

## NONPROFITS

### WEPIFT announces 2023 grant recipients

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

In December, the West End Pay It Forward Trust (WEPIFT) and Citizens State Bank hosted a grantee celebration party to honor their 2023 Community Grant Award recipients. In total, WEPIFT granted \$19,500 via its annual Community Grant Award program to nonprofit organizations serving the West End. Of the \$19,500 awarded, Citizens State Bank donated \$6,000.

"In total, WEPIFT received \$31,824 in grant requests from 10 different nonprofit organizations serving the West End during its 2023 Community Grant cycle, which made the process of granting \$19,500 very competitive," said Sara Bachman, trust president.

The 2023 Community Grant recipients are the Basin Clinic, Inc. to support its medication program, spurred to action following the closure of the area's only pharmacy; Hoof & Paw, Inc. to support a renovation of its feline shelter; Montrose West Recreation, Inc. for general operating to continue providing recreational opportunities to the area; West End Theatre Collaborative to bring the Missoula Children's Theatre back for its third summer in 2024; Nucla-Naturita Fire Protection District to purchase equipment to help lower the ISO rating for Paradox and Bedrock residents; Nucla-Naturita Senior Center to support the salary of its cook to continue to provide lunches to the area's seniors; Pinhead Institute to support robotics and no-school science programs for West End students; San Miguel Resource Center to aid in the support of the salary of the West End victims advocate; and True North Youth Program to support programming in the West End for area youth.

Since 2019, Citizens State Bank has contributed \$6,000 annually towards the WEPIFT Community Grants.

"As a small-town community bank, Citizens State Bank believes in investing in the communities we serve," said Erin Jones, spokesperson for the bank and WEPIFT treasurer. "By supporting this endowment, we are contributing to securing a future filled with opportunity for our community. It is an honor to serve on the prestigious board of West End Pay It Forward Trust. My goal is to continue to be a resource to the board by contributing to its goal of providing support for local projects and organizations."

The trust was established in 2013 and operates independently with support as a designated fund

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## EDUCATION

### Decor, furniture in new school mostly complete; First silent auction a 'success'



Contractors execute the finishing touches of the ceiling in the entryway of the new school on Dec. 29.

(Photo by Regan Tuttle)

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The new school in Nucla, a pre-K through 12th grade facility, with infant and toddler rooms too, is nearly complete and ready for its Jan. 15 move-in date. At 76,000 square feet in size, it's actually a bit smaller than the combined old middle school-high school (approximately 51,000 square feet) and the old elementary (40,000 square feet). The new build is expected to help streamline edu-

cation in West End Public Schools District for the 242 kids enrolled.

The esthetic celebrates the natural environment. The masonry at the new entrance, very labor intensive, didn't include saws — only chisels and hammers — to repurpose the individual rocks from the smaller, old structure that was torn down. The wooden beams, also at the front, are a tribute to the historic Hanging Flume on the San Miguel River that runs past the Confluence area.

The interior decor, basically done,

is blue, though some green tones are present in the elementary portion. Superintendent Clint Wytulka said the green colors pay homage to the agricultural roots of the community — and a color that those on the advisory board selected. There are also red tones in the school's library, which symbolize the rocks throughout the canyon.

The flooring is a neutral, grey laminate with simple, but modern matching furniture. The many windows in the facility allow an

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## NORWOOD

### Deana Sheriff is new town manager

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

With Patti Grafmyer's retirement at the end of 2023, Norwood hired her replacement last week. Deana Sheriff replaces Grafmyer but with a different job title. Sheriff has been hired as town manager, rather than town administrator, and she has a lengthy job description.

Sheriff will oversee the day-to-day operations of Norwood's entities, including the town's affairs and those of Norwood Water Commission and Norwood Sanitation District "through the policies and direction of boards," and she is "responsible for the efficient management of the business and concerns."

Sheriff will be full-time, based in Norwood at Town Hall and salaried between \$85,000 and \$100,000.

Norwood Mayor Candy Meehan told the Forum that the town saw 21 applicants for the job, though approximately 11 of those were more like inquiries. She said many applicants were not qualified.

A personnel committee — made up of Mayor Meehan and Norwood Trustee Shawn Fallon (Town of Norwood), Finn Kjome and Richard Nelson (Norwood Water Commission) and Kerry Welch and Bernice White (Norwood Sanitation District) — made its recommendation to the town, and the town accepted the committee's majority consensus.

The mayor told the Forum she was content with Sheriff as the hire, especially because of Sheriff's knowledge and years of experience.

"I am assured the individual we have selected will be an asset to our town and community, and I am excited to watch us learn and grow together," Meehan said. "I believe we are entering a new phase of growth and prosperity for Wright's Mesa as a whole, and I could not be more pleased that Deana is going to be part of that with our community."

Sheriff started her new job with Norwood on Jan. 2.

She comes as a certified economic developer through the International Economic Development Council in Washington, DC. Previously, she was the executive director of the West End Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC), based in the West End. She was there five years as the organization's first paid director.

Sheriff told the Forum she's excited to get to work.

"I've always liked Norwood — I like all things in the West End, no doubt — but I'm excited to work with staff and really see if we can

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## AWARDS

### Local students, athletes, superintendent recognized

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The end of this past semester saw accolades for some students, athletes and also the superintendent of West End Public Schools. Both high school freshman Cole Bray and high school senior Keiran Bray, who are siblings, were honored through a scholarship program through the VFW.

Debbie Wytulka, teacher and coach at Nucla High School, told the Forum the local VFW post had sent information on an essay contest, one beginning at the district level that was based on the attributes of American democracy. Students had to conduct some research and then discuss which aspects of

Cont. on Pg. 5



Jim Wilson congratulates superintendent Clint Wytulka for being a Demont Award finalist. (Courtesy image)



# A very important day in the life of a rancher

By JANIE VANWINKLE

Sustainability is a big word these days. In the realm of food production, we are held accountable for sustainability on three fronts: environmental, social and economic. In the West, many ranches are thinking about the economic impacts of their work as calves are being rounded up from the range and sent onto the next leg of their journey into the food supply chain. According to the CSU Extension Office, the economic impact of every cow in Mesa County is \$600-\$800 annually. Payday comes around once a year, in the fall for most of us.

Ours dawned early last week. As the morning indigo sky turned a blue-bird blue, we were getting all the pieces of the puzzle put together to ensure a successful “shipping day.” Horses were quietly munching their oats as we saddled in the dark morning. They were being readied for their initial part of the action to gather the cows and their calves into the corrals. The herd had been brought up close the day before.

The calves had been contracted through an online auction during the summer for delivery in November. The representative of the company who brokered the deal arrived just as the horses were loaded into the trailers. Our family has been working with him for nearly 30 years, so there were friendly greetings in the dark as we welcomed him to western Colorado. The day before he worked with a family in Idaho. He drove most of the night to get to our ranch.

We split into two crews, one to bring the cows with steer calves, and another to get the heifer pairs to the corrals. Howard and I worked the heifers and our son, for the first time, took a few hands to work the steers. There is no cell service between the two ranches, so any issues had to be handled independently. There was quiet conversation about the weather, the market, and our families in the pickup. We shared a sweet treat to start the morning as we drove. For the most part, the mood was upbeat. The weather has been generally good to us in western Colorado this year. The cattle market is at historic high levels. The strong market has come at a high cost, as a lot of producers have exited the business because of the many challenges. There was talk of that, as well.

As we arrived at the ranch, horses were unloaded, bridled and mounted to make a quick gather into the corrals. The separating of the cows and calves is done on foot in a quiet manner. The most important factor on this day is the weight of the calves. Handling them quietly is not only the right thing to do; it is good business. Stress on the cattle costs pounds. We need and want all the pounds. The contracted price is by the pound, the same as our consumers buy beef in the store.

The next step in the process is

for the representative to sort for quality and size. His is the final word. As he calmly brought each one up the alley, he called “in” for the calves he wanted, and called “bye” for the calves that did not make the cut that time.

The local brand inspector arrived right on time. His job is to ensure ownership of the cattle and legally transfer them to the buyer. He looked at each individual animal prior to loading on the truck. He knew the family brand and identified all the animals as part of our ranch.

As we heard the sound of the Jake Brake slowing a big truck down on the highway, we were ready to load the calves. Grandpa met the truck in town and guided him to the remote stretch of road leading to the ranch. The driver skillfully brought the big rig into the area and backed up to the loading chute. The brand inspector, the sales rep and I headed to the other ranch while Howard

loaded the heifers. We would soon begin the process all over again. It was only 9 a.m.

Everything went smoothly. The tension was still palpable. We wouldn't know the weight till the truck crossed the scales 25 miles away.

The same scene played over again. This time, we would load two trucks with the steer calves. The trucks arrived early, but drivers waited patiently for the cattle to be worked and inspected. We insisted on slow and steady in the corrals. The process took a little longer, but the trucks were loaded and ready to head to the scales by noon.

We held our breath as the trucks crossed the scales. This is the economic reward for all the late nights, headaches and heartaches, trials and tribulations. And, there was more than a little pride in the accuracy of the estimates made in July. Smiles and phone calls as the initial calculations were done! The calves weighed perfectly! We wished the drivers safe travels, and knew the calves would be received well on the other end.

This scenario is playing out all over the West on family ranches like ours. We are proud of the work we do, caring for the livestock and stewarding the land. The product we produce will provide high-quality protein for families across the country. The economic impact of our work is felt in many rural communities.

We exhaled a sigh of relief. Four generations joined in a celebratory lunch of tenderloins.

Beef. It's what's for dinner!

We slowed down for the afternoon, knowing tomorrow we would start the process all over again. We will be looking for that one, very important day next year, as we work daily to be sustainable.

*This column was first published in The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel on Nov. 28, 2023.*

*In the realm of food production, we are held accountable for sustainability on three fronts: environmental, social and economic.*

## History: Rimrocker Historical Society Nucla Independent, Dec. 26, 1918

By JANE THOMPSON, *Rimrocker Historical Society*

The fire at M. D. Bowen's home was a wild way to end the year of 1918, but it seemed like the folks took it all in stride. It could have been so much worse, but the response seemed to be fast enough to save the house. Mr. Hopkins, editor of the Nucla Independent, included the story of the fire from a different perspective, and I think he adds his own excitement to the day.

### “Fire notes — Bowen Fire

Miss Margaret Biglin lost practically all her clothing in the fire.

Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Cone and the Kennedy family were some of the first ones at the fire.

A clothes basket filled with a two weeks washing ready to be ironed was destroyed by the blaze.

There was practically no wind to fan the blaze; if there had been, it would have been a different story to tell.

The Frank Rice baling crew left their work at the S. Ries ranch and helped materially in fighting the fire.

No one seemed to have time to ring the fire bell during the fire. Even Fire Chief Hill cranked up his car and made for the blaze, forgetting that we even had a fire bell.

The Nucla Fire Department is receiving considerable practice lately. However, two wild rides to fires inside of two weeks is getting on the nerves of ye editor, but when there is a fire, it is not time to say, ‘Let George do it.’

Miss Catherine Noe, when the alarm was sounded, left the warm rooms of the post office and without a wrap on made the trip to the burning house in the G. M. Love car, she and Mr. Love being the first ones from town to arrive at the ranch.

Several of the boys were overcome with smoke. Jim Rice



This image shows an ad from the last issue of the Nucla Independent's 1918 paper.

(Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

was noticed to fall out through an upstairs window, landing on the roof of the front porch, but before anyone could come to his rescue, he coughed up a bunch of smoke and went at it again.

Chief Operator Viva V. Vestal was asked why she did not go down the street and ring the bell. She replied that she thought it was more important that she phone the businessmen of the town and get them to the fire, and she certainly had them on the run in short order.

Miss Elda Chatfield and her mother, Mrs. R. E. Chatfield, lost all faith in humanity during the progress of the fire. Miss Chatfield, who just recently purchased a Ford, had engine trouble and was stalled at the church corner. She saw a car coming and tried to stop it, but nothing doing. Then another car, but her signals of her distress were unheeded. After numerous cars had passed, she decided that all the drivers were either racing for a train or training for a race, or were stark mad, crazy or had the flu. One of the cars was driven

by Clyde Veatch, repair man at the Nucla garage, and when she saw the car approach, she said to her mother that Clyde must have noticed they were stuck in the mud and was coming to their relief. However, Clyde shot by at a 25 mile an hour clip and didn't even give her a pleasant look. Miss Chatfield might have been stuck in the mud yet, if it had not been for Will Delaplane who went to her rescue.”

There we have the big story at the end of 1918 in Nucla. There were a few more local events as folks finished out the year. Some of the local boys were returning from the war. Ralph Chatfield, who was at training camp at Boulder, was mustered out and returned home. A package of letters and pictures lost on the battlefield of France by John H. Cooper was found by a surgeon and returned to Mrs. Guy Cooper, since her address was the only name found on one of the letters. Johnnie Cooper was gassed in the war and spent a long time in the hospital before he was able to make it back home to Nucla. Another soldier boy returned to Nucla to marry his gal, Miss Irene Kennedy, and took her off to Nebraska to begin their new life. The Christmas dance and picture show was attended by an overflow crowd, and everyone was celebrating the fact that the flu was no more.

Life was feeling pretty good in Nucla as they stepped into 1919. The Rimrockers hope you all had a safe and fun time bringing in the new year. Welcome to 2024!

*(Stories and advertisements were taken from the Nucla Independent of Thursday, Dec. 26, 1918. This newspaper is the property of the Rimrocker Historical Society archives.)*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Changes to Town & Country Insurance

Dear Editor,

Because of challenges in Colorado's insurance marketplace, Town & Country Insurance in Naturita is making strategic adjustments to its product offerings in regard to personal insurance, home and auto. We are no longer offering new quotes for home and auto. Existing home and auto policies with Town & Country will continue to be serviced.

In May 2022, Town & Country opened its doors to a very different insurance market than what we are facing today in Colorado. In the last year, eight personal home and property insurance carriers have left the state, and four carriers have left in

the last month. Wildfire exposure in central and western Colorado and wind losses in eastern Colorado are the reasons for carriers leaving the state. Others have announced the non-renewal of policies for existing customers in high wildfire scored areas and they've ceased accepting new customers in Colorado.

In response to this challenging environment, the Colorado legislature took action earlier this year by introducing a “fair plan.” This approach allows for the establishment of a state-sponsored insurance program of last resort, stepping in to provide coverage when individuals are unable to secure insurance through traditional markets.

Town and Country Insurance,

recognizing the changing dynamics of the insurance landscape, has decided to adapt its business strategy accordingly. Effective immediately, the agency will be scaling back its offerings to focus primarily on commercial business insurance and working ranches. This decision is rooted in the need to navigate the limited availability of carriers for personal home and property insurance.

If you are a current customer, nothing changes for you. Please continue to call our office for service at 970-818-9316 or email trevar@townandcountry-insurance.com

Trevar Bennington  
NATURITA



**COLORADO**

# Nominations sought for Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

**SPECIAL TO THE FORUM**

The Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee, a critical link between the citizens of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), is seeking nominations to fill three vacant positions representing the interests of a public or private weed scientist (1), a municipal government representative (1), and a county government representative (1).

The primary responsibility of the committee is to discuss Colorado's weed management challenges and craft solutions that best reflect public and private interests.

The committee makes recommendations to the department concerning designation and classification of state noxious weeds; development and implementation of state weed management plans; and prescribed techniques for eradication, containment and suppression of state noxious weeds.

"The members of this committee play an important role in shaping department and state policy concerning noxious weeds. Their recommendations help protect landowners, agricultural lands and the environment," said Patty York, the Noxious Weed Program Manager.

The committee's 17 members

are appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and represent varying interests and geographic locations on the committee. Members serve two-year terms, and the committee meets quarterly, with most meetings occurring at CDA's Broomfield office, including a virtual option. At least one meeting and corresponding field trip are usually held out of the Denver area annually.

Nominations must be submitted through an online application form no later than Wednesday, Jan. 24. For more information, all are invited to view the Noxious Weed Program's Advisory Committee web page.

## San Miguel Basin Forum

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## Nucla school nearly complete

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abundance of natural sunlight and views of mountains on different sides.

In the library space is the signed beam that students and staff signed last year in commemoration of the project.

With multiple meeting spaces, there's plenty of room for both board and staff meetings. Funerals and community gatherings are also possible in the new school.

There are two gyms — including a climbing wall and batting cage, a wrestling room and weight room, and stage areas for concerts and plays with a proper music room. There are also science classrooms, with an official STEM room, and space for art, home economics and shop classes.

Wytulka, on a school tour last Friday, agreed the school hosts many learning opportunities for kids. And, the district now has a 1:1 ratio of Hewlett Packard laptops for student use. He confirmed the school is fully staffed, even with custodial

and food service employees.

The Mustangs should be ready to learn in their new school in mid-January, though contractors are working around the clock with finishing touches in the meantime.

"There will still be some small, behind-the-scenes work that will need to be completed after school begins, but this will be done without disrupting students and school operations," Wytulka said in a press release last Friday. "Education and safety continue to remain the school's number one priority, both for our new school, as well as for the construction project, and we will continue to closely monitor contractor access and will maintain proper safety

protocols to keep everyone safe."

Wytulka said the demolition of the old school will start in early February. Then the site will become the school's new parking lot.

Last Friday, many community members walked through the old school for a silent auction. Wytulka said it wasn't about raising money, though it did bring in \$2,300 and was "a success." According to him, it was about repurposing doors, lockers, shelving and more and doing so in an equitable manner for those who wanted to take a piece of history. Last Friday's auction was for items attached to the structure. Another one will happen in the spring for the furniture, old desks and other things.

*"Education and safety continue to remain the school's number one priority, both for our new school, as well as for the construction project, and we will continue to closely monitor contractor access and will maintain proper safety protocols to keep everyone safe."*

Clint Wytulka  
Nucla School  
Superintendent

## 2023 grant recipients

Cont. from Pg. 1

of the Telluride Foundation. It made its first Community Grant Award in 2018 to Colt Care, a daycare established and operated by West End Public Schools, in the amount of \$2,000. Since then, WEPIFT has granted \$73,400 to nonprofit organizations serving the West End.

"As a founding member of the West End Pay It Forward Trust, it is extremely rewarding to see funds going back into our community through the many nonprofits who apply for our Community Grants. Thanks to Citizens State Bank adding \$6,000 per year to the interest we make off of our endowment, we are able to enhance the wonderful efforts of the volunteers who are the glue holding our communities together," said Jane Thompson, trust vice president.

She added, "My challenge to all

of you, who want to leave a mark on the future of our community, is to consider a monthly donation towards our growing endowment."

Currently, WEPIFT's board is comprised of Sara Bachman (president), Jane Thompson (founding member, vice president), Sara Bray (secretary), Erin Jones (CSB representative, treasurer), along with Kendra Ballard, Doylene Garvey, Troy Masters and Sarah Carlisle (non-voting Tri-State representative).

Alexander Price recently resigned from WEPIFT after four years of service.

"I am profoundly grateful for the meaningful years of service with the West End Pay It Forward Trust, contributing to its mission of fostering positive change in our community," he said. "As I step down, I am confident in the continued dedication of the board and the unwavering

support of the West End. Although I am transitioning from my role, my commitment to the development of the West End remains steadfast. Additionally, I am pleased to share that the bank's support and service will persist under the capable leadership of Erin Jones, our local operations leader, ensuring a seamless continuation of our commitment to the community."

WEPIFT's mission is to create a self-sustaining endowment to support the West End. Anyone who'd like to support WEPIFT may easily do so my mailing a check to WEPIFT at PO Box 171, Naturita, CO 81422 or visiting westendpayitforward.org/donate. WEPIFT encourages donors to consider a passive reoccurring monthly donation for the largest impact. Those interested in joining the WEPIFT board should submit a letter of interest to westendpift@gmail.com.

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**RECIPE**

# An easy fudge recipe can be enhanced

By **REGAN TUTTLE, Editor**

**M**y family will often make fudge for special occasions, especially in the cold seasons. We'll have it for holidays, but also when we need a sweet treat or pick-me-up. It's

actually quite simple and uses very few ingredients: butter, chocolate chips, vanilla and sweetened condensed milk.

The key is not burning the chocolate as you're making it. We always make a water bath by boiling water in a saucepan, but placing a mix-

ing bowl over that. In this way, the chocolate melts and gets saucy, but won't burn. We usually make plain fudge, but it's easy to get creative by adding marshmallows, walnuts or something else. White chocolate could also be fun, as could different flavors like a bit of spice.


## Recipe for Basic Fudge

**Ingredients**

- Butter, just enough to grease a square glass baking dish
- One bag chocolate chips, semi-sweet
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- One can of sweetened-condensed milk
- Add any other ingredients (nuts, marshmallows, spice)

**Directions**


Grease a square glass baking dish with butter. Make the water bath on the stove by boiling water and placing a mixing bowl directly over the top. Empty bag of chocolate chips into bowl. When chocolate begins to melt, add can of sweetened condensed milk and the vanilla. Stir together with a spatula to blend. The whole thing only takes minutes. Pour into greased, glass dish. Let chill for an hour or so before cutting into it.




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# New town manager

Cont. from Pg. 1

make some things start happening," she said.

She agreed she's got much grant writing experience.

"A lot of the grant writing will be going after things that are appropriate," she said. "The (Norwood) staff all have interest in learning how to do some grant writing, and I'm glad to share that knowledge. We could work on challenging ones together, so they can get a

real good introduction to some of the federal grants that are out there. ... If the federal government made these things available, there's an opportunity. It's kind of our responsibility to go after them."

Sheriff said it's important to "do what we can for the Town of Norwood" and that funds are only available to be used in certain ways. She said she's glad she brings her experience with that to the table.

Regarding her economic devel-

opment certification, she told the Forum that goes beyond jobs. Her background is in housing, taxation and neighborhood development too. She added her work is about taking a broad look at community.

"Norwood is unique. I love that uniqueness," she said. "We need to do what we can to preserve that and keep the community growing strong and become sustainable."

She said she'll have a lot of work to do around water.

# West End Schools accolades

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American democracy were most important to them.

Wytulka teaches a senior seminar class and also a freshmen computer and typing class. She figured the essay would be a good experience for her students.

Names were not attached to the essay; students entered in such a way that their submissions were anonymous to those scoring them. Wytulka said it was interesting that the siblings ended up winning the district award together. Additionally, Cole Bray's essay was accidentally mailed to the wrong post at first. It ended up in Cortez. But, even the Cortez readers at the VFW praised his work when they returned it to the correct post.

The VFW district award was \$200, and that was split between the Bray siblings. Now, the brother and sister have both been entered into the regional contest. As of

press time, Wytulka had not heard anything yet about the next round. The students were not asked to write another essay; Their first submissions simply traveled to the advanced round of judging.

In other news, two volleyball players were honored late this fall for the San Juan Basin League's All Conference. Wytulka, who is the head volleyball coach for the Mustangs, said Shania Joseph and Haylee Smith, both seniors, were recognized. Joseph was named to the second team, and Smith was named honorable mention.

Moreover, Wytulka's husband, the superintendent of West End Public Schools District was also recognized in the Demont Award process, through the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB). The Demont Award honors administrators, and superintendents, who "leave a district better than they found it."

The award was established

approximately 20 years ago by former Colorado State Representative Jim Wilson, of Salida, an official who cares deeply about public education. Wilson wanted the Demont Award to acknowledge those leading districts with 1,500 or less students.

Clint Wytulka was nominated this year, and then went on to be named as a finalist. He told the Forum that he was honored that students, teachers and others spoke on his behalf, writing letters to acknowledge the work he's done in the West End, specifically with the new school build that will be complete in 2024.

Wytulka attended a breakfast in Colorado Springs on Dec. 8, where he was recognized in the Demont Award process. He was presented a plaque for his dedication to his school district.

"It was an honor to even be a part of that," he said last Friday. "It was neat, and I appreciate it."

## Meet the UMC Providers!

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Dr. Andrew Baker

Tommy Terwilliger, LCSW

Dr. Sarah May, DMD

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Meeting Jan. 13

Dear Editor,

The Ute Trail Study Club will be meeting on Jan. 13 at the Redvale Community Building at noon for a luncheon. As per every January, we will be hosting Don Colcord, and the public is invited to attend his always-informative talks. Some of the subjects of interest will be vaccine updates, the latest on various diseases,

updates and facts about Medicare and its programs, and maybe a general question-and-answer period. Please bring a pot luck salad or dessert, and the main dish will be roast beef and scalloped potatoes. Happy New Year and best of health to all!

Rebecca Rogers  
NORWOOD

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank our family, friends and community for your thoughts, prayers, love and support during the passing of George H. Ross. A special thanks to our Nucla-Naturita Fire and

EMS crew for everything you did and do. We are blessed to live in such a loving and caring community. You are all appreciated so much.

The family of George H. Ross  
WEST END

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

300-400# STEERS	2.95-3.50 NO TEST	300-400# HEIFERS	2.40-2.50
400-500# STEERS	2.45-2.60	400-500# HEIFERS	2.10-2.30
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	1.95-2.00	700-800# HEIFERS	1.70-1.85
800-900# STEERS	1.84-1.90	800-900# HEIFERS	1.75-2.05 NO TEST
Top bulls	High of 1.03	Medium bulls	.95-1.00
Young Cows	1.05-1.35	Top cows	.92-.97
Medium cows	.88-.91	Low-yielding cows	.80 down

NEXT WEEK:

NO SALE DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

NEXT SALE JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>. Early consignment of Semi load of feeders, 24 Bred cows ( 5-6 yr olds ).

NEXT SPECIAL SHEEP & GOAT SALE – JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>.

Next special Horse sale – Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>.



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OBITUARY

George Herbert Ross

Jan. 6, 1977 — Dec. 16, 2023



George Herbert Ross.

George Herbert Ross, also known as “Bug,” of Naturita, passed away Dec. 16. He was 46 years old. Bug was born to George A. Ross and Sherri Ross (Koontz) on Jan. 6, 1977, in Moab, Utah. He grew up with five siblings and many cousins. Bug had many friends and was well known throughout the community for his humor, kindness and love of the outdoors.

Bug began working as a manual laborer and went on to operate and drive semi-trucks. Truck driving was one of many of his passions. Bug hauled loads all over the U.S. and most enjoyed seeing the beauty of the country. He often would send videos and photos of the places he'd been to family and friends.

He was married to Susan (Stewart) Ross on Sept. 25, 2010, in Naturita. They spent 13 wonderful years married. Bug enjoyed taking Susan along for daily drives to catch a glimpse of wildlife and simply spending time together. Bug was a loving husband and was always proud of his wife.

He is preceded in death by his father, George A. Ross, and his grandparents, George E. Ross, Barbara Johnson, Herbert Koontz and Robert

Huckabay.

Bug is survived by his wife, Susan (Stewart) Ross; mother, Sherri (Koontz) Ross; grandmother, Deanie Huckabay; and his children, Michaela (Derrick) Archuleta, Austin (Sidney) Ross, Mandie Ross, Tiffany Secrest, Jayme (Brian) Secrest, Stephan (Kristian) Secrest and Brandon Secrest.

He also leaves behind five grandchildren, Cole, Kyle and Amelia Secrest and Dawson Winner and Aspen Archuleta; and his five siblings, Steven Ross, Ike (Jennifer) Ross, Cindy (Colby) Chiles, Kristen (Bradley) Snow and Amber Jones. He's survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Bug was loved, cherished and will be deeply missed by many. A memorial will be held this summer for family and close friends to attend.

**West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter**

12/21/2023

0911 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 21500 block of 600 Road near Paradox for a civil matter.

1158 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 8200 block of V Road near Paradox for a theft report.

1948 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 700 block of Lincoln Street in Nucla for a medical assist.

3 VIN inspections

2 warrant attempts

1 directed patrol in Nucla

1 directed patrol in Naturita

6 civil processes attempted/served

12/22/2023

1728 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for a medical assist.

2018 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of Highway 145 and 3575 Road near Redvale for an animal problem.

2 directed patrols in County

1 directed patrol in Naturita

12/23/2023

2 follow up reports

1 civil process attempted/served

12/24/2023

1852 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highland Drive in Naturita for a welfare check.

1932 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for a civil matter.

12/25/2023

0046 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35300 block of II Road near Redvale for a 911.

1218 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an unsecured premise.

1340 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of DD Road near Nucla for a harassment report.

1744 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of East Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

2159 Hours - Deputy was dis-

patched to the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a disturbance.

12/26/2023

1808 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 29500 block of 2800 Road near Nucla for a fire.

1945 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 30100 block of DD Road near Nucla for a report of threatening.

12/27/2023

1309 Hours - Deputy took a report for a welfare check in the Nucla/Naturita area.

2 follow up reports

12/28/2023

0907 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for an unwanted person.

1134 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 58 near Naturita for a motorist assist.

1430 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a welfare check.

1738 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a medical assist.

1810 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of West Sixth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

12/29/2023

1415 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita for a fraud report.

1453 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Tenth Avenue in Nucla for a welfare check.

1539 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for an information report.

1810 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of Adams Street in Naturita for an animal problem.

1814 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Highway 97 in Naturita for a trespassing report.

1925 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 35500 block of 3900 Road near Redvale for a civil matter.

1935 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 900 block of Grape Street in Nucla for a juvenile problem.

1949 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a harassment report.

2201 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the area of West Third Avenue and Payson Street in Naturita for a report of fireworks.

2 follow up reports

MEMORIAL

Nola J. Kirk

Sept. 16, 1947 — Dec. 16, 2020



Nola J. Kirk.

It's been three years since you left us. I know you are with God now and you are okay. Every time I see a pink sunset, I think of you looking down on us. I cherish the memories I have of you. Gone but not forgotten, loved by so many people, someday we will be together again. Loving you always and forever, remembering you day and night. Never goodbye, I'll see you again one day in heaven, but until then rest peacefully, beautiful mother of mine.

# Classified Ads

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## DEPUTY CLERK WANTED

Town of Nucla is now hiring a Deputy Clerk. Competitive salary, 4 day work week, health, dental and vision, PTO and Vacation Application can be found at [TownofNucla.colorado.gov](http://TownofNucla.colorado.gov), email to [manager.nucla@mail.com](mailto:manager.nucla@mail.com) or apply in person at 320 Main Street Nucla

51-27-C

## CHANGE TO OBITUARY COST

We will no longer charge for black and white obituaries under 500 words.

TEN

## VETERAN MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO

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TEN

## XEROX WORKCENTRE 7125 FOR SALE

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51-TEN-NC

## MONTROSE COUNTY

# Treasurer announces delay of mailing property tax statements

### SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Legislative changes enacted by the Colorado Legislature to accommodate property tax relief will delay the certification of the county tax rolls. The new deadline for the tax roll certification is Jan. 24. The reason for the delay is to give taxing authorities sufficient time to certify their mill levies and to give county assessors more time to gather data.

Please be aware that these changes do not alter the first-half payment due date, Feb. 28. The Colorado Legislature chose not to extend the payment deadline to ensure that special districts like fire departments, school districts, health districts, hospitals and other public entities have the revenue to continue to operate.

Once the tax roll process is complete, property owners will receive their statements by mail in early February. The property tax amount will be available after Feb. 1 at [montrosecounty.net/treasurer](http://montrosecounty.net/treasurer) by clicking on "SEARCH PROPERTY TAX RECORDS." Contact our office at 970 249-3565 or email [etreasurer@montrosecounty.net](mailto:etreasurer@montrosecounty.net) for assistance.

The treasurer's office, along with the assessor and GIS offices, will be moving to temporary locations in January. The old Montrose County Courthouse will close for restorations beginning Jan. 22. Assessor and GIS offices will reopen Jan. 29 at 949 N 2nd St. (next to Friendship Hall). Treasurer and public trustee offices will reopen Feb. 5 at 1001 N 2nd St. (southwest entrance of Friendship Hall).

## LEGAL PUBLICATION

### TOWN OF NATURITA - NOTICE OF ELECTION

#### Town of Naturita Voter

The Town of Naturita Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. This election is a Poll-Ballot Election. There are three (3) Trustee positions; 4-year terms for Trustee Positions.

Nomination petitions will be available at Naturita Town Hall for circulation beginning Tuesday January 2, 2024, and must be filed with the Town Clerk's office by Monday January 22, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Candidates must be at least (18) eighteen years of age on election day; must be a registered elector and must have resided within Naturita Town limits for a minimum of twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date of election.

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum December 27, 2023, January 3, and January 10, 2024

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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: WINTER FUN

### ACROSS

- Mulligatawny and gazpacho, e.g.
- Half of NFL
- "Oscar" of sports
- Relating to sight
- Sargasso \_\_\_\_\_
- Dugout glider
- Not fresh
- First H in HRH
- Face-to-face exams
- \*Ice fishing shelter
- \*\*"Polar" activity
- \*Type of Christmas tree
- Diagonal
- Tax return professional, acr.
- Kind of cola
- Diaphragm spasm
- Scepters' partners
- Of two minds
- \_\_\_\_ Jean Baker
- \*Rabbit's winter one is

white

- Sheik's bevy?
- Type of dam
- Butcher's refuse
- Etna's emission
- Secret disclosure
- Stellar
- Chap or fella
- Diabetic ketoacidosis, acr.
- A or O, to blood
- Unit of electrical resistance
- \*Finger warmers
- \*Certain sleigh ride
- Courtroom excuse
- Gobbled up
- Train runners
- Land of taekwondo
- "Caroline in the City" Thompson
- Relating to Scandinavia
- Not home
- \*Last winter mo.
- Klondike river



### DOWN

- Acronym in a bottle
- Chooses
- Colorado's neighbor
- a.k.a. pilau
- Like a longer route?
- Grayish
- ATM extra
- Carpus, pl.
- Bring home the bacon
- Unforeseen obstacle
- \*Skier's aid
- Da or oui
- Jenny McCarthy to Melissa McCarthy
- Engagement, archaic
- \_\_\_\_-di-dah
- Onslaught
- \*Warming drink
- Faculty members, for short
- Behind a stern
- \*Frosty's eyes
- Type of hood
- Apollo of "Rocky"
- Inuit skin boat
- \*a.k.a. anorak
- \*Betelgeuse, e.g.
- \*Snow, in Italy
- Lord's estate
- Lithuania's neighbor
- NaOH
- Like a rosebush
- Church song
- Meow, alt. sp.
- \_\_\_\_-in-the-dark
- Milano moolah
- Toe the line
- Product of lacrimation
- Michael Douglas' dad
- "The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises"
- \*What clues #4 and #34 Down have in common
- High affair
- Barack Obama, pre-pres.

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YOUTH

# Mustang sports



Slade Gillen, left, shoots over Telluride's Townes Merritt (0) and Will Metheny (5) during the Mustangs' 40-38 loss to the Miners Dec. 16 in the first-place game of Dove Creek's two-day 2023 Bulldog Classic. For Nucla, it was the team's first loss of the 2023-24 campaign; Nucla entered the holiday break standing 4-1 overall and yet to begin official 2A/1A San Juan Basin League work. The wait will come to an end this weekend as the gents face Ouray (3-4, 0-0 SJBL) on Saturday, Jan. 6, then host 3A Cedaredge on Jan. 9. (Photo by Joel Priest, Southern Ute Drum)



Nucla's Steele Arnold (2) maneuvers around Telluride's Will Metheny (5) and out of a corner. (Photo by Joel Priest, Southern Ute Drum)



Shay Snyder (11) pulls down a rebound against Dove Creek's Ralynn Hickman (1) during the Lady Mustangs' 54-24 loss Dec. 16 in the first-place game of DCHS' two-day 2023 Bulldog Classic. Hitting the holiday break standing 4-4 overall (0-0 2A/1A San Juan Basin), Nucla's girls also play Cedaredge Jan. 9. (Photo by Joel Priest, Southern Ute Drum)



Keiran Bray (1) puts up a contested shot from the wing against Dove Creek. (Photo by Joel Priest, Southern Ute Drum)



Haylee Smith and Shania Joseph were both named San Juan Basin League All Conference for volleyball. (Photo by Debbie Wytulka)

YOUTH

# Holiday cheer



Layton Harrigan has been moving cows with horse "Trixie."



Colt Riddle rides a new dirt bike.



Violet Padgett had a great Christmas. (Courtesy images)