

San Miguel Basin Forum

NORWOOD

Trustees hire planner, change marijuana fees

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Norwood Town Board of Trustees met in their regular monthly meeting March 12. Then, they discussed hiring a new planner, in light of former town planner Henry Hemphill resigning from his duties. Trustees with town staff discussed five different applicants for the position, and then in a majority vote selected KLJ Engineering, based in Montrose.

Town Manager Sara Owens had discovered recently there was no signed agreement with the San Miguel County Sheriff's Office for the existing law enforcement contract. Owens reviewed information, took a car out of the agreement that the sheriff's office was purchasing and/or leasing, and the agreement was approved by trustees for 2025.

Trustees discussed code enforcement, in general, and especially dogs at large.

Sheriff's Deputy Michael Donnellon said that's not the work of law enforcement.

"We won't handle dogs at all, unless a crime occurred," he said.

He added though that in the case of DUI situations, or accidents, the sheriff's office would assist.

Salaries were discussed, and town staff waived the right to executive session. Owens said she needs more time in her role to adjust, before salaries are set.

"I am asking you guys for another month," she said.

Trustees will revisit finalizing salaries for town staff in April. Trustee Shawn Fallow said Town Clerk Amanda Pierce does and should earn more than a "town clerk salary."

The owners of Mary Jane's Medicinals, newly moved to Norwood from Telluride, requested a discussion of lowering the marijuana license fees, which had been set at \$1,500 annually. The yearly fees were set at \$2,500 for application and \$1,500 for renewal, based on Telluride and Naturita codes. Only two marijuana businesses in Norwood can exist, per Norwood's land use code.

Pierce said she wanted to bring it up for discussion, and potentially come to an agreement for the April meeting.

Mayor Candy Meehan said she wasn't sure the town should charge the marijuana stores higher fees than the liquor stores these days.

"I'm not comfortable making our revenue off the backs of our businesses," she said. She added she

Cont. on Pg. 3

NUCLA

Sidewalk work starts, mayor resigns, cell tower meeting is April 3

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Town of Nucla, and Williams Construction announced last week that they'll be revitalizing the sidewalks on Main Street in Nucla. The work was set to start Monday, March 17.

Nucla Town Manager Melissa Lampshire told the Forum last week that the town received an Energy/Mineral Impact Fund award from the state's Department of Local Affairs for \$165,521. That

was for the design and engineering. The Town of Nucla received another \$1.1 million from CDOT, which was the Revitalizing Main Street Grant, and another \$200,000 came from CDOT for the ADA infrastructure.

"We had a 23% match requirement for the DOLA grant, and a \$75,000 match for the CDOT grant," Lampshire said.

The sidewalk improvements will take place on Highway 97, which is Main Street, from 3rd Avenue to 5th Avenue on the west side of the street — and from 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue on the east

side. Crews were to begin work on the west side by deconstructing the original concrete, then replacing the sidewalk concrete with ADA ramps and bump-outs. Crews are to complete that side before moving to the east side of the road.

If weather permits, construction is expected to be complete in July.

Representatives said in a news release last week the construction of the new sidewalk will contribute to the overall improvement of infrastructure in the Town of Nucla and will provide a safe, accessible route for pedestrians, including

Cont. on Pg. 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Wrestlers head to state tournament

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Head coach for the Mustangs Rob McCabe told the Forum on Sunday after returning from the regional wrestling tournament in Grand Junction that elementary and middle school kids qualified for the state tournament.

Nucla sent three elementary school wrestlers and 10 middle school wrestlers into regionals, and nine of those are now headed to Denver Thursday, March 20. In the elementary grades, that is Emily Johnson, who took fourth place, and Cooper Schurtz, who was second. McCabe said the younger kids are coached regularly by Tryllen Richards and Freddie Smith in their West End club.

In the middle school, Oscar Cooper, wrestling at 70 pounds, took fourth place — and for the middle school the Top 7 get to head to state. Cooper had been wrestling at 75 pounds, but made the cut for 70 pounds for regionals. Sadly, Austin Shurtz and Lochlan Shultz both got beat out at 70 pounds.

Tristan Rodriguez, at 95 pounds, wrestled well but came up short.

Branson McCabe took seventh, and he heads to state. He had to wrestle Mason Harris, of Norwood, in the consolation bracket and lost 10-6.

"But the last time we wrestled Mason, he beat us 15-0 in the first period," coach said. "It was nice to Branson could close the gap. It wasn't the butt-kicking we had before. After the match, Randy (Harris) came up to Branson and said 'that was awesome, what you did.' They're rivals up the road, but we all cheer and root for each other."

At 110-pounds, Hunter Johnson took first place at the regional tournament.

"That was probably the best I've seen him wrestle all year," said McCabe. "It was just really good."

At 125 pounds, Xaden Caruso took second place and pinned his way into the finals.

At 130 pounds, Jonah Richardson took seventh, though he had some nerves and didn't wrestle like he usually does. Coach said he could've had those first few matches, and Richardson knows it.

Additionally, Nucla is sending girls into the state tournament. Brier Osborne, first-year wrestler in the sixth grade, took fourth place. Coach said wrestling at Colorado Mesa University in such a big venue was a lot for her, but she made it happen.

"It's cool to see, what she's been able to do," he said.

Coach's daughter, Kynnlie

Cont. on Pg. 7



Zombies take the stage

From left to right, Nikki Daniels and Kira Rowan play zombies in last week's community theater play at The Livery with cast members Ashlee Meeks, Louie Jacobs, Liam Blair and Journey Bentler. (Photo by Brock Benson)

FIRE

Bockrath warns about fire danger; high school kids join department

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Norwood Fire Chief John Bockrath told the Forum Monday morning his department has had two out-of-control burns in the last two weeks. The first was two weeks ago Saturday, when a woman was burning a small, 2-foot by 2-foot asparagus patch, so it would come back greener.

Bockrath said it took crews 11 minutes to arrive on scene, but in that time, the fire grew exponentially. He said it was at the neighbors' porch. Norwood firefighters extinguished the fire, including a

shed that was burning.

Luckily, volunteers were ready to roll and the response was good. In that short time period, the fire grew by four yards, hit two structures and burned a little more than one acre.

"That was in town," Bockrath said. "I want people to know that's a groomed lawn. That's how dry it is out there."

Bockrath said the woman had tested her yard by feeling the lawn. She claimed it seemed moist enough. Bockrath said don't trust the dirt. Dirt doesn't burn; it's the grass itself that is dried out.

Last Thursday was a similar sit-

uation. Someone on the west side of town was burning ditches, thought it was cool enough outside, went to town to pick up a kid from school, and the fire spread. Neighbors saw smoke and called it in.

The fire spread to two and one-half acres and was headed for the neighbors. It ended up burning two buildings and a fence. Bockrath said it was a windy day, and the fire moved quickly.

"Again, we had a good response," he said. "The wildland guys were there ... Sheriff's deputies were on the scene. Mike Schultz saw it, and he sent the forest service."

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DISPATCHES FROM DISTRICT 3

The first 30 days

By SEAN M. POND, *Montrose County Commissioner*

If you believe in hard work over handouts, freedom over red tape, and self-reliance over government dependence, then you're right where you belong — because that's the future I'm fighting for. Montrose County belongs to the people, not bureaucrats, and I intend to keep it that way.

From the moment I was appointed Montrose County Commissioner for District 3 on February 15th, I knew there was no time to waste. That same day, I took my official oath of office, and by the 19th, I was already making my first mark — submitting a proposed resolution opposing the Dolores National Conservation Area, which was approved by a two-to-one vote. This was a decisive stand against federal overreach and unnecessary land restrictions, ensuring our public lands remain accessible.

That week, I was in Denver at Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) steering committees, weighing in on critical legislation affecting land use, water rights, and rural economies. Rural Colorado's voice must be heard, and I was there to make sure it was.

The following week, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Association of Counties (NACo) steering committees, where I was involved in guiding federal legislation that directly impacts Western Colorado and rural values. I also met with Congresswoman Lauren Boebert and Congressman Jeff Hurd to discuss public land access, economic growth, and wildfire preparedness.

Upon returning home, I set up my office at the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in the old Nucla-Naturita Elementary School. I toured the coroner's office, sheriff's office, and social services and met with West End residents, many of whom haven't felt represented for over two decades. I listened to concerns, identified challenges, and committed to advocating for them.

On Saturday, March 15th — exactly 30 days from my oath of office — I attended the Patriotic Flag Rally in Montrose, where I was a guest speaker. It was an honor to stand among passionate individuals and share my message of rural Western Colorado values.

A moment of great divide in Montrose County

Not everything in my first 30 days was about progress. What should have been a productive Monday working session quickly turned into an embarrassing public display of partisanship.

One of my fellow commissioners inappropriately and unfairly targeted us by insinuating racist remarks, igniting a baseless attack that never should have happened. This insinuation was a factless

and unfounded accusation — one that never existed, nor needed to be made. Yet, it was irresponsibly introduced into the discussion, fueling division, misinformation, and unnecessary controversy.

The Montrose City Manager then ran with this false narrative, publishing a blog post directly targeting me with misleading accusations. Among the most outrageous claims was the accusation that we told the Montrose County Manager that he was “not American enough to serve.” What a disgusting, ridiculous lie — a complete fabrication designed to sow division and incite outrage. This reckless move spread misinformation and further inflamed the situation, turning an already divisive moment into an unnecessary public spectacle. The local media outlet, the Montrose Daily Press, irresponsibly ran with the narrative without verifying the facts.

And then came Wednesday morning. As I walked into our board of county commissioners meeting, I quickly realized I had been set up. The room was packed with over 60 people, a coordinated effort by those who orchestrated the misinformation campaign against me. Members of our own staff mysteriously showed up early to set up chairs, all while claiming they had no idea a crowd was coming. I was bewildered.

For three hours, I was forced to sit there and endure an onslaught of accusations, demands, and finger-pointing — all centered around a fabricated claim that I planned to terminate our county manager and public health director. The strangest part? None of it was on the agenda. None of it was ever discussed. I had absolutely no knowledge of what they were even talking about, nor did I see a single piece of evidence supporting any of their claims.

This was an embarrassing public display of political division, and I will not be part of it — now or ever.

Despite this unfortunate moment, I remain committed to working for all citizens of Montrose County — regardless of political affiliation — to serve the needs of our community with integrity and fairness.

The first 30 days — and the road ahead

That was just my first 30 days as a Montrose County Commissioner, and I am more energized than ever. This is just the beginning. I am committed to fighting for liberty, preserving our western way of life, and ensuring that the Constitution remains the foundation of our government. Together, we will protect our land, our rights, and our freedoms for future generations of Montrose County. For the Constitution. For liberty. For the people.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society The Paradox Community Church, Part 3

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*



This photo shows the church on Dedication Sunday, Aug. 22, 1954.

This column continues the history of the Paradox Community Church:

The hard work was finished to build the beautiful little red church building in Paradox. Like so many small towns across southwestern Colorado, it was built by neighbors, the people of the small communities. The valley folks celebrated with a dedication of their lovely little church.

The story continues, “The parish hall was filled to overflowing with some 200 guests who were served a fried chicken dinner on dedication Sunday. Delegates were present from Redvale and Nucla, the two sister churches from the San Miguel Parish. Guests arrived also from Grand Junction, Montrose, Norwood and Uravan. Gift books were presented by Redvale and Nucla.

Three living charter members were honored: Mrs. John Colombo, Dan Nyswonger and Mrs. Nellie Schideler from Bedrock. Mrs. Schideler was unable to be present, but her granddaughter, Neva Schideler, sang at the dedication service. Rev. Selix and Chalmer Garber sang a duet, ‘There Will be Peace in the Valley,’ in honor of John Colombo, one of the leading builders, who died suddenly before the church was finished.

At the dedication in the sanctuary, which was filled to overflowing, Dr. Grubaugh mentioned in his dedicatory sermon touching remarks by a grandchild of John Colombo who, when told of her grandfather's death, was reported to have said, ‘No, grandpa isn't dead. Grandpa can't die until the church is built.’



Happy people stand on the front steps of the church that day.
(Photos courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

Dr. Grubaugh added, ‘No her grandfather is not dead. He lives in this beautiful church in Paradox, and will live on with the others who have sacrificed of themselves in the building of this church on the foundation of Jesus Christ, himself the chief cornerstone. May this church not only dominate the skyline of Paradox, but also influence the lives of its people for Christ and His Kingdom for generations yet to come.’

Dr. Grubaugh continued in his dedication sermon, ‘It was the pioneer spirit and determination which enabled this small church of a dozen members, under the leadership of their pastor and with the cooperation of friends and neighbors, to erect this church with their own hands and hearts. Here contrary to what people expect, you have done the impossible. A few people dedicated to a job when others say it can't be done. You have created your own paradox by

erecting over the Valley of Paradox the cross of Christ.’

The years have come and gone. Young folks have turned grey, and some have passed on, but a new generation grew up to take their place. A church was built and with its cross-tipped spire reaching towards the sky, the church now dominates the scene.

At last, after 45 years, the bell that was donated by Grand Junction Congregational Church in 1917 had a home.”

This history was compiled and written by Mrs. A. E. Riddle. The history was condensed into an article for the San Miguel Basin Forum by Rimrocker Historian, the late Marie Templeton, in November of 2010. I have taken the liberty of combining a little from both ladies. There will be more next week about how the little red church building eventually has become the Paradox Community Center.

MONTROSE COUNTY

Murphy, Hansen recognized as Women of Distinction

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Montrose County proudly celebrated the achievements and leadership of two outstanding women at the annual Women of Distinction event, held on March 7 by event host Our Town Matters. The event, which highlights remarkable women leaders who have made significant contributions to their communities, recognized Montrose County Treasurer Rosemary Murphy and County Commissioner Sue Hansen for their unwavering dedication, leadership and public service.

Rosemary Murphy, who is currently in her fifth term as Montrose County Treasurer, was recognized for her exceptional service in managing the county’s finances with transparency and integrity. The award was presented to Murphy by Montrose County Clerk and Recorder Tressa Guynes in recognition of her dedicated leadership. Through her work in the Montrose County Treasurer’s Office, Murphy has ensured efficient operations and takes immense pride in serving the citizens of Montrose County.

Sue Hansen, in her seventh year as Montrose County Commissioner, was recognized for her visionary work in county government and



Sue Hansen is Woman of the Year for Montrose County. (Courtesy image)

named Woman of the Year, which was voted on by all current Women of Distinction nominees, as well as Women of Distinction alumni.

“We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of these outstanding women,” said Frank Rodriguez, Montrose County Manager. “Their leadership and unwavering commitment serve as an inspiration to us all, not only as public servants but as true pillars of strength within our commu-

nity. The responsibility to guide and uplift a community is profound, and we are incredibly fortunate to have Rosemary and Sue as community leaders.”

Representatives said both women, through their exceptional leadership, embody the spirit of the Women of Distinction award. They have paved the way for future generations of women to step into roles of leadership within the Montrose community and beyond.

OBITUARY

Verl Boren

Nov. 2, 1932 – March 5, 2025

Verl Boren passed away on March 5 at his home in Bedrock, Colorado. He was born on Nov. 2, 1932, in Price, Utah, to Ezra Boren and Eliza Isabell Averett. He grew up in Utah and Wyoming and was drafted during the Korean War. He served overseas and came home with many stories of his time in the military.

Verl married Jan Richardson on May 23, 1995, and they made their home in Bedrock. Here they raised chickens and pigs, grew their own garden and lived a wonderful life together.

He was a man who could fix anything and build anything. If he needed a tool, he would build it out of things lying around the house. He loved woodworking, family



Verl Boren. (Courtesy photo)

gatherings, hosting an annual 4th of July barbecue, drinking homemade wine and beer, telling stories and watching old western movies. He also loved to play pranks on friends and family. From firecrackers to handing you a bro-

ken tool, there was never a dull moment around Verl.

Verl is preceded in death by his parents; eight siblings; and his children: Jodi Boren, John Hunt, Clayton Richardson, Kenny Richardson and Bobbie Joe Richardson.

Verl leaves behind many family and friends who loved him: his beloved wife, Jan; his children, Chris Heth, Latt Boren, Cheryl Boren, Patti (Kelly) Smith, Taresa (Bud) Lynch and Vern Richardson. He has numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews, including Randi and Kathy McGuire.

We will all miss Verl, his love, his friendship, his laughter and his stories.

before her departure, so she can train the new hire.

In other town news, there’s an issue with the property the Norwood Community Garden is situated on. The garden site was dedicated to the town years ago, but another part of the property, which gives access to the garden, was not donated.

The owner now wishes to sell the access part in exchange for the price of two water taps. The mayor said she was more comfortable selling for cash and an executive session was needed.

Norwood

Cont. from Pg. 1

hadn’t heard from Donnellon or other deputies any negative feedback regarding marijuana incidents.

Rather than wait until April, trustees made a motion to lower the fees from \$1,500 to \$250 per year for the marijuana businesses.

Donnellon gave a report on the sheriff’s office’s calls for service. For 2024, 1,936 calls were made, and Tuesdays are the busiest

days for calls, which matches the national average.

The Town of Norwood’s new shop is complete with “lights and everything,” Public Works Director Randy Harris said. There’s also a new Public Works truck, which is a hybrid. By last week, 500 miles had been put on the vehicle, but 112 were electric. The truck gets 23 mpg.

Shawny Darby, the town’s billing clerk, resigned effective the end of June, leaving town staff plenty of time to fill the vacancy. She’ll be replaced two months

San Miguel Basin Forum

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deep concern

Dear Editor,

I write to express my deep concern over the drastic reductions in federal land management positions in Southwest Colorado. These cuts, affecting the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS), threaten not only the responsible management of our public lands, but also the stability of rural communities that depend on these agencies for fire mitigation, resource stewardship and economic sustainability.

While wildland firefighters have been exempt from these reductions, many of the released personnel were red-card holders, meaning they were qualified to assist in wildland firefighting. This significantly reduces our local and regional firefighting capacity at a time when drought conditions, historic fire risk and resource shortages place our communities in greater danger. The question remains: What is the plan to backfill these critical positions and prevent an even greater wild-fire threat in the years ahead?

Disparities in federal wages and rural challenges

The Western Slope is already at a disadvantage, compared to the Front Range. Federal land management employees in our region earn, on average, 20% less than their counterparts east of the Continental Divide, despite our communities facing higher costs of living and greater resource scarcity. This wage gap not only limits the ability to recruit and retain skilled professionals, but also makes it harder for federal agencies to adequately staff land management operations.

Wrights Mesa: Unique challenges and increased fire risk

- The Norwood Fire Protection District (NFPD) covers more than 800 square miles with limited personnel and resources.
- Firefighters must haul water to fire sites, adding logistical challenges and delays.
- Volunteer responders are already spread thin, and federal land mismanagement places further strain on their ability to protect local communities.
- Historic drought conditions, as documented in recent data (drought.gov report), indicate that 2025 will be a particularly tense year for Wright’s Mesa’s water supply and fire risks.

The Burn Canyon Fire serves as a stark reminder of how inadequate fire mitigation on federal lands can lead to catastrophic wildfires. The lack of proactive management not only endangers lives and property, but also erodes the long-term sustainability of our forests and watersheds. Without federal employees to manage and maintain these lands properly, the risk only grows.

The socioeconomic impact on rural communities

Federal government jobs are extremely limited on Wright’s

Mesa, and those that do exist are typically staffed by long-term residents who are deeply embedded in our community.

- These individuals:
- Support local businesses, utilize schools and clinics and contribute to the local economy.
 - Often serve as volunteers in fire departments, emergency response and other critical services.
 - Are vital to sustaining our small-town way of life.

When even one federal job is lost, it often leads to the relocation of an entire family, impacting school enrollment, health care services and local commerce. The domino effect of these reductions threatens the long-term viability of our rural communities.

Rural Colorado deserves fair treatment

The federal government’s management decisions should not disproportionately burden rural Colorado. If federal land agencies are expected to continue safeguarding our public lands, ensuring fire mitigation and supporting local economies, they must be properly staffed and compensated. I urge our leaders to reconsider these reductions, address wage disparities and commit to policies that support, not weaken, the fabric of our rural communities.

Mayor Candy Meehan
NORWOOD

RIFF is March 28

Dear Editor,

We are hosting the second-annual Ridgway Independent Film Festival (RIFF) on Friday, March 28. Doors open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. There will be a surprise celebrity judges panel, plus swag, a photographer and a red carpet — so dress to impress. There will be night-sky viewing with Dark Sky expert Scott Goodsell. And, yes, there will be films.

The RIFF crew came last year and is back again, taking their show on the road. Paradox Cycle will be present, volunteering audio-visual. Cover charge is \$15. There’s a discount at CampV for those coming from out of town. Of course, you can expect the same fabulous hospitality you’ve come to know from the Flying Bear Pizzeria. We are excited to host!

Guests will see cherry-picked films from this year’s festival with a range of topics, from social and political to environmental. This is all from, and in the effort to support, independent artists and their artwork. Come see your neighbors, make new friends and maybe get a glimpse through the telescope of our dark sky.

All are welcome. All are invited.

Virginia Ericson,
Flying Bear Pizzeria
NATURITA

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NUCLA-NATURITA AREA CHAMBER OR COMMERCE

Member spotlight is on Nucla-Naturita Fire and EMS



The NNACC is celebrating the important work of the local fire department and EMS. (Courtesy image)

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce is beginning an initiative to spotlight its members, local businesses, organizations or even individuals that act as members, pay dues and help promote the local chamber and its events. This is the first in a series of columns that aims to support those entities.

When it comes to keeping communities safe during emergencies, there is always a dedicated group of citizens working around the clock to make it happen. In the west end of Montrose County, most of those people are volunteers.

The Nucla-Naturita Fire and EMS Department provides fire and emergency medical response to the west end of Montrose County, including Nucla, Naturita, and the citizens of Paradox Valley. The fire department (NNFD) responded to a total of 85 calls for service in 2024. The nature of calls ranged

from wildfires, such as the Bucktail Fire, to structure fires, gas leaks and also traffic accidents. NNFD also assists EMS with an occasional search and rescue mission.

NNFD needs more firefighters that are available to respond, day or night. Sometimes it’s difficult to respond, because people are at work or have family obligations. In this way, the more help available, the better. NNFD is also looking for board members.

EMS responded to a total of 388 calls for service in 2024. With a coverage area of 900 square miles and a two-hour transport to the nearest hospital, their volunteers stay constantly busy. Working in EMS is a lot of work. The class and certification process to become an EMT requires hard work and dedication.

The reward is in being able to help people in their time of need,

being there for the community. Volunteers know the work isn’t for everyone, but for those who do volunteer as an EMT or driver, their hard work and dedication to the community is greatly appreciated.

If people want to donate to the local department, they can donate in person at the Nucla Fire Hall or at Citizens State Bank in Naturita. Fundraising events are a great way to support Nucla-Naturita Fire and EMS.

There is an upcoming EMS class for those interested in obtaining EMT-B (basic) certification. Email Jeff Stephens to sign up for the class. EMS also needs drivers. To find out how you can help or to get involved, please contact nnvfdems@gmail.com or call 970-864-7331.rideinstitute.org/talking-gourds.

When it comes to keeping communities safe during emergencies, there is always a dedicated group of citizens working around the clock to make it happen.

Town of Nucla

Cont. from Pg. 1 residents, commuters and visitors. The sidewalks will accommodate increased foot traffic and improve connectivity in the area.

Lampshire told the Forum she agreed it was also about beautification too.

Representatives said there will be minimal impacts to traffic, but businesses along the corridor could expect some impacts as crews would be working along the sidewalk. The project team will utilize strategies to minimize these impacts.

In the other Nucla news, Mayor Kirk Yerke, who’s under a recall, resigned March 12 at the end of the town’s regular meeting. The recall election is set to take place April 1. For the time being, the

mayor pro tem is Paula Brown, who’s also seeking election as the new mayor. Voters will decide next month whether Brown is indeed the new mayor, or if it’s Aimee Tooker. Both women have leadership experience and are native to the community.

And, the board of trustees with town staff will hold a meeting April 3 regarding the cell tower that has been approved to be erected at the top of Nucla on town property. The cell tower has created some controversy the last few months, as it was approved in the fall, but many residents have claimed they weren’t aware of it and wished they’d been able to participate in discussions and the process of its approval.

A tower from NNTC already sits on that property, but some

have said they have concerns about another, taller tower going up too. Some are worried about potential health risks; others are concerned about views and property values. On the other hand, some have said increased services could be a good thing, and the tower would generate some additional revenue for Nucla.

Lampshire told the Forum the public meeting is to discuss the tower specifically and happens at the Nucla Community Center at 6:30 p.m. on April 3. Lampshire said she plans to advertise the meeting date in advance, so that citizens don’t forget.

Typically, the public is permitted three minutes to speak at such meetings, and sessions are timed and moderated.

Warnings about fire danger

Cont. from Pg. 1

Bockrath said last week’s fire did employ four Norwood engines and one USFS engine. It took three hours to completely extinguish.

Bockrath wants people to know it’s extremely dry. In fact, the fuel moisture levels are as low or even lower than the year the Burn Canyon Fire happened. The pinion, juniper and ponderosas are in worse shape.

“People have to be cautious,” he said. “Make sure to have a water source for a controlled burn, and hand tools or heavy equipment to contain and put it out.”

He said to call the fire department, because both Norwood and Nucla-Naturita are more than happy to assist. They’ll stand by with an engine and make sure nothing gets out of hand.

Bockrath doesn’t want anyone leaving a fire unattended. Last week, he was driving up by the Lone Cone area, and one homeowner was inside napping while a burn was taking place. He told the person to be more vigilant.

“It only takes on ember,” he said. In other fire news, he’s more

than pleased that some high school students have committed to the Norwood Fire Protection District. After a career day earlier this year, five students in 10th and 11th grades, age 17 to 18, already completed their five-day wildland academy training and are serving Norwood. The young people want to not only be wildland firefighters, but also also join the department and learn EMT skills.

Some of the kids left a baseball practice last week to attend a fire. And, they did a structural fire training on March 16 too.

“I’ve got some really good young guys,” Bockrath said. “They’re fantastic ... This is going to be great.”

Bockrath said he hopes they stay with Norwood, but even if they take their trainings and move along, he’ll be happy he got them into the industry. Before COVID, he held a training and got 23 onto the fire department. Of those, 17 are still working as first-responders.

Bockrath encourages anyone who wants to work as a first-responder to get with him, and in Nucla to speak with Bryan Keeton.

Bockrath works closely with Keeton and Nucla’s department. They’re planning for a very dry season. Last week, they had a meeting in Montrose and learned the San Juans are 81% of average for snowpack.

“Bryan and I will be prepared for a very busy year,” he said. “We will be working together.”

After writing a grant and purchasing a drone, Bockrath said Tom Meehan, long-time first responder, will be flying that, in order to pinpoint “smokes.”

It’s about being proactive and using technology to locate fires quickly.

“How thin are our resources going to be spread this year? That is my concern,” he said. “People need to realize it’s dry. A little bit of snow on the ground doesn’t mean anything. Watch the red flag warnings and heed them. Do not leave fires unattended. Have water and some equipment, and call the fire department.”

Currently, Bockrath has 17 controlled burns scheduled, but he’s ready for more and does prefer to assist.



Braxton Brack and Coulter Shumway take a first-aid class with NFPD. (Photo by John Bockrath)

Letters

Letters cont.

My resignation

Dear Editor and citizens of Nucla,

On Wednesday, March 12, I submitted my resignation as Mayor of Nucla, effective at such time that a newly elected mayor will be sworn in. This decision was not made lightly, but through prayer and careful consideration of my personal and professional obligations. I believe it is the best course of action.

Looking back, I realize that a big part of the role of mayor is to connect the community with the business of Town Hall and to represent the values of the community. In this respect, I feel like I let the town down. Two major projects (cell tower and housing development at the old Nucla Elementary School) were approved by the Town Board of Trustees without sufficient public announcements, transparency or community input.

With regards to the new cell tower at the top of Nucla, the resistance to the cell tower in Redvale should have been a red flag that most people don’t want to have cell towers close to their homes, schools or even in eyesight. I should have been more considerate of this fact by asking more questions and insisted that community input be heard. Unfortunately, most people in Nucla had no idea that this was happening due to a lack of communication and announcements, and for that I apologize.

Regarding the private housing development at the old elementary school on Main Street in Nucla, I am in opposition to this project and regret that we didn’t place more announcements in local media and invite more public input in order to get a better sense of

what our community wants.

It has been an honor to have been elected and serve this community. My resignation is delivered with the stipulation that the vacancy shall be filled by a special election. This will allow our community to have a direct and democratic say in choosing their next leader, ensuring that the governance of our town remains in the hands of the people. I pray that my resignation brings about a new era of dedicated, involved and transparent leadership to Nucla. Please make your voice heard by voting for a new mayor on April 1.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served as your mayor and look forward to witnessing the continued success and growth of Nucla and the West End.

Kirk Yerke
NUCLA

When we work together

Dear Editor,

What I have learned in the last couple weeks, and especially in the last couple of months, is that there are numerous policies, resolutions and projects that have been passed by the Town of Nucla that the community took no part in the process. I will ensure you stay informed through regular articles in the San Miguel Basin Forum newspaper, a dedicated Facebook page (still learning all the other social media), and a podcast featuring local guests and local/regional/state updates.

It is important to me to form a committee that reviews and streamlines codes and ordinances that work for everyone, and have flexibility. I want to take the code enforcement process to a town beautification and safety facilitation process. Developing programs to assist residents and implementing blight remediation

processes that promote inclusive and constructive interactions with property owners and projects can result in noticeable improvements. Collaboration with residents on short-term beautification projects and long-term infrastructure upgrades are necessary to create noticeable change.

Our ancestors have shown us that when we work together, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. It is also important for me to be engaged in all the processes for the town. I want to make sure all the employees are given the tools they need to be successful. Streamlining and outsourcing processes will ensure that the employees and board members are using their time efficiently.

By investing in self-reliance, we not only enhance our own resilience

but also contribute to the well-being of our community. It means valuing the craftsmanship and dedication of those who work tirelessly to bring us fresh, high-quality products. By doing so, we create a robust local economy that can withstand external shocks and adapt to changing circumstances.

My husband and I have invested in Main Street businesses because of our love of this community. Most properties we purchased were either in the middle of, or close to, the auction process. We couldn’t bear the thought of it being handed off to someone that had no idea of the significance to the community or to the importance of our history. So, we stepped in, and always at the last minute, to make sure that didn’t happen.

This is not about a title. It is about knowing what needs to be done, knowing how to do it and giving the time and dedication that it will take to accomplish noticeable goals. I have dedicated and supportive employees that are just as invested in this town’s future as I am. I have a supportive husband, family and friends. I have the energy and ambition to see this town through a new era of hope and possibilities for all. I am asking for your vote for a new direction and positive changes. If you want a leader that is ingrained in transparency, collaboration and self-reliance, then vote for Aimee Tooker Mayor for the Town of Nucla on April 1, 2025.

Aimee Tooker
NUCLA

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

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ARTS

Leslie Ament shares ‘Tales of the West End’

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

After sharing in Naturita at the library there for a Sunday Social program on March 16, Naturita librarian Leslie Ament will again share her tales of growing up in Uravan and Naturita as the Talking Gourd’s March Bardic Trails guest storyteller in Norwood at the Lone Cone Library on Wednesday, March 19, at 6 p.m. MDT.

Born in Uravan and raised in Naturita along the scenic San Miguel River, Ament raised two sons, Jordan and Jared Blood, who graduated Nucla High School. She has two granddaughters, Sofia and Catalina, and now lives with her canine companions: a pit bull named, T-Bone Horatio, and a cat, MeowKerPow.

The Sunday Socials in Naturita have been ongoing and popular.

“We hold Sunday Socials at the Naturita Community Library,” said Ament, “together with our 11 a.m. Talking Gourds Stories & Poems sessions, where we’ve hosted presenters and have group discussions on topics like bears, mountain lions and wolves, as well as mushrooms, UFOs, poetry, music, health care and issues specific to the West End.”

Ament has been around a long time and knows the history and flavor of local communities.

“West End communities are spirited and competitive,” said Ament. “In the past, Nucla, Naturita, Uravan and Norwood have had their rivalries, with Redvale remaining mostly neutral. Paradox kids were known for excelling in basketball and music, Uravan dominated the baseball fields, and Norwood folks were often labeled as rednecks. Meanwhile, Nucla tended to view itself as superior to the other towns (and, in my opinion, still does). As for Naturita? Well, we mostly didn’t like being told what to do — and we’re still willing to stand our ground over just about anything.”

She’ll speak in Norwood at the Lone Cone Library on March 19. All are welcome.

“I look forward to spirited conversations about the history of our amazing area and to hearing every-

one’s personal stories,” said Ament.

The theme this month for storytellers and poets, if anyone would like a prompt, is “water.”

The Stories & Poems free series happens on the third Wednesday of each month. The featured guests will give a 15- to 20-minute presentation each, followed by a short question-and-answer period after the presentation. Then, there’s a passing of the gourd, where community members are encouraged to share stories or poems.

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds poetry program, Stories & Poems Norwood is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of the library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and Talking Gourds’ Fischer & Cantor poetry contests.

For more information or with questions, the public may text 970-729-0220 or email Art Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org. To visit the website, the public may access www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds.

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Local cowgirls at work

Top: Kyndle Weimer works with her steer, Walter.
Below: Darcy Bray is always on a horse. (Courtesy images)



Wrestlers

Cont. from Pg. 1
McCabe, took second place. The regional tournament provided for her the third and fourth losses for the season, and coach said that was “humbling.” An eighth-grader, she’s had a “phenomenal” run. Overall, the kids are having fun and believing in themselves. McCabe said it was really a great thing to succeed in league wrestling and then to have them go into big tournaments in Gunnison, Delta and Montrose and end up in the top half, when Nucla is

such a small school. For him personally, the stress and high stakes of high school wrestling are over, and working with the younger ones is just “an absolute blast.” He said he gets to help them just be their best selves, as students and athletes. The kids will leave for Denver on Thursday, ride with the their parents, and get ready to weigh in on Friday morning. Friday will see the first two or three matches, with the semifinals, consolation and finals on Saturday. Coach said there’s a very good chance Nucla will have some state placers next weekend.



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Thank you for making this possible!

We sincerely appreciate each and every one of you.


We are grateful for our local businesses, supporting local businesses!!!

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- A-T’s Meatblock
- Basin Clinic
- Co-Op Country Store
- Hoof & Paw Thrift Store
- My Place
- Rimrock Hotel
- West End Family Link


- Huntem Tire Service & Repair
- Kenny’s Tires
- BDS Trucking, LLC
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- Blondies
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- Packrat Minnie Storage
- San Miguel Power Association
- Coyote Septic Services



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MAYOR Town of Nucla

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NUCLA

El trabajo en las aceras comienza, el alcalde renuncia, la reunión sobre la torre de telefonía celular es el 3 de abril

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

El Departamento de Transporte de Colorado (CDOT), la Ciudad de Nucla y Williams Construction anunciaron la semana pasada que revitalizarán las aceras en la Calle Principal de Nucla. El trabajo estaba programado para comenzar el lunes 17 de marzo.

La Gerente de la Ciudad de Nucla, Melissa Lampshire, dijo al Forum la semana pasada que la ciudad recibió un premio del Fondo de Impacto Energético/Mineral del Departamento de Asuntos Locales del estado por \$165,521. Eso fue para el diseño y la ingeniería. La Ciudad de Nucla recibió otro \$1.1 millones de CDOT, que fue la Subvención para Revitalizar la Calle Principal, y otros \$200,000 vinieron de CDOT para la infraestructura ADA.

“Tuvimos un requisito de coincidencia del 23% para la subvención de DOLA, y una coincidencia de \$75,000 para la subvención de CDOT,” dijo Lampshire.

Las mejoras en las aceras se llevarán a cabo en la Carretera 97, que es la Calle Principal, desde la 3ra Avenida hasta la 5ta Avenida en el lado oeste de la calle — y desde la 4ta Avenida hasta la 5ta Avenida en el lado este. Los equipos comenzarían a trabajar en el lado oeste desmantelando el concreto original, luego reemplazando el concreto de la acera con rampas ADA

y salientes. Los equipos deben completar ese lado antes de pasar al lado este de la carretera.

Si el clima lo permite, se espera que la construcción esté completa en julio.

Los representantes dijeron en un comunicado de prensa la semana pasada que la construcción de la nueva acera contribuirá a la mejora general de la infraestructura en la Ciudad de Nucla y proporcionará una ruta segura y accesible para los peatones, incluidos residentes, viajeros y visitantes. Las aceras acomodarán un aumento en el tráfico peatonal y mejorarán la conectividad en la zona.

Lampshire dijo al Forum que también estaba de acuerdo en que se trataba de embellecimiento.

Los representantes dijeron que habrá impactos mínimos en el tráfico, pero las empresas a lo largo del corredor podrían esperar algunos impactos ya que los equipos estarían trabajando a lo largo de la acera. El equipo del proyecto utilizará estrategias para minimizar estos impactos.

En otras noticias de Nucla, el alcalde Kirk Yerke, que está bajo un proceso de revocación, renunció el 12 de marzo al final de la reunión regular del pueblo. La elección de revocación está programada para el 1 de abril. Por el momento, la alcaldesa pro t  mpore es Paula Brown, quien tambi  n est   buscando ser elegida como la nueva alcaldesa. Los votantes decidir  n el pr  ximo mes si Brown es efectivamente la nueva

alcaldesa, o si es Aimee Tooker. Ambas mujeres tienen experiencia en liderazgo y son nativas de la comunidad.

Y, la junta de fideicomisarios con el personal del pueblo llevar   a cabo una reuni  n el 3 de abril sobre la torre de telefon  a celular que ha sido aprobada para ser erigida en la parte alta del pueblo en propiedad del pueblo. La torre de telefon  a celular ha creado cierta controversia en los   ltimos meses, ya que fue aprobada en oto  o, pero muchos residentes han afirmado que no estaban al tanto y desear  n haber podido participar en las discusiones y en el proceso de su aprobaci  n.

Una torre de NNTC ya se encuentra en esa propiedad, pero algunos han dicho que tienen preocupaciones sobre otra torre m  s alta que tambi  n se construya. Algunos est  n preocupados por los posibles riesgos para la salud; otros est  n preocupados por las vistas y los valores de las propiedades. Por otro lado, algunos han dicho que el aumento de servicios podr  a ser algo bueno, y que la torre generar  a ingresos adicionales para Nucla.

Lampshire dijo al Forum que la reuni  n p  blica para discutir espec  ficamente la torre se llevar   a cabo en el Centro Comunitario de Nucla a las 6:30 p.m. el 3 de abril. Lampshire dijo que planea anunciar la fecha de la reuni  n con anticipaci  n, para que los ciudadanos no se olviden.

T  picamente, se permite al p  blico tres minutos para hablar en tales reuniones, y las sesiones son cronometradas y moderadas.

NORWOOD

Los fideicomisarios contratan a un planificador, cambian las tarifas de marihuana

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

La Junta de Fideicomisarios de Norwood se reuni   en su reuni  n mensual regular el 12 de marzo. Luego, discutieron la contrataci  n de un nuevo planificador, a la luz de la renuncia del ex planificador de la ciudad, Henry Hemphill, de sus funciones. Los fideicomisarios con el personal de la ciudad discutieron cinco solicitantes diferentes para el puesto, y luego, en una votaci  n mayoritaria, seleccionaron a KLJ Engineering, con sede en Montrose.

La Gerente de la Ciudad, Sara Owens, hab  a descubierto recientemente que no hab  a un acuerdo firmado con la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de San Miguel para el contrato de aplicaci  n de la ley existente. Owens revis   la informaci  n, retir   un autom  vil del acuerdo que la oficina del sheriff estaba comprando y/o arrendando, y el acuerdo fue aprobado por los fideicomisarios para 2025.

Los fideicomisarios discutieron la aplicaci  n del c  digo, en general, y especialmente los perros sueltos.

El Deputy del Sheriff, Michael Donnellon, dijo que ese no es el trabajo de la aplicaci  n de la ley.

“No manejaremos perros en absoluto, a menos que ocurra un crimen,” dijo.

Sin embargo, agreg   que en el caso de situaciones de DUI, o accidentes, la oficina del sheriff ayudar  a.

Se discutieron los salarios, y el personal de la ciudad renunci   al derecho a una sesi  n ejecutiva. Owens dijo que

necesita m  s tiempo en su rol para ajustarse, antes de que se establezcan los salarios.

“Les estoy pidiendo un mes m  s,” dijo.

Los fideicomisarios revisar  n la finalizaci  n de los salarios para el personal de la ciudad en mayo. El fideicomisario Shawn Fallown dijo que la Secretaria de la Ciudad, Amanda Pierce, gana y deber  a ganar m  s que un “salario de secretaria de la ciudad.”

Los propietarios de Mary Jane’s Medicinals, reci  n mudados a Norwood desde Telluride, solicitaron una discusi  n sobre la reducci  n de las tarifas de licencia de marihuana, que se hab  an establecido en \$1,500 anuales. Las tarifas anuales se establecieron en \$2,500 para la solicitud y \$1,500 para la renovaci  n, basadas en los c  digos de Telluride y Naturita. Solo pueden existir dos negocios de marihuana en Norwood, seg  n el c  digo de uso de suelo de Norwood.

Pierce dijo que quer  a plantearlo para discusi  n, y potencialmente llegar a un acuerdo para la reuni  n de abril.

La alcaldesa Candy Meehan dijo que no estaba segura de que la ciudad deber  a cobrar a las tiendas de marihuana tarifas m  s altas que a las tiendas de licores en estos d  as.

“No me siento c  moda generando nuestros ingresos a expensas de nuestros negocios,” dijo. Agreg   que no hab  a escuchado de Donnellon u otros diputados ning  n comentario negativo sobre incidentes de marihuana.

En lugar de esperar hasta abril, los fideicomisarios hicieron una moci  n para reducir las tarifas de \$1,500 a \$250 por a  o para los negocios de marihuana.

Donnellon dio un informe sobre las llamadas de servicio de la oficina del sheriff. Para 2024, se realizaron 1,936 llamadas, y los martes son los d  as m  s ocupados para las llamadas, lo que coincide con el promedio nacional.

La nueva tienda de la Ciudad de Norwood est   completa con “luces y todo,” dijo el Director de Obras P  blicas, Randy Harris. Tambi  n hay un nuevo cam  n de Obras P  blicas, que es h  brido. Hasta la semana pasada, se hab  an recorrido 500 millas en el veh  culo, pero 112 eran el  ctricas. El cam  n obtiene 23 mpg.

Shawny Darby, la secretaria de facturaci  n de la ciudad, renunci   con efecto a finales de junio, dejando al personal de la ciudad mucho tiempo para llenar la vacante. Ser   reemplazada dos meses antes de su partida, para que pueda capacitar al nuevo contratado.

En otras noticias de la ciudad, hay un problema con la propiedad en la que se encuentra el Jard  n Comunitario de Norwood. El sitio del jard  n fue dedicado a la ciudad hace a  os, pero otra parte de la propiedad, que da acceso al jard  n, no fue donada.

El propietario ahora desea vender la parte de acceso a cambio del precio de dos grifos de agua. La alcaldesa dijo que se sent  a m  s c  moda vendiendo por efectivo y se necesitaba una sesi  n ejecutiva.

West End Events

NATURITA DAYS FUNDRAISER: March 21, Soup & Salad Dinner with Dessert Auction, Naturita Community Center, doors open at 4:30 p.m.; \$10 per person, \$5 per kid under 10

NUCLA RECALL AND MAYORAL ELECTION: April 1

NATURITA PACK BURRO RACES: May 17

WATER DAYS: July 4-5

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN NUCLA: Thursdays at 6 p.m., Community Bible Fellowship Church (in the back)

COFFEE AND DONUTS FOR VETS: Second Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon; Hopkins Field, open to all veterans

CHAMBER MEETING: Board meetings are third Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the West End Visitors Center

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Board meetings are third Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Nucla Middle-High School, in the library

NUCLA-NATURITA FIRE DEPARTMENT: Board meetings are second Monday of the month, 6 p.m., Nucla Fire Hall

TOWN OF NUCLA: Board meetings are second and fourth Wednesday, except in November and December, at 7 p.m. at Nucla Town Hall

En Espanol

FUEGO

Bockrath advierte sobre el peligro de incendio; los estudiantes de secundaria se unen al departamento

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

El Jefe de Bomberos de Norwood, John Bockrath, dijo al Forum el lunes por la mañana que su departamento ha tenido dos incendios fuera de control en las últimas dos semanas. El primero fue hace dos sábados, cuando una mujer estaba quemando un pequeño parche de espárragos de 2 pies por 2 pies, para que volviera más verde.

Bockrath dijo que a los equipos les tomó 11 minutos llegar al lugar, pero en ese tiempo, el fuego creció exponencialmente. Dijo que estaba en el porche de los vecinos. Los bomberos de Norwood extinguieron el fuego, incluyendo un cobertizo que estaba ardiendo.

Afortunadamente, los voluntarios estaban listos para actuar y la respuesta fue buena. En ese corto periodo de tiempo, el fuego creció cuatro yardas, afectó a dos estructuras y quemó un poco más de una acre.

“Eso fue en la ciudad,” dijo Bockrath. “Quiero que la gente sepa que es un césped cuidado. Así de seco está allá afuera.”

Bockrath dijo que la mujer había probado su jardín sintiendo el césped. Ella afirmó que parecía lo suficientemente húmedo. Bockrath dijo que no confíes en la tierra. La tierra no quema; es el césped mismo el que está seco.

El jueves pasado fue una situación similar. Alguien en el lado oeste de la ciudad estaba quemando zanjas, pensó que hacía suficiente frío afuera, fue al pueblo a recoger a un niño de la escuela, y el fuego se propagó. Los vecinos vieron humo y lo reportaron.

El fuego se extendió a dos acres y medio y se dirigía hacia los vecinos. Terminó quemando dos edificios y una cerca. Bockrath dijo que era un día ventoso, y el fuego se movió rápidamente.

“De nuevo, tuvimos una buena respuesta,” dijo. “Los chicos de la zona rural estaban allí ... Los diputados del

sheriff estaban en la escena. Mike Schultz lo vio, y envió al servicio forestal.”

Bockrath dijo que el incendio de la semana pasada empleó cuatro camiones de Norwood y un camión del USFS. Tomó tres horas extinguirlo completamente.

Bockrath quiere que la gente sepa que está extremadamente seco. De hecho, los niveles de humedad del combustible son tan bajos o incluso más bajos que el año en que ocurrió el incendio de Burn Canyon. Los pinos, enebros y ponderosas están en peor estado.

“La gente tiene que ser cautelosa,” dijo. “Asegúrate de tener una fuente de agua para una quema controlada, y herramientas manuales o equipo pesado para contenerlo y apagarlo.”

Dijo que llamen al departamento de bomberos, porque tanto Norwood como Nucla-Naturita están más que felices de ayudar. Estarán listos con un camión y se asegurarán de que nada se salga de control.

Bockrath no quiere que nadie deje un fuego desatendido. La semana pasada, estaba conduciendo por el área de Lone Cone, y un propietario estaba dentro durmiendo mientras se estaba llevando a cabo una quema. Le dijo a la persona que fuera más vigilante.

“Solo se necesita una brasa,” dijo.

En otras noticias de incendios, está más que complacido de que algunos estudiantes de secundaria se hayan comprometido con el Distrito de Protección Contra Incendios de Norwood. Después de un día de carrera a principios de este año, cinco estudiantes de 10º y 11º grados, de 17 a 18 años, ya completaron su capacitación de cinco días en la academia de incendios forestales y están sirviendo a Norwood. Los jóvenes quieren no solo ser bomberos forestales, sino también unirse al departamento y aprender habilidades de EMT.

Algunos de los chicos dejaron una práctica de béisbol la

semana pasada para asistir a un incendio. Y también hicieron un entrenamiento de incendio estructural el 16 de marzo.

“Tengo algunos chicos jóvenes realmente buenos,” dijo Bockrath. “Son fantásticos ... Esto va a ser genial.”

Bockrath dijo que espera que se queden en Norwood, pero incluso si toman sus entrenamientos y se van, estará feliz de haberlos introducido en la industria. Antes de COVID, realizó un entrenamiento y logró que 23 ingresaran al departamento de bomberos. De esos, 17 todavía están trabajando como primeros respondedores.

Bockrath anima a cualquiera que quiera trabajar como primer respondedor a que se comunique con él, y en Nucla a que hable con Bryan Keeton.

Bockrath trabaja en estrecha colaboración con Keeton y el departamento de Nucla. Están planeando una temporada muy seca. La semana pasada, tuvieron una reunión en Montrose y aprendieron que los San Juans están al 81% del promedio de nieve.

“Bryan y yo estaremos preparados para un año muy ocupado,” dijo. “Estaremos trabajando juntos.”

Después de escribir una subvención y comprar un dron, Bockrath dijo que Tom Meehan, un primer respondedor de larga data, volará eso, para localizar “humos.”

Se trata de ser proactivo y usar tecnología para localizar incendios rápidamente.

“¿Qué tan delgados se van a distribuir nuestros recursos este año? Esa es mi preocupación,” dijo. “La gente necesita darse cuenta de que está seco. Un poco de nieve en el suelo no significa nada. Presten atención a las advertencias de bandera roja y háganles caso. No dejen incendios desatendidos. Tengan agua y equipo pequeño, y llamen al departamento de bomberos.”

Actualmente, Bockrath tiene programadas 17 quemas controladas, pero está listo para más y prefiere ayudar.

DEPORTES DE ESCUELA INTERMEDIA

Luchadores se dirigen al torneo estatal

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

El entrenador en jefe de los Mustangs, Rob McCabe, le dijo al Forum el domingo, después de regresar del torneo regional de lucha en Grand Junction, que los niños de primaria y escuela intermedia se clasificaron para el torneo estatal.

Nucla envió a tres luchadores de primaria y 10 luchadores de escuela intermedia a los regionales, y nueve de ellos ahora se dirigen a Denver el jueves 20 de marzo. En los grados de primaria, están Emily Johnson, quien ocupó el cuarto lugar, y Cooper Schurtz, quien fue segundo. McCabe dijo que los niños más jóvenes son entrenados regularmente por Tryllen Richards y Freddie Smith en su club de West End.

En la escuela intermedia, Oscar Cooper, luchando en 70 libras, ocupó el cuarto lugar — y para la escuela intermedia, los 7 mejores van al estatal. Cooper había estado luchando en 75 libras, pero hizo el corte para 70 libras para los regionales. Lamentablemente, Austin Shurtz y Locklyn Shultz fueron eliminados en 70 libras.

Tristan Rodríguez, en 95 libras, luchó bien pero se quedó corto.

Branson McCabe ocupó el séptimo lugar y se dirige al estatal. Tuvo que luchar contra Mason Harris en el cuadro

de consolación y perdió 10-6.

“Pero la última vez que luchamos contra Mason, nos ganó 15-0 en el primer período,” dijo el entrenador. “Fue bueno que Branson pudiera cerrar la brecha. No fue la paliza que tuvimos antes. Después de la pelea, Randy (Harris) se acercó a Branson y le dijo ‘eso fue increíble, lo que hiciste.’ Son rivales en la carretera, pero todos animamos y apoyamos a los demás.”

En 110 libras, Hunter Johnson ocupó el primer lugar en el torneo regional.

“Esa fue probablemente la mejor lucha que le he visto todo el año,” dijo McCabe. “Simplemente fue realmente buena.”

En 125 libras, Xaden Caruso ocupó el segundo lugar y se aseguró un lugar en las finales.

En 130 libras, Jonah Richardson ocupó el séptimo lugar, aunque tuvo algunos nervios y no luchó como lo hace normalmente. El entrenador dijo que podría haber ganado esos primeros partidos, y Richardson lo sabe.

Además, Nucla está enviando chicas al torneo estatal. Brier Osborne, luchadora de primer año en sexto grado, ocupó el cuarto lugar. El entrenador dijo que luchar en la Universidad de Colorado Mesa en un lugar tan grande fue mucho para ella, pero lo logró.

“Es genial ver lo que ha podido hacer,” dijo él.

La hija del entrenador, Kynlee McCabe, ocupó el segundo lugar. El torneo regional le proporcionó las tercera y cuarta derrotas de la temporada, y el entrenador dijo que eso fue “humillante.” Como estudiante de octavo grado, ha tenido una carrera “fenomenal.”

En general, los niños se están divirtiendo y creyendo en sí mismos. McCabe dijo que realmente fue algo grandioso tener éxito en la lucha de liga y luego llevarlos a grandes torneos en Gunnison, Delta y Montrose y terminar en la mitad superior, cuando Nucla es una escuela tan pequeña.

Para él personalmente, el estrés y las altas apuestas de la lucha en la escuela secundaria han terminado, y trabajar con los más jóvenes es simplemente “una absoluta diversión.” Dijo que puede ayudarlos a ser lo mejor de sí mismos, como estudiantes y atletas.

Los niños saldrán hacia Denver el jueves, viajarán con sus padres y se prepararán para pesarse el viernes por la mañana. El viernes se verán los primeros dos o tres partidos, con las semifinales, consolaciones y finales el sábado.

El entrenador dijo que hay una muy buena posibilidad de que Nucla tenga algunos clasificados estatales el próximo fin de semana.

West End Events

TOWN OF NATURITA: Board meetings are second and fourth Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the Naturita Community Center

TOWN OF NORWOOD: Board meetings are the second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., at Norwood Town Hall

BASIN CLINIC: Board meetings are third Tuesday of the month

MONTROSE WEST REC: Board meetings are first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. in the office of West End Visitors Center, 230 W. Main St. in Naturita; limited hours. See montrosewest.com for programs.

WEST END DARK SKY ALLIANCE: No meeting schedule set. Email westenddarkskyalliance@gmail.com to join or volunteer.

RIMROCKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Board meetings are third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the museum building

Storage Auction

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41-2T-C

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West End Montrose County
Sheriff's Office Blotter

2/6/2025

0957 Hours - Deputy took a harass-
ment report in the 800 block of
Main Street in Nucla.

1500 Hours - Deputy took a theft
report in the 100 block of Adams
Street in Naturita.

1914 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 200 block of West Fourth
Avenue in Nucla for a civil matter.

1 school zone

3 follow up reports

2 directed patrols in Nucla

1 directed patrol in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

3 civil processes attempted/served

2/7/2025

1145 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 800 block of Main Street in
Nucla for a trespassing report. Gary
Squires, 74, was cited for fighting
and disturbances.

1345 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 400 block of Heron Street in
Nucla for a report of suspicious
activity.

1920 Hours - James Flora, 73, was
contacted at the intersection of
Highway 97 and Main Street in
Naturita, and issued a warning for
operating an off-road vehicle on the
State Highway.

2044 Hours - Autumn Ela, 43, was
contacted on Highway 141 mm 61
near Naturita and issued a warning
for speeding.

2058 Hours - Perry Rasmussen, 59,
was contacted in the 100 block of
Main Street in Naturita and issued
a warning for a defective headlight.

2117 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 26000 block of FF26 Road
near Naturita for an animal problem.

2258 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 300 block of West Seventh
Avenue in Nucla for a disturbance.

2 school zones

2 follow up reports

2 directed patrols in Nucla

2 directed patrols in Naturita

2/8/2025

0909 Hours - Lester Sage, 53, was
contacted at the intersection of
Highway 141 and 90 Road near
Naturita and cited for failure to pres-
ent proof of insurance.

1005 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 1100 block of Lookout Drive
in Naturita for a civil standby.

1144 Hours - Deputy conducted a
field interview at the intersection
of West Second Avenue and Payson
Street in Naturita.

1301 Hours - Deputy was dis-
patched to the area of Highway 97
and Crabtree Road in Naturita for a
trespassing report.

1530 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 100 block of Wilson Street in
Naturita for a civil matter.

1535 Hours - Deputy conducted a
citizen assist in the 800 block of
Main Street in Nucla.

1655 Hours - Vincent Mattina, 63,
was contacted on Highway 145 mm
112 near Redvale and issued a warn-
ing for speeding.

1847 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 29600 block of Highway 97
near Nucla for a welfare check.

2131 Hours - Peter Tong, 39, was
contacted in the 400 block of East
Main Street in Naturita and cited for
speeding.

2223 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the area of Highway 97 and DD
Road near Nucla for a traffic hazard.

2 directed patrols in Nucla

2 directed patrols in County

2 directed patrols in Naturita

2/9/2025

1819 Hours - Deputy was dis-
patched to the area of Highway 90
and GG25 Road near Bedrock for

an accident.

1837 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 31400 block of EE26 Road
near Naturita for a medical assist.

2001 Hours - Deputy was dis-
patched to Highway 141 mm 59
near Naturita for an accident.

2144 Hours - Deputy was dis-
patched to Highway 145 mm 113
near Redvale for an animal prob-
lem.

3 directed patrols in Nucla

2 directed patrols in Naturita

2/10/2025

1535 Hours - Deputy took an infor-
mation report in the 200 block of
West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1617 Hours - Deputy was dispatched

to Highway 90 mm 7 near Paradox
for a medical assist.

2 school zones

1 VIN inspection

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

2/11/2025

0018 Hours - Deputy was dispatched
to the 700 block of Elm Street in
Naturita for suspicious activity.

0648 Hours - Kevin Clark, 58, was
contacted on Highway 141 mm 60
near Naturita and issued a warning
for speeding.

0911 Hours - Deputy conducted a
citizen assist in the 100 block of
West Main Street in Naturita.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TOWN OF NUCLA, COLORADO WILL BE
HOLDING A SPECIAL ELECTION AS A MAIL BALLOT ELECTION. BALLOTS
MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT NUCLA TOWN HALL UNTIL 7:00PM APRIL 1, 2025.
SIGNATURE ON ENVELOPE REQUIRED.

FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE BALLOT.

"WARNING: ANY PERSON WHO, BY USE OF FORCE OR OTHER MEANS UNDULY
INFLUENCES AN ELIGIBLE ELECTOR TO VOTE IN ANY PARTICULAR MANNER OR
TO REFRAIN FROM VOTING, OR WHO FALSELY MAKES, ALTERS, OR TAMPERS WITH
A BALLOT IS SUBJECT UPON CONVICTION TO IMPRISONMENT, OR TO FINE, OR
BOTH."

INDICATE YOUR VOTE BY MARKING A CROSS MARK (X) IN THE BOX TO THE LEFT
OF EACH OF YOUR RESPONSES TO THE BALLOT QUESTIONS. THERE ARE TWO (2)
QUESTIONS TOTAL.

• SHALL KIRK YERKE BE RECALLED FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR?

YES

NO

REASONS FOR RECALL PETITION: Failure to follow and enforce the ordinances and regula-
tions of the Town of Nucla. Failure to follow the Town of Nucla's Rules of Order and Procedures,
code of conduct and ethics policy. Abuse of his position and authority.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTIONS: NONE RECEIVED

• MAYORAL SUCCESSOR CANDIDATE

(Vote for only one (1))

Aimee Tooker

YES

NO

Paula Brown

YES

NO

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum March 19, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fenders car and truck is applying for title on the following vehicles:

1992 dodge w200 vin 571600. 2001 jeep Cherokee vin 510387. 1964 ford
f100 vin 783498. 1948 Willy's pickup vin 32339. 1929 ford model A vin
497431. 1947 Willy's cj2a vin 94515. 1952 GMC 2500 vin pz3395. 1952
Chevy 1500 vin s21156. 1949 Willy's cj3a vin a13219. 1929 ford model A
vin 846523. 1962 Willy's cj5 vin 834879. 1936 ford pickup vin 121686. 1979
jeep j20 vin 063723. 1940 ford coupe vin 448770. 1962 international scout
vin 64080A. 1951 Chevy suburban vin 029410. 2024 big Tex trailer vin
332696 call Jim 719-648-9396

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum March 19, 2025

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 300-400#STEERS | 3.85-4.40 | 300-400#HEIFERS | 3.60-4.20 |
| 400-500# STEERS | 3.60-4.20 | 400-500# HEIFERS | 3.50-3.95 |
| 500-600# STEERS | 3.40-3.65 | 500-600# HEIFERS | 3.00-3.40high of 3.50 |
| 600-700# STEERS | 2.70-3.10 | 600-700# HEIFERS | 2.65-2.85 |
| 700-800# STEERS | 2.65-2.80 | 700-800# HEIFERS | 2.40-2.65 |
| 800-900# STEERS | 2.40-2.60 | 800-900# HEIFERS | 2.15-2.51 |
| Top Bulls | 1.60-1.81 | Medium Bulls | 1.35-1.55 |
| Young Cows | 1.55-1.95 | Top Cows | 1.37-1.50 |
| Medium Cows | 1.15-1.30 | Low-yielding Cows | 1.00 Below |

NEXT WEEK:

Thursday, March 20th - Regular Sale

-Holstein nurse cow just freshened

UP COMING SALES:

NEXT SPECIAL SHEEP & GOAT SALE - Thursday March 27th

Thursday, April 3rd - Where Two Trails Meet Bull Sale / Bred Cow and Pair
Special

NEXT SPECIAL HORSE SALE - APRIL 5TH

Thursday, April 10th - All Breeds Bull SALE - All bulls must be trich and
semen tested as of this year to sell as a breeding bull!

Saturday, May 10th - Alternative Sale

OBITUARY

Nancy Darlene Pura Blohm

Dec. 5, 1955 — March 9, 2025



Nancy Darlene Pura Blohm.

Nancy Darlene Pura Blohm , age 69, fought a good fight, battling a liver and kidney disease that took her peacefully on March 9 in Grand Junction.

Nancy was born on Dec. 5, 1955, in King City, California, to Jerome and Betty Pura. She grew up in Pine Canyon and attended King City High School. She graduated in 1974. Nancy enjoyed making trouble — all in fun — with her good friends Vicki Macias (Meyer), Joanne Tisdell (Tognetti), Becky Iddings and Toni Ingalls (Howard). These gals were full of fun and good times.

Nancy spent a majority of her younger days riding horses. One horse I can recall her riding quite often was Surefoot, although I am sure she had others. She attended many horse shows — from her local home-

town in King City to Atascadero, California, placing in many of those events and bringing home those ribbons. She enjoyed riding not only competitively, but also enjoyed riding for fun with her friends.

Nancy moved in the early 2000s to Naturita. She spent much of her time managing the family hotel. On her downtime, she loved to hit up those casinos and gamble her little heart away until the sun came back up.

Nancy enjoyed making jewelry and ornaments. She would attend local farmers markets and sell her pieces to those that shared the love of her art. She also absolutely loved taking joyrides on her side-by-side out on the many beautiful trails in Colorado. One thing Nancy said was, “Once I can no longer go out and ride my Rhino, that is when I will know time is limited.”

Nancy is survived by her sons, Robert Blohm, of Colorado, and Kasen Dedini, of King City; her daughter and son in-law, Jodi and Gerrod Dewey, of Hollister; grandchildren, Dylan Alburger, Westley Soares, Joshua Silva, Austin Silva and wife Robinlynn, all of King City; plus Jadeynn Dewey and fiancée Bryce Brewer, of Aptos; and Noah Dewey, of Hollister.

She is also survived by her brother, Randy (Kathy) Pura, of King City; nieces and nephews, Jamie and Rammy Morrison, Jill Stanford, Bobbie Pura and Kristina Randall; and several great-nieces and -nephews whom she loved dearly.

Nancy is preceded in death by her mother, Betty Larson Pura, and father, Jerome Pura, as well as her sister, Janet Pura Martinez, and partner, Glenn Jones.

West End Montrose County Sheriff’s Office Blotter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

to the 30100 block of 3000 Road near Nucla for an alarm.

2 school zones

1 VIN inspection

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

2/12/2025

0032 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Main Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

0807 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.

1206 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of

West Main Street in Nucla.

1408 Hours - Deputy took a civil matter report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1539 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla for a utility problem.

1812 Hours - Jennifer Wakeman, 50, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita and cited for speeding and failure to present proof of insurance.

2112 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a suspicious vehicle.

2/13/2025

0707 Hours - Donovan Sandefur, 29, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 3 near Nucla and issued a warning for speeding.

0917 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a citizen assist.

1108 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Third Avenue in Naturita for a fraud report.

1143 Hours - Scott Goodsell, 68, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 3 near Nucla and cited for expired license plates.

1729 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 28200 block of 2810 Road near Nucla.

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- ✓ Answering inquiries about billing and service plans
- ✓ Providing general product and service information
- ✓ Handling phone calls, scheduling service requests, and maintaining records
- ✓ Performing general office tasks, including filing and data entry

What We’re Looking For:

- ◆ Strong multitasking and problem-solving skills
- ◆ Friendly, professional, and customer-focused attitude
- ◆ Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- ◆ Basic computer knowledge and attention to detail
- ◆ Understanding of internet, landline, and mobile phone operations (or a willingness to learn)

Job Details & Benefits:

- **Location:** 421 Main Street, Nucla
- 🕒 **Hours:** Monday – Friday | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- 💼 **Benefits Include:**
 - ✓ Health Insurance
 - ✓ Retirement Plan (401K)
 - ✓ Paid Vacation & Sick Days

📧 **How to Apply:**
Send your resume to darla@nntc.bz or drop it off at our office: **421 Main Street, Nucla.**

Join our team and help us provide **top-quality service and support** to our valued customers!

38-TFN-C

HELP WANTED



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42-TFN-C

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41-2T-C

HOUSE FOR RENT IN NATURITA

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42-2T-C

TEACHERS WANTED

West End Public Schools RE-2 is seeking the following full time, contracted positions for the 25-26 school year:

- **School Social Worker**
- **Special Education Teacher/Generalist**
- **Math Interventionist K-6th**
- **6th Grade Teacher**
- **Music Teacher K-12th**
- **Middle School Math Teacher 6-8th**

See full job descriptions, salaries, benefits, and how to apply at www.westendschools.org

We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

41-2T-C

HELP WANTED

Town of Norwood / Billing Clerk

\$19-\$21/hr / Full-Time - Full-Benefit Package

Position Summary - This position provides administrative support to the Norwood Water Commission and Sanitation District. This includes attending and recording meeting minutes, preparing financial reports, handling customer service inquiries, managing correspondence, assisting with budget preparation, and ensuring compliance with election requirements. This position requires strong organizational, communication, and financial skills to support the Boards, Administrators, and customers effectively.

41-5T-C

NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

** NOW HIRING **

- **Paraprofessional (Part-Time or Full-Time)**
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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

- **Head Middle School Volleyball Coach**
- **5th Grade Teacher**
- **Guidance Counselor**
- **High School Math 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.

The Fresh Foundation in Norwood is hiring!!



Go to Freshfoodhub.net for more information

COMMUNITY



On the court

Montrose West Recreation finishes its annual co-ed volleyball season. Congratulations goes to Team Reams on their first-place finish. (Photo by Tiffany Secrest)



Preparing youth

The career fair at Norwood High School, pictured here and held Feb. 10, is what helped NFPD get five new wildland firefighters. (Photo by John Bockrath)

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