INSIDE: WESD School Board News

SAN MIGUEL BASIN FORUM

September 10, 2015 Serving Nucla, Naturita, Norwood & Surrounding Areas Volume 65, Issue 12 25¢



San Miguel Resource Center Welcomes Their New Executive Director On Board

The San Miguel Resource Center is pleased to welcome Mandy Miller, MA, LPC as its new Executive Director. Mandy brings a wealth of non-

profit management and social services experience. Most recently, she served on the leadership team at a large community mental health center in the Denver area. She is a generation Colorado native, and has climbed 52 of



Colorado's 58 fourteeners.

"I am excited to live and work in a community that is so supportive of its local efforts," Mandy said recently. "I look forward to getting to know the individuals that make this area such a spectacular place. I am also honored to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated group of staff providing essential and meaningful services to the community, while inspiring a culture of empowerment."

The San Miguel Resource Center is the only victim service agency in the region. While the center provides a wide variety of services to the community, it holds true to its mission to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in our community.

In 1993 they were founded as the "Tomboy House" by a group of citizens who were concerned that the needs of domestic violence victims were not being met by local service providers. Victims, survivors, their *See SMPA DIRECTOR Pg. 6*



Bruce Lee Expected To Let Loose

Bruce Lee is fixing to let loose on the West End if forecasters are right. They say a mighty El Niño, dubbed Bruce Lee, is warming eastern Pacific Ocean waters and has the potential to bring nasty snowstorms to Colorado this winter, especially in the southwest part of the state.

"It's possible right now," Bernie Meier, a Weather Service meteorologist, said of El Niño potential. "The waters are fairly warm for this time of year; that's why we're expecting it to be a strong one. We definitely can't rule out it being a record one."

The Weather Service says it could be the biggest they've seen in 50 years.

Joel Gratz, founding meteorologist of OpenSnow.com, says while El Niño offers no forecast guarantees, "it tips the odds" toward there being more snow.

In previous years of strong El Niño, Gratz said he has seen trends of big storms.

"Each of those seasons started out pretty strong and each of those (ski and snowboard) seasons ended pretty strong," he said. "The in between, the meat of the season, was below average."

Economic studies have shown El Niño years can have a positive boost. Colorado's ski areas, plagued by weak and inconsistent snowfalls in the past several years, certainly hope that is the case.

ORDER UP

Rimrock
Café
expands
service
with top
notch
chefs



The new Rimrock Café, at the Rimrock Hotel in Naturita, is serving up some great "home style" meals featuring several top notch chefs including Reed Mitchell, Kyle Webb and Damion (Mac) McCartney, pictured above (courtesy photo). The latter has proven himself a world class chef winning a Food Channels "Chopped" challenge competition.

"Stop by and taste the difference...you'll like the food and love the prices," said Rimrock owner Reed Mitchell. "Check out reader board sign or our Rimrock website (www. theRimrockHotel.com) for daily specials."

The Rimrock is open seven days a week with home cooked daily specials and the old standbys available every day 6 AM to 2 PM and dinner from 5 PM to 9 PM each evening. "So come on by and give us a try," said Mitchell. "We're just having fun here!"

Their brand new Expresso coffee machine is also putting out some fabulous Lattes, Cappuccino's and Carmel Macheainoes...yum, yum! See their ad on Pg. 2

SMPA & CoBank inject \$20,000 into communities for economic development



Pictured above left to right: Paul Major - Telluride Foundation; Debbie Cokes & Dave Alexander - SMPA Board; Mike Geryak - Blair Street Historic District Association; Jack Sibold, Terry Rhoades, Bob Justis, Rube Felicelli, Doylene Garvey - SMPA Board; Dianna Reams - West End Economic Development Corporation; & Sara Plumhoff - Montrose Community Foundation. Courtesy photo.

Representatives of three organizations, the West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC), the Telluride Foundation and the Town of Silverton, were all smiles at last week's San Miguel Power Association board meeting. Each organization appeared in order to receive their respective donation checks from the Montrose Community Foundation which distributed funds donated by San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) and See DONATIONS Pg. 6









Naturita Colt 7th grader Ashley Steele leaps up to return the ball in last Thursday's A-Team game against Norwood. The girls are 3-0 now.

September is Life Insurance **Awareness Month**



Shelley A. Kelly **Licensed Agent** 970-209-2970 25 N. Stough Ave. Montrose, CO 81401 shelley.kelly@securitiesamerica.com

Serving the Western Slope for 18 years!

*Tax Deferred Annuities Life, Health & Long Term Care Insurance *Traditional, ROTH, SEP & SIMPLE IRAs *401k, Pension & IRA Rollovers **Small Group Benefits**

*Securities offered through Securities America, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC Shelley A. Kelly is a Registered Representative w/ Securities America, Inc.

Mustangs and Colts Open Season With Wins

Both the Nucla High School and Naturita Middle School volleyball teams have opened the season with wins.

The Lady Mustangs officially opened the season in Gunnison last Saturday, Sept. 5, in a non-conference match against the Lady Cowboys. The Lady Mustangs fell 20 - 25 in the first game, but bucked the Lady Cowboys off leaving them in a trail of dust the rest of the match starting from a trot into a full gallop - 25-22, 25-18 and 25-13.

They will next face The Academy (Westminster, CO) on Sept. 11 at the J.A. Sideout Showdown at Jefferson Academy in Broomfield. Then next Tuesday, the Lady Mustangs will host their main rival Norwood at 4 PM. The Lady Mavs fell to Paonia last Friday 1-3.

The Lady Colts are full charged ahead as they move to a 3-0 record this season. They travelled to Norwood last Thursday, Sept. 3rd.

The Lady Colts were slow coming out of the chute but picked up the pace and ran with it outpacing the Lady Mavs in See SPORTS Pg. 7

Cont. from Pg. 1

families and friends, and community professionals initiated a grassroots effort that resulted in the first victim service agency in San Miguel County. Today, we are still the only victim service agency in our region, and our clientele

SMRC doesn't necessarily perceive this as negative, as more individuals are seeking help. However, it is also an incentive to continuing working towards our mission to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in our community.

Services include: Hour Crisis Hotline & Crisis Intervention; Emergency Shelter & Financial Assistance; Personal & Legal Advocacy; Counseling Services; Youth Education and Prevention K-12; Translation and Interpretation Services; and Resources and Referrals.

2014 STATS: 318 Clients Served Overall. Of these 187 were

domestic victims, 26 were sexual assault victims, both adult and children, 105 were other (assault, murder, suicide, stalking, child physical abuse); 4,493 Telephone Call Contacts, 1,505 In Person contacts, 78 Hispanic Clients Served, 74 West End Clients Served, 9 adults and children safehoused (una casa segura) for 27 nights.

To learn more about San Miguel Resource Center's work and its people, visit www. SanMiguelResourceCenter.org

DONATIONS

Cont. from Pg. 1

continues to grow.

matched by COBANK through it's "Sharing Success" program. "We are excited to be able to provide this funding for these worthy causes throughout our service area," said SMPA Board President, Rube Felicelli. "...and we are grateful to our partner, COBANK for matching our investment in these unique and vibrant communities." The recipients were

selected by the SMPA Board of Directors based upon their potential value as drivers of economic development in their respective communities.

A \$10,000 check was presented to Dianna Reams, Director of the West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC) to support their community kitchen project. The 219 square foot community kitchen will be situated on the main floor of a two story, mixed use business facility, where office space will be rented to local small business owners and entrepreneurs.

The kitchen will include such amenities as a commercial range, gas convection oven, reach-in refrigeration and freezer, commercial loading access, classroom space and ADA compliance.

The goals of the Community Kitchen closely align with the goals of the SMPA/CoBank grant: 1) It aims to maintain and strengthen existing businesses. 2) It will provide opportunities for local food producers to develop and grow their businesses. And 3) it will build collaboration between WEEDC membership, the communities and local government.

Another \$5000 check was presented to Paul Major, President and CEO of the Telluride Foundation. Recognized nationally as the fourth most active grant maker in the country, this foundation supplies the entire region, stretching from Ouray to the Paradox Basin with the resources necessary to improve quality of life and meet economic challenges.

The Telluride Foundation's Paradox Basin Business Technical Assistance Initiative to support businesses in San Miguel, Montrose, Dolores and Montezuma counties, through focused technical assistance, which can lead to new investments in both the financial and human capital of the region.

The last \$5,000 went to

Blair Street Historic District Association, in partnership with the Town of Silverton. They have been working hard to celebrate the historic, mining, railroad, and "old west" atmosphere on Notorious Blair Street. They have purchased and installed red lights for the Christmas holidays, hosted the Antique Truck and Car Show, the Skijoring event, the Mile High Jeep Rally, the Ferrari Rally, designed and have made many improvements to Columbine Park, and welcomed six new businesses.

Now, they seek to install a rustic band shell in Columbine Park in Silverton. This structure will serve as a venue for various community gatherings including educational presentations, musical entertainment, theatrical plays, farmer's markets, arts, crafts, dance, etc. Last week, the Historic Association President, Mike Geryak accepted \$5000 for the construction of this building.

As a member-owned cooperative, SMPA holds the concept of "Care for Community" as one of its core principles. Whether it is through corporate donations, inkind donations, or board-allocated grants like the ones celebrated at last week's board meeting, SMPA actively seeks opportunities to help bolster the communities it serves.

The effect of SMPA's contribution was doubled thanks to a matching contribution from CoBank, a national cooperative bank serving vital industries like SMPA.

Through their "Sharing Success" program, CoBank committed \$3 million in 2015 to match customer donations to non-profit organizations in their communities. "It's nice to see some of that funding come to our communities," said SMPA General Manager, Kevin Ritter. "Cooperation is what built these communities, and I like to see that it is cooperation that is sustaining them."

