

San Miguel Basin Forum

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Track team sets state goals, appreciates additional coaches

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Nucla Elementary School Principal Sara Bray, who is also the head high school track coach, told the Forum there are many returning athletes on the track team this year, but also some new ones too. Official practice started Feb. 24, but the majority of the team didn't join until after regional basketball was over on March 8. Competing are Destiny Bilazzo, Amber Bockrath, Ayva Davis, Brenna Morlang, Charlie Mull, Cadence Shaw, Kieley Shepardson, Jacque Tapia, Sydney Tomlinson, Jocelyn Vose, Viviana Zunich, Cole Bray, Uriah Cook, Jacob Davis, Austin Garvey, Drake Long, Josh Platt, Brycen Rummel, Daniel Zunich, Owen Tackett, Bryce Trosper and Josh Turner.

"I definitely notice that as our middle school program grows under Ms. (Megan) Urban's coaching, our high school program grows as well," Bray told the Forum over the weekend.

Again, Norwood and Nucla are combined for track season, and this is the fourth year of doing so.

The Mustangs are thriving in many events. Bray said Drake Long and Austin Garvey are excelling at high jump; Cadence Shaw is doing well with the mile and the two-mile races. Kieley Shepardson is trying long jump for the first time "and continues to get better and better." Bray said the girls' 4x8 relay team is currently qualified for the state track meet — that's Kieley Shepardson, Sydney Tomlinson, Amber Bockrath and Cadence Shaw.

And, many are setting personal records (PRs).

"These athletes seem to improve almost every week in so many things," Bray said. "Cadence had a huge PR in both the mile and two-mile recently. She is currently qualified for state in the mile, the two-mile and the 4x8 relay. Drake and Austin are qualified in high jump as well."

Student athletes are traveling all over the Western Slope for track meets.

"Seeing as how our closest track is two hours away, we spend a lot of early mornings and late evenings traveling on a bus to and from our meets," Bray said.

The season ends at the state championship track meet in Lakewood the weekend of May 15-17. That means there is still time to reach set goals.

Cont. on Pg. 4



In keeping with tradition, Easter in Uravan was celebrated April 20. (Photo by Gavin McGough)

EVENTS

Easter Service held in Uravan honors tradition

By GAVIN MCGOUGH,
Forum Contributor

Easter Sunday in Uravan looked quite a bit like anywhere else. Birds were out at the ballpark campground, which was once the center of the community. Under a pavilion, a brief service was held in the chilly mid-morning air. A potluck was laid out by midday, the tables loaded with deviled eggs and pudding pies, mayo salads and fried

chicken. After that, plastic eggs were strewn across the scrubby lawn, and a hunt began.

Despite the familiarity of those traditions, shared by many across the country on Easter, Sunday's service in Uravan had a special resonance for many in attendance. The Easter gathering had roots in Uravan's heyday more than half a century ago, before the community was forced to vacate by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which declared the area a Superfund site and oversaw the

town's demolition.

In an interview before the Apr. 20 holiday, president of the Rimrocker Historical Society Jane Thompson recalled the Uravan Easter tradition. Town residents would head about four miles south of the community to a site overlooking the confluence of the San Miguel and Dolores rivers. There, said Thompson, "was a place where the church people went to have their Easter sunrise services."

It was a simple setup. Thompson

Cont. on Pg. 4

BUSINESS

Grace Harris runs small specialty western tack business

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Grace Harris, of Norwood and just 18 years old, is a senior in high school who's already begun an artisan tack business, specifically making cinches from mohair. Many in the West End know what a cinch is. For this that don't, it's the girth that you tighten and fasten underneath a western saddle. A lot of cinches these days are made of synthetic material, like neoprene, and they're sold by big companies, like Classic Equine. Yet, a lot of people tend to like the natural fiber cinches, made out of mohair. Made from Angora goat

hair, mohair is quite comfortable for the horse and washes well.

Harris, the daughter of Lacey and Randy Harris, had seen some people making their own cinches and had shared with her family she'd like try it. Her mother told her that if she wrote up a business plan, set some goals and knew clearly what she would do with the cinches, she would indeed support her with some supplies to start, like the weaving frame and the mohair.

Harris followed through, and with her family's backing, this year she began the work of stringing the fiber and braiding it with the D-rings and buckles. She told

the Forum it's been really fun and she enjoys it, though she did experience a learning curve in the beginning. Each cinch takes four to six hours to make. She agreed it's teaching her patience and attention to detail.

She's making different color patterns: browns, with tans and orange, but she can do different varieties, based on the mohair she finds. She can take custom orders, and in fact, she recently made two cinches for a local who ropes. The customer showed Harris his old, broken cinches, explained what he needed, and he sent her the custom buckles for it.

Cont. on Pg. 6

FIRE

NNFD responds to Payson St. fire

By JEFF STEPHENS,
Nucla-Naturita Fire Department

At approximately 7:45 p.m. on April 17, WestCo dispatch received a 911 call regarding a fire. That call originated from the residence at 119 Payson St. in Naturita, and the reporting party stated that smoke was visible and coming out of the roof at the residence next door.

WestCo dispatch immediately dispatched the Nucla-Naturita Fire Department (NNFD) to respond to that structure fire, and the Montrose County Sheriff's Office was also notified and sent deputies.

Montrose County arrived on scene within a few minutes, also reporting visible smoke, which was coming from under the roof of a mobile home, located next door to the reporting residence. One firefighter arrived on scene at 125 Payson St., confirming with NNFD that the structure was partially involved in fire, affecting the east and north side of the structure and with heavy smoke production under the roof.

First-responders reported that the occupant of the structure had safely evacuated, claiming no injury or illness related to the fire. At the same time, neighbors in the area were actively engaging the outside of the residence with garden hoses, in order to keep the fire from spreading outside the property.

San Miguel Power Association responded to the scene too, rendering the electric supply safe. Black Hills Energy responded as well, disconnecting the natural gas supply to the residence.

NNFD responded to the Payson Street fire with an engine from the Naturita Fire Station, and a second engine from the Nucla Fire Station, while contacting the resident from the structure to ensure that it was unoccupied, before beginning fire suppression on the residence.

Additional volunteer firefighters arrived on scene, making for a total of 10 volunteer firefighters working to extinguish the fire. Three firefighters donned protective breathing apparatus (SCBA) and made entry into the residence, finding no occupants.

The fire was found to involve approximately one-third of the structure, at the north and east side of the building, but fire had spread into the roof. Access to the fire was obtained by removal of ceiling material internally. External access required ventilation of the roof and removal of some roofing materials, as well as a small section of an exterior wall.

Cont. on Pg. 7

ENVIRONMENT

White top takeover: What to do about hoary cress on the mesa

By ANNIKA KRISTIANSEN

If you live anywhere on the high desert mesa around Norwood, chances are you’ve had a run-in with hoary cress — aka white top — that sneaky little invader with innocent-looking white flowers and a not-so-innocent reputation. It’s in your pastures, your roadsides, your hayfields — and it’s probably flipping you the bird while spreading underground.

Let’s get to the root (literally) of the problem.

What is white top, anyway?

White top (*Lepidium draba*) is a deep-rooted, rhizomatous perennial in the mustard family. It’s originally from Eurasia, but like many of our worst weeds, it hitched a ride here and now thrives in disturbed soil across the West. It’s especially fond of our semi-arid high desert climate, where its deep roots help it outcompete natives and desirable forage grasses.

And it doesn’t just outcompete — it actively suppresses. Hoary cress is allelopathic, meaning it releases chemicals that prevent other seeds from germinating nearby. Think of it as the “mean girl” of the weed world.

What the experts say

According to Colorado State University Natural Resource Specialist Robin Young, grazing can play a role in controlling hoary cress, but with some serious caveats: “Cows can get sick from this plant if they eat too much,” she said. “They have glucosinolates that can be harmful in large quantities. Sheep — and more so, goats — can digest mustards better due to a faster digestive transit time. If you’re going to target graze white top, like all weeds, it’s more palatable in the early growing season.”

Robin also emphasizes that hoary cress is rhizomatous and really hard to control using grazing methods alone. In her words: “It can be integrated into a management plan, but my suggestion would be to nuke it first (although it can be resistant to herbicides), using Telar, Escort, or Tordon (not an endorsement). Then wait to see what the efficacy is after a growing season, and use livestock — preferably

goats — to graze what might come back. Grazing (and mowing) will not be as effective as using herbicide because of its extensive and aggressive root system.”

Oh, and if you’re thinking of seeding over the top of a strong hoary cress stand? Think again.

“Hoary cress is allelopathic,” Robin adds, “so if anyone is thinking about overseeding while the hoary cress is still going strong, they’ll be wasting their money. It’s best to seed once the population is knocked down.”

A locally-tailored strategy

Here on the mesa, where disturbed soil, ditch lines and overgrazed pastures are common, white top finds plenty of room to stretch its rhizomes. Based on Robin’s guidance and current best practices, here’s a solid integrated management plan:

- Start with herbicide – Use products like Telar XP, Escort or Tordon (follow all label directions and local restrictions).
- Wait and reassess – Evaluate the plant’s regrowth after one full season.
- Bring in the goats – Graze regrowth before flowering to reduce seed formation.
- Then overseed – Once hoary cress is weakened, establish competitive perennial grasses to reclaim ground.

Bottom line

No silver bullet exists, but combining herbicide with strategic grazing and well-timed reseeding can chip away at white top’s stronghold. And if nothing else, this could be your excuse to start that goat herd you’ve been dreaming of.

Sources for this column, which are available for the public’s viewing, were taken from the Colorado Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed List, <https://ag.colorado.gov>; Montana State University – White-top Management: Guide, https://www.montana.edu/extension/invasiveplants/documents/publications/extension_publications/whitetop.pdf; and the CSU Natural Resource Specialist Robin Young (via personal communication, 2025).

History: Rimrocker Historical Society

The Fifth Street Bridge on the San Miguel River

By JANE THOMPSON, Rimrocker Historical Society



This photo shows the 5th Street Bridge over the San Miguel River in Uravan.
(Photo courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

In the Sept. 6, 2022 issue of the San Miguel Basin Forum, I wrote an article about the Fifth Street Bridge, which is across the San Miguel River, just outside of Uravan. Since there has been some discussion about saving the bridge, I thought I would share the article again for folks to have as a reference. The Rimrockers do not have any opinion on whether the bridge should be saved or not; we just offer this information, in case you missed the article back in 2022.

I found this information in some of Marie Templeton’s files. Marie had been in contact with Frederick Rutz, of Broomfield, Colo., a structural engineer, 21 years ago, and he sent her his report that he had researched to have the bridge registered on the National Register of Historic Places. I can’t find that it was ever registered. In 2001 Mr. Rutz stated, “that as far as he could tell, this is the second-oldest bridge remaining in the state.”

Mr. Rutz calls the bridge the San Miguel Bridge, “located over the San Miguel River, approximately 2.0 miles northwest of Uravan in Montrose County, Colorado. The bridge survives as an intact and clearly visible structure along the route of State Highway 141. The superstructure is a classic, pin-connected Pratt through-truss.

The site is on the San Miguel River, approximately 2.5 miles upstream, (east) of its junction with the Dolores River. The bridge, which is now closed, is on an abandoned county road approximately 600 feet long, which formerly connected State Highway 141 with County Road 110. A boulder has been placed at each approach, blocking vehicular access to the bridge.

The San Miguel Bridge is the sole-surviving span of the former Fifth Street Bridge, built in 1886 over the Grand (later renamed the

Colorado) River in Grand Junction. That bridge consisted of five such spans with a timber deck on timber stringers. The Fifth Street Bridge was the first major bridge project undertaken by the Colorado State Engineer’s Office. It was designed by State Engineer E.S. Nettleson and fabricated by the Phoenix Bridge Co., of Phoenixville, PA, using wrought iron members manufactured by its parent company, the Phoenix Iron Co. It served first as a wagon bridge, and then as a vehicular bridge through the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Fifth Street Bridge was dismantled upon completion of a replacement steel through-truss bridge in 1933. One of the spans (probably one of the three center spans) was moved to the Uravan location and reassembled in 1938.

While the pin-connected Pratt through-truss superstructure is virtually intact in its 1886 form, other bridge features have undergone alteration. The original timber stringers and deck were replaced with new timber when the bridge was moved in 1938. Those timbers were replaced in 1964 with the current steel stringers and half-culvert with gravel overlay deck. A few of the half-culvert sections at the south end have deteriorated, and have been replaced with solid heavy timber. Virtually all of the original paint has weathered away. The weathering of the paint is attributed to both the painting practices of the 19th century and the sunny, dry climate, which is also credited with permitting only light-to-medium rust. Further, the use of wrought iron has probably contributed to minimizing the rusting, as wrought iron rusts at a lesser rate than steel. The San Miguel Bridge is a rare surviving example of wrought iron bridge construction.

The Fifth Street Bridge con-

nected Grand Junction with lands south of the Grand (now Colorado) River. The Orchard Mesa area, site of orchards, received early benefit. Access from Grand Junction to Orchard Mesa was limited to those able to afford private ferries. Safety was also greatly improved, as a number of deaths had resulted from the ferry crossings.

The bridge consisted of five identical spans, creating an overall length of 740 feet. The roadway width was 14 feet. The two abutments and four piers were of stone masonry. The state appropriated \$25,000, and Mesa County contributed \$15,000 for a budget of \$40,000. In his report to the governor, State Engineer Nettleton summarized the total construction cost at \$44,930.96, acknowledging a cost overrun.

Following the completion of construction on Dec. 21, 1886, the bridge was load tested. The report describes the test as consisting of 100 men, 24 horses, eight wagons and one load of stone, totaling 51,000 pounds. With a measured deflection of one-third inch, the bridge was found to be satisfactory, and subsequently opened for public use. Nettleton called the workmanship ‘not only excellently good, but almost perfect.’

Upon relocation to the San Miguel River location, it served uranium and vanadium mining and milling operations of the U.S. Vanadium Corporation’s Joe Jr. Mill at Uravan, a company town. Between 1936 and its closure in 1984, the plant milled 42 million pounds of uranium and 220 million pounds of vanadium. The bridge served these operations as the connection between the town and mill, and State Highway 141.”

This report by Mr. Rutz is the only information that I have ever found in our archives about this bridge.

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EVENTS

Montrose Regional Health hosts Boot Stomp June 6

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Montrose Regional Health Foundation invites the community to “stomp on cancer” at the annual Boot Stomp event to benefit patients at the San Juan Cancer Center (SJCC). Organizers said they are thrilled to announce that their signature event, Boot Stomp Montrose, will be returning this year.

The fundraising event will take place Friday, June 6, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Storm King Mountain Ranch. It will be catered by The Stone House, with music by Narrow Gauge County. A live auction and gift card raffle will also be part of the festivities.

Attendees are invited to wear cowboy casual dress and celebrate Gold Star Care with the event colors, gold and black: “Think ‘Man in Black’ Johnny Cash, or glitzy Dolly Parton,” organizers said.

“I don’t know anyone who

has not had a family member or friend face cancer,” said Terri Leben, Boot Stomp event chair. “Our community is blessed to have the San Juan Cancer Center here to care for our family and friends. Come enjoy the fun, and, in turn, make a difference to those facing cancer.”

The event has raised more than \$250,000 for patients at the San Juan Cancer Center at Montrose Regional Health. The goal for this year’s event is to raise \$75,000 to contribute to the cost of bringing new and updated medical equipment for cancer patients. The impacts of cancer are life-changing for those who are diagnosed with cancer and their family members. The San Juan Cancer Center at Montrose Regional Health opened its doors on April 3, 2006, providing complete cancer care close to home to local communities.

Organizers said Storm King Mountain Ranch is a beautiful

venue for the event, located at 70777 Buckhorn Road in Montrose. A limited number of individual tickets will be available for \$100 as of April 1 and may be purchased online at www.bootstompmontrose.com.

Montrose Regional Health and the San Juan Healthcare Foundation have developed a new partnership to form the new Montrose Regional Health Foundation. This combined foundation continues the mission of supporting the healthcare needs of the Montrose community and surrounding regions, enhancing healthcare access, services and initiatives. This newly formed foundation will continue to improve healthcare in the region, another way Montrose Regional Health is caring for you like family. To learn more about the MRH Foundation, call Executive Director, Kelly Anderson, at 970-240-7396.

DARK SKIES

It’s International Dark Sky Week

By KATE FEDACK
and BOB GROSSMAN,
Western Slope Dark Sky Coalition

For thousands of years, humans have gazed upward in wonder at the vast cosmic canvas above. That view is disappearing though.

Excessive light at night is recent, starting around 1960. As people moved into cities from rural areas, light pollution increased and exploded in the 1980s with the introduction of LEDs. Scientists, using satellite observations, estimate that more than 80% of the world’s population now lives under light-polluted skies, with one-third of humanity unable to see the Milky Way from their homes.

Here in the San Miguel Basin, we can see the Milky Way before the colors of sunset fade to darkness. It is a precious resource Dark Sky advocates do not want to lose.

International Dark Sky Week, sponsored by the global organization Dark Sky International, based in Tucson, is observed annually between April 21 to 27, the week of the new moon. It’s to make folks aware that excessive light at night affects more than astronomers and stargazers; it affects every living thing on the planet.

“When we flood the night with artificial light, we disrupt the natural rhythms of life on Earth that have evolved for billions of years,” representatives said. “Sea turtles become disoriented when hatching, disoriented birds crash into illuminated buildings by the thousands or are led off course in migration, and nocturnal wildlife activity is disrupted. Insects go to artificial light instead of crops and flowers, reducing pollination.”

Humans are also affected, Dark Sky advocates said.

“Our bodies require darkness for the pineal gland to produce melatonin, the hormone that regulates our circadian rhythm,” they said. “Disrupting this process not only affects sleep but can contribute to disorders of body temperature regulation, cortisol secretion, glucose metabolism and immune function contributing to many diseases.”

Still, Dark Sky advocates said there is good news. Light pollution is one of the easiest environmental problems to solve. Unlike many environmental challenges, the solution is easy, inexpensive, and works. It is called “smart lighting.”

Experts say to use lights when and where needed. Motion sensors and timers can help. Secondly, using warm-colored bulbs is ideal. People should look for

LEDs with a color temperature of 2,700 to 3,000K. It is easier on the eyes, making seeing more effective. Third, there’s the shielding of outdoor lights, so they point downward where light is wanted, not sideways (light trespass) or upward (wasted energy).

And finally, talking to neighbors, as well as local officials, is a good thing. They should know about responsible lighting in local communities.

During International Dark Sky Week, communities worldwide are hosting star parties, educational programs and “lights-out” events. All are invited to visit www.darksky.org and www.darkskycolorado.org for more information.

“When we reduce excessive light, we’re not just preserving a view, we’re honoring our connection to the cosmos and protecting the delicate balance of life on Earth,” Dark Sky advocates said.

All are invited to support the mission of the Western Slope Dark Sky Coalition and preserve the precious West End night sky for generations to come.

The Western Slope Dark Sky Coalition will have a small event at the Norwood Pocket Park on April 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Treats, brochures and cling-on stickers will be on site. Dave Muller’s astrophotos will be available for a listed donation.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Overturned apple-carts

Dear Editor,

Thanks for printing Montrose County Commissioner Sean Pond’s Dispatch from District 3: “You Don’t Get to Tell My Story.” It’s always good for constituents to hear from our elected (and appointed) officials.

Speeding ticket warrant and hunting license complaint notwithstanding, Commissioner Pond sounds like a better activist than business person. But I was surprised he appears to have

such scant respect for his colleagues in state elective office, and I couldn’t help but noticing the spottiness of his chronologies letting facts the size of crawdads slip though his story net.

In electing a partisan activist to office, I suppose we have to expect some overturned apple-carts. Or, in one having been appointed.

*Art Goodtimes, former District 3 San Miguel County Commissioner
NORWOOD*

DISPATCHES FROM DISTRICT 3

Exactly what I’m doing

By SEAN M. POND, *Montrose County Commissioner*

There’s something happening in Montrose County, and it’s time the public sees it for what it really is.

Since the day I took my oath of office, I’ve stood firm on one promise: to defend the Constitution and protect the rights of the people I serve. That includes the Second Amendment, private property rights, parental rights, and the rural values that built this country. I didn’t swear allegiance to a political party. I swore allegiance to the people, and I take that seriously.

That’s why I wrote a letter to President Trump asking for help pushing back against unconstitutional overreach from Denver. I submitted that letter to the board of county commissioners, and it passed with a 2-1 vote. One commissioner refused to support it. That vote says a lot.

And ever since, the political attacks have only escalated.

Watch who’s showing up to meetings. Look who’s booing, shouting, packing the room, and flooding the microphones. At the last meeting, they brought about 80 people. Montrose County has over 44,000 residents. It’s the same coordinated crowd, meeting after meeting. Loud, organized, retired, and available to dominate the optics. But they’re not the majority. They’re just the loudest.

They’re also sending emails during their organized campaigns, which become part of the public record. If you support conservative values, local control, and constitutional rights, your voice deserves to be heard too. Speak up. Email us. Don’t let a small group pretend they speak for everyone.

This isn’t a grassroots uprising. It’s a strategic political operation to push a progressive agenda through pressure, disruption, and misinformation. It’s not about better policy. It’s about control.

Fewer voices, less resistance, and no one standing in the way.

And that’s exactly what I’m doing.

They’re not coming after me because I’m the problem. They’re coming after me because I’m the one in the way. What they’re really after is you, your values, your rights, and full control of this county. If they flip the Western Slope, the Rocky Mountain Heist is complete.

I didn’t throw my name in the hat for this appointment because I wanted power or influence. I don’t like politics. I don’t like the games or the bureaucracy. I’ve never trusted government, and I still don’t. I stepped into this because every time I turned around, our freedoms and liberties were under attack, coming from Denver, the Front Range, the progressive agenda, and federal land grabs. I was tired of watching it happen. And like many of you, I’d had enough.

One local columnist, who has never spoken to me, never shaken my hand, and never asked a single question, continues to write as if he knows who I am. That’s not journalism. That’s just personal opinion, and it should be treated as such.

If you’ve felt like your voice doesn’t matter anymore, or like your values are being trampled, you’re not alone. This isn’t just about me. This is about what kind of county we leave behind for our kids and grandkids.

To the silent majority, you still matter. Don’t stay quiet. Don’t sit this one out. I’m standing exactly where I said I would be: with you and for you. Show up. Speak out. Help hold the line. Because once we lose local control, we don’t get it back.

Wishing you all a joyful and blessed Easter. May we find strength in our faith and in standing for what’s right, no matter the cost.



Having a group discussion

Shelley Fourney, of Intentional Steps, helps lead a discussion on the Mel Robbins book “Let Them.” About 25 people attended the event at Lone Cone Library in Norwood, and Fourney hopes to have similar sessions in the future. (Courtesy image)

Track team

Cont. from Pg. 1

“The 4x8 team, including one new member, is trying to return to the state championships,” Bray said. “Overall, we were very excited to have (seven) boys from the baseball team join track, and that made it possible for some boy relay teams as well. We have continued to grow in numbers and that helps bring both healthy competition to the team, as well as more event opportunities.”

Bray is assisted this year by two new assistants. Rachel McNeil,

Colt Care’s new infant teacher, is the throwing coach, bringing her experience as a former college-level thrower. Keoni Souza, Nucla’s new kindergarten teacher, brought new life to the high jump team with his previous experience, as well as helping start a triple-jumping program for the first time.

Bray said she’s grateful for her time in the track program and the way it’s evolving.

“As I head into my fifth year of coaching high school track, I have the pleasure of working with students from their freshman year to

their senior year,” she said. “I absolutely love watching the growth of these athletes, and it’s always amazing to see their passion, work ethic and success grow as they mature on the track. I am also extremely grateful to have Coach Rachel and Coach Keoni’s help this year. For the last four years, I’ve done my best to coach all events, which sometimes meant learning how to even coach an event. The experience and expertise Rachel and Keoni bring has been a wonderful blessing to me and, most importantly, our athletes.”

Easter Service

Cont. from Pg. 1

said there were some tables, but no chairs, and someone had set up three crosses on a nearby ridge. At sunrise, residents would gather for a service, followed by a potluck brunch.

The tradition continued for years, Thompson said.

“The kids would run all over the place, and it was just a big event that always went along with Easter,” she recalled. Growing up, Thompson attended a different church with her family, which held its own services, but the site was familiar. Year-round, she frequented the spot below the crosses to picnic and play with other neighborhood kids.

The tradition ended as the town was vacated in the 1980s. But roughly a decade ago, the Reeves family, formerly of Uravan and now of Grand Junction, began visiting the rehabilitated ballpark and soon had the idea to rekindle the Easter tradition.

So, according to Thompson, nine years ago “the son [Gary Reeves], made three crosses and hung them [at the former site].”

Then, a group of former Uravan residents “trekked out there.”

“Some were getting older,” Thompson said, “but we all made it, and they were pretty happy to be there. Then we did that for about three years.”

Eventually, to accommodate growing interest in the event, the organizers decided to move the service to the ballpark. Multiple congregations from around the West End have now joined the tradition, gathering with the former Uravan residents to honor the holiday.

Gary Reeves was in attendance at the service last Sunday, as he has been for nearly every Easter in the past decade. Recalling the sunrise services of his childhood — the cold wind coming off the river and the treacherous hike out to the site in the morning darkness — Reeves joked, “we’d still do it out there, if we weren’t so old and crotchety.”

Roughly 90 people were in attendance at the ballpark this year. As usual, they gathered for song, food and prayer. Three crosses are put up each year for the occasion below the highway, and taken down after the service is complete. Each year, a different pastor from the local community comes forward to offer some words.

This year, Dan Williams of the New Hope Church in Naturita detailed his relationship with God, and his triumph over an illness, which brought him close to death roughly two years ago. Addressing the crowd during his casual remarks, Williams said, “Maybe you’ve lost hope, lost a loved one, lost a friend. Maybe the dream you’ve had hasn’t come to be ... Then the story of Resurrection Sunday is for you.”

As is tradition, the lunch that followed featured an extravagant array of salads and baked beans, fried chicken, set out in aluminum pans, and nearly two tables filled with potluck desserts.

According to Thompson, the tradition is, at heart, “another opportunity for people to visit.” The former Uravan residents, such as Reeves and herself, “just want to sit there and soak up those memories that we have from growing up there.”

Thompson added there are new families joining in as well, “and they’re making new memories.”

“That gives me great encouragement,” she said. In this way, the memories and the community “will carry through into the future.”



The chamber thanks Williams Construction for the town's Main Street upgrades. (Courtesy image)

CHAMBER NEWS

NNACC thanks Williams Construction

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The Nucla-Naturita Area Chamber of Commerce spotlights Williams Construction this month. Founded in 1987, Williams Construction has been providing general contracting services, covering a large area between Paradox and Telluride for nearly 40 years. A family-owned company, they offer general contracting construction management, design build services, aggregate, concrete products and equipment rentals. Their services include concrete pour for any size project; highway and road concrete or asphalt; trucking, including aggregate delivery and removal of material from job sites; excavation and earthmoving; and utility work. Williams Construction also sells a variety of aggregate material for delivery or pickup.

Williams Construction is also experienced in highway stabilization projects. Last December, they worked with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to complete a wall replacement project on Highway 145, and in February they completed a stabilization project on Highway 133 in Paonia. Rockslides and mudslides are frequent on the Western Slope, and Williams Construction responds quickly to events that require clearance of rock and debris from roadways.

Representatives of Williams Construction said they're proud of all their projects and crews that are dedicated to the Williams Construction team. Some of the project highlights for 2024 include installation of some very large irrigation pipe systems, including a 42-inch concrete irrigation pipe across Highway 92 to improve irrigation flow outside of Hotchkiss, installation of 2,000 feet of fused 30-inch HDPE irrigation line in Montrose — both of these were completed in two weeks — and burial of line

across the 30-acre job site at the future home of the Montrose Public Works.

Williams Construction has several CDOT projects on its schedule for the upcoming year. Williams Construction can be spotted working with Crossfire Concrete on the CDOT project, just outside of Hotchkiss completing all the pipeline work, and they are currently in Nucla completing the revitalization work on Main Street.

The crew has completed the first of 10 sidewalk sections, starting at the top of Main Street, with demolition of the old sidewalks already started between 4th and 5th avenues on Main. Williams Construction will be completing the large reconstruction project on Kane Creek Road in Moab, as well as the very large dirt work project in Montrose for the new Public Works facility. The project includes more than 150,000 tons of imported fill.

Although Williams Construction is known for larger projects, they are available for smaller jobs, including pickup and delivery of aggregate materials for small residential projects. They will deliver anywhere from Paradox to Telluride and from Ridgway to Miramonte Reservoir. They invite customers to contact them with any questions regarding materials available and to request a quote.

Williams Construction is one of the largest employers in southwest Colorado and is always seeking applicants for CDL drivers, veteran operators and young enthusiastic people interested in learning the trade. Spring and summer months are the busiest and best times for those interested in applying.

The public can best reach Williams Construction by calling their office number (970-327-4218) or by reaching out via their social media pages. They are Williams Construction Contractors on Facebook and Instagram.

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 Decem-

ber, 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

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!

And to keep yourself healthy, call now to schedule your appointment at Basin Clinic in Naturita Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, FNP
April Randle, MD

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Grace Harris

Cont. from Pg. 1

At the same time, she's also experimented with making breast collars too, along with purse straps, halters and nosebands for horses.

She's not really created a business page online; she's only promoted her work on her personal page. She agreed that for the time being, her business is mostly going to be word-of-mouth and through local people who know about what she's doing. Though, in the future, she'd like to have a business page online, and to be a vendor at rodeos in western Colorado.

She said yes, her family is proud of what she's done so far. They go back six generations ranching in the local area, specifically Redvale. Harris has grown up with horses and cattle her whole life. She loves being a part of the livestock industry, and she has had the opportunity to work with young horses and do some training. That's something she'd like to do more of as she continues her cinch-making business. She's also aiming to build her own herd.

Her grandparents, Dave and Terri Andrews, have been an inspiration to her.

She's currently riding Boots, a seven-year-old gelding she bought as a yearling. Surprisingly, she's not riding in her own brand of cinch just yet, but she said she's working on a green-colored one



Grace Harris has started an artisan western tack business making cinches. (Courtesy image)

that she just may keep for herself. Harris will graduate next month from Norwood High School. Afterward, she will finish an associates degree in business administration and then pursue an insurance license for livestock. "And keep ranching," she said.

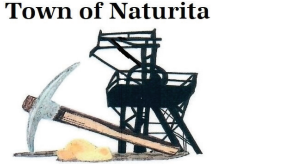
**Join Us For a Town Hall
Listening Session**

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**



Naturita Days Fundraising event



Hamburgers with chips and a drink available for \$10

April 26 from 11am to 5pm
at the Naturita Community Center

Fundraiser will take place while we do our free spring town clean up





NNFD is investigating the April 17 fire in Naturita. (Photo by Brock Benson)

Payson St. fire

Cont. from Pg. 1

Thanks largely in part to neighbors’ efforts and the quick response of the fire department, the fire did not fully engulf the residence and was extinguished. The structure did suffer significant fire damage to approximately one-third of the building, as well as extensive smoke and water damage throughout the residence. No damage was suffered on neighboring properties, however.

Best of all, nobody was injured by the fire or in the efforts to

fight it.

“The cause of the fire has not yet been determined and will be investigated by MCSO and NNFD,” said Fire Chief Bryan Keeton.

Keeton wishes to express his gratitude to all parties involved in this incident, especially to the citizen neighbors, who were of great assistance. He would also like to express his pride, and gratitude, for all the NNFD volunteers who are willing to leave the comfort and safety of their homes to be of service to the community in a time of need.



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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
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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

EVENTOS

El servicio de Pascua celebrado en Uravan honra la tradición

Por GAVIN MCGOUGH, *Contribuyente del Foro*

El domingo de Pascua en Uravan se parecía bastante a cualquier otro lugar. Los pájaros estaban en el campamento del parque de béisbol, que alguna vez fue el centro de la comunidad. Bajo un pabellón, se celebró un breve servicio en el frío aire de media mañana. A mediodía, se preparó un potluck, con las mesas cargadas de huevos rellenos, tartas de pudín, ensaladas de mayonesa y pollo frito. Después de eso, se esparcieron huevos de plástico por el césped ralo, y comenzó una búsqueda.

A pesar de la familiaridad de esas tradiciones, compartidas por muchos en todo el país en Pascua, el servicio del domingo en Uravan tuvo una resonancia especial para muchos de los asistentes. La reunión de Pascua tenía raíces en el apogeo de Uravan hace más de medio siglo, antes de que la comunidad se viera obligada a evacuar por la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA), que declaró el área como un sitio Superfund y supervisó la demolición del pueblo.

En una entrevista antes de la festividad del 20 de abril, la presidenta de la Sociedad Histórica Rimrocker, Jane Thompson, recordó la tradición de Pascua de Uravan. Los residentes del pueblo se dirigían a unas cuatro millas al sur de la comunidad a un sitio que daba al encuentro de los ríos San Miguel y Dolores. Allí, dijo Thompson, “había un lugar donde la gente de la iglesia iba a tener sus servicios de amanecer de Pascua.”

Era una configuración simple. Thompson dijo que había algunas mesas, pero no sillas, y alguien había colocado tres cruces en una cresta cercana. Al amanecer, los residentes se reunían para un servicio, seguido de un brunch

potluck.

La tradición continuó durante años, dijo Thompson.

“Los niños corrían por todas partes, y era un gran evento que siempre iba de la mano con la Pascua,” recordó. Al crecer, Thompson asistió a una iglesia diferente con su familia, que celebraba sus propios servicios, pero el lugar le era familiar. Durante todo el año, frecuentaba el lugar debajo de las cruces para hacer picnics y jugar con otros niños del vecindario.

La tradición terminó cuando el pueblo fue evacuado en la década de 1980. Pero hace aproximadamente una década, la familia Reeves, anteriormente de Uravan y ahora de Grand Junction, comenzó a visitar el parque de béisbol rehabilitado y pronto tuvo la idea de reavivar la tradición de Pascua.

Así que, según Thompson, hace nueve años “el hijo [Gary Reeves] hizo tres cruces y las colgó [en el antiguo sitio].”

Luego, un grupo de ex residentes de Uravan “se aventuró hasta allí.”

“Algunos estaban envejeciendo,” dijo Thompson, “pero todos llegamos, y estaban bastante felices de estar allí. Luego hicimos eso durante unos tres años.”

Eventualmente, para acomodar el creciente interés en el evento, los organizadores decidieron mover el servicio al parque de béisbol. Múltiples congregaciones de la zona oeste se han unido a la tradición, reuniéndose con los ex residentes de Uravan para honrar la festividad.

Gary Reeves estuvo presente en el servicio este domingo, como lo ha estado en casi todas las Pascuas de la última década. Recordando los servicios de amanecer de su infancia — el viento frío que venía del río y la peligrosa

caminata hasta el sitio en la oscuridad de la mañana — Reeves bromeó, “todavía lo haríamos allí, si no fuéramos tan viejos y gruñones.”

Aproximadamente 90 personas estuvieron presentes en el parque de béisbol este año. Como de costumbre, se reunieron para cantar, comer y orar. Tres cruces se colocan cada año para la ocasión debajo de la carretera, y se retiran después de que el servicio se completa. Cada año, un pastor diferente de la comunidad local se presenta para ofrecer algunas palabras.

Este año, Dan Williams de la Iglesia New Hope en Naturita detalló su relación con Dios y su triunfo sobre una enfermedad, que lo acercó a la muerte hace aproximadamente dos años. Dirigiéndose a la multitud durante sus comentarios informales, Williams dijo: “Quizás has perdido la esperanza, has perdido a un ser querido, has perdido a un amigo. Quizás el sueño que has tenido no se ha hecho realidad... Entonces la historia del Domingo de Resurrección es para ti.”

Como es tradición, el almuerzo que siguió presentó una extravagante variedad de ensaladas y frijoles horneados, pollo frito, dispuestos en bandejas de aluminio, y casi dos mesas llenas de postres de potluck.

Según Thompson, la tradición es, en el fondo, “otra oportunidad para que la gente visite.” Los antiguos residentes de Uravan, como Reeves y ella misma, “solo quieren sentarse allí y absorber esos recuerdos que tenemos de haber crecido allí.”

Thompson agregó que hay nuevas familias uniéndose también, “y están creando nuevos recuerdos.”

“Eso me da un gran ánimo,” dijo ella. De esta manera, los recuerdos y la comunidad “perdurará en el futuro.”

DEPORTES DE SECUNDARIA

El equipo de atletismo establece metas estatales, aprecia a los entrenadores adicionales

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

La directora de la Escuela Primaria Nucla, Sara Bray, quien también es la entrenadora principal de atletismo de la secundaria, le dijo al Forum que hay muchos atletas que regresan al equipo de atletismo este año, pero también algunos nuevos. La práctica oficial comenzó el 24 de febrero, pero la mayoría del equipo no se unió hasta después de que terminó el baloncesto regional el 8 de marzo. Compiten Destiny Bilazzo, Amber Bockrath, Ayva Davis, Brenna Morlang, Charlie Mull, Cadence Shaw, Kielely Shepardson, Jacque Tapia, Sydney Tomlinson, Jocelyn Vose, Viviana Zurich, Cole Bray, Uriah Cook, Jacob Davis, Austin Garvey, Drake Long, Josh Platt, Brycen Rummel, Daniel Zurich, Owen Tackett, Bryce Trosper y Josh Turner.

“Definitivamente noto que a medida que nuestro programa de secundaria crece bajo la dirección de la Sra. (Megan) Urban, nuestro programa de secundaria también crece,” dijo Bray al Forum durante el fin de semana.

Una vez más, Norwood y Nucla se combinan para la temporada de atletismo, y este es el cuarto año haciéndolo.

Los Mustangs están prosperando en muchos eventos. Bray dijo que Drake Long y Austin Garvey están sobresaliendo en salto de altura; Cadence Shaw lo está haciendo bien en la milla y las carreras de dos millas. Kielely Shepardson está intentando el salto de longitud por primera

vez “y sigue mejorando cada vez más.” Bray dijo que el equipo de relevos 4x8 de las chicas está actualmente calificado para el campeonato estatal de atletismo — ese es Kielely Shepardson, Sydney Tomlinson, Amber Bockrath y Cadence Shaw.

Y, muchos están estableciendo récords personales (PRs).

“Estos atletas parecen mejorar casi cada semana en tantas cosas,” dijo Bray. “Cadence tuvo un gran PR tanto en la milla como en la dos millas recientemente. Actualmente está calificada para el estado en la milla, la dos millas y el relevo 4x8. Drake y Austin también están calificados en salto de altura.”

Los atletas estudiantes están viajando por toda la ladera occidental para las competencias de atletismo.

“Dado que nuestra pista más cercana está a dos horas de distancia, pasamos muchas mañanas temprano y noches tarde viajando en un autobús hacia y desde nuestras competencias,” dijo Bray.

La temporada termina en el campeonato estatal de atletismo en Lakewood el fin de semana del 15 al 17 de mayo. Eso significa que aún hay tiempo para alcanzar las metas establecidas.

“El equipo 4x8, que incluye a un nuevo miembro, está tratando de regresar a los campeonatos estatales,” dijo Bray. “En general, estábamos muy emocionados de tener (siete) chicos del equipo de béisbol que se unieran al atletismo, y eso hizo posible que algunos equipos de

relevos masculinos también. Hemos seguido creciendo en número y eso ayuda a traer tanto competencia saludable al equipo, como más oportunidades de eventos.”

Bray está asistida este año por dos nuevos asistentes. Rachel McNeil, la nueva maestra de infantes de Colt Care, es la entrenadora de lanzamiento, aportando su experiencia como ex lanzadora a nivel universitario. Keoni Souza, el nuevo maestro de kindergarten de Nucla, trajo nueva vida al equipo de salto de altura con su experiencia previa, así como ayudando a iniciar un programa de salto triple por primera vez.

Bray dijo que está agradecida por su tiempo en el programa de atletismo y la forma en que está evolucionando.

“A medida que entro en mi quinto año de entrenar atletismo en la secundaria, tengo el placer de trabajar con estudiantes desde su primer año hasta su último año,” dijo. “Me encanta ver el crecimiento de estos atletas, y siempre es asombroso ver su pasión, ética de trabajo y éxito crecer a medida que maduran en la pista. También estoy extremadamente agradecida de tener la ayuda de la entrenadora Rachel y el entrenador Keoni este año. Durante los últimos cuatro años, he hecho mi mejor esfuerzo para entrenar todos los eventos, lo que a veces significaba aprender incluso a entrenar un evento. La experiencia y la pericia que Rachel y Keoni aportan ha sido una bendición maravillosa para mí y, lo más importante, para nuestros atletas.”

En Espanol

NEGOCIO

Grace Harris dirige un pequeño negocio especializado en accesorios occidentales

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Grace Harris, de Norwood y con solo 18 años, es una estudiante de último año de secundaria que ya ha comenzado un negocio artesanal de accesorios, específicamente fabricando cinchas de mohair. Muchos en el West End saben lo que es una cincha. Para aquellos que no lo saben, es la faja que se ajusta y se asegura debajo de una silla de montar occidental. Muchas cinchas hoy en día están hechas de material sintético, como neopreno, y son vendidas por grandes empresas, como Classic Equine. Sin embargo, muchas personas tienden a preferir las cinchas de fibra natural, hechas de mohair. Hecho de pelo de cabra Angora, el mohair es bastante cómodo para el caballo y se lava bien.

Harris, la hija de Lacey y Randy Harris, había visto a algunas personas hacer sus propias cinchas y había compartido con su familia que le gustaría intentarlo. Su madre le dijo que si redactaba un plan de negocios, establecía algunos objetivos y sabía claramente qué haría con las cinchas, de hecho, la apoyaría con algunos suministros para comenzar, como el marco de tejido y el mohair.

Harris siguió adelante, y con el apoyo de su familia, este

año comenzó el trabajo de ensartar la fibra y trenzarla con los anillos en D y las hebillas. Le dijo al Forum que ha sido realmente divertido y lo disfruta, aunque experimentó una curva de aprendizaje al principio. Cada cincha tarda de cuatro a seis horas en hacerse. Ella coincidió en que le está enseñando paciencia y atención al detalle.

Está haciendo diferentes patrones de colores: marrones, con tonos y naranjas, pero puede hacer diferentes variedades, según el mohair que encuentre. Puede aceptar pedidos personalizados, y de hecho, recientemente hizo dos cinchas para un local que hace lazo. Su cliente le mostró a Harris sus viejas cinchas rotas, explicó lo que necesitaba y le envió las hebillas personalizadas para ello.

Al mismo tiempo, también ha experimentado con la fabricación de pecheras, junto con correas de bolso, cabezadas y cintas nasales para caballos.

Realmente no ha creado una página de negocios en línea; solo ha promovido su trabajo en su página personal, aunque tiene un nombre tentativo para su trabajo: Rockin Easy. Ella coincidió en que por el momento, su negocio se basará principalmente en el boca a boca y a través de personas locales que saben lo que está haciendo. Sin embargo, en el futuro, le gustaría tener una página de negocios en

línea y ser vendedora en rodeos en el oeste de Colorado.

Ella dijo que sí, su familia está orgullosa de lo que ha hecho hasta ahora. Tienen seis generaciones de ganadería en la zona local, específicamente en Redvale. Harris ha crecido con caballos y ganado toda su vida. Le encanta ser parte de la industria ganadera, y ha tenido la oportunidad de trabajar con caballos jóvenes y hacer algo de entrenamiento. Eso es algo que le gustaría hacer más a medida que continúa su negocio de fabricación de cinchas. También tiene como objetivo construir su propio rebaño.

Sus abuelos, Dave y Terri Andrews, han sido una inspiración para ella.

Actualmente está montando a Boots, un semental de siete años que compró cuando era un potro. Sorprendentemente, aún no está montando su propia marca de cincha, pero dijo que está trabajando en una de color verde que podría quedarse para ella.

Harris se graduará el próximo mes de la escuela secundaria Norwood. Después, terminará un grado asociado en administración de empresas y luego buscará una licencia de seguros para ganado.

“Y seguir con la ganadería,” dijo.

FUEGO

NNFD responde al incendio de Payson St.

Por JEFF STEPHENS,
Departamento de Bomberos de Nucla-Naturita

Aproximadamente a las 7:45 p.m. del 17 de abril, la central de WestCo recibió una llamada al 911 sobre un incendio. Esa llamada se originó en la residencia en 119 Payson St. en Naturita, y la parte que reportó indicó que el humo era visible y salía del techo de la residencia de al lado.

La central de WestCo despachó inmediatamente al Departamento de Bomberos de Nucla-Naturita (NNFD) para responder a ese incendio estructural, y la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Montrose también fue notificada y envió a los diputados.

El Condado de Montrose llegó a la escena en unos minutos, también reportando humo visible, que provenía de debajo del techo de una casa móvil, ubicada al lado de la residencia que reportó. Un bombero llegó a la escena en 125 Payson St., confirmando con NNFD que la estructura estaba parcialmente involucrada en el incendio, afectando el lado este y norte de la estructura y con una fuerte producción de humo debajo del techo.

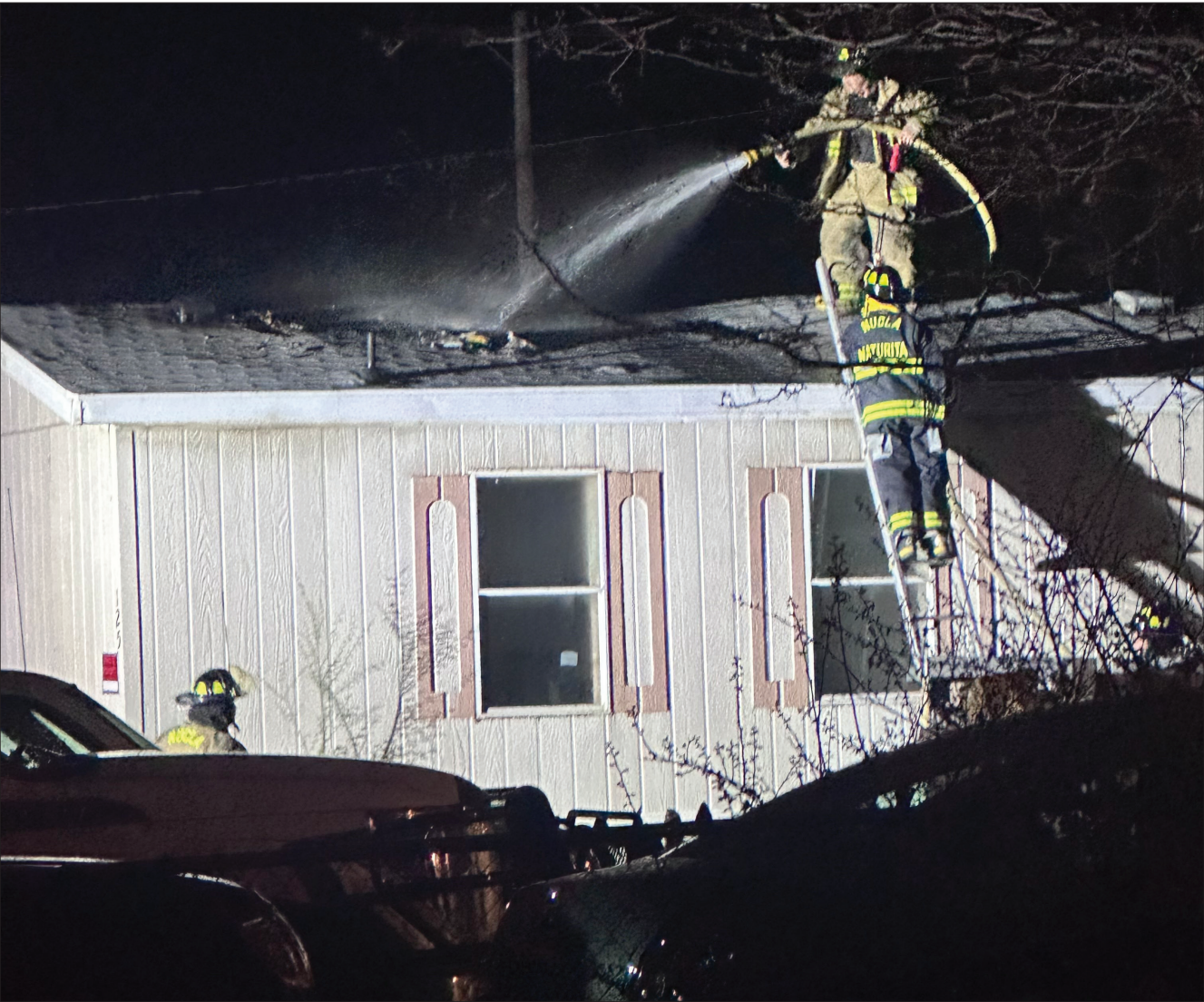
Los primeros en responder informaron que el ocupante de la estructura había evacuado de manera segura, afirmando no tener lesiones ni enfermedades relacionadas con el incendio. Al mismo tiempo, los vecinos en el área estaban activamente utilizando mangueras de jardín en el exterior de la residencia, para evitar que el fuego se propagara fuera de la propiedad.

La Asociación de Energía San Miguel también respondió a la escena, asegurando el suministro eléctrico. Black Hills Energy también respondió, desconectando el suministro de gas natural a la residencia.

NNFD respondió al incendio de Payson Street con un camión de la Estación de Bomberos de Naturita, y un segundo camión de la Estación de Bomberos de Nucla, mientras contactaban al residente de la estructura para asegurarse de que estaba desocupada, antes de comenzar la supresión del fuego en la residencia.

Bomberos voluntarios adicionales llegaron a la escena, sumando un total de 10 bomberos voluntarios trabajando para extinguir el fuego. Tres bomberos se pusieron equipos de respiración protectores (SCBA) e ingresaron a la residencia, sin encontrar ocupantes.

Se encontró que el incendio involucraba aproximadamente un tercio de la estructura, en el lado norte y este del edificio, pero el fuego se había propagado al techo. Se obtuvo acceso al fuego mediante la remoción de material del techo interna-



Los bomberos estaban en la escena en Naturita el 17 de abril. (Foto de Brock Benson)

mente. El acceso externo requirió la ventilación del techo y la remoción de algunos materiales de techado, así como una pequeña sección de una pared exterior.

Gracias en gran parte a los esfuerzos de los vecinos y a la rápida respuesta del departamento de bomberos, el fuego no consumió completamente la residencia y fue extinguido. La estructura sufrió daños significativos por fuego en aproximadamente un tercio del edificio, así como daños extensos por humo y agua en toda la residencia. Sin embargo, no se sufrió daño en las propiedades vecinas.

Lo mejor de todo es que nadie resultó herido por el fuego

ni en los esfuerzos por combatirlo.

“La causa del incendio aún no ha sido determinada y será investigada por MCSO y NNFD,” dijo el Jefe de Bomberos Bryan Keeton.

Keeton desea expresar su gratitud a todas las partes involucradas en este incidente, especialmente a los vecinos ciudadanos, que fueron de gran ayuda. También le gustaría expresar su orgullo y gratitud por todos los voluntarios de NNFD que están dispuestos a dejar la comodidad y seguridad de sus hogares para servir a la comunidad en un momento de necesidad.

Classified Ads

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

URGENTLY NEEDED

**District Secretary
Norwood Public Schools**
We will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until the position is filled. For the full job posting, visit www.norwoodk12.org/jobs and click “Click here for job listings and to apply online.”
47-TFN-C

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.
46-2T-C

HELP WANTED

UNCOMPAHGRE 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.
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 adminis-

trative 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

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.
46-2T-C

FOR SALE/ BIDS WANTED

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 1982 Dodge Flatbed 1 Ton Truck w/dump, mileage unknown, & ran when parked. Minimum Bid \$500.00.
- 1994 Dodge Van ¾ Ton, mileage unknown & ran when parked. Minimum Bid \$250.00.
- Older Welder on wheels. Minimum Bid \$100.00.

Sealed bids (please write “Bid” on sealed envelope) must be submitted by May 20, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. via mail or dropped off at West End Public School’s main district office.
West End Public Schools RE-2
225 W 4th Ave.
P.O. Box 570
Nucla, CO 81424
47-4T-C

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.
46-2T-C

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
46-2T-PCK

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>


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

- **Full-Time Elementary P.E./Para**
- **High School English Teacher**
- **5th Grade Teacher**
- **Guidance Counselor**
- **High School Math 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.

ABANDONED PROPERTY FOR SALE

Number of units 1
The unit is 10X10
Contents are Unknown
Owner/Lessee Ida Klindera

Minimum bid is \$265.00 unit #5
Sealed Bids will be accepted Prior to the sale, starting 3 days before the sale. If no bids are received, the contents will be disposed of on Saturday the 3rd of May.

Contact:

PackRat “Minnie” Storage
211 East Main Street, Naturita, CO 81422
(970) 596 1041 or (970) 865-2233
Published: April 23, 2025
Sale Date: Sat. May 3, 2025
Sale Location: 211 East Main Street, Naturita, CO 81422
47-1T-C

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 00

No. 00

OFFICIAL BALLOT

For the Nucla-Naturita Fire Protection District
Regular Election
May 6, 2025

POLLING PLACE NUCLA FIRE HALL, NUCLA, CO
555 Main Street, Nucla, CO 81424

For 4 Board of Director Seats

2 - 2 YEAR TERMS

2 - 4 YEAR TERMS

Terms will be determined by number of votes

Shall the following candidates be elected to the position of Director of the Nucla Naturita Fire Protection District:

Vote for 4 Directors	MARK X IN THIS COLUMN
Lloyd Church	
John Riley Jr.	
Jack Lee	
Bruce Schmalz	
Cody Jones	
Al McFarland	
Orson Case	
Mack Steele	
Erin Jones	

Qualifications for District Electors: Voters must be registered and own or rent property in the fire district and be a resident for 6 months.

DISCOVER

TCR

APRIL 26

9 AM ~ 1 PM

MAIN CAMPUS

1765 HWY 50~ DELTA

FOR MORE INFO : WWW.TCR.EDU

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MOOSE COUNTRY ONSITE

10 + FOOD TRUCKS

PRIZE GIVEAWAYS

FAFSA WORKSHOP

✓

PHOTOBOOTH

I BUILT IT CAR SHOW

MODEL CAR SHOW

APEX VR/POLICE TOURS

✓

BARBERSHOP

SALON & SPA

OPEN FOR SERVICES

FACE PAINTING/TINSEL HAIR

✓

WELLNESS/VITAL CHECKS

MEDICAL ESCAPE ROOM

HANDS ON CPR

AMBULANCE SIMULATOR

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

Keep IT Local

Business

Community

Spot

Naturita-Nucla Telephone Company

NNTC Wireless, LLC

EVENTS

News literacy event
is May 2 in Norwood

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

W

hat is news literacy and why should we care? In a world bombarded by information coming at us nonstop from every direction, how can we know fact from fiction, news from propaganda?

Former ABC News Correspondent Judy Muller and former NBC News Correspondent George Lewis are hosting an evening at the Livery in Norwood on Friday, May 2, at 7 p.m. on how to use the basic tools of news literacy to be your own best judge of what information to trust. The exploding field of artificial intelligence is making that skill even more urgent, as technology turns up the firehose of falsehoods.

In the words of the nonpartisan News Literacy Project: "Even the most sophisticated audiences find it hard to distinguish between legitimate news — information gathered in a dispassionate search for facts — and materials that are created to persuade, sell, mislead or exploit."

News literacy is a growing field in teaching critical thinking skills, starting in elementary school. Schools from Finland to Utah and beyond have enthusiastically adopted courses in this area. Muller, professor emerita

at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Journalism, was instrumental in pioneering a course in news literacy for incoming freshmen at that university. Both Muller and Lewis believe that everyone — from first-graders to college students and adults — can become their own best judges of what to trust, based on a few simple tools of detection.

Admission is free for this non-partisan, interactive, eye-opening evening. Do you know how to separate fact from fiction? It's getting more difficult every day, but fortunately, there are tools to make it easier.

"It's not about telling you what to think; it's about telling you how to think," said Lewis.

As the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan put it: "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts."

"We invite everyone to come and speak up in a lively debate about an issue that affects us all," said Muller.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The Livery is located at 1555 Summit St. in Norwood, across from the fire station.

For more information, contact George Lewis or Judy Muller by email at geolewis@gmail.com and jmmuller@usc.edu, or by calling 970-327-4526.

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OUTDOOR JEWEL!

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REALTOR

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Nora Davis (Owner)

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