

San Miguel Basin Forum

NUCLA

Hittinger is new town trustee

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Earlier this spring, former mayor, Kirk Yerke, resigned from his duties at Nucla Town Hall. In place already was a municipal election with a question on whether or not to recall Yerke. As such, when he resigned, the election remained with a question as to who his successor would be. Voters then chose to elect mayor pro tem Paula Brown as mayor. That left an open seat on the Nucla Town Board of Trustees, since Brown was a board member.

To fill her vacant position, which is volunteer and unpaid, as are all trustee seats, including the mayor's, the town called for applications and held interviews. Aimee Tooker, Paula Riley and Joseph Hittinger submitted their letters of interest. After meeting with all three candidates, the board appointed Hittinger on May 6.

Hittinger spoke with Forum on May 9. He shared about his background and experience. Hittinger has a bachelor's degree from Florida State University in interior design and a master's degree in architecture from the Catholic University of Washington, D.C.

He's worked in real estate for the last 15 years, in San Francisco specifically. While he's mostly moved his life out of the Bay Area, he's got a few remaining clients there he is keeping. Hittinger has also worked flipping houses, and he's planning a residential development in Nucla by the old school on Main Street. He had an interior design firm, with seven employees at one point.

He's got board experience too. He's currently on the West End Economic Development Corporation's (WEEDC's) board. In the past, he served the Foundation for Interior Design Education and Research. He helped accredit different programs in the nation and was on the review board. That organization morphed into the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, and he served it as the head.

Hittinger came to the West End in 2020. He was visiting Moab, but came to Nucla and fell in love with Jim Guire, along with the environment. He bought property and stayed.

He said he's honored the Nucla board chose him. He said his strengths are handling conflict, having conversations and trying to see all sides of issues. He considers himself open-minded and doesn't believe he has all the answers.

"I have an eye for what's going right and what could use improvement," he said. "I want the West End, and particularly Nucla, to be the best it can be."

He said he's excited about the

Cont. on Pg. 2

WOLVES

CPW holds wolf meeting in Nucla

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW's) Rachel Sralla, an area wildlife manager, facilitated a meeting at the Nucla Community Center on May 12 for the public to hear information about the wolf reintroduction. She said she wasn't aiming to change any minds on the wolf issue; she only wanted to disseminate information as CPW works to comply with the ballot question approved by voters in 2020 to release wolves in Colorado.

Sralla showed a wolf activity map, which indicates where wolves have been. She said CPW can't share live locations. Officials can only say there is a wolf presence northeast of Montrose, for example.

According to the tracking collars, there are 20-something wolves on the ground. Some of the collars may not be working. Yet, those collars can help identify depredation of livestock, if the collar indicates wolf presence where a rancher clearly has loss.

She said the activity maps are updated monthly, and they show watershed areas. Even if a wolf was

only at the top of a watershed, the whole watershed will be marked.

Sralla said one female wolf covered 1,200 miles in 60 days. Another went to Saguache and settled. She said CPW is learning, as is the public.

"We are working to keep on eye on things," she said.

When asked if wolves are monitored once they cross into Utah, Sralla said she can't see that activity. However, Colorado has an MOU with Utah, and Utah doesn't want the wolves. In the event of one crossing state lines, the animal

Cont. on Pg. 5

AGRICULTURE

What is the Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection Act?

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Many people on the Western Slope are talking about the proposed Colorado Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection Act. For those who are not aware, Lauren Dobson said people better educate themselves.

Dobson is an advocate for agriculture on the Western Slope. In the past, she worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), formerly as Assistant Director for Education and Information. Most recently, she's been helping organize an ag coalition to make voices of ranchers, outfitters, anglers and producers audible.

She told the Forum on May 9 that the Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection Act was submitted to the title board April 18. Legislators reviewed it May 2 and gave feedback in the form of "four dozen comments."

Dobson said the initiative is spearheaded by by Jessica Presso and Cameron Porter, though she's not clear on the organizations the two are affiliated with.

She said this is the second time Colorado has seen this type of effort come forward. She's now analyzing the fundamentals of it.

"The way I'm reading it, it would bypass or take the authority of the CPW commission with regard to wildlife management ..." she said.

She added it would mean the new group could designate keystone species, threatened and endangered, for Colorado. And, the new group would have authority over land use, including grazing. She said the way the act reads is that if uses are "detrimental or contradictory" to wildlife protection, fines would be issued and permits would be revoked.

The new group is aiming to establish wildlife corridor networks, through which property owners could receive tax breaks. At the same time, any practices deemed contradictory could see fines and consequences.

Dobson worked for CPW for years. She said the agency has managed the state's resources for more than 125 years, and she considers it one of the most successful organizations in the nation. She said there's structure and knowledge that has taken decades to build.

"So this is pretty scary, looking at the language ... removing CPW and replacing it with an ecosystem commission," she said.

Dobson said she believes Presso and Porter are trying to get the bill on the ballot for 2026.

Cont. on Pg. 2



It was a good run

Senior Paxtin Caruso helped the Mustangs, the combined Nucla and Norwood baseball team, advance to regionals, though the guys fell short in the second game and lost their state dreams. See additional photos on Page 16.

(Photo by Jamie Lynn Bowker)

HEALTH CARE

Basin Clinic receives \$125k; community meeting is May 19

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Basin Clinic's future has been in question for a few years, and many in the West End are wondering what is to happen with the small, rural medical facility. Last year saw some tension with clinic representatives and Montrose County Commissioners, but that seems to have eased. Last year, the clinic did indeed receive its \$250,000 as promised, and it began internal improvements.

And, this year, commissioners just allocated additional funds. After last week's May 7 county meeting, the clinic received an additional \$125,000, on top of the annually budgeted \$250,000, to

meet its operational and organizational needs.

Executive Director Christina Pierce told the Forum she's grateful.

"We thank commissioners for the extra funding," she said. "We are thankful to the commissioners — Sean Pond, Scott Mijares and Sue Hansen — for all they've done in continuing to support the clinic, as we work toward stability and wherever our future lies. ... The whole team is grateful — the board and the staff."

She added there will be expectations, but the clinic is ready to meet those stipulations.

She said the funds are needed now to finish the strategic planning and implementation.

Jason McCormick, of Fruita, has been guiding that planning process. Now, McCormick is set to come to the West End for an update May 19 at the Nucla Community Center. Then, at 6 p.m., the West End will have the opportunity to hear McCormick's recommendation for the clinic's future. There is also a Zoom link, available online, on the Forum's Facebook page. In this way, folks may attend remotely to hear the suggested plan, which does require board approval. Pierce told the Forum the clinic board would be meeting the following night, May 20.

"McCormick will present and

Cont. on Pg. 5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Assurances for county veterans

Dear Editor,

In light of recent national reports regarding significant workforce reductions within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the San Miguel County Veterans Service Office (VSO) wishes to provide assurance to the veterans and families of our community. While these developments have raised understandable concerns, especially among those who rely on VA services, it is important to distinguish between federal VA operations and local VSO functions, which remain unaffected.

According to public records and multiple reputable news sources, the VA plans to reduce its national workforce by approximately 83,000 positions by August 2025 — representing nearly 17 percent of its total employees. These cuts are primarily targeting administrative and supervisory roles through a combination of attrition, early retirements, and layoffs. Already in early 2025, more than 2,400 probationary employees were dismissed, a move projected to save the department approximately \$98 million annually. VA Secretary Doug Collins has emphasized that these staffing adjustments are intended to streamline operations and reallocate resources directly to veteran care. He has further assured the public that there will be no cuts to veterans’ benefits and that any changes to those benefits would require approval by Congress.

It is critically important to clarify that the San Miguel County Veterans Service Office operates independently of the federal VA system. Our office is funded

through county and state budgets and is not subject to federal staffing mandates or administrative reorganizations. As such, our services — including assistance with VA claims, healthcare enrollment, and emergency support — will continue without interruption. Veterans residing in San Miguel County should rest assured that our commitment to serving them remains unwavering.

In order to better understand the local impact of the federal reductions, I contacted staff at the Grand Junction VA Medical Center. They confirmed that several programs have been scaled back or eliminated due to the changes, including the patient advocacy program, new veteran enrollment services, and hospital security staffing. These adjustments have occurred through a combination of layoffs and early retirements, which may affect the overall accessibility of care in that facility. While these developments are unfortunate, they do not affect the services provided locally through this office. In fact, we stand ready to assist veterans navigating any new challenges related to their healthcare or benefits.

Veterans are encouraged to reach out to our office for support, updates, or guidance. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and advocate for the interests of our local veteran population. Your benefits remain protected, and our services will continue to be delivered with the same level of care and dedication as always.

*Mikael Madsen,
Veterans Service Officer
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY*

Protection Act

Cont. from Pg. 1

Lone Cone Cattlewoman Earlene Antonelli, of Nucla, wonders what it will take for people to connect food to the farm. She said people need to beware of acts that include the word “protection.” She said the word “protection” gets people’s emotions high, without knowing what it is they’re truly supporting.

Presso agreed to speak to the Forum May 12. She said her bill is about “biodiversity, but also making sure rural communities can keep functioning.” Presso said she wants to make sure food remains in refrigerators, and she’s not trying to harm ranching.

“We rely on ranchers, we’re on the same team, we don’t want to inhibit ranchers,” she said.

She said having healthier landscapes helps ranchers, their herds and keeps game numbers high.

“This is not nature versus people, or nature versus ranchers,” she said.

She added the current version of her bill safeguards grazing practices and only penalizes those harming habitats in specified ways.

She said since it’s a citizens’ initiative, she could set up an online portal for comments. Presso said she did want input from the greater public and for the bill to be citizen-driven.

The Forum asked if she would indeed create the comment portal and asked when it might be available. Presso said she could set it up by June. The Forum plans to follow up with her to obtain access to the comment site.

“I think our interests are aligned,” she said Monday, “and I think we all want the same things, broadly speaking.”

The Forum asked Presso if she was a science professor; she said she just finished graduate school with a degree in environmental data sciences. The Forum asked if the bill was for a project, or for an organization; Presso said it wasn’t.

“I saw a gap in legislation, and it’s pretty critical,” she said. “If you read any conservation book, the best thing we can do is make corridors.”

The Forum asked if Porter was a scientist; she said he was, but leadership on her bill is changing.

History: Rimrocker Historical Society The Woman’s Club of Pinon, Part 2

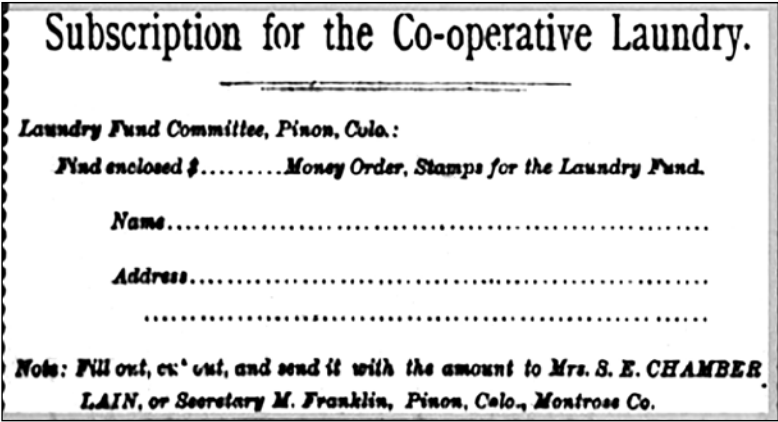
By JANE THOMPSON, Rimrocker Historical Society

After the Woman’s Club of Pinon had raised money at their first fundraiser, a dance and dinner to celebrate George Washington’s birthday, they were prepared to take on a big project. The project turned out to be The Laundry Proposition.

From the Altrurian of April, 1899: “Since the beginning of the ditch, our single men have experienced some difficulty in finding those who were willing to do their washing, and in some cases have had to take a lay-off now and then to do it themselves or spend part of their Sundays at the wash tub. Those of our women who have been able have done all they could to help these men out of their dilemma, and we think deserve a word of praise for sticking to a work which has always been considered woman’s hardest task, and which some of them had not been accustomed to doing even for themselves, previous to this ... For some time, there have been discussions in regard to starting a laundry, and we believe with the present force and the additional workers expected in the spring, that the time has come when a laundry must be started.”

These women didn’t just stop at a laundry. If you are building a building to house a laundry business, you might as well add a “mending department,” so while they were at it, they decided to offer baths, so bathtubs would need to be added to the business plan.

The Woman’s Club had collected \$35 up to that point from many in the camp by subscription, which was an intent to donate to the cause. These subscriptions made in these times would have been in amounts of 50 cents or a



This image shows a subscription form for the Laundry, which ran in the Altrurian from April to July 1899. (Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

dollar, as this was all of these colonists had to give away at this time. The ladies anticipated the laundry equipment would cost \$50 to \$75 to get started.

The Woman’s Club did not just come up with the idea of a laundry. They came up with many more ideas during those first few meetings that year.

From the Altrurian of April 12, 1899: “Mrs. Hirsch gave a report of the cereal coffee enterprise which was accepted. There was then a general discussion as to the merits of the cereal coffee. Mrs. Winter and Mrs. Hirsch are the manufacturers of the cereal coffee, and too much praise cannot be given them, Mrs. Winter being the originator of this special brand. Mr. Howard, our camp foreman, suggested that the ladies of the club devise a means by which to buy a cow. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Cone were appointed to arrange for a drama, the proceeds of which are to go toward purchasing ‘the cow.’”

The ladies of Pinon were making some sort of cereal coffee. I would love to know what that was about, but I haven’t been able to find any more information on cereal coffee.

Was it a coffee with cereal added to it, or was it a cereal that tasted like coffee? If any of you have ever heard of this, I would love to know more about it.

The ladies became determined to buy that first milk cow and would then make plans to buy a second. They also talked about a letter from Mrs. Lucy Harrington, of Denver, with an idea for a garden: “a garden proposition was very enthusiastically discussed, resulting in a committee to be appointed to confer with the general manager as to the garden project.” These women of Pinon were not wasting any time to turn their rough-and-tumble town of Pinon into a comfortable, productive and cooperative place to live.

I do believe we have some pretty great women in our community today, making our communities wonderful places to live. This is a heritage to embrace and be proud of. Cheers to the women!

Articles sourced from the Altrurians, 1899, Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, Colorado State Library. Newspapers are also in the possession of the Rimrocker Historical Society.

Trustee

Cont. from Pg. 1

West End Vision Project, currently underway, which aims to drive the West End forward with community collaboration. He knows there’s a lot of pride in the heritage. He loves all of that, but he said some changes have to happen for progress. He’s ready to help with new ideas and new growth, and expanding the tax base.

He told the Forum he will make himself available to the people of Nucla. He said if he’s out in his yard working, people may stop by and chat. He responds to email — and he’ll have a town email address this week — in about 24 hours. He responds to calls and texts even more quickly.

“I have an open mind, I have a different background,” he said. “I have a way seeing things a different way because of my education and work. I want to



Joseph Hittinger is Nucla’s new town trustee. (Courtesy image)

hear others’ opinions. It’s important to flush things out.”

He also told the Forum that after the candidate roundtable session last week, the town would’ve

been in great shape with Tooker or Riley too.

“We were three great candidates, and the town couldn’t have gone wrong,” he said.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

County Assessor’s Office to hold public outreach sessions

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

San Miguel County property owners have received their notices of valuation in the mail from the Assessor’s Office. In anticipation of the questions often received by the Assessor’s Office from property owners, County Assessor Sarah Enders has scheduled public outreach sessions this month that will include a presentation with an opportunity for questions. Enders was in Norwood on Tuesday, May 13, from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Sheriff’s Annex, and will be in Telluride on Tuesday, May 20, from 5:30-7 p.m. Enders was also featured on KOTO-FM’s public affairs program, “Off the Record,” on Tuesday, May 6, for an in-depth interview on property valuation and other roles the office plays. District 3 County Commissioner

Galena Gleason did accompany Enders in Norwood, and District 1 Commissioner Anne Brown will be on-hand in Telluride. The presentations will also include information on how to contest your valuation if you feel it has been reached in error. “I understand that property taxes can be a really intimidating and seemingly confusing topic,” Enders said. “Often times it can feel like the mass appraisal valuation process is a black box where there’s no way to know how these values are calculated, or what the implications are for your tax bill. Hopefully these presentations will help to shed some light on the process, as well as taxpayers’ options for remedying errors if they feel that their valuation is incorrect.” The Assessor’s Office is responsible for valuing all real and

personal property, including residential and commercial properties, mobile homes, agricultural land and business personal property. These valuations ensure that each taxpayer is assessed the appropriate amount of property taxes. “This is a great opportunity for the public to learn more about how the Assessor’s Office performs valuations,” said Commissioner Brown. “With all the different taxing districts in the county, and a dynamic real estate market, there are many layers to consider. We’re looking forward to sharing information and answering questions from the public at our outreach sessions this month.” To attend the meeting via Zoom, please visit sanmiguelcountycogov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1320. To hear Off the Record, go to koto.org and click on the News tab.

MINING

Draft regs meeting postponed

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The meeting date for the San Miguel County Planning Commission’s consideration of the draft mining regulations as an amendment to the land use code has been changed to Thursday, June 26. This change is necessary to ensure all Planning Commissioners are able to attend. The meeting will be held in person at the Norwood Sheriff’s Annex, 1110 Summit St., and via Zoom. The board of county commissioners will hear the proposed amendments at a date to be determined. The draft regulations and all related materials are available for review online at <https://www.sanmiguelcountycogov/781/Renewable-Energy-and-Natural-Resources>. In addition to the

new regulations for mining, there are several amendments throughout the land use code, which are included in the draft regulations. County representatives said the review comments are very important to them and will help the Planning Commission and board of county commissioners make informed decisions. All comments received in response to this request for review will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and board of county commissioners, and will be included in their meeting packets. Anyone who wishes to discuss the project with staff prior to submitting final comments should indicate in their email(s) that comments and questions are preliminary. With the change in the meeting date, the comment period

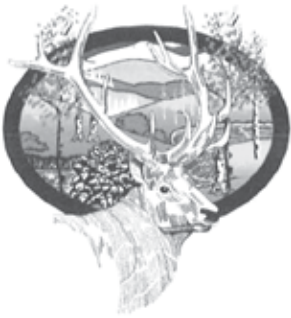
is also being extended to June 9. All comments should be sent to the Planning Department at planning@sanmiguelcountycogov. Comments received after June 9 but by noon on June 17 will be included in the meeting packet, but staff and the consultant may not be able to address any issues that are raised. Comments received after June 17 but by noon on June 25 will be forwarded to the Planning Commission, with the understanding that commissioners may not have an opportunity to fully review new information before the meeting. The county asks that if several people within one organization reviewing the regulations are submitting comments that they consolidate all comments into a single response.

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.

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(EEOIC patients please schedule with our MD)

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San Miguel Basin Forum

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ENVIRONMENT

County deploys pheromone packs to combat bark beetle infestations

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

In its ongoing efforts to eradicate and slow the tide of bark beetle infestation in area forests, San Miguel County has undertaken the application of pheromone packs, aka “p-packs,” strategically on Douglas fir trees in various locations in the county.

Millions of acres of forest land in Colorado have been impacted by bark beetles, a species that capitalizes on drought, which weakens trees and makes them susceptible to infestation. Bark beetles are native insects that are attracted to trees that are stressed or have recently died. Adult beetles enter and lay their eggs in the tree’s phloem, the moist inner bark that delivers nutrients to the tree. The beetle larvae feed inside the tree for a year or two, before the insect flies off as an adult to find a new host tree and start the cycle over. Weakened or recently killed trees have little-to-no natural defensive capabilities, making them ideal sites for beetle larvae to feed and develop. When the tree is stripped of its phloem, it eventually dies.

What the pheromone packs do is essentially an act of deception. The small, double-pouched p-packs slowly emit synthetic pheromones that mimic those of a bark beetle. In the natural world, those pheromones are hormones released by one beetle to affect the behavior of others of the same species as a way of communicating with each other. Scientists have developed a chemical called methylcyclohexanone, or “MCH” for short, which mimics the hormone produced by the Douglas fir beetle. When detected by a bark beetle looking to inhabit a tree, the pheromone implies “no



San Miguel County staff and volunteers recently spent a day applying pheromone packs to Douglas fir trees along the county-maintained M59 Trail. (Photo courtesy of San Miguel County)

vacancy.” Since 2000, natural resource managers and landowners have found p-pack application to be 90 percent effective with high-risk trees.

Now that the weather has warmed, county crews have already deployed more than 100 p-packs along the M59 River Trail where Douglas firs are plentiful. Other planned treatment areas include Bear Creek, along the Jud Wiebe Trail and Lawson Hill and Ophir, among other areas in the East End and Down Valley.

The county is making the p-packs available to groups and organizations that are interested in assisting in the program.


Janet Kask, Director of the County Parks & Open Space department said the deployment of the p-packs, which essentially tricks bark beetles into thinking the tree is already infested, will go far in the county’s efforts to prevent the onslaught of bark beetles.

“Application of the pheromone packs, which contain MCH, have proven quite effective in preventing over-colonization of Douglas fir trees in our area,” Kask said. “The county will continue to work to control bark beetle populations as one aspect of maintaining overall forest health.”

Learn more about local forest health at <https://www.sanmiguel-countyco.gov/501/Forest-Health>.

For more information and p-packs, contact Parks and Open Space Director, Janet Kask, at 970-369-5469, or janetk@sanmiguel-countyco.gov.

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CPW

Cont. from Pg. 1

might have to be recovered.

She said CPW biologists pay attention around mid-February to wolf breeding, and then they watch around mid-April for denning. Right now, biologists are looking out for any pup-rearing activity. When summer begins, any wolf pups will be big enough to travel into a summer site, close to water and a food source — ideally elk, according to Sralla.

She said elk calves are easy for the wolves to catch. May to June offer a food source to the wolves, so livestock producers should take care before and sometime after that.

Sralla said CPW recommends hazing, noisemaking, yelling and more, if wolves are near livestock.

“Human presence is the best tool for conflict resolution,” she said.

Sralla said the current situation is that it’s all unpredictable. That’s because there is no set denning area and no packs have been established. At some point, patterns will create some predictability.

She said county officials should help spread the word in the meantime, and CPW is not able to issue press releases on wolf activity.

Sralla recommended producers

read the 30-page book on conflict minimization. It defines “chronic depredation” as “three kills in 30 days.” Then, lethal take is allowed. Though the wolf is endangered at the state and federal level, there is a 10(j) ruling in place. That ruling states that Colorado’s wolves are not essential to wolves remaining in the American West. And, if a producer catches a wolf in the act of taking livestock, they can kill it then.

There’s a 1:6 ratio, which means that if one kill of a sheep or cow is confirmed by CPW, and a rancher is missing others, that rancher can claim up to six for compensation.

Sralla stressed good record keeping by ranchers, as data will be needed. Some compensation is allowed for reduced conception rates and weaning weights too, based on wolf presence.

She admitted nobody can say how wolves will affect deer and elk populations, and currently out-fitters can’t receive compensation; neither can property owners who live in elk territory.

CPW’s plan says they’ll release 10 to 15 wolves annually for three years, but Sralla isn’t sure what happens in the fourth and fifth years yet. Things could change after wolf reproduction in the next few years.

The law states wolves cannot

be released 60 miles from the state line or from tribal nations. The next wolf release locations and dates are to be determined, but secretly after CPW officials were stalked and photographed. Sralla said safety takes precedence over transparency.

Still, county officials can spread the word to take care, as can cattlemen. They’ll have some information as it becomes relevant to them.

The plan specifies wolves be released west of the Continental Divide, not on the eastern plains. Sralla doesn’t make the decision; CPW directors do.

She said for anyone with suspected depredation, they should get photos, including detailed shots of a carcass, video and be sure to call their district wildlife manager. She said CPW has done depredation investigations for years for bear and mountain lion. She wants all to know claimants are protected by law. CPW cannot share information on who received compensation. Those ordering CPW site visits, either proactively or reactively, are also protected by law with confidentiality.

Sralla asked that the audience report collar colors, if they see a wolf. She said to watch for tracks too, and that the tracks are very big with wolves, which weigh about 100 pounds on average.

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Clinic

Cont. from Pg. 1

answer questions,” Pierce said. “All are welcome.”

Pierce is not at liberty to speak to any of the clinic’s possibilities at this time, though she did tell the Forum two weeks ago that one option is the clinic remaining as it is.

To those questioning why Basin Clinic isn’t just merging with Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC) in Norwood, there’s a reason. Pierce said that’s been

attempted a few times, and once it nearly happened. It’s complicated.

UMC is a federally qualified health care center. In this way, it receives federal funding and has stringent guidelines. For Basin Clinic to become part of UMC, the feds would have to approve such a move. The last time the merger was sought, Basin Clinic was not approved. In fact, during the last attempt, only five clinics nationally were approved, and none in Colorado made the list.

Pierce said what’s more is that once a clinic becomes federally qualified, it cannot be anything else.

She said while Basin Clinic isn’t offering 24-hour care at this time, it has in the past — and if that’s something the community would like to see again, Basin Clinic shouldn’t become federally qualified.

“An FQHC can’t be a 24-hour facility,” she said.

As the West End waits to hear about the clinic update, Pierce said mid-level providers are on site and seeing patients now. Angela Miller and Robert Tapley are working throughout the week, and the clinic not being open due to lack of staffing is very low-risk at this time.

MEMORIAL

Charleen Knickerbocker’s memorial will be Saturday, June 14, at 1 p.m. at the New Hope Church of God, 135 Crystal Dr., Naturita, CO. A potluck will follow, also at the church. Feel free to bring a side dish. For more information, call Chris Daniels at 970-596-0649 or Shelley Kelly at 970-209-2970.

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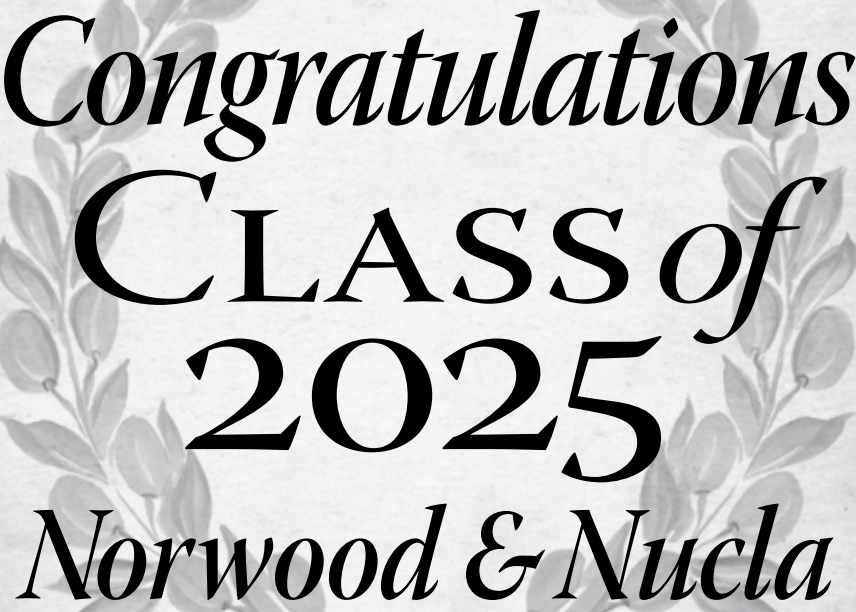
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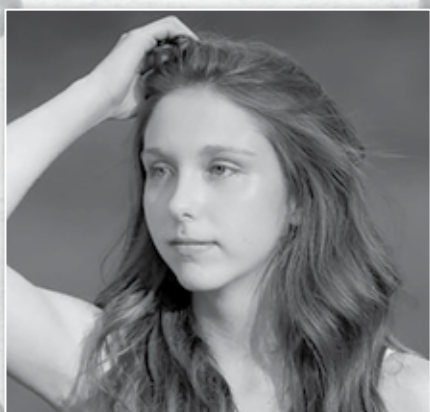


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En Espanol

LOBOS

CPW celebra reunión sobre lobos en Nucla

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Rachel Sralla de Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), una gerente de vida silvestre del área, facilitó una reunión en el Centro Comunitario de Nucla el 12 de mayo para que el público escuchara información sobre la reintroducción de lobos. Dijo que no tenía la intención de cambiar opiniones sobre el tema de los lobos; solo quería difundir información mientras CPW trabaja para cumplir con la pregunta de la boleta aprobada por los votantes en 2020 para liberar lobos en Colorado.

Sralla mostró un mapa de actividad de lobos, que indica dónde han estado los lobos. Dijo que CPW no puede compartir ubicaciones en tiempo real. Los funcionarios solo pueden decir que hay presencia de lobos al noreste de Montrose, por ejemplo.

Según los collares de seguimiento, hay unos 20 lobos en el terreno. Algunos de los collares pueden no estar funcionando. Sin embargo, esos collares pueden ayudar a identificar la depredación de ganado, si el collar indica presencia de lobos donde un ganadero claramente tiene pérdidas.

Dijo que los mapas de actividad se actualizan mensualmente y muestran áreas de cuencas

hidrográficas. Incluso si un lobo estuvo solo en la parte superior de una cuenca, toda la cuenca será marcada.

Sralla dijo que una loba recorrió 1,200 millas en 60 días. Otra fue a Saguache y se estableció. Dijo que CPW está aprendiendo, al igual que el público.

“Estamos trabajando para mantener un ojo en las cosas,” dijo.

Cuando se le preguntó si los lobos son monitoreados una vez que cruzan a Utah, Sralla dijo que no puede ver esa actividad. Sin embargo, Colorado tiene un MOU con Utah, y Utah no quiere los lobos. En caso de que uno cruce las fronteras estatales, el animal podría tener que ser recuperado.

Dijo que los biólogos de CPW prestan atención a mediados de febrero a la reproducción de lobos, y luego observan alrededor de mediados de abril para la cría. En este momento, los biólogos están atentos a cualquier actividad de crianza de cachorros. Cuando comienza el verano, cualquier cachorro de lobo será lo suficientemente grande como para viajar a un sitio de verano, cerca de agua y una fuente de alimento — idealmente alces, según Sralla.

Dijo que los terneros de alce son fáciles de atrapar para los lobos. De mayo a junio ofrecen una fuente de alimento para los lobos, por lo que los productores de ganado deben

tener cuidado antes y algún tiempo después de eso.

Sralla dijo que CPW recomienda asustar, hacer ruido, gritar y más, si los lobos están cerca del ganado.

“La presencia humana es la mejor herramienta para la resolución de conflictos,” dijo.

Sralla dijo que la situación actual es que todo es impredecible. Eso se debe a que no hay un área de cría establecida y no se han formado manadas. En algún momento, los patrones crearán cierta previsibilidad.

Dijo que los funcionarios del condado deberían ayudar a difundir la información mientras tanto, y CPW no puede emitir comunicados de prensa sobre la actividad de los lobos.

Sralla recomendó a los productores leer el libro de 30 páginas sobre minimización de conflictos. Define “depredación crónica” como “tres muertes en 30 días.” Luego, se permite la captura letal. Aunque el lobo está en peligro a nivel estatal y federal, hay una normativa 10(j) en vigor. Esa normativa establece que los lobos de Colorado no son esenciales para la supervivencia de los lobos en el Oeste Americano. Y, si un productor atrapa a un lobo en el acto de tomar ganado, puede matarlo en ese momento.

Hay una proporción de 1:6, lo que significa que si se confirma

una muerte de una oveja o vaca por CPW, y un ganadero está perdiendo otros, ese ganadero puede reclamar hasta seis por compensación.

Sralla enfatizó la importancia de llevar buenos registros por parte de los ganaderos, ya que se necesitarán datos. También se permite alguna compensación por tasas de concepción reducidas y pesos de destete, basados en la presencia de lobos.

Ella admitió que nadie puede decir cómo los lobos afectarán a las poblaciones de ciervos y alces, y actualmente los guías no pueden recibir compensación; tampoco pueden los propietarios de terrenos que viven en territorio de alces.

El plan de CPW dice que liberarán de 10 a 15 lobos anualmente durante tres años, pero Sralla no está segura de lo que sucederá en el cuarto y quinto año. Las cosas podrían cambiar después de la reproducción de lobos en los próximos años.

La ley establece que los lobos no pueden ser liberados a 60 millas de la línea estatal o de las naciones tribales. Las próximas ubicaciones y fechas de liberación de lobos se determinarán, pero secretamente después de que los funcionarios de CPW fueron acechados y fotografiados. Sralla dijo que la seguridad tiene prioridad sobre la transparencia.

Aun así, los funcionarios del

condado pueden difundir la palabra para que tengan cuidado, al igual que los ganaderos. Tendrán algo de información a medida que se vuelva relevante para ellos.

El plan especifica que los lobos sean liberados al oeste de la División Continental, no en las llanuras orientales. Srala no toma la decisión; los directores de CPW lo hacen.

Ella dijo que para cualquier persona con sospecha de depredación, deben tomar fotos, incluyendo tomas detalladas de una carcasa, video y asegurarse de llamar a su gerente de vida silvestre del distrito. Ella dijo que CPW ha realizado investigaciones de depredación durante años para osos y leones de montaña. Quiere que todos sepan que los reclamantes están protegidos por la ley. CPW no puede compartir información sobre quién recibió compensación. Aquellos que ordenan visitas a sitios de CPW, ya sea de manera proactiva o reactiva, también están protegidos por la ley con confidencialidad.

Sralla pidió que la audiencia informe los colores de los collares, si ven un lobo. Ella dijo que también deben estar atentos a las huellas, y que las huellas son muy grandes con los lobos, que pesan alrededor de 100 libras en promedio.

AGRICULTURA

¿Qué es la Ley de Protección de la Vida Silvestre y la Biodiversidad?

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

El futuro de la Clínica Basin ha estado en cuestión durante algunos años, y muchos en el West End se preguntan qué pasará con la pequeña instalación médica rural. El año pasado hubo cierta tensión entre los representantes de la clínica y los Comisionados del Condado de Montrose, pero eso parece haber disminuido. El año pasado, la clínica recibió efectivamente sus \$250,000 como se prometió, y comenzó mejoras internas.

Y, este año, los comisionados acaban de asignar fondos adicionales. Después de la reunión del condado del 7 de mayo de la semana pasada, la clínica recibió \$125,000 adicionales, además de los \$250,000 presupuestados anualmente, para satisfacer sus necesidades operativas y organizativas.

La Directora Ejecutiva Christina Pierce dijo al Foro que está agradecida.

“Agradecemos a los comisionados por la financiación adicional,” dijo. “Estamos agradecidos a los comisionados — Sean Pond, Scott Mijares y Sue Hansen — por todo lo que han hecho para seguir apoyando la clínica, mientras trabajamos hacia la estabilidad y donde sea que esté nuestro futuro. ... Todo el equipo está agradecido — la junta y el personal.”

Ella agregó que habrá expectativas, pero la clínica está lista para cumplir con esas estipulaciones.

Ella dijo que los fondos son necesarios ahora para terminar la planificación estratégica y la implementación.

Jason McCormick, de Fruita, ha estado en ese proceso de planificación. Ahora, McCormick está programado para

venir al West End para una actualización el 19 de mayo en el Centro Comunitario de Nucla. Luego, a las 6 p.m., el West End tendrá la oportunidad de escuchar la recomendación de McCormick para el futuro de la clínica. También hay un enlace de Zoom, disponible en línea, en la página de Facebook del Foro. De esta manera, las personas pueden asistir de forma remota para escuchar el plan sugerido, que requiere la aprobación de la junta. Pierce dijo al Foro que la junta de la clínica se reuniría la noche siguiente, el 20 de mayo.

“McCormick presentará y responderá preguntas,” dijo Pierce. “Todos son bienvenidos.”

Pierce no está en libertad de hablar sobre ninguna de las posibilidades de la clínica en este momento, aunque le dijo al Foro hace dos semanas que una opción

es que la clínica permanezca como está.

Para aquellos que se preguntan por qué la Clínica Basin no se está fusionando simplemente con el Centro Médico Uncompahgre (UMC) en Norwood, hay una razón. Pierce dijo que eso se ha intentado algunas veces, y una vez estuvo a punto de suceder. Es complicado.

UMC es un centro de salud calificado a nivel federal. De esta manera, recibe financiación federal y tiene pautas estrictas. Para que la Clínica Basin se convierta en parte de UMC, los federales tendrían que aprobar tal movimiento. La última vez que se buscó la fusión, la Clínica Basin no fue aprobada. De hecho, durante el último intento, solo cinco clínicas a nivel nacional fueron aprobadas, y ninguna en Colorado hizo la lista.

Pierce dijo que lo que es más es que una vez que una clínica se convierte en calificada a nivel federal, no puede ser otra cosa. Ella dijo que aunque la Clínica Basin no está ofreciendo atención las 24 horas en este momento, lo ha hecho en el pasado — y si eso es algo que la comunidad quisiera ver de nuevo, la Clínica Basin no debería convertirse en calificada a nivel federal.

“Un FQHC no puede ser una instalación de 24 horas,” dijo.

Mientras el West End espera escuchar sobre la actualización de la clínica, Pierce dijo que los proveedores de nivel medio están en el lugar y atendiendo pacientes ahora. Angela Miller y Robert Tapley están trabajando durante toda la semana, y el hecho de que la clínica no esté abierta debido a la falta de personal es de muy bajo riesgo en este momento.

En Espanol

CUIDADO DE LA SALUD

La Clínica Basin recibe \$125,000; la reunión comunitaria es el 19 de mayo

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

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NUCLA

Hittinger es el nuevo fideicomisario del pueblo

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Al principios de esta primavera, el exalcalde, Kirk Yerke, renunció a sus funciones en el Ayuntamiento de Nucla. Ya había una elección municipal con una pregunta sobre si se debía o no destituir a Yerke. Así, cuando renunció, la elección quedó con la pregunta de quién sería su sucesor. Los votantes eligieron entonces a la alcaldesa pro t  pore Paula Brown como alcaldesa. Eso dejó un asiento vacante en la Junta de Fideicomisarios de Nucla, ya que Brown era miembro de la junta.

Para llenar su puesto vacante, que es voluntario y no remunerado, al igual que todos los asientos de fideicomisarios, incluido el del alcalde, el pueblo solicit   aplicaciones y realiz   entrevistas. Aimee Tooker, Paula Riley y Joseph Hittinger presentaron sus cartas de inter  s. Despu  s de reunirse con los tres candidatos, la junta nombr   a Hittinger el 6 de mayo.

Hittinger habl   con Forum el 9 de mayo. Comparti   sobre su formaci  n y experiencia. Hittinger tiene una licenciatura de la Universidad Estatal de Florida en dise  o de interiores y una maestr  a en arquitectura de la Universidad Cat  lica de Washington, D.C.

Ha trabajado en bienes ra  ces durante los   ltimos 15 a  os, espec  ficamente en San Francisco. Aunque ha trasladado su vida

fuera del   rea de la Bah  a, tiene algunos clientes que a  n mantiene all  . Hittinger tambi  n ha trabajado en la compra y venta de casas, y est   planeando un desarrollo residencial en Nucla cerca de la antigua escuela en Main Street. Tambi  n tuvo una firma de dise  o de interiores, con siete empleados en un momento.

Tambi  n tiene experiencia en juntas. Actualmente est   en la junta de la Corporaci  n de Desarrollo Econ  mico de West End (WEEDC). En el pasado, sirvi   en la Fundaci  n para la Educaci  n e Investigaci  n en Dise  o de Interiores. Ayud   a acreditar diferentes programas en la naci  n y estuvo en la junta de revisi  n. Esa organizaci  n se transform   en el Consejo de Acreditaci  n de Dise  o de Interiores, y   l lo dirigi  .

Hittinger lleg   a West End en 2020. Estaba visitando Moab, pero vino a Nucla y se enamor   de Jim Guire, junto con el entorno. Compr   una propiedad y se qued  .

Dijo que se siente honrado de que la junta de Nucla lo eligiera. Dijo que sus fortalezas son manejar conflictos, tener conversaciones y tratar de ver todos los lados de los problemas. Se considera de mente abierta y no cree que tenga todas las respuestas.

“Tengo un ojo para lo que est   funcionando bien y lo que podr  a mejorar,” dijo. “Quiero que West End, y particularmente Nucla, sea

lo mejor que pueda ser.”

Dijo que est   emocionado por el Proyecto de Visi  n de West End, que est   en marcha, y que tiene como objetivo impulsar a West End hacia adelante con la colaboraci  n de la comunidad. Sabe que hay mucho orgullo en la herencia. Le encanta todo eso, pero dijo que algunos cambios tienen que ocurrir para el progreso. Est   listo para ayudar con nuevas ideas y nuevo crecimiento, y expandir la base tributaria.

Le dijo al Forum que se pondr   a disposici  n de la gente de Nucla. Dijo que si est   trabajando en su jard  n, la gente puede pasar y charlar. Responde a los correos electr  nicos — y tendr   una direcci  n de correo electr  nico del pueblo esta semana — en aproximadamente 24 horas. Responde a llamadas y mensajes de texto incluso m  s r  pido.

“Tengo una mente abierta, tengo un trasfondo diferente,” dijo. “Tengo una forma de ver las cosas de manera diferente debido a mi educaci  n y trabajo. Quiero escuchar las opiniones de los dem  s. Es importante aclarar las cosas.”

Tambi  n le dijo al Forum que despu  s de la sesi  n de mesa redonda de candidatos la semana pasada, el pueblo habr  a estado en excelente forma con Tooker o Riley tambi  n.

“  ramos tres grandes candidatos, y el pueblo no podr  a haberse equivocado,” dijo.

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300-400#STEERS	3.95-4.50	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 1.96	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	1.35-1.55 Top - 1.58
Medium Cows	1.10-1.28	Low-yielding Cows	1.00 Below

NEXT WEEK:

Thursday, May 15th – Regular Sale – 30 - 1st calf heifers w/ March calves, 15 - 5,6,7 y/o pairs, 15 running age pairs.

UP COMING SALES:

We continue to have sales every Thursday at 10 AM.

Thursday, May 22nd

– Regular Sale

Thursday, May 29th

– Regular Sale

Next Special Horse Sale

– June 7th - Tack will start @ 9:00 AM.

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We Appreciate & Thank You for Your Business

Kenny's Tires

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Great Tires - Great Deals

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Naturita, CO 81422

Sara Bachman

-Attorney at Law-

970.865.2440
sara@bachmanlawllc.com
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(970) 864-7425

West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

4/7/2025
1333 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.
2158 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 300 block of Adams Street in Naturita.
4/8/2025
1051 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 1000 block of Montana Street in Nucla for an animal problem.
1307 Hours - Randy Helkey, 43, was contacted in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for improper turning signal and malfunctioning taillights.
1344 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 36000 block of 3700 Road near Redvale for a medical assist.
1455 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 29500 block of Highway 97 near Nucla.
1806 Hours - Deputy took a lost property report in the 1000 block of Main Street in Nucla.
2232 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a harassment report.
1 school zone
1 VIN inspection
4/9/2025
0825 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30600 block of DD30 Road near Nucla for an accident.
1052 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.
1116 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a harassment report.
1341 Hours - Scott Coble, 60, was contacted on Highway 90 mm 26 near Naturita and issued a warning for failing to drive in a single lane.
1533 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 31100 block of County Road 90 near Nucla for a fire.
1616 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a 911.
1625 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a theft report.
1 school zone
1 VIN inspection
1 follow up report
1 directed patrol in County
4/10/2025
0903 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Pine Street in Naturita for a 911.
0935 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.
1450 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Pine Street and Pool Avenue in Naturita for an information report.
1856 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a traffic complaint.
1910 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 97 and Main Street in Nucla for a traffic complaint.
2039 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson

Street in Naturita for a noise complaint.
1 VIN inspection
1 directed patrol in Nucla
2 directed patrols in County
2 directed patrols in Naturita
4/11/2025
0921 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a report of threatening.
1236 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 22300 block of Highway 141 near Naturita for a theft report.
1432 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the Highway 97 mm 1 near Naturita for a traffic complaint.
1522 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Ragsdale Road near Norwood for a disturbance.
2255 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an unsecure premise.
1 directed patrol in Nucla
1 directed patrol in County
1 directed patrol in Naturita
4/12/2025
0808 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 26700 block of FF26 Road near Naturita for a medical assist.
1042 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 500 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla.
1327 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a medical assist.
1340 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Ragsdale Road near Norwood for a civil standby.
1413 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a traffic complaint.
1414 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 115 near Redvale for an animal problem.
1415 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Third Avenue in Naturita for an overdue party.
1441 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of EE26 Road near Naturita for a report of a weapon offense.
2124 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.
2210 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Third Avenue in Naturita for a disturbance.
2344 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for an information report.
4/13/2025
1224 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 70 near Naturita for a traffic complaint.
1316 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27500 block of EE28 Road near Naturita for a fire.
1456 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Third Avenue in Naturita for a disturbance. Rachel Miller, 48, was arrested for criminal mischief, violating a protection order, and

domestic violence. Micheal Lee, 42, was arrested for third degree assault and domestic violence.
4/14/2025
0101 Hours Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Palmer Avenue in Naturita for a medical assist.
1217 Hours Deputy was dispatched to Naturita for a traffic complaint. Nicholas Calvillo, 36, was cited for non-licensed operator and no insurance.
1451 Hours Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.
1 VIN inspection
1 directed patrol in Nucla
4/15/2025
0255 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a civil matter.
0452 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27500 block of CC Road near Nucla for a medical assist.
1010 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 500 block of West Seventh Avenue in Nucla for a theft report.
1037 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29400 block of 2700 Road near Nucla for a lost property report.
1509 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29600 block of Highway 97 near Nucla for a disturbance.
2 VIN inspections
1 directed patrol in Nucla
1 directed patrol in County
1 directed patrol in Naturita

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Breakfast Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals
WG: Whole Grain
EC: Early Childhood
K-6: Kindergarten to 6th Grade

Monday, May 19

Cook Choice, Fruit, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

Tuesday, May 20

Cook Choice, Fruit, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

Wednesday, May 21

Cook Choice, Fruit, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

Thursday, May 22

Cook Choice, Fruit, Milk, and Juice (K-6)

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Lunch Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals
WG: Whole Grain

Monday, May 19

Mac & Cheese, Roll, Veggies, Fruit, and Milk

Tuesday, May 20

Hamburger, Chips, Veggies, Fruit, and Milk

Wednesday, May 21

Soft Taco, Beans, Veggies, Fruit, and Milk

Thursday, May 22

Sandwich, Chips, Veggies, Fruit, and Milk

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9					1	8	3	4
	6				3		7	
5			4			6		
	1							
3			2	6	8			1
							6	
		9			2			5
	4		3				9	
1	3	8	7					6

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

6	9	5	8	2	4	3	7	1
7	8	1	3	9	5	6	4	2
3	4	2	1	6	7	8	5	9
2	7	3	9	1	6	5	8	4
4	1	8	7	5	3	2	9	6
9	5	6	2	4	8	1	3	7
5	2	9	4	3	1	7	6	8
8	3	4	6	7	2	9	1	5
1	6	7	5	8	9	4	2	3

Solution To Previous Sudoku

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

THANK YOU

The family of Pat Richards wished to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, food, calls, and kindness shown to us.

50-1T-P

HELP WANTED

San Miguel Power Association, Inc. (SMPA) is seeking to fill the positions of:

MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE (Ridgway)

To view the complete job posting, benefits, compensation, and how to apply, please visit our website www.smpa.com. SMPA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

50-2T-C

West End Public Schools Teachers Wanted

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

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

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

49-2T-C

BIDS WANTED

- 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

OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT

Get Colorado Youth Outside with an Outdoor Equity Grant
Colorado Parks and Wildlife is offering grants of up to \$100,000 for organizations helping under-represented youth connect with nature. If your group provides outdoor, education or conservation opportunities for youth facing barriers to outdoor spaces — including communities of color, low-income families, LGBTQIA+ individuals, or youth with disabilities — we want to hear from you! Submit a Grant Interest Form by June 2 to get started. Learn more: <https://cpw.state.co.us/outdoor-equity-grant-program>

50-2T-C

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

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.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 1950s

ACROSS

- Deals a death blow
- Large edible mushroom
- Food safety agency, acr.
- Auditioner's hope
- Closing act
- *Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, supposedly
- Corset rod
- Therefore
- *"Lord of the Flies" shell
- *Ed of TV
- Sty sound
- Pillow filler
- Gastrointestinal tract
- *Pooch on a 1950s skirt
- Most cautious
- Go wrong
- Camels' relatives
- Lake north of Cleveland
- Wide open

- Kind of conifer
- Spectrum maker
- Better than never
- Portable stairs
- Headdress
- Tennis shoe
- Triage nurse's measurements
- Old horse
- Film director Sergio
- Band's work-related trip
- *Slicked men's hairstyle
- Does like a hot dog
- Rod for a hot rod
- Winter forecast
- Be
- Measurement, abbr.
- U2 guitarist
- *Clearasil target
- Ballpark fig.
- Wine choice

I	S	A	A	C	O	T	T		R	O	S	S		
S	A	I	G	A	N	I	H		T	O	T	U	P	
M	I	N	E	R	L	A	Y		A	L	T	E	R	
	D	U	N	P	H	Y		M	A	L	L	O	R	Y
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D	D	T		L	O	B	O		P	O	P	L	A	R
A	R	E	A		H	A	T	E		W	R	I	T	E
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U	V	U	L	A		M	O	O		K	E	R	F	S
R	E	L	A	Y		P	U	B		E	L	A	T	E
R	A	P	T			H	R	S		D	E	N	S	E

DOWN

- Roman goddess of fertility
- *Domino's nickname
- German Mrs.
- Coiffed
- Turn pumpkin into Jack-o-Lantern
- "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
- Low-ranking worker
- Certain Scandinavian
- 52 cards
- Fireplace mess
- Beer mug
- Use elbow grease
- *First Black nominee of Oscar for Best Actor
- City in Northern France
- Neon or radon, e.g.
- Church bell sounds
- Liturgy instrument
- Speak like Pericles
- *June Cleaver's husband
- "Fear of Flying" author Jong
- Type of rug
- Christmas help, pl.
- Way, way off
- *__-Century Modern
- *Charles Schulz creation
- Newspapers and such
- Chicken order
- Calls forth
- Eroded limestone landscape
- Movie trailer, e.g.
- Lumen per square meter, pl.
- "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.
- Yellow ride
- The Fonzy: "Sit ____ ____!"
- Female equivalent of sir
- __-European language
- Fireplace fodder
- *Candy in dispenser
- Itsy-bitsy

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
	18				19				20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39					40				41		42	
43				44				45		46		
			47				48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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YOUTH

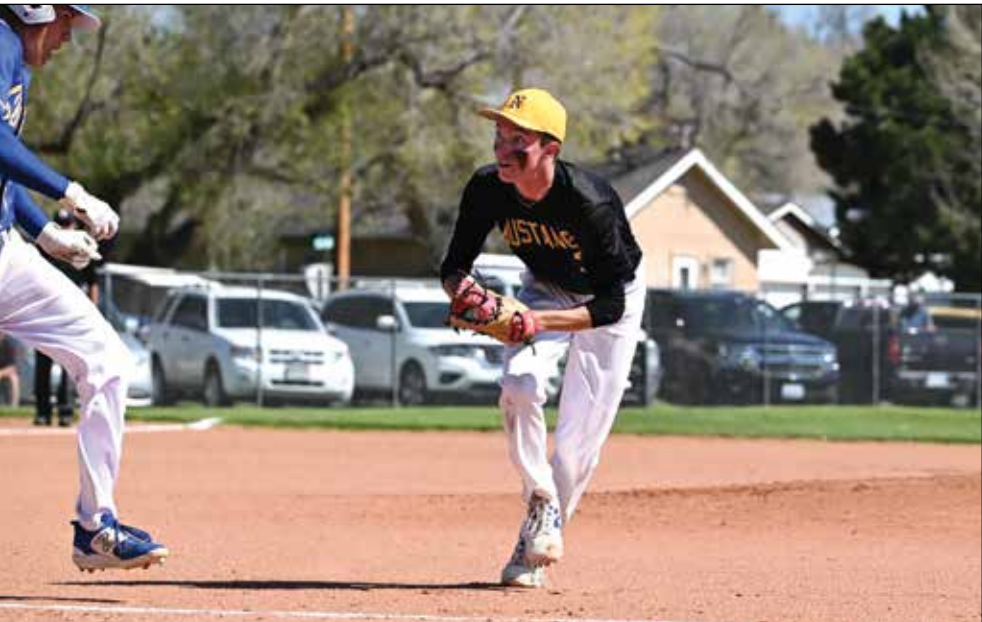
Mustangs make Nucla proud



Jackson McCabe can play anything, coach Randy Gabriel has said.



Owen Tackett, a junior, will have more time on the field.



Brycen Rummel has been asset to the Mustangs.



Cole Bray has worked hard. (Photos by Jamie Lynn Bowker)

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ELECTRIC SERVICE ON THE WESTERN SLOPE

It allows for comfort and convenience within a beautiful and rugged landscape... but costs are on the rise. Fortunately, your member-owned electric cooperative is dedicated to meeting new challenges while minimizing upward pressure on rates.

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19 HOURS OF THE DAY

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www.smpa.com/making-time-use-tou-work-you