

# San Miguel Basin Forum

HOUSING

## Nucla holds 2nd ADU meeting

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Last week, Nucla leaders came together for the town’s second public meeting regarding ADUs, accessory dwelling units. A special committee, with Jamie O’Hern organizing, is gathering to review the Town of Nucla’s land use code and ordinances, in an effort to better understand ADUs and how they should be regulated.

O’Hern was cited earlier this year for living in an RV while renting her home in Nucla. She told the committee she’s strapped with a hefty mortgage and doesn’t want to lose her house. She feels she has the right to do what she wishes with her own property.

In the April 22 ADU meeting, Mayor Paula Brown with others discussed the zoning map in Nucla. They discussed the commercial, civic core area and that the town approved a variance for the tiny homes on Fox Street. The mayor said zoning in that area is for protecting and growing businesses though. While O’Hern isn’t in favor of a special permitting system for ADUs, she said perhaps it would be OK there in the commercial, civic core. Other zoning districts were discussed too.

The idea of potentially separating tiny homes from ADUs was also discussed. Though, O’Hern said it seemed “silly” to her that if a foundation is poured, and an ADU sits on that, it’s allowed in specific zoning. But, if a flood were to come through, and another dwelling was placed on wheels and had skirting, in the same place it would be treated differently.

Trustee Tim Pierce said tiny homes on wheels can dump sewage illegally, and permanent structures hook up to utilities. He said following sewer codes is important, as is adhering to the town’s engineering plans. He added that the town always repairs sewer line breaks, but for ADUs, the homeowner must repair that.

There are other things to consider for ADUs in Nucla, Pierce said, because there’s so much variability in lot size. Community leader Tim Tait said surely there’s a standard math equation for lot size and density; Pierce agreed that’s a standard already.

O’Hern said she’s worried permitting ADUs on a case-by-case basis could be too subjective. In fact, she questioned Mayor Brown on why she shot down O’Hern’s ADU permit request.

“To stay in this community, I need to rent my house ...” she said. “I don’t want people to say you can’t make money from your own property. ... It’s an asset I own.”

Cont. on Pg. 4

HEALTH CARE

## Basin Clinic is top 3rd rural clinic in CO

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Forum spoke April 25 with Christina Pierce, executive director of the Basin Clinic, who shared that the West End’s clinic has been recognized as one of the Top 10 rural health care centers in Colorado. In fact, it’s No. 3, out of 60 clinics in the state, and was awarded on April 18.

Now Basin Clinic representatives continue to work on their strategic plan. A \$50,000 grant

from the state’s Department of Local Affairs is helping to pay the strategic planner, Jason McCormick, of Fruita. Pierce said McCormick is guiding the overarching plan of moving forward, along with board governance and updating patient registration.

According to Pierce, McCormick has been on Colorado’s Rural Health Center’s Board of Directors and was an executive at a critical access hospital in Fruita. He works now to help various clinics and hospitals in Colorado, as well as in other states.

“I’ve been impressed with his level of knowledge,” Pierce said. “When he talked to the commissioners, Sue (Hansen) was impressed with his expertise too.”

Pierce said she remains hopeful. While county commissioners have had concerns in the past about the clinic’s ability to sustain itself, she believes things are changing. Two years ago, commissioners did require Basin Clinic to reduce staffing by 10% in order to receive county funding. Pierce said it’s been a struggle.

Cont. on Pg. 3

IMMIGRATION

## Sheriff Bill Masters talks ICE and the law

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The San Miguel Basin Forum sometimes participates in statewide programs with other newsrooms in Colorado. Recently, it was asked by CoLab representatives to work on ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, coverage, specifically communicating with local law enforcement agencies to learn about their practices. The Forum reached out April 25 to San Miguel County Sheriff Bill Masters with four questions generated by the states’ CoLab organization:

### 1) “What is your policy with inmates who have immigration enforcement action pending?”

Masters said that’s determined by state statute.

“... The state law dictates what the procedure is, regarding people with immigration issues,” he said. “If someone’s in our custody we arrested, or the marshal did, they’re in our jail. ... If they’re an immigrant, or not a U.S. citizen, we write them into the computer, and the computer tells ICE this person is in our custody — and tells us if the person is wanted by ICE.”

Masters added if an inmate is wanted on a civil detainer, not a criminal or arrest warrant, ICE notifies the sheriff’s office and requests a hold on that person, so they can send an agent. Only, Masters said a civil detainer is not an arrest warrant. And, the truth is that the U.S. Constitution states that a person cannot be held or arrested, unless there’s a warrant signed by a judge. In short, law enforcement can’t hold anyone based on a civil detainer.

Masters said when someone is released from jail, or bonds out, law enforcement has to release that person in a timely manner, usually in two hours. He said if ICE doesn’t show, that person is allowed to go.

“We don’t hold for a minute longer than that,” he said.

Moreover, in his history — 45 years as sheriff and 50 years of peacekeeping — in dealing with ICE, those whom agents come to pick up are the ones who’ve committed crimes, those with lengthy arrest records, or those who’ve been deported multiple times, not necessarily those who entered illegally.

What’s more is that the ICE agent — there’s only one now, but there used to be two — lives in Durango and covers multiple counties.

“The feeling that ICE is everywhere, is out taking people in western Colorado, in my experience, it’s just not true,” Masters said. “They don’t have the people to do it.”

Cont. on Pg. 4



Aimee Tooker was surprised by the Club 20 award April 25. (Courtesy photo)

COLORADO

## Aimee Tooker honored with award at Club 20

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Over the weekend, Club 20 — the Western Slope’s coalition of businesses, organizations and people uniting their voices to make them heard in the political sphere — held its spring conference over the weekend in Grand Junction. There, Nucla’s Aimee Tooker was honored with the New Member of the Year award.

Tooker told the Forum she was introduced to Club 20 a year ago, in the heat of the Dolores National Monument proposal. Then, she and Scott Braden, a monument advocate, had a debate that was moderated by Club 20 officials. After expressing opposition in the debate,

she joined Club 20 as a member.

Then, last fall, Club 20 had its caucus event, and she was nominated to be a representative for Montrose County. Typically, counties have three Club 20 representatives. In Montrose, that’s Tooker with Justin Musser and Cindy Dozier.

Tooker said Club 20 has both an executive board, but a board of directors too. They follow certain policies to decide whether to oppose or support legislation in Colorado and give input to lawmakers. And, every spring and fall the Club 20 conference is held, though summer and winter also see policy meetings.

To Tooker’s surprise, the evening

of April 25, executive director for Club 20 Brittany Dixon announced Tooker winning the New Member of the Year award. Tooker said it was completely unexpected. In fact, she had tears. She agreed she just wants to help make a difference, and to relay the local communities’ sentiments on issues.

“Our Senators and Representatives are asking how Club 20 feels about things,” she said. “They recognize Club 20 is important. We can sit down here and complain and say what we don’t want, but we can also be at the table say that.”

Tooker said she finds the Club 20 process engaging and interesting. She enjoys hearing what others’

Cont. on Pg. 4

YOUTH VOICES IN THE SAN MIGUEL WATERSHED

It’s time to graduate

By CADENCE SHAW, *Forum Intern*

Less than a month from now, the Class of 2025 will be graduating. It’s an exciting time for the seniors. May is rolling around, which includes a myriad of activities for the seniors, such as senior prank, senior skip, senior tea and Baccalaureate. For Nucla seniors, the last day of school is May 15. Nucla senior tea is May 6 at 1 p.m., and Baccalaureate is May 16 at 7 p.m. Nucla will host graduation on May 17 at 1 p.m.

For Norwood seniors, the last day is May 13. During the same day, Norwood will host their annual high school barbecue, to say goodbye to the seniors and welcome the eighth-graders into high school. The Norwood school will host the “Celebration of Aspirations” to acknowledge the senior’s aspirations and scholarships on May 23 at 10 a.m. (invitation only). Lastly, Norwood will host graduation on May 24 at 1 p.m.

I continue to talk to the graduating seniors, both from Norwood and Nucla, about their plans after high school. I interviewed Grace Harris, a graduating senior from Norwood High School. Grace has grown up in Norwood schools and has been enrolled for 13 years. Grace is well known throughout the community by her hard work as a rancher and an entrepreneur. Throughout her efforts, she continues to grow as a student by taking multiple dual-credit classes to gain knowledge and has a clear start to her future.

With high school graduation closing in, she plans on completing her associate’s degree in business administration through the Colorado Mountain College’s online degree program. She has already completed college classes in high school, and she is trying to get her associate’s degree by the fall of 2026. Her career goal is to be a livestock insurance agent and work for a local firm. She plans on continuing to raise cattle and horses and braid mohair cinches and other mohair products. Grace is very passionate about the agriculture industry, specifically in our area. She doesn’t know a life beyond the

ranching community and wouldn’t want it any other way.

“I am excited to create a career for myself in the livestock industry and work on growing my cattle herd and seeing where the cinch braiding business will take me,” she said. “I don’t have many fears for my future. I am excited for the next chapter in my life.”

Grace Harris has a bright future ahead of her, and she is ready to move onto the next chapter beyond high school.

I have also interviewed another senior who has a bright future ahead of her. Merrilee Gallagher is a senior that is graduating from Nucla High School. Her plan is to attend Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and major in business administration and double-minor in art and communications. Her end goal is either to have a successful art business or become a manager, such as a marketing manager.

Merrilee is a first-generation college student, meaning that she will be the first in her family to get a degree.

“I want to be the first in my family to go to college and be financially stable,” she said. Merrilee has many high school memories, but her favorite one is when she was participating in the escape room with Brody Zurich during Nucla Spring Carnival.

“I am excited about being able to grow as a person and continue my learning journey,” she said. “I am scared about not being able to keep up with everything that you have to do while being an adult.”

As Merrilee heads off into her next journey of life, she has a bright future ahead of her as she studies business administration, art and communications.

The class of 2025 is getting ready for their next big steps, and these two seniors have taken advantage of many opportunities. They are ready for their next big adventures. By growing up with these two seniors all my life and participating in volunteering and extracurricular activities with them, I know these two bright young adults will have what it takes to become successful in their endeavors.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society

Remembering Charleen Knickerbocker, Mrs. ‘Knick’

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*



Mrs. ‘Knick’ remains a beloved West End legend. (Photo courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

We were just given the sad news that our friend, mentor and teacher, Mrs. “Knick,” has passed away. She was such a steadfast presence in our community for so long. She taught pretty much all of us at one time or another. After falling and breaking her hip, she had to move into an assisted living home in Grand Junction. She will be greatly missed.

Marie Templeton did an interview with Mrs. Knick in 2015, and Mrs. Knick then talked about how she and her husband had come to live in the West End of Colorado:

“Roy and Charleen Knickerbocker came to the West End for Roy to work for the VCA in Naturita. Lee, Roy’s twin brother, got a job with the VCA in Durango, Colorado, and they needed another bookkeeper in the office in Naturita. Lee talked Roy into applying for the job, and he got it. Denny Viles, head honcho of VCA, had a plane, which he flew back and forth between Durango and Naturita. On one occasion when he got to Naturita, he saw Roy had arrived before he did and he asked, “How did you beat me here?”

On Thanksgiving week, the Knickerbockers moved into a house in East Vancorum (Snob Hill), where all the salaried men and their families lived. Charleen thought they had moved to the end of the world and had fallen off the edge. The road into Naturita was horrible, and the poor little town looked sad and defeated. The day before Thanksgiving, she was sitting on the floor scrubbing the hard wood and crying. They were having meatloaf for dinner the next day, and she didn’t think she

could stand it! She felt left out of her world! Roy took pity on her and took her to Telluride for dinner. Fifty-seven years later, she loves the area and wouldn’t live anywhere else!

Bill Anderson, mill superintendent, and his wife were good friends to Roy and Charleen, and that helped them adapt to the country.

Charleen and Roy had two children; Mary Helen was six years old, and Dean was four years old. After Dean entered first grade, Charleen went to work at the high school as a secretary for Del Borelli. While working at the high school, Gene Miller, superintendent of the local schools, encouraged her to go back to Gunnison and get her BA in English. So, for three summers that is what she did. They had great programs for her children, and they really enjoyed the time they spent there.

While she was getting her degree, she taught third grade in Naturita for three years. In the 1956-57 school year, she moved up to the middle school: sixth, seventh and eighth grades. It was still in the same building in Naturita. She taught English and speech. She really loved her students. She invited a teacher, Bill Carmichael, from Grand Junction High to come over and help her start a student council, because it was a new school, and traditions needed to be started.

After that she moved to the high school and taught English, speech and drama. She gave her students the opportunity to go to Grand Junction and see some of the plays Bill Robertson put on at Mesa College. Bill was a mentor for Charleen and helped her a great deal.

She joined the state speech and drama club and she would ride to Boulder with a group from Grand Junction to attend meetings.

She retired at 70 years of age in 1990, but didn’t stop teaching. She could work three hours a day and still qualify for her PERA pension. She last worked in 2002, as a mentor for Joy Morgan and decided she had had enough. She was more than 80 years old.

She is now 93 years of age and enjoys her friends, who play cards once a week. She is also visited by former students and other friends she has made in the community.

She attended the picnic at the Uravan Ballpark the last of August 2015 and decided she had a new motto: “Old teachers never die; they just go to class reunions.” At the Uravan Ballpark she reconnected with many former students, including the two Massey girls, whom she hadn’t seen in years. She also goes to other reunions, where she can reconnect with former students and old friends.”

Mrs. Knick attended class reunions any chance that she could. She always had special memories about her students. The last several years she attended the picnics in Uravan and was always so glad to visit with her students. A memorial service will be held later in May. She has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her name to the Rimrocker Historical Society (PO Box 913, Nucla 81424) or to the Nucla Cemetery District (PO Box 561, Nucla 81424). Mrs. Knick, as we so fondly called her, was four months from turning 103 amazing years young. She will be missed and remembered always.



**LITTLE B ENTERPRISES**

Professional Plumbing & Handyman Services

**Bob Ralph, Plumber**

**(970) 462-5664**

**Text only, please!**

Phone is not used on the job for obvious reasons

**Looking to Place a Classified?**

*And have thousands of people see it?*

Place an Ad in the

**San Miguel Basin Forum**

**Call**

**(970) 864-7425**



Red found his calling and has made his West End community proud. (Courtesy image)

NONPROFITS

# Hoof & Paw congratulates Red, the cadaver dog

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

It was in 2022 that Hoof & Paw took in Red, a full-blooded Red Fox Labrador surrendered by a hunter in the area who said the dog was too much for his family. Indeed, the dog displayed unbelievable levels of energy. Hoof & Paw volunteers verified as much at the shelter when they received him, seeing the dog continuously circle in his kennel.

“He had so much energy, but we got to where we could run him off leash and he would go and come back,” said Hoof & Paw’s executive director Tonya Stephens. “He did love water. He’d get in the doggie swimming pool and circle in that ... He was such a ‘spaz.’”

Volunteers at Naturita’s shelter put the dog on a site called pet-finder.com to see if they could find adoptive parents. Stephens said she’s always a bit wary with the site, because volunteers are never certain who will inquire about animals. But, a woman from Durango called about the dog, and she was interested in trying to care for him and get him exercise.

A month later, though, she called Hoof & Paw and asked volunteers to relist him online. He was just too

much for her. Still, she agreed to keep him until he was readopted. And, the foster dog-mom continued to check in with Hoof & Paw in the meantime.

Then, something changed. At about the three-month mark, she announced she’d decided to keep Red. She said she’d been keeping him very busy, working with him daily, training his nose and taking him on hikes as long as 10 or more miles a few times each week. Stephens said the woman lives on land that borders the U.S. Forest Service, and there are many roads to walk. She said the dog had a tracking collar and always came back. If the owner walked eight miles, she could see the dog walked double that — as many as 16 miles some days.

What happened next was very moving for Stephens. The new owner decided to train Red as a cadaver dog, a canine who assists detectives in searching for human remains. The owner herself doesn’t work in that field, but she had the idea to take Red to a testing facility in Montana, where the animal graduated at the top of his class. Since then, they’ve been to California twice, Texas twice and Nevada. Recently, Red has become certified

in his cadaver work to search moving water and large-scale areas.

At 5 years old, Red is now a member of the La Plata County Search and Rescue.

Stephens said she agrees what’s happened with Red and his success story is truly why she does the work for Hoof & Paw. She’s so happy the dog got a second chance and found his purpose in life.

“I’m so impressed she put the time and energy into him,” Stephens said in an interview April 27.

Red was just on a trip this month, continuing his cadaver work. His owner reached out to let Hoof & Paw know.

“He’s taught me so very much,” said owner Sonya Streater in a recent message to Stephens. “He’s really matured and is much calmer than that first year.”

As Stephens eagerly awaits her next update on Red and his national work in helping detectives find the deceased, she continues to show up every day with other volunteers for the other stray and unwanted animals in the West End. Anyone interested in fostering or adopting, who has the ability to provide a loving home, should contact Hoof & Paw to inquire about the animals there now.

## Top 3rd rural clinic

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

gle since then to continue to get everything done with the staff they now have.

Yet, she said the clinic is making positive change. And, she believes Commissioner Sean Pond, of District 3, will advocate for Basin Clinic, as will Commissioner Scott Mijares, and she knows Hansen has come around.

McCormick is set to give an update on his work with the clinic’s strategic plan, but Pierce cannot speak about that information right now. What she could tell the Forum is that several options exist for the clinic’s future, and remaining “as is” is just one option. McCormick will address the West

End Solutions Group and the Basin Clinic board in an upcoming meeting — likely in May — and then decisions will be made.

“When the board has decided, it will become public,” she said. “The public will know more soon.”

Pierce said there’s more to celebrate. Robert Tapley is back, as is Angela Miller. Miller will be full-time Monday through Thursday.

“So two full-time providers,” Pierce said. “That’s a really good thing.”

While the clinic is seeing about the same amount of patients at this time, Pierce believes that will increase now. She knows Miller had a following of patients who connected with her. Those

patients will no doubt be pleased that she’s returned. In addition to the mid-level providers, medical doctors are also on site at Basin Clinic throughout the month at different times too.

In other news, Basin Clinic will finally do some of the aesthetic work that it’s been planning, and the Forum will publish a bid in the paper. Coming right up, and made possible by a facade grant through the West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC), are new exterior paint, new gutters and hopefully some interior paint too.

The clinic will need some volunteers to help with labor, once they get ready roll.

## San Miguel Basin Forum

PO Box 724 · Nucla, Colorado 81424

**Owner and Editor:** Regan Tuttle · regantuttle@gmail.com · 970-864-7425  
**Advertising Manager:** Tanner Nelson  
**Design Team:** Rick Bickhart & Tori Sheets



31186 Highway 145  
Naturita, Colorado

(970) 864-7531  
www.bruinwastemanagement.com

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

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

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

### Southwestern

### Construction

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

### H A H Sign

**COMPANY, LLC**  
**844-464-7446**

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

HOODIES  
MUGS  
ENGRAVED  
WOOD  
PLASTIC  
STICKERS  
CUSTOM GIFTS

**YOUR COMPLETE SIGN SHOP**

**OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8-5**  
**395 MAIN STREET, NUCLA**  
**WE HAVE 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
**IN CUSTOM DESIGN AND CAN CREATE A**  
**LOGO AND BRING YOUR BRAND TO LIFE!**

### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

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

### Nucla Family Housing

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

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

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider*

### Uranium Price

April 21, 2025 – \$65.20

### Looking to Place a Classified?

*And have  
thousands  
of people see it?*

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

## Need a Ride?

**All Points Transit can help!**

**Local Medical, Shopping, Errands & More**  
**Regional service to Montrose & Grand Junction**

**Call 970-249-0128 to Schedule**  
**www.allpointstransit.org**

OPINION

# What is Vitalism?

By NICOLE BRANDT TAIT  
*Cypress Roots: Craft Herbalism,  
Clinic & Apothecary, Farm*

The “Vitalistist” tradition in herbalism recognizes that we are a part of nature, and nature is wise. It reconnects us back to natural rhythms, supporting the body’s self-healing capacity. In the practice of herbalism, we seek to treat the whole person, not the disease. In doing so, herbalists employ healing methods intended to increase vitality and support the natural forces within us to restore balance on all levels.

Many chronic conditions can be supported with changes in sleep, nutrition, movement, and when needed, herbal supplementation. The great news is sleep and movement don’t have to cost anything!

The Vitalist tradition dates back to Nature Cure, which became the foundation for Naturopathic medicine in the U.S. Nature Cure was organized through several practitioners in the 1900s in Europe. It’s not as old as Ayurveda, the Indian and oldest organized tradition that understands human condition, or Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), one of the most well-known herbal traditions.

My teacher Paul Bergner at the National Institute of Medical Herbalism has a direct lineage back to Father Kneipp from the Nature Cure, and I am excited to carry that tradition forward here in the West End.

We, myself included, don’t just want symptomatic relief; we want a deeper level of healing that gets to the root cause of our struggles.

So let’s dig into a little history. You are the sum of all of your life’s events and an accumulation of your life up to today — not just what you ate or did last week, or last year — but also the accumulation of your parents, your grandparents and beyond.

And we have to dig into the history of our environment.

The first light bulb was invented less than 150 years ago, TV screens roughly 100 years ago, with computer screens becoming common roughly 50 years ago, and us carrying small computers in our pocket only since 2007 or later, depending on when we opted in.

Processed foods began to creep into our culture in the early to mid-1900s, and it wasn’t until after WWII that they became commonplace as a staple in the modern human’s diet. How does that compare to the rise of chronic conditions in the human condition?

If you want to take this analysis back even further, you have to investigate when grains and

dairy were added to the human diet, and ultimately that’s still a relatively short amount of time: 5,000 years and 1,200 years, respectively, in the timeline of human existence.

In the West End, we do have a more movement-based existence than a lot of the American world that sits at a computer desk for most of their day, but this is still an area of life that is radically different than 50 or 100 years ago.

Vitalism looks at the life force, one that might be diminished by many of the environmental factors above, and looks at ways to raise the vital force within. This is different from the Western medical system that gives bandages for symptoms and doesn’t address the root cause of what is wrong. If you use herbs to mask your symptoms, this is no different than allopathic Western medicine. Vitalism asks you to embark on a healing journey, versus reacting to symptoms.

If you suppress symptoms, in vitalism it actually pushes the problem deeper into the body, and it will continue to manifest in bigger conditions and diseases that ultimately hinder our ability to live fully.

First there is accumulation. Then, what is accumulated starts to spread in the body.

As the body’s response becomes more pronounced, this creates early symptoms.

These symptoms often accumulate or move into a specific organ or place in the body and begin to show themselves as what we know today as disease or “disease” in the body.

Disease can progress from the acute phase to the chronic phase.

Did you know that the CDC reports that more than 60% of Americans have one chronic condition, around 40% report two chronic conditions, and that roughly 12% report five or more chronic conditions? That’s a lot for something that is known to be controlled through alternative and holistic medicine through diet and lifestyle. These chronic conditions are the expression of accumulated dis-ease in the body. But did you know that by changing your environment, you can reverse many of these chronic conditions?

If you want to heal the whole person, it takes effort and change in multiple areas.

*Editor’s note: This is a two-part column.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Turn out the lights

Dear Editor,

It’s peak migration season right now. Between mid-March and mid-June, we must be kind to our feathered friends and try to keep lights off from sunset to sunrise. It even helps to keep your curtains drawn. Migrating birds use stars to help them navigate on their way back to their nesting grounds. Lights attract and confuse them, and their fragile

energy is wasted from being disoriented. Many die from exhaustion. To them, lights are stars. They are just trying to find their way home. They also cannot see glass and crash into it, flying toward lights or at a reflection of the sky or vegetation. Curtains also help with this problem. Residential lighting is one of the leading causes of bird deaths. Free-ranging cats are the number one cause, but high-rise

buildings, vehicles, insecticide and pesticide, electric lines, communication towers and wind turbines (in that order) are also main contributors to bird deaths. So remember your feathered friends and “turn out lights for birds in flight.” All it takes is a flick of a switch. Keep looking up!

*Deb Stueber  
NUCLA*

## Graduation edition is May 14

Dear Community,

We are gearing up for our graduation edition, which will feature

both Nucla and Norwood graduating seniors. The Forum shares in this honoring of students and their achievements. Anyone who wishes to sponsor a student from the Class of 2025 or who would like to acknowledge the entire

class, from either school or both schools, may email us at regan-tuttle@gmail.com. Businesses, organizations and individuals are welcome to do so.

*Regan Tuttle, Editor  
NUCLA*

# ADU

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

Brown said she reviews such cases as need-based, and she wasn’t sure O’Hern had a real need in her situation.

Destiny Reed, also in attendance and who has an ADU, and O’Hern both would like for town to focus on people breaking other rules, such as trash, noise and sewer violations. They feel there are other, more pressing issues in town. And, O’Hern said she’s already paying a sewer multiplier (extra fee for having the RV on site).

Toward the end of the meeting, the mayor and Trustee Ailene Smith said that there are as many people against changing code to allow more freedoms regarding ADUs as there are supporting freedom for ADUs. O’Hern said those people need to show up at meetings and talk too then.

O’Hern believes changing code to allow for more ADUs could help with housing and business growth. John Townsend, also in attendance, said it’s a housing solution and a way for those without generational wealth to leverage what assets they have. Community leader Aimee Tooker said she doesn’t want town offi-

cials picking winners and losers for ADUs; she wants clear guidelines and set parameters.

The next meeting aims to discuss what those details could be. O’Hern has a working draft of code changes, but she’s not ready to propose any ordinances just yet. The group is set to meet again on May 5.

Pierce said he cautions the ADU committee, because developers, especially east of Nucla, have the money to buy up properties and jam as many units as they can onto them, which could radically change Nucla.

O’Hern said she doesn’t want to create additional bureaucracy.

# Tooker

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

perspectives are, those in different counties who are facing similar challenges. She said it feels good to help western Colorado have a unified voice.

She said the conference overall was informative and covered important issues. At the heart of it all was the wolf issue. She said state leader Lauren Dobson was present and spoke about the agriculture coalition she’s organized. Kathleen Curry, of Gunnison, was also on the wolf panel, along with

other leaders who spoke.

“It was the last panel of the day, but the highlight,” Tooker said.

She added Western Slope ranchers are suffering top-down leadership with the wolf reintroduction, with a lack of communication and also payment for predation. She said there are further complications with top officials having to verify predation, not those in the field and on the scene.

“We are also not following the management plan or doing the NEPA study,” she said with regard to wolves.

Also engaging at the conference, Tooker said, were panels on oil and gas, plus mining, and tim-

ber management. She said there are timber programs available, and people are discussing thinning and managing fuels in Western Slope forests — “and managing in a way that wouldn’t lead to a catastrophic mega-fire,” she said.

Overall, she said she was grateful for the conference weekend.

“I am really honored to be a part of a unified voice that represents Western Slope and rural Colorado values,” she said. “(The award) was an unexpected and very humbling surprise. I am excited to continue this journey with Club 20 and make sure that the West End and Montrose County are at the tables and not on the menus.”

# Masters

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

He also said there could be more ICE agents in the future, but so far that’s not the case.

**2) If ICE requests a hold, will you keep an inmate in your jail beyond the time at which their sentence would have expired to give ICE time to pick them up?**

“The law says you’re not supposed to do that. It doesn’t matter what our policy is,” Masters told the Forum. “We are supposed to release. . . . The main thing is that it’s not our decision. It’s not a sheriff decision to hold onto someone. The court tells us when to release, and the law says to release in a reasonable time.”

**3) Do you ask every arrestee about their immigration status at the time of arrest or booking?**

“No. We do ask them where they were born, their nationality,” he said. “We ask that of everyone who walks into the jail.”

Masters said they ask the standard “identifiers”: address, height, weight, eye color, age, date of birth, place of birth — all standard.

“We don’t ask ‘Are you here illegally, or legally?’”

Though, he said sometimes someone willingly will produce a green card to show law enforcement.

**4) Do you notify ICE anytime a foreign-born inmate is booked into jail?**

Again, Masters said the software reports that information in

the booking process. He said if someone is booked on a Friday and has immigration issues, it might be Monday or later until ICE even gets in contact with the jail.

“It’s just not a terribly efficient process,” he said, “and it’s getting worse as far as efficiency goes.”

Masters said all of the sheriffs he knows follow the law in the same way he does.

“We cannot hold onto anybody without an order signed by a judge,” he said.

He said no law enforcement — highway patrol, the marshal’s department, sheriff’s deputies — can arrest anyone without an affidavit reviewed and signed by a judge.

“The laws in Colorado and the nation are very clear,” he said.

## Chomp N Sons, LLC

### Tree Trimming Service

SERVING NUCLA/NATURITA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

**Randy:** (970) 765-5103

**Tim:** (970) 209-8973

*Licensed and Insured*



CHAMBER NEWS

# Sharing gratitude for the fairgrounds, SMPA and Snyder Ranches

By CHERYL JERABEK



Snyder Ranches has been working through lambing season. The local chamber celebrates the family-owned outfit. (Photo by Shelley Donnellon)

The Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright’s Mesa continues to celebrate local members: the many businesses, organizations and individuals who support the chamber and its work.

As for the San Miguel County Fairgrounds, it’s the “mane” arena for community spirit. It’s hard to imagine what the West End community would be like without it. For decades, it has served as a central gathering place, where local traditions are kept alive and new memories are made.

San Miguel County has owned the fairgrounds facility since January 1965, when it was purchased from the San Miguel Basin Fair Association. Volunteers handled all the organizing and scheduling until 2003, when DeeAnna Burbridge became the interim manager. In 2005, she took the reins as the official San Miguel County Fairgrounds Coordinator.

“We offer a low-cost, community-focused venue for all sorts of activities like the San Miguel Basin Fair and Rodeo, 4-H and FFA, equestrian events and clinics, baseball, soccer, horse racing, music festivals, ice skating rink, family reunions, funerals, dances, renaissance fairs, bicycle tours, farmers markets, horse boarding, carnivals and even a mock DUI crash event,” Burbridge said in an interview. “It’s a two-way street where we help each other.”

And, San Miguel Power Association has been lighting up our community for decades. San Miguel Power Association (SMPA), a cooperative with around 10,000 members, provides energy that keeps our homes, businesses and community thriving. SMPA not only delivers reliable energy, but gives back to the community in many other ways as well.

What sets SMPA apart from traditional electric companies is that it is truly a cooperative, owned and governed by its members. This structure ensures that profits are reinvested into the community, rather than distributed to outside shareholders.

“San Miguel Power Association, Inc. is a consumer-owned rural electric cooperative,” said Alex Shelley, SMPA communications executive. “We literally would not exist without our member communities. Therefore, we take very seriously our seventh cooperative principle, ‘Care for Community,’ which compels us to work in partnership with community governments, businesses, service organizations and members, not only for safe, reliable, cost-effective and environmentally responsible electricity, but to bolster community initiatives that enhance local economies, culture and quality of life.”

Moreover, Snyder Ranches, LLC is a long-lived legacy in Norwood. The family-owned and family-operated sheep and cattle ranch is a fourth-generation operation that stretches atop Norwood Hill, up to the Lone Cone Mountain and beyond, covering more than 1,300 acres in San Miguel County.

Along with selling rams for breeding and wool, Snyder Ranches supplies prized lamb meat and high-quality beef to local individuals and businesses, as well as to large Colorado meat buyers.

“Our lamb is raised naturally, without added hormones or unnecessary antibiotics,” said Terri Snyder Lamers, who runs Snyder Ranches, LLC along with her brothers, Steve and Todd.

Snyder Ranches’ contribution to the community doesn’t stop with sheep and cattle by any means.

“We believe in supporting the community that has supported us for generations,” Lamers said. “We donate lamb to local fundraisers and 4-H events, help sponsor youth agricultural programs, and provide mentorship for young ranchers. This is where our family has lived and worked for generations, and we take pride in being part of a close-knit, hardworking community.”

The Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright’s Mesa has monthly membership meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at varying local locations from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## 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.

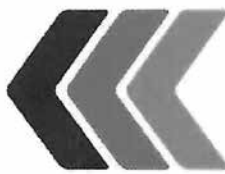
**RIMROCKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Board meetings are third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the museum building

## NNTC can help you!

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



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



Supporting a local business supports your community.

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

## May is Mental Health Month

Mental wellness is essential for peak cognitive and physical performance.

You can help maintain good mental health by getting enough sleep, eating nutritious foods, exercising and staying connected socially.

***If you or someone you know is struggling or in crises, help is available. Call or text 988.***

For all your medical needs, call Basin Clinic to schedule your appointment. Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



### Basin Clinic

421 Adams Street, Naturita, Colorado

(970) 865-2665

Robert Tapley, FNP

Angela Winn, PA-c

AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, FNP

April Randle, MD

Tiffany Ordoñez, MD – Medical Director

(EEOIC patients please schedule with our MD)

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

# Naturita Days

## Fundraising Event



### Mother's Day Spaghetti Dinner

With a Dessert Auction

May 10th from 5 to 8 p.m.  
at the Naturita Community Center



## Tome Nuestra Encuesta

Queremos sus comentarios



SURVEY  
Spanish



SURVEY  
English

[www.montrosecounty.net/survey](http://www.montrosecounty.net/survey)

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](http://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.



### Looking to Place a Classified?

And have thousands of people see it? Place an ad in the San Miguel Basin Forum  
(970) 864-7425

### OBITUARY

# Marlene June Lee

May 18, 1952 — April 18, 2025



Marlene June Lee. (Courtesy image)

It is with great sorrow that we announce Marlene June Lee went home to heaven on April 18 at the age of 72. Marlene passed away peacefully at her home from complications of COPD in Paradox with her husband, Jack Lee, and her daughter, Shanell Highline, by her side.

Marlene was born on May 18, 1952, to George and Wanda Scott in Hays City, Kansas. Marlene had met the love of life Jack Lee in 1961, with life leading them on different paths. They rekindled their love in 1988, getting married May 12, 1990.

Marlene was known for her strong will, even stubbornness at times, her humorous personality, and love and support for her husband and children. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandma, dearest friend and a beautiful soul who would help anyone.

She enjoyed walking up in the hills, camping, cooking, crafting and gardening. She lived life to the fullest and especially loved spending time with her family. Marlene always had a smile on her face that lit up any room she entered. While our hearts mourn

the loss, we take comfort that she is no longer suffering.

She leaves behind her husband, Jack Lee; her children, Joshua (Mariah) Rushing, Jack Jr. (Kelly) Lee, Shonna Flynn and Shanell Highline; 11 grandchildren: Skyler, Derek, Ahbree, Katlyn, Marissa, Christina, Sarah, Kailley, Jason, Shyla and Jasmine; and four great-grandchildren: Louren, Adaline, Lilliana and Jaxton. Marlene also leaves behind siblings, Judy (Ken) Skaggs, Billie White and Terry (Stephanie) Scott, and many more friends and family, including her best friend, Kretha (Don) Colcord.

Marlene is preceded in death by her parents, George and Wanda Scott; her twin sister, Marilyn Scott; sisters, Georgia (Ken) Patton and Mary (Galen) Smith; brothers, Eddie and David Scott; sons, Jason Lee and Travis Flynn; and two-great grandchildren, Jethro and Acyn Jack.

A celebration of life will be held at the Paradox Community Center on May 18 at 2 p.m. Please join us for a potluck luncheon afterwards.

“Today and always, may loving memories bring you peace, comfort, and strength.”



### Riding local

Last week, Brock Benson and Bri Bonacquista took the middle school outdoor recreation program students out to the Paradox Trail for mountain biking exercise. (Courtesy image)

RECIPE

# Deviled eggs are still in season

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Easter might be over, but eggs are still in season, and fresh eggs abound in the West End. This recipe is a reminder of how easy it is to prepare deviled eggs and have a high-protein snack on hand. You can take some to work to pair with other healthy lunch items. It's a good way to make sure children are getting enough protein too. Deviled eggs are a great addition to the wild asparagus that's on the rise. I measure nothing when I fix them. I just take equal parts Dijon mustard, specifically Grey Poupon because I like a bit of a kick, and real mayonnaise. I keep them in a glass container in the fridge and eat them as I feel like it for a few days. I don't make them all the time, because I don't want to grow tired of them. But, deviled eggs are a nice addition to a meal, one that carries over quiet well.



This photo shows deviled eggs I fixed for Easter, but I will continue making them this spring. (Photo by Regan Tuttle)

### Deviled eggs

**Ingredients**

6 to 12 eggs, preferably local, West End eggs  
Dijon mustard, like Grey Poupon  
Real mayonnaise  
Salt

Pepper  
Paprika

**Directions**

Boil the eggs, about 10 minutes. Immediately when done, run cool water over them and add ice. After five to 10 minutes, peel the eggs and halve them. Use a spoon to

gently scrape the yolks into a bowl. I add equal parts Dijon and mayonnaise to the yolks, and add salt and pepper to taste. I use a tiny whisk and get my filling pretty creamy. It just looks nicer with no lumps. Carefully fill the egg halves with the mixture, and sprinkle with a bit of paprika.

## A Huge Shout Out

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

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

**Thank you** for making this possible!

We sincerely appreciate each and every one of you.

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

- 5th Avenue Grill
  - Rimrocker Historical Society
  - A-T's Meatblock
  - Basin Clinic
  - Co-Op Country Store
  - Hoof & Paw Thrift Store
  - My Place
  - Rimrock Hotel
  - West End Family Link
- Huntem Tire Service & Repair
  - Kenny's Tires
  - BDS Trucking, LLC
  - Bruin Waste Management
  - Blondies
  - Moore's Mining
  - Packrat Minnie Storage
  - San Miguel Power Association
  - Coyote Septic Services



**Naturita-Nucla Telephone Company**  
**NNTC Wireless, LLC**



### Tending the land

More than 15 community members and 15 Nucla Middle School students attended a composting workshop last week with Barclay and Tony Daranyi from Indian Ridge Farm and Vanessa Harmony from Colorado Edible Forest. (Photo by Melanie Eggers)

Retail Cannabis 21+ years old

## Spring Sale

**NORWOOD LOCATION**  
**NEW HOURS**  
**Monday - Friday · 8am - 7pm**  
**Sat/Sun · 10am - 6pm**

[www.awcolorado.com](http://www.awcolorado.com) · 1630 Grand Ave · Norwood, Co. 81423

**Christopher Tooker**  
Master Electrician  
Electrical Contractor  
Phone: 970-864-2321  
tookerooffice@gmail.com  
[www.tookerelectric.com](http://www.tookerelectric.com)

New Construction  
Residential  
Commercial  
Service

**Aggregate & Redi Mix Supplier**

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

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

**BICYCLE OUTPOST & SERVICE SALOON**

205 E Main St. Naturita, Colorado  
970-275-8310 · [paradoxcycle@gmail.com](mailto:paradoxcycle@gmail.com)

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

**212 East Main Street**  
**Naturita, Colorado 81422**

**Office: 970-865-2525**

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

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

En Espanol

CUIDADO DE LA SALUD

La Clínica Basin es la tercera mejor clínica rural en CO

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

El Forum habló el 25 de abril con Christina Pierce, directora ejecutiva de la Clínica Basin, quien compartió que la clínica de West End ha sido reconocida como uno de los 10 mejores centros de salud rural en Colorado. De hecho, es la número 3, de 60 clínicas en el estado, y fue premiada el 18 de abril.

Ahora los representantes de la Clínica Basin continúan trabajando en su plan estratégico. Una subvención de \$50,000 del Departamento de Asuntos Locales del estado está ayudando a pagar al planificador estratégico, Jason McCormick, de Fruita. Pierce dijo que McCormick está guiando el plan general para avanzar, junto con la gobernanza de la junta y la actualización del registro de pacientes.

Según Pierce, McCormick ha estado en la Junta de Directores del Centro de Salud Rural de Colorado y fue un ejecutivo en un hospital de acceso crítico en Fruita. Ahora trabaja para ayudar a varias clínicas y hospitales en Colorado, así como en otros estados.

“Me ha impresionado su nivel de conocimiento,” dijo Pierce. “Cuando habló con los comisionados, Sue (Hansen) también quedó impresionada con su experiencia.”

Pierce dijo que sigue siendo optimista. Aunque los comisionados del condado han tenido preocupaciones en el pasado sobre la capacidad de la clínica para mantenerse, ella cree que las cosas están cambiando. Hace dos años, los comisionados exigieron que la Clínica Basin redujera su personal en un 10% para recibir financiamiento del condado. Pierce dijo que ha sido una lucha desde entonces continuar haciendo todo con el personal que tienen ahora.

Sin embargo, dijo que la clínica está haciendo cambios positivos. Y, ella cree que el Comisionado Sean Pond, del Distrito 3, abogará por la Clínica Basin, al igual que el Comisionado Scott Mijares, y sabe que Hansen ha cambiado de opinión.

McCormick está preparado para dar una actualización sobre su trabajo con el plan estratégico de la clínica, pero Pierce no puede hablar sobre esa información en este momento. Lo que pudo decirle al Forum es que existen varias opciones para el futuro de la clínica, y permanecer “como está” es solo una opción. McCormick se dirigirá al Grupo de Soluciones de West End y a la junta de la Clínica Basin en una próxima reunión —probablemente en mayo— y luego se tomarán decisiones.

“Cuando la junta haya decidido, se hará público,” dijo

ella. “El público sabrá más pronto.”

Pierce dijo que hay más que celebrar. Robert Tapley ha vuelto, al igual que Angela Miller. Miller será a tiempo completo de lunes a jueves.

“Así que dos proveedores a tiempo completo,” dijo Pierce. “Eso es algo realmente bueno.”

Aunque la clínica está viendo aproximadamente la misma cantidad de pacientes en este momento, Pierce cree que eso aumentará ahora. Ella sabe que Miller tenía un grupo de pacientes que se conectaron con ella. Esos pacientes sin duda estarán contentos de que ella haya regresado. Además de los proveedores de nivel medio, los médicos también están en el sitio de la Clínica Basin a lo largo del mes en diferentes momentos.

En otras noticias, la Clínica Basin finalmente realizará parte del trabajo estético que ha estado planeando, y el Forum publicará una oferta en el periódico. Próximamente, y gracias a una subvención para la fachada a través de la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico de West End (WEEDC), se realizarán nuevas pinturas exteriores, nuevas canaletas y, con suerte, también algo de pintura interior.

La clínica necesitará algunos voluntarios para ayudar con el trabajo, una vez que estén listos para comenzar.

COLORADO

Aimee Tooker honrada con un premio en el Club 20

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Durante el fin de semana, el Club 20 — la coalición de negocios, organizaciones y personas de la ladera occidental que unen sus voces para ser escuchadas en la esfera política — celebró su conferencia de primavera en Grand Junction. Allí, Aimee Tooker de Nucla fue honrada con el premio de Nuevo Miembro del Año.

Tooker le dijo al Foro que fue presentada al Club 20 hace un año, en el apogeo de la propuesta del Monumento Nacional Dolores. Luego, ella y Scott Braden, un defensor del monumento, tuvieron un debate que fue moderado por funcionarios del Club 20. Después de expresar oposición en el debate, se unió al Club 20 como miembro.

Luego, el otoño pasado, el Club 20 tuvo su evento de caucus, y fue nominada para ser representante del Condado de Montrose. Típicamente, los condados tienen tres representantes del Club 20. En Montrose, son Tooker con Justin Musser y Cindy Dozier.

Tooker dijo que el Club 20 tiene tanto una junta ejecutiva como una junta de directores. Siguen ciertas políticas para decidir si oponerse o apoyar la legislación en Colorado y dar su opinión a los legisladores. Y, cada primavera y otoño se celebra la conferencia del Club 20, aunque el verano y el invierno también ven reuniones de políticas.

Para sorpresa de Tooker, la noche del 25 de abril, la directora ejecutiva del Club 20, Brittany Dixon, anunció que Tooker ganó el premio de Nuevo Miembro del Año. Tooker dijo que fue completamente inesperado. De hecho, tuvo lágrimas. Aceptó que solo quiere ayudar a hacer una diferencia y transmitir los sentimientos de las comunidades locales sobre los temas.

“Nuestros Senadores y Representantes están preguntando cómo se siente el Club 20 sobre las cosas,” dijo. “Reconocen que el Club 20 es importante. Podemos sentarnos aquí y que-

jarnos y decir lo que no queremos, pero también podemos estar en la mesa y decir eso.”

Tooker dijo que encuentra el proceso del Club 20 atractivo e interesante. Disfruta escuchar cuáles son las perspectivas de otros, aquellos en diferentes condados que enfrentan desafíos similares. Dijo que se siente bien ayudar a que Colorado Occidental tenga una voz unificada.

Dijo que la conferencia en general fue informativa y cubrió temas importantes. En el corazón de todo estaba el tema del lobo. Dijo que la líder estatal Lauren Dobson estuvo presente y habló sobre la coalición agrícola que ha organizado. Kathleen Curry, de Gunnison, también estuvo en el panel de lobos, junto con otros líderes que hablaron.

“Fue el último panel del día, pero el más destacado,” dijo Tooker.

Agregó que los ganaderos de la ladera occidental están sufriendo un liderazgo de arriba hacia abajo con la reintroducción del lobo, con una falta de comunicación y también de pago por depredación. Dijo que hay más complicaciones con los altos funcionarios teniendo que verificar la depredación, no aquellos en el campo y en la escena.

“Tampoco estamos siguiendo el plan de manejo ni haciendo el estudio NEPA,” dijo en relación a los lobos.

También fueron interesantes en la conferencia, dijo Tooker, los paneles sobre petróleo y gas, además de minería y gestión de la madera. Dijo que hay programas de madera disponibles, y la gente está discutiendo el adelgazamiento y la gestión de combustibles en los bosques de la ladera occidental — “y gestionando de una manera que no llevaría a un mega-incendio catastrófico,” dijo.

En general, dijo que estaba agradecida por el fin de semana de la conferencia.

“Estoy realmente honrada de ser parte de una voz unificada que representa los valores de la ladera occidental



Aimee Tooker de Nucla fue honrada con el premio de Nuevo Miembro del Año. (Foto de cortesía)

y de Colorado rural,” dijo. “(El premio) fue una sorpresa inesperada y muy humilde. Estoy emocionada de continuar este viaje con el Club 20 y asegurarme de que el West End y el Condado de Montrose estén en las mesas y no en los menús.”

En Espanol

INMIGRACIÓN

Bill Masters habla sobre ICE y la ley

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

El Foro de la Cuenca de San Miguel a veces participa en programas estatales con otras salas de redacción en Colorado. Recientemente, se le pidió a los representantes de CoLab que trabajaran en la cobertura de ICE, Inmigración y Control de Aduanas, comunicándose específicamente con las agencias de aplicación de la ley locales para aprender sobre sus prácticas. El Foro se comunicó el 25 de abril con el Sheriff del Condado de San Miguel, Bill Masters, con cuatro preguntas generadas por la organización CoLab del estado:.

1) “¿Cuál es su política con los reclusos que tienen acciones de cumplimiento de inmigración pendientes?”

Masters dijo que eso está determinado por el estatuto estatal. “... La ley estatal dicta cuál es el procedimiento, respecto a las personas con problemas de inmigración,” dijo. “Si alguien está bajo nuestra custodia, que arrestamos, o el mariscal lo hizo, están en nuestra cárcel. ... Si son inmigrantes, o no son ciudadanos estadounidenses, los ingresamos en la computadora, y la computadora le dice a ICE que esta persona está bajo nuestra custodia — y nos dice si la persona es buscada por ICE.”

Masters agregó que si un recluso es buscado por un embargo civil, no por una orden de arresto criminal, ICE notifica a la oficina del sheriff y solicita una retención sobre esa persona, para que puedan enviar un embargo civil. Solo, Masters dijo que un embargo civil no es una orden de arresto. Y, la verdad es que la Constitución de EE. UU. establece que una persona no puede ser detenida o arrestada, a menos que haya una orden firmada por un juez. En resumen, la aplicación de la ley no puede retener a nadie basado

en un embargo civil. Masters dijo que cuando alguien es liberado de la cárcel, o sale bajo fianza, la aplicación de la ley tiene que liberar a esa persona de manera oportuna, generalmente en dos horas. Dijo que si ICE no se presenta, esa persona puede irse.

“No mantenemos a nadie un minuto más que eso,” dijo. Además, en su historia — 45 años como sheriff y 50 años de mantenimiento de la paz — al tratar con ICE, aquellos a quienes los agentes vienen a recoger son los que han cometido crímenes, aquellos con extensos antecedentes de arrestos, o aquellos que han sido deportados múltiples veces, no necesariamente aquellos que ingresaron ilegalmente.

Lo que es más, es que el agente de ICE — ahora solo hay uno, pero antes había dos — vive en Durango y cubre múltiples condados.

“La sensación de que ICE está en todas partes, sacando personas en el oeste de Colorado, en mi experiencia, simplemente no es cierta,” dijo Masters. “No tienen el personal para hacerlo.”

También dijo que podría haber más agentes de ICE en el futuro, pero hasta ahora ese no es el caso.

2) Si ICE solicita una retención, ¿mantendrá a un recluso en su cárcel más allá del tiempo en que su sentencia habría expirado para darle tiempo a ICE para recogerlo?

“La ley dice que no se supone que debes hacer eso. No importa cuál sea nuestra política,” le dijo Masters al Foro. “Se supone que debemos liberar. ... Lo principal es que no es nuestra decisión. No es decisión del sheriff retener a alguien. El tribunal nos dice cuándo liberar, y

la ley dice que se debe liberar en un tiempo razonable.”

3) ¿Preguntan a cada arrestado sobre su estatus migratorio en el momento del arresto o la reserva?

“No. Les preguntamos dónde nacieron, su nacionalidad,” dijo. “Preguntamos eso a todos los que entran a la cárcel.”

Masters dijo que preguntan los “identificadores” estándar: dirección, altura, peso, color de ojos, edad, fecha de nacimiento, lugar de nacimiento — todo estándar.

“No preguntamos ‘¿Está aquí ilegalmente, o legalmente?’”

Sin embargo, dijo que a veces alguien voluntariamente mostrará una tarjeta verde a la aplicación de la ley.

4) ¿Notifican a ICE cada vez que un recluso nacido en el extranjero es ingresado en la cárcel?

Nuevamente, Masters dijo que el software informa esa información en el proceso de reserva. Dijo que si alguien es ingresado un viernes y tiene problemas de inmigración, podría ser el lunes o más tarde hasta que ICE se ponga en contacto con la cárcel.

“Simplemente no es un proceso terriblemente eficiente,” dijo, “y está empeorando en cuanto a eficiencia.”

Masters dijo que todos los sheriffs que conoce siguen la ley de la misma manera que él.

“No podemos retener a nadie sin una orden firmada por un juez,” dijo.

Dijo que ninguna fuerza del orden — patrulla de carreteras, el departamento del mariscal, los diputados del sheriff — puede arrestar a nadie sin un affidavit revisado y firmado por un juez.

“Las leyes en Colorado y en la nación son muy claras,” dijo.

VIVIENDA

Nucla celebra la segunda reunión de ADU

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

La semana pasada, los líderes de Nucla se reunieron para la segunda reunión pública del pueblo sobre ADUs, unidades de vivienda accesorias. Un comité especial, con Jamie O’Hern organizando, se está reuniendo para revisar el código de uso de suelo y las ordenanzas del pueblo de Nucla, en un esfuerzo por comprender mejor las ADUs y cómo deben ser reguladas.

O’Hern fue citada a principios de este año por vivir en una casa rodante mientras alquilaba su casa en Nucla. Ella le dijo al comité que está atada a una hipoteca elevada y no quiere perder su casa. Siente que tiene el derecho de hacer lo que desee con su propia propiedad.

En la reunión de ADU del 22 de abril, la alcaldesa Paula Brown y otros discutieron el mapa de zonificación en Nucla. Discutieron el área comercial y cívica y que el pueblo aprobó una variación para las casas pequeñas en Fox Street. La alcaldesa dijo que la zonificación en esa área es para proteger y hacer crecer los negocios. Aunque O’Hern no está a favor de un sistema de permisos especial para ADUs, dijo que quizás estaría bien allí en el núcleo comercial y cívico. También se discutieron otros distritos de zonificación.

También se discutió la idea de potencialmente separar las casas pequeñas de las ADUs. Sin embargo, O’Hern dijo que le parecía “tonto” que si se vierte una fundación, y una ADU se coloca sobre eso, se permite en una zonificación específica. Pero, si viniera una inundación, y otra vivienda se colocara sobre ruedas y tuviera un faldón, en el mismo

lugar se trataría de manera diferente.

El fideicomisario Tim Pierce dijo que las casas pequeñas sobre ruedas pueden verter aguas residuales ilegalmente, y las estructuras permanentes se conectan a los servicios públicos. Dijo que seguir los códigos de alcantarillado es importante, al igual que adherirse a los planes de ingeniería del pueblo. Agregó que el pueblo siempre repara las roturas de las líneas de alcantarillado, pero para las ADUs, el propietario debe reparar eso.

Hay otras cosas a considerar para las ADUs en Nucla, dijo Pierce, porque hay tanta variabilidad en el tamaño de los lotes. El líder comunitario Tim Tait dijo que seguramente hay una ecuación matemática estándar para el tamaño del lote y la densidad; Pierce estuvo de acuerdo en que eso ya es un estándar.

O’Hern dijo que le preocupa que permitir ADUs caso por caso podría ser demasiado subjetivo. De hecho, cuestionó a la alcaldesa Brown sobre por qué rechazó la solicitud de permiso de ADU de O’Hern.

“Para quedarme en esta comunidad, necesito alquilar mi casa ...” dijo. “No quiero que la gente diga que no puedes ganar dinero con tu propia propiedad. ... Es un activo que poseo.”

Brown dijo que revisa tales casos basándose en la necesidad, y no estaba segura de que O’Hern tuviera una necesidad real en su situación.

Destiny Reed, también presente y que tiene una ADU, y O’Hern ambas desearían que el pueblo se enfocara en las personas que rompen otras reglas, como violaciones

de basura, ruido y alcantarillado. Sienten que hay otros problemas más urgentes en el pueblo. Y, O’Hern dijo que ya está pagando un multiplicador de alcantarillado (cargo extra por tener la casa rodante en el sitio).

Hacia el final de la reunión, la alcaldesa y la fideicomisaria Penni Berry dijeron que hay tantas personas en contra de cambiar el código para permitir más libertades respecto a las ADUs como las que apoyan la libertad para las ADUs. O’Hern dijo que esas personas también necesitan presentarse a las reuniones y hablar.

O’Hern cree que cambiar el código para permitir más ADUs podría ayudar con el crecimiento de la vivienda y los negocios. John Townsend, también presente, dijo que es una solución de vivienda y una forma para aquellos sin riqueza generacional de aprovechar los activos que tienen. La líder comunitaria Aimee Tooker dijo que no quiere que los funcionarios del pueblo elijan ganadores y perdedores para las ADUs; quiere pautas claras y parámetros establecidos.

La próxima reunión tiene como objetivo discutir cuáles podrían ser esos detalles. O’Hern tiene un borrador de trabajo de cambios en el código, pero no está lista para proponer ninguna ordenanza todavía. El grupo se reunirá nuevamente el 5 de mayo.

Pierce dijo que advierte al comité de ADU, porque los desarrolladores, especialmente al este de Nucla, tienen el dinero para comprar propiedades y meter tantas unidades como puedan en ellas, lo que podría cambiar radicalmente a Nucla.

O’Hern dijo que no quiere crear burocracia adicional.

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
800-900# STEERS	2.50-2.70	800-900# HEIFERS	2.20-2.60
Top Bulls	1.70-1.90 Top 1.93	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 Top – 1.68
Medium Cows	1.15-1.30	Low-yielding Cows	1.00 Below

**NEXT WEEK:**  
Thursday, May 1st – 30 pairs (Olathe) 4,5,6 y/o, 48 1<sup>st</sup> calf heifers bred 6,7,8 months, 8 late bred cows (Delta), 1 Angus/Hereford cross 1st calf heifer (Delta), 4 pairs (Olathe), 10 feeders @ 700 lbs (Olathe), 6 feeders @400 lbs (Olathe).

**UPCOMING SALES:** We continue to have sales every Thursday at 10 AM.

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – Regular Sale

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – Alternative Sale: Early consignments - 35 Highlander Cattle, 2 Llamas, 2 Alpacas, 70 hd Wagyu bred cows/pairs/heifers/bulls, 2 Emus, 1 Mini Jersey milk cow – just freshened, 1 Longhorn gentle pair, 1 Jersey halter broke bull.

606 MAIN ST  
NUCLA, CO 81424  
OFFICE 9708642158  
CELL 9704281666

**HUNTEM  
TIRE SERVICE  
AND REPAIR**  
  
LOCAL AFFORDABLE.  
GREAT SERVICE



DAVID JOHNSON  
OWNER

"Your One Stop  
Shop For All Your  
Communication Needs"

NNTC  
Wireless 864-7335

**Bachman Law, LLC**  
*Estate & Medicaid Planning, Probate, LLC Formation,  
& Real Estate Transactions*

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


Sara Bachman  
-Attorney at Law-

970.865.2440  
sara@bachmanlawllc.com  
www.bachmanlawcolorado.com

We Meet Your Tire Needs  
We Appreciate & Thank You for Your Business

**Kenny's  
Tires**

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

**Sam's Service**  
**Phillips 66**

Your Service Station  
• Offering Phillips 66 Proclean Fuel  
24-7 with Credit Card  
• Convenience Store  
• Brand name Tires & Service  
• Lube-Oil Service  
• Computer Diagnostics  
• Light Mechanical  
James Keeton  
1685 Grand Ave, Norwood, CO • 970-327-4447

West End Montrose County  
Sheriff's Office Blotter

**3/17/2025**  
0658 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita for an animal problem.  
1019 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 300 block of Adams Street in Naturita.  
1637 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Crabtree Road and Highway 97 in Naturita for an animal problem.  
1706 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 34300 block of 3760 Road near Redvale for an information report.  
1720 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of Main Street in Nucla for a fraud report.  
1843 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for an animal problem.  
2 school zones  
1 VIN inspection  
1 warrant attempt  
1 directed patrol in Nucla  
2 directed patrols in County  
1 directed patrol in Naturita  
**3/18/2025**

0921Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 74 near Naturita for an animal problem.  
0933 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35000 block of 3590 Road near Redvale for a medical assist.  
1008 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 111 near Redvale for an abandoned vehicle.  
1705 Hours - Deputy took a noise complaint in the 400 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla.  
1742 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 400 block of West Second Avenue in Naturita.  
1 school zone  
1 follow up report  
2 directed patrols in Nucla  
3 directed patrols in County  
2 directed patrols in Naturita  
1 civil process attempted/served  
**3/19/2025**

0004 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 75 near Naturita for an animal problem.  
1217 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 141 and EE22 Road near Naturita for an animal problem.  
1332 Hours - Destiny Farr, 38, was contacted at the intersection of 3900 Road and Highway 145 near Norwood and cited for speeding.  
1545 Hours - William Walker, 46, was arrested in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita on an outstanding warrant.  
2 VIN inspections  
2 directed patrols in County  
1 directed patrol in Naturita  
**3/24/2025**

1355 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of Z26 Road and V24 Road near Nucla for a medical assist.  
1942 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27600 block of BB Road near Nucla for a report of smoke in the area.  
1 VIN inspection  
2 follow up reports  
1 directed patrol in Nucla  
1 directed patrol in County  
1 directed patrol in Naturita  
2 civil processes attempted/served  
**3/25/2025**

0827 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 74 near Naturita for a traffic hazard.  
0914 Hours - Deputy conducted a field interview in the 22300 block of Highway 141 near Naturita.  
1024 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a report of threatening.

1153 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of West Fifth Road and 2700 Road near Nucla for a civil matter.  
1803 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 73 near Naturita for a fire.  
3 VIN inspections  
1 follow up report  
1 directed patrol in Nucla  
2 directed patrols in County  
1 directed patrol in Naturita  
**3/26/2025**  
0019 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 64 near Naturita for a citizen assist.  
0132 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29600 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a juvenile problem.  
0820 Hours - Deputy conducted court security in the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla.  
0851 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 300 block of Main Street in Nucla.  
1202 Hours - Deputy conducted an agency assist in the 1400 block of Grand Avenue in Norwood.

1334 Hours - Joyce Snyder, 55, was contacted in the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for an improperly placed vehicle validation tab.  
1545 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 75 near Naturita for an abandoned vehicle.  
1639 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the intersection of BB Road and 2700 Road near Nucla for a traffic hazard.  
1642 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29600 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a juvenile problem.  
1823 Hours - Wyndham Pounds, 49, was contacted on Highway 141 mm 60 near Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.  
1931 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a trespassing report  
2027 Hours - Deputy conducted a medical assist in the area of Highway 145 and II10 Road near Redvale.  
2 directed patrols in Nucla  
2 directed patrols in County

**San Miguel Water  
Conservancy District**  
PO Box 640, Norwood, CO 81423  
smwcd@yahoo.com

**SAN MIGUEL WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS  
TO THE NORWOOD WATER COMMISSION**  
  
The San Miguel Water Conservancy District (SMWCD) is responsible for selecting 2 members for the Norwood Water Commission (NWC) in June, 2025. SMWCD is seeking letters from interested residents. **To be eligible to apply:** Applicants must live within the Norwood Water Commission district boundaries.  
  
**Priority** will be given to those who live outside of the incorporated Town of Norwood boundaries and who own a water tap. However, the SMWCD board is interested in applicants with multiple skills to address the water quality and supply challenges NWC faces to serve a growing community; therefore, applicants who live within the town boundaries or do not own a water tap may be considered.  
  
Applicants are encouraged to review the **2020 Norwood Water Commission Water Master Plan** and **2022 Town of Norwood/Norwood Water Commission Water Supply Adequacy Update** (Available on the Town of Norwood website/NWC tab or request a copy via smwcd@yahoo.com).  
  
These reports demonstrate that planning for new water infrastructure, supply sources, and multiple water treatment improvements will need to begin in the immediate future and prioritizing these and other needs highlighted in the reports will be critical to achieve water security for Wright's Mesa. Therefore, it is SMWCD's intent to appoint members who can demonstrate:

- Government board experience
- Experience implementing water or other infrastructure projects
- Experience implementing strategic plans and timelines
- Experience with public financing and stacking funding sources
- Grant writing or management experience
- Understanding of federal, state, and local water funding resources and/or
- Other experience relevant to the NWC

  
Submit letters of interest by **June 1, 2025** to [smwcd@yahoo.com](mailto:smwcd@yahoo.com) or SMWCD, PO Box 640, Norwood, CO 81423. Letters should include the following:

- Name, Email, Phone
- Physical and Mailing Address
- Explain your water use or ownership as it relates to the NWC
- Length of time you have lived on Wright's Mesa and relevant work/involvement in the area
- Your understanding of the role and challenges of the NWC
- Your skills that are relevant to these roles or challenges
- Any relationship or conflict of interest with Town of Norwood, NWC, or SMWCD board members/staff
- Any other relevant information that would be helpful for the SMWCD in making a selection

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
*NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MONA MARIE JONES*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Court Montrose Court Address: 1200 N. Grand Ave. Montrose, CO 81401	<input type="checkbox"/> Denver Probate Court County, Colorado Court Address: 1200 N. Grand Ave. Montrose, CO 81401
In the Matter of the Estate of Mona Marie Jones aka Mona M. Jones, Mona Jones,  <b>Deceased</b> Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Sara Bachman, Bachman Law, LLC 140 E. Main Street, PO Box 158, Naturita, CO 81422 Phone Number: (970) 865-2440 FAX Number: (970) 865-2440	<b>COURT USE ONLY</b> Case Number: 2025PR30044  Division Courtroom Atty. Reg. #: 50363
<b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.</b>	

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Estate of Mona Marie Jones, Deceased Case Number 2025PR30044  
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to  
☒ District Court of Montrose, County, Colorado or  
☐ Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado  
on or before 08/23/2025 (date)", or the claims may be forever barred.  

Sara Bachman, #50363  
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice  
PO Box 158  
Address  
Naturita, CO 81422  
City, State, Zip Code

**Publish only this portion of form.**

**Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum April 23, 30, & May 7, 2025**

# 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](http://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@lhrrs.net](mailto:kelly@lhrrs.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 includ-

ing planning, resource allocation, growth and development, regulatory compliance, quality, efficiency and the supervision of the Dental staff. This position includes both an administrative and clinical component. The Chief Dental Officer is directly accountable to the Chief Executive Officer with collateral accountability to the Board of Directors. To apply, please enter the link to indeed: <https://www.indeed.com/job/general-dentist-5161ab89be03a30b>

43-TFN-C

## 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](http://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

## AA MEETING

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

## VETERAN MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO

Memorial Services for Veterans - Contact Tom Loczy and VFW at (970) 428-2268.

## OBITUARY RATE

There will be no charge for obituaries under 500 words with a black and white picture.

## HELP WANTED



**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](http://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](http://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.**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF SAN MIGUEL POWER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

The Board of Directors of San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) hereby provides notice to the membership that it will be considering a proposal to amend the SMPA Rules and Regulations and Rate Tariffs. The proposed changes are available for member review at [www.smpa.com/rates](http://www.smpa.com/rates)

The Board of Directors will review and may adopt the proposed changes at its regularly scheduled May Board Meeting, to be held at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. This meeting will take place at the SMPA Cooperative Office, located at 720 North Railroad, Ridgway, Colorado.

Members of SMPA are invited to attend the meeting either in person or virtually. Members who wish to attend virtually may register through the SMPA website at: [www.smpa.com/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes](http://www.smpa.com/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes).

During the public comment segment of the Board Meeting, members will have the opportunity to provide comments for the Board’s consideration regarding the proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations and tariffs.

By Order of the Board of Directors of San Miguel Power Association, Inc.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum April 30, 2025

## 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.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum April 23 & 30, 2025

YOUTH

True North gathers community



With True North Youth Program Skylee Vose, Alexis Eggen, Alexis Garza, Destiny Reed, Devyn Ferrin, DJ O’Connell, Lydia Ramsey and Dee O’Connell create art.



Drake Richardson, Lisa Ross, Louie Jacobs and Olivia Bobbitt bake cookies and brownies during a Friday hangout.



Ava Reed, Devyn Ferrin, Dee O’Connell and Joselyn Vose complete a tough puzzle.



Jocelyn Vose, Ava Reed and Devyn Ferrin relax at the park. (Photos by Olivia Bobbitt)

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 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Nucla Community Center  
1045 Main St, Nucla, CO 81424





Serving our communities  
since 1913

970-865-2255

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

CITIZENS  
STATE BANK

Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Meet Our Providers!



Dr. Kelley Prince



Dr. Andrew Baker



Robin Richards, PA-C



Scott Hunter, FNP



Tommy Terwilliger, LCSW



Nichol Bray, Hygienist



Our services cover your whole family's needs:

- Healthcare
- Behavioral Health
- Dental

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

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



Se Habla Español

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



We're growing to better serve you  
throughout Western Colorado...

Norwood  
(970) 478-7868

Carbondale  
(970) 963-6663

Battlement Mesa  
(970) 512-9077

Telluride  
(970) 728-3640

Aspen  
(970) 925-3031

Clifton  
(970) 523-0445



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK