

San Miguel Basin Forum

WOLVES

2nd wolf release completed with CPW

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Tim Ritschard, fifth-generation rancher in Grand County, is also the president of the Middle Park Stock Growers Association and runs a number of cows on his family's operation. The Forum spoke with Ritschard last week, as many followed — or tried to follow — what was happening with wolf releases in Colorado.

In 2020, voters in Colorado, primarily the Front Range, decided wolves should be reintroduced to the state. Yet, those wolves are being released into rural Colorado on the Western Slope, where livestock producers stand at risk of losing sheep and cows. Hunters, too, have expressed worry over deer and elk.

Ritschard, like many on the Western Slope, remained unclear of all details about the recent wolf releases, the first of which happened in his area in 2023. He said he agreed wolves were probably being released last week, and that was supposed to be a part of the state plan, though he wasn't sure why the silence. He'd heard there may have been security worries, threats to CPW employees. He said nobody he knew would do such a thing.

"None of us in the ag world are doing credible threats," he said. "We just want to know."

Ritschard said it's true ranchers want to negotiate. They filed a petition in September, letting CPW know the state is unprepared for additional wolf releases. He said ranchers need the definition of "chronic depredation," range riders, a rapid response team, increased communication and more.

He thought the most recent releases were in Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield counties, but that was speculation.

Last Friday, the Forum contacted Rachael Gonzales, public information officer for CPW, with a series of questions about the wolves and if they'd been indeed released in the last few weeks. On Sunday, Gonzales sent the Forum a press release CPW made public that day, Jan. 19.

That press release — cpw.state.co.us/news/01192025/cpw-concludes-second-year-gray-wolf-capture-and-release-efforts — states that CPW did complete a second round of wolf releases.

"Fifteen wolves were translocated from the central interior of British Columbia to Colorado," the press release states. "Separately, the agency also successfully completed the release of five members from the original Copper Creek

Cont. on Pg. 4

WATER

West End holds 4th SWPP meeting, discusses 'forever chemicals'

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The stakeholders for the local Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) — a joint effort with the towns of Naturita and Nucla — met again for their fourth meeting in the series on Jan. 15. The meeting had many log in remotely with Melissa Lampshire stationed at Nucla Town Hall. Lampshire, Nucla's town manager, welcomed stakeholders to sit with her and participate.

Led by Gabriel Matta, of Colorado Rural Water Association, the meeting recapped the process that has taken place so far in the last year. That included mapping the watershed, identifying possible sources of contamination, and Matta revisited the threat assessment matrix that is applied to all discussions.

Additionally, Matta reiterated that a \$5,000 matching grant was available for local municipalities' participation and creation of a SWPP, and so far Naturita

has raised \$3,500 of their match; Nucla, \$4,000.

While the last meeting in the fall of 2024 focused on mining and wildfire as potential sources of contamination, the main idea for Jan. 15 was "forever chemicals," called PFAS, which is short for "per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances."

PFAS are toxic substances found in source water or drinking water, commonly in environments adjacent to airports or fire stations. Some of the materials that contain

Cont. on Pg. 3

PUBLIC LANDS

BLM identifies possibilities for solar in West End; projects require local review

By GAVIN MCGOUGH, *Forum Contributor*

Planning efforts, on the regional and national scale, could have impacts for the future of solar development in the West End. Throughout 2024, Planning Commission meetings in San Miguel County drew large turnouts, while the county was writing a new chapter into its land use code. At issue then was utility-scale solar development — where, and of what size, solar development might be allowed.

Those regulations were passed last fall after a year and a half of effort. Before the final vote, Commissioner Lance Waring recognized the county's new rules around solar "were some of the most difficult to navigate in the state."

"My gut," Waring said at the September meeting, "is that developers will take the easier path elsewhere, and choose not to build in San Miguel County."

The code had grown restrictive in response to concerns voiced by Norwood-area residents, who said industrial solar development would bring negative impacts to their agricultural lands, views and rural way of life. In response, the county moved to limit any solar projects on Wright's Mesa to 30 acres in size, and included requirements that a developer mitigate for a vast array of possible impacts, from effects on sight lines to wildlife.

Simultaneous to the efforts in San Miguel County, the BLM was drafting its own solar plan for a vast stretch of territory across 11 Western states. Last month, the BLM ratified its Western Solar Plan, which updates a 2012 document.

The BLM plan identifies more than 31 million acres across the agency's western holdings as suitable for solar development. It's the result of an "Executive Action" signed by former President Biden. The plan aims to identify lands for solar development and streamline the application process to speed up new projects.

The plan identifies land in both San Miguel and Montrose counties as potentially suitable for solar. This includes areas in the Big Gypsum and Disappointment Valleys, as well as lands just south of Naturita, and a portion of

Cont. on Pg. 5



Swearing in

Montrose County welcomed Commissioners Rick Dunlap and Scott Mijares, who were officially sworn into office Jan. 14. Pictured, center, is Commissioner Sue Hansen. (Courtesy image)

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Coach Rummel has high hopes for Mustangs

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Mike Rummel, of Norwood, has been coaching basketball at both middle and high school levels in Norwood and Nucla for the last 13 years. This year he's head coach for the Mustangs, and he's enjoying his time with the guys. He's proud to see the current group have the good run they're experiencing, now 9-4.

Coach said the Mustangs are a relatively younger team, after los-

ing four seniors at the end of last year, three of which were starters. With two returning starters on the court now, the younger guys are stepping up, he said.

Practices began in November, and Rummel said the guys play well together.

"They're all in it for one reason, to win," he said. "They don't care who scores or whatever, they just want to win. Their goal is to win, and they want to host a regional playoff, like we did last year."

Last year, in the new Nucla gym,

the Mustangs were first in the league and got to host the regional tournament. Rummel agreed that's another possibility now.

"We do have a chance," he said.

He added, though, that every time they guys step onto the court, it's a challenge, and all the area guys teams are good this year. He said the Mustangs have to go in ready to play their game, and that other teams do take great pleasure in beating Norwood-Nucla.

The Mustangs beat Ouray last

Cont. on Pg. 3

COMMUNITY

CSU-Extension Office announces new programming

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Colorado State University-Extension Office in Norwood kicked off 2025 with new leadership and a host of new programs, opportunities and updates for the community.

“We are excited to announce that Interim Director Gus Westerman is stepping in to lead the office, with the new director’s role set to be filled in the coming months,” representatives said. “In addition to this leadership transition, we’ve revamped our website. Be sure to check it out, and we’re now back on social media. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates and news.”

The CSU-Extension Office team said they’re working hard to bring the community new programming, and this year is already shaping up to be full of opportunities. Enrollment for 4-H clubs in the San Miguel Basin is officially open and will remain available until early April. For any family looking to join the 4-H community, now is the time to sign up. Visit the local 4-H page for more information or reach out to 4-H Coordinator, Annika Kristiansen, for assistance: annikak@sanmiguelcountycogov.

The Back to 4-H Dance will be held on March 15 and is open to all area youth for a night of fun and dancing. Additionally, Kristiansen will be offering the Project Taster Series – Try It Out! 4-H Fridays, which will be held monthly on the first Friday of each month at the Lone Cone Library in Norwood, starting Feb. 7.

“These hands-on workshops are open to all youth in the community, not just 4-H members,” Kristiansen said. “To learn more and RSVP for these events, visit the San Miguel Basin Extension website.”

The information can be found under the “4-H Programming” tab under the Event Calendar. And, the 4-H program is looking for 4-H volunteers to lead one to two hour workshops on a variety of topics, including STEM, livestock care and public speaking. Anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact the CSU-Extension Office.

Besides 4-H programming, representatives said they’re excited to offer several upcoming workshops for adults in the next few months. That includes the “Understanding

& Making Kimchi Workshop” on Feb. 21 at Norwood’s Lone Cone Library, as well as the cottage foods class on March 4 at the Norwood Sheriff’s Annex.

“These workshops provide valuable hands-on experience,” representatives said.

Community members can register for them and find more details on the website under the “Our Events + Programs” tab.

Several funding and grant opportunities are being shared through the CSU-Extension Office too. The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) offers loans and grants for renewable energy systems and energy-efficient improvements, with applications due by March 31. The Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program provides grants for transportation projects in rural or tribal communities, with applications open from March 4 to April 3. Additionally, the Aquatic Resource Management and Threatened & Endangered Species Programs from the BLM are offering funding for conservation and habitat protection projects, with applications due by Feb. 14. For more information on these opportunities, all are welcome to reach out to the CSU-Extension Office.

“We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and programs throughout 2025,” representatives said. “The Colorado State University-Extension Office is committed to improving life in Colorado communities by offering research-based resources in areas like agriculture, health and youth development.”

It’s through hands-on programs, workshops and expert partnerships that the organization helps individuals solve local challenges and create sustainable solutions. Representatives added the youth development program empowers young people to build confidence, develop leadership skills and contribute to their communities through activities in science, agriculture, citizenship and healthy living.

To learn more about all programs or get involved, the community is invited to visit the website, sanmiguel.extension.colostate.edu, or contact the CSU-Extension Office directly at 970-327-4393.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society ‘A remarkable journey,’ The Dominguez-Escalante Expedition, Part 2

By JANE THOMPSON, Rimrocker Historical Society

The Rimrocker Historical Society continues its recap of the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition this week by following up with more from “A remarkable journey,” by J.R. Kirkpatrick, published in Colorado West on July 22, 1973, Page 14 of that edition. Colorado West was the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel’s Sunday edition. I apologize, for I printed the wrong address for the DEEEP website in my article last week. The address should be www.deeepcolorado.com. The story continues:

“Charts of the route between Santa Fe and the Gunnison River were available to the explorers, but were sometimes inaccurate. Escalante kept a journal of the long trip, and his description of landmarks was so precise that his trail can be followed today. Complimenting the journal, Miera’s maps added another dimension to the written words. An astrolabe, primitive forerunner of the sextant, gave latitude readings. Modern instruments have shown a small degree of error in the readings, however.

The journey began on July 29. Though Santa Fe is on a 7,000-foot plateau, the weather was hot. The steers, until they became trail-wise, were uncooperative. So it was a grueling nine-hour passage to the mission at Santa Clara where the Chama River joins the Rio Grande.

The caravan stayed overnight, then turning northwest along the Chama, the little band moved on to Abiquiu, spending two nights and one day. They rode north again, traversing a no-man’s land fought for by the Spanish and Indians. The land, creased by arroyos, was slow traveling. Most days saw advances of only 18 or 20 miles.

On Aug. 5, having crossed the present Colorado-New Mexico



This image shows the map of the Dominguez-Escalante full expedition beginning and ending in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

(Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

line, they had their first view of the massive San Juan Mountains. Now they rode a little north of west, skirting the foothills of the towering barrier. They passed close by the ruins of Mesa Verde and the present town of Durango, all the while fording rivers and riding through forested land.

Father Dominguez became ill — a sort of rheumatism — and for several days the explorers traveled only short distances. But on Aug. 14, 17 days out of Santa Fe, the priest was well enough to ride comfortably. In the afternoon, the camp was set up on the banks of the ‘river of sorrow’ — the Dolores River.

After the animals were set out to graze on the plentiful grass, saddle weary riders worked the aches from their muscles in the routine of the camp duties. One of them, gathering driftwood for fuel, spied faint movement in thick clumps of trees to the south.

‘Padre!’ he called, ‘Two horsemen are coming!’

‘Indians?’

‘No. I can see them clearer now. They are wearing sombreros, and sitting in Spanish saddles.’

Quickly — for any stranger could be hostile — the others halted their duties and moved closer to assurance of long-barreled flintlock rifles. Waiting, they watched the horsemen approach.

The riders, it turned out, were half-breeds and runaways from the mission of Abiquiu. Although the priests scolded them, they let them stay.

In his journal, Escalante said, ‘Felipe and Juan Domingo. To avoid the harm they might cause through ignorance or malice, going alone among the Indians, we took them along as companions.’”

To be continued ... And, mark your calendar. We will hold our Rimrocker Historical Society Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. and will roll out the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition Education Project.



National honors for a Nucla native

Janie VanWinkle, graduate of Nucla High School, was honored over the weekend at the National Western Stock Show. She is the 2025 Livestock Industry Leader of Year. (Courtesy image)

**Looking to Place
a Classified?**

*And have thousands
of people see it?*

PLACE AN AD IN THE
San Miguel Basin Forum

(970) 864-7425

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

Free management eval, cost-share for noxious weeds available

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Did you know that in Colorado managing noxious weeds is a law?

Noxious weeds are weeds that are not native to the state, and weeds that cause large-scale environmental and economic harm.

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act states that weed management is required and that counties have the right to implement management. It also states that counties have the right to enforce the law, if management is not happening on private land.

“Management” means any activity that prevents a plant from establishing, reproducing or dispersing itself. Although many noxious weeds do require herbicide management to eliminate them completely, the law does not state that you must use herbicides. There are other mechanical and alternative methods to help control noxious weeds. If proper management does not occur and if a landowner neglects to manage and reduce the noxious weeds present on their property, there can

be repercussions under the law, including costs that could eventually take the form of a lien issued against a property.

Management should always aim to permanently eliminate the infestation for a property’s land health, to protect the health of the environment, and to continue to protect the economic value of a home.

San Miguel County Department of Vegetation Control & Management offers free no-cost evaluations to inform landowners of the noxious weed species present (or absent) on a property. The department also provides cost-share funding to help defray the cost of herbicides and to assist with management plans that don’t always have to involve herbicides.

As stated in the Colorado Revised Statutes §35-5.5-104, “It is the duty of all persons to use integrated methods to manage noxious weeds, if the same are likely to be materially damaging to the land of neighboring landowners.”

San Miguel County can help determine the best plan for a property.

For assistance or more informa-

tion, community members should contact Julie Kolb, Manager, County Vegetation Control & Management, at 970-327-0399 or juliek@sanmiguelcountyco.gov. Citizens can schedule a free evaluation and get more information on how to utilize the county’s noxious weed management resources to benefit them and their property.

Established in 1883, San Miguel County covers 1,289 square miles in southwest Colorado. Telluride, a former mining town, now home to the Telluride Ski Resort, is the county seat in the mountainous east, while the west end of the county is where ranching and farming have deep roots. Incorporated towns in the county include Norwood, Sawpit, Placerville, Ophir and Mountain Village. Rich in history and natural beauty, San Miguel County is home to more than 8,000 residents who live, work and play in the namesake river, the San Miguel, the towering mountain peaks in the east and the alluring canyon country and rugged high desert in the west. All are invited to visit the website online at sanmiguelcountyco.gov.

SWPP

Cont. from Pg. 1

forever chemicals are paints, some shampoos, certain nonstick cookware, photography supplies, fast food packaging, freighting foam, firefighting foam, pesticides and stain-resistant substances. Matta said PFAS should be taken seriously, as the science is linking such chemicals to cancers, thyroid issues, immune system problems and more.

Matta said some communities in Colorado are seeing much higher levels of PFAS than others, and the science is still evolving on the dangers. The EPA does hold PFAS polluters responsible and is focusing on working with PFAS manufacturers. A drinking water ruling was established Aug. 26, 2024, that limits the amount of forever chemicals that can appear in drinking water for health reasons.

Adrian Bergere, of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition, mentioned that the River Science organization might help with lab testing in the local area for PFAS. Matta and other state representatives present at last week’s meeting said state officials could help with testing too, and that local communities can decide who to use for that process.

The good news, Matta said, is that source water sampling has already taken place — with sampling in Telluride, Norwood, Wilson Mesa and Naturita — and as of 2020, no PFAS was detected. There was a small amount of the chemicals found in Mountain Village, but not nearly as much as the state would expect at a ski resort, Matta said.

“The information we have is positive,” Matta added.

In looking at the assessment matrix, Matta said the PFAS risk appears to be unlikely for the San

Miguel Watershed, though if it were to happen it would be a significant danger, as it would greatly affect source water.

He was reluctant to finalize the risk, since meeting attendance was lower at the Jan. 15 meeting, and he deferred to Lampshire. Lampshire said it seemed hard to pinpoint the risk, if the drinking water hadn’t been tested.

“I’m happy to revisit briefly at the next meeting,” she said.

Matta asked Bergere too, but Bergere was also hesitant to set the risk level. He said PFAS is “new territory” for him and that since he’s focused on surface water, he’d like to defer to water treatment plant operators. He’d also like to look at some statewide maps of PFAS detection, which Matta agreed to help him access.

The next SWPP meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10 at 6 p.m., and the focus will be best management practices.

High hopes for Mustangs

Cont. from Pg. 1

Thursday, Jan. 16, by 15 points.

The losses they’ve experienced this season are to Telluride, a 3A team, when the boys couldn’t shoot the ball and were at 4 of 23 attempts. Coach said they dug a hole for themselves they almost pulled out of. They also lost twice to a 5A JV team, and they also fell to Ridgway, when they couldn’t run their plays as efficiently as they’re capable.

Rummel said the Mustangs plan to stay focused through the rest of the season for San Juan Basin League play. With no district tournament anymore, it’s important they remain in the Top 32 teams to be able to advance to regionals. The goal, though, is to be in that Top 8 and serve as host.

“And if you win (regionals), you’re playing state basketball in March,” Rummel said.

This team is special to him, he admitted, and most all of the kids, including his son Brycen Rummel, he’s coached since they were in middle school, and they’ve seen successes.

“I know what we can do,” he said. “It’s a matter of getting it out of them and having them perform

like they can.”

He said younger guys like Holten McCluer, Austin Garvey and Cole Bray have really stepped up and given the team a lot of positive time on the court, helping them to achieve what they have this year.

“Some are great defenders, some score,” he said. “They don’t care. Cole Bray works hard on defense, and he’s glad we are winning. He works hard every night.”

The guys face De Beque Thursday, Jan. 23, and coach said it should be a good game. With De Beque, it’s always close in points, and it varies who wins. The Mustangs then play Dolores on Friday, Jan. 24.

Rummel said he’s had a good feeling about this team for a long time.

“I knew what they had and wanted to keep them on the same page,” he said. “I knew they’d come up and be successful.”

On the roster this year are Holten McCluer (0), Daniel Zunich (1), Josh Platt (2), Cole Bray (3), Ryker Collins (10), Brycen Rummel (11), Slade Gillen (13), Caylon Joseph (15), Sean Gibson (22), Austin Garvey (23) and Jose Zunich (24).

San Miguel Basin Forum

PO Box 724 · Nucla, Colorado 81424

Owner and Editor: Regan Tuttle · regantuttle@gmail.com · 970-864-7425

Advertising Manager: Tanner Nelson

Design Team: Rick Bickhart & Tori Sheets



BRUIN WASTE

Residential, Commercial, Recycle, Portable Toilets & Roll Off Dumpsters

We now offer luxury portable toilet rentals for all of your event needs!

31186 Highway 145
Naturita, Colorado
(970) 864-7531
www.bruinwastemanagement.com

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:
Nucla, Naturita, Redvale,
Norwood, Telluride, Ridgway,
Log Hill, Delta, and Montrose

NNTC can help you!

If you feel your internet is not doing what you want, no need to disconnect. Let us fix it!

»»»

New prices/new packages are rolling out, allowing more speed and costing less money.

«««

Supporting a local business supports your community.

Call us for more information at 970-864-7335.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

1 & 2 bedroom apartments, Family Living at an affordable price.



Nucla Family Housing
300 East 3rd Street, Nucla, Colorado
(970) 864-2262



Landmark Management: 712-276-1735 • TTY: 800-659-2656


This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Looking to Place a Classified?

And have thousands of people see it?

Place an Ad in the
San Miguel Basin Forum
Call (970) 864-7425

Uranium Price
Jan. 13, 2025 – \$7.50



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

How a community preserved its public lands

Dear Editor,

When I discovered in February 2024 that discussions about the proposed Dolores National Monument were happening behind closed doors — complete with private river tours for U.S. Senators — I knew our community deserved better. Even more disturbing was learning that environmental groups and federal agencies had been planning this for years without public knowledge. What began as a simple effort to spread awareness evolved into a grassroots movement that demonstrated the enduring strength of our Constitutional Republic.

At our first community meeting, I made my public speaking debut with a promise: “I don’t know what stage I’ll have to stand upon to make a difference, but I’m damn sure going to find out.”

Today, I can say I kept that promise.

The victory we achieved wasn’t just about stopping a monument designation. It was about proving that ordinary citizens still have a voice in how our public lands are managed. When our community learned about these closed-door discussions, the response was swift and decisive. Farmers, ranchers and local business owners stood together. Outdoor enthusiasts and multi-generational families united in common cause. People who had never attended a public meeting in their lives suddenly found themselves calling Senators and organizing petition drives.

This uprising of civic engagement crossed traditional political boundaries. We weren’t motivated by partisanship, but by a fundamental belief that decisions about public lands should involve the people who live, work and maintain them. Our coalition brought together county commissioners, state legislators and citizens from across the political spectrum, all united by the conviction that public lands should remain accessible to all Americans.

The process wasn’t always smooth. But as our founders envisioned when they established this Constitutional Republic, engaged citizens can still shape policy when they unite for a common cause. Every phone call, every email, every signature on a petition contributed to a chorus of voices that couldn’t be ignored.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson from this experience is that our Republic doesn’t work through silence. It requires active participation, persistent advocacy and sometimes, the courage to challenge decisions made in back rooms. The Dolores National Monument victory isn’t just about preserving access to public lands — it’s about preserving the principle that in America, the people’s voice still matters.

Make no mistake — this victory, while significant, is but one battle in an ongoing war. The environmental groups and NGOs pushing for restricted access will not stop their efforts. They will regroup, rebrand their initiatives and return with new

strategies to limit public land use. We must remain vigilant and ready to mobilize again. Complacency now would risk everything we’ve fought to protect.

As I reflect on this journey, I’m struck by how many lasting friendships formed through this shared cause. People who might never have met are now bound together by their commitment to protecting our Constitutional principles. This is what our Republic looks like when it’s working as intended — not as a spectator sport, but as a participatory endeavor that brings communities together.

Today, I make a new promise: I will find a platform and stage from which to continue the fight for land access, liberty and freedom. The future is not written, and I will go where destiny guides me, always ensuring that the voices of liberty are heard in the halls where decisions are made.

Our success sends a powerful message to future generations: when citizens engage, unite and persist, they can still influence the decisions that shape their communities. But we must stay alert and organized. The forces seeking to restrict public land access are well-funded and persistent. They view this setback as temporary, and so must we. Our victory in the Dolores National Monument proposal shows that our system of government still works, but only when “We the People” remain engaged and ready to defend our rights.

Sean M. Pond
NUCLA

Needs to be changed

Dear Editor,

I’m writing in response to the article “Code enforcement gets serious in Nucla.” I have deep concerns that the Town of Nucla (TON) Building Code excessively violates the freedoms of property owners in a way that does not reflect the will of the citizens, or the best interests of the town.

Did you know that it’s illegal for a property owner (or their friends and family) to stay in a mobile home on their own property for more than 30 days in the year without it being connected to a sewer and without a permit? Did you know that if you get a permit “The Town Clerk shall determine the maximum permit period, but in no case shall the permit period exceed twelve months” and “six months shall elapse between successive permits applicable to the same property”? So even if you get a permit, it’s temporary.

Do you have a mobile home or trailer with blackwater tanks that can be moved and emptied, or a composting toilet? Too bad. You need a sewer connection to get a permit. Is this about beautification and the will of the people, or about selling sewer taps? Paula Brown says to get a variance, yet section 8-11 (E) of the town code says “the board of appeals shall have no

Cont. on next column

WEST END VOICES

We can make this really good, so let’s

By ANNIKA KRISTIENSEN

I grew up on a small farm in rural New England with a couple of sheep, some chickens, and two friendly house cats. My mother, a feisty and tough 120-pound-soaking-wet Norwegian, made soap, butchered our chickens and sheep, and canned her garden’s tomatoes. This lifestyle was an oddity, even where I grew up, and I remember my friends thinking our homestead and ways were somewhere between ingenious, crazy, far-out, and super cool.

I’ve always been painfully aware of what it means to live rurally. Looking back, some of my closest friends as a young child lived in the poorest of conditions, surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty yet starved of the resources needed to address their deepest struggles.

Depressed mothers. Alcoholic fathers. Personal trauma that festered in silence. Even access to healthy food was often out of reach, despite living in a place where land stretched endlessly under the sun. It’s ironic, isn’t it? To grow up in the country, a place that promises abundance, but so often leaves its people with the least.

And yet, living in the country is also a profound strength. It teaches you to be resourceful, to make something out of nothing, and to lean on the strength of your neighbors when your own falters. It’s a life rooted in community and resilience, where every season reminds you that hardship is as inevitable

as renewal. The land itself holds lessons in perseverance, and in that raw, unpolished existence, there’s a beauty that binds people together. Living rurally isn’t just a condition — it’s a testament to enduring, adapting, and finding meaning in the simplest gifts.

I’ve always straddled urban and rural life — off to San Francisco to become a journalist and editor for a magazine based out of Oakland, or to Cape Town to work in post-apartheid townships with women and children.

These experiences expanded my world view, but every time I came back to the countryside, I found myself grounded in a way the city could never replicate. There is a rhythm to rural life, a heartbeat that is attuned to the land and the seasons, to neighbors and necessity. And that’s where the heart of resilience lives.

The world today feels unsteady — climate change is disrupting ecosystems, wars over water and resources loom, and politics seem to widen divides rather than bridge them. But in rural areas, the ties that bind people are different. Politics are not the cornerstone of rural identity; relationships, ideas, and shared values are. When your closest neighbor lives miles away, you learn to rely on each other regardless of party lines. When winter snows make roads impassable, it doesn’t matter how you voted — you shovel your neighbor’s drive-

way because that’s what keeps the community moving forward.

Rural life has always been about finding strength in simplicity and leaning into the collective goodness of people. It’s about showing up for a neighbor whose barn needs repair or bringing a casserole to a family in mourning. It’s in the potluck dinners at the church basement, the volunteer fire departments, and the unspoken agreement that in times of hardship, everyone steps in to do their part. As the world becomes increasingly complex and uncertain, rural communities offer a blueprint for resilience. They remind us that survival isn’t about hoarding resources but about sharing them.

That success isn’t measured by individual gain but by the collective well-being of the whole. And that in the face of adversity, it’s not power or politics but the simple acts of kindness and cooperation that make all the difference.

We may face an uncertain future, but the lessons embedded in rural life — adaptability, resourcefulness, and a deep sense of community — are the tools we need to navigate it. And in these small pockets of the world, where politics don’t matter but people’s hearts and goodness do, there is hope for all of us. Together, rural communities will band together and show the resilience it takes to not just survive but thrive.

Letters

Letters cont.

authority to grant any variance.”

Did you know that Section 8-2 (E) code states that “A mobile home can remain for up to one year without being occupied” and “if not occupied during the following year, the home shall either be re-occupied or removed from the property. A special permit can be secured to allow the home to remain on site for an additional 1 year.”

So, keeping a mobile home on your land for more than a year without using it is illegal without a permit, FYI.

Last week I filed a Colorado Open Records Act request con-

cerning the Town of Nucla Building Code 2020-002 Section 8-3 and learned that, at least since Jan. 1, 2022, The TON has been selectively and unequally enforcing the law. For example, those permits for occupancy of mobile homes? Sometimes the expiration is enforced, sometimes it’s not. Sometimes it’s extended beyond 12 months, without a 6 month break. Sometimes people who are using mobile homes as residences are given warnings, sometimes they’re not. Is this fair enforcement of the law?

I attended a town board meeting in 2022 where a board member said these rules were to protect the character of the town, but I’m not sure the code does that. People who live in town are having their freedoms restricted, while there are

few rules in place to prevent outsiders from actually changing the character of the town. For example, anyone from California can buy a house and make it a short-term rental, no restrictions in place or permit required.

Often, the TON is violating it’s own code and selectively and unequally enforcing the rules. And, I think it’s safe to say that when 20% of the town is in violation of the building code, there’s something wrong with the code, not the property owners. The TON Building Code is overly restrictive and needs to be changed to reflect the opinions and desires of the people living here.

Jamie O’Hern
NUCLA

Wolves

Cont. from Pg. 1

Pack. All wolves were released in Eagle and Pitkin counties, continuing the agency’s efforts to create a permanent, self-sustaining gray wolf population in Colorado. No further releases are planned for the 2024-2025 capture season. This is the second of three to five release seasons of wolves.”

The press release adds that safety and security were the reasons for

the secrecy, since “CPW offices were watched and threatening social media posts and phone calls were received.” It added two of the wolves in the last round were illegally shot, and since those wolves are on the Endangered Species list, fines of up to \$100,000 and jail time can be served as sentences.

“Because of the safety risk and security needs of our staff and the animals, CPW did not share wolf release details while the operation was underway,” the press release said.

The press release did confirm the

Pitkin and Eagle counties releases were on Jan. 12, Jan. 14 and Jan. 16.

The wolves total seven males and eight females from British Columbia, because the predator count there is high and caribou are suffering.

Additionally, the Copper Creek female with four wolf pups, which were all captured in September, came from Middle Park where Ritschard does ranch. Those wolves had been with an adult male who’d been feeding them. The male is deceased, but had been found guilty of multiple livestock depredations.

WEST END

Community values up for review

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

After four months of extensive community engagement, the West End Vision Project is excited to release the first draft of the West End Community Values for public review. Project guides don't want the public to miss opportunities to learn more about the values and provide feedback Feb. 4-5. The values are the culmination of two large community workshops, more than 12 pop-ups and values discussions at community events, multiple meetings with town and county elected leaders, more than 10 small-group community conversations, and three online polls and activities.

"What was so important about this engagement is that we had really heartfelt, in-depth conversations as a community," said Makayla Gordon, WEEDC's Executive Director. "These conversations have been the central part of the process, and help to guide community leaders in making decisions that will shape our future. It was great seeing people who maybe otherwise wouldn't have connected, from generational families to newcomers, to those with many different interests and beliefs, coming together and seeing that really their values and hopes for the community were usually quite similar."

So far, the group has reached more than 550 West End residents from Nucla, Naturita, Norwood and the unincorporated areas of Paradox, Redvale, Gateway and Bedrock. They've connected with everyone from teens to seniors, ranchers and miners to mountain bikers, business owners to remote workers, and everyone in between.

"It's been wonderful to see how much of the community has come together to be involved in this project," said Norwood Town Clerk Amanda Pierce. "People have taken a lot of time and energy to talk with us and give their input. We're really grateful for people's willingness to give this process a shot and share their ideas. We've had lots of great conversations and there are many more to come."

Since September, project guides have been asking people to say what's most important to them about the West End — and their hopes and fears for the future. These questions have helped understanding in what matters to people about the community, and what challenges need addressed.

In late December, organizers analyzed the data, the values worksheets and identified some of the key themes they've heard from the community so far. They'd like to know if it seems accurate.

There are many ways for people to provide feedback on the draft values.

"We encourage everyone in the community to attend our upcoming meetings, where we will discuss the draft values and hear your feedback," representatives said. "We'll also talk about how these values can start translating into action. We hope you'll join us at one of the following events."

Those are as follows:

- Community Values Meeting at Nucla Community Center, Feb. 4, 6 to 7:15 p.m.
- West End Solutions Group at Naturita Community Center, Feb. 5, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Community Values Meeting at Lone Cone Library, Feb. 5, 6 to 7:15 p.m.

People can provide feedback online too at bit.ly/WE-Values-Feedback.

For more details on how to get involved in the West End Vision Project, the public may contact Makayla Gordon (mgordon@chooswestend.org or 970-417-1976) or Mackinzi Taylor (mackinzi@communitybuilders.org) and follow the Facebook page for updates: bit.ly/WestEndPlanFB.

So far the values are as follows: looking out for one another, a simpler way of life, living with the land, shaping our own story, and strong roots for building opportunity.

Representatives said the values discussion is important.

"They will help us come to a shared understanding about what matters most to us as a community, so we know what's important

to preserve, and also what concerns need to be addressed going forward," they said. "When other issues become divisive, our values as a community are often something we can agree upon and use as a foundation for harder conversations in the future."

The West End Vision project working group is made up of representatives from WEEDC, each of the three towns, and Montrose County. The team came together through a Building Better Places Training and partnered to apply for assistance through Community Builders' community assistance program. This group is taking on the day-to-day project management, but the plan will be fully guided by the community.

There is also a Project Ambassador Team (the A-Team) that is made up of more than 20 key local organizations and community volunteers. The A-Team is helping to steward the process and assist with community outreach and engagement. The group is open membership and encourages those who are interested to apply by simply sending a brief note of interest to Gordon.

Currently, half of the project funding is from local sources (through WEEDC, fundraising and contributions from each of the West End communities and counties), and half is from the project's nonprofit partner, Community Builders (through Colorado-based foundations).

Community Builders (CB) assistance projects are rooted in a unique partnership that leverages philanthropic resources raised by CB with local funding contributed by project partners, usually around a 1:1 match. In this way, CB is not acting as a "consultant" that is "hired" by partner communities. Instead, all parties agree to work together based on shared goals, responsibility and resources.

The West End might mean different things to different people, but for the purposes of this project, the West End is the region from the Paradox Valley to Norwood Hill and includes Nucla, Naturita, Norwood, Redvale, Paradox, Bedrock and Gateway.

BLM identifies possibilities for solar

Cont. from Pg. 1

Atkinson Mesa north of Uravan.

Planning Director for San Miguel County Kaye Simonson said they knew of the BLM's efforts when they were drafting their own regulations for solar.

"We were aware of it for sure," she said, "and we understood there is the potential for some solar leasing (on BLM lands in the County)."

Simonson said the county's recently approved regulations will apply to any projects on federal land. Projects on BLM land must go before the Planning Commission, just like a developer on private land.

But, as a small local government, she said it's a balance.

"We need to be mindful of where our authority ends and the BLM's begins," she said.

In Montrose County, the situation is the same: a developer on BLM land must address federal as well as local requirements. Developers on state-owned lands must similarly respect local rules. Montrose County does not currently have zoning guidelines for utility-scale solar projects, but following San Miguel County's efforts, they are beginning the drafting process.

Montrose County Planning Director Tallmadge Richmond said the new code will "set minimum standards" for all "Power Generations Facilities" — solar included.

So far, the BLM has not seen any applications for solar development in Southwest Colorado, but the agency notes there have been twice as many renewable energy projects on federal land approved under Biden than during Trump's first term.

Whether or not the momentum

will hold under a second Trump Administration is unclear.

Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Interior, which oversees the BLM, is Doug Burgum, a former North Dakota governor and an advocate for natural gas.

Brian Hires, press secretary for the BLM, said in an email that differing administrations can drive the agency's priorities.

"Biden's clean energy goals helped drive the updating of the Western Solar Plan," he said.


Hires also notes there has long been a mixture of uses coexisting on BLM lands, from renewable energy, to mineral and gas extraction, to recreation. While the Western Solar Plan aims to streamline the solar development process, developers still need to apply and go through the permitting process. With the plan passed only last month, where developers will build has yet to be seen.

Locally, Simonson says there has been an uptick in development activity on federal lands in the West End in recent years.

"So far, our permits have been for mineral exploration, primarily for uranium and copper," she said.

But, as the energy and political landscapes continue to evolve, the future for development in the West End remains unclear. Considering which types of projects might get built where, Simonson said, "it will be interesting to see."

When it comes to writing local regulations, Simonson said "whether it's oil and gas, or mining, or renewables, our priority is to make sure those developers are acting in the county's citizens best interest."



Southwestern
Construction
Bryan Littlejohn
Bus: (970) 327-4096 Cell: 428-4096
P.O. Box 422, Naturita, CO 81422

Winter months can mean lots of close, indoor contact — a real "germ breeding ground"...

Our goal is to keep you well in 2025 through regular checkups.

Call now to schedule your appointment Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Basin Clinic

421 Adams Street,
Naturita, Colorado

(970) 865-2665

Robert Tapley, FNP
April Randle, MD

Tiffany Ordoñez, MD and
Medical Director

(EEOIC patients please schedule with our MD)

For help with medical situations after hours,
call 865-2665 and follow prompts.



EXPERIENCE & INTEGRITY
Armagost Consulting

Elevate your business with Armagost Consulting's expert IT solutions.

Contact us today for a free consultation customized to meet your needs.

Dial (970) 369-9558 or visit www.armagostconsulting.com to get started.



Need a Ride?
All Points Transit can help!
Local Medical, Shopping, Errands & More
Regional service to Montrose & Grand Junction
Call 970-249-0128 to Schedule
www.allpointstransit.org




WILLIAMS
CONSTRUCTION
EXCAVATING CONTRACTOR

Aggregate & Redi Mix Supplier

Call for a Quote or to Schedule a Delivery
SATURDAY DELIVERIES AVAILABLE

(970) 729-1085 (970) 327-4218



ENJOY 4 SEASONS IN
SOUTHWEST COLORADO'S
OUTDOOR JEWEL!

Nora Davis (Owner)
(970) 428-2236
Call for an appointment
E-mail: rimrockerrealestate@gmail.com



RYAN'S PAINTING

There's no job too big or too small. We'll do em all!

970-210-9073



PARADOX BICYCLE RECYCLE

BICYCLE
OUTPOST
& SERVICE
SALOON

205 E Main St. Naturita, Colorado
970-275-8310 · paradoxcycle@gmail.com

January 22, 2025 6pm
Nucla Community Center

PUBLIC MEETING | **The Dolores River**
Where do we go from here?

A community discussion on the proposed Dolores River National Monument and the proposed National Conservation Area.

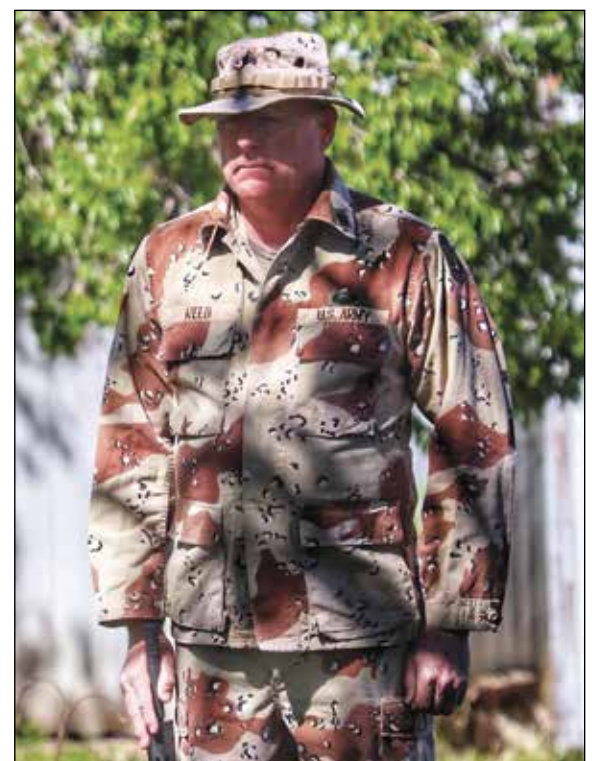
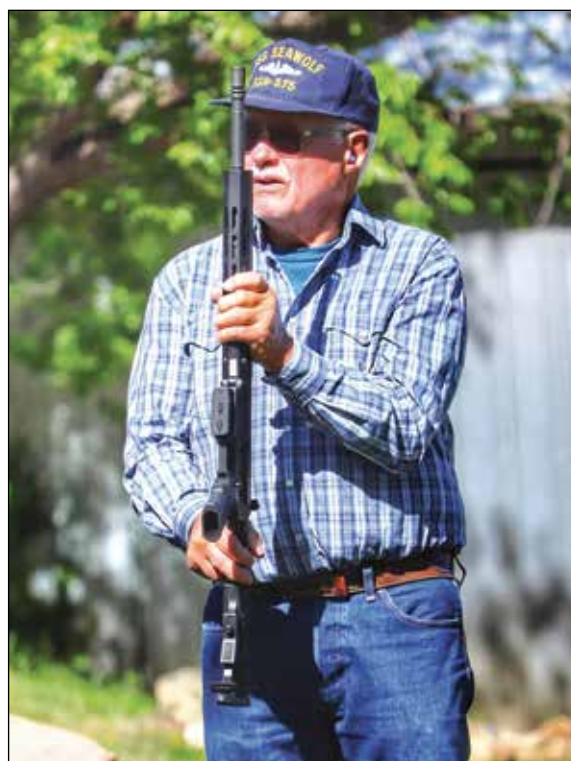
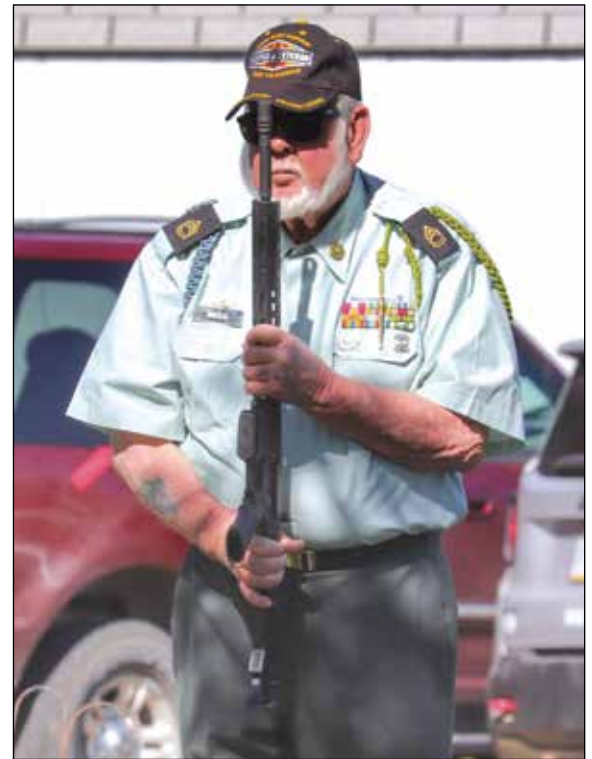
Please Join Us
Discussion led by Aimee Tooker and Sue Hansen

Meet the rest of the Honor Guard

The VFW Uranium Post in Nucla welcomes you to meet the rifle squad. These veterans perform "the 21 Gun Salute," and three volleys are fired with military rifles, giving a final send off to the deceased veteran. Pictured here is Henry Kichelmann.

Next are Glenn Case and Norman (Moose) Moss.

Also pictured are Mark Templeton and John Reed. Any veteran eligible of joining the VFW and who would like to should reach out to the local post. Families of veterans who'd like Honor Guard ceremony should also. (Courtesy photos)



Meet Our Providers!



Dr. Kelley Prince



Dr. Andrew Baker



Robin Richards, PA-C



Scott Hunter, FNP



Tommy Terwilliger, LCSW





Nichol Bray, Hygienist

Our services cover your whole family's needs:

- Healthcare
- Behavioral Health
- Dental

- Pharmacy with Mail Service
- Medicaid Enrollment Assistance
- Financial Assistance for All Services

Call for an Appointment! (970) 327-4233, (970) 327-0527 (Dental)
Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Same day appointments & extended hours available. Call for availability.



Se Habla Español

We are committed to providing quality, cost effective, accessible healthcare to all in the San Miguel River Basin.



Vista Realty, Inc.
Discover The Undiscovered
970-865-2525

We advertise on the following websites:
Zillow, Realtor.com, Homes.com, Trulia, and Homes and Land

212 East Main Street
Naturita, Colorado 81422

Office: 970-865-2525

Debbie: 970-428-2364
Michele: 970-417-5103

We are always available to help you with your REAL ESTATE needs!



CITIZENS STATE BANK
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Serving our communities since 1913

970-865-2255

Located in Naturita at the corner of Highway 114 & 97
P.O. Box 160 Naturita, CO, 81422



TOOKER ELECTRIC LLC

Christopher Tooker
Master Electrician
Electrical Contractor
Phone: 970-864-2321
tookeroffice@gmail.com
www.tookerelectric.com

New Construction
Residential
Commercial
Service

Fiber is Coming

- 250 Plan = \$73 • 500 Plan = \$78 • Gig Plan (1,000) = \$83
- 2-Gig and 5-Gig speeds = Coming soon!**


NNTC is still the CHEAPEST Gig and multi-Gig provider on the Western Slope.

- No Contracts, No Installation Fee, No Equipment Charges, No Caps.
- 24/7 tech support, same-day dispatch, professional installation from friendly local techs.
- You don't have to wonder when someone will come to fix your issues.

Don't Have Fiber Yet? Don't worry it's coming soon!
But start SAVING money now.....

Internet prices will drop to \$55 per month, including insurance and managed router service (MRS).
Lower pricing effective Feb. 1, 2025.

Supporting local businesses = keeping money in our community.



970-864-7335

NNTC employs local residents.

Serving the communities of Nucla, Naturita, Paradox, Bedrock and Gateway.



H N H Sign Company, LLC
844-464-7446

VINYL ALUMINUM WRAPS BANNERS TEE SHIRTS HATS PRINTS ...AND SO MUCH MORE

HOODIES MUGS ENGRAVED WOOD PLASTIC STICKERS CUSTOM GIFTS

YOUR COMPLETE SIGN SHOP

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8-5
395 MAIN STREET, NUCLA

WE HAVE 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN CUSTOM DESIGN AND CAN CREATE A LOGO AND BRING YOUR BRAND TO LIFE!



TIMBERLINE
Hardware
Locally Owned and Operated

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

NORWOOD
1920 Grand Ave
970-478-7868

TELLURIDE
200 E Colorado Ave
970-728-3640



ACE Hardware

Looking to Place a Classified?
And have thousands of people see it?

PLACE AN AD IN THE
San Miguel Basin Forum
(970) 864-7425

En Español

AGUA

West End celebra la cuarta reunión del SWPP, discute los ‘químicos eternos’

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Los interesados en el Plan de Protección de Agua de Fuente local (SWPP) — un esfuerzo conjunto con los pueblos de Naturita y Nucla — se reunieron nuevamente para su cuarta reunión de la serie el 15 de enero. La reunión tuvo a muchos conectados de forma remota con Melissa Lampshire ubicada en el Ayuntamiento de Nucla. Lampshire, la gerente de la ciudad de Nucla, dio la bienvenida a los interesados para que se sentaran con ella y participaran.

Dirigida por Gabriel Matta, de la Asociación de Agua Rural de Colorado, la reunión resumió el proceso que ha tenido lugar hasta ahora en el último año. Eso incluyó la cartografía de la cuenca, la identificación de posibles fuentes de contaminación, y Matta revisó la matriz de evaluación de amenazas que se aplica a todas las discusiones.

Además, Matta reiteró que había una subvención de contrapartida de \$5,000 disponible para la participación de los municipios locales y la creación de un SWPP, y hasta ahora Naturita ha recaudado \$3,500 de su contrapartida; Nucla, \$4,000.

Mientras que la última reunión en el otoño de 2024 se centró en la minería y los incendios forestales como posibles fuentes de contaminación, la idea principal para el 15 de enero fueron los “químicos

eternos”, llamados PFAS, que es la abreviatura de “sustancias per- y polifluoroalquiladas.”

Los PFAS son sustancias tóxicas que se encuentran en el agua de fuente o agua potable, comúnmente en entornos adyacentes a aeropuertos o estaciones de bomberos. Algunos de los materiales que contienen químicos eternos son pinturas, algunos champús, ciertos utensilios de cocina antiadherentes, suministros de fotografía, empaques de comida rápida, espuma de carga, espuma contra incendios, pesticidas y sustancias resistentes a las manchas. Matta dijo que los PFAS deben tomarse en serio, ya que la ciencia está vinculando tales químicos a cánceres, problemas de tiroides, problemas del sistema inmunológico y más.

Gabriel Matta dijo que los PFAS deben tomarse en serio, ya que la ciencia está vinculando tales químicos a cánceres, problemas de tiroides, problemas del sistema inmunológico y más.

Matta dijo que algunas comunidades en Colorado están viendo niveles de PFAS mucho más altos que otros, y la ciencia aún está evolucionando sobre los peligros.

Matta dijo que algunas comunidades en Colorado están viendo niveles de PFAS mucho más altos que otros, y la ciencia aún está evolucionando sobre los peligros. La EPA responsabiliza a los contaminadores de PFAS y se está enfocando en trabajar con los fabricantes de PFAS. Se estableció una normativa sobre el agua potable el 26 de agosto de 2024, que limita la cantidad de químicos eternos que pueden aparecer en el agua potable por razones de salud.

Adrian Bergere, de la Coalición de Cuenca de San Miguel, mencionó que la organización River Science podría ayudar con pruebas de laboratorio en el área local para PFAS. Matta y otros representantes

estatales presentes en la reunión de la semana pasada dijeron que los funcionarios estatales también podrían ayudar con las pruebas, y que las comunidades locales pueden decidir a quién utilizar para ese proceso.

La buena noticia, dijo Matta, es que ya se ha realizado el muestreo de agua de fuente — con muestreo en Telluride, Norwood, Wilson Mesa y Naturita — y hasta 2020, no se detectó PFAS. Se encontró una pequeña cantidad de los químicos en Mountain Village, pero no tanto como el estado esperaría en una estación de esquí, dijo Matta.

“La información que tenemos es positiva,” agregó Matta. Al observar la matriz de evaluación, Matta dijo que el riesgo de PFAS parece ser poco probable para la Cuenca de San Miguel, aunque si llegara a suceder sería un peligro significativo, ya que afectaría en gran medida el agua de fuente.

Él era reacio a finalizar el riesgo, ya que la asistencia a la reunión fue menor en la reunión del 15 de enero, y se deferió a Lampshire. Lampshire dijo que parecía difícil precisar el riesgo, si el agua potable no había sido probada.

“Estoy feliz de volver a visitar brevemente en la próxima reunión,” dijo ella.

Matta también le preguntó a Bergere, pero Bergere también fue reacio a establecer el nivel de riesgo. Dijo que los PFAS son “territorio nuevo” para él y que, dado que se ha enfocado en el agua superficial, le gustaría deferir a los operadores de plantas de tratamiento de agua. También le gustaría ver algunos mapas estatales de detección de PFAS, a los que Matta accedió a ayudarlo.

La próxima reunión del SWPP está programada para el 10 de febrero a las 6 p.m., y el enfoque serán las mejores prácticas de gestión.

LOBOS

Segunda liberación de lobos completada con CPW

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Tim Ritschard, ganadero de quinta generación en el condado de Grand, también es el presidente de la Asociación de Criadores de Ganado de Middle Park y maneja un número de vacas en la operación de su familia. El Forum habló con Ritschard la semana pasada, mientras muchos seguían — o intentaban seguir — lo que estaba sucediendo con las liberaciones de lobos en Colorado.

En 2020, los votantes en Colorado, principalmente en la Franja Frontal, decidieron que los lobos deberían ser reintroducidos en el estado. Sin embargo, esos lobos están siendo liberados en el Colorado rural, donde los productores de ganado corren el riesgo de perder ovejas y vacas. Los cazadores, también, han expresado preocupación por los ciervos y alces.

Ritschard, al igual que muchos en la Ladera Occidental, no tenía claro todos los detalles sobre las recientes liberaciones de lobos, la primera de las cuales ocurrió en su área en 2023. Dijo que estaba de acuerdo en que probablemente los lobos estaban siendo liberados la semana pasada, y que eso se suponía que era parte del plan estatal, aunque no estaba seguro de por qué el silencio. Había escuchado que podría haber preocupaciones de seguridad, amenazas a los empleados de CPW. Dijo que nadie que conocía haría tal cosa.

En 2020, los votantes en Colorado, principalmente en la Franja Frontal, decidieron que los lobos deberían ser reintroducidos en el estado. Sin embargo, esos lobos están siendo liberados en el Colorado rural, donde los productores de ganado corren el riesgo de perder ovejas y vacas.

“Ninguno de nosotros en el mundo agrícola está haciendo amenazas creíbles,” dijo. “Solo queremos saber.”

Ritschard dijo que es cierto que los ganaderos quieren negociar. Presentaron una petición en septiembre, informando a CPW que el estado no está preparado para liberaciones adicionales de lobos. Dijo que los ganaderos necesitan la definición de “depredación crónica,” jinetes de rango, un equipo de respuesta rápida, comunicación aumentada y más.

Pensó que las liberaciones más recientes fueron en los condados de Pitkin, Eagle y Garfield, pero eso era especulación.

El viernes pasado, el Forum contactó a Rachael Gonzales, oficial de información pública de CPW, con una serie de preguntas sobre los lobos y si realmente habían sido liberados en las últimas semanas. El domingo, Gonzales envió al Forum un comunicado de prensa que CPW hizo público ese día, 19 de enero.

Ese comunicado de prensa — cpw.state.co.us/news/01192025/cpw-concludes-second-year-gray-wolf-capture-and-release-efforts — indica que CPW completó una segunda ronda de liberaciones de lobos.

“Quince lobos fueron trasladados desde el interior central de Columbia Británica a Colorado,” indica el comunicado de prensa.

“Por separado, la agencia también completó con éxito la liberación de cinco miembros de la manada original de Copper Creek. Todos los lobos fueron liberados en los

condados de Eagle y Pitkin, continuando los esfuerzos de la agencia para crear una población permanente y autosostenible de lobos grises en Colorado. No se planean más liberaciones para la temporada de captura 2024-2025. Esta es la segunda de tres a cinco temporadas de liberación de lobos.”

El comunicado de prensa añade que la seguridad y protección fueron las razones para el secreto, ya que “las oficinas de CPW fueron vigiladas y se recibieron publicaciones amenazantes en redes sociales y llamadas telefónicas.” Agregó que dos de los lobos en la última ronda fueron disparados ilegalmente, y dado que esos lobos están en la lista de Especies en Peligro, se pueden imponer multas de hasta \$100,000 y tiempo en prisión como penas.

“Debido al riesgo de seguridad y las necesidades de protección de nuestro personal y los animales, CPW no compartió detalles sobre la liberación de lobos mientras la operación estaba en curso,” dijo el comunicado de prensa.

El comunicado de prensa confirmó que las liberaciones en los condados de Pitkin y Eagle fueron el 12 de enero, 14 de enero y 16 de enero.

Los lobos suman siete machos y ocho hembras de Columbia Británica, porque la cantidad de depredadores allí es alta y los caribúes están sufriendo.

Además, la hembra de Copper Creek con cuatro cachorros de lobo, que fueron todos capturados en septiembre, vino de Middle Park donde Ritschard hace ganadería. Esos lobos habían estado con un macho adulto que los había estado alimentando. El macho está fallecido, pero había sido declarado culpable de múltiples depredaciones de ganado.

En Español

DEPORTES DE SECUNDARIA

El entrenador Rummel tiene grandes esperanzas para los Mustangs

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Mike Rummel, de Norwood, ha estado entrenando baloncesto en los niveles de secundaria y preparatoria en Norwood y Nucla durante los últimos 13 años. Este año es el entrenador principal de los Mustangs, y está disfrutando su tiempo con los chicos. Está orgulloso de ver al grupo actual tener la buena racha que están experimentando, ahora 9-4.

El entrenador dijo que los Mustangs son un equipo relativamente más joven, después de perder a cuatro seniors al final del año pasado, tres de los cuales eran titulares. Con dos titulares de regreso en la cancha ahora, los chicos más jóvenes están asumiendo el reto, dijo.

Las prácticas comenzaron en noviembre, y Rummel dijo que los chicos juegan bien juntos.

“Todos están en esto por una razón, para ganar,” dijo. “No les importa quién anota o lo que sea, solo quieren ganar. Su objetivo es ganar, y quieren ser anfitriones de un playoff regional, como lo hicimos el año pasado.”

El año pasado, en el nuevo gimnasio de Nucla, los Mustangs fueron primeros en la liga y pudieron ser anfitriones del torneo regional. Rummel estuvo de acuerdo en que esa es otra posibilidad ahora.

“Sí tenemos una oportunidad,” dijo.

Sin embargo, agregó que cada vez que los chicos pisan la cancha, es un desafío, y todos los equipos de la zona son buenos este año. Dijo que los Mustangs tienen que entrar listos para jugar su juego, y que otros equipos disfrutaban mucho vencer a Norwood-Nucla.

Los Mustangs vencieron a Ouray el jueves pasado, 16 de enero, por 15 puntos.

Las derrotas que han experimentado esta temporada son contra Telluride, un equipo de 3A, cuando los chicos no pudieron lanzar el balón y estuvieron en 4 de 23 intentos. El entrenador dijo que se cavaron un hoyo del que casi salen. También perdieron dos veces contra un equipo JV de 5A, y también cayeron ante Ridgway, cuando no pudieron ejecutar sus jugadas tan eficientemente como son capaces.

Rummel dijo que los Mustangs planean mantenerse enfocados durante el resto de la temporada para el juego de la Liga de San Juan Basin. Sin torneo de distrito ya, es importante que permanezcan en el Top 32 de equipos para poder avanzar a los regionales. El objetivo, sin embargo, es estar en ese Top 8 y servir como anfitriones.

“Y si ganas (los regionales), estarás jugando baloncesto estatal en marzo,” dijo Rummel.

Este equipo es especial para él, admitió, y la mayoría de

los chicos, incluido su hijo Brycen Rummel, los ha entrenado desde que estaban en la escuela secundaria, y han visto éxitos.

“Sé lo que podemos hacer,” dijo. “Es cuestión de sacarlo de ellos y hacer que rindan como pueden.”

Dijo que chicos más jóvenes como Holten McCluer, Austin Garvey y Cole Bray realmente han dado un paso adelante y han dado al equipo mucho tiempo positivo en la cancha, ayudándoles a lograr lo que han conseguido este año.

“Algunos son grandes defensores, algunos anotan,” dijo. “No les importa. Cole trabaja duro en defensa, y está contento de que estamos ganando. Trabaja duro cada noche.”

Los chicos se enfrentan a De Beuque el jueves 23 de enero, y el entrenador dijo que debería ser un buen juego. Con De Beuque, siempre es cerrado en puntos, y varía quién gana. Los Mustangs luego juegan contra Dolores el viernes 24 de enero.

Rummel dijo que ha tenido un buen presentimiento sobre este equipo durante mucho tiempo.

“Sabía lo que tenían y quería mantenerlos en la misma página,” dijo. “Sabía que surgirían y tendrían éxito.”

En la lista de este año están Holten McCluer (0), Daniel Zurich (1), Josh Platt (2), Cole Bray (3), Ryker Collins (10), Brycen Rummel (11), Slade Gillen (13), Caylon Joseph (15), Sean Gibson (22), Austin Garvey (23) y Jose Zurich (24).

TIERRAS PÚBLICAS

BLM identifica posibilidades para la energía solar en West End; los proyectos requieren revisión local

Por GAVIN MCGOUGH, *Contribuyente del Forum*

Los esfuerzos de planificación, a nivel regional y nacional, podrían tener impactos en el futuro del desarrollo solar en West End. A lo largo de 2024, las reuniones de la Comisión de Planificación en el Condado de San Miguel atrajeron grandes asistencias, mientras el condado estaba escribiendo un nuevo capítulo en su código de uso de la tierra. El tema en cuestión era el desarrollo solar a escala de servicios públicos — dónde y de qué tamaño podría permitirse el desarrollo solar.

Esas regulaciones fueron aprobadas el otoño pasado después de un año y medio de esfuerzo. Antes de la votación final, el Comisionado Lance Waring reconoció que las nuevas reglas del condado sobre la energía solar “eran algunas de las más difíciles de navegar en el estado.”

“Mi instinto,” dijo Waring en la reunión de septiembre, “es que los desarrolladores tomarán el camino más fácil en otro lugar y elegirán no construir en el Condado de San Miguel.”

El código se había vuelto restrictivo en respuesta a las preocupaciones expresadas por los residentes del área de Norwood, quienes dijeron que el desarrollo solar industrial traería impactos negativos a sus tierras agrícolas, vistas y forma de vida rural. En respuesta, el condado se movió para limitar cualquier proyecto solar en Wright’s Mesa a 30 acres de tamaño, e incluyó requisitos para que un desarrollador mitigara una amplia gama de posibles impactos, desde efectos en las líneas de visión hasta la vida silvestre.

Simultáneamente a los esfuerzos en el Condado de San Miguel, el BLM estaba redactando su propio plan solar para una vasta extensión de territorio en 11 estados del oeste. El mes pasado, el BLM ratificó su Plan Solar del Oeste, que actualiza un documento de 2012.

El plan del BLM identifica más de 31 millones de acres en las posesiones occidentales de la Agencia como adecuadas para el desarrollo solar. Es el resultado de una “Acción Ejecutiva” firmada por el ex presidente Biden. El plan tiene como objetivo identificar tierras para el desarrollo solar y agilizar el proceso de solicitud para acelerar nuevos proyectos.

El plan identifica tierras en los Condados de San Miguel y Montrose como potencialmente adecuadas para la energía

solar. Esto incluye áreas en los Valles de Big Gypsum y Disappointment, así como tierras justo al sur de Naturita, y una porción de Atkinson Mesa al norte de Uravan.

La Directora de Planificación del Condado de San Miguel, Kaye Simonson, dijo que conocían los esfuerzos del BLM cuando estaban redactando sus propias regulaciones para la energía solar.

“Estábamos al tanto, por supuesto,” dijo, “y entendimos que existe el potencial para algún arrendamiento solar (en tierras del BLM en el Condado).”

Simonson dijo que las regulaciones recientemente aprobadas del condado se aplicarán a cualquier proyecto en tierras federales. Los proyectos en tierras del BLM deben presentarse ante la Comisión de Planificación, al igual que un desarrollador en tierras privadas.

Pero, como un pequeño gobierno local, dijo que es un equilibrio.

“Necesitamos ser conscientes de dónde termina nuestra autoridad y comienza la del BLM,” dijo.

En el Condado de Montrose, la situación es la misma: un desarrollador en tierras del BLM debe abordar requisitos federales, así como locales. Los desarrolladores en tierras de propiedad estatal también deben respetar las reglas locales. El Condado de Montrose actualmente no tiene pautas de zonificación para proyectos solares a escala de servicios públicos, pero tras los esfuerzos del Condado de San Miguel, están comenzando el proceso de redacción.

El Director de Planificación del Condado de Montrose, Tallmadge Richmond, dijo que el nuevo código “establecerá estándares mínimos” para todas las “Instalaciones de Generación de Energía” — incluida la solar.

Hasta ahora, el BLM no ha visto ninguna solicitud para el desarrollo solar en el suroeste de Colorado, pero la agencia señala que ha habido el doble de proyectos de energía renovable en tierras federales aprobados bajo Biden que durante el primer mandato de Trump.

No está claro si el impulso se mantendrá bajo una segunda administración de Trump.

El nominado de Trump para liderar el Departamento del Interior, que supervisa el BLM, es Doug Burgrum, un exgobernador de Dakota del Norte y un defensor del gas natural.

Brian Hires, secretario de prensa del BLM, dijo en un correo electrónico que las diferentes administraciones pueden impulsar las prioridades de la agencia.

“Los objetivos de energía limpia de Biden ayudaron a impulsar la actualización del Plan Solar del Oeste,” dijo.

Hires también señala que ha habido durante mucho tiempo una mezcla de usos coexistiendo en las tierras de BLM, desde energía renovable, hasta extracción de minerales y gas, hasta recreación. Mientras que el Plan Solar del Oeste tiene como objetivo agilizar el proceso de desarrollo solar, los desarrolladores aún necesitan solicitar y pasar por el proceso de permisos. Con el plan aprobado solo el mes pasado, aún está por verse dónde construirán los desarrolladores.

A nivel local, Simonson dice que ha habido un aumento en la actividad de desarrollo en tierras federales en el West End en los últimos años.

“Hasta ahora, nuestros permisos han sido para exploración mineral, principalmente para uranio y cobre,” dijo ella.

Pero, a medida que los paisajes energético y político continúan evolucionando, el futuro del desarrollo en el West End sigue siendo incierto. Considerando qué tipos de proyectos podrían construirse dónde, Simonson dijo: “será interesante ver.”

Cuando se trata de redactar regulaciones locales, Simonson dijo: “ya sea petróleo y gas, minería o energías renovables, nuestra prioridad es asegurarnos de que esos desarrolladores actúen en el mejor interés de los ciudadanos del condado.”

Simultáneamente a los esfuerzos en el Condado de San Miguel, el BLM estaba redactando su propio plan solar para una vasta extensión de territorio en 11 estados del oeste. El mes pasado, el BLM ratificó su Plan Solar del Oeste, que actualiza un documento de 2012. El plan del BLM identifica más de 31 millones de acres en las posesiones occidentales de la Agencia como adecuadas para el desarrollo solar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CALL FOR NOMINATION:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of Nucla Naturita Fire Protection District of Montrose County.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6th of May 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, 2 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms and 2 directors will be elected to serve 2-year terms. Eligible electors of the Nucla Naturita Fire Protection District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DOE): Diana Starks @ Nucla Fire Hall, 555 Main St. Nucla or call at 970-417-1777.

Dead line to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2025 (not less than 67 days before the election).



Designated Election Official Signatures

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 22, 29, February 5, & 12, 2025

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

12/17/2024

0814 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1446 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 36000 block of 3700 Road near Redvale for a disturbance.

1612 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29100 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for an animal problem.

1726 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28700 block of BB36 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

2115 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30700 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a 911.

1 VIN inspection
1 directed patrol in Nucla
1 directed patrol in Naturita

12/18/2024

0609 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 36000 block of 3700 Road near Redvale for a disturbance.

0741 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a property damage report.

0823 Hours - Deputy conducted court security in the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla.

1301 Hours - Deputy took a parking complaint in the 600 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla.

1829 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1 school zone
1 follow up report
1 directed patrol in County

12/19/2024

0119 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Porter Street in Naturita for a noise complaint.

0908 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 6400 block of T6 Road near Paradox for a fraud report.

1121 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1407 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1441 Hours - James Wilkerson, 28, was arrested in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita on an outstanding warrant.

1642 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of AA Road and 2700 Road near Nucla for an animal problem.

1716 Hours - Cody Jones, 31, was contacted in the 29000 block of 2900 Road near Nucla and cited for no registration and no insurance.

1809 Hours - Justin Powell, 49, was contacted at the intersection of EE30 Road and County Road 90 near Nucla and cited for careless driving.

2124 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 36000 block of 3700 Road near Redvale for a welfare check.

1 school zone
3 VIN inspections
1 follow up report
2 directed patrols in County

12/20/2024

1522 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of 25 Mesa Road near Nucla for a report of smoke.

1552 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Payson

Street in Naturita for a civil stand-by.

1605 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 33000 block of 25 Mesa Road near Nucla for a disturbance.

1645 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a trespassing report.

1937 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a welfare check.

2120 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

2258 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a trespassing report.

1 directed patrol in Nucla
2 directed patrols in County
1 directed patrol in Naturita

12/21/2024

0703 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29900 block of 3090 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.

1147 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Third Avenue in Naturita for an animal problem.

1504 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 28700 block of BB36 Road near Nucla for a welfare check.

2139 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

2156 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 36000 block of 3700 Road near Redvale for a welfare check.

2253 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

2335 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a welfare check.

1 directed patrol in Nucla
2 directed patrols in County
1 directed patrol in Naturita

Correction

In the Jan. 15 edition, the Forum published a sheriff's blotter entry provided to us by Montrose County that stated Jordan Sutherland was cited for careless driving. We were informed after the paper printed that this in fact did not occur, and Jordan Sutherland was not cited for careless driving.

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Lunch Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

Monday, Jan. 27

Grilled Chicken Bacon Sandwich, Fries, Salad Bar, and Milk

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Soft Taco, Meat & Beans, Chips, Salad Bar, and Milk

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Spaghetti, Roll, Salad Bar, and Milk

Thursday, Jan. 30

Cheeseburger Pasta, Green Beans, Roll, Salad Bar, and Milk

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Breakfast Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

Monday, Jan. 27

Banana Bread, Fruit, Milk, and Juice

Tuesday, Jan. 28

French Toast, Mixed Fruit, Milk, and Juice

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Smoothie, Graham Crackers, Milk, and Juice

Thursday, Jan. 30

English Muffin, Cheese, Pears, Milk, and Juice

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARK LEROY BENNETT, DECEASED

CASE NUMBER 24PR030107

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative or to the District Court of Montrose County, Colorado or on or before May 15, 2025 or the claims may be forever barred.

/s/Sara Bachman
Attorney for the Personal Co-Representatives
Bachman Law, LLC
PO Box 158
Naturita, CO 81422

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum
January 15, 22, & 29, 2025

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| 300-400# STEERS | 3.40-4.00 | 300-400# HEIFERS | 3.00-3.45 |
| 400-500# STEERS | 3.30-3.60 | 400-500# HEIFERS | 2.95-3.30 |
| 500-600# STEERS | 2.90-3.30 | 500-600# HEIFERS | 2.75-3.05 |
| 600-700# STEERS | 2.63-2.82 | 600-700# HEIFERS | 2.60-2.75 |
| 700-800# STEERS | 2.55-2.78 | 700-800# HEIFERS | 2.25-2.48 |
| 800-900# STEERS | 2.35-2.55 | 800-900# HEIFERS | 2.05-2.28 |
| Top Bulls | 1.45-1.62 | Medium Bulls | 1.25-1.30 |
| Young Cows | 1.50-1.90 | Top Cows | 1.24-1.37 |
| Medium Cows | 1.05-1.20 | Low-yielding Cows | 1.00 Below |

NEXT WEEK: Thursday, January 23rd - Feeder Calf Sale - 30 calves from Crawford, 20 calves from Olathe, 25 calves from Paonia.

UP COMING SALES:

Varner Equipment Auction - January 24-25th - 1375 HWY 50, Delta, CO 81416

Thursday, January 30th - Bred Cow Sale/ Goat & Sheep Sale - 10 Bred heifers start calving 2-15-25 from Ridgeway.

Saturday, February 1st - Horse Sale

Thursday, February 6th - Feeder Calf Special

606 MAIN ST
NUCLA, CO 81424
OFFICE 9708642158
CELL 9704281666

**HUNTEM
TIRE SERVICE
AND REPAIR**

LOCAL AFFORDABLE
GREAT SERVICE



DAVID JOHNSON
OWNER



Bachman Law, LLC

Estate & Medicaid Planning, Probate, LLC Formation,
& Real Estate Transactions

140 E. Main Street
PO Box 158
Naturita, CO 81422

Sara Bachman

-Attorney at Law-

970.865.2440
sara@bachmanlawllc.com
www.bachmanlawcolorado.com

We Meet Your Tire Needs

We Appreciate & Thank You for Your Business



We are looking forward
to Serving you.
Great Tires - Great Deals
29492 Hwy 97, Nucla, CO
(970) 864-2287

"Your One Stop Shop For All Your Communication Needs"

NNTC Wireless 864-7335

Sam's Service

Phillips 66

Your Service Station

- Offering Phillips 66 Proclean Fuel
- 24-7 with Credit Card
- Convenience Store
- Brand name Tires & Service
- Lube-Oil Service
- Computer Diagnostics
- Light Mechanical

James Keeton

1685 Grand Ave, Norwood, CO • 970-327-4447

* NOW SERVING YOUR AREA *

**Four Seasons
Gutter Systems**

QUALITY SERVICE IN WESTERN
COLORADO SINCE 1989

- SEAMLESS 5" & 6" K-STYLE
- HAND CUT, SINGLE SEAM MITERS
- STEEL, ALUMINUM, & COPPER
- UP TO 10-YEAR WARRANTY

10% MILITARY &
SENIOR DISCOUNT

(970) 858-1347 ~ FOURSEASONGUTTERS@YAHOO.COM

WWW.FOURSEASONGUTTER.COM

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY & RATES: Rates for each issue: \$12.95 for 25 words and 20¢ for each additional word, **Box Frame:** \$5.00, **Tear Sheet:** \$1.00, **Bold Heading and Text:** \$5.00

HELP WANTED

HELP! Senior Citizens Center in Nucla needs volunteers for lunchtime.

Also we need kitchen and facility clean-up help \$18/hour, 40 hours/month. Inquire at SC Center on Nucla Main St., Wednesday & Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

35-2TC

TOWN OF NATURITA JOB OPENINGS

The Town of Naturita is looking for a Public Works Person to join our team.

Public works is responsible for water, sewer, streets, weeds and parks. There is a lot more that goes on with this also. We are looking for a self-starter, energetic person with some knowledge in plumbing, equipment operation, and power tools such as chainsaws, weed eaters, ect. Current driver's license is needed. A person must be willing to pass a drug test and submit to a future drug test. Overtime is scheduled in, as rotation of crews for the weekend coverage. Applicants must be willing to do emergency call

outs anytime of day or night even if not on call. (class b driver's license helpful) Benefit packages come with this position including paid vacation, medical, dental and vision, Paid sick leave. Personnel time off, and holidays. This is a full-time job. If you are interested, please visit Naturita Town Hall at 222 E. Main St. Naturita, for an application. If the application is not fully filled out it will be discarded.

34-2TC

Town of Naturita has an opening for a Parks person, and Animal control person.

The responsibility of this position is to take care of the park, community center, and twin pond areas. Also to do animal control for the Town according to our town ordinances. This would be a full-time position with benefits. This would also be scheduled to work some weekends. Please contact the Town of Naturita at 970-865-2286 or stop by and pick up an application at 222 East Main St. Naturita CO.

34-2TC

NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

*** NOW HIRING ***

- Paraprofessional (Part-Time or Full-Time)
- Activity Driver
- School Bus Drivers

We will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until positions are filled. For the Full job posting, visit www.norwoodk12.org/jobs and click "Click here for job listings and to apply online."

2025/2026 School Year Positions

- Elementary Teachers
- Guidance Counselor
- High School Math teacher
- Secondary Arts Teacher
- High/Middle School Social Studies Teacher

We will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until positions are filled. For the Full job posting, visit www.norwoodk12.org/jobs and click "Click here for job listings and to apply online."

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



San Miguel County is Hiring!

The following positions are full-time, year-round and include a comprehensive benefits package!

Environmental Health Specialist

IT Support Technician

Administrative Assistant (Part-Time)

Lead Mechanic

Light Equipment Operator

Heavy Equipment Operator

Noxious Weed Technician / Light Equipment Operator

Correctional Officer / Emergency Dispatcher

Deputy Sheriff - Operations

To view the complete job descriptions, compensation, benefits and to officially apply for any of the County's open career opportunities, please visit: www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/jobs

San Miguel County is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

NEED TO SEND IN A CLASSIFIED OR AD?

CONTACT THE SAN MIGUEL BASIN FORUM

(970) 864-7425

Fun Corner



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

1. Bungle
5. Cause of a trip?

8. Dao, alt. sp.
11. Between marquess and viscount
12. Super garb?
13. Inlet in Norway

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 | | |

15. Cogito ___ sum
16. Long story
17. Deprived of a limb
18. *Half-time headliner
20. Ice, dark or middle ___
21. *Cindy Crawford wore "___ Dukes" in a Super Bowl ad
22. Flightless bird
23. *Last year's Super Bowl winners
26. A cheap, run-down motel
30. "___ the fields we go"
31. Merry
34. Actor's part
35. Expensive
37. Not him
38. Cell phone bill item
39. Civil Rights icon
40. *David Tyree's ___ Catch
42. Letters of distress
43. What rule follower does
45. Get cozy
47. Greed, biblically-speaking
48. Grieve for the dead
50. Time period
52. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
55. 3600 seconds, pl.
56. Casino chip
57. Salmon's output
59. En ___, all together
60. Like Piper of Hamelin

61. Uber alternative
 62. ___ Robinson
 63. Acronym, abbr.
 64. "Come Sail Away" band
- DOWN**
1. Service charge
 2. Songbird
 3. Craving
 4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g.
 5. ___ lazuli
 6. Hot
 7. 52 cards
 8. Hefty volume
 9. Greek god of war
 10. 1, e.g.
 12. Cherry red
 13. Post vitriol
 14. *Team with no Super Bowl appearances
 19. Looney Tunes duck
 22. Architectural addition
 23. Meat of coconut
 24. Roman king of Judea
 25. Like certain whiskey
 26. Grow crop
 27. Brag
 28. Algorithmic language
 29. Ganders' companions

44. Follows wash
46. Pig sounds
48. Bouncing off the walls
49. Weasel's aquatic cousin
50. Fly like an eagle
51. Boot-wearing kitty
52. Mama Bear's husband
53. To perfection (3 words)
54. *Justin Timberlake's "___ Back," sung in Super Bowl show
55. Expression of doubt
58. *Steelers' number of Super Bowl trophies

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE-STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of shower. See Show Room in Tola. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082399 0083445

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

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

Solution to Last Week's Crossword

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

SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

YOUTH

Mustangs winning and learning



Bri Bonacquista's FFA students traveled to Denver last week for the National Western Stock Show. They saw various exhibits and shows, including the PBR bull riding and the free-style reining.



Here, teens watched the Mexican rodeo. (Photos by Bri Bonacquista)



Ashton Barnes holds off the opponent in middle school basketball.



The Lady Colts, combined of Nucla and Norwood players, are 2-0. They beat Ouray and Dolores last week. Here Madi Mull dribbles up court.



Jackson McCabe wrestled at Fight at the Fork over the weekend at North Fork High School in Hotchkiss.



Jace Bonacquista, two weeks with a broken nose, also wrestled there.



Bonacquista took second in his bracket, at 106 pounds.



McCabe was fifth in the 120-pound bracket. (Photos by Brandie McCabe)