

## FAIR AND RODEO

### Rodeo royalty is back; tryouts are June 9

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

It's been a while since the San Miguel Basin Rodeo had royalty in the arena, but this year a group of local women have come together to reinstate the tradition. Now, Alex Thompson, Cortney Lemon, Virginia Lucarelli and Katey Herland — all local horsewomen in the region — are making it happen for the girls.

"There's just been, on rodeo committee and the fair board and in the horse club, a lot of talk and questions about bringing it back," Thompson told the Forum in an interview last week. "Cortney and I were talking about it, how much fun she'd had, how important we thought it was."

Thompson said the conversation spurred action, and they don't want to wait.

"We decided: Why don't we?" Thompson explained. "With everything going on with solar and the monument, we are getting it from all sides. It's a really important time to buckle down and make sure these programs that define our lifestyle keep going and don't fall by the wayside. It's a good time to have ambassadors for rodeo and the western lifestyle."

It's all happening quickly. Now, on June 9 at 10 a.m., the committee is having a full-blown rodeo royalty tryout. That Sunday, contestants will have to complete a horsemanship pattern, demonstrate a hot lap that the queen would make in the outdoor arena, and participate in a five to 10 minute interview with the panel. Girls will be asked about Wright's Mesa and its heritage, the San Miguel Basin Rodeo specifically, and rodeo in general.

Thompson said they're keeping it simple, and the committee will do more next year.

The girls trying out must live in San Miguel County, or West Montrose County. Age divisions are for the rodeo princess, ages 8 to 11; the junior queen, ages 12 to 14; and the queen, ages 15 to 19.

Girls can borrow a horse, but they must show up at the San Miguel Basin Fairgrounds that day with the horse they'd ride at the 2024 San Miguel Basin Rodeo. That horse has to be able to pack a flag, be parade-ready, not mind livestock and perform a hot lap. Ideally, the girls trying out have been in 4-H, or FFA, or have done something related to horses and agriculture.

The winners should be horsewomen who can perform the duties necessary, like ride in the

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## ELECTIONS

### District 3 commissioner candidates respond

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Scott Riba and Rick Dunlap are running for the Montrose County Board of Commissioners District 3 seat, currently held by Roger Rash. Over the weekend, the Forum asked both Riba and Dunlap about their abilities to relate to and engage with the West End.

Riba has been a longtime rancher. He and his wife, Linda, have been active in farming and ranching for 40 years. In the past, they've raised and finished Angus cows and Ram-

bouillet sheep. They've always had horses. Their main business is hay farming, more than 100 acres, and in the past they've grown field corn and seed for sweet corn.

They also provide ag services to property owners. Riba said he's the only commissioner candidate that has water rights, something he said is important in understanding agriculture.

"Until you lose your water after the crop is planted, a person has no idea of the importance of water rights in western Colorado," he said.

Dunlap's focus has been law

enforcement. He joined the U.S. Army at 17 years old and spent 21 years in the military. He spent time in Vietnam and Germany.

"After rotating out of Vietnam, I was assigned to 704th Helicopter Maintenance Battalion in Fort Carson, Colorado, where I served until November 1972. It was here I met my wife Karen," he told the Forum.

He was a field artillery instructor at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He left the army in 1981 when he and his wife had kids. He wanted to avoid moving them frequently.

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## BUSINESS

### Basin Store celebrates a year of new ownership

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Trace and Brandi Griffith bought the Basin Store on Highway 141 from Mex & Sons cattle operation, founded by Raymond and Phyllis Snyder, last May. The Snyder family ran the old store for years and kept it open for the cowboys, oilmen and passers-by for years. Then, it sat empty for over a decade. For the last year, the Griffiths have been working to reestablish it as a friendly stopping point for those out in what some consider the middle of nowhere.

"The Snyders left us with a great base and a great legacy," Griffith told the Forum last Friday. "We're excited to bring it back to life and back to the community, to carry on the long legacy of the Basin Store and share the beauty and majesty of Dry Creek Basin and the surrounding areas with our greater Western Slope community."

The original store building burned in approximately 1990, and the place was then rebuilt in 1991. There's an original photo inside on the wall, a tribute to past times.

Brandi Griffith said she enjoys hearing others' memories of the old days. Some remember the gas pumps that used to be on site, or that there used to be a pool hall. Many who grew up in the area have a recollection of visiting the old store.

The Griffiths, who already live in the basin (and Trace Griffith grew up there) want to have something special available out that way for all people who are passing through.

The hunters definitely came last fall, but locals from the West End and Norwood and Dove Creek have driven over too to support the store and try what the family is touting as the "best burger in the basin." Brandi Griffith told the Forum she laughs when she says that — it's the only burger available in the basin.

It's true that the Spring Creek herd of mustangs are in close proximity, and trails on public lands abound in the area. Mountain bikers have begun to find their way out to the Basin Store, and two women riding from Telluride inquired about breaking their journey of a bike tour there at the store, since there are VRBO cabins on site.

No liquor license exists yet at the Basin Store, but the Griffiths said they're still planning what the future of the store looks like. This past year has been a sort of test. They sell ice, basic fishing gear and firewood, and they have showers available. And, they did just start serving breakfast for the

Cont. on Pg. 4



### A happy crowd at Naturita Days

Nucla-Naturita Fire Department members cool down the crowd in the park at Naturita Days on June 1. See more photos on Page 8. (Photo by Regan Tuttle)

## MONUMENT

### Monument advocates rebut; Sen. Bennet comes to Nucla June 9

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Last week, the San Miguel Basin Forum ran a story titled "Jeep tour is June 8; Pond says rec stands to lose under monument status." That story received some criticism from the advocates of the proposed national monument along the Dolores River, an issue that has greatly divided the region.

Last week's story featured the leader of the Halt the Dolores Monument group, Sean Pond, who suggested that people look to Bear's Ears National Monument for what will happen in the West End. Pond said that the Bears Ears management plan will close access

to 1 million acres.

The Forum received a few complaints, and one from Scott Braden, of the Colorado Wildlands Project, said that this point was "completely and verifiably false." Braden said the Bears Ears National Monument management plan, which includes the travel/route plan, is not complete yet.

"It is still open for draft public comment," he said. "It will likely be months or a year before the plan is finalized."

Braden sent the Forum a copy of the Bears Ears Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. That document is available online at

[eplanning.blm.gov/public\\_projects/2020347/200531796/20105487/251005487/BENM\\_DraftRMP-EIS\\_Vol1\\_508.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2020347/200531796/20105487/251005487/BENM_DraftRMP-EIS_Vol1_508.pdf).

"In the draft plan, the agency-preferred alternative would close only 3,344 acres to OHV use that are open now, and they propose to close one eight-mile route," Braden said. "This is for a 1.36-million-acre national monument. The proposed closure represents less than .002% of the monument."

Braden said that grazing for Bears Ears will also not be largely affected.

"Similarly for grazing, the agency-preferred alternative would

Cont. on Pg. 2

## THEATER

# 'Doublewide' cast returns to Livery for 'Honky Tonk Hissy Fit'

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Wide Sky Arts Collective presents the Hope, Wooten and Jones comedy "Honky Tonk Hissy Fit" at The Livery June 6-9, with shows happening at 7:15 p.m. each night. Representatives from Wide Sky said in a news release it's a (mostly) family-friendly show, in two acts with intermission.

The "Doublewide, Texas" cast from last summer is back with some new characters and new members, and they're about to get roped into a whole new scam, unless their fearless mayor, Joveeta Crumpler, can outwit yet another big-city scoundrel.

So what does a tight-knit community do when faced with corporate intrusion?

Joveeta's fighting tools look a little different this time, as she picks up some tips from her wacky mom, Caprice, who is still trying to attain stardom and who knows how to pitch a world-class honky tonk hissy fit. This time, though, Caprice may have gone too far and is facing challenges from her favorite rival, Haywood Sloggett, who is trying to ignore the fact that he might actually be romantically interested in Caprice.

Nash Sloggett is facing his own romantic crisis, as he tries to win back his high school sweetheart, Georgia Dean Rudd, who is convinced a curse prevents them from being able to connect, and Big Ethel Satterwhite is trying to raise money for the Kidney Corral. Baby is certainly the star of

her fundraising show.

They'll all band together to help Joveeta fight OmniGlobix business villain Harper Channing, while they unravel the fine print of contract lingo to try and detangle the corporate net they find themselves in when greed leads the way.

This is community theater to its roots, brought to The Livery stage through all-volunteer efforts with support from Norwood Park and Recreation District (NPRD), because it's culturally enriching, nurtures creativity, brings people together, and gets them engaged as a team. And, it's good, clean fun.

Directed by Liza Tanguay, this year's all-local cast includes Kristen Noonan, Raelyn Aldrich, Rafa Gutierrez, Claire Jacobs, Ellen Metrick, Corey Jacobs, Carrissa Reiner and Pete Lundeen.

Tickets are available online at [norwoodparkandrec.org/events-calendar](http://norwoodparkandrec.org/events-calendar).

Norwood Park & Recreation District's mission is to provide diverse year-round recreation and arts opportunities through the creation and maintenance of high-quality parks, trails, facilities and programs. The district encompasses approximately 418,500 acres and is the only active recreation district in San Miguel County. The Livery, a cozy events locale and playhouse, located at 1555 Summit St. in Norwood, was purchased by NPRD in October 2018 through fundraising efforts and town and county support.

## LETTER

## Effective immediately

Dear Editor,

First of all, I am grateful for all of (this community) and all the hard work we have put in together since 2014 to further the economy of the West End. We were handed a coal transition community and have worked so hard to offset the tax generation loss. I am so proud of our community's resilience and independent spirit.

Watching our transition and now the potential monument, it has become clear that I can no longer hope that our voices are heard. God has called me to what I believe is a purpose that is greater than just economic development. What I have learned is that supposed conspiracy theories are no longer theories and are coming to fruition right before our eyes. I have learned that the goal is not to overrun our community with visitors but like the town of Escalante to totally decimate our community altogether. Knowing what I know now, I will be kicking and screaming all the way across our county, state and nation, all the way to our nation's capital, about the plan to turn our community and communities like ours into ghost towns.

My charge of volunteerism has

shifted to activism and to fight the war on rural America, overreaching national monument proposals, 30x30, 50x50, the wildlands project and other land grabs. Defending private property rights, the U.S. Constitution and defending our rural way of life including access to public lands, ranching, farming and mining, and educating the public on those NGOs regionally, nationally and internationally who wish to control every aspect of our lives, freedoms and prosperity is now my charge.

I have learned so much in the last nine months and the most emotional aspect of this in just the last two months. If you know me, then you know that I have not come to this decision lightly. I am one that sticks through my commitments. But I cannot represent WEEDC and do what I feel is in the best interest of the West End. Just know with this very hard decision that I have the best interest of my community at heart. Effective immediately I am submitting my resignation as president of West End Economic Development Corporation.

Aimee Tooker  
WEST END

## History: Rimrocker Historical Society

## The Gibbs' family history, Part 2

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

This photo shows the Gibbs children in about 1910: Etta, Everett, Nona, LeVonne and Russell.

(Photo courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

The Gibbs' family history is another story of life in Nucla in those early days. It tells of the births, deaths and marriages that were a part of life at that time. Often you get a hint of where another family lived in relation to the Gibbs, which fills in another piece of the puzzle of how Nucla started, always interesting. There is a lot of great information about the schools at that time, and I hope to share that in the future. We are lucky to have these families who were so willing to share their stories of life in the beginnings of Nucla.

"Frank's being the general manager of the ditch meant he would have to go to all the different camps where they were building the ditch. He moved his family from the sawmill at Ute to Pinon, to Shenandoah, back to the mill and finally to the park ...

So, his next big move was to Shenandoah. One morning in July they packed their stuff in the big lumber wagon, loaded the children and left Pinon. Shenandoah was up on the mesa, where Redvale and Norwood are now. So out of the San Miguel River Canyon up to Shenandoah they went.

They moved into a large, beautiful house with a balcony and dormer windows and lived there until the next April. Cora liked this house so much that she had their permanent one on the park patterned after it.

LeVonne was born April 5, and they moved back to the sawmill at Ute, and Cora again took charge of the boardinghouse. Etta, who was six years older than LeVonne, had the job of watching out for her. If LeVonne got into the road, it was Etta's job to get her out of the road. There was a new addition to Frank's family in June, a blue-eyed baby boy named Lester.

That winter, whooping cough made the rounds at the sawmill. Grandma Rowley saved many children by putting cold packs on their throats. However, she couldn't save Lester, who was too small to throw off the disease. He died and was buried at the cemetery at Pinon.

Frank moved his family to the park. He put up a three-room house for them, plus a shed where Russell and Everett slept.

LaVonne got sick with the summer complaint. She was so sick that she had to learn to walk again. Cora cured her by feeding her nothing but

warm milk, fresh from the cow.

The new house was being built at this time by Mr. Swan, who had a 10-acre plot with a home across the road from the Gibbs' place.

A few months after LeVonne got well, Viola was born. She was Cora's first and only brown-eyed girl. Those brown eyes went beautifully with auburn colored hair. She was also Frank and Cora's first child to be born in the new house. The family was very happy now."

The Gibbs' family history is full of gems about the settling of Nucla. The Gibbs family home, which Cora so desperately wanted built and loved, is now the beautiful home of the Wilson family and is still a lovely sight to see in Nucla. There are two versions of the story of the house that Cora's dream home was patterned from. One story says the house they lived in at Shenandoah burned to the ground, but the other story says it was the house that became the Naff home, and now the home of Bobby Reeder. If only the walls could talk, what great stories the Gibbs' house could tell.

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

## Proposed national monument

Cont. from Pg. 1

close only 29,290 acres to grazing that is open now or prior to monument designation," he said.

He said that's an estimated 2% change in grazing availability.

Many in the West End remain concerned about the future of the local landscape, which is home to trails, grazing and mining. Many vehicles driving through town display the Halt the Dolores Monument poster, the same signs that pepper front yards of homes and businesses.

Braden told the Forum advocates are not proposing closure of any specific trails along the

Dolores River, especially the Rimrocker Trail.

"Recreation opportunities are one of the values that a monument would seek to protect along with wildlands, wildlife and preserving historical and scientific values," he said last week.

Comments on the Bears Ears Draft Resource Management Plan are being accepted until June 11. The public is invited to visit the BLM's National Environmental Policy Act register for more information.

The Forum reached out to the BLM's Monticello, Utah office and spoke with Jared Lundell, of the agency. Lundell said Braden's state-

ment was "generally correct," but that the BLM might select another alternative. Lundell said the BLM is obtaining all of the public comment it can get and will be meeting with state and local governments over the next few months. Lundell did say that the eight-mile portion to be closed is in Arch Canyon.

Related to the locally proposed national monument, Senator Michael Bennet will be in Nucla on June 9 at 3 p.m. in the new school. The purpose is for a listening session, so that he can hear the concerns of West End residents. Those with comments should plan to attend.

ELECTIONS

# West End readers make voices heard in election survey

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

It's an election year, and the San Miguel Basin Forum has been asking locals this spring what they want to hear from candidates. The Forum sent out texts, emails and made social media posts to get locals to respond.

In an area that is remote and rural, the Forum's readership has often reported feeling unheard. People tend to feel they're left out of political discussions about water, wolves, or mining — and that people on the Front Range often unfairly speak for them.

Shannon Rayborn said it in the recent Voter Voices survey comments: "I will say it is such a struggle when voting, because the Eastern Slope has all the control over Colorado many times," she reported.

She referenced wolves and land issues.

The Forum asked citizens in the survey to personally prioritize the following issues: economy/cost of living, taxes, health care, personal liberty, democracy and good government, education, crime, immigration, environment and climate change, abortion, gun policy, social justice and equity, and also national security.

In western Montrose County, 38 people responded, with 15 of them self-described as politically conservative, six as liberal and 17 as moderate. The majority of respondents were white, but two were Native American. For age groups, five in the survey were ages 18 to 29, nine of them were ages 30-44, 19 of them were ages 45-64, and four were age 65 or older.

## Candidates

Cont. from Pg. 1

Still, he was on active duty with Colorado Army National Guard first as a training NCO, then as a recruiter, until 1990.

Dunlap also served as Montrose County Sheriff for three terms, and worked in law enforcement for 28 years. He was formerly the president of the County Sheriffs of Colorado.

**Q: What do you think the biggest issues of the West End are, and how will you help tackle those?**

**Riba:** Housing: There was a time when Montrose County waived or lowered permit and development fees to encourage more homebuilding. Jobs: Attracting business to the West End with those well-paying jobs is the start. The West End Sustainability Plan and continuing to work with and support the great work of WEEDC will be a priority. ... If a county job can be done remotely either from home or a county office, why not give a West End resident an opportunity to work for Montrose-based county offices? ... Government overreach: The proposed national monument is the perfect example. ... Locking up the mining, grazing and recreation



As far as the issues go, the majority — that is 13 — of West End respondents said the most important issue currently is democracy and good government. Economy and cost of living was the second most important issue with 10 respondents putting that first. Personal liberties and immigration were the third most important issue, with five votes for each of these as most important. Climate change got two votes as most important, and abortion, education and health care each got one vote for most important.

As far as gender goes, 28 in the survey were female, nine were male; one reported identifying as non-binary.

Regarding having confidence in the national election this fall, a majority said they had none at all, with 25 in the survey stating so. Six people felt neutral, and seven said they were fully confident in the national election.

For the local election, the data was the opposite. In fact, 28 people

for the future without a comprehensive dialogue with the residents of the area is not an option. Government is in place to serve the people with the consent of the people.

**Dunlap:** From my perspective, the biggest issues facing the West End (outside of the national monument) are the economy and sustainability. As the commissioner for District 3, I believe I can assist the West End by supporting and promoting the West End Economic Development Corporation to seek out and attract businesses that may be considering expanding or relocating operations. Further, the Basin Clinic is vital to the residents of the West End. As District 3 Commissioner and representative of the citizens that depend on the clinic for medical care, and especially emergency care, I will work to continue the funding, and if possible, devote more funding in the future.

**Q: How will you engage with the people of the West End, if you are elected as commissioner?**

**Riba:** It starts by being on the West End, in person, hearing the concerns and actually listening. I have already committed that I will set office hours for the West End, Olathe and Mahre. The schedule for a commissioner is complex with many conflicts, but

in the West End reported having full confidence in the local election, and only one person reported having no confidence at all. Eight in the survey reported feeling neutral about the local election.

Mentioned as top concerns in the commentary were inflation, public lands, gun policy, energy, and a few mentioned war.

"Integrity," along with "respect" were mentioned in the survey results, as something West End voters would like to see from candidates.

One recent Nucla High School graduate called for civility.

"I would like them to stop taking jobs at one another and speak their mind on how they want to fix the issues that are prevalent in this day and age," said Derrick VanDellan.

Carmen Shipley said Colorado candidates need to have realistic discussions. She wants to know how they'll address "illegal immigration, homeless issues, and government overreach, as it pertains to our public lands."

Melissa Lampshire wants candidates to discuss term limits at the national level and securing U.S. borders.

"We are so worried about other countries' borders, but what about our own?" she asked. She also said that smaller government and less government spending are important, and that dealing with the greater mental health crisis could solve many issues.

The Forum has considered the recent survey data and wonders if it's an accurate sample. What's missing from West End voter voices?

The survey is still open for a short time. Anyone who'd like to participate can use the QR code.

I will never stop listening to and working for the West End. Commissioner meetings will be held on the West End at times when people can attend. Having more West End residents serve on county-wide boards will provide more engagement for the West End. Having county department heads meeting with the residents and understanding West End issues allows for that first-hand engagement as well.

**Dunlap:** Having a board of county commissioner presence (BOCC) in the West End is important. The people of the West End are a vital part to county government and, as the BOCC, we have to ensure those folks are included and being heard. As a commissioner, I will begin rotating BOCC meeting venues to include Maher, Nucla and Naturita. The meeting times will also be held in the evening, so the folks that work during the day also have the opportunity to attend. Additionally, I will have a regular schedule for being present in the West End. The schedule will be posted in both Naturita and Nucla Town Halls and published in the San Miguel Basin Forum with dates, times and locations. I will arrange my scheduled days in the West End to coincide with town board meetings, so that I can attend those meetings in person.

# San Miguel Basin Forum

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# Rodeo royalty

*Cont. from Pg. 1*  
grand entry, make the queen's run and speak with the public and answer questions. Essentially, those chosen as royalty represent the local rodeo and the western way of life.

Winners will be expected to be present for the San Miguel Basin Rodeo, July 26-27, and the Pioneer Day festivities too. Thompson said those crowned may participate at

other events and in other parades, with the committee's approval.

Judging the June 9 contest will be Thompson, Lemon and long-time professional horsewoman Lisa Foxwell.

Winners will be presented with belt buckles and sashes, along with real crowns. A fundraising event, in conjunction with the San Miguel Basin's 4-H Horse Club fundraiser, will happen at Water

Days in Nucla later this summer.

Girls should attend the June 9 tryout looking the part, including jeans, a cowboy hat, a belt, boots and a button-down shirt — no T-shirts or tanks are appropriate for the tryout.

Thompson said there's plenty of parking at the San Miguel Basin Fairgrounds in Norwood. The girls will be trying out in the outdoor arena.

# Basin Store

*Cont. from Pg. 1*  
public too. New summer lunch specials are now in the works.

Last fall there was a barbecue smoker on site, and that may happen again too. Rumors of some

live music out at the Basin Store have also circulated, and the Griffiths said that's a possibility.

A family operation, the Griffiths have four children between them, and all of them have

worked at the Basin Store in some capacity over the last year.

Brandi Griffith said she and her husband are grateful. They appreciate all of the support from local communities.

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Congressman Bill Richardson (May 1994)

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EVENTS

# Music on the Mesa in Norwood is June 16

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Music on the Mesa in Norwood — the newest free concert series in Paonia-based Pickin' Productions' quiver — will take place at the San Miguel County Fairgrounds on the Sunday afternoons of June 16 and August 11.

That's right, the first concert is on Father's Day, a communal opportunity to toast all dads, in every sense of the term. Gates open at 4:30 p.m.; shows are at 6:30 p.m. The concept behind these "picnic concerts" is to gather, tour the food trucks and booth vendors, catch up with old friends, make new ones while playing some yard games, let the kiddos run amok, get your face painted, and snap a pic at the photo booth — all before sinking into low chairs and then popping right back up to dance the night away to a West End sunset. Because, music is the universal equalizer, a language we all can hum to regardless of fluency.

For those wishing to stay the night on Wright's Mesa, there are a few motels in Norwood, not to men-

tion public lands camping up on Thunder Road, at Miramonte Reservoir, or in the San Miguel Canyon between Norwood and Placerville.

On June 16, the first ever Music on the Mesa performer will be Wayne the Train Hancock. Since his debut in 1995, Hancock has been the undisputed king of juke-joint swing. On August 11, Norwood will host Couch, a Boston-based seven-piece band that infuses pop with funk, rock, plus R&B and soul. In 2021, Couch released a debut EP. In 2023, their EP, Sunshower, was accompanied by a 20-city national tour and a sold-out UK tour.

Organizers of Music on the Mesa said that "every penny makes music, and we couldn't be more thankful to our sponsors and donors." The concert series is presented by Norwood Park & Recreation District, the Town of Norwood and Pickin' Productions with a long list of support from various sponsors.

That includes Blue Grouse Bread, the Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright's Mesa,

Fenceline Cider, Clark's Market of Norwood, the Telluride Foundation, Judy Muller and George Lewis, the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Back Country Inn, Wild Iris Greenhouse & Gardens, Alpine Bank, Mary Jane's Medicinals, Green Room, Rosie Cusack and Telluride Luxury Rentals & Real Estate, Telluride Daily Planet & Norwood Post, Lone Cone Legacy Trust, Lisa Foxwell and Paul Finley, EarthTech West, Gretchen and Jim Wells with JAM Ranch, Piñon Wood Ranch Fibers, Dark Sky Pie Pizza, Giggling Goat Farm, Apple Core Project, the San Miguel Basin Forum, Elizabeth Foley and Coldwell Banker, Local Liquor and The Coach's Mother.

Anyone with questions should contact representatives of Norwood Park and Recreation District. Daiva Chesonis, of the rec district, encourages locals to listen to the bands' music on Spotify and to check out their respective websites online. She told the Forum much work has gone into the planning of the local concert series, and she hopes to see people there.

## Burning Weeds Can Be Expensive

As summer approaches with all of its activities, it is time again to give you a friendly reminder to be careful with those weed fires.

Every year, NNTC has some pedestals and cable that ends up damaged or destroyed by fire as well as unhappy customers who have to pay for the damage.

It is the policy of NNTC that the person responsible for causing damage to a pedestal or cable must pay for replacing it. This is the only fair way to handle these situations. Others should not have to pay for someone else's carelessness. Depending on the type of pedestal it is or the size of cable that was damaged, several thousand dollars can be involved in the repair.

It is much cheaper to prevent this damage than to pay for the repairs.

Report any fire-damage that you see to NNTC immediately by calling 970-864-7335.



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**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 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**

**5/16/2024**

0653 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street in Nucla for a welfare check.  
1403 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Heron Street and West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a noise complaint. Cory Dozier, 39, was cited for disturbing the peace.  
1421 Hours - Deputy took a harassment report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.  
1434 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30700 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a medical assist.  
1531 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 106 near Norwood for an animal problem.  
1817 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28400 block of 2700 Road near Nucla for a trespassing report.  
1925 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29600 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a welfare check.  
1952 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for a harassment report.  
2059 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 2000 block of County Road 43ZN near Norwood for a civil matter.

1 VIN inspection  
1 follow up report  
1 civil process attempted/served

**5/17/2024**

1518 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a traffic complaint.  
1536 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 145 and 3700 Road near Redvale for a traffic complaint.  
1604 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 141 and V19 Road near Naturita for an accident.  
1801 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a traffic complaint.

1906 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 27600 block of DD Road near Nucla.  
1 directed patrol in Naturita

**5/18/2024**

1120 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

1414 Hours - Austin Sullivan, 28, was contacted in the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita and cited for driving with a revoked driver's license and no insurance.

1433 Hours - Austin Sullivan, 28, was arrested in the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita on an outstanding warrant.

1947 Hours - Sheldon Tucksen, 31, was contacted in the 100 block of Porter Street in Naturita and cited for driving while license is under suspension and displaying a fictitious tab.

2116 Hours - Timothy Rutter, 27, was contacted in the 700 block of Main Street in Nucla and issued a warning for speeding.

1 directed patrol in Nucla  
1 directed patrol in Naturita

**5/19/2024**

1158 Hours - Gary Steineckert, 73, was contacted in the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

1212 Hours - Joan Cromley, 54,

was contacted in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.

1247 Hours - Grace Taylor, 21, was contacted at the intersection of West Second Avenue and Adams Street in Naturita and issued a warning for expired registration.

1146 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Divide Road and Cow Camp Road for a welfare check.

1707 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Lincoln Street and West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for an animal problem.

2 directed patrols in County  
2 directed patrols in Naturita

**5/20/2024**

0724 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Park Drive in Naturita for a civil matter.

1237 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to 25 Mesa Road mm 35 near Nucla for an accident.

1314 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a report of suspicious activity.

1739 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla.

1836 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West

Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

1848 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29600 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a suspicious person.

1924 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of DD31 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

2018 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a disturbance.

1 VIN inspection  
2 directed patrols in Naturita

**5/21/2024**

1254 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1326 Hours - Deputy took an information report on 25 Mesa Road mm 41 near Nucla.

1413 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1708 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Second Avenue in Nucla for a harassment report.

2024 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1000 block of Main Street in Nucla for an unwanted person.

1 VIN inspection  
1 follow up report

**ENERGY**

**SMPA board appoints Ridgway's  
Valentine Szwarc**

**SPECIAL TO THE FORUM**

After interviewing four candidates, the sitting directors of San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) decided to appoint Ridgway resident Valentine Szwarc to fill a board vacancy left by the recent passing of incumbent director Debbie Cokes.

The SMPA board comprises seven seats, each representing a different geographic district within the service territory. Szwarc will step in to represent his fellow SMPA members in Board District No. 6, which covers part of Ouray County, including Ridgway and much of Loghill Village. He will remain in the position for the duration of the term, which is up for reelection in the summer of 2026.

Szwarc brings with him a combination of system engineering experiences in the fields of aerospace engineering and information technology, along with a master of science degree in engineering and an executive master of business administration (EMBA).

Locally, he serves/has served on the Ridgway-Ouray Community Council, the Ridgway Dark Sky Committee, and the Top

of the Pines Board of Directors, along with other community initiatives.

"I look forward to working with Mr. Szwarc in the coming years on the SMPA Board," said SMPA Board President Rube Felicelli. "We also appreciate the efforts of the other candidates who applied for the position. This decision was not easy."

Szwarc will appear before the membership, for the first time as a director, at this year's SMPA annual meeting on June 6 at the SMPA Nucla Office, located at 170 W. 10th Ave. in Nucla. Members may also join via Zoom by registering at [smpa.com/content/annual-meeting-election](http://smpa.com/content/annual-meeting-election).

At the conclusion of this meeting, another new SMPA director will be announced, as the winner of the District No. 1 board election to replace outgoing director Doylene Garvey. This director will represent the area, including parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores counties, including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale, Slick Rock and Uravan.



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52-2TC

### VETERAN MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO

Memorial Services for Veterans - Contact Tom Loczy and VFW at: (970) 428-2268.

### CHANGE TO OBITUARY COST

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

### HUGE YARD SALE IN REDVALE, CO

Starts this Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

1-2TC

## DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

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400-500# STEERS	3.50-3.80	400-500# HEIFERS	2.90-3.35
500-600# STEERS	2.95-3.35	500-600# HEIFERS	2.75-2.90
600-700# STEERS	2.65-2.75	600-700# HEIFERS	2.30-2.70
700-800# STEERS	2.40-2.55	700-800# HEIFERS	2.25-2.35
800-900# STEERS	2.25-2.38	800-900# HEIFERS	1.90-2.10
Top bulls	1.50-1.65	Medium bulls	1.40-1.44
Young Cows	1.45-1.82	Top cows	1.25-1.50
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 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Cattle Sale: 2 pairs, 10 mixed feeders, 9 butcher cows and 7 butcher bulls. Along with our usual dock run of 100-200.

### SUMMER SALE SCHEDULE

Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Cattle Sale  
Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> Special sheep & goat sale, along with regular cattle sale.

No sale June 27

No sale July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup> Regular sale

No sale July 18  
Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> Special Goat and Sheep Sale Along with Regular Cattle Sale

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

## WANT TO SEND IN A CLASSIFIED?

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## NUCLA-NATURITA TELEPHONE COMPANY HELP WANTED - FIELD TECHNICIAN

Nucla-Naturita Telephone Company is looking for a Field Technician to join our team. The applicant will conduct such work as installations, repairs, and maintenance throughout our service territory. Normal work schedule is Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but applicant must be willing to work after hours, overtime and to be on call. Other duties and responsibilities, such as locates, may be assigned. Applicant must be willing to do pre-employment drug screening.

### Job Requirements:

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

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

44-TFN-C

## NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL IS HIRING

- Spanish/English Language Learner Teacher
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- 5th Grade Teacher
- Paraprofessionals (1/2 or Full-time)

The full job postings are located on our website, please follow the link/URL <https://www.norwoodk12.org/domain/181> and click on "Click here for job listings and to apply online".

- School Bus Drivers.

Norwood School District is willing to pay for CDL training and certification. Must pass a Class B CDL with S&P endorsement, CDL Drug Test & Physical. The full job description is located on our website, please follow the link/URL <https://www.norwoodk12.org/domain/181> and click on "Click here for job listings and to apply online".

47-8TC

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

## Fun Corner

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SPACE

### ACROSS

- House pest
- Emergency responder,

- acr.
- Meme dance moves
  - Below, prefix
  - Swimmer's distance
  - Not urban

**CROSSWORD**

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

- Take a base
- Grazing spot
- Stressful or unnerving
- \*Clint Eastwood's "Space"
- \*First U.S. space station
- Salty dog's domain
- Fail to mention
- Spermatozoa counterpart
- Ukrainian person, e.g.
- State of submission
- Network of nerves
- Muscle or strength
- \_\_\_ Mara, Africa
- Shapeless form
- Cliffside dwelling
- \*Saturn's environs, sing.
- Poetic feet
- Darn a sock, e.g.
- Per person
- Rendezvous
- Mine entrance
- After-tax amount
- Litter's littlest
- French vineyard
- \*Sun's outer layer, not beer brand
- \*Second S in ISS
- Ancient Celtic priest
- Sun kiss
- "Mea \_\_\_," or "my fault"
- \*\*"From the Earth to the Moon" author
- In the past
- Judge

- Education station
  - Order's partner
  - Food between meals
- DOWN**
- Reduced Instruction Set Computer
  - "I'm \_\_\_ you!"
  - Not many (2 words)
  - Dungeness and snow, e.g.
  - \*Circles of light around sun and moon
  - 90-degree pipes, e.g.
  - \*\_\_\_ Jamison, the first African-American woman in space
  - Tetanus symptom
  - Two-fold
  - Diva's solo
  - Prickle on a wire
  - Sylvester Stallone's nickname
  - Johnny Cash's "Get \_\_\_"
  - Churchill/Roosevelt/Stalin meeting site
  - Model-builder's purchase
  - Gorge oneself
  - \*Planet's path
  - Type of consonant
  - Skeleton, archaic
  - Attention-getting interjection
  - Like pink steak
  - Of the Orient
  - Jousting pole
  - \*\_\_\_-year
  - Opposite of flows
  - \*Solar \_\_\_\_, sun's emission
  - Authoritative

- proclamation noun
- Walked with Dorothy Hamill's long steps
- \*Solar System center
- Parcels
- Birth-related
- One-eighty
- Manitoba native
- Couple's pro-
- Jon of "Game of Thrones"
- Pelvic parts
- Petroleum-exporting grp.
- Police informer
- VHS successor
- Palindromic title

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

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

### Solution to Last Week's Sudoku

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

**Solution to Last Week's Crossword**

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

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NATURITA DAYS

# Out and about for Naturita Days



The ball fields were filled for the softball tournament.



Bette Nickell is queen for a day.



Chloe Sherman plays corn hole. (Photos by Regan Tuttle)

MONTROSE COUNTY MASTER PLAN UPDATE

# OPEN HOUSE

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

**TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2024**  
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