

San Miguel Basin Forum

HOLIDAY

NES programs last ones in old school

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Last week, the Naturita Elementary School held its last Christmas celebrations in the old school that the younger grades will vacate over break. Principal Sara Bray said the events were a success.

Last Monday, long-time music teacher Mrs. (Evelyn) Herring produced a band concert. First, the fifth and sixth grade band did their performance. Next, the middle and high school band played for the crowd.

Bray said the musicians are a small group, and Herring has always made things work with what she has. In the fifth and sixth grade band, the kids enter the music program often without having ever played an instrument. Somehow, by December, with Herring's guidance, the kids are able to play Christmas songs, harmonize and make a real holiday show.

Last Thursday, the preschool through fourth grades performed for families in a choir showcase. Then, the little ones sang "Jingle Bells," and afterward each class — first through fourth grade — sang two to three pieces. Students showed up in their holiday attire, and many wore Christmas dresses and neckties.

"They just did a great job," Bray said. "We had it in the elementary gym, and it was packed, and we didn't have enough chairs out. We were pulling out cafeteria tables, bleachers. ... It's usually popular, but even more so this year."

Next year, the elementary kids will have use of a real stage, something Bray is looking forward to for these types of events. She said it will be better for the audience too.

Herring has been in and out of both Norwood and Nucla schools the last 30 years. Bray said there's a chance it could be her last year leading the music program. She's grateful for Herring's work over the years in making sure that local schools have had a music program. Bray admitted Herring will be hard to replace when she leaves.

Last Thursday's dessert auction was profitable for the PAC, the parent advisory committee. Bray said close to 50 desserts were provided, and the group made more than \$800 in donations.

She agreed it's "amazing" how the West End always shows up to take care of its own.

"I've been here 14 years, and it amazes me how they always come out and support anyone in need, and in this case the school," she said.

Cont. on Pg. 2

SPORTS

Basketball teams and wrestling see successes

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

It was a big weekend in Nucla High School sports. In the Dove Creek basketball tournament, the girls and the guys both won against Monticello on Friday advancing to the finals.

The girls beat the Buckaroos, 39-30, in that first game. The Lady Mustangs lost, unfortunately, in the championship game on Saturday to Dove Creek, 24-54.

Head coach for the girls Zandon Bray said both games were "tales of two halves." According to him, the girls didn't start strong with the Monticello game, but dominated the second half. For Dove Creek, it was the opposite. The girls played well initially, but things fell apart in the second half.

"We are still trying to get to that part of playing well all four quarters," Bray said. "We're striving for that, playing well all four quarters."

The guys basketball team beat

Monticello, 46-25, also making it to the championship game. They fell to Telluride by two points, however, in the finals, 38-40. Steele Arnold was high scorer both nights.

"It was a great weekend for the guys," said head coach Kelly Arnold. "They played well, and they are learning every single game."

He said the guys had a few errors that cost them in the end. Overall, he's happy with the guys' performance on the court.

Cont. on Pg. 3

WEATHER

A White Christmas in the West End?

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

The San Miguel Basin Forum acknowledges that there are locals who celebrate traditions other than Christmas, including Hanukkah, which has taken place Dec. 7-15, and that some may not celebrate the holiday season at all. But, the Christmas tradition is celebrated by many in the West End, and it's upon us. With that, some want to know ... Will there be a White Christmas this year?

That's debatable, but actually possible.

Lucas Boyer, of the National Weather Service in Grand Junction, said snow could happen over the weekend.

"We're kind of watching for an active pattern developing later in the week, and it certainly it doesn't seem out of the question at this point," he said. "Unfortunately, according to the models, things are kind of in a little bit of a disagreement on how they're shaping up."

Boyer's guesses are that on Saturday afternoon, precipitation could likely happen across southwest Colorado.

"It's a good possibility we see a little bit of snow," he said. "There are weak amounts of moisture, so at this point it's hard to say how much it's going to snow in Nucla (or Naturita)."

He said with an elevation of around 6,000 feet, it's probably looking like a rain and snow mix. That's because of the warm flow from the southwest with the storm that is approaching.

"Again, moisture and dynamics are in place, so it's better than a dry forecast," he added.

For the average temperatures in the West End area, things are a bit above what they normally are — and by 10 degrees, according to the climatology reports. Boyer said things need to cool down a bit before the West End gets any more snow.

Regarding precipitation, the nearest National Weather Service station in Durango reports being "quite a bit under for the year." Durango is more than three inches below normal to date.

Still, there is a chance of snow on Sunday and Monday.

"Yeah, I think right now there is some general agreement that we will see an active storm cycle on Christmas," he said. "There will be some liquid. I'm just not sure how much will be the white stuff ... Warm air, but I could see a changeover, and I wouldn't rule out a few snow flurries at this point."

Cont. on Pg. 4



Mrs. Herring leads the music kids in their Christmas performances last week. (Photo by Sara Bray)

NORWOOD

Grafmyer to retire; Norwood gets water appropriations

By REGAN TUTTLE, Editor

Norwood trustees saw a robust, albeit quick, agenda at their December monthly meeting, which was Patti Grafmyer's last as town administrator. Grafmyer retires this month after 32 years. She is the longest-serving town administrator in the state and second runner-up in the U.S.

Grafmyer has overseen Norwood Water Commission, Norwood Sanitation District and the Town of Norwood. They're bumping the pay for her position at least \$20,000 for next year for the new hire, who is yet to be named.

"I don't think you guys realize what we are losing," said Town Clerk Amanda Pierce at the meeting.

In her last administrator's report, Grafmyer said she had news on water. The Town of Norwood will now receive water appropriations on the San Miguel River, a decades-long battle that has involved the court system. The San Miguel Water Conservancy in 1950 had gotten preliminary approval for reservoirs in the local area — the Marie Scott, the Saltado, the Radium — but those never materialized. Grafmyer told the Forum the late state Senator Dan Noble lived in Norwood and advocated for those water claims from the 1960s to the 1990s (Miramonte's state wildlife area bears his name-sake.) When Grafmyer went to work for the Town of Norwood, Senator Noble would appear at

board meetings to discuss water.

Now, after six recent years of litigation, Norwood won't see the original 80,000 acre feet in the old claim, but at least 9,000 acre feet in appropriations.

San Miguel County Commissioners approved it. Next will be approval from Southwest Water Conservation District and Sheep Mountain Alliance, who first legally opposed the appropriations.

There are stipulations, however. Agricultural use is not included in the appropriations, although in the 1960s, it was actually the focus. The Town of Norwood has been appropriated 4,000 acre-feet for municipal water storage, and 1,000 for actual municipal water use.

Cont. on Pg. 3

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Lady Mustangs played "a tale of two halves," according to head coach Zandon Bray. (Photos by Sara Bray)

History: Rimrocker Historical Society Christmas in Uravan

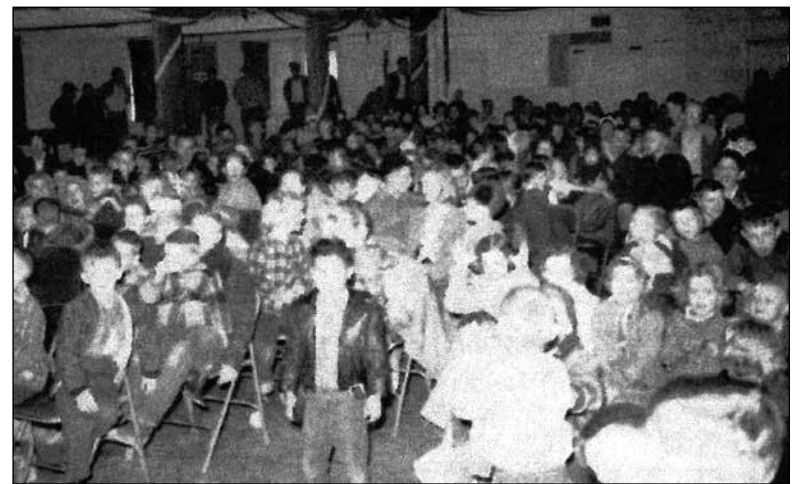
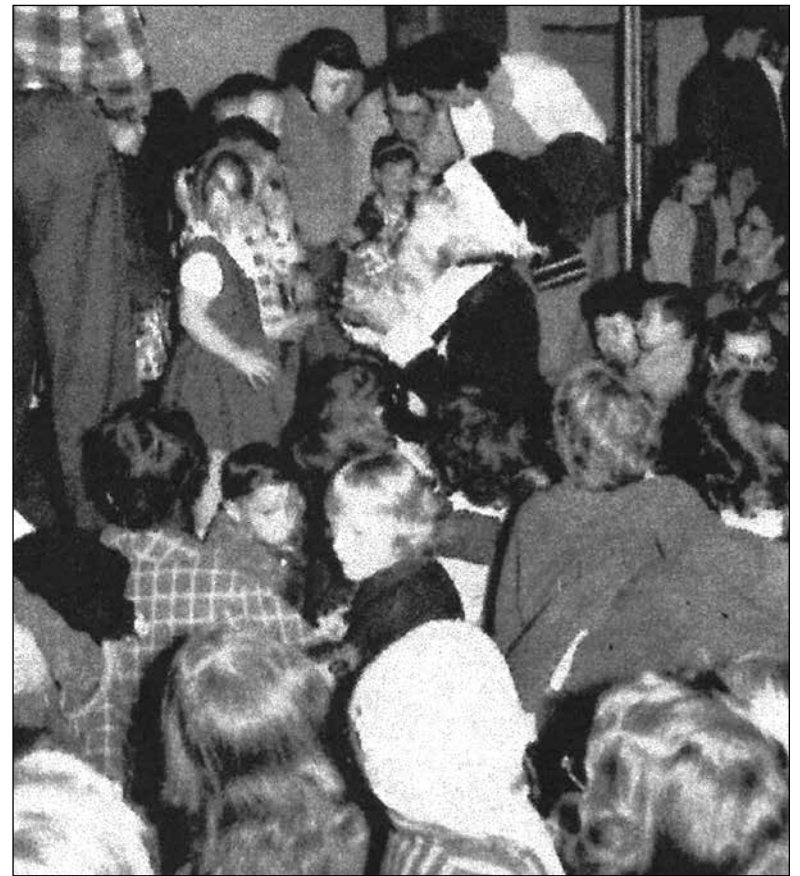
By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

Christmas in Uravan was always an exciting time. I remember my dad hanging those big C9 lights along the roof. It seemed like just about every house in Uravan had Christmas decorations up. We would always go for a drive to look at the lights, and we were always in awe of how the town was transformed into a Christmas wonderland. At the top of the B Plant up on the hill were the big star and cross, and they were lit up through the season. They would alternate lighting up, first the star for several seconds and then the cross. It is a memory of Christmas that I cherish. Our friend, Gary Reeves, recently posted a picture on Facebook of the star and cross standing watch on the hill, and the comments were many!

The build-up for Christmas was just as important back then as it is now, although it was a simpler time back then. The school Christmas program was always anticipated with great excitement. My grandma always made Sharon and I new Christmas dresses, just especially for the program. We would try on the dresses throughout the month leading up to the big night, and then we would feel so special to have that new Christmas dress. We sang all of the special Christmas songs, as each class gave their very best performance. We are all fortunate that Mrs. Herring, our current music teacher, also grew up in Uravan, because her programs are very much like what we had in our old hometown. (Thank you, Mrs. Herring!)

Although the school Christmas programs were fun and much anticipated, the Christmas parties put on by Union Carbide for the children were the biggest event of the year! Because Uravan was a "company town," the company provided pretty much whatever was needed to keep the families happy. Christmas and Halloween were the main celebrations that the company put on for the workers' families, and they went all out on both!

I found a couple of articles in the Union Carbide Nuclear News magazine about the Christmas parties in 1957 and 1958, and I thought you would enjoy them. From the UCN News of January 1957, "Saturday morning, December 22, 1956, was given over to the youngsters of Uravan and surrounding area. The annual Kiddie Christmas Party filled the Recreation Hall with a capacity crowd. Santa had his hands full taking orders from the youngsters and handing out pack-



These photos show Christmas 1957 and 1958 in Uravan. (Images courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

ages of good things to eat.

The doors opened at 9:45 a.m., and there was a crowd of early arrivals clamoring to get in. Shortly after 10 a.m. the hall was full, and Superintendent R. D. VanZante welcomed the crowd on behalf of Union Carbide Nuclear Company. After the welcome the movie operator took over. There were four short comics, and it was difficult to decide whether the youngsters or the parents enjoyed them more. Immediately after the movie, Santa arrived and, with the aid of six helpers, passed out 675 Christmas bags ... Thanks to the Boy Scouts for the Christmas tree."

The following year, the UCN News story of January 1958 stated, "The Children's Christmas party at Uravan was the largest of any previous year. More than 700 Christmas packages were distributed after

the youngsters and their parents or attendants had seen six movie cartoons. It was perhaps the largest crowd ever assembled in the Recreation Hall. Long before the doors were open, scores of little guests were waiting outside. Within a few minutes after opening the doors, the hall was overflowing. From that moment until the party was over, the hall belonged to the youngsters."

It is hard to believe that Santa and his elves had to make that many bags of goodies for such a small town as Uravan. But those were the boom years, and there were lots of families. The bags were full of that good, hard-ribbon candy, lots of different kinds of nuts, an orange and an apple, some chocolate and always a candy cane. It was great! 700 bags of candy! Uravan! What a place! Merry Christmas to all of you from the Rimrockers.

Last programs in old school

Cont. from Pg. 1

School was in session on Monday and Tuesday, though Tuesday was an early release. Santa Claus, Mr. (Brock) Benson, appeared to students at Naturita Elementary School, to hear their holiday wishes. And, the last Rudolph River Run took place too.

The annual holiday run is a special

activity the kids prep for throughout the fall semester. The kids work on building stamina to complete a one-mile course along the river. Afterward, they traditionally celebrate with hot cocoa and candy canes.

Bray said she's proud of Ms. Mallory Hainey's work with the kids and for teaching them to get out and exercise.

As far as any official goodbye to the old school goes, Bray said there's not been time to think about that. The teachers and staff have been too busy to take a pause in that way.

Bray said the Christmas program itself was a type of celebration for likely what will be one of the last school community events in the space.

Sport successes

Cont. from Pg. 1

“We lost a game, but we are playing well,” he added.

At the same time, the Mustang wrestlers competed at the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction, which turned out to be a tough tournament for the guys. There, 41 teams were on the mats, and some guys from 5A schools were participating.

There, Nucla came in 22nd overall, and Arthur Connelly came in third place in his class; JW Nasland was fourth.

Now, all competition is finished until the new year begins, and the Mustangs move into their new school and the gyms.

For the elementary and middle school kids, through Montrose West Recreation’s youth wrestling program, the kids are coached by Freddy Smith and Tryllen Richards. Approximately 20 kids in grades three through eight are out for the sport this year. The kids competed in Fruita over the weekend. JD Johnson, of Norwood, took a first place in his class; so did Hunter Johnson, of the West End.

The kids practice Tuesdays and Thursdays and have already had other tournaments in Palisade and Montrose. Currently competing



The guys may have lost in the finals by two, but they’re playing well. (Photo by Brandie McCabe)

in the lower age group are Xaden Caruso, Jonah Richardson, Hunter Johnson, JD Johnson, Austin Shurtz, Cooper Shurtz, Oscar Cooper, Lochlan Shultz, Gage Morris, Wyatt Weimer, Kyndle Weimer, Loudyn Galley and Emily Johnson.

In other recreation news, Montrose West Recreation announced a Ski & Snowboard Club

update. Online registration can be found online at form.jotform.com/233174348242151. The program will now include fourth and fifth grades too. All participating kids in grades fourth through 12th must have some previous experience on the mountain. There are no scholarships available this season. Sign-up is due by Jan. 2 at 5 p.m.

Town of Norwood

Cont. from Pg. 1

Another 4,500 is appropriated for the environment and recreation.

Grafmyer said Norwood used 214 acre-feet last year, and per Farmers Water Development has up to 300 acre feet annually. She added the appropriations are huge, especially when people discuss development and that Norwood is limited due to access to water. Still, getting water up to Wright’s Mesa will be another challenge. Mayor Candy Meehan said in the meeting that a diversion would cost \$35 million.

Morgan Rummel asked if the appropriations could be leased.

“That is something to ‘mine,’” said trustee Niven Drybrough.

Norwood also approved its budget and set the mill levy at the meeting. And, trustees signed an MOU to support the local food bank.

Representatives from Norwood Park and Recreation District said the ice rink isn’t ready yet, and colder temperatures are needed. For the Try-It Tuesdays, square dancing will happen monthly. Callers are coming from Montrose for the April dance. The first 30 minutes of sessions are for teaching newcomers. Experienced square dancers will help those who are unfamiliar with the directions. She added more than 60 people are participating in the adult volleyball league this winter in Norwood.

Public Works Director Randy Harris said bids are coming in for the drainage area below Sam’s Service. That project will get started soon. And, his crew continues to work on filling potholes.

The board was informed of some complaints on social media regarding road conditions. The town clerk said anyone with complaints should contact the Town of Norwood directly.

Harris confirmed there was no chip-seal work done this last summer, due to a shortage of materials. San Miguel County, who supports Norwood and helps with the cost, also was unable to do the chip-seal work.



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San Miguel Basin Forum

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Snow?

Cont. from Pg. 1

Boyer said the weather models will be more accurate as the week-end approaches. He also said that the storms that roll in from the

southwest can be surprising, however. He said those can generate a nice, slow snow production.

“But we have to cool things off,” he said. “It’s starting out warm this week, and 10 degrees warmer than normal. We are fighting some gravity there.”

Last year, Dolores got “really great snow” in late December, Boyer said, but there was a colder air pattern in place then.

“It’s just my confidence at this point that it is warm, and we will have some rain before snow,” he said.



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West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

12/7/2023

0020 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an alarm.
 0746 Hours - Mary Bergstrom, 46, was contacted in the 300 block of Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for speeding.
 0752 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist in the 200 block of Payson Street in Naturita.
 1033 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.
 1557 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.
 1642 Hours - Deputy conducted public relations in Nucla and Naturita.
 1726 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for a disturbance.
 1759 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for an unwanted person.
 2127 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for suspicious activity.
 1 school zone in Naturita
 1 directed patrol in Naturita
 2 civil processes attempted/served

12/8/2023

0946 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 900 block of Main Street in Nucla for a 911.
 1406 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla.
 1819 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 90 mm 28 near Naturita for an accident.
 1852 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Montana Way in Nucla for a medical assist.

12/9/2023

0115 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to

the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check. James Heusel, 56, was arrested in the 100 block of Spruce Drive in Norwood for a protection order violation.
 0845 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.
 1056 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 65 near Naturita for an agency assist.
 1259 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 90 mm 20 near Naturita for a motorist assist.
 1847 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 90 mm 27 near Naturita for an accident.
 1 follow up report

12/10/2023

1244 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a disturbance. Richard Pagan, 38, was charged with menacing and harassment.
 1916 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a trespassing report.
 2237 Hours - Deputy took a report in the 27700 block of DD Road for a motorist assist.
 3 civil processes attempted/served

12/11/2023

0751 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Grand Avenue in Nucla for a 911.
 0851 Hours - Deputy took an information report on Highway 90 mm 27 near Naturita.
 1415 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Wilson Street in Naturita for a utility problem.
 1652 Hours - Deputy took a lost property report in the 27700 block of DD Road near Nucla.

12/12/2023

0813 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 900 block of Main Street in Nucla for a traffic complaint.
 1309 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 54 near Naturita for an animal problem.
 1349 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 25100 block of 25 Mesa Road near Nucla for an animal problem. Brent Garber, 62, was cited for ownership of a dangerous dog and arrested on an outstanding warrant.
 1603 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 92 for an accident.
 1 VIN inspection
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Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum December 20 & 27, 2023



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500-600# STEERS	2.25-2.35	500-600# HEIFERS	2.10-2.20
600-700# STEERS	2.05-2.15	600-700# HEIFERS	1.95-2.10
700-800# STEERS	1.90-2.00	700-800# HEIFERS	1.70-1.85
800-900# STEERS	1.80-1.90	800-900# HEIFERS	1.75-2.05 NO TEST
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RASCALS TODDLER PROGRAM HELP WANTED

Rascals Toddler Program is seeking a full-time employee to work with our amazing team in the Lawson Hill neighborhood of Telluride. Pay starts at \$20/hr. and may increase based on experience and credentials.

Please contact Brooke Napier at **rascalstoddler@gmail.com** or **728-3804**

SILENT AUCTION

Nucla High School is scheduled to be demolished in 2024 and there are items in the school that we would like the community to have a chance to salvage or recycle

We will be having a pre-demolition sale. This will be the first of a two part sale. The first round will be things that are attached to the building. All of the furniture, desks, chairs, and moveable items will be auctioned in the spring of 2024.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Date
Doors will be open to the public on December 29th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Liability Waiver
Everyone who attends must sign a liability release form and then you are free to roam around and bid on the items.

Pick Up
The silent auction will close at 5 p.m. on 12/29/23. The top bidder will be called and you must pick up all of your items by 5 p.m. on 12/30/23.

Details
Bring your friends, tools, measurements, marker pen and appropriate dress/shoes. Please do not bring children as this is a demolition sale.

Contact Dan Williams
970-864-7350 or 970-417-9189



8 AM TO 5 PM
29
DECEMBER

NUCLA HIGH SCHOOL
225 W. 4TH. AVE. NUCLA, CO 81424

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: COCKTAILS

- ACROSS**
- Great divide
 - Priestly vestment
 - Took to court
 - Haile Selassie's disciple

- 10 decibels
- *Appletini's ____ schnapps
- Rose oil
- Maui garland
- Birth-related
- *Old Fashioned liquor option
- *Gin+vermouth

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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25	26	27		28		29			30	31	32	33	34	
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40						41				42		43		
44				45		46						47		
48						49			50			51		52
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67				68			
69								70				71		
72										73				74

- rosso+Campari
- Not him
- Bye, in Palermo
- VA.gov beneficiary
- Puerto follower
- Like Ferris Bueller
- Exclude
- "____ Your Enthusiasm"
- Green-light
- Tiny coffee cup, or ____-tasse
- Cut mission short
- Not final or absolute
- Makes a sweater
- Wing-shaped
- Bird, in Latin
- One with drug dependency
- Do like a frog
- A U.S. time zone
- Dance with #17 Across
- Anatomical duct
- *It usually comes in a conical glass
- *Popular cocktail mixer
- Spy's other name
- Knicks' org.
- Give a speech
- Clan emblem
- Party barrel
- Clean a spill (2 words)
- Part of pump
- Sargasso or Barents
- Same as apse

- Russian pancakes
- Practice in the ring
- As far as (2 words)
- Distinctive flair
- Place for a hero
- Fluffy sweater material
- "All My Children" vixen ____ Kane
- 2010 Movie "____ Pray Love"
- Toyota model
- *Moscow Mule spirit
- Make corrections
- Shy
- *____ Libre
- Forearm bone
- Not dead
- Honkers
- *Lemon or orange piece

- South American monkey
- Highlands hillside
- Crossbeam
- Religious split
- 252-gallon wine cask
- *Tequila+grapefruit juice+sparkling water
- Kind of golf course
- Razor sharpener
- S.A.T. section
- Balm ingredient
- Baptism or shiva, e.g.
- Asian weight unit
- John Galsworthy's "The Forsyte ____"
- Nukes
- Sewing case
- Gym set
- *____'s Knees

S	T	O	R	M		N	I	P		A	C	T	S			
P	U	P	A	E		E	R	A		T	U	L	I	P		
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S	C	R	A	M		L	A	C		A	B	A	C	A		
T	O	E	S			E	G	O		L	O	P	E	R		

- DOWN**
- Sticking point, in alimentary tract
 - Possesses, archaic
 - *Bellini with ____ Spumante
 - Squirrel away
 - a.k.a. felt-pen
 - Competently
 - M tley Cr e's Tommy ____

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