in many ways: Lions Club, The Gideons International, disaster relief for Baptist ministries, serving as an EMT and volunteer fireman and as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. He loved his Lord and loved the Bible.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon, of Montrose; his eldest daughter, Yvette Henson, (Kenneth) of Norwood; his youngest daughter, Candise Ramsey, of Twin Falls, Idaho; his son, Michael McMahon, of Pineville, Louisiana; and six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He leaves three sisters, Fern DuBose, of Clifton, Colorado; Shannon Jones (Alan), of Grand Junction; and Becky McMahon, of Elko, Nevada.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Eloise McMahon.

To send condolences, contact Celebration Church in Montrose at 970-497-4925. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in his name to Hopewest Hospice by calling 970-240-7734.

His memorial service was June 15 at at Celebration Church, located at 2900 Sunnyside Rd. in Montrose.

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**MONTROSE COUNTY  
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**AG TALK**

# The rise of technology in agriculture

By KEIRAN BRAY

The rise of technology ... Take a look around, I bet that no matter where you are, you're near technology. It's probably in your back pocket. If it's not, then it's at your house, at the store, in the streets of the city, or even in your car. Technology surrounds us all over the world in all aspects of our lives and is growing every day.

Now that your minds are on technology, and that it's all around us, think about how it's used in the agriculture industry. I know that when I think about technology in agriculture, I think more of tractors and their equipment, the more common technological thing in ag. But I'm here to tell you there's so much more.

You might be saying, "how can there be technology in agriculture, and what's it used for?" That's a great question. Think about farming for a moment. Farmers use GPS systems in their equipment when farming. This system can help the farmers follow planting plans when planting their crops. It allows them to see where the best places are to plant and how far apart each seed needs to be from one another. This is only one way farmers use GPS systems. See, technology can be used everywhere, and it's always growing.

In fact, my family has just recently found some new technology that we are implementing on our ranch. We call it "the invisible fence." The invisible fence is a system that we can use to track our cattle from an app, wherever they might be, and that's not all. From this same app, we can create invisible fence lines on our property for the cattle.

Now, how might this invisible fence keep in our livestock? With this system, we will put collars on our cattle, each having a little box attached to them. This box connects the collar to the app. When the collar is activated, if a cow gets too close to the invisible fence line we created from the app, it will start to buzz. If the cow doesn't turn around and continues to get closer to the fence, it will then shock them. Similar to an electric fence, but invisible.

Over time, the cattle will start to learn that when the collar buzzes,

they need to stop and turn around; otherwise they will get shocked. Not only will we have the capabilities of an invisible fence line, but we will also be able to track each cow. The collar allows us to track the cattle and their movements. So, when gathering the herd, we can look to see where the missing ones are. This can potentially help reduce gathering time by weeks.

This system is still new, so we will not be able to implement it until next year. But, once it's in, ideally, it will save us a lot of time throughout the year. This system could potentially be very benefi-

cial to ranchers all over. Once in place, we'll be able to help control our livestock from our phones, without having to be right there with them.

Technology is everywhere and always growing. The agriculture industry is a great example. Most of the time when people think ag, they probably think mostly of just planting fields of corn or wheat, and maybe moving some livestock. Rarely do they think about all the technology involved in each of those things. With new technology, we can change the agriculture industry for the better.




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## MORE EMERGENCY CALL BOXES COMING SOON

Nucla-Naturita Telephone Company (NNTC) has been working on an Emergency 911 Phone Box Project. This project will provide emergency phones along Highway 141, starting at Uravan, continuing through NNTC's service area, to Mile Marker 136. These phones have off hook routing directly to 911 Dispatch, including location information.

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-UnawEEP 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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## DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.80-4.20	300-400# HEIFERS	3.50-4.00
400-500# STEERS	3.50-3.80	400-500# HEIFERS	2.90-3.35
500-600# STEERS	2.95-3.35	500-600# HEIFERS	2.75-2.90
600-700# STEERS	2.65-2.80	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
Top bulls	1.50-1.70	Medium bulls	1.40-1.44
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:** Remember this sale has been moved up 1 week. We will be taking the June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup> off.

Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> Special sheep & goat sale, dispersal of 25 1-3 yr old doe goats, 15 kids born in April, 5 mature Billies (1-3 yr olds.) These are fat and healthy goats, 2 alpaca, one mini pony. Along with our regular cattle sale with an early consignment of : 5 yr old Jersey cow with a 2wk old calf, 10 butcher cows, 8 butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 100-200.P

### SUMMER SALE SCHEDULE

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

NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE - AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>.

# West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

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

6/1/2024

0942 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita.

1007 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Pine Street in Naturita for a disturbance. Del Franklin, 70, Curtis Sutherland, 47, and Honahlee Sutherland, 41, were cited for general disturbance.

1006 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Park Drive and West Third Avenue in Naturita for a parking problem.

1430 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a medical assist.

1518 Hours - Deputy took an

information report in the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita.

1734 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a lockout.

1848 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Wilson Street in Naturita for an animal problem.

1945 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a parking problem.

2244 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Second Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

6/2/2024

0000 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for

a disturbance. Pricilla O'Brian, 40, was charged with 1st degree criminal trespass.

0154 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a trespassing report. Pricilla O'Brian, 40, was arrested for 1st degree criminal trespass and criminal mischief.

1451 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 97 mm 4 near Nucla for a welfare check.

1525 Hours - Patricia Taber, 54,

### GARAGE SALE IN NUCLA

Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22 at 29911 2900 rd. (Stephens Shop), corner of DD rd. and 2900 rd. in Nucla.

5-ITP

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**NOTICE OF MEMBER DIVIDENDS RETIREMENT**  
**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CLAIM MEMBER DIVIDENDS**  
**(CAPITAL CREDITS)**

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is seeking current and former members who have not yet claimed their member dividends, also known as 'capital credits.' In January, 2024, the co-op sent out nearly \$1 million in unclaimed Member Dividend checks to members who received electric service during the years, 1994 and 1995.

Many of those checks have not been cashed. Members are encouraged to check the list at [www.smpa.com/member-dividends](http://www.smpa.com/member-dividends). Members whose names appear on the list may request another check to be issued. Credits that remain unclaimed or un-cashed as of June 30, 2024 will be forfeited by the member and extinguished and forever barred.

Member Dividends are a benefit of being a member of your local electric cooperative. Please call 1-877-864-7311 with questions.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum June 19, 2024

## West End Family Link Center Annual Meeting

July 10, 2024 at 1 p.m.

Hopkins Airport in Nucla, CO

Public Welcome

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## SAN MIGUEL BASIN FORUM PHOTO CONTEST

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



# West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

was contacted in the 200 block of Wilson Street in Naturita and arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license, obstruction of a police officer, and resisting arrest. Terry Franklin, 74, was cited for permitting an unauthorized person to drive.

1701 Hours - Luis Velarde, 46, was contacted in the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

2 warrant attempts  
1 directed patrol in Nucla  
2 directed patrols in County

6/2/2024

0000 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a disturbance. Pricilla O'Brien, 40, was charged with 1st degree criminal trespass.

0154 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a trespassing report. Pricilla O'Brien, 40, was arrested for 1st degree criminal trespass and criminal mischief.

1451 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 97 mm 4 near Nucla for a welfare check.

1525 Hours - Patricia Taber, 54, was contacted in the 200 block of Wilson Street in Naturita and arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license, obstruction of a police officer, and resisting arrest. Terry Franklin, 74, was cited for permitting an unauthorized person to drive.

1701 Hours - Luis Velarde, 46, was contacted in the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

2 warrant attempts  
1 directed patrol in Nucla  
2 directed patrols in County

6/3/2024

0439 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla.

1126 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of West Fifth Avenue and 2810 Road near Nucla for an accident. Makayla Salazar, 28, was cited for careless driving.

1209 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla.

1526 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a welfare check.

2341 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of East Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an animal problem.

1 VIN inspection  
6/4/2024

0120 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street in Naturita for suspicious activity.

0754 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita for an animal problem.

0846 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine

Street in Naturita for an animal problem.

1026 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 12100 block of Highway 90 near Bedrock for a fire.

1414 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a welfare check.

1715 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Pine Street in Naturita for criminal mischief.

1909 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Nucla for a 911.

2 VIN inspections  
1 directed patrol in Naturita

## 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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION - BOND RELEASE APPLICATION No. 27 (SL-27)

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has issued a proposed decision to approve Bond Release Application No. 27 (SL-27) for the New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. The Division proposes to approve Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC's request for Phase I Bond Release of 85.5 acres. The acreage requested for bond release has been backfilled, graded and reestablished drainages as required for Phase I Bond Release. All 85.5 acres requested for release are located in the southern part of Section 36. 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 15, 2024. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC is requesting Phase I Bond Release for 85.5 acres that were backfilled and graded, including topsoil replacement and seeding, in 2023. The acreage requested for bond release is located in the southern part of Section 36, just north of BB Road. The affected area is located in Montrose County, approximately 1.7 miles Northwest of Nucla, Colorado.

Copies of the proposed decision are available for review at <https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx> by searching C1981008 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/1180Udf\\_Mpjo3kxIHkP5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view..](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1180Udf_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 19 & 26, 2024

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION - BOND RELEASE APPLICATION No. 4 (SL-4)

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 backfilled 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 portion of the 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/1180Udf\\_Mpjo3kxIHkP5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view..](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1180Udf_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

# Classified Ads

## CLASSIFIED AD RATE:

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

### WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### HEAD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

West End Public Schools RE-2 is currently seeking a head high school girls basketball coach for the 24-25 school year. This position is paid by stipend and is dependent upon experience. Applications can be found on our district website at [www.westendschools.org](http://www.westendschools.org) and must be submitted with a resume to our district office located at 225 W. 4th Ave., Nucla, CO 81424 or can be sent to Clint Wytulka via email at [cwytulka@westendschools.org](mailto:cwytulka@westendschools.org). We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

3-2T-C

### TOWN OF NATURITA

#### HIRING FOR TOWN TREASURER

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).

3-1T-C

### HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bed 2 bath for rent, fully furnished, all utilities included, pets welcome, available now \$2000/month. Call (970) 864-7699 leave your name and number.

3-1T-C

## NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL IS HIRING

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

47-8T-C

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

44-TFN-C

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### TOWN OF NATURITA ORDINANCE 294

Adopted 6/11/2024

Passed 6/11/2024

An Ordinance of the Town of Naturita, Colorado Annexing a Certain Enclave.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum June 19, 2024

## 2024 Water Days royalty

Cont. from Pg. 1

of his life salmon fishing annually in Canada.

Kathy has cooked, canned and preserved food over the years. Kathy loves making jellies and jams.

Their acre of a garden used to have green beans, potatoes and okra. They've never really sold produce, but many times have traded things like zucchini for cucumber.

Now, they've downsized, but still have a raised bed for a garden, and they're mostly growing tomatoes and peppers. They also have fruit trees.

The Zunich family has had bees over the years. They quit the bees for a while after a bear got into a hive, but they're back at it again, and they like having their own honey.

Many who know Kathy know about her crafting abilities. She makes cloth baby books, baby blankets, placemats, dishcloths, lariat-rope wreaths, lariat-rope bowls and more. She's making a set of horse shoe chimes right now.

She's done wood-burning, drawing, painting and uses a sewing machine nearly every day for aprons, tea towels that she embroiders and her "microwave cozies" she makes for bowls.



Chuck and Kathy Zunich, now married 50 years, are the 2024 Water Days king and queen. (Courtesy image)

Kathy admitted to the Forum that she's still "a good ole' pioneer."

They love living in Nucla, they enjoy all four seasons and appreciate that it's never too hot or cold. They also like not having traffic.

The Zuniches have been married 50 years, and while Chuck is not sure what to think about he and his wife being named Water Days king and queen, Kathy said she feels it's kind of an honor.

"We've lived here so long," she said.

Many who've been to Water Days know that Chuck was one of the first to start the pig in a pit tradition. He'll still be smoking meat this year.

The Zuniches will mostly likely be in their side-by-side for the parade. Their stock dog is too old to come along, but there's a chance the Boston Terrier may go.

SAN MIGUEL BASIN 4-H

## CSU intern archives local ranching history

By ANNIKA KRISTIENSEN,  
4-H Coordinator

From June 9-15, the San Miguel Basin 4-H hosted an intern from Colorado State University, Madeline Cummings. A junior majoring in biology, Cummings brought her passion for science and community engagement to the rural landscapes of San Miguel County. Her internship provided valuable experiences for herself and the 4-H youth she mentored, leaving a lasting impact on the community.

"I was inspired to choose this internship because of the deeply personal connections I knew I would make with ranchers in San Miguel County," she said. "I grew up hearing about my family's farm in Sterling, Colorado. That farm supported my family for generations. With that knowledge, I knew I could talk to ranchers about their lives and perspectives. I was curious to learn more about ranching and rural Colorado."

During her week-long internship, Cummings focused on coaching and guiding 4-H youth in interviewing their ranching family members. These interviews were not just casual conversations, but a structured effort to document the rich history and heritage of multi-generational ranching families in the area: the Snyders, Alexanders, and Schmids, each of whom are respected and revered old-timers within the community.

Cummings taught 4-H members how to formulate meaningful questions, conduct interviews and capture the essence of their family stories. This provided the younger generation with a deeper understanding of their heritage and the historical context of their families' ranching operations. The process also helped in fostering a sense of pride and continuity among the youth, bridging the gap between past and present.

"One of my memorable experiences from the week was seeing the looks on the faces of the youth when they got to ask their family members questions about their lives," Cummings said. "I loved watching young and old connect over these questions. I hope it brings the families closer together because they can keep these interviews for future generations. The generational knowledge will not be forgotten."

Additionally, Cummings dedicated time to sorting through historical archives at the extension office. These archives, dating back to 1932, contain a wealth of information about the county's agricultural and ranching history. Her meticulous efforts in organizing and cataloging these documents have made them more accessible for research and public viewing.

The youth conducted interview recordings along with a curated selection of archival materials, which will be displayed at the Log Cabin Museum in Norwood for the month of June. The exhibition

will be open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays.

The week in San Miguel County was just a portion of Cummings' summer-long internship with the CSU archives. She'll continue to research San Miguel County and its ranching history, providing ongoing support for the evolving Log Cabin Museum exhibit.

She was also busy prior to her visit to Norwood.

"I used my background in biology to research information about water and environmental issues in the San Miguel Basin," she said, "and my background in education helped me to work with the kids to write questions and create materials for the interviews."

The Log Cabin Museum's exhibition, showcasing the audio interviews and archival materials, is expected to be a highlight of fair month. It offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the county's ranching heritage directly from those who've lived it. The exhibition is a testament to the community's rich history and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

Cummings is hopeful that the audio interviews and archival exhibitions will inform county residents of the important work of area ranching families.

"While many families who come to the fair will already understand the importance of ranching, many may not know these ranches' histories and significance to this area," she said. "I hope the recordings will encourage younger generations to continue this important work."

Cummings' internship shows how academic institutions and local communities can collaborate for mutual benefit.

"This project focused on the familial connections between local 4-Hers and prominent ranchers in the area. These young people are incredibly lucky to have sat down and interviewed their family members in a formal setting. The generational knowledge and memories that were passed down to them during these short interviews hopefully will remain core memories as they grow up," she said. "It was also amazing to see the relationship between the kids and the interviewees grow throughout the interview, and I am grateful I was able to see it happen before my eyes."

As fair month draws near, the community can look forward to celebrating its heritage and the contributions of individuals who help keep its history alive. All are invited to join San Miguel Basin 4-H youth at the fair July 12-20, kicked off with a shooting sports competition at the 10-Ring Gun Club in Nucla on July 7. The San Miguel Basin Archival Exhibit will be on display throughout the month of July at the Log Cabin Museum, Fridays and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For museum tours at other times, visitors may call Barbara Youngblood at 970-708-8245.

## Master plan update

Cont. from Pg. 1

and services" part of the plan and then comment.

Water was discussed, and those present agreed the West End is in a unique situation since individuals own water rights, while people in other parts of the county don't necessarily. Dlubac did say that drought and development are worsening the water situation, however, and that's something to consider.

Chris Daniels asked if the county had considered a bypass around the City of Montrose. Richmond said that's been discussed. Daniels said it should have been a goal 25 years ago.

The idea of Highway 90 over the Uncompahgre Plateau being paved was also discussed. Richmond said it's not shown in the transportation plan right now. He asked if that's a mis-step on the county's part. He said people can comment. Com-

missioner Sue Hansen said she wanted the West End's thoughts and suggested people think 20 to 30 years out. Troy Masters said in 20 years, the West End will have more growth, and some roads like Norwood Hill could be congested or more dangerous.

"At some point we have to think of other alternatives," he said.

Kenny Heldman asked about limits on solar arrays. Dlubac said the master plan was about getting the right uses in the right locales. He said the master plan update process could help direct where solar arrays could go.

Dlubac discussed the idea of a growth boundary. He said that's calculated by extending three miles from a town's limits, but then paring that pack further by a process of discussion. Related to sprawl, Dlubac said that the City of Montrose has an intergovernmental agreement with Montrose

County. He said the city has the first right of refusal regarding annexation of property, and that the agreement looks at what makes the most sense for growth. Richmond asked attendees if they wanted to set a growth boundary in the West End or set up an intergovernmental agreement. Many but not all raised hands. Dlubac said it would give Nucla and Naturita authority and ability over growth patterns.

Craig asked about the resources listed in the county's master plan. He asked why uranium wasn't mentioned. Mayor of Naturita Gene Greenwood said that the current carbon footprint narrative is a lie, especially regarding waste with wind turbines and solar equipment. He said nuclear has come a long way in the last decade and that experts have alleviated many of the issues that gave nuclear energy a bad rap in the past.

## Farm and Craft Market

Cont. from Pg. 1

and Craft markets. Meals will vary weekly with items like tacos, chicken-fried rice, stuffed peppers and more. Seasonal produce will be incorporated.

The first Farm and Craft meal will be Greek food. Korngold is preparing chicken souvlaki brochette with a Greek salad, lemony roasted potatoes and tzatziki with pita bread. Cost is \$15, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Hoof & Paw, the local animal shelter and nonprofit.

Additionally, the family movies in the park, presented by Paradox Cycle, have been moved to Wednesdays this year also. Those alternate every other week. Korngold said she is collaborating with the bike shop to have community events on the same night. She said it could be easy for people to pick up food from the Farm and Craft market and

then head to the free movie on Wednesdays twice a month.

Wild Gal's Market's operating hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, though Wednesdays the market and store are open until 7 p.m. Saturday the shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wild Gal's is closed Sunday and Monday.

The Farm and Craft markets are 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays until fall.

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