

San Miguel Basin Forum

URAVAN

Volunteers requested for well sampling near Uravan Belt

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Dr. Lesley Sebol, PhD and a senior hydrogeologist at the Colorado School of Mines, reached out to the Forum last week, since she's overseeing a study of well water in the local area this year — private wells, not municipal wells.

The Colorado Geological Survey (CGS), a department of the Colorado School of Mines, has been funded through a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) to conduct a five-year study of baseline radionuclides and metals in groundwater, obtained from privately-owned residential water wells throughout Colorado. Right now, the study is in its third year. It's targeted different areas of the state the last two years — the Wet Mountains and Gunnison — and now the Uravan Belt region is up for study.

Sebol told the Forum the study is focused on areas where Thorium and Uranium are present in the bedrock geology.

The State of Colorado funds the work, using grants for which they pay the School of Mines. Each year, the grant funds vary, and available money determines how many samples can be performed.

For this year's study, 47 water samples will be drawn for select areas of the Uravan Belt — portions of Mesa, West Montrose and San Miguel Counties. The area has been divided into a grid, each containing two to four samples. Sebol said if the number of volunteers in a grid space exceeds the quota, the CGS will prioritize selection of participants by spatial distribution combined with geologic considerations.

Sebol said it's about knowledge and education. She said the state is building a database, and at the same time giving homeowners/landowners information about health and water.

CDPHE has no regulatory authority over private wells.

The grant covers all costs, so the study is free to homeowners. Recommendations, with the top being reverse osmosis, are also distributed as part of the study.

Now, Sebol is seeking volunteers. And, the CSB will ship, via FedEx Ground, a boxed sampling kit with a pre-paid FedEx Ground return shipping label.

"We will need filled water samples returned within about one to

Cont. on Pg. 4

COMMUNITY

Library hosts 'Civic Saturdays' in Naturita

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

"Civic Saturdays" are beginning in Naturita, brought to the community by Stephanie Malcom, of Nucla, a teacher of 15 years now working for West End Public Schools District. The upcoming civics gatherings, for which Malcom has been trained through Civic University, is something she believes in. Civic University is a nonprofit started by Eric Liu, and its goal, according to

Malcom, is building a culture of powerful, responsible citizenship.

Malcom told the San Miguel Basin Forum she's honored to participate in the process.

She'll be facilitating — or catalyzing, she said — the first few Civic Saturdays and then "seeing where it goes." The Naturita Community Library is offering the space, and Malcom is grateful for the staff's support.

"Our library in Naturita is amazing — all the things they do," she said.

The first Civic Saturday event

is Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to noon. Then, those who attend can expect topic questions to be presented. Malcom said the structure also includes opening remarks and greetings. The focus is always on a civic scripture though, and the first will be the "Declaration of Principles" from the Colorado Cooperative Company, the local ditch board. And, the group will discuss what "civic faith" is.

Malcom said there will also be a question: "What are we grateful for around here?"

Cont. on Pg. 5

MUNICIPALITIES

Norwood gears up for recall; Nucla paves

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

The Town of Norwood held its monthly meeting Sept. 11 with a lengthy agenda. Then, two new members of Norwood Water commission were voted in. Now, Finn Kjome, who's served the board for some time, will continue in that role. And, Jenny Russell, was also instated. Russell is an attorney who is knowledgeable of the local watershed and related legalities.

In other Norwood news, Samantha Jacobs, a former teacher now working in mental health for Axis, told town trustees about the new Narcan kiosk. Narcan is a medication that is administered in the event that a person overdoses on a narcotic like fentanyl, an often deadly drug.

Many communities in the U.S. are making the antidote available as a harm-reduction practice. The Narcan kiosk has not been installed yet, but town trustees did approve for it to be placed in the Pocket Park, at the corner of Lucerne Street and Grand Avenue. While Norwood's town trustees expressed some concerns over the Narcan drug, Jacobs said it's benign and won't harm people that are not in an overdose state. She said it's safe to have available.

Jacobs told the Forum she doesn't have an arrival date for the drug yet. She added that Axis is also aiming to place Narcan in Redvale, Naturita and Nucla too. She plans to speak to those town boards.

Many know that a recall election is happening in Norwood concerning the mayor, Candy Meehan. That election is set for Dec. 10. Norwood's deputy clerk Becky Hannigan told the Forum that all registered voters in Norwood's town limits can vote. She added the poll at Norwood Town Hall will be open, and mail-in ballots are an option too.

Election judges will be present. The mayoral recall was contested by Meehan earlier this summer, but a third party, Karen Goldman, of the Colorado Municipal League, audited the petition and opposition. After sorting through the evidence, Goldman said the recall election holds.

In Nucla, there is currently additional paving of roads happening, on Fourth Avenue specifically. The work started Friday, Sept. 13, with cleaning of the road surface. On Monday, Sept. 16, the paving crew was set to begin work with the west end of W. 4th Avenue.

The Nucla Town Clerk,

Cont. on Pg. 5



Traffic in Nucla

The Colorado Grand tour came through Nucla Sept. 12, and many turned out to view the vintage cars parked outside of the Rimrocker Historical Society. (Photo by Tim Tait)

YOUTH

Nucla student presents 'Pinternship' in Telluride

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Nucla High School senior Merrilee Gallagher will give her Pinhead Institute presentation on Sept. 24 at the Sheridan Opera House in Telluride, in a showcase that happens from 6 to 9 p.m. Gallagher will give highlights of her experience in interning at Outlaw Equine, in Decatur, TX, an ICU and rehabilitation facility for horses. She was there mid-July to mid-August, via the Pinhead Institute, a Smithsonian affiliate.

Gallagher is a lover of all things equine, and though she doesn't own a horse, she took riding lessons as a little girl and now works for Jubilee Stables in Norwood. She's been interested in equine sci-

ence and veterinary medicine, and the "Pinternship" was very telling for Gallagher.

After spending four weeks immersed in emergent care, she's not sure she wants to commit to seeking a vet degree. At the same time, her love for horses has only been bolstered.

There at Outlaw, she worked in the ICU side, not the rehab side. She helped other interns and the medical professionals treat horses for various acute conditions. She helped run catheters for horses with colic. She worked with wound injuries and abscesses, sometimes using hydrotherapy and herbal sprays. Once she helped apply maggots to an infected wound, so the dead tissue could be eaten.

And, she helped treat a baby donkey and its dam, both of which had stranglers. Catching foals who needed oral medications sometimes took a total of four people. All of this was happening in the Texas heat, which exceeded 100 degrees typically.

Though she didn't directly help with euthanasia, it was a part of the practice for equines that couldn't be saved.

Just arriving there was big for Gallagher. In fact, she'd never flown before and took her first plane ride, landing in Dallas. Other interns helped her get to the grocery to buy food she had to prepare for herself. She lived with a group of other interns in an apart-

Cont. on Pg. 3

NORWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber celebrates Jet Trucking and the staying power of the liquor store, library

By CHERYL JERABEK

The Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright’s Mesa is celebrating Jet Trucking, LLC, a company that plays a pivotal role in the community. You may not think much about the value of having a local trucking company until you really need it, whether it’s for delivering crucial supplies for a house you’re building, bringing gravel to your driveway, or hauling materials for a large-scale event. In a place like this, where the needs of the community are unique and often require specialized logistics, having a reliable trucking service is invaluable.

At the heart of Jet Trucking is owner and operator Jeremy Townsend, a seasoned professional with more than 20 years of experience in the trucking industry. He’s worked in various fields of trucking, but his true passion lies in working right in this area.

“I really like that our community is so good about supporting small businesses. It’s hard to survive without that support,” he said in a recent interview.

And, Local Liquor has been a staple in Norwood for more than 25 years, providing residents and visitors alike with a well-stocked selection of spirits, wines and beers. Originally opened by Joanne Roudebush in 1997, the store quickly became a central hub for the community, not only offering a variety of libations, but also supporting local events such as the San Miguel Basin Rodeo. Over the years, Roudebush moved the store to its current location at 1565 Grand Ave., where it has continued to thrive and serve the needs of the community.

In December 2022, Laurel Henderson took the reins of Local Liquor, uncorking a new era for the beloved store.

“Purchasing the store has been a wonderful shift,” Henderson said. “I’m enjoying entrepreneurship, being a part of our local community and working for myself.”

She’s committed to maintaining the store’s strong community ties, continuing the tradition of supporting local programs and events.

Tucked in the very heart of the community at 1455 Pinion St. is one of Norwood’s most valuable resources, the Lone Cone Library. Established in 1939, the library has transformed from a one-room log cabin with a handful of books to the bustling center of knowledge and community engagement that it is today. Offering a wide range of services and resources, the library now features modern facilities, digital collections and various community programs for all ages.

On July 15, former superintendent of Norwood School District Todd Bittner took his new position as director at the Lone Cone Library. He brings 20 years of experience as an educator to the table, as well as his administrative and keynote speaking abilities.

Through its innovative programs, educational outreach and commitment to fostering connections, the Lone Cone Library continues to be a cornerstone of knowledge and a cherished community asset.

Future plans?

“We will focus on being good stewards of taxpayer money by prioritizing community needs, optimizing resource allocation, and fostering transparency,” Bittner 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. With questions, email norwoodchamber23@gmail.com.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society Cameville, a gold mine camp, Part 3

By JANE THOMPSON, Rimrocker Historical Society

The newspapers of the day were all about talk of the Lower San Miguel being the next big gold rush. Virgil M. Came was still very involved in working his claims along the San Miguel, having sent his son Edward to oversee the Cameville Camp. The names “Dearborne,” “Johnson,” “Kimball” — wealthy business men traveling from eastern cities to Denver in connection with Came — tell the story of the hope that was in that area of the San Miguel.

In the Rocky Mountain News of March 11, 1884, appeared this headline:

“CATTLE IN COLORADO, The San Miguel coming to the front as a great grazing region.

The San Miguel Cattle Company It was but yesterday that the San Miguel was an almost unknown country to civilization. It was in the Indians’ possession, and was over on the Western Slope where the waters of the rivers go down to the Pacific. The country has broad valleys, deep ravines and high, well-grassed hills. The frosts never close the streams, and the snows seldom cover the animals’ food. It is, in fact, a fine field for the bovine of the future.

A few days since, the San Miguel Cattle Company, which owns a large herd of cattle in that country, filed papers of incorporation with the Secretary of State. By reference to these filings, we learn that the company is composed of Mr. F. M. Dearborne, of Mauldin, Mass., a surgeon in the United States Navy; Mr. R. W. Johnson, of Seabury & Johnson, a prominent firm at 21 Platte Street, New York; E. J. Arthur, a prominent lawyer at 50 Wall Street, and also of the Navy; C. S. Davis, a retired merchant of Muskegon, Mich.; and Virgil M.



This image shows an old branding iron from the Club Ranch, part of the Rimrocker collection found on the Uncompahgre Plateau. The ranch got its name from the club in a deck of cards. (Photo by Jane Thompson)

Came, of Denver.

The latter gentleman has a wide acquaintance throughout Colorado and the West, where he for many years has been connected with the cross-continent railway lines in the freight and passenger departments.

This new company proposes to add largely to their already numerous herds, early the current spring. Mr. Came is confident that he has chosen well in his selection of a location. With his experience and business push, backed by ample capital as he is, there is now question of his and his company’s ultimate success.”

Mr. Came had not only been busy with a little gold mining in Cameville, but he had also been growing a nice herd of cattle in the Lower San Miguel River area of Cameville. The San Miguel Cattle Company would be referred to as the “Club Ranch” and was right there in downtown Cameville on Tabeguache Creek.

Mining and cattle ranching had quickly become the economic drivers in the West End before there were even any roads into this part of Colorado. Virgil Marcellus Came was a man with a vision — and the means to make it happen.

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FIRE AND EMS

Norwood Fire hosts mill levy meeting in Redvale

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Norwood Fire Protection District (NFPD) will host a community meeting on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 9 a.m. at the Redvale Community Center, in Redvale, to provide West Montrose County residents with an overview of the district's upcoming mill levy election.

District Chief John Bockrath will lead the discussion and answer questions relating to the NFPD's critical funding vote on Nov. 5.

All members of the community are invited to attend, learn about the ballot issue and ask their questions about the future of emergency ser-

vices (EMS) on the West End. The NFPD has not increased its budget in nearly a decade, but with much higher call volumes, it now faces existential pressure to maintain emergency response capabilities.

"Budgetary restraints may force our tax district to cut emergency medical services and re-structure the department," said Bockrath. "To keep effective fire and EMS protection on the West End, this mill levy is critical to the Norwood district. We simply can't afford to lose this election."

NFPD has been communicating to members of the district through local news outlets via press releases and letters to the editor to share the graveness of

the situation. Saturday's meeting is a continuation of that education that is taking place.

The Norwood Fire Protection District provides emergency medical services, structural and wildland fire suppression and prevention services, search and rescue, motor vehicle extraction, home health care checks, and hazardous material response across nearly 900 square miles between San Miguel and West Montrose counties. Anyone with questions about the mill levy or the meeting Saturday should contact John Metzger, communication specialist for the district. He can be reached by emailing john@metzger.com or calling 303-641-1062.

FIRE

AI provides fire protection locally

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

"If there was ever a question, this summer has proven that the investment was well worth it." That's the sentiment from Telluride Fire Protection District (TFPD) Chief John Bennett, regarding the PANO-AI fire detection system that's currently scanning county, state and federal lands in portions of San Miguel Power Association's (SMPA's) service territory. "So much of wildland fire protection is about early detection," Bennett added "... and that's exactly what the PANO system does."

Back in 2023, SMPA and TFPD took an innovative first step to leverage an emerging technology from worldwide company PANO-AI and applied it to wildland safety and fire protection. As a result, four 360-degree, high-definition cameras were installed at high-altitude perches at the Raspberry Communications Tower, Telski Lift No. 9, Grayhead and McKenzie Springs.

The video feed of these cameras is analyzed, in real time, by an artificially intelligent (AI) system. When the system detects an anomaly, an on-duty operator is

alerted, and local fire protection authorities can be notified, based on human discretion. The process is extremely fast and efficient.

"It's a very effective tool," said SMPA chief operating officer Jeremy Fox. "Most often, when we receive an alert from PANO, it is the very first notification."

A notable example was the recent Bucktail Fire in Montrose County, near Nucla.

"When we received the call on that fire from Norwood, through mutual aid, our crews were already geared up and ready to deploy," Bennett said.

In several other cases, fire crews had been engaging in fire suppression on a scene before the first 911 call was received.

In addition to the time advantage, the PANO system has demonstrated a better-than-promised range.

"We actually received an alert of an event on the Grand Mesa," stated Bennett. The site is located about 40 miles beyond the nameplate range of the camera that saw it.

"I am very proud of our partnership with the TFPD," said SMPA's chief executive officer Brad Zaporski. "This relationship has enabled the deployment

of some of the most advanced wildfire protection technology currently available, and which is performing beyond our expectations to protect the communities that we serve."

To enhance public safety, all PANO alerts are shared with an inter-agency dispatch center.

San Miguel, and other counties, as well as fire districts and two power transmission authorities have all been benefitting from the improved vigilance.

"Currently, the only funding partners are the TFPD and SMPA. We are hoping that other local organizations will see the value and pledge support for the program," said Bennett. "With a discounted price ensured by the three-year contract, and support from additional partners, we could not only continue the program in its current form, we could expand it with the addition of more cameras."

"It's clear that PANO's mission is well-aligned with that of the Telluride Fire Protection District and of SMPA," said Fox. "It's exciting to be part of an advanced solution for wildfire protection, but we need help if the program is to continue protecting our lands into the future."

San Miguel Basin Forum

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'Pinternship'

Cont. from Pg. 1

ment, learning what it means to be a self-responsible adult.

Being away from her family was the hardest; she spoke with her mom daily.

She said her managers and doctors were nice. She made friends with some of the interns there too.

She still wants to have a life that includes horses or a horse business, but she's thinking of majoring in business now, to learn to own and operate her own boarding facility. She'd like to minor in equine science.

"It was mind-blowing," she said. "It opened my mind to different opportunities that I haven't seen before. I'm so used to being in a rural town. I'd never have seen that type of facility and all those horses. It was a lot."

Gallagher, who was also home-schooled until she entered public school in 10th grade, said she's definitely more confident in herself after the Pinternship. She's now looking at colleges on the East Coast, some in New England, one in Florida and others. She's ready to book additional airfare to

go and do some college visits.

Nucla principal Sara Bray said she's proud of the young woman.

"She has worked really hard and done some great things," she told the Forum, adding that Gallagher is also a Chang-Chavkin Scholar.

Gallagher, through the Chang-Chavkin Scholarship program, will receive \$60,000 to use at any college of her choice, along with four years of support services, advising and tutoring help.

"She's really doing great things, and we are so proud of her," Bray said.



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Well sampling

Cont. from Pg. 1

two weeks," she said. "Once we receive a water sample, we will assign a sample number to anonymize it. Thus, the owner's contact information will stay solely with CGS. We anticipate about a two-month turn-around time before we can email lab results to the individual well owners."

Anyone who'd like to volunteer to submit a sample from their well is asked to send an email to

LSEBOL@mines.edu with name, shipping address, (physical address of property if different) and phone number (FedEx requires phone numbers for shipping).

A reply email will be sent with more detailed sampling information, asking for confirmation. If possible, Sebol would like the volunteer to identify which grid space the well is located within.

Volunteers who have a well treatment in place should bypass

filters, or collect their sample before water hits the filter.

"We want to get raw water, not treated water," Sebol said.

She added homeowners/landowners can decide what they want to do with the information. She said each volunteer gets their own individualized data.

She added FedEx can also pick up the sample, so that volunteers don't have to drive to mail it off. Pick-up can be arranged.

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Examining the aftermath

This image shows Bucktail Draw, outside of Nucla, which recently burned. The case involves arson charges and is under investigation. (Photo by Rusty Scott)



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‘Civic Saturdays’

Cont. from Pg. 1

She’s been living in the West End for only year, but has fallen in love with the area. She admitted she’s now under “The Spell of the Tabeguache,” a reference to an old book that the Rimrocker Historical Society has for sale, written about the Nucla area by one of the first settlers. Malcom is curious to hear others’ responses to that question.

Essentially, the invitation, and intention, is that people from diverse backgrounds can come together and talk about democracy. Malcom said those that catalyze the civic faith meetings believe that “democracy is never done.”

The Forum asked if the Civic Saturdays could establish a connecting point or common ground for people in the community. Malcom agreed that’s possible.

Malcom holds a masters degree in curriculum and instruction, in the field of education. Additionally, more than 20 years ago, she worked as an Americorp fellow in the rural Midwest for the purpose of fostering economic development. She loved bringing people together in that work too, she said.



In general, Malcom likes to work on solutions to problems and “seeing what people want and need to continue to build amazing

community,” she said.

All ages are welcome at the Civic Saturdays. Malcom said it’s completely appropriate for children to attend. Some refreshments will be served. She added that people can attend as many as they wish, and they can still come, even if they miss the first few Saturdays of the four-week series.

In past Civic Saturdays that she’s been a part of, there have been opportunities for music and poetry too.

Anyone with questions is welcome to email her at stephanie.malcolm.91@gmail.com. She also said calling is fine too, and she can be reached at 308-737-1305.

WHAT IS CIVIC FAITH?

Join us and find out

Civic Saturday is a gathering designed to bring people together – not around a political, policy or religious belief, but a shared sense of civic life


Civic Saturday Fellowship prepares motivated Americans to inspire a sense of shared civic purpose and moral courage in their communities.

Saturday, September 21st 11 am-12 pm	Saturday, October 12th 11 am-12 pm
Saturday, September 28th 11 am-12 pm	Saturday, October 19th 11 am-12 pm

@Naturita Community Library

Civic Saturday is a program of the nonprofit organization Citizen University. Citizen University’s mission is to build a culture of powerful, responsible citizenship across the country.

West End Civic Saturday: activated by Civic Saturday Fellow Stephanie Malcolm



Norwood and Nucla

Cont. from Pg. 1

Melissa Lampshire, said Asphalt Specialists is the paving contractor handling the job, and the plan was to move east. It was all ideally to be finished the afternoon of Sept. 17, or the morning

of Sept. 18.

Congestion issues were to be expected, and anyone not transporting children to or from the new Nucla school was asked to avoid the area, so the contractor could work. Lampshire, on behalf

of the town staff, said she thanked all for their patience.

Nucla Town Trustee Paula Brown confirmed that more water and sewer projects were in the works for the Town of Nucla too. Those details will soon be announced.

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West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

8/14/2024
0012 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a juvenile problem.
0903 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Heron Street in Nucla to relay a message.
1109 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Juniper Street in Nucla for a civil matter.
1117 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a trespassing report.
1507 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 39800 block of Eagle Drive near Norwood for a 911.
1526 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for an information report.

1714 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a welfare check.
1 VIN inspection
1 follow up report

8/15/2024
0935 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 24200 block of X7 Road near Bedrock for a civil matter.
1139 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Third Avenue in Naturita for a civil matter.

1412 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 33300 block of GG47 Road near Norwood for a 911.
1855 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.
2 VIN inspections
3 follow up reports

8/16/2024
1348 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Main Street in Nucla for a citizen assist.
1 follow up report

8/17/2024
1137 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 3100 block of Highway 90 near Paradox for a fire.
1154 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 33300 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for an animal problem.
1415 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist on Forest Service Road 378 near Paradox.
1501 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a fraud report.

1539 Hours - Deputy contacted a vehicle near the intersection of Highway 141 and Y11 Road near Naturita for a parking problem.
1620 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 106 near Norwood for a disturbance.
1703 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 34500 block of HH Road near Redvale for a fire.
1 follow up report
5 directed patrols in County
3 civil processes attempted/served

8/18/2024
0126 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of East Main Street and Highway 97 in Naturita for an information report.
1031 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a harassment report.

1650 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an information report.
1938 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to 25 Mesa Road mm 34 near Nucla for a fire.
1 follow up report
2 civil processes attempted/served

8/19/2024
1500 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29200 block of 2800 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.
1611 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a citizen assist.
1928 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a harassment report.

2012 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1100 block of Lookout Drive in Naturita for an agency assist.
2 school zones
1 VIN inspection
1 directed patrol in Nucla
1 directed patrol in County
1 directed patrol in Naturita
3 civil processes attempted/served

8/20/2024
0919 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita for an animal problem.
1148 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29000 block of 3090 Road near Nucla for a suspicious person.
1516 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1531 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a suspicious person.
1644 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.
1649 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of County Road 90 and BB36 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

1814 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30700 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for an information report.
2021 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to County Road 90 mm 37 near Nucla for a citizen assist.
2320 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Adams Street and West First Avenue in Naturita for a utility problem.
1 school zone
2 VIN inspections
1 follow up report
1 civil process attempted/served

8/21/2024
0505 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a medical assist.
0631 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

Coming to visit



This image shows an old photo from the Norwood High School yearbook. (Photo courtesy of Keith Williams)

Dear Editor,

Former coach and teacher Tom Richardson will be in Norwood for Pioneer Day this year. He would love to see everyone from the 1975 and 1976 school years.

Kieth Williams
NORWOOD

OBITUARY

Alvina Mae Powers Taber

Sept. 14, 1956 — Sept. 12, 2024



Alvina Mae Powers Taber.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Alvina Mae Powers Taber, born Sept. 14, 1956, in Boulder. She was the beloved daughter of Betty Mae Powers and Alvin Randolph Powers.

Alvina passed away on Sept. 12, 2024. She was preceded in death by her mother, Betty Mae Powers, and her sisters, Beth Ann Tudors and Tammy Lynn Strecker. Alvina is survived by her loving husband, Rick Gene Taber; her children, Heather (Dan) Curtis, Dustin (Allyce) Blake, April (Jesse) Bjerck and Molly Taber; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her sister, Linda; and her brother, Randy.

Alvina cherished her family and loved life. She was never happier than when she was outdoors — hiking, riding on the back of a motorcycle, gardening or camping. Her eyes absolutely lit up when she got to spend time with her children and grandchildren. She left a void that will be impossible to fill. Her love, tenacity and infectious laugh will be missed.

A celebration of life will be held at New Hope Pentecostal Church (downstairs) on Friday, Sept. 20, at 3 p.m.

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Breakfast Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

Monday, Sept. 23

Whipped Cream Cheese, Fruit Toast, Milk, and Juice

Tuesday, Sept. 24

French Toast, Mixed Fruit, Milk, and Juice

Wednesday, Sept. 25

Smoothie, Graham Crackers, Milk, and Juice

Thursday, Sept. 26

English Muffin, Cheese, Pears, Milk, and Juice

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Lunch Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

Monday, Sept. 23

Chicken Nuggets w/Dips, Roll, Beans, Salad Bar, and Milk

Tuesday, Sept. 24

Nacho Grande, Beef & Cheese, Salad Bar, and Milk

Wednesday, Sept. 25

Chicken Noodle Soup, Roll, Salad Bar, and Milk

Thursday, Sept. 26

Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Salad Bar, and Milk

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Continued from Page 6

patched to the 29700 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for an animal problem.

1046 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1103 Hours - Deputy conducted a field interview in the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita.

1111 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 109 near Redvale for an information report.

1214 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a criminal mischief report.

1427 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of Highway 145 and 3700 Road near

Redvale for a motorist assist.

1640 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29100 block of 2900 Road near Nucla for an animal problem.

1720 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of West Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a 911.

1849 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28200 block of 2810 Road near Nucla for a theft report.

2225 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a trespassing report.

2340 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a 911.

1 VIN inspection
3 follow up reports

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION - TECHNICAL REVISION APPLICATION No. 26

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety proposes to approve Technical Revision Application No. 26 (TR-26) for the New Horizon North Mine (Permit No. C-2010-089), submitted by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC. TR-26 proposes to remove 3.4 acres of Phase III bond released areas from the permit boundary.

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

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

The revision application, as well as all other permit documents, can be viewed at <https://dnrweb-link.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx> by searching C2010089 in the "Permit No" field. A user guide is available to help first time users of the imaged document system and can be viewed at https://drive.google.com/file/d/118OUdf_Mpjo3kxIHkP5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view.

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

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

Published in the San Miguel basin Forum September 18, 2024

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED AD RATE:

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HELP WANTED

WEEDC seeks office & grant administrator.

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San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) is seeking to fill the position of KEY ACCOUNTS & PROJECTS EXECUTIVE (Ridgway)

To view the complete job posting, benefits, compensation, and how to apply, please visit our website www.smpa.com. SMPA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

AA MEETING

Every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. at the Naturita Community Library.

VETERAN MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO

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

NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL NOW HIRING FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

- Elementary Teacher
- Spanish/English Language Learner 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."

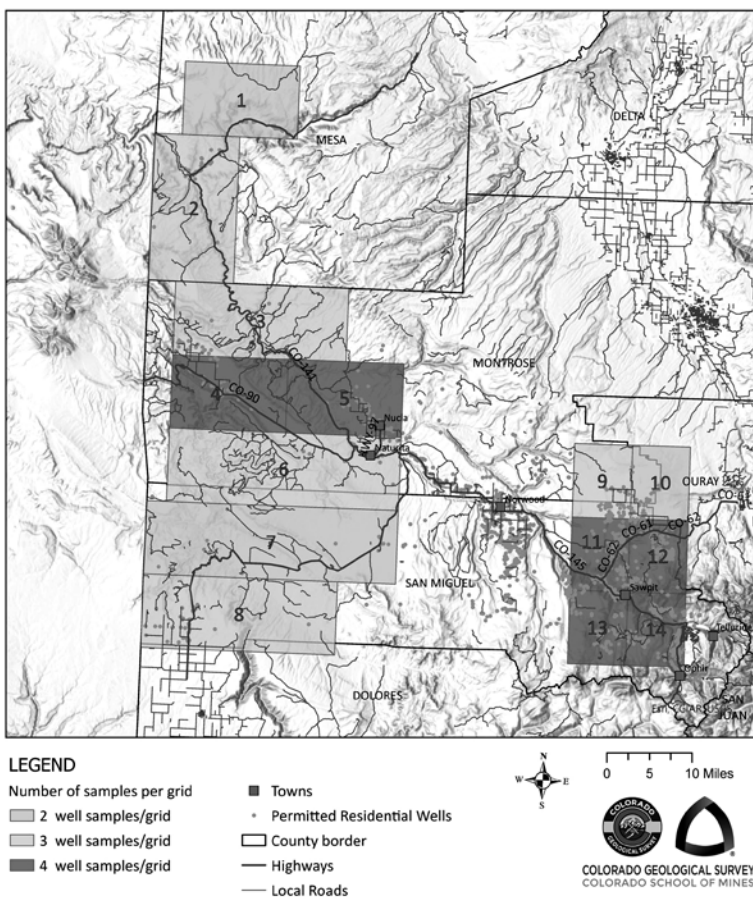
Small Bus Drivers (Non-CDL Bus Driver Position)

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."

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

Volunteers needed for well-water samples near Uravan Belt

Residential water well sampling grid showing available number of samples per grid space



The Colorado Geological Survey (CGS), a department of the Colorado School of Mines, has been funded through a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) to conduct a five-year study of baseline radionuclides and metals in groundwater obtained from privately-owned residential water wells throughout Colorado. CDPHE's reason for this study is education-focused for homeowners on wells. Note: CDPHE has no regulatory authority over private wells. The grant is covering the costs, so it's free to homeowners.

For this effort, 47 water samples are currently available for select areas of the Uravan Belt, which spans portions of Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties. The area has been divided into a grid, each containing two to four samples. If the number of volunteers in a grid space exceeds the quota, the CGS will prioritize selection of participants by spatial distribution combined with geologic considerations.

For this effort, we are seeking volunteers to whom we will ship, via FedEx Ground, a boxed sampling kit with a pre-paid FedEx Ground return shipping label.

We will need filled water samples returned within about one to two weeks. Once we receive a water sample, we will assign a sample number to anonymize it. Thus, the owner's contact information will stay solely with CGS. We anticipate about a two-month turn-around time before we can email lab results to the individual well owners.

Volunteers, please send an email to LSEBOL@mines.edu with your name, shipping address, (physical address of property if different) and phone number. (FedEx requires phone numbers for shipping). A reply email will be sent with more detailed sampling information, asking for confirmation. If possible, please also identify which grid space the well is located within. (Available grids are shown in color on our grid map).

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.10-3.30	300-400# HEIFERS	3.00-3.25
400-500# STEERS	2.90-3.35	400-500# HEIFERS	2.80-3.15
500-600# STEERS	2.60-2.83	500-600# HEIFERS	2.50-2.75
600-700# STEERS	2.58-2.70	600-700# HEIFERS	2.25-2.50
700-800# STEERS	2.40-2.55	700-800# HEIFERS	2.20-2.35
800-900# STEERS	2.30-2.45	800-900# HEIFERS	1.95-2.17
Top bulls	1.51-1.56	Medium bulls	1.35-1.54
Young Cows	1.40-1.65	Top cows	1.30-1.46
Medium cows	1.10-1.25	Low-yielding cows	1.00 Below

NEXT WEEK: September 19 Feeder Sale: 30 feeders from Parachute, 100 mixed feeders from Paonia, 40 feeders from Loma, 30 feeders from Hotchkiss, 22 mixed calves from Delta, 40 yearlings from Delta, 35 mixed feeder out of Eckert. Along with our dock run of 200-300.

UPCOMING SALES

Thursday September 19th – Feeder Sale: 30

feeders from Parachute, 100 mixed feeders from Paonia, 40 feeders from Loma, 30 feeders from Hotchkiss, 22 mixed calves from Delta.

Thursday September 26th – Special Sheep &

Goat Sale. Selling Sheep, Goats, Pigs, ONLY! 200

wether lambs from Hotchkiss. **All Cattle sell on Saturday**

September 28th.

Saturday September 28th – Special Bred Cow & Feeder

Sale. Dispersal of 50 Bred cows & calves, 13 Bred cows &

Calves from Meeker, 40 mixed feeders. Starting at 10:00a.m.

**YOUTH VOICES IN THE
SAN MIGUEL WATERSHED**

Fall sports continue, FFA travels

By CADENCE SHAW, *Forum intern*

Norwood and Nucla started their school year strong. Students have only been in school for a little less than a month, but have started with school-wide activities. The last couple weeks, students have been active in those.

Now that the high school volleyball and football teams are close to hitting the 50 percent mark in their seasons, they're showing great teamwork and dedication.

Norwood High School volleyball showed growth, despite having tough, devastating losses. Overall, their record is winning 3-6, with five of the games they lost being genuinely close games.

On Sept. 5, Norwood played Mancos, 7-3, and ranked 21st in the 2A division. Norwood took Mancos to four sets, but ultimately lost to them in the fourth.

Grace Harris, one of the team captains for Norwood, said, "With our varsity team being primarily seniors, we have a lot of potential to be successful this season. We've played together since sixth grade, and our chemistry is easily seen on the court."

She added she's excited to see how the girls finish out the season. As they move forward, they are going to follow the three "Bs" — Breath, Believe, Battle — as that is their motto for this season. On Thursday, Sept. 19, Norwood is traveling to Ignacio to play three games, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

As for Nucla High School's volleyball team, they have a record of 3-6, with the team having success at the three tournaments they went to. The Nucla girls took a win against Cripple Creek and Sierra Grande at the Custer County Tournament and won a game against Manitous Springs at the Soroco Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Viviana Zunich and Lantry Galley are team captains.

Lantry Galley said in an interview, "We are doing well for having a young team this year. We have had some great success, and we are looking forward to our next games. We have traveled to three different tournaments, which has allowed us to grow as a team on and off the court. We are anticipating a season full of great memories and accomplishments."

The Nucla girls are committed to growth as they press on into their season. Nucla volleyball was to take on Ouray on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Ouray.

As for the high school football team, a combined team of Norwood and Nucla guys, they began their season Aug. 30 versus Hayden at Norwood. They started with a win over Hayden, 12-8.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, they lost a tough game against Vail Christian, 28-30. As one of the four team captains, Josh Platt said, "I think the team has come a long way. We have had the best coaching in my four years of high school. I think that this is the best team Norwood has had in the past four years... I think that we have a chance to make the playoffs." Brycen Rummel added to that: "As a team, I feel we are more disciplined than last year. We had a tough loss against Vail Christian last weekend, but we are prepared to hopefully go undefeated the rest of the upcoming season. It would be encouraging to have more community support and more of a fan base for our next couple games at home."

The high school football team takes on Monticello at the Norwood field on Friday, Sept. 20, starting at 7 p.m. All are invited to come and support the guys.

Norwood FFA has been in full effect and has many different events happening. On Wednesday, Sept. 11, high schoolers Brenna Morlang and Brylea Butler went to Olathe to practice their DLC (district leadership conference) workshop with the eighth grade ag class.

Brylea Butler said, "Being able to just practice our workshop has helped us to improve the message we want to share and work out any obstacles we may face during DLC."

Their DLC is on Sept. 25.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, Norwood FFA serves their annual Pioneer Day Dinner. It will be hosted at the Norwood School cafeteria, and doors open at noon. Later on in October, Norwood FFA will travel to Indianapolis for the national FFA convention.



Middle school football, a combined team of Norwood and Nucla, beat Mancos for the first time in a long time, 16-12.



Hadley Snyder works her magic at the net for middle school volleyball, a combined Norwood-Nucla team.



Sadly, the Mavericks, combined of Norwood and Nucla guys, fell to Platuea Valley 36-40 on Saturday.



Shay Snyder kills one for the Mustangs. (Photos by Brandie McCabe)