

San Miguel Basin Forum

NUCLA

Paula Brown is new mayor

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

After the April 1 election in Nucla, town staff reported that Paula Brown had appeared to have won the election over Aimee Tooker, 103-57. The election was to be certified and official by April 9. Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire told the Forum Monday 486 ballots were mailed out, and 34 came back undeliverable. She said people need to check their addresses on file with the Secretary of State online. Additionally, 124 people voted to recall former Mayor Kirk Yerke, though he did resign a month ago.

Brown has already been serving on the Nucla Town Board and was also most recently the mayor pro tem.

“I was appointed to fill a trustee seat in 2017, then elected twice for four-year terms,” she told the Forum. “My second term ends in April of 2026.”

Many know Brown has helped water and sewer projects take off in Nucla. Now, she’ll oversee funding for completion.

“The town has completed a wastewater system assessment, which includes a prioritized replacement and repair plan based on the urgency of need,” she said. “Water and sewer lines will be updated at the same time to save costs based on the priority assessment. We are currently waiting for an update from Element, our engineer on the project. As we proceed with efforts to secure USDA funding, there will be public meetings for both the water and sewer during the application and funding process.”

She added the town board is also working now with the Town of Naturita and Montrose County to resolve some San Miguel River water right issues from 2010.

The Forum asked about the Main Street improvements that have been occurring in Nucla.

“We are in the first phase of the Main Street Renovation Project, which includes one and a half blocks of new curb and gutter and sidewalk extensions,” she said. “These efforts are targeted to assist our local businesses with improved customer access, all while giving our Main Street a little spruce-up.”

She said the next phases are contingent on future funding.

“The Main Street Renovation Project started several years ago with our partners from the University Technical Assistance Program (UTAP) and local community members. The UTAP program is made up of college students studying architecture and design, working with rural communities. The

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Jane Thompson gives an emotional plea to Nucla trustees to reconsider the cell tower across from her house.
(Photo by Tanner Nelson)

NUCLA

Cell tower meeting seeks solutions, sees tension

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Nucla’s Town Board of Trustees held a meeting April 3 for public comment on a cell tower they say has already been approved at the top of the hill on town property, where NNTC already has a tower. Those in attendance were given five minutes to speak, and the new mayor, Paula Brown, officiated. Approximately 45 people were present. Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire told the Forum Monday 486 ballots were mailed out, and 34 came back undeliverable. She said people need to check their addresses on file with the Secretary of State online. Additionally, 124 people voted to recall former Mayor Kirk Yerke, though he did resign a month ago.

Jane Thompson spoke first with

pages of documents in hand. She doesn’t understand why the cell tower’s location was changed from the brush dump to the top of Nucla, across from where she lives. She also doesn’t understand why there was no transparency or communication about it. She wants to know who participated in the site walks and why the location moved.

Aimee Tooker reiterated the lack of transparency. She said the cell tower discussion and approval was hidden.

“We trusted you, Jane trusted you,” she said, adding that’s why they didn’t attend many board meetings. “Nobody would want that in their front yard.”

Charlene Stevenson is concerned about 5G frequencies. She said there are safety and health risks, specifically cancer-causing possibilities. She said long-term stud-

ies are not available, and innocent people continue to fall victim to corporations and governments. She referenced the “radium girls” and also uranium miners from the past.

John Reed said technology is not always good for people. He asked about a different location, not so close the school. A veteran, he mentioned agent orange. He also thinks 5G testing is necessary to see lasting effects.

Sharon Johannsen asked about the purpose of the tower, how much it would cost to back out of the contract, and also what the town attorney advised. In response, trustee Tim Pierce said it was just a business deal the town was approached with, but the revenue wasn’t huge. The mayor said there was no existing clause to exit the contract, and the attorney did advise and help

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WATER

Wright’s Mesa Water Coalition moves forward

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Representatives from area water organizations came together last week, April 2, for the first of a series of stakeholder meetings. Then, Norwood Mayor Candy Meehan with former San Miguel County Commissioner Kris Holstrom helped lead the meeting. Both women were the founders of the Wright’s Mesa Water Coalition (WMWC) just a few years ago, after receiving specific water training and then Meehan later attending the Colorado Water Congress.

Meehan read the WMWC’s mission statement: “The Wright’s Mesa Water Coalition is dedicated to pro-

tecting and preserving the water resources of the Wright’s Mesa region through collaborative stewardship, equitable access, and sustainable practices. We work together to ensure that current and future generations can rely on clean, resilient water supplies and systems that support our communities, ecosystems, and way of life.”

Members of the mesa’s five area water groups were present and acknowledged as stakeholders: Norwood Water Commission, the Town of Norwood, Norwood Fire Protection District, Lone Cone Ditch Company and Farmers Water Development. The groups have already had some discussion within the new

coalition, sharing their long-term needs, short-term priorities, along with recent developments. Meehan said such discussions were to find common ground for the purpose of combining any potential funds and accessing support to further area water goals in the systems.

Also helping to lead the meeting was Donzil Worthington, of Bohannon Huston, Inc., who is a water specialist. Worthington said he spent the early part of last week speaking with the representatives of the five stakeholder groups and will be putting collected responses together into a “fluid document.” He said in about 40 days that document

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EVENTS

Bike Stoke Night is April 10 in Naturita

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Area biking organizations are coming together April 10 for Bike Stoke Night in Naturita, on Main Street where Paradox Cycle and Flying Bear Pizzeria at Naturita Bicycle Company exist.

Tim Tait, of the West End Trail Alliance (WETA), told the Forum the event lasts from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and includes the bike community, friends from neighboring towns, and anyone who’s curious. Tait said some people might ride bikes to the event, but nobody has to own a bike to attend. He wants to break down barriers to being part of the bike community. He wants all to know the biking people are harmless; they just want to celebrate their sport on April 10. The event is family-friendly, and youth are welcome.

“It’s intended to celebrate the kick-off of bike season in the West End, and cycling in general,” he said.

Several things will be happening at once. A bike-packing demonstration will take place, showing guests how to ride out onto public lands and camp via bike. The Paradox Trail is celebrating 30 years too, and that will be noted with some Paradox Trail history. WETA will give some bike safety education and hold prize raffles. There’s also a WETA film that will be shown inside Flying Bear. And, Tait has collected many historical photos from Paul Koski and will run a slide show featuring those. There’s also an “ask-a-mechanic” station in the works.

Brock Benson, of Paradox Cycle, is producing a bike rodeo.

“Bike rodeo is a concept Bri Bonacquista and I have been throwing around for a while,” Benson told the Forum. “We’ve been having a lot of fun developing games and rides for the kids to enjoy in the new Mustang Outdoor Rec Program at the high school. Our kids have a history of riding horses in the Tabaguache Trail Riders gymkhanas, so we thought it might be fun to come up with games that have some crossover appeal for our local residents.”

Benson said it will be like pole bending or barrel racing, something fairly low-impact that would be entertaining to watch.

“We think we’ve come up with some exercises that will yield a high entertainment factor, while still showing off technical riding skills,” he said. “You really need to see it to wrap your head around it ... Paradox Cycle is providing four single-speed clunkers to keep the

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MONTROSE

County reaffirms status as 2nd Amendment sanctuary; opposes SB25-003

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County unanimously adopted a resolution at the Wednesday, April 2, meeting, reaffirming the county’s status as a Second Amendment Sanctuary and formally opposing Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003). This resolution expresses the county’s strong commitment to protecting the constitutional rights of its citizens, particularly the right to bear arms, as enshrined in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article II, Section 13 of the Colorado Constitution.

The resolution comes in response to CO SB25-003, which proposes new permitting, training and regulatory requirements for the possession and purchase of certain semi-automatic firearms. The BOCC expressed concerns that these measures would infringe upon the rights of law-abiding gun owners in Montrose County, particularly in rural areas where firearms are an important part of daily life for personal protection and recreational use.

Montrose County, which has previously declared itself a Second Amendment Sanctuary County, remains steadfast in its opposition to any legislation that the board believes constitutes an overreach of state authority and imposes undue burdens on its residents’ constitutional rights.

“The Second Amendment is a fundamental right that all Americans are entitled to, and we will not stand by while that right is under-

mined,” said Sean Pond, vice chair of the board of county commissioners. “This resolution reaffirms our commitment to defending the Constitution and ensuring that Montrose County remains a place where our citizens’ rights are respected and protected.”

“Montrose County is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of its residents, but that cannot come at the cost of our fundamental rights,” said board chair Scott Mijares. “We will continue to advocate for the preservation of the Second Amendment and ensure that our citizens’ rights are not infringed upon.”

While the resolution reaffirms Montrose County’s commitment to public safety and responsible firearm ownership, the board believes that any changes to firearm regulations should respect the rights of individuals and not place unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding citizens.

“In Montrose County, firearms are an integral part of life, whether for self-defense, hunting, or recreational purposes,” stated Commissioner Sue Hansen. “It’s vital that we stand up for the rights of our citizens, especially in rural areas. This resolution sends a clear message that we do not support unnecessary restrictions on our Second Amendment rights.”

Montrose County is committed to ensuring that its residents’ constitutional rights remain protected, and BOCC will continue to advocate for the preservation of these rights.

For more information about Montrose County, visit www.montrosecounty.net.

Water coalition

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will include GIS mapping exhibits, surveys, historical documents and more, so that groups can view it and give feedback.

He said he’ll continue to work with the document this summer, and by early October stakeholder groups can look in more detail at the summaries to see if it’s “on the right track.” He said the last quarter of the year will focus on revisions, and a draft plan will be ready by the end of the year. The final plan will be available in the first quarter of 2026, and it will be distributed.

“That is the goal we have at this point,” Worthington said. “This meeting is the opening of the discussion ... We will work toward what you think is representative of the goals and what you want to accomplish.”

Meehan said the greater goal was to take a water master plan to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for funding and to go for federal monies, which will be a two-year process. At the same time, the plan can also be used by stakeholder groups to go for whatever opportu-

nities they wish.

Meehan said partnering for mutual benefit was a good thing, and that there’s more “buying power” when groups combine resources.

Makayla Gordon, of the West End Economic Development Corporation, has agreed to do oversight and reporting during the grant application and funding process. Adrian Bergere, of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition, was present and said his organization wants to be a resource and already looks for projects, like environmental restoration in Beaver Creek, to benefit multiple groups at once. April Montgomery was also acknowledged for help in securing initial funding for the water master plan’s jumpstart.

In the stakeholder comments at the close of the meeting, some of the items discussed were the repeated waterline breaks that affect the town and fire district, old PVC pipe in place since 1977, water storage, Farmers Water finishing fixing its dam, Lone Cone Ditch redoing its outlet structure, the need for snowpack and Norwood needing a water treatment plant upgrade at some point.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society The old Nucla drug store

By JANE THOMPSON, Rimrocker Historical Society



These photos show the hole into the basement under the old wood and also part of a rock wall under the sidewalk. (Images courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

There is lots of excitement on Main Street in Nucla. After going through the replacement of waterlines on Main Street, which was a big job, now it is time for some of the new sidewalks and curbs to start going in. Williams Construction is back with their dump trucks and other equipment, and the concrete crew of Cody Carver is hot on building the curbs and laying in the new sidewalks. It is quite an operation, and they are moving very quickly. They started at the top of Main Street in front of the county building and moved down to 4th Street on the west side of the street. It’s looking very nice up there from the Nucla Senior Center up to the county courthouse.

On Thursday and Friday, they moved down Main Street, past 4th Street and headed to 5th Street, where I believe they will stop and cross the street and go north back up Main Street. They will probably be pulling up the sidewalk and part of the street in front of the Rimrocker Historical Museum on Monday or Tuesday. It’s very exciting, but also a little unnerving.

Chris Tooker and Mike Wren came down to the museum to take up the very old wood that served as an entrance to the building for years. It will have to be replaced by something. I’m not sure what the plan is, but what a surprise when they pulled up that wood. There was nothing under it but the basement and one small beam going across. We were all surprised and scratched our heads wondering how we got that 1,000-pound safe across that old wood



without it falling through to the basement!

Of course, we knew that the foundation walls of the basement are all stacked flat rock.

From the Montrose Daily Press, Feb. 22, 1913: “Fred Sly is hauling rock for the foundation of a new drug store being built by Dr. B. F. Fischer, of Nucla, who has purchased the drug stock of Mr. Vestal. The store is to be built on the south lot adjoining the Nucla Mercantile.”

From the Naturita Valley Record, reprinted in the Telluride Journal of Feb. 27, 1913: “Nucla Drug Store — B. F. Fisher will build a drug store just south of the Nucla Mercantile in the near future.”

Well, when the guys pulled up that wood, you could see the mighty fine workmanship of Fred Sly and his flat rock. And, right underneath that wood landing and a little due west is a dandy chute. We’re not sure what it was used for, but it is still

there and in great condition.

The walls down in the basement are fascinating to see where Fred stacked all that rock to build the foundation for the drug store. What builders they were back then with what little they had to work with. One hundred and two years later, the building still stands and although there is a lot of creaking, I think it will be there for some time — with a beautiful new sidewalk in front of it!

I’ll bet there will be a lot of discussion over that hole when the guys show up this week as to the best way to put that new sidewalk on top of that spot, but I’m sure they will figure it out, and it’s going to be magnificent!

We intend to close the museum for the next couple of weeks, until the sidewalk is in. We will still be there working and don’t mind if you need to come in for something. There is a doorbell on the back door if you can’t get through in the front.



Still got it
Tyler Wytulka, of Nucla, is playing college baseball for Waldorf University in Forest City, Iowa. Head coach for the Mustangs Randy Gabriel traveled to see Wytulka in action just a few weeks ago. (Courtesy image)

WEST END

West End Vision Project’s taco dinners are April 30, May 1

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The West End community is invited to roll up their sleeves with the West End Vision Project and dig into future goals — over tacos. After connecting with more than 600 West End residents over the past six months, the West End Vision Project is entering an exciting new phase: creating a shared, community-led vision and goals for the future of the region. Organizers now ask for help to get it right.

Community taco dinners are scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Nucla Community Center and Thursday, May 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Norwood Town Hall & Community Center.

The taco events are a chance to gather with neighbors from across the West End to talk about what locals want the future to look like, what they want to preserve or improve, and how everyone can work together to make it happen. There will be family-friendly activities for kids, so parents can focus on the conversation.

In addition to the taco dinners, organizers are also hosting in-person and virtual community conversations across the West End from April 29 through May 2. These smaller, sit-down discussions are a great way to connect with others and share thoughts in a more informal setting. Community members are invited to sign up at bit.ly/WE-Convos.

Organizers said the sessions will build on the strong foundation of shared community values, which have been identified by

more than 600 participants during the first phase of the project. From “living with the land” to “charting our own course,” these shared values will guide the community throughout the rest of the project and help ensure locals are creating a future that is true to the collective character.

“We’ve been thorough and intentional in building the foundation for this project, the values that the community collaborated on and agreed they could and would stand behind. We’re grateful to the many people who engaged to make these values possible,” said Makayla Gordon, of the West End Economic Development Corporation. “And for those who are more excited to dig into something less squishy, and more action oriented, now’s your chance. We hope everyone will join us as we kick off this next phase of the project.”

Organizers said the final set of community values will be released in late April, and all will be able to review them at bit.ly/WE-Vision-Web. For more details on how to get involved in the West End Vision Project, the public may contact Gordon (mgordon@chooswestend.org or 970-417-1976) or Mackinzi Taylor (mackinzi@communitybuilders.org), and follow the Facebook page for updates: bit.ly/WestEndPlanFB.

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.

Who’s guiding this work?

The West End Vision Project working group is made up of representatives from WEEDC, each of the three towns — Nucla, Naturita and Norwood — and support from both counties. The group is taking on the day-to-day project management, but the project is fully guided by the community. There is also a project ambassador team (the A-Team) that is made up of key local organizations and community volunteers. The A-Team is helping to steward the process and assist with community engagement. The group is open membership, and leaders encourage those who are interested to apply by simply sending a brief note of interest to Gordon.

How is the process being funded?

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

San Miguel Basin Forum

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Dear Community,

I would like to thank you for your support throughout this campaign. Instead of making change in the mayor’s chair, I will advocate for change and expose issues and concerns from this side of the table. I am saddened that the campaign took a turn to tear into me personally for issues that have been misunderstood and misrepresented. In this community there

seems to be a shifting of issues that bring us together or pull us apart. I stand by my decisions, and the truth will come out, especially for those of you that wish to seek it. I will continue to facilitate with the towns of Naturita and Nucla on the coordination process and subsequent meetings; this was approved and implemented last summer and is supported by letters of agreement from the Uncompahgre Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. I look forward

to coordinating with the area federal land management agencies and opening up much needed dialogue regarding the use of our public lands. I anticipate that to be a mutually beneficial and constructive relationship with BLM and Forest Services, among other managing agencies. Announcements for upcoming public meetings and procedures will be forthcoming. I am still committed to transparency, collaboration and self-reliance for this community.

Transparency is important to educate and engage the public on issues and decisions that your local governments are making. Yes, I will continue to beat the transparency dead horse until proper changes are implemented. I have transformed my campaign page to Aimee Tooker— West End Clarity and Commentary. Please follow me there. This is where I will post live streams and repost public meetings. I will share and post articles, op-eds, narratives

and podcasts as they relate to the West End. The live streams and videos will also be posted to my YouTube account (attached to the page), if you wish to go back and play those videos in an organized order. Thank you again, and I will continue to advocate for transparency, collaboration and self-reliance.

Aimee Tooker
NUCLA

Cell tower meeting

Cont. from Pg. 1

with contract revisions. Miranda Fengel said she’d requested a public meeting in late January, so that people could discuss the issue. She said the longer things drag on without discussion, it creates more tension. Fengel said she feels Nucla is a great community. She doesn’t want the cell tower issue to damage relationships between friends and family. She’s also a former museum director and said she knows about the processes for investigating historical and cultural relevance of properties. She said it’s commonplace, when these big corporations come in. She wants the town to be more cognizant of that in the future. Annie Gibbons told the audience she was electromagnetic frequency (EMF)-sensitive. Earlier in her life, she experienced thermal burns from a cell phone, due to a metal bridge in her mouth. EMFs and fluorescent lights have always made her sick. She said it’s true that the FCC can’t speak to health risks, once a tower is established. She said that’s because the U.S. military has known since the 1970s that microwave energy can be used against people. Gibbons is a part of a worldwide group trying to stop, or at least speak out against, 5G. She said 5G is 20 times stronger than 4G, and children’s brain cancers are increasing exponentially. Jim Guire said the issue is more about hand-held devices causing damage, rather than towers themselves. He said it is concerning for children, but his suggestion is to turn the new cell tower into a flag pole that all can be proud of. “Let’s make this positive,” he said. Chris Eilertsen said before he moved to Nucla, he had a tower on his private property. That came about when he bought a piece of ground that someone died on — destitute. He said the previous owner of his property couldn’t pay the taxes on the property he leased to a cell tower company. He told town trustees they should have liability insurance on the cell tower, and make sure the contract discusses taxes too. Chris Daniels also also wants to know why the site location was changed, if the new tower will affect the current tower (NNTC’s), and if public meetings in the last few years would’ve influenced trustees’

planning. The mayor said the board discussed all site locations and did what was best for all citizens for public benefit. She said a tower was already at the top of town, so trustees figured it wouldn’t be something completely new. Pierce agreed public input always has an effect. He said trustees seem to now be “a day late and dollar short,” but they are trying to make amends. He said it’s OK if people want to point fingers. Jennifer Nelson said she was shocked and disappointed. She asked if the tower was “a done deal” or if something different could be done. A mom, she’s also worried about the school children. She told trustees she doesn’t think the people that move to or live in Nucla do so for great cell phone service.

Mayor Brown said trustees have reached out to Vertical Bridge, the tower company, about cancellation of the contract, but they’ve not received word yet. Gibbons said she witnessed a small town in California refuse one. Carla Reams said she was disappointed and the town could’ve told the tower company “no.” The proximity to school is concerning to her, as are health risks. She said the West End Vision Project and other community efforts are working to improve the quality of life for residents, and a cell phone tower isn’t going to do that. She rents a space to hunters, some of whom have good service and some of whom don’t. She said it doesn’t matter. She added NNTC has been a staple in the community for generations, and they could’ve been included in the conversation. She will continue to support NNTC, because they’re a local company with community ties and pay taxes.

Jim Womeldorf thinks the location is the “worst possible” because of the school. His property is 45 yards from the proposed tower site, and he wonders why Nucla doesn’t have a policy where they have to contact people that exist within 150 feet of any new proposed project. “It’s wrong,” he said. “Vertical Bridge is a huge company that doesn’t care about Nucla. They want to make money.” Tina Reed just went through a similar process in Redvale. She attended public meetings, spoke out and still Montrose County Commissioners approved a cell tower in her neighborhood. The 120-foot tower will soon be next to her home.

Her property value will decrease, her views are damaged, the eagles will leave and more, she said. Cynthia Zehm wants the people of Nucla to stand up for their rights. She fought something similar, a utility easement, years ago, and ended up in court over it. The Redvale tower “stabbed” her through the “heart.” She said the neighborhood didn’t want it, Planning & Zoning didn’t recommend it, and the commissioners still approved it. She said it’s not about what people want anymore and urged Nucla trustees to consider that.

Pierce said it’s not about the ability to pull out of the contract, but what it might cost the town to do so. Fengel said a community petition with signatures from property owners and school families might help town exit the contract. The mayor said it’s important to note that while the April 3 meeting attendants might oppose it, just as many people support the new tower or feel neutral about it, and they’ve shared that with her.

Erik Johansson asked about Volunteer Park, adjacent to the tower site. He helped design and install the park at the top of town, and he wonders about future plans. He thinks it’s a beautiful space the town owns and asked how the tower will affect it. Reams said she wanted transparency and to see what Vertical Bridge’s forthcoming response would be. She said the public needed to know.

Reed added Nucla is a Dark Sky Community and the lights on the new cell tower could negatively impact that distinction. He also said if a flag is to be put up, it should be respectfully maintained and will cost as much as \$1,500 or more each year. Tim Tait echoed Reams and wants to know how Vertical Bridge’s response will be shared with community. He also wants transparency. “You will lose that trust and credibility if you don’t share,” he said, adding that trustees’ highest priority should be giving the cell tower company’s answers to the public. Tooker asked for the town attorney’s advice, but trustees said they couldn’t share that information. The mayor, who’s served the board since 2017, said people need to attend town board meetings. She said many meetings never see a single voter in attendance.

Bike Stoke Night

Cont. from Pg. 1

playing field even, and we have a team of timers, officials and referees that will make sure bike rodeo goes off without a hitch.” Benson hopes the community will come out and participate. “There’s going to be prizes, music, beers and bikes,” he said. Virginia Ericson, of Flying Bear, told the Forum that Bike Stoke Nights are commonplace among cycling enthusiasts. She said the purpose is to gather people and rally for the riding season. “Here we are inviting the whole community to join,” she said. “No

experience necessary. The night is not just about bikes; its also about all things outdoors.” Ericson said someone will speak to youth about first-aid kits, reading maps and more. She added other experts will share some trail stories, representatives from the local search and rescue effort will speak, and Montrose West Recreation will be on site. “It’s a great way for every outdoors-loving enthusiast to come see what those spandex-wearing cyclists are doing,” she said. Ericson said open mic night will still follow after the Bike Stoke Night.

West End Events

- NATURITA PACK BURRO RACES:** Moved to Oct. 11
- 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
- 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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COURTS
Dan Bishop’s case dismissed

There will be no murder trial for Dan Bishop this July, as the case charging him with the murder of Dale Williams has been dismissed. Montrose Press broke the story March 31. Tonee Lawrence with sister Sara Luster, the daughters of the late Williams, released a statement to media outlets.

“We are deeply disappointed by the decision to dismiss this case,” they said. “The arrest affidavit stands on its own, and we continue to believe in its validity. We urge the district attorney’s office to uphold their commitment that this is not the end. As they move forward, we remain firm in our belief of guilt. We greatly appreciate the investigative work done on this case, particularly by the CBI and MCSO.”

Bruce Schmalz, West End Commander for the Montrose County Sheriff’s Office, confirmed that Bishop’s case was dismissed but “without prejudice, meaning that it can be refiled.”

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Incident occurs on Payson Street

An incident occurred on Payson Street in Naturita last week, con-

cerning a juvenile and domestic violence, which involved a knife. Law enforcement and the court system have been involved, and West End Commander for the Montrose County Sheriff’s Office told the Forum that all parties were safe and there was no danger to the public.

THEFT
Local theft is down in the last month

Bruce Schmalz, West End Commander for the Montrose County Sheriff’s Office, told the Forum on April 7 that burglary has decreased in the West End in the last month. He added that a few offenders are in custody for the time being, which could be positively impacting the calls for service.

The sheriff’s office has been investigating the theft of an expensive mountain bike. During the search for that, a separate and different missing mountain bike has turned up. Deputies were also called out for a theft issue at Family Market, but Schmalz said overall property crimes are actually down right now.

Some residents in Naturita have been discussing for the last year a neighborhood watch. Those residents are now assembling and hoping to help protect the local area with volunteerism.

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MONTROSE
April 18 is World Amateur Radio Day

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Amateur radio operators around the world will celebrate April 18 as World Amateur Radio Day, commemorating the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) on that day in 1925. The IARU has been instrumental in preserving for amateur radio use portions of the shortwave radio spectrum that governments around the world, particularly the United States Navy, coveted because of their ability to provide long distance radio communication.

Today 3 million radio amateurs, frequently called hams, around the world use these radio frequencies providing emergency communication, promoting international good will, and furthering the art and science of radio communication all while enjoying the exciting hobby of amateur radio. The IARU continues to champion ham radio in support of its 160 national member organizations by representing hams at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which oversees telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

In the United States the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) represents the interest of U.S. hams to the IARU. Locally the

Montrose Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL affiliate and meets on the third Friday of every month. The April meeting coincides with World Amateur Radio Day and will be April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Delta Public Library, off Meeker Street in Delta.

Kathy Joslin, MARC President, invites visitors to attend this meeting. According to Joslin, “The meeting will be an opportunity to meet our members and learn about the wonderful hobby of ham radio. Our meeting starts with a 30-minute informational program that is followed by our business meeting, light refreshments and socialization. Everyone is invited to attend.”

MARC engages in numerous activities during the year, supporting the Imogene Pass Run and The Hard Rock 100 ultra marathon, among others. The club offers training and testing for those who want to obtain a ham license, as well as sponsoring activities such as Field Day, Museum Ships Weekend, and Parks on the Air.

“Come to our meeting and learn all about it,” said Joslin.


For more information, contact MARC through Lew French in Montrose at 970-417-6142.

April is National Donate Life Month

Instituted in 2003 and celebrated in April each year, we at Basin Clinic encourage you to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to celebrate those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Community,

I am conducting a survey of residents to see how they feel about a new school in Norwood. The issue is a big one — and not new. I worked in the Norwood School and taught English in the high school wing. I personally know the safety and health issues that staff and students face.

At the same time, the discussion of financing the project has been quite lengthy and complicated.

Community members are currently discussing things like location options and funding, the heavy taxes they’re already paying through mill levies, and student enrollment numbers.

I’m asking as many people as possible in the West End to sub-

mit their responses to the Forum’s questionnaire.

It’s available online: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1p8W-1ZiWHPEx2SjFwAL7QROK-JQAwLCiVAnnFYC3o6GD8/edit>.

Leaving a name and contact information is optional, but I’m asking people to only submit their comments once. There is space in the questionnaire to leave detailed feedback on whether or not a new school in Norwood should be built.

Thank you in advance for leaving your feedback. The data charts will be shared with school officials, though names will not necessarily be, unless permission has been given.

Regan Tuttle, Editor



FFA celebrates seniors
Nucla High School FFA members attended their district competition in the last week. (Photo by Sydney Tomlinson)

FIRE AND EMS

Norwood to hold mock crash for youth education

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Norwood Fire Protection District (NFPD) will hold a mock crash on Wednesday, April 23. The “crash,” an exercise for DUI prevention and education, is the result of several months’ worth of work.

Officials with NFPD, San Miguel County Sheriff’s Office, the Colorado State Patrol, the county coroner, CareFlight of the Rockies, West End Montrose County Sheriff’s Office, Nucla/Naturita Fire District, along with judges and prosecutors from the Colorado 7th Judicial District, will help make the mock crash as effective as possible.

Students from Norwood and Nucla in grades eight through 12 will participate.

The day begins at 9 a.m. at the county fairgrounds, where students will be alerted to an “accident” and will watch the process as 911 is called and police, fire/ EMS arrive to treat and extricate the victims of the accident. The county coroner will be called for two deceased students.

The “intoxicated” driver will be taken into custody and arrested on DUI charges.

Students will then assemble in the

high school gym and will be taught about the negative effects of alcohol and drugs, and what can happen when people drink and drive. This will include arrests, court costs and fees, as well as job limitations caused by having a DUI conviction. It also will discuss the damage an incident can cause to the community, family and driver when a DUI results in fatalities. There will be a guest speaker who will give a presentation on what it’s like to lose loved ones due to a drunk-driving accident.

Next, after a lunch break, kids will attend the mock “trial” of the arrested driver. That involves the district attorney laying the foundation of the “case” and suggesting a sentence for the defendant. The presiding judge will finish the trial by determining a sentence and costs.

There will be a Q&A session, so that students can ask agency representatives questions about anything they witnessed during the day’s experience. Kids will be able to see the vehicles and gear required of the crash scene and can ask representatives more about their job duties.

Finally, there will be a “safety” fair on the football field for the younger grades with an opportu-

nity for the kids to look at, touch and sit in emergency vehicles, as well as speak with law enforcement officers, fire/EMS personnel, Care-Flight crew, U.S. Forest Service and BLM representatives.

Norwood Fire Chief John Bockrath said more than 200 people will be witnessing the mock crash. The community is invited, especially parents who have a student attending the event.

Preferred seating will be given to those from the school communities.

Bockrath said the mock crash is an important exercise. According to Freedom from Chemical Dependency surveys among high school students, alcohol is the top abused substance.


Bockrath said it’s important to note, though, that the actual percentage of students who abuse alcohol is smaller than the perception of those who do. Still, he said the mock crash would be a valuable lesson for all.

“This event is meant to show our young people the enduring effects from making a single bad decision,” he said. “The impacts of getting behind the wheel intoxicated are felt beyond just the immediate people involved and last a lifetime.”



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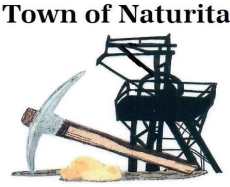
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Adventuring with TNYP
Students with True North Youth Program hiked the Shamrock Trail overlooking the San Miguel River. (Courtesy image)

Paula Brown

Cont. from Pg. 1

town has utilized this program previously for the Nucla Arena and Nucla Community Center projects and is currently working with them on a plan for our outdoor public spaces (the Town Park, Rainbow Reservoir, etc). The plans have been extremely useful when seeking grants for implementation, as with the Main Street project.”

As she is no stranger to public service, the Forum asked about her position being unpaid, volunteer, often thankless and that it includes criticism. The Forum asked what inspires her to keep going.

“This is my home, and I love living here,” she said. “Joining a local board is a great place to serve our community. It can be challenging, but I enjoy working with a team to find solutions to issues and creating opportunities for our community and its future.”

The Forum asked what’s important to her to keep working on as she continues as mayor.

“While I believe every project and issue is important, the town’s



Paula Brown, pictured with husband Don, is Nucla’s new mayor, as of the April 1 election (Courtesy image)

aging infrastructure is on the top of the list — in addition to the water and sewer replacement challenges,” she said. “Street improvements would follow as funds were available. Unfortunately, grants are hard to find for street improvements. We are also working with Mustang Water Authority and the Town of Naturita to secure fund-

ing for an assessment of the main water supply line from the treatment plant to 29 Road.”

The Forum asked about other tasks and issues she’d be weighing in on in the future. She said those questions were for the whole board and that she didn’t want one person, including the mayor, to drive the vision for the town.



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Tome Nuestra Encuesta

Queremos sus comentarios



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NUCLA

La reunión sobre la torre de telefonía móvil busca soluciones, ve tensión

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

La Junta de Fideicomisarios de Nucla celebró una reunión pública el 3 de abril para comentarios del público sobre una torre de telefonía móvil que dicen ya ha sido aprobada en la cima de la colina en propiedad del pueblo, donde NNTC ya tiene una torre. A los asistentes se les dio cinco minutos para hablar, y la nueva alcaldesa, Paula Brown, ofició. Aproximadamente 45 personas estaban presentes.

Jane Thompson habló primero con páginas de documentos en mano. No entiende por qué se cambió la ubicación de la torre de telefonía móvil del vertedero de maleza a la cima de Nucla, frente a donde vive. También no entiende por qué no hubo transparencia ni comunicación al respecto. Quiere saber quién participó en las visitas al sitio y por qué se movió la ubicación.

Aimee Tooker reiteró la falta de transparencia. Dijo que la discusión y aprobación de la torre de telefonía móvil estaba oculta.

“Confiamos en ti, Jane confió en ti,” dijo, añadiendo que por eso no asistieron a muchas reuniones de la junta. “Nadie querría eso en su jardín delantero.”

Charlene Stevenson está preocupada por las frecuencias de 5G. Dijo que hay riesgos de seguridad y salud, específicamente posibilidades de causar cáncer. Dijo que no hay estudios a largo plazo disponibles, y que personas inocentes continúan siendo víctimas de corporaciones y gobiernos. Hizo referencia a las “chicas del radio” y también a los mineros de uranio del pasado.

John Reed dijo que aunque la tecnología no siempre es buena para las personas. Preguntó sobre una ubicación diferente, no tan cerca de la escuela. Un veterano, mencionó el agente naranja. También piensa que las pruebas de 5G son necesarias para ver efectos duraderos.

Sharon Johannsen preguntó sobre el propósito de la torre, cuánto costaría salir del contrato, y también qué aconsejó el abogado del pueblo. En respuesta, el fideicomisario Tim Pierce dijo que era solo un negocio con el que se acercó al pueblo, pero los ingresos no eran enormes. La alcaldesa dijo que no había ninguna cláusula existente para salir del contrato, y el abogado sí aconsejó y ayudó con las revisiones del contrato.

Miranda Fengel dijo que había solicitado una reunión pública a finales de enero, para que la gente pudiera discutir el tema. Dijo que cuanto más se prolongan las cosas sin dis-

cusión, más tensión se crea. Fengel dijo que siente que Nucla es una gran comunidad. No quiere que el problema de la torre de telefonía móvil dañe las relaciones entre amigos y familiares. También es una exdirectora de museo y dijo que conoce los procesos para investigar la relevancia histórica y cultural de las propiedades. Dijo que es común, cuando estas grandes corporaciones entran. Quiere que el pueblo sea más consciente de eso en el futuro.

Annie Gibbons le dijo a la audiencia que era sensible a la frecuencia electromagnética (EMF). Anteriormente en su vida, experimentó quemaduras térmicas de un teléfono celular, debido a un puente de metal en su boca. Las EMFs y las luces fluorescentes siempre la han enfermado. Dijo que es cierto que la FCC no puede hablar sobre los riesgos para la salud, una vez que se establece una torre. Dijo que eso es porque el ejército de EE. UU. ha sabido desde la década de 1970 que la energía de microondas puede ser utilizada contra las personas.

Gibbons es parte de un grupo mundial que intenta detener, o al menos hablar en contra de, 5G. Dijo que 5G es 20 veces más fuerte que 4G, y que los cánceres cerebrales en niños están aumentando exponencialmente.

Jim Guire dijo que el problema es más sobre los dispositivos de mano que causan daño, en lugar de las torres en sí. Dijo que es preocupante para los niños, pero su sugerencia es convertir la nueva torre de telefonía móvil en un asta de bandera de la que todos puedan estar orgullosos.

“Hagamos esto positivo,” dijo.

Chris Eilertsen dijo que antes de mudarse a Nucla, tenía una torre en su propiedad privada. Eso ocurrió cuando compró un terreno en el que alguien murió — en la pobreza. Dijo que el propietario anterior de su propiedad no pudo pagar los impuestos sobre la propiedad que arrendó a una empresa de torres de telefonía móvil. Les dijo a los fideicomisarios del pueblo que deberían tener un seguro de responsabilidad civil sobre la torre de telefonía móvil, y asegurarse de que el contrato también hable sobre impuestos.

Chris Daniels también quiere saber por qué se cambió la ubicación del sitio, si la nueva torre afectará a la torre actual (NNTC) y si las reuniones públicas en los últimos años habrían influido en la planificación de los fideicomisarios.

La alcaldesa dijo que la junta discutió todas las ubicaciones del sitio e hizo lo que era mejor para todos los ciudadanos en beneficio público. Dijo que ya había una torre en la parte superior del pueblo, por lo que los fideicomisarios pensaron que no sería algo completamente nuevo. Pierce estuvo de acu-

erdo en que la opinión pública siempre tiene un efecto. Dijo que los fideicomisarios parecen estar ahora “un día tarde y un dólar corto”, pero están tratando de enmendarse. Dijo que está bien si la gente quiere señalar con el dedo.

Jennifer Nelson dijo que estaba sorprendida y decepcionada. Preguntó si la torre era “un trato cerrado” o si se podía hacer algo diferente. Como madre, también está preocupada por los niños de la escuela. Les dijo a los fideicomisarios que no cree que las personas que se mudan o viven en Nucla lo hagan por un gran servicio de telefonía móvil.

La alcaldesa Brown dijo que los fideicomisarios se han puesto en contacto con Vertical Bridge, la empresa de torres, sobre la cancelación del contrato, pero aún no han recibido noticias.

Gibbons dijo que fue testigo de cómo un pequeño pueblo en California rechazó una.

Carla Reams dijo que estaba decepcionada y que el pueblo podría haberle dicho a la empresa de torres “no”. La proximidad a la escuela le preocupa, al igual que los riesgos para la salud. Dijo que el Proyecto de Visión del West End y otros esfuerzos comunitarios están trabajando para mejorar la calidad de vida de los residentes, y una torre de telefonía móvil no va a lograr eso. Ella alquila un espacio a cazadores, algunos de los cuales tienen buen servicio y otros no. Dijo que no importa. Agregó que NNTC ha sido un pilar en la comunidad durante generaciones, y podrían haber sido incluidos en la conversación. Continuará apoyando a NNTC, porque son una empresa local con lazos comunitarios y pagan impuestos.

Jim Womeldorf piensa que la ubicación es la “peor posible” debido a la escuela. Su propiedad está a 45 yardas del sitio propuesto para la torre, y se pregunta por qué Nucla no tiene una política donde tengan que contactar a las personas que existen dentro de 150 pies de cualquier nuevo proyecto propuesto.

“Está mal,” dijo. “Vertical Bridge es una gran empresa que no se preocupa por Nucla. Quieren hacer dinero.”

Tina Reed acaba de pasar por un proceso similar en Redvale. Asistió a reuniones públicas, habló y aún así los Comisionados del Condado de Montrose aprobaron una torre de telefonía móvil en su vecindario. La torre de 120 pies estará pronto al lado de su casa. El valor de su propiedad disminuirá, sus vistas se verán dañadas, las águilas se irán y más, dijo.

Cynthia Zehm quiere que la gente de Nucla defienda sus derechos. Luchó contra algo similar, una servidumbre de utilidad, hace años y terminó en la corte por ello. La torre de

Cont. de Pg. 9

NUCLA

Paula Brown es la nueva alcaldesa

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Después de la elección del 1 de abril en Nucla, el personal del pueblo informó que Paula Brown parecía haber ganado la elección sobre Aimee Tooker, 103-57. La elección debía ser certificada y oficial para el 9 de abril.

Brown ya ha estado sirviendo en la Junta Municipal de Nucla y también fue recientemente la alcaldesa pro t  mpore.

“Fui nombrada para ocupar un puesto de fideicomisario en 2017, luego elegida dos veces por periodos de 4 a  os,” le dijo al Forum. “Mi segundo mandato termina en abril de 2026.”

Muchos saben que Brown ha ayudado a que los proyectos de agua y alcantarillado despeguen en Nucla. Ahora, supervisar   la financiaci  n para su finalizaci  n.

“El pueblo ha completado una evaluaci  n del sistema de aguas residuales, que incluye un plan de reemplazo y reparaci  n priorizado basado en la urgencia de necesidad,” dijo. “Las l  neas de agua y alcantarillado se actualizar  n al mismo tiempo para ahorrar costos seg  n la evaluaci  n de prioridades. Actualmente estamos esperando una actualizaci  n de Element, nuestro ingeniero en el proyecto. A medida que avanzamos con los esfuerzos para asegurar la financiaci  n del USDA, habr   reuniones p  blicas tanto para el agua como para el alcantarillado durante el proceso de solicitud y financiaci  n.”

Agreg   que la junta del pueblo tambi  n est   trabajando

ahora con el Pueblo de Naturita y el Condado de Montrose para resolver algunos problemas de derechos de agua del r  o San Miguel desde 2010.

El Forum pregunt   sobre las mejoras de la Calle Principal que han estado ocurriendo en Nucla.

“Estamos en la primera fase del Proyecto de Renovaci  n de la Calle Principal, que incluye una y media cu  dras de nuevas aceras y extensiones de banquetas,” dijo. “Estos esfuerzos est  n dirigidos a ayudar a nuestros negocios locales con un mejor acceso para los clientes, todo mientras le damos a nuestra Calle Principal un peque  o retoque.”

Dijo que las pr  ximas fases dependen de la financiaci  n futura.

“El Proyecto de Renovaci  n de la Calle Principal comenz   hace varios a  os con nuestros socios del Programa de Asistencia T  cnica Universitaria (UTAP) y miembros de la comunidad local. El programa UTAP est   compuesto por estudiantes universitarios que estudian arquitectura y dise  o, trabajando con comunidades rurales. El pueblo ha utilizado este programa anteriormente para los proyectos de la Arena de Nucla y el Centro Comunitario de Nucla y actualmente est   trabajando con ellos en un plan para nuestros espacios p  blicos al aire libre (el Parque del Pueblo, el Embalse Rainbow, etc). Los planes han sido extremadamente   tiles al buscar subvenciones para la implementaci  n, como con el proyecto de la Calle Principal.”

Como no es ajena al servicio p  blico, el Forum pregunt   sobre su posici  n siendo no remunerada, voluntaria, a menudo ingrata y que incluye cr  ticas. El Forum pregunt   qu   la inspira a seguir adelante.

“Este es mi hogar, y me encanta vivir aqu  ,” dijo. “Unirse a una junta local es un gran lugar para servir a nuestra comunidad. Puede ser un desaf  o, pero disfruto trabajar con un equipo para encontrar soluciones a los problemas y crear oportunidades para nuestra comunidad y su futuro.”

El Forum pregunt   qu   es importante para ella seguir trabajando mientras contin  a como alcaldesa.

“Aunque creo que cada proyecto y problema es importante, la infraestructura envejecida del pueblo est   en la parte superior de la lista — adem  s de los desaf  os de reemplazo de agua y alcantarillado,” dijo. “Las mejoras en las calles seguir  n a medida que los fondos estuvieran disponibles. Desafortunadamente, es dif  cil encontrar subvenciones para mejoras en las calles. Tambi  n estamos trabajando con la Autoridad de Agua Mustang y el Pueblo de Naturita para asegurar financiaci  n para una evaluaci  n de la l  nea principal de suministro de agua desde la planta de tratamiento hasta la carretera 29.”

El Forum pregunt   sobre otras tareas y problemas en los que ella estar  a opinando en el futuro. Dijo que esas preguntas eran para toda la junta y que no quer  a que una sola persona, incluida la alcaldesa, dirigiera la visi  n del pueblo.

En Espanol

AGUA

La Coalición de Agua de Wright’s Mesa avanza

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Representantes de organizaciones de agua de la zona se reunieron la semana pasada, el 2 de abril, para la primera de una serie de reuniones de partes interesadas. Luego, la alcaldesa de Norwood, Candy Meehan, junto con la ex comisionada del condado de San Miguel, Kris Holstrom, ayudaron a dirigir la reunión. Ambas mujeres fueron las fundadoras de la Coalición de Agua de Wright’s Mesa (WMWC) hace solo unos años, después de recibir capacitación específica sobre agua y luego Meehan asistió más tarde al Congreso del Agua de Colorado.

Meehan leyó la declaración de misión de la WMWC: “La Coalición de Agua de Wright’s Mesa está dedicada a proteger y preservar los recursos hídricos de la región de Wright’s Mesa a través de la gestión colaborativa, el acceso equitativo y prácticas sostenibles. Trabajamos juntos para garantizar que las generaciones actuales y futuras puedan confiar en suministros de agua limpios y resilientes y sistemas que apoyen a nuestras comunidades, ecosistemas y forma de vida.”

Los miembros de los cinco grupos de agua de la mesa estaban presentes y fueron reconocidos como partes interesadas: Comisión de Agua de Norwood, el Pueblo de Norwood, Distrito de Protección Contra Incendios de Norwood, Compañía de Drenaje Lone Cone y Desarrollo de Agua de los Agricultores. Los grupos ya han tenido algunas

discusiones dentro de la nueva coalición, compartiendo sus necesidades a largo plazo, prioridades a corto plazo, junto con desarrollos recientes. Meehan dijo que tales discusiones eran para encontrar un terreno común con el propósito de combinar cualquier fondo potencial y acceder a apoyo para avanzar en los objetivos de agua de la zona en los sistemas.

También ayudó a dirigir la reunión Donzil Worthington, de Bohannon Huston, Inc., quien es un especialista en agua. Worthington dijo que pasó la primera parte de la semana pasada hablando con los representantes de los cinco grupos de partes interesadas y estará recopilando las respuestas en un “documento fluido.” Dijo que en aproximadamente 40 días, ese documento incluirá exhibiciones de mapeo GIS, encuestas, documentos históricos y más, para que los grupos puedan verlo y dar su opinión.

Dijo que continuará trabajando con el documento este verano, y para principios de octubre los grupos de partes interesadas podrán ver con más detalle los resúmenes para ver si está “en el camino correcto.” Dijo que el último trimestre del año se centrará en las revisiones, y un plan preliminar estará listo para fin de año. El plan final estará disponible en el primer trimestre de 2026, y será distribuido.

“Ese es el objetivo que tenemos en este momento,” dijo Worthington. “Esta reunión es la apertura de la discusión ... Trabajaremos hacia lo que ustedes piensan que es representativo de los objetivos y lo que quieren lograr.”

Meehan dijo que el objetivo mayor era llevar un plan mae-

stro de agua a la Junta de Conservación de Agua de Colorado para financiamiento y buscar fondos federales, lo cual será un proceso de dos años. Al mismo tiempo, el plan también puede ser utilizado por los grupos de partes interesadas para buscar cualquier oportunidad que deseen.

Meehan dijo que asociarse para beneficio mutuo era algo bueno, y que hay más “poder de compra” cuando los grupos combinan recursos.

Makayla Gordon, de la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico de West End, ha acordado hacer supervisión e informes durante el proceso de solicitud de subvenciones y financiamiento. Adrian Bergere, de la Coalición de Cuenca de San Miguel, estuvo presente y dijo que su organización quiere ser un recurso y ya busca proyectos, como la restauración ambiental en Beaver Creek, para beneficiar a múltiples grupos a la vez. April Montgomery también fue reconocida por su ayuda en asegurar financiamiento inicial para el impulso del plan maestro de agua.

En los comentarios de las partes interesadas al cierre de la reunión, algunos de los temas discutidos fueron las repetidas roturas de la línea de agua que afectan al pueblo y al distrito de bomberos, tubería de PVC antigua en uso desde 1977, almacenamiento de agua, los Agricultores de Agua terminando de arreglar su represa, Lone Cone Ditch rehaciendo su estructura de salida, la necesidad de nieve acumulada y Norwood necesitando una actualización de la planta de tratamiento de agua en algún momento.

EVENTOS

La Noche de Bike Stoke es el 10 de abril en Naturita

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Las organizaciones de ciclismo de la zona se reunirán el 10 de abril para la Noche de Bike Stoke en Naturita, en la Calle Principal donde se encuentran Paradox Cycle y Flying Bear Pizzeria en Naturita Bicycle Company.

Tim Tait, de la Alianza de Senderos del West End (WETA), le dijo al Forum que el evento dura de 5:30 a 8 p.m., e incluye a la comunidad ciclista, amigos de pueblos vecinos y cualquier persona que tenga curiosidad. Tait dijo que algunas personas podrían llegar en bicicleta al evento, pero nadie tiene que poseer una bicicleta para asistir. Quiere derribar barreras para ser parte de la comunidad ciclista. Quiere que todos sepan que las personas ciclistas son inofensivas; solo quieren celebrar su deporte el 10 de abril. El evento es apto para familias, y los jóvenes son bienvenidos.

“Está destinado a celebrar el inicio de la temporada de bicicletas en el West End, y el ciclismo en general,” dijo. “Estaremos celebrando las bicicletas — y la belleza del West End.”

Varios eventos sucederán al mismo tiempo. Se llevará a cabo una demostración de bike-packing, mostrando a los invitados cómo salir a tierras públicas y acampar en bicicleta. El Sendero Paradox también está celebrando 30 años,

y eso se notará con algo de historia del Sendero Paradox. WETA ofrecerá educación sobre seguridad en bicicletas y realizará rifas de premios. También habrá una película de WETA que se mostrará dentro de Flying Bear. Y, Tait ha recopilado muchas fotos históricas de Paul Koski y presentará un pase de diapositivas con esas. También hay una estación de pregunta-a-un-mecánico en proceso.

Brock Benson, de Paradox Cycle, está produciendo un rodeo de bicicletas.

“El rodeo de bicicletas es un concepto que Bri Bonacquista y yo hemos estado considerando por un tiempo,” le dijo Benson al Forum. “Nos hemos divertido mucho desarrollando juegos y paseos para que los niños disfruten en el nuevo Programa de Recreación al Aire Libre Mustang en la escuela secundaria. Nuestros niños tienen una historia de montar a caballo en las gymkhanas de Tabaguache Trail Riders, así que pensamos que podría ser divertido idear juegos que tengan un atractivo cruzado para nuestros residentes locales.”

Benson dijo que será como doblar postes o carreras de barriles, algo bastante de bajo impacto que sería entretenido de ver.

“Creemos que hemos ideado algunos ejercicios que ofrecerán un alto factor de entretenimiento, mientras aún muestran habilidades técnicas de conducción,” dijo. “Realmente

necesitas verlo para entenderlo ... Paradox Cycle está proporcionando cuatro bicicletas de una sola velocidad para mantener el campo de juego parejo, y tenemos un equipo de cronometristas, oficiales y árbitros que se asegurarán de que el rodeo de bicicletas se realice sin problemas.”

Benson espera que la comunidad salga y participe.

“Habrá premios, música, cervezas y bicicletas,” dijo.

Virginia Ericson, de Flying Bear, le dijo al Forum que las Noches de Bike Stoke son comunes entre los entusiastas del ciclismo. Dijo que el propósito es reunir a las personas y hacer un llamado para la temporada de ciclismo.

“Aquí estamos invitando a toda la comunidad a unirse,” dijo. “No se necesita experiencia. La noche no se trata solo de bicicletas; también se trata de todas las cosas al aire libre.”

Ericson dijo que alguien hablará con los jóvenes sobre kits de primeros auxilios, lectura de mapas y más. Agregó que otros expertos compartirán algunas historias de senderos, representantes del esfuerzo local de búsqueda y rescate hablarán, y Montrose West Recreation estará presente.

“Es una gran manera para que cada entusiasta amante de la naturaleza venga a ver lo que esos ciclistas que usan span-dex están haciendo,” dijo.

Ericson dijo que la noche de micrófono abierto seguirá después de la Noche de Bike Stoke.

Cont. de Pg. 8

Redvale le “apuñaló” el “corazón”. Dijo que el vecindario no la quería, Planificación y Zonificación no la recomendó, y los comisionados aún así la aprobaron. Dijo que ya no se trata de lo que la gente quiere y urgió a los fideicomisarios de Nucla a considerar eso.

Pierce dijo que no se trata de la capacidad de retirarse del contrato, sino de lo que podría costarle al pueblo hacerlo. Fengel dijo que una petición comunitaria con firmas de propietarios y familias de la escuela podría ayudar al pueblo a salir del contrato.

La alcaldesa dijo que es importante señalar que, aunque los asistentes a la reunión del 3 de abril podrían oponerse, igual de muchas personas apoyan la nueva torre o se sienten

neutrales al respecto, y se lo han compartido.

Erik Johansson preguntó sobre el Parque Volunteer, adyacente al sitio de la torre. Ayudó a diseñar e instalar el parque en la parte superior del pueblo, y se pregunta sobre los planes futuros. Piensa que es un espacio hermoso que el pueblo posee y preguntó cómo afectará la torre.

Reams dijo que quería transparencia y ver cuál sería la próxima respuesta de Vertical Bridge. Dijo que el público necesitaba saber.

Reed agregó que Nucla es una Comunidad de Cielo Oscuro y las luces en la nueva torre de telefonía celular podrían afectar negativamente esa distinción. También dijo que si se va a colocar una bandera, debe ser mantenida con respeto y costará hasta \$1,500 o más cada año.

Tim Tait hizo eco de Reams y quiere saber cómo se compartirá la respuesta de Vertical Bridge con la comunidad. También quiere transparencia.

“Perderás esa confianza y credibilidad si no compartes,” dijo, añadiendo que la máxima prioridad de los fideicomisarios debería ser dar las respuestas de la empresa de la torre de telefonía celular al público.

Tooker pidió el consejo del abogado de la ciudad, pero los fideicomisarios dijeron que no podían compartir esa información.

La alcaldesa, que ha servido en la junta desde 2017, dijo que la gente necesita asistir a las reuniones de la junta municipal. Dijo que muchas reuniones nunca ven a un solo votante presente.

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a civil matter.

2257 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 12100 block of Highway 90 near Bedrock for a medical assist.

2311 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Main Street in Nucla for a 911.

3/6/2025

0732 Hours - Ricky Gabriel, 64, was contacted at the intersection of West Fourth Avenue and Main Street in Nucla and issued a warning for speeding.

1149 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1200 Hours - Deputy conducted a field interview in the 600 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla.

1534 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a

medical assist.

3/7/2025

1238 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a civil standby.

1308 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1100 block of 42Z Road near Norwood for a civil matter.

1511 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of West Sixth Avenue and Heron Street in Nucla for a traffic hazard.

1731 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita for found property.

2001 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31200 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a medical assist.

3/8/2025

0912 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West

Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

1032 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the area of 2600 Road and Z26 Road near Nucla.

1049 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 27800 block of BB Road near Nucla.

1642 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a harassment report.

2019 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita for a medical assist.

2354 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of East Fifth Avenue and Main Street in Nucla for a noise complaint.

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: TV SIBLINGS

ACROSS

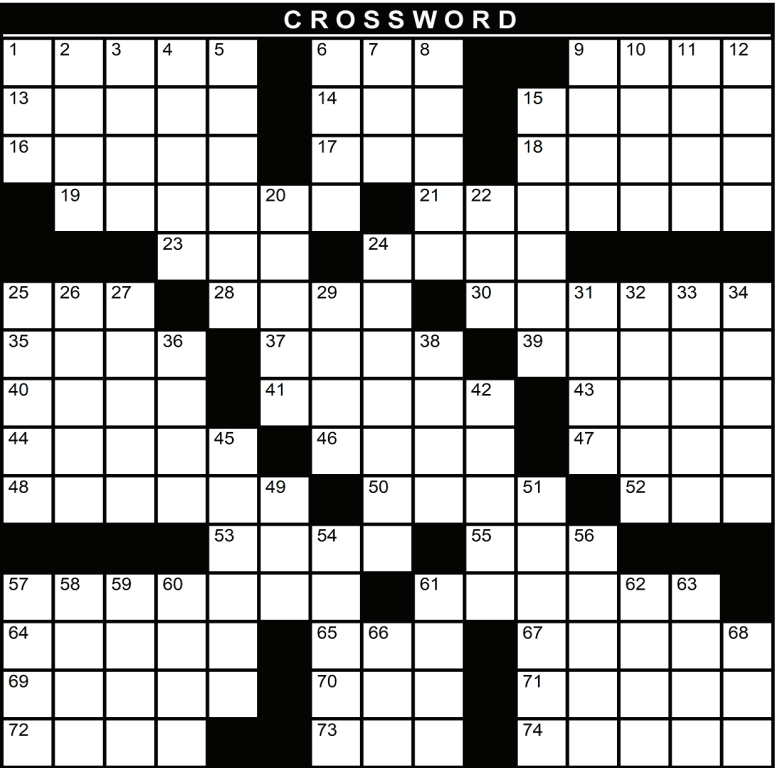
- Newton of science
- Over the top, in text
- *Monica Geller's brother
- Eurasian antelope
- Public health org.
- Add together
- Underground worker
- Put down
- Modify
- *Mitchell Pritchett's sister Claire
- *Alex P. Keaton's sister
- Lao-tzu follower
- ___ it like it is
- Banned insecticide
- Wolf, in Mexico
- Ubiquitous deciduous tree
- Nevada's ___ 51
- Passionate dislike
- What scribes do

- Lime-rich soil
- Rocky ridge
- Flying saucers, acr.
- Certain "razor" creator
- Skier's aid
- Sicilian mountain
- Activity of the intellect
- Rush job notation, acr.
- Stitch
- Belted out
- Mad Hatter's beverage of choice
- *Wednesday Addams' brother
- *Richie Cunningham's sister
- Palate lobe
- Jersey call
- Notches made by saw
- Olympic 4x4 race, e.g.
- Public house, for short
- Fill with optimism
- Wholly engrossed
- Store posting, for short
- Slow on the uptake



DOWN

- Any doctrine
- "He ____, She Said"
- Hokkaido language
- Actor's representative
- ___ tunnel
- "___ the Lonely," song
- *One "Sister, Sister"
- Bouquet garni ingredient
- Sushi choice
- "The Simpsons" palindrome
- Court petitioner
- Light on one's feet
- Rendered suet
- Tumult and commotion
- Any high mountain
- Carryall (2 words)
- *Vampire Stefan Salvatore's brother
- Harry Potter's antagonist
- 9 a.m. prayer
- *Lisa and Maggie's naughty brother
- *Phoebe and Piper Halliwell's sister
- British elevators
- Repent
- Redo, to a carpenter
- "Sad to say ..."
- J.F.K. postings
- Muse of love poetry
- Lose
- Famous frat house letters
- Reached culmination
- Naiad or maenad
- Anoint
- Make like a cat
- Part of an eye
- Mouthful, swallowed
- Fence board
- Apple co-founder
- A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit
- Newts in terrestrial stage
- Belonging to us
- Be a witness



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HELP WANTED



UMC

UNCOMPAHGRE MEDICAL CENTER

UNCOMPAHGRE MEDICAL CENTER

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Are you detail-oriented, passionate about healthcare, and eager to make a difference? We're hiring a QA/QI Assistant to support our mission of delivering high-quality, patient-centered care in beautiful Norwood, Colorado. In this full-time role, you'll collaborate with clinical teams and leadership to manage data, lead quality improvement initiatives, and ensure compliance with healthcare standards. Ideal candidates have strong analytical skills, healthcare knowledge, and experience in quality assurance or a related field (required).

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Benefits include: Health, dental, vision, 401(k), PTO, and more! Applicants must be able to commute or relocate to Norwood, CO. Background and TB screening required. Be part of a team that values integrity, innovation, and compassion. Apply today and help shape the future of rural healthcare! To apply, please look on Indeed or contact Kelly Murphy at kelly@lhers.net for the link.

44-TFN-C

Uncompahgre Medical Center / Dentist

Job Summary: The Chief Dental officer is a senior level administrative position with responsibility for all dental services. This responsibility includes the authority to oversee all aspects of dental care delivery including planning, resource allocation, growth and development, regulatory compliance, quality, efficiency and the supervision of the Dental staff. This position includes both an administrative and clinical component. The Chief Dental Officer is directly accountable to the Chief

Executive Officer with collateral accountability to the Board of Directors. To apply, please enter the link to indeed: <https://www.indeed.com/job/general-dentist-5161ab89be03a30b>

43-TFN-C

TEACHERS WANTED

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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

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

We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

45-IT-C

AA MEETING

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

HELP WANTED



FRANZ KLAMMER LODGE

Maintenance Technician (FT, Year-Round)

Concierge (FT, Seasonal)

Housekeeping Attendant (PT, Seasonal)

Amazing Benefits: Health/Dental/Vision, Disability Insurance, Accidental Injury & Critical Illness Coverage, 401k, Travel, Mental Health Support, Ski/Pass, and more!

Optional Transportation to/from Montrose
dependent on position & schedule.

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For more information, contact
Talent & Culture:
(970) 728-7116

APPLY HERE:

<https://bit.ly/FairmontFKLApply>



42-TFN-C

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

- 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.

A Huge Shout Out

To all the Businesses that advertised in the 2025 – 2026 NNTC Telephone Directory

In today’s digital world, many people turn to the internet for contact information, but we know there are still many in our communities who rely on our directory. Because of the support of these local businesses, we are able to continue publishing the NNTC Telephone Directory, keeping this valuable resource available for those who need it.

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!!!

- 5th Avenue Grill
- Rimrocker Historical Society
- 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
- Bruin Waste Management
- Blondies
- Moore’s Mining
- Packrat Minnie Storage
- San Miguel Power Association
- Coyote Septic Services



Naturita-Nucla Telephone Company

NNTC Wireless, LLC

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Accepting applications through April 30, 2025

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YOUTH


Mustang track stays strong



The Mustangs, coached by Sara Bray, are in the middle of track season.



Here, Charlie Mull heads to the finish line.



Austin Garvey is pushed on in the relay by Owen Tackett.



Cadence Shaw and Viviana Zunich also run a relay race.
(Photos by Sydney Tomlinson)