

San Miguel Basin Forum

NORWOOD

Town board approves drainage study, will spray weeds

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Norwood Town Board of Trustees met April 9 for their regular monthly meeting, which began with stakeholder reports. Daiva Chesonis, of Norwood Park and Recreation District (NPRD), told the board the Music on the Mesa event happens again this summer and is in search of donors and sponsors. Band contracts are to be signed very soon, and then she can announce the performers.

Liza Tanguay, town trustee on NPRD's board, said pickle ball has now moved outside for the warm season.

Becky Hannigan, deputy town clerk serving the Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright's Mesa, reminded all of the chamber ball, "A Night of Elegance," happening May 3, which includes community awards.

On the agenda was an item to approve the marijuana license renewal for Alpine Wellness, trustee Mike Grady's business, which Town Clerk Amanda Pierce said has remained in compliance with laws. Still, Pierce said there was a paradox of a clause in the business' approval form. Marijuana businesses are legal in Colorado, but not federally. For Norwood, a federal tax question exists on the form that creates a "catch 22."

Grady went before the board, recusing himself as a voting trustee, with a request of removing that federal question from the form. The form was borrowed from Telluride and Naturita when the town was establishing marijuana policies years ago. Grady told trustees the language created potential consequences and was a legal trap. Answering "yes" to the federal tax question makes a business agree to a crime the business didn't commit. Answering "no" creates misunderstanding and can be used against the business. Grady said the federal question is not required for legal compliance and there's no justification for keeping it.

Trustees agreed to remove the question from the form and to approve his license renewal.

The price for the Norwood Community Garden port-a-potty has tripled, after Coyote sold their business to Bruin Waste. Now priced at \$130 monthly for cleaning, town did agree to pay for half of the cleaning service from June through October, and at \$650, total costs to the town are \$325. Mayor Candy Meehan said it's a public health service. Pierce said if the town is

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NUCLA

Town board discusses water issues and more

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Charlene Stevenson went before Nucla's town trustees in the public comment over concerns about leaks with Mustang Water. She wants the board to not waste time on repairs or maintenance. She had a leak report in hand and told the board there are grants and loans available from the USDA and state.

New mayor Paula Brown offi-

ciated the meeting. Brown was previously mayor pro tem and elected by the popular vote April 1 to replace former mayor Kirk Yerke when he stepped away this spring.

At last week's meeting, trustees approved Tim Pierce as mayor pro tem.

Trustees are also seeking to fill a vacant trustee seat now. Letters of interest are due by April 21 and interviews for the seat will be held the first week of May.

Brock Benson appeared before

the board with ideas for summer programming. His business Paradox Cycle has sponsored a family fun night in Naturita that includes some biking and then food with an outdoor movie afterward. He works closely with Bri Bonacquista, of the Nucla school. He'd like to move the events from Naturita to Nucla this summer, since the storage unit for the bikes is in Nucla proper, and he's thinking Wednesdays, as not to compete with gymkhana.

Trustees weren't sure about the

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AGRICULTURE

Investigation ongoing for missing calves

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

It was last week that the Washington Post and other national news sources were reporting on missing calves in the local area. In December, the Forum reported that as many as 180 head had disappeared last fall. Then, several area ranchers and a few brand inspectors gave their insight into the matter.

In the last month or so, some news has circulated online about cattle theft, specifically a bust in Texas. Some wondered if there was a connection to Colorado.

On April 9, the Forum followed up with Todd Inglee, the Colorado State Brand Inspector. Inglee told the Forum the local investigation of missing calves is still active. As of last week, at least 18 had been found. Of those, 10 were confirmed — five from one herd and five from another. Another eight were reportedly located too, but that hadn't been confirmed with the state.

Inglee said the few missing calves were discovered in an area they'd been grazing last fall.

In the last several months, Inglee has received many tips. He said people in the West End have shared a variety of possible scenarios with him. The county sheriff's offices are involved and leading the investigations at this point.

The Forum asked about the bust in Texas, and Inglee said that situation was different and not related to western Colorado. He does know some special rangers in Texas and did speak to his contacts there. He said to his knowledge the Texas rangers haven't made Colorado connections yet.

"Unfortunately, there are a lot of deals like this going on all across cattle country, brand law state or not," he said.

Colorado does have a brand law; Other states like Oklahoma and Texas do not.

"It takes a sharp-eyed brand/livestock inspector to notice the missing animals and take action," he added.

Inglee also said these types of cases show the value of livestock brands.

"Permanent methods of identification (brands) hold their value and help ensure that animals get back home to their rightful owners," he said.

At the same time, authorities have said they have to consider all possibilities for the missing calves, and that includes predation and disease or sickness.

The Forum spoke with Monte Snyder, of Mex and Sons in Norwood, on April 10. Snyder said he didn't know any more than

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Celebrating their coronation

Viviana Zunich and Slade Gillen are Nucla's 2025 Prom Royalty. See more prom photos on Page 12.
(Photo by Ashley Tomlinson)

EDUCATION

New school in Norwood is complex issue; survey respondents mostly support it

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Norwood School is no doubt in bad shape. The Forum has seen first-hand the issues with leaks, mold, asbestos, along with drain issues in the bathroom by the office, plus past issues with the heat and air conditioning, safety and more. Some of those issues have been partly dealt with in the last few years, but those involved with the school community want better for their kids and themselves.

Stakeholders tried for a BEST grant with the state in 2023, but

that funding didn't come through. Still, many would like to see the new school become reality. The Norwood school board recently asked San Miguel County for help with funding to try for another BEST grant attempt, but for a few different reasons the county denied financial support.

Now, many are wondering what's next for Norwood Public School. At this point, there are just seven seniors graduating Norwood this year in the class of 2025. There are 13 rising seniors, who are set to graduate in 2026.

And, the school is searching for

teachers. The district needs high school teachers for English, math, social studies, as well as a guidance counselor in light of Rick Williams retiring. The district also needs an elementary PE teacher, a fifth-grade teacher, various paraprofessionals, bus drivers and more.

The Forum has created a questionnaire online to engage the community and gain insight into the differing opinions. All were asked to give names for the questionnaire and to only vote once, but the Forum is holding the responses in confidence, unless

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SAN MIGUEL BASIN

Spring has sprung at the San Miguel Basin Extension Office

By ANNIKA KRISTIENSEN

From where I’m sitting — sun pouring into my corner office at the San Miguel Basin Extension Office — I can see tiny buds forming on the trees and bushes outside my window. I have that time-warp feeling, like I ducked my head down in fall when the air turned crisp, and now I’ve looked up and suddenly the birds are back, the grass is greening, and maybe it’s just my mood — but the sky feels a little bluer. Everything seems to be shouting: wake up!

When I step outside to take a break from the screen, I’m hit with that unmistakable mesa sunshine. It’s strong, quick to dry things out, and can make you sweat in seconds — but in just the right dose, with the right SPF lip balm, it’s pure magic.

My head is spinning (in a good way) with everything that’s happened over the past few months — and everything that’s coming next. As your proud CSU Extension representative, I thought I’d share what’s been stirring around here.

Winter whirlwind recap

On Jan. 26, I had the pleasure of meeting Nucla High School’s new principal, Joshua Ledford.

He’s already proving to be a gem, and welcomed us to bring CSU Extension’s College Readiness programming into the school. Gregory Felson, CSU’s Accessible Education Coordinator, visited area schools in early March to support this work. (We love a principal who says “yes” before we even finish explaining our idea.)

On January 26, 12 local 4-H kids weighed in their steers in preparation for the 2025 San Miguel Basin Fair. These kids are hard at work, raising their animals with care and grit (you know that magic combo that our local kiddos have with the beasts that they grow to love – but also grow to eat).

February kicked off with our first “Try-It-Out 4-H Friday” at Norwood’s Lone Cone Library, where kids turned recycled materials into quirky “trash critters,” while learning about reuse and recycling. The googly eyes were out in full force — and I might’ve brought one home.

Our 4-H Shooting Sports club also began meeting again. We’re thrilled to welcome new leaders: Jerrad David (shotgun) and Amanda Garcia (archery), joining head leader Jarred Garcia, who’s been growing the program steadily and with amazing passion. The club now offers archery, .22 rifle and shotgun.

Also in February, I started mentoring Brenna Morlang, a Norwood high school student, in a trial run of an “Entrepreneurship 101” series. Brenna is launching her jewelry business, B Shayne Silver, with support from local collaborators in graphic design, analytics and business incubation.

She’ll pitch her business at a community event on May 6 at

6 p.m. at the Norwood Sheriff’s Annex. Come cheer her on! Additionally, the extension office has been honored to participate in the West End Solutions Group in Naturita, where we’ve contributed to conversations about community visioning and sustainability. We’re excited to be part of this effort. In line with this, we co-hosted the first local nonprofit leadership coffee with April Montgomery from the Telluride Foundation. This group will meet quarterly to share ideas, offer support, and work together to create meaningful change in our own communities through our organizations.

Workshops and hands-on fun

On March 8, we hosted an online and in-person Wildfire Preparedness Workshop in Norwood with local fire chiefs, emergency responders, West Region Wildfire Council, and Emergency Manager Sharon Armstrong. We had 30 attendees in the room with us asking amazing questions, and nine more popping in via Zoom.

On March 22, Jesse Lasater from the Colorado Department of Ag led a well-attended workshop on non-lethal strategies for coexisting with the reintroduced wild wolves, a “spicy” but really important conversation.

We hosted a popular cottage foods training with CSU’s Ann Duncan, and a sold-out kimchi-making workshop at Lone Cone Library where participants learned about fermentation, gut health, and the magic of this traditional Korean dish. To the folks at the library: consider this my formal apology, if the building still smells like garlic ...

Our 4-H Horse Club had its first clinic in March with the talented Tricia Hilton, and the kids have been busy learning horse health, breeds, markings and even crafting hooks out of used horseshoes.

The end of March and early April brought more action: kids traveled to Montrose for District 10 4-H Fun Day, the 4 Stars 4-H Club did their annual roadside trash cleanup, and Lone Cone 4-H Club built spaghetti-and-marshmallow replicas of animal pens while learning about animal safety.

Coming up ...

Mark your calendars:

- April 30 – Catch me (Annika) at Nucla School’s Ag Day with a sweet treats and 4-H fun.
- May 2 – Wildflower Walk at Dolores River Wilderness Study Area in Bedrock
- May 3 – Mommy and Me Planting Class at the Norwood Community Garden where tiny hands + tiny trowels = heart-melting levels of cute
- May 3 – Hands-On Hide Leathercraft Workshop with Kay Orton (master leathercrafter) and local leatherworker Suzi Meyers from

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History: Rimrocker Historical Society Wilson Rockwell’s Uncompahgre Frontier

By JANE THOMPSON, Rimrocker Historical Society



This photo shows Ben, Dave, Roger and Bill Williams, early settlers of the Redvale area c.1928.
(Photo courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

In 1976, Wilson Rockwell wrote a book about the history of the Uncompahgre country. It is one of the best histories written about our small towns and surrounding area. It can be a hard book to find, but it is worth it when you find it. I thought I would share a short section of the book about Redvale and Shenandoah:

“Redvale and Shenandoah had unusual histories. About 1911 or 1912 an orchard company took up some land between Norwood and Naturita and planted it in orchards. The company advertised the region as ‘Redlands’ and sold many of the orchards.

When a post office was built, the name ‘Redlands’ was changed to ‘Redvale’ since the residents heard that there was another place called ‘Redlands’ in western Colorado. A store and post office stands there today as a trading center for a fertile farming section. However,

the altitude of 7,000 feet proved to be too high for profitable fruit production and the orchards were gradually pulled out and the land put in general farming.

Redvale was one of the scheduled stops made by freight wagons carrying copper and uranium from the Paradox Valley to the railhead at Placerville from 1913 to 1921. A livery barn there did a booming business during this period.

One of the outstanding pioneers of Redvale was Roger Williams, a rugged individualist. He drove a mule team and buckboard and was a familiar figure in the valley. He was an excellent teamster and had a trick

of making his own mules run with a certain twist of the lines. Just as everyone thought that the wagon was going to overturn, Williams would bring the galloping mules to a jolting but skillful halt.

About 1904 or 1905 Mocks Malich brought in a colony of about 20 Croation families. They came originally from the island of Crete in the Mediterranean and settled in a suburb of Denver near the Denver Union Stockyards. Upon being brought to the San Miguel Basin by their leader, they established a trading center called Shenandoah, three miles below the present site of Redvale. The first enlargement of the Gorley Ditch occurred around this time, and members of this new colony helped out with this development, receiving stock in the ditch as payment for their labors.

Shenandoah consisted of a store, a recreation hall, and a hotel during its heyday. There is no town there today, although some of the Croations and their descendants still remain in the area as a part of the neighboring Redvale community.”

The Croations didn’t stay long at all, but the apple trees are still there and still producing heirloom fruit. Redvale and Shenandoah did have an interesting story and were vital communities of the times.

Investigation ongoing

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the state brand inspector. As of last week, Mex and Sons was still missing 26 head of steer calves; none of the recovered 18 belong to his family’s outfit.

Snyder did say that the sheriff’s office is waiting for the snow to

melt, so investigators can get up and go look around. He said finding out what’s under the snowpack could be telling.

The price of beef is high at this time. Brand inspector Josh Sinks told the Forum it’s higher than it’s ever been. He said a 600 pound calf

is going for \$3.70 to \$4 a pound, making a calf worth as much as \$2,400. Regardless of what’s happened to the calves, the losses add up for ranchers.

The Forum does run the price of beef from the Delta Sales Yard’s market report in its weekly edition.

EVENTS

PlanetV Festival returns to Naturita May 23-26

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The PlanetV Festival, a vibrant celebration of art, community and creativity, will return May 23-26 to the unique and rural setting of CampV, located in Naturita. PlanetV was founded in 2020 as an impromptu gathering of 75 friends seeking connection during the COVID-19 pandemic, and now PlanetV has grown into an independent three-day festival, led by a passionate group of friends from the Telluride and Burning Man community.

This year, PlanetV promises to bring inspiration and opportunities for learning and connection. Headlining PlanetV this year is Random Rab, Manic Focus, Evan Hatfield, Tone Ranger and The Pickpockets with more creative participants in the lineup.

PlanetV’s founders remain committed to uplifting the local rural community and offering a space where everyone, regardless of background, can experience and participate in art, culture and creativity. As a proud part of the festival community, PlanetV embraces

the ethos of inclusivity and believes that fostering a sense of belonging and shared experience is essential for rural communities. The festival will take place at CampV, which is in the heart of a former mining town that has been creatively reimagined to accommodate and welcome dusty travelers, artists and adventurers alike. Our mission is to bring connection and conversation to our rural community.

“We’re thrilled to continue growing PlanetV in the heart of CampV,” said one of the event’s founders Natalie Binder. “What started as a simple gathering during a challenging time has evolved into a boutique festival that supports not only our community of friends but also the broader creative and artistic spirit. This year, we’re excited to offer more than just music, like our wellness hub, Young Citizen Zone and workshops for attendees to learn, engage and connect in meaningful ways.”

With its intimate atmosphere and a focus on community building, PlanetV continues to offer something truly special. Attendees will

enjoy three days of art installations, fire and circus performances, world class music, workshops, A Young Citizen Kids Zone and opportunities to explore the beauty of Colorado’s remote landscape while connecting with unique individuals. PlanetV provides a safe and welcoming space for everyone to express themselves, explore new ideas and be inspired.

The festival remains grounded in its core values: creativity, collaboration and connection. As PlanetV continues to grow, the team behind the event remains committed to providing a transformative space for all who attend.

Tickets for PlanetV are now available, and organizers said they encourage early registration to secure a spot, as attendance is capped at 600. For more information on the festival, the Bizarre Bazaar, and how to get involved, visit planetvfest.com.

Binder told the Forum opportunities exist for locals.

“We do have local ticket prices or volunteer opportunities available for West End locals,” she said. “They just need to email.”

Norwood town board

Cont. from Pg. 1

contributing, then the port-a-potty should remain unlocked and available for all residents.

Town Administrative Director Sara Owens discovered the \$300,000 drainage study, already paid for through funding, had been sitting, on pause, waiting for town approval. SGM has been ready to do the study and just needed the go-ahead to proceed. Trustees approved the agreement to get the study done.

Trustees also approved the master service agreement with KLJ Engineering, a company they already agreed to work with at the last board meeting. Trustees had to approve the master service agreement before starting any other work on future planning services. Trustees discussed that applications are already coming to the town for lot splits, parking variances and more.

Michael Donnellon, of the San Miguel County Sheriff’s Office, told trustees that it’s been a slow month, “nothing crazy,” and no persons crimes have happened, “which is great.” He said deputies have seen some intoxicated individuals during the day in town and have taken them into

custody. He said public intoxication is a municipal crime, not a state crime, and Norwood officials have discussed “sundowning that.” Donnellon’s opinion is that the law should remain in place, since it’s a quality of life issue. He said it’s used sparingly, and that in small towns, there are families and moms with strollers on the streets. He said having drunk people stumbling around and creating chaos does interfere with quality of life. Those taken into custody sleep it off in the jail, supervised, and appear in municipal court after the incident.

Donnellon said there’s an active investigation happening now, after deputies busted someone living in the Norwood school zone for a large amount of narcotics. He’s proud patrollers discovered this through “proactive policing.”

Public Works Director Randy Harris will begin spraying noxious weeds using an organic compound that is environmentally-friendly and safe for pets. He’s in the process of becoming certified for other herbicides too.

Owens said Shawny Darby will vacate her billing clerk job earlier than expected, and town officials need to fill that vacancy sooner

than later. Some applications are coming in, and interviews happen this week. In the meantime, Owens and Pierce have been acquiring Darby’s skills.

Solar units will be installed at Cottonwood Creek Estates, and those homes are going to move to an “all bills paid” type of rent in the future. And, a charging station for vehicles is set to be installed at the Pocket Park.

Owens also initiated a fire mitigation assessment through the West Region Wildfire Council, and she submitted a Department of Local Affairs grant for the redundant waterline that town officials have been talking about for the last several years.

Pierce said the Norwood Farm and Craft Market is set for the Pocket Park, and the FRESH Food Hub will take the lead on it this summer. Vendors can sell art, food and more.

And, Makayla Gordon, of West End Economic Development Corporation, is helping to start a Wright’s Mesa Solutions Group, similar to the West End Solutions Group in Naturita and Nucla. It’s a way for community to come together to brainstorm ways to deal with issues.

San Miguel Basin Forum

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Basin

Cont. from Pg. 2

- Crossbow Leather at the Lone Cone Library, starting at 10 a.m.
- May 4 – Goat, lamb, and swine weigh-in, plus Meat Quality Assurance training at the Fairgrounds
- May 6 – Brenna’s Business Pitch night at 6 p.m. at the Norwood Sheriff’s Annex
- May 8 – HOLA College Readiness Program at Wilkinson Public Library in Telluride, a collaborative event for Latinx youth and families
- Horse clinics continue this spring, including marketing workshops to prepare 4-Hers for the Junior Livestock Sale on July 20.

We are also thrilled to announce that two of our 4-H youth, Darcy Bray and Aubrey Taylor, will be traveling with me to Italy and southern France this June to visit regenerative agriculture farms — an incredible opportunity!

Wildflower walks, Native Plant Master Classes

Looking to get outdoors? CSU Extension’s Jacqe Hudson is offering Wildflower Walks and Native Plant Master (NPM) Courses this summer across the region. These programs are perfect for anyone curious about our unique native plants. Wildflower/NPM Course Highlights:

- Dolores River Wilderness Study Area – Bedrock, Friday, May 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Thunder Trails – Norwood (NPM Course), Thursday and Friday, May 15–16, 9 a.m.– 3 p.m.
- OA Greager Open Space – Norwood, Friday, May 23, 9 a.m.– 3 p.m.
- Telluride Valley Floor (NPM Course), Thursday and Friday, June 5–6, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Woods Lake Wildflower Walk, Friday, June 27 (Class date only)
- Lizard Head Trail – Black Face Trail Wildflower Walk, Friday, July 11 (Class date only)

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

And one more thing: potatoes and plants

Our annual stock of seed potatoes has arrived at the extension office. Come get yours before they’re gone! This year’s varieties include: Masquerade, bi-color skin with yellow flesh, and reportedly very tasty; Midnight Moon, purple skin with striking purple and yellow flesh — a beautiful and interesting variety when sliced; Unique Potato, purple-skinned and bi-colored flesh — we don’t know how it tastes or grows, so please let us know; and Red Fingerling-esque, highly disease-resistant.

We’ve also started some seedlings — tomatoes, peppers, and herbs — ready soon, but not yet.

Join us at the fair

We hope to see you at the San Miguel Basin Fair, July 11–20, to celebrate the hard work of our youth in livestock, cooking, shooting sports and more. We’d also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in our Community Needs Assessment posted in January. Your input is incredibly valuable and helps guide our work in the region. As we wrap up the first quarter of the year, we’re looking forward to finalizing the assessment and sharing the results with you soon. Stay tuned!

And so, dear friends of extension, as spring breathes new life into the mesas and canyons and bodies we call home, we’re reminded of the deep renewal that comes with living close to the land — and close to each other. In rural communities like ours, growth doesn’t just happen in gardens and fields; it blooms through connection, collaboration and care. At the San Miguel Basin Extension Office, we’re proud to be your local resource — whether it’s helping a young person prepare for the future, supporting a rancher with new tools or simply sharing seeds (find our seed packets at all area libraries), stories and sunshine.

We love this community, and we’re here for it — season after season.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It will be a shame

Dear Editor,

It will really be a shame if that cell tower goes through. Telecommunications companies tell us that wireless radiation is completely safe, according to “The Science.” What they don’t tell us is that they pay for this “science” themselves — but almost all independently-funded studies do show a link with cancer and other diseases. If a study shows results that Big Tech doesn’t like, Big Tech’s spokespeople will downplay the results, as they did to the \$25 million, 14-year long study by the National Toxicology Program, in which exposed rats developed brain and heart tumors, cardiomyopathy (heart problems), and thyroid and prostate gland abnormalities. And, 5.5% of the rats developed cancer, but even more were precancerous and may have developed tumors, if they had been allowed to live out their natural lifespans, instead of being killed after two years. Telecommunications spokespeople have said that this study is “not relevant to humans” and “probably of no significance.” They say that these exposures are higher than a person actually gets in real life, but this is not necessarily true, as their SAR (specific absorption rate) studies are also manipulated in certain ways to ensure that exposure levels from cell phones comply with FCC limits. (They use a plastic mannequin head filled with saltwater to do these safety tests. See Wearenotsam.org for more information). Big Tech is like Big Tobacco (four out of every five doctors smoke Lucky Strikes!), but with more money, more power, and more sophisticated propaganda. All of the heads of the FCC in recent times have worked for telecommunications trade associations. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 says you cannot stop a cell tower due to health reasons, but what is less widely known is there are other ways you can stop them (ugly, reduction of property values, etc.), and you can stop them if there is not a significant gap in service. And, it is up to them to prove there is a gap. I hope that the Town of Nucla can stop this tower from happening, and I am glad to see how much public awareness there is now about this subject.

Julia Lupine
BEDROCK



The West End Hammers are ready to go to work to raise funds. Here, JD Johnson helps out. (Courtesy image)

Summer wrestling builds winter champions, stronger kids

Dear Editor,

In wrestling, there’s a saying: “summer wrestling makes winter champions.” For our local wrestlers, this couldn’t be more true. Off-season training isn’t just about staying in shape — it’s about building grit, setting goals, and learning the life lessons that only wrestling can teach.

This year, the West End Hammer wrestling club is taking their commitment to the next level. These dedicated student-athletes are training through the summer, with plans to attend camps and compete in tournaments across the region. Each team member has set personal goals for the upcoming season, and with your help, they’ll have the opportunity to pursue those dreams.

To support these efforts, the team is hosting a community dinner at the Nucla Community Center on April 24 at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to come enjoy a great meal, meet the athletes, and support a cause that’s building more than just strong wrestlers — it’s building strong individuals.

Everything done in wrestling teaches these young athletes about

real life. They’re learning about hard work, accountability, and perseverance — qualities that go far beyond the mat. Coaches Freddie Smith, Tryllen Richards, and Kobie Morris are proud to lead and support these wrestlers as they push themselves to grow both in the sport and in character.

Funds raised from the dinner will help cover travel, lodging, and camp fees. The team isn’t just asking for support — they’re offering to earn it. These athletes are ready and willing to work within the community to raise the funds they need. Whether it’s helping at local events, lending a hand to neighbors, or supporting community projects, they’re committed to putting in the effort — on and off the mat.

Those who have already committed to a summer of wrestling include Hunter and Emily Johnson, Gage Morris, JD Johnson, Oscar Cooper, and Slade Carver. Their dedication is a powerful example of what it means to take initiative, chase goals, and never settle.

So mark your calendars, bring your appetite, and join us at the Nucla Community Center on April 24. With your support, the West End Hammer athletes will have the chance to grow, compete, and return stronger — not just as wrestlers, but as champions in life.

Jessica Johnson and other
wrestling families
WEST END

Survey

Cont. from Pg. 1

people agree to go on record. The purpose of the survey is to get an idea of how divided or unified the people are, but to also see if the people who support a new school want to move it to the 18-acre parcel on the other side of town, or keep it where it is. The survey asks other questions too about why people might not want a new school — taxes? low enrollment? something else?

As of April 14, 50 people completed it. The survey asks about whether or not individuals support a new school, and then 64% say they do, though 20% say they don’t

and the rest are undecided.

Of those that would like to see a new school established, 50% want to see the whole school, elementary and upper grades, moved to the new location, the 18 acres. Nearly 24% want to see just the high school, the oldest and most problematic portion, torn down and rebuilt where it is. Roughly 13% want the high school torn down and moved to the 18 acres. About 13% want the whole thing torn down and rebuilt on the existing property.

Of those that don’t want a new school, 56% are worried about taxes. Some have made comments about low enrollment and a lack of teachers.

Some suggested that high school kids transfer out to Telluride or Nucla, since those districts have

nice school facilities and the ability to absorb Norwood students. The Forum acknowledges it might be hard for those who’ve grown up with Maverick pride and Norwood school history to not have a high school, or a school at all, on Wright’s Mesa.

Malisha Reed, principal for the upper grades in Norwood, said her personal preference is she’d like to see the high school torn down and moved.

“The school is the cornerstone of our community, and I believe our children and this community deserve nothing less than our very best,” she said.

The questionnaire remains open, and the Forum would like to get more responses. The more that respond, the more accurate the depiction of opinions will be.

OPINION

My why ...

By JANIE VANWINKLE

As we closed out National Agriculture Month in March, I was reminded I have been struggling all month to find something profound to say about the work we do.

As I was considering this further, I thought about a recent conversation I had with a fellow businessman in our community. He told me he would never understand why people in agriculture do what we do. He said the ROI (return on investment) just makes no sense to him. He asked a good question, “Why?”

I don’t have an answer. I have one in my heart, but it just doesn’t come out right.

Why would I leave the day-to-day work on VanWinkle Ranch and take a position to help build up ag producers in western Colorado with the AgriWest Initiative at the Business Incubator Center?

Why would my family agree to this when they really need my help at home?

Why does our family work 12 to 16 hours a day, every day, more than 360 days each year?

Why do we continue to advocate for the ag community, when it seems so much is stacked against food producers?

Why do we support all producers when many of them have a great deal of angst against some of what we stand for, because of our informed position on difficult issues?

Why do we care so much about the landscape, when others hate what we do?

Why do we spend days and nights, in good weather and bad, to ensure the best for our livestock, when many believe we don’t care?

Why does a “land ethic” matter to our family?

I can’t begin to answer these questions, but I know in my heart, soul and being ... what we are doing is right.

I frequently discuss with fellow producers the importance of the three-pronged approach

to sustainability. That approach includes environmental, social and economic considerations. Or, another way to put it is planet, people and profit. One factor cannot be more important than any other. As a producer — regardless of the commodity, regardless of the size of the business, regardless of the production method — it is imperative that we are sustainable.

I have a difficult time reconciling the business side of sustainability with my “why.” Again, I know in my heart it is right.

And ... I know if we don’t find a way to make it sustainable, including profitability, it cannot continue.

Our family focuses on caring for the land, stewarding the livestock and engaging our community. I know this is right for us.

A few years ago, a local reporter came to the ranch to do a story entitled, “Women on the ranch.” It was one of my very first TV interviews, and I was very nervous. I remember standing in our corral with cattle all around and she asked me, “Why?”

The first thing that came to my mind was my mom. Our mom was a woman who never asked why. She just did it. There was never a question as to why.

I heard this coming out of my mouth ... “If not me, then who?”

Who will do these things I believe to be so important?

Who will ensure the grocery stores have the raw materials to keep the shelves and display cases full?

Who will help provide habitat to many of the iconic species of wildlife we all love to see in western Colorado?

Who will steward the land, who will care for the livestock and who will carry this important message in our community?

These other questions might have no answer, but I believe they describe my “why.”

Why does our family work 12 to 16 hours a day, every day, more than 360 days each year?

Nucla town board

Cont. from Pg. 1

insurance coverage for bike events in the park, but Benson said his group could at least ride trails and end up at the park for the food and movie. Town Manager Melissa Lampshire is looking into insurance. Benson will put his events on the Nucla calendar.

“Thank you for doing that for our community,” Mayor Brown said.

Trustees approved an intergovernmental agreement with Montrose County for continued law enforcement services.

Later, Jamie O’Hern went before the board with concerns of a mulberry tree that was cut down on 3rd Avenue, which is an alley street that’s unpaved. She asked about the work and if a dog park were going in at the end of 3rd Avenue. Mayor Brown said trustees have never discussed a dog park in the boardroom.

“We have plenty on our plate without putting in a dog park,” Lampshire said.

O’Hern asked about the work in the alley and why it was being done. Trustees said the work is just regular town clean-up of rights-of-way and alleys and has been on the agenda. It’s not formally scheduled and depends on when Public Works can get to it.

Aimee Tooker suggested checking with the Apple Core Project before cutting any other trees down.

Trustees approved paying Williams Construction \$210,812.93 as the first payment request for the Main Street repairs. They also discussed the Zoom meeting policy, but that hasn’t been looked at by the town attorney. They’re also setting up an executive session to speak with the attorney about the cell tower issue.

The Nucla Community Clean Up

Day is May 10. For that, the town is trying to see if students through True North Program might want to earn service hours for helping elders clean up their properties. Additionally, trustee Penni Berry said she’d be assisting with a truck and trailer and will help any elders not able to get to a dumpster.

There’s a groundwater issue at 6th and Heron that the board is discussing. They could install a culvert to drain it. As many as 13 deer come to the spot to drink, and the excess water been ongoing for years.

Related to water, Dean Naslund said for 15 years on the east side of Lincoln there’s been an irrigation issue and the culvert is plugged. He said he’s altered the way it’s irrigated, but he’s done doing that. He said if it floods the hell out of everybody, that’s the way it’s going to be. He’s going to quit trying to help, if the town won’t do its due diligence.

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.

You can be someone’s hero too —go to donatelife.net and register today!

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**Join Us For a Town Hall
Listening Session**

With Montrose County Commissioner Sean Pond
In regards to the Uravan Black Bridge Removal

When: Saturday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m.
Where: Nucla Community Center
1045 Main St, Nucla, CO 81424



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Thank you for making this possible!

We sincerely appreciate each and every one of you.

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• Hoof & Paw Thrift Store	• Moore's Mining
• My Place	• Packrat Minnie Storage
• Rimrock Hotel	• San Miguel Power Association
• West End Family Link	• Coyote Septic Services



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



This image shows a suspect wolf up on 25 Mesa Road.
(Photo by Danielle Pond)

NUCLA
Pond family sees suspect wolf

Many livestock owners in western Colorado have been sweating since voters on the Front Range approved a ballot initiative in 2020 that made a plan to release wolves. In the last month or so, they’ve been really concerned since Colorado Parks and Wildlife has been releasing wolves in unspecified locations in rural Colorado and without communication. With calves hitting the ground, people on social media are doing their best to communicate where wolves might be. Daniel Pond over the weekend let people know via Facebook that her family saw what appears to be a wolf on 25 Mesa Road, in between Nucla and Delta. Pond estimated the suspect to be young, but approximately 100 pounds. She snapped photo at an estimated 400 yards away and gave the Forum permission to use her image.

NUCLA
SMPA 2025 board candidates declared

In 2025, San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) board seats up for election are District No. 5, covering part of San Miguel County, including Mountain Village and Ophir, and District No. 7, covering parts of Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan and San Miguel counties, including Ouray and Silverton. The date by which potential candidates were to have submitted 15 verified member signatures nominating them for candidacy was April 3. By that date, only the incumbent director in District No. 5, Rube Felicelli, had turned in a completed packet with enough verified signatures. In District No. 7, only one candidate,

Jake Kurzweil, had turned in a completed packet with enough verified signatures. In both districts, the sole candidates will be deemed elected per SMPA bylaws. No ballots will be sent to voters in 2025. Per requirement of SMPA bylaws, the nomination signatures of all candidates are available to view on the association website at smpa.com/content/elections. Any questions concerning the 2025 SMPA board elections may be emailed to alex@smpa.com.

WEST END
Family Link seeks new director, looks ahead

Doris VanNess told the Forum last week West End Family Link needs a new executive director. VanNess, the organization’s board chair, said the work is important in overseeing the food banks and other programming, like parenting classes, nutrition classes, budget planning more. She said the food bank is still open and accessible with expanded hours, 2 to 7 p.m on Tuesdays. She confirmed TJ Jones left one month ago, but since it’s a personnel issue, she cannot comment on the matter. She said now Family Link needs someone with a high school diploma, preferably a bachelor’s degree and with business experience. She said communication and technology skills are important, as is the ability to organize, plus having a Colorado drivers license.

“We are moving forward and things are going great,” VanNess said. “I think we do so much good. Things happen. Sometimes they are for the best.”

She added the board will take time to hire the new director. She said while they’ve tried to keep the position local, they very well might hire someone from out of town. The board plans to sort through applications and narrow to the best three for interviews.



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En un esfuerzo por asegurar que el Condado de Montrose continúe atendiendo sus necesidades de una manera adecuada, los invitamos a todos los residentes para participar en una encuesta y ofrecer comentarios acerca de la participacion comunitaria. Ayúdanos a mejorar cómo el Condado se conecta con usted y asegurarnos de que estamos respondiendo a las necesidades de la comunidad.



Take our Survey

We want your feedback



 SURVEY
Spanish



 SURVEY
English

www.montrosecounty.net/survey

In an effort to ensure Montrose County continues to address your needs in a matter important to you, we invite all residents to participate in a brief survey to provide feedback on Community Engagement. Help us improve how we connect with you to ensure we are meeting the community needs.



En Espanol

NUCLA

La junta municipal discute problemas de agua y más

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Charlene Stevenson se presentó ante los fideicomisarios de la ciudad de Nucla en el comentario público sobre preocupaciones acerca de las filtraciones con Mustang Water. Ella quiere que la junta no pierda tiempo en reparaciones o mantenimiento. Tenía un informe de filtración en mano y le dijo a la junta que hay subvenciones y préstamos disponibles del USDA y del estado.

La nueva alcaldesa Paula Brown presidió la reunión. Brown fue anteriormente alcaldesa pro t mpore y elegida por voto popular el 1 de abril para reemplazar al exalcalde Kirk Yerke cuando se retir  esta primavera.

En la reuni n de la semana pasada, los fideicomisarios aprobaron a Tim Pierce como alcalde pro t mpore.

Los fideicomisarios tambi n est n buscando llenar un asiento vacante de fideicomisario ahora. Las cartas de inter s deben entregarse antes del 21 de abril y las entrevistas para el asiento se llevar n a cabo la primera semana de mayo.

Brock Benson se present  ante la junta con ideas para la programaci n de verano. Su negocio Paradox Cycle ha patrocinado una noche de diversi n familiar en Naturita que incluye algo de ciclismo y luego comida con una pel cula al aire libre despu s. Trabaja en estrecha colaboraci n con Bri Bonacquist, de la escuela de Nucla. Le

En la reuni n de la semana pasada, los fideicomisarios aprobaron a Tim Pierce como alcalde pro t mpore.

gustar  trasladar los eventos de Naturita a Nucla este verano, ya que la unidad de almacenamiento para las bicicletas est  en Nucla propiamente dicha, y est  pensando en los mi rcoles, para no competir con el gymkhana.

Los fideicomisarios no estaban seguros sobre la cobertura de seguro para eventos de bicicletas en el parque, pero Benson dijo que su grupo podr a al menos andar por senderos y terminar en el parque para la comida y la pel cula. La gerente de la ciudad, Melissa Lampshire, est  investigando el seguro. Benson pondr  sus eventos en el calendario de Nucla.

“Gracias por hacer eso por nuestra comunidad,” dijo la alcaldesa Brown.

Los fideicomisarios aprobaron un acuerdo intergubernamental con el Condado de Montrose para continuar los servicios de aplicaci n de la ley.

M s tarde, Jamie O’Hern se present  ante la junta con preocupaciones sobre un  rbol de morera que fue cortado en la 3ra Avenida, que es una calle de callej n que no est  pavimentada. Pregunt  sobre el trabajo y si se iba a construir un parque para perros al final de la 3ra Avenida. La alcaldesa Brown dijo que los

fideicomisarios nunca han discutido un parque para perros en la sala de juntas.

“Tenemos suficiente en nuestra agenda sin poner un parque para perros,” dijo Lampshire.

O’Hern pregunt  sobre el trabajo en el callej n y por qu  se estaba haciendo. Los fideicomisarios dijeron que

el trabajo es solo una limpieza regular de la ciudad de los derechos de paso y callejones y ha estado en la agenda. No est  programado formalmente y depende de cu ndo Obras P blicas pueda hacerlo.

Aimee Tooker sugiri  consultar con el Proyecto Apple Core antes de cortar cualquier otro  rbol.

Los fideicomisarios aprobaron pagar a Williams Construction \$210,812.93 como la primera solicitud de pago para las reparaciones de Main Street. Tambi n discutieron la pol tica de reuniones de Zoom, pero eso no ha sido revisado por el abogado de la ciudad. Tambi n est n organizando una sesi n ejecutiva para hablar con el abogado sobre el problema de la torre de telefon a celular.

El D a de Limpieza Comunitaria de Nucla es el 10 de mayo. Para eso, la ciudad est  tratando de ver si los j venes a trav s del Programa de J venes True North podr an querer ganar horas de servicio por ayudar a los ancianos a limpiar sus propiedades. Adem s, la fideicomisaria Penni Berry dijo que estar  ayudando con un cam n y un remolque y ayudar  a cualquier anciano que no pueda llegar a un contenedor.

Hay un problema de agua subterr nea en la 6ta y Heron que la junta est  discutiendo. Podr an instalar un alcantarillado para drenarlo. Hasta 13 ciervos vienen al lugar a beber, y el exceso de agua ha estado ocurriendo durante a os.

Relacionado con el agua, Dean Naslund dijo que durante 15 a os en el lado este de Lincoln ha habido un problema de riego y el alcantarillado est  obstruido. Dijo que ha alterado la forma en que se riega, pero ha terminado de hacerlo. Dijo que si inunda a todos, as  ser . Va a dejar de intentar ayudar, si la ciudad no hace su debida diligencia.

EDUCACI N

La nueva escuela en Norwood es un tema complejo; los encuestados apoyan mayormente la idea

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

La escuela de Norwood no est  en buen estado, sin duda. El Foro ha visto de primera mano los problemas con filtraciones, moho, asbesto, junto con problemas de drenaje en el ba o cerca de la oficina, adem s de problemas pasados con la calefacci n y el aire acondicionado, la seguridad y m s. Algunos de esos problemas se han abordado parcialmente en los  ltimos a os, pero los involucrados con la comunidad escolar quieren algo mejor para sus hijos y para ellos mismos.

Los interesados intentaron obtener una subvenci n BEST con el estado en 2023, pero esa financiaci n no se concret . Aun as , muchos quisieran ver la nueva escuela convertirse en una realidad. La junta escolar de Norwood pidi  recientemente ayuda a San Miguel County para obtener financiaci n y intentar otra solicitud de subvenci n BEST, pero por varias razones diferentes, el condado neg  el apoyo financiero.

Ahora, muchos se preguntan qu  sigue para la Escuela P blica de Norwood. En este momento, solo hay siete estudiantes de  ltimo a o que se graduar n de Norwood este a o en la clase de 2025. Hay 13 estudiantes de  ltimo a o que se graduar n en 2026.

Y la escuela est  buscando maestros. El distrito necesita maestros de secundaria para ingl s, matem ticas, estudios

sociales, as  como un consejero escolar debido a la jubilaci n de Rick Williams. El distrito tambi n necesita un maestro de educaci n f sica de primaria, un maestro de quinto grado, varios paraprofesionales, conductores de autob s y m s.

El Foro ha creado un cuestionario en l nea para involucrar a la comunidad y obtener informaci n sobre las diferentes opiniones. Se pidi  a todos que dieran nombres para el cuestionario y que votaran solo una vez, pero el Foro mantiene las respuestas en confidencialidad, a menos que las personas acepten que se haga p blico. El prop sito de la encuesta es tener una idea de cu n dividida o unida est  la gente, pero tambi n ver si las personas que apoyan una nueva escuela quieren trasladarla a la parcela de 18 acres al otro lado de la ciudad, o mantenerla donde est . La encuesta tambi n hace otras preguntas sobre por qu  la gente podr a no querer una nueva escuela:  impuestos?  baja matr cula?  algo m s?

Hasta el 14 de abril, 50 personas lo completaron. La encuesta pregunta si los individuos apoyan o no una nueva escuela, y luego el 64% dice que s , aunque el 20% dice que no y el resto est  indeciso.

De aquellos que quisieran ver establecida una nueva escuela, el 50% quiere que toda la escuela, desde la primaria hasta los grados superiores, se traslade a la nueva ubicaci n, las 18 acres. Casi el 24% quiere que solo se demuela y recon-

struya la escuela secundaria, la parte m s antigua y problem tica, donde est . Aproximadamente el 13% quiere que la escuela secundaria se demuela y se traslade a las 18 acres. Alrededor del 13% quiere que todo se demuela y se reconstruya en la propiedad existente.

De aquellos que no quieren una nueva escuela, el 56% est  preocupado por los impuestos. Algunos han comentado sobre la baja matr cula y la falta de maestros.

Algunos sugirieron que los estudiantes de secundaria se transfieran a Telluride o Nucla, ya que esos distritos tienen buenas instalaciones escolares y la capacidad de absorber a los estudiantes de Norwood. El Foro reconoce que podr a ser dif cil para aquellos que han crecido con el orgullo de Maverick y la historia de la escuela de Norwood no tener una escuela secundaria, o una escuela en absoluto, en Wright’s Mesa.

Malisha Reed, directora de los grados superiores en Norwood, dijo que su preferencia personal es que le gustar  ver la escuela secundaria demolida y trasladada.

“La escuela es la piedra angular de nuestra comunidad, y creo que nuestros hijos y esta comunidad merecen nada menos que lo mejor de nosotros,” dijo.

El cuestionario sigue abierto, y el Foro quisiera obtener m s respuestas. Cuantos m s respondan, m s precisa ser  la representaci n de las opiniones.

En Espanol

NORWOOD

La junta municipal aprueba el estudio de drenaje, rociará malezas

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

La Junta de Fideicomisarios de Norwood se reunió el 9 de abril para su reunión mensual regular, que comenzó con informes de las partes interesadas. Daiva Chesonis, del Distrito de Parques y Recreación de Norwood (NPRD), le dijo a la junta que el evento Música en la Mesa se llevará a cabo nuevamente este verano y está en busca de donantes y patrocinadores. Los contratos de las bandas se firmarán muy pronto, y luego podrá anunciar a los artistas.

Liza Tanguay, fideicomisaria de la ciudad en la junta de NPRD, dijo que el pickleball ahora se ha trasladado al exterior para la temporada cálida.

Becky Hannigan, secretaria adjunta de la ciudad que sirve a la Cámara de Comercio de Norwood de Wright’s Mesa, recordó a todos sobre el baile de la cámara, “Una Noche de Elegancia”, que se llevará a cabo el 3 de mayo, que incluye premios comunitarios.

En la agenda había un punto para aprobar la renovación de la licencia de marihuana para Alpine Wellness, el negocio del fideicomisario Mike Grady, que la secretaria municipal Amanda Pierce dijo que ha permanecido en cumplimiento con las leyes. Sin embargo, Pierce dijo que había una paradoja en una cláusula del formulario de aprobación del negocio. Los negocios de marihuana son legales en Colorado, pero no a nivel federal. Para Norwood, existe una pregunta de impuestos federales en el formulario que crea un “catch 22.”

Grady se presentó ante la junta, recusándose como fideicomisario votante, con una solicitud de eliminar esa pregunta federal del formulario. El formulario fue tomado de Telluride y Naturita cuando la ciudad estaba estableciendo políticas de marihuana hace años. Grady dijo a los fideicomisarios que el lenguaje creaba consecuencias potenciales y era una trampa legal. Responder “sí” a la pregunta de impuestos federales hace que un negocio acepte un crimen que el negocio no cometió. Responder “no” crea malentendidos y puede ser utilizado en contra del negocio. Grady dijo que la pregunta federal no es necesaria para el cumplimiento legal y no hay justificación para mantenerla.

Los fideicomisarios acordaron eliminar la pregunta del formulario y aprobar su renovación de licencia.

El precio del baño portátil del Jardín Comunitario de Norwood se ha triplicado, después de que Coyote vendió su negocio a Bruin Waste. Ahora con un precio de \$130 mensuales por limpieza, la ciudad acordó pagar la mitad del servicio de limpieza de junio a octubre, y con un costo total de \$650, para la ciudad son \$325. La alcaldesa Candy Meehan dijo que es un servicio de salud pública. Pierce dijo que si la ciudad está contribuyendo, entonces el baño portátil debería permanecer desbloqueado y disponible para todos los residentes. Los fideicomisarios aprobaron la contribución.

La Directora Administrativa de la ciudad, Sara Owens, descubrió que el estudio de drenaje de \$300,000, ya pagado a través de financiamiento, había estado detenido, esperando la aprobación de la ciudad. SGM ha estado listo para hacer el estudio y solo necesitaba el visto bueno para proceder. Los fideicomisarios aprobaron el acuerdo para realizar el estudio.

Los fideicomisarios también aprobaron el acuerdo de servicio maestro con KLJ Engineering, una empresa con la que ya habían acordado trabajar en la última reunión de la junta. Los fideicomisarios tuvieron que aprobar el acuerdo de servicio maestro antes de comenzar cualquier otro trabajo en los servicios de planificación futura. Los fideicomisarios discutieron que ya están llegando solicitudes a la ciudad para divisiones de lotes, variaciones de estacionamiento y más.

Michael Donnellon, de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de San Miguel, dijo a los fideicomisarios que ha sido un mes lento, “nada loco”, y no han ocurrido crímenes contra personas, “lo cual es genial.” Dijo que los diputados han visto a algunos individuos intoxicados durante el día en la ciudad y los han puesto bajo custodia. Dijo que la intoxicación pública es un crimen municipal, no un crimen estatal, y los funcionarios de Norwood han discutido “eliminar eso.” La opinión de Donnellon es que la ley debería permanecer en vigor, ya que es un tema de calidad de vida. Dijo que se usa con moderación, y que en pueblos pequeños, hay familias y mamás con cochecitos en las calles. Dijo que tener personas

borrachas tropezando y creando caos interfiere con la calidad de vida. Aquellos que son detenidos se recuperan en la cárcel, bajo supervisión, y aparecen en el tribunal municipal después del incidente.

Donnellon dijo que hay una investigación activa en curso ahora, después de que los diputados atraparon a alguien viviendo en la zona escolar de Norwood con una gran cantidad de narcóticos. Está orgulloso de que los patrulleros descubrieron esto a través de “policía proactiva”.

El Director de Obras Públicas, Randy Harris, comenzará a rociar malezas nocivas utilizando un compuesto orgánico que es ecológico y seguro para las mascotas. Está en proceso de certificarse para otros herbicidas también.

Owens dijo que Shawny Darby dejará su trabajo como secretaria de facturación antes de lo esperado, y los funcionarios de la ciudad necesitan llenar esa vacante más pronto que tarde. Algunas solicitudes están llegando, y las entrevistas se llevarán a cabo esta semana. Mientras tanto, Owens y Pierce han estado adquiriendo las habilidades de Darby.

Se instalarán unidades solares en Cottonwood Creek Estates, y esas casas se trasladarán a un tipo de alquiler de “todas las facturas pagadas” en el futuro. Además, se instalará una estación de carga para vehículos en el Pocket Park.

Owens también inició una evaluación de mitigación de incendios a través del Consejo de Incendios Forestales de la Región Oeste, y presentó una subvención del Departamento de Asuntos Locales para la línea de agua redundante de la que los funcionarios de la ciudad han estado hablando durante los últimos años.

Pierce dijo que el Mercado de Agricultura y Artesanías de Norwood está programado para el Pocket Park, y el FRESH Food Hub tomará la delantera este verano. Los vendedores pueden vender arte, comida y más.

Y, Makayla Gordon, de la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico de West End, está ayudando a iniciar un Grupo de Soluciones de Wright’s Mesa, similar al Grupo de Soluciones de West End en Naturita y Nucla. Es una forma de que la comunidad se una para intercambiar ideas sobre cómo abordar los problemas.

AGRICULTURA

Investigación en curso por terneros desaparecidos

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Fue la semana pasada cuando el Washington Post y otras fuentes de noticias nacionales informaron sobre terneros desaparecidos en la zona local. En diciembre, el Forum informó que hasta 180 cabezas habían desaparecido el otoño pasado. Luego, varios rancheros de la zona y algunos inspectores de marcas dieron su opinión sobre el asunto.

En el último mes aproximadamente, ha circulado en línea algunas noticias sobre el robo de ganado, específicamente un operativo en Texas. Algunos se preguntaron si había una conexión con Colorado.

El 9 de abril, el Forum hizo un seguimiento con Todd Inglee, el Inspector de Marcas del Estado de Colorado. Inglee le dijo al Forum que la investigación local sobre los terneros desaparecidos sigue activa. Hasta la semana pasada, al menos 18 habían sido encontrados. De esos, 10 fueron confirmados — cinco de un rebaño y cinco de otro. Otros ocho también fueron localizados, pero eso no había sido confirmado con el estado.

Inglee dijo que los pocos terneros desaparecidos fueron descubiertos en un área donde habían estado pastando el otoño pasado.

En los últimos meses, Inglee ha recibido muchos consejos. Dijo que la gente en el West End le ha compartido una variedad de posibles escenarios. Las oficinas del sheriff del condado están involucradas y liderando las investigaciones en este momento.

El Forum preguntó sobre el operativo en Texas, e Inglee dijo que esa situación era diferente y no estaba relacionada con el oeste de Colorado. Conoce a algunos guardabosques especiales en Texas y habló con sus contactos allí. Dijo que hasta donde él sabe, los guardabosques de Texas aún no han hecho conexiones con Colorado.

“Desafortunadamente, hay muchos tratos como este ocurriendo en todo el país del ganado, ya sea un estado con ley de marcas o no,” dijo.

Colorado sí tiene una ley de marcas; otros estados como Oklahoma y Texas no.

“Se necesita un inspector de marcas/ganado con buen ojo para notar los animales desaparecidos y tomar acción,” agregó.

Inglee también dijo que este tipo de casos muestran el valor de las marcas de ganado.

“Los métodos permanentes de identificación (marcas) mantienen su valor y ayudan a asegurar que los animales

regresen a casa con sus legítimos dueños,” dijo.

Al mismo tiempo, las autoridades han dicho que deben considerar todas las posibilidades para los terneros desaparecidos, y eso incluye la depredación y enfermedades o dolencias.

El Forum habló con Monte Snyder, de Mex and Sons en Norwood, el 10 de abril. Snyder dijo que no sabía más que el inspector de marcas del estado. Hasta la semana pasada, Mex and Sons aún estaba buscando 26 terneros; ninguno de los 18 recuperados pertenece a la familia.

Snyder dijo que la oficina del sheriff está esperando a que la nieve se derrita, para que los investigadores puedan levantarse e ir a mirar alrededor. Dijo que descubrir qué hay bajo la capa de nieve podría ser revelador.

El precio de la carne de res es alto en este momento. El inspector de marcas Josh Sinks le dijo al Forum que es más alto de lo que ha sido nunca. Dijo que un ternero de 600 libras se vende entre \$3.70 y \$4 la libra, lo que hace que un ternero valga hasta \$2,400. Independientemente de lo que haya pasado con los terneros, las pérdidas se acumulan para los rancheros.

El Forum publica el precio de la carne de res del informe de mercado del Delta Sales Yard en su edición semanal.

Published in the San Miguel basin Forum April 16, 2025

OBITUARY

Arlene ‘Arlie’ May Salazar

April 4, 1931 — March 7, 2025



Arlene ‘Arlie’ May Salazar

Arlene ‘Arlie’ May Salazar, 93, of Grand Junction, passed away in her home on March 7. Arlene made her appearance in the world in Denver on April 4, 1931. She was adopted by Nina (Sage) and Joe C. Rice, of Nucla, when she became a Rice. They raised Arlene and her older brother Cecil on a farm on Second Park. Arlene graduated Nucla High School in 1949. Throughout her life she worked as a mother, accountant (at a bank in Telluride), bookkeeper (Tatum Drilling in

Placerville), farmer and rancher. Arlene lived in Nucla, Ophir, Telluride, Texas, Delta and Grand Junction. She lived through the Great Depression era, several major wars, the Dust Bowl days and many other significant times. She witnessed incredible change to this world in her near 94 years. A local story: She took care of the ranch at Fall Creek while tending to Ed Seevers in the summers. All the local kids liked to hang out there. They rode horses and had the run of the valley and mountains. It was a very popular spot for Impsons, Seevers and others in the area. Arlene once chased a “dog” out of the yard one dark night. The next morning Terry called her out to look at the bear tracks in the walkway. She enjoyed knitting, sewing, reading books, time with family, tending her many flowerers, time with her cats, dogs and

getting out in the great outdoors. Arlene is survived by her sons, Daniel (Inette) Duteil, of Grand Junction, and Lynn Duteil, of Montrose; her daughter, Andrea (Joe) Montonatti, of Montrose; and grandchildren, Nick, Autum, Heather, Jason, Amber, Allen, Jenifer, Jed, Shawn, Cody and Joel; many great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. Arlene was preceded in death by daughter, Marion Duteil, who passed at two months old; son, Terry Duteil; and husband, Jerry Salazar. Services will take place on April 26 at 11 a.m. at the Union Congregational Church in Nulca. Interment of ashes will take place at the Nucla-Naturita Cedar Ridge Cemetery immediately following the service. All are invited to share a meal at the Nucla Fire Hall following the interment.

West End Montrose County Sheriff’s Office Blotter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Road near Paradox for a medical assist. 1555 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla. 1809 Hours - Austin Sullivan, 29, was served with a warrant at the Montrose County Jail for second degree burglary, theft, and first degree criminal trespass. 2020 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of

Montana Way in Nucla for an animal problem. 1 school zone 1 directed patrol in Nucla 1 directed patrol in Naturita 4 civil processes attempted/served 3/12/2025

1229 Hours - Deputy took a civil matter report in the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla. 1325 Hours Deputy took an information report in the Redvale area. 1616 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for an information report. 1707 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for an information report. 1919 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35000 block of 3590 Road near Redvale for a medical assist. 2308 Hours - Ashley Steele, 22, was contacted at the intersection of Highway 97 and Adams Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding. 3 civil processes attempted/served 3/13/2025

0808 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a medical assist. 0852 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a citizen assist. 1022 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 12100 block of Highway 90 for an information report. 1154 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a medical assist. 1657 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist. 2 directed patrols in Nucla 2 directed patrols in County

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	3.95-4.50 High of 4.65	300-400# HEIFERS	3.70-4.25
400-500# STEERS	3.70-4.30	400-500# HEIFERS	3.60-4.05
500-600# STEERS	3.50-3.75	500-600# HEIFERS	3.10-3.50
600-700# STEERS	2.80-3.20	600-700# HEIFERS	2.75-2.95
700-800# STEERS	2.75-2.85	700-800# HEIFERS	2.50-2.70 High of 2.80
800-900# STEERS	2.50-2.70	800-900# HEIFERS	2.20-2.60
Top Bulls	1.60-1.86 Top 190	Medium Bulls	1.35-1.55
Cutting bulls	Up to \$2.15 per lb.	3-4 yr. open Cows	1.60-1.70
Young Cows	1.60-2.10	Top Cows	1.39-1.60
Medium Cows	1.15-1.30	Low-yielding Cows	1.00 Below

NEXT WEEK: Thursday, April 17th – Early consignment of 20 older pairs – Montrose, 25 feeders 500-600# - Olathe, 30 mixed feeders 800-900# - Olathe. Along with our usual dock run.

UP COMING SALES:

Next special Sheep & Goat Sale : April 24th

Saturday, May 10th – Alternative Sale: Early consignment 35 Highlander Catte, 2 Llamas, 2 Alpaca.

Next Special Horse Sale – June 7th We will start tack @ 9:00

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

- Full-Time Elementary P.E./Para
- High School English Teacher
- 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.

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED AD RATE:

Per-Week: \$12.95 for 25 words and 20¢ for each additional word.

ACCEPTING LETTERS OF INTENT

The Nucla Town Board of Trustees is accepting letters of intent to serve as a Trustee until the regular election of April 2026.

Trustees are required to attend every board meeting scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month beginning at 7 p.m. You must live in town limits and be a registered voter. Please submit your letter before the end of the Day on April 28, 2025. Interviews are scheduled for all candidates on May 6, 2025, beginning at 6 p.m.

HELP WANTED

UNCOMPAGHGRE MEDICAL CENTER

Join Our Team at Uncompahgre Medical Center! QA/QI Assistant

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).

Pay: \$20-\$23/hour Schedule: 10-hour shifts, 40 hours/week 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.

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>

FOR SALE EVAPORATIVE COOLER

Frigiking Evaporative Cooler, window mounted. Cools up to 160 sq. ft. Was used for 1-year (Purchased in 2024). \$500 (970) 864-7886

HELP WANTED

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teachers & Paraprofessional/Teacher Assistant Wanted

West End Public Schools RE-2 is seeking the following 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
- Preschool Special Education Paraprofessional/Early Childhood Assistant Teacher (Part-time)

See full job descriptions, salaries, benefits, and how to apply at www.westendschools.org/page/employment We are an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

WEST END FAMILY LINK CENTER

West End Family Link Center seeks executive director (ED).

Must be 18, have valid CO drivers license, plus computer and communication skills and work independently; degree and management experience preferred. ED works with board, serves as liaison with FRCA, works with grant writer, fundraises, supervises programming and food pantry, acts as spokesperson for the organization and more. To view full job description, visit westendflc.org. To apply, send resume and cover letter to dorisvanness@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

Fairmont HERITAGE PLACE 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.

Starting hourly wages: \$20/hr

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

APPLY HERE:

<https://bit.ly/FairmontFKLApply>



YOUTH

The 2025 Nucla High School Prom



Tennessee Richardson and Kyra Redd celebrate the evening and the “Tangled” prom theme.



Sydney Tomlinson, Maggie Andrews, Lantry Galley and Viviana Zunich share a moment.



Students danced the night away. (Photos by Ashley Tomlinson)

Mustang track



Cadence Shaw sets a personal record in the long jump.



Austin Garvey completes the high jump.



Sydney Tomlinson gets ready for the 800-meter run. (Photos by Sara Bray)