

San Miguel Basin Forum

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Wrestling, basketball celebrate successes

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Head coach for the Mustangs and West End Public School's athletic director Rob McCabe gave the Forum a report of the Pagosa Springs tournament that his guys wrestled over the weekend. Only two were able to attend, Jace Bonacquista and Jackson McCabe, since there are multiple injuries with team members.

Bonacquista, wrestling at 106 pounds, had quite the week, since he suffered a broken nose and couldn't actually wrestle in practice at all last week. Coach said Bonacquista could do some things to work on cardio and stay active, but he couldn't be on the mat. Bonacquista finally got a medical release on Friday, just before leaving for the tournament. In Pagosa Springs, coach got a face mask for him from another coach.

Bonacquista then won his first match in Pagosa Springs.

"It was great for him to do that, after being out all week," coach said.

Bonacquista did go 1-2. His following match was against the 3A state placer, who ended up winning the tournament, and then he wrestled a kid from Rocky Ford. Both his last opponents were seniors and tough wrestlers.

McCabe, wrestling at 120 pounds, had a great tournament. Seated No. 4 headed in, he won his first two matches by pin. In the semifinals, he had to wrestle a kid out of Ignacio, who was ranked No. 1. McCabe, ended up taking the guy down and winning 8-1. He went on to wrestle the No. 5 kid from Rocky Ford, but ended up losing 0-1. Coach said the tournament was a "confidence booster" for McCabe, because he's "been right there," but not able to beat the top ranked guys in Colorado. McCabe wrestled some of the best coach has ever seen.

"We figured out to beat top level guys, we have to score points and get escapes," coach told the Forum Sunday.

In other news, both the girls and guys Nucla High School basketball teams — both combined 1A teams with Nucla and Norwood students — saw victories, and both teams continue to maintain strong winning records.

Stan Galley, head coach for the girls, said the Mustangs beat Ridgway, 38-29, and then Mancos, 63-40. Right now, the girls are sitting at 9-2. In San Juan Basin League play, they're 2-0, and they face Ouray this Thursday, Jan. 16.

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NUCLA

Bishop in court; Nucla schedules recall election

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Dean Bishop appeared last week, Jan. 8, for a preliminary hearing to determine if there might be enough evidence to support his murder charges for a trial. Bishop has been in custody since October, when he was arrested by a group of agencies, including CBI and Montrose County, for the murder of Dale Williams, who's been missing since 1999.

During the Jan. 8 hearing, the judge did take the video off live-stream, so anyone who wanted to witness the preliminary hearing had to log in to the virtual courtroom and identify themselves.

That preliminary hearing continued into Jan. 9, where it was finally decided that there was enough material for the case to advance to district court and then be heard by Judge Keri Yoder in Division 3 of the 7th Judicial District Court in Colorado.

A bond hearing also took place,

but Bishop's bond remained the same, set at \$500,000 cash.

The late William's daughter Tonee Lawrence told the Forum last Friday she was relieved the case had moved forward and that her family does want to see justice served.

"Nothing my dad could've done justifies murder," she said.

This week, on Jan. 13, the arraignment took place for Bishop in Division 3 of the 7th Judicial District Court, and then, some

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EDUCATION

Joshua Ledford is new NHS principal

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Joshua Ledford is the new principal for Nucla's middle and high school, coming all the way from Alaska. He shared with the Forum some of his background and education.

In 2014, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in athletic training and then worked as a strength and conditioning coach for five years in the eastern part of the U.S., before moving to Barrow, Alaska. There, he began teaching PE at the high school level. He next earned a master's degree in secondary education and spent two years teaching, coaching and taking on other roles within his school community, including serving as activities director.

In 2020, his family moved to Ketchikan, Alaska, where he continued to teach PE at the middle school level while coaching. He then took on his district's athletic director position, while completing another master's degree in educational leadership and getting his administrative license.

His background in sports helped him to train athletes that went on to participate in Division 1 wrestling, softball, baseball, swimming and football. He said he understands how to motivate young people and build self-discipline within them.

"I love sports," he told the Forum. "I love supporting kids as they learn to compete. I don't have a coaching assignment yet, but I'm looking forward to working with our coaches and athletes."

In his free time in Alaska, he hiked, fished and explored the land with family. There, he chased Sitka Blacktail Deer. Already, his new students are sharing with him photos of deer and elk, and he's ready for his first Colorado hunting season.

Throughout winter, Ledford also works in the weight room and plays indoor sports, like basketball and volleyball.

"Kids can usually convince me to compete in just about anything these days," he said. "I've even spent some time on a wrestling mat recently, even though I never wrestled in high school."

Another important aspect of his life is his faith, which he said has prepared him for this next chapter.

"I'm guided by my Christian faith and constantly look to the Bible to guide my leadership philosophy," he said. "Working with kids requires love and patience, two virtues that are expressed often in scripture. I reflect on verses such as Psalm 103:8 ... and

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It takes courage

Sam Rich and Blaine Tedder are regular competitors at the annual San Juan Skijoring in Ouray County. They attended this year's event again, Jan. 11-12. See more skijoring photos on Page 8. (Photo by Michelle Zurich)

NORWOOD

New trustee and town admin go to work

By REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

The Norwood Town Board of Trustees met on Jan. 8 for their regularly monthly meeting, during which new trustee Liza Tanguay was sworn in. Additionally, new town administrator Sara Owens made her first appearance.

Trustees discussed an MOU the town has with the FRESH Foundation to keep senior meals going, and

Town Clerk Amanda Pierce said the foundation would like the Town of Norwood to stay involved. The program is going well, has funding in place and shares a cook with Nucla for the West End's senior meals.

Mayor Candy Meehan asked if the program had enough meat in the freezer, and Pierce said it did for now. Trustee Niven Drybrough asked if the volunteers practiced good food safety practices; Pierce confirmed they've done food-hand-

lers' training.

Now, the Town of Norwood is working on a commercial kitchen license.

The town voted not to enter into an agreement with human resources (HR) specialist Katharine Fry, who's been advising the town of HR issues. Her retainer is \$30,000 a year, plus \$250 an hour for any time that extends beyond 10 hours a month. Trustees voted to

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NORWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WRIGHT'S MESA

Chamber celebrates Park and Rec, fire district, Pampered Pawz

By CHERYL JERABEK

Representatives of Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright's Mesa said they're happy to continue celebrating various chamber members and what they provide for the community. This month, highlighted are Park and Rec (NPRD), the fire district and Pampered Pawz.

"If you're looking for something fun to do, the Norwood Park and Recreation District has you covered," officials said in an interview. "Bringing the community together with a variety of recreational facilities and programs for all ages to enjoy, NPRD plays a priceless part in promoting physical activity, social engagement and outdoor experiences, creating spaces where community members can connect and unwind."

NPRD consists of one part-time staff member and a contracted administrator, while community volunteers play a vital role in its success. The board currently includes three members, with one seat vacant. Anyone interested in serving should contact board president Liza Tanguay.

Tanguay agreed NPRD plays a big role in Norwood.

"The people who live and work in and around Wright's Mesa all love having access to outdoor recreation, as well as a community of like-minded people around them," she said.

Norwood Fire Protection District

When it comes to the Norwood Fire Protection District (NFPD), it's not just about fires — it's also about community. NFPD has been a vital part of the area, since its establishment in 1932. Initially a volunteer department serving a mere 18-square-mile territory, it expanded in 1953 to cover both Norwood and Redvale, reaching 70 square miles. Today, NFPD's dedicated team protects more than 800 square miles, ensuring the safety of thousands of residents, workers and visitors across San Miguel and West Montrose counties.

The district operates with four full-time professionals, additional part-time contractors and nearly 20 volunteers, responding to approximately 400 calls each year.

Their commitment encompasses a wide range of services, including fire suppression, emergency medical care, hazardous materials response, search and rescue and motor vehicle extrication.

"This team is the backbone of safety in the region, embodying a steadfast dedication to protecting lives and property," chamber officials said.

Pampered Pawz

Located at 1140 Pine St. in the dog wash area at West End Wash in Norwood, Pampered Pawz Dog Grooming keeps the canine community members looking, feeling and smelling their best. Providing timely, full-service dog grooming to the Norwood, Naturita and Nucla areas, Pampered Pawz is dedicated to giving pets personalized care.

Owned and operated by Norwood resident Sonya Combs, Pampered Pawz offers a wide range of grooming services, including baths, de-shedding, shaves, nail clipping and more for dogs. Cats are also welcomed for de-shedding and shaving services. Combs works to ensure that all pets receive top-notch grooming.

Combs moved her services to its current location at the dog wash section of the car wash in December of 2022. At that time, she only made appointments one or two days per week, but business began to boom, and she's made more times available.

To read more about chamber member businesses and organizations, visit the chamber website, and for information all may email norwoodchamber23@gmail.com.

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

Joshua Ledford

Cont. from Pg. 1

Galatians 5:22 ... These reminders are great when working with kids from all different walks of life, as they learn the social skills such as kindness and self-control, skills that will benefit them in life regardless of their career paths."

Ledford told the Forum that because of his life experience, he understands remote and rural living.

"In Barrow, I would utilize trips to Anchorage for shopping and learned to plan far in advance to be prepared in a remote Alaskan village," he said. "Barrow is about 750 miles from Anchorage, accessible by plane only."

He added Ketchikan was

very similar, though it had "big-city" places, like Walmart and McDonald's.

"Being on an island, we ordered many things or planned ahead and shopped in Juneau at Costco whenever possible," he said.

Ledford has come to town with his wife Lucie and his children, first-grader Colt and preschooler Jade. They've brought two dogs.

He's excited to be at work in his new role at the new Nucla school.

"Finding a place like Nucla is such a blessing," he said. "I can't think of a better place to begin my administrative career. The staff and students have been so welcoming, and I've already enjoyed many great conversations with students, staff and families."

History: Rimrocker Historical Society 'A Remarkable Journey,' The Dominguez-Escalante Expedition, Part 1

By JANE THOMPSON, Rimrocker Historical Society

In 2007, the Rimrocker historian Marie Templeton shared a story in the San Miguel Basin Forum written by J.R. Kirkpatrick in 1973 for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, the Sunday Edition of Colorado West. The article was called "A Remarkable Journey" and was a very well done tribute to the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776.

Over the past four years, an amazing group of historians and other interested people have been working hard on this Colorado time period of the expedition. This effort called the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition Education Project, or DEEEP, has been an amazing effort and was done as a forever gift to the children of Colorado.

The Rimrockers have been privileged to be a very small part of this huge endeavor and fortunate to become the keeper of this amazing gift. The website deeeper.com went live in October of 2024, and the Rimrockers have the collection of books and a laptop that you can come in to the museum and peruse, if you don't have access to your own computer. There will be many stories and news articles of the DEEEP project as we move forward, but I thought we all might enjoy reading this article again from 1973 and 2007:

"A Remarkable Journey

Take two priests, a half dozen volunteer adventurers, a couple of manservants. Add a string of horses, a train of pack mules, and some wild-eyed Spanish steers.

These are the ingredients for a remarkable exploration which began in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1776.

The goal was California, where new Spanish settlements gave access to good Pacific harbors. Although the small band of explorers never saw California, they opened up a vast land area never before seen by white men. For five months, across 2,000 arduous miles, they rode and trudged their way into history.



This image shows a drawing of Father Francisco Dominguez from the 2007 Forum edition. (Image courtesy of Rimrocker Historical Society)

Exploration was only part of the reason for the journey. Religious conversion of the Indians was another. And, with all of Mexico to control, Spain needed a shorter land route between New Mexico and the California missions.

West of Santa Fe were unfriendly Moquis (Hopis); beyond them lurked Apaches and the hot, waterless Mojave Desert. North of Apache land, the impassable barrier of the Grand Canyon blocked the way, but since Spanish prospectors and traders had previously made their way into Gunnison River country, the 10 men and their animals traveled north from Santa Fe.

The two priests were of the Franciscan order. Father Silvestre Escalante, 25, was in charge of the mission at Zuni. He had already explored parts of Arizona, and once roamed as far as the Grand Canyon. A new comer to New

Mexico, at 36, Father Francisco Dominguez was put in nominal charge of the expedition. Of the other men, seven were citizens of New Mexico towns, and two had earlier traveled with Juan Rivera to the Gunnison River.

The two were Don Joaquin Lain and one of the pair of brothers, Andres Muniz. Don Bernardo Miera, the tenth explorer, was a map maker and former officer of the militia. Although his age in 1776 is unknown, he is assumed to be the oldest of group, probably between 40 and 50, and for an 'old man' the journey was a physical struggle."

To be continued...

(It's been more than 50 years since this excerpt was first published in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, and then later reprinted in the San Miguel Basin Forum.)

Wrestling, basketball

Cont. from Pg. 1

that front."

Mike Rummel, of Norwood and head coach for the guys, agreed the Mustangs have been playing pretty well. Though, the guys have had a few games where they haven't had a strong start, and then haven't been able to make up for a slow beginning to pull the victory out at the end. Currently, the guys are sitting at 8-3, and Rummel agreed there are still six weeks of basketball left, before tournaments begin.

Ouray hasn't won a game yet, Galley said, and this is the first year they've had a girls basketball program in quite a few years.

There are still 12 games left for the ladies, and Galley said they continue to get even better.

"Their defense improved a lot since before Christmas, and they've started rebounding the ball better," he said.

He added the girls are staying healthy, and "so far, so good on

Last week, the guys came up short against Ridgway, 58-65. They did beat Mancos, however, on Saturday, 58-32.

The guys also face Ouray this week, and Rummel said it's important to be ready.

"They're in our league, and the only other 1A team in our league over here," he said.

Editor's note: A full story on the boys basketball team will appear in next week's edition.

EVENTS

Cottage food opportunities can boost Norwood, West End

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Since the pandemic, a new wave of Americans has turned to their kitchens for comfort and creativity. Now, a growing number of these home cooks and bakers are finding ways to turn their culinary hobbies into profitable ventures. This shift is particularly exciting for rural towns like Norwood and the West End, where cottage food production can provide a meaningful boost to local economies.

Recent changes in state laws have opened the door for more people to sell food made in their home kitchens, often referred to as “cottage foods.” These include low-risk, shelf-stable items like baked goods, jams and granola, which can now be sold directly to consumers at farmers markets, online or even from home.

For rural areas like ours, cottage food production presents a unique opportunity. Residents can create additional income streams without needing to invest in commercial kitchens. This is especially impactful in communities with limited access to larger markets or resources.

Cottage food businesses also foster local connections, with neighbors supporting neighbors by buying and selling homemade goods.

The cottage food movement has gained significant momentum over the past year, with many states relaxing regulations to encourage small-scale food production. For example, Florida recently increased the cap on home food sales from \$50,000 to \$250,000, allowing more people to turn hobbies into full-fledged businesses. In New Jersey, health officials have lifted the state’s longstanding ban on selling homemade food, giving at-home bakers a chance to join the market.

These changes are especially promising for rural communities, where cottage food businesses can help diversify local economies and build stronger community ties.

To help residents take advantage of these opportunities, the Colorado State University Extension Office in Norwood is hosting a cottage food class taught by extension specialist Ann Duncan on March 4 from

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sheriff’s Annex, which is located at 1110 Summit St. in Norwood.

For \$35, this workshop will cover everything one needs to know to start their own cottage food business, including safety guidelines, legal requirements and tips for success.

Whether one is interested in selling their famous jam, perfect pies or savory snacks, cottage food production offers an accessible path to entrepreneurship. Those interested are invited to join the Colorado State University Extension Office on March 4 to learn how they can turn their culinary creations into a thriving local business. All in Norwood and the West End are invited to enroll.

For more information or to register, the public may contact the CSU-Extension Office by calling 970-327-4393 or emailing Jacqueline Hudson at jacquelineh@sanmiguelcountycogov.

“Let’s work together to make Norwood and the West End a hub for local food and entrepreneurship,” representatives of the CSU-Extension Office said.

Bishop in court

Cont. from Pg. 1

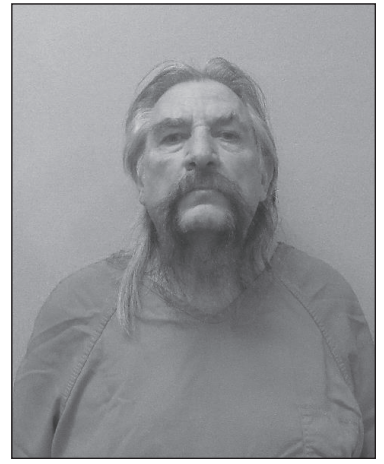
wondered if a type of plea might be reached. The arraignment happened quickly, and it appears Bishop continues to plead “not guilty.” The defense has requested a trial, which is set for July. A pre-trial is set for May 30, and a conference is scheduled for Feb. 10.

At Nucla Town Hall

Nucla Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire told the Forum that the recall election is set for April 1, a Tuesday. The election follows a series of contentious town meetings and various complaints from citizens who’ve questioned Nucla Mayor Kirk Yerke’s ability to lead professionally or have adequate attendance.

The recall petition circulated in December and garnered more than the required number of signatures to hold the election. Trustees established the April 1 date during their Jan. 8 regular town meeting.

Additionally, the Forum asked Lampshire about Zoom capability for town meetings, which happen twice each month, in the future. Lampshire did say it was possible for an agenda item to be added at an upcoming meeting to seek trustee approval in the form of a vote. The Zoom capability would mean that anyone could attend the town meetings remotely through the internet.



Dan Bishop. (Courtesy photo)

Local leaders to travel

A group of local leaders are set to travel to Washington, D.C next month. Nucla Town Clerk Melissa Lampshire will go with Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen, WEEDC’s Executive Director Makayla Gordon and Norwood Town Clerk Amanda Pierce.

The group is going to present the importance of legislation supporting rural communities impacted by the coal shut-down and how that’s affected the tax-base, in Norwood, Naturita and Nucla. The four community leaders plan to showcase community projects and more. Funding opportunities by grant makers will abound there, and the travel experience is completely paid for.

The West End group is the only one of its kind traveling from Colorado.

ARTS

Ray Harvey to share his poems, stories Jan. 15

SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

Last year, Ray Harvey wasn’t able to join Joan Shapiro at the Lone Cone Library in Norwood for the Stories & Poems program when she did her song-writing appearance. So, representatives of Talking Gourds, who produce the Stories & Poems, asked Harvey to come this year. And, he agreed and will so on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Lone Cone Library.

Harvey has much life experience, and he also loves storytelling and poetry. As he explains in his biography: “I was born and raised in Ouray and graduated from Ouray High School. I’ve worked as a short-order cook, construction laborer, crab fisherman, janitor, bartender, copyeditor, pedi-cab driver and more, but no matter where I’ve gone or what I’ve done to earn a living, literature has always been the driving force in my life.”

The theme for this month’s event for storytellers and poets — for those who would like a specific prompt — is “mountain lions.”

The Stories & Poems series is free and happens on the third Wednesday of each month. The featured guests will give a 15 to 20-minute presentation each,



Cutline. (Courtesy photo)

followed by a a short question-and-answer period after the presentation. Then, there’s a passing of the gourd, where community members are encouraged to share their own stories or poems.

A collaboration of the Lone Cone Library and the Telluride Institute’s Talking Gourds poetry program, Stories & Poems in Norwood is free and open to all ages, thanks to the generosity of

the library, a Town of Telluride CCAASE grant, private donors and the Talking Gourds’ Fischer & Cantor poetry contests.

For more information, the public may text 970-729-0220 or email Art Goodtimes at art@tellurideinstitute.org. To visit the website, all may access www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds.

San Miguel Basin Forum

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trading liberty for labels

Dear Editor,

When Americans hear terms like “national monument,” “national conservation area” or “wilderness designation,” they’re often presented with inspiring images of preserved landscapes. But beneath these appealing labels lies a troubling reality: each new designation systematically reduces Americans’ freedom to access and use their own public lands.

These designations don’t just change names on a map. They fundamentally transform open public spaces into heavily regulated zones where federal agencies, not local communities, dictate how Americans can move and interact with their own lands. The impact ripples through communities in ways urban Americans rarely see or understand.

Consider a multi-generational ranching family who suddenly finds their grazing areas restricted, or elderly residents who can no longer access favorite camping spots because motor vehicle access is prohibited. Think about rural communities whose economic activities are curtailed, or disabled Americans who find themselves excluded from lands they once freely enjoyed.

The pattern is predictably consistent. These designations typically begin with reassuring promises about maintaining access and protecting traditional uses. Yet, inevitably, management plans become more restrictive over time. Roads are closed.

Traditional camping areas are limited. Historic routes used by local communities are blocked. Multiple-use areas are converted to single-purpose restrictions. Cultural and traditional uses of the land are gradually regulated out of existence.

This isn’t just about recreation or resources — it’s about fundamental liberty. The freedom to move across public lands has been integral to American independence since our nation’s founding. When we accept restrictions on our movement, we surrender a piece of our autonomy. Each new designation chips away at the principle that public lands should truly serve the public.

The impacts are most severe in rural communities, where these designations can transform entire ways of life. When traditional land access is restricted, it doesn’t just inconvenience people — it can destroy livelihoods, sever generational connections to the land, and fundamentally alter community dynamics that have existed for decades or even centuries.

Proponents of these designations often dismiss such concerns as minor inconveniences necessary for preservation. But this perspective reveals a profound disconnect from the realities of rural life and the fundamental importance of land access to American liberty. It’s easy to support restrictions that primarily impact others’ freedoms.

The relationship between land access and liberty is inseparable. Our public lands system was

established to benefit all Americans, not to create restricted areas accessible only to those who can utilize them in government-approved ways.

When we allow bureaucratic designations to dictate how Americans can move across their own public lands, we’re not just changing land management — we’re surrendering essential freedoms.

As we consider future land designations, we must honestly assess what we’re trading away. The true cost isn’t measured in acres but in American liberty. Each new restriction, each closed road, each limited-use designation represents another small surrender of the freedom that public lands were meant to embody.

Our public lands deserve protection, but not at the cost of the very freedoms they were meant to represent. We need a more balanced approach that preserves both our natural heritage and our liberty to access it. Otherwise, we risk creating a legacy of public lands that the public can no longer freely use.

Sean M. Pond
NUCLA

Sincere appreciation

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the dedication and tireless efforts of Kris Holstrom, our San Miguel County District 3 Commissioner. As she concludes her tenure, having fulfilled her two terms, it is

important to recognize the incredible impact she has made on our community.

Kris has been a steadfast advocate for sustainable practices, water conservation, and affordable housing — three areas critical to the long-term health and prosperity of San Miguel County. Her absolute dedication to agriculture, water and farm-to-table initiatives, combined with her ability to bring people together, foster collaboration and seek innovative solutions has been instrumental in advancing projects that benefit both our residents and the environment. Her hands-on approach and deep understanding of the land and its resources reflect her passion for preserving what makes our county so special.

Moreover, Kris has consistently shown empathy and accessibility, ensuring that the voices of all constituents are heard and valued. Whether she is engaging with community members at town hall meetings or working behind the scenes on complex policy initiatives, Kris leads with integrity, compassion and a clear vision for a brighter future.

On a personal note, Kris has been a wonderful mentor and an even better friend. She has guided me and been a constant support even through the most difficult of times, always offering wisdom, encouragement and a steady hand when I needed it most. Her guidance and support have meant so much to me and many others in our community.

As we continue to navigate

the challenges and opportunities ahead, I am grateful for the lasting legacy Kris Holstrom leaves behind. Looking forward to the future with hope and confidence as Galena Gleason steps into her new role as the next District 3 Commissioner, I am optimistic about the continued fortuitous relationship that the Town of Norwood has come to enjoy.

Thank you, Kris, for all that you have done for San Miguel County. Onward and upward!

Candy Meehan, Mayor
NORWOOD

Thank you

Dear Editor,

The Herring family would like to thank our community for all the love, support, and prayers as we have grieved the loss of Forrest Herring. He wanted one thing in life, and that was to leave an impact on his community. That was shown through all that showed at his celebration of life, the messages sent to us, and posts on social media. He loved his community, and he is deeply missed. A special thank you goes to Family Market, Kim, Dave and the whole family for everything you have done and continue to do for our family. Evelyn, Caryn, Charlotte and our families are forever grateful.

The Herrings
WEST END

Trustee and admin

Cont. from Pg. 1

keep her as a resource, but use her only as needed.

“I think an on-call, as-needed basis is going to be the best,” Trustee Mike Grady said.

Meehan said the town should get a briefing from her, however, regarding the work she’s done for Norwood in the last year, so the town can keep it on record.

The town is still finalizing Owen’s new contract as administrator. Her contract approval was tabled, though, because there are “two components” left to discuss, one of which is severance pay. Owens is already on payroll, settling into her role and said she was fine to wait for the contract to be finalized.

Public Works Director Randy Harris is waiting on a town building for his department to be delivered. The metal structure is coming this week and will be assembled once it arrives. Insulation looks to be expensive, quoted at \$6,000, but that portion will wait, though Mayor Meehan said insulation has to be done, so the fuels in town vehicles don’t “gel.” A bid for the electrical in that building is coming right up.

Pierce said she’s looking into heated vests for the Public Works

crew. Mayor Meehan said she wanted to see Harris’ authority to purchase without approval moved from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for emergent situations. And, trustee Shawn Fallon inquired about the possibility of paving behind Clark’s Market of Norwood, since the alley is challenging to navigate in winter months.

Harris’ job description will be modified, so that it reads he reports to all three entities — Norwood Water Commission, the sanitation district and the town — not just town administrator.

Pierce said the Safer to Schools sidewalks grants has received an extension. And, the Telluride Foundation just granted \$26,000 for the Pocket Park in Norwood.

“Grants are going well, and people are seeing the importance of parks and open space,” Pierce said.

Norwood needs a planner, since Henry Hemphill moved up in his job. The town is taking RFPs, since he left at the end of December.

Mayor Meehan said there’s still one year left in the possibility of a greater water grant that could see collaboration between area water user groups. The grant expires in 2026. Related to water, Caroline Duncan was appointed to the San Miguel Water Conservancy District’s board.

West End Events

- **MWR ANNUAL MEETING:** Jan. 20, 5 p.m., old Naturita gym
- **CELL TOWER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 21:** CANCELLED/POSTPONED
- **NCA PUBLIC MEETING:** Jan. 22, 6 p.m., Nucla Community Center, led by Aimee Tooker and Commissioner Sue Hansen
- **COTTAGE FOOD CLASSES:** online Jan. 23-24, in Norwood March 11; essential food safety practices for home-based cottage food business
- **WESTERN CO SOIL HEALTH FOOD & FARM FORUM:** Jan. 24-25, Montrose Pavilion, in Montrose
- **ANNIE’S PROJECT:** Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, Dolores Community Center; a conference for women in agriculture; email emily.lockard@colostate.edu with questions
- **CHAMBER BANQUET:** Feb. 15, Nucla Community Center
- **NAVAJO TACO NIGHT:** TBA
- **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN NUCLA:** Thursdays at 6 p.m., Community Bible Fellowship Church (in the back)
- **NATURITA PACK BURRO RACES:** May 17
- **WATER DAYS:** July 4-5
- **CHAMBER MEETING:** Board meetings are third Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the West End Visitors Center

- **WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** Board meetings are third Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., Nucla Middle-High School, in the library
- **NUCLA-NATURITA FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Board meetings are second Monday of the month, 6 p.m., Nucla Fire Hall
- **TOWN OF NUCLA:** Board meetings are second and fourth Wednesday, except in November and December, at 7 p.m. at Nucla Town Hall
- **TOWN OF NATURITA:** Board meetings are second and fourth Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the Naturita Community Center
- **TOWN OF NORWOOD:** Board meetings are the second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., at Norwood Town Hall
- **BASIN CLINIC:** Board meetings are third Tuesday of the month
- **MONTROSE WEST REC:** Board meetings are first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. in the office of West End Visitors Center, 230 W. Main St. in Naturita; limited hours. See montrosewest.com for programs.
- **WEST END DARK SKY ALLIANCE:** No meeting schedule set. Email westenddarkskyalliance@gmail.com to join or volunteer.
- **RIMROCKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Board meetings are third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the museum building



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Veterans honored by VFW Uranium Post

Top left: The VFW Uranium Post in Nucla would like to share a bit about its members, who provide full honor guard ceremony. Pictured here is John Goodwin, who sounds "Taps" for deceased veterans.

Top right: Veteran Tom Loczy gives a tribute.

Left: Members of the VFW fold the U.S. flag and present it to the next of kin at ceremonies. Three spent rounds are placed in the flag signifying "Duty, Honor and Country." A small speech is given, sharing what a veteran is actually willing to sacrifice. This photo shows Jack Lee. (Images courtesy of VFW Uranium Post in Nucla and Renee White)

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Plenty of snow for Skijoring

Above: This image shows Mont Zurich on his snowboard in Ouray County led by horseman Blaine Tedder.

Right: Pictured here is the West End crew, none of whom are strangers to the skijoring festivities. (Photos by Michelle Zunich)



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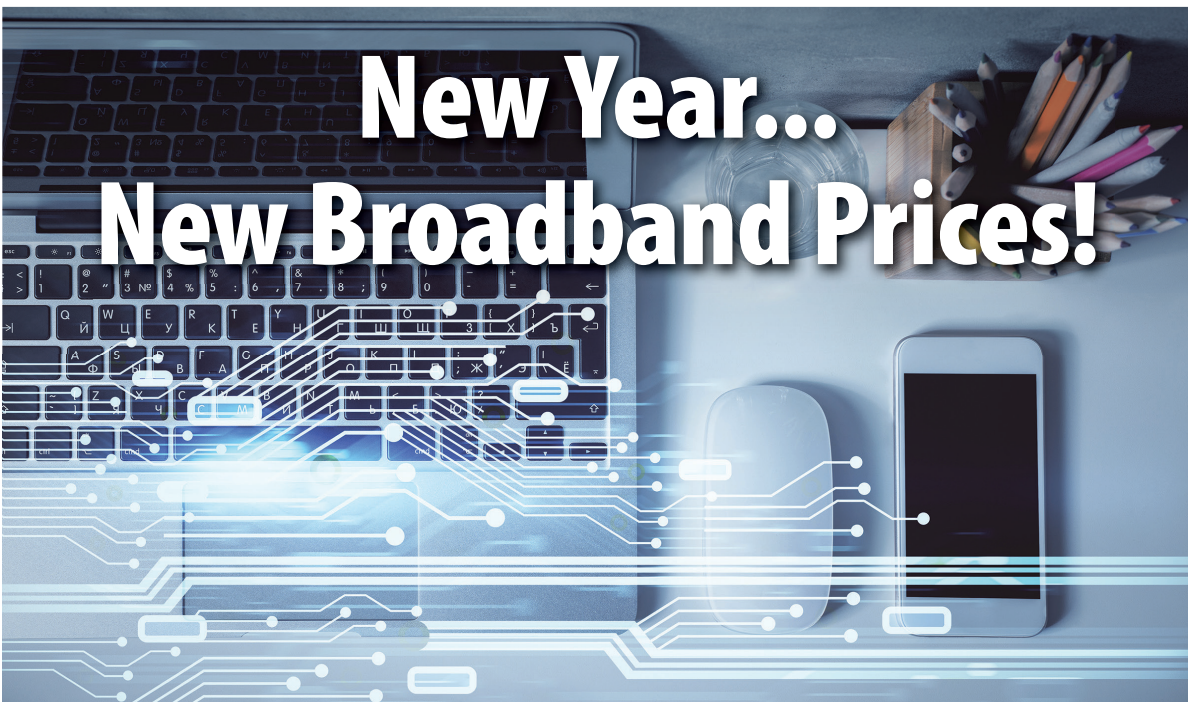
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PUBLIC MEETING

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A community discussion on the proposed Dolores River National Monument and the proposed National Conservation Area.

Please Join Us

Discussion led by Aimee Tooker and Sue Hansen

En Español

NUCLA

Bishop en la corte; Nucla programa una elección de revocación

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Dan Bishop apareció la semana pasada, el 8 de enero, para una audiencia preliminar para determinar si podría haber suficiente evidencia para respaldar los cargos de asesinato para un juicio. Bishop ha estado en custodia desde octubre, cuando fue arrestado por un grupo de agencias, incluyendo CBI y el Condado de Montrose, por el asesinato de Dale Williams, quien ha estado desaparecido desde 1999.

Durante la audiencia del 8 de enero, el juez retiró el video de la transmisión en vivo, por lo que cualquier persona que quisiera presenciar la audiencia preliminar tuvo que iniciar sesión en la sala de tribunal virtual e identificarse.

Esa audiencia preliminar continuó hasta el 9 de enero, donde finalmente se decidió que había suficiente material para que el caso avanzara al tribunal de distrito y luego fuera escuchado por la Jueza Keri Yoder en la División 3 del Tribunal de Distrito Judicial 7 en Colorado.

También se llevó a cabo una audiencia de fianza, pero la fianza de Bishop se mantuvo igual, fijada en \$500,000 en efectivo.

La hija del difunto William, Tonee Lawrence, le dijo al Forum el viernes pasado que se sentía aliviada de que el caso había avanzado y que su familia sí quiere ver que se haga justicia.

“Nada de lo que mi papá pudo haber hecho justifica el asesinato,” dijo ella.

Esta semana, el 13 de enero, se llevó a cabo la lectura de cargos para Bishop en la División 3 del Tribunal de Distrito Judicial 7, y luego, algunos se preguntaron si se podría llegar a algún tipo de declaración. La lectura de cargos ocurrió rápidamente, y parece que Bishop continúa declarando “no culpable.” La defensa ha solicitado un juicio, que está programado para julio. Un juicio preliminar está programado para el 30 de mayo, y una conferencia está programada para el 10 de febrero.

En el Ayuntamiento de Nucla

La Secretaria del Ayuntamiento de Nucla, Melissa Lampshire, le dijo al Forum que la elección de revocación está programada para el 1 de abril, un martes. La elección sigue a una serie de reuniones municipales contenciosas y varias quejas de ciudadanos que han cuestionado la capacidad del alcalde de Nucla, Kirk Yerke, para liderar profesionalmente o tener una asistencia adecuada.

La petición de revocación circuló en diciembre y obtuvo más de la cantidad requerida de firmas para llevar a cabo la elección. Los fideicomisarios establecieron la fecha del 1 de abril durante su reunión municipal regular del 8 de enero.

Además, el Forum preguntó a Lampshire sobre la capacidad

de Zoom para las reuniones municipales, que ocurren dos veces al mes, en el futuro. Lampshire dijo que era posible que se agregara un punto en la agenda en una próxima reunión para buscar la aprobación de los fideicomisarios en forma de voto. La capacidad de Zoom significaría que cualquier persona podría asistir a las reuniones municipales de forma remota a través de internet.

Líderes locales viajarán

Un grupo de líderes locales está programado para viajar a Washington, D.C. el próximo mes. La Secretaria del Ayuntamiento de Nucla, Melissa Lampshire, irá con la Comisionada del Condado de Montrose, Sue Hansen, la Directora Ejecutiva de WEEDC, Makayla Gordon, y la Secretaria del Ayuntamiento de Norwood, Amanda Pierce.

El grupo va a presentar la importancia de la legislación que apoya a las comunidades rurales afectadas por el cierre de las minas de carbón y cómo eso ha afectado la base tributaria, en Norwood, Naturita y Nucla. Los cuatro líderes comunitarios planean mostrar proyectos comunitarios y más. Las oportunidades de financiamiento por parte de los donantes abundarán allí, y la experiencia de viaje está completamente pagada.

El grupo de West End es el único de su tipo que viaja desde Colorado.

EDUCACIÓN

Joshua Ledford es el nuevo director de NHS

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

Joshua Ledford es el nuevo director de la escuela secundaria y preparatoria de Nucla, viniendo desde Alaska. Compartió con el Forum parte de su experiencia y educación.

En 2014, se graduó con un título de licenciatura en entrenamiento atlético y luego trabajó como entrenador de fuerza y acondicionamiento durante cinco años en la parte oriental de EE. UU., antes de mudarse a Barrow, Alaska. Allí, comenzó a enseñar educación física a nivel de secundaria. Luego obtuvo una maestría en educación secundaria y pasó dos años enseñando, entrenando y asumiendo otros roles dentro de su comunidad escolar, incluyendo el de director de actividades.

En 2020, su familia se mudó a Ketchikan, Alaska, donde continuó enseñando educación física a nivel de escuela intermedia mientras entrenaba. Luego asumió el puesto de director atlético de su distrito, mientras completaba otra maestría en liderazgo educativo y obtenía su licencia administrativa.

Su experiencia en deportes le ayudó a entrenar a atletas que participaron en lucha libre de División 1, fútbol, béisbol, natación y fútbol. Dijo que entiende cómo motivar a los jóvenes y construir autodisciplina en ellos.

“Me encantan los deportes,” le dijo al Forum. “Me encanta

apoyar a los niños mientras aprenden a competir. Aún no tengo una asignación de entrenador, pero estoy ansioso por trabajar con nuestros entrenadores y atletas.”

En su tiempo libre en Alaska, caminó, pescó y exploró la tierra con su familia. Allí, persiguió ciervos de cola negra de Sitka. Ya, sus nuevos estudiantes le están compartiendo fotos de ciervos y alces, y está listo para su primera temporada de caza en Colorado.

Durante el invierno, Ledford también trabaja en el gimnasio y juega deportes de interior, como baloncesto y voleibol.

“Los niños generalmente pueden convencerme de competir en casi cualquier cosa hoy en día,” dijo. “Incluso he pasado un tiempo en un tapiz de lucha recientemente, aunque nunca luché en la escuela secundaria.”

Otro aspecto importante de su vida es su fe, que dijo lo ha preparado para este próximo capítulo.

“Me guía mi fe cristiana y constantemente busco en la Biblia para guiar mi filosofía de liderazgo,” dijo. “Trabajar con niños requiere amor y paciencia, dos virtudes que se expresan a menudo en las escrituras. Reflexiono sobre versículos como Salmo 103:8 ... y Gálatas 5:22 ... Estos recordatorios son excelentes cuando se trabaja con niños de todos los diferentes ámbitos de la vida, mientras aprenden habilidades sociales

como la amabilidad y el autocontrol, habilidades que les beneficiarán en la vida sin importar sus trayectorias profesionales.”

Ledford le dijo al Forum que debido a su experiencia de vida, entiende la vida en áreas remotas y rurales.

“En Barrow, utilizaba viajes a Anchorage para ir de compras y aprendí a planificar con mucha anticipación para estar preparado en una aldea remota de Alaska,” dijo. “Barrow está a unas 750 millas de Anchorage, accesible solo por avión.”

Agregó que Ketchikan era muy similar, aunque tenía lugares de “gran ciudad”, como Walmart y McDonald’s.

“Al estar en una isla, pedíamos muchas cosas o planificábamos con anticipación y comprábamos en Juneau en Costco siempre que era posible,” dijo.

Ledford ha llegado a la ciudad con su esposa Lucie y sus hijos, Colt, que está en primer grado, y Jade, que está en preescolar. Han traído dos perros.

Está emocionado de trabajar en su nuevo rol en la nueva escuela de Nucla.

“Encontrar un lugar como Nucla es una gran bendición,” dijo. “No puedo pensar en un mejor lugar para comenzar mi carrera administrativa. El personal y los estudiantes han sido muy acogedores, y ya he disfrutado de muchas grandes conversaciones con estudiantes, personal y familias.”

EVENTOS

Las oportunidades de alimentos de cottage pueden impulsar Norwood

ESPECIAL PARA EL FORUM

Desde la pandemia, una nueva ola de estadounidenses ha recurrido a sus cocinas en busca de confort y creatividad. Ahora, un número creciente de estos cocineros y panaderos caseros está encontrando formas de convertir sus pasatiempos culinarios en empresas rentables. Este cambio es especialmente emocionante para pueblos rurales como Norwood y el West End, donde la producción de alimentos de cottage puede proporcionar un impulso significativo a las economías locales.

Los cambios recientes en las leyes estatales han abierto la puerta para que más personas vendan alimentos hechos en sus cocinas, a menudo denominados “alimentos de cottage”. Estos incluyen artículos de bajo riesgo y estables en estantería como productos horneados, mermeladas y granola, que ahora pueden venderse directamente a los consumidores en mercados de agricultores, en línea o incluso desde casa.

Para áreas rurales como la nuestra, la producción de alimentos de cottage presenta una oportunidad única. Los residentes pueden crear fuentes de ingresos adicionales sin necesidad de invertir en cocinas comerciales. Esto es especialmente impac-

tante en comunidades con acceso limitado a mercados o recursos más grandes. Los negocios de alimentos de cottage también fomentan conexiones locales, con vecinos apoyando a vecinos al comprar y vender productos caseros.

El movimiento de alimentos de cottage ha ganado un impulso significativo en el último año, con muchos estados relajando regulaciones para fomentar la producción de alimentos a pequeña escala. Por ejemplo, Florida recientemente aumentó el límite de ventas de alimentos caseros de \$50,000 a \$250,000, permitiendo que más personas conviertan pasatiempos en negocios a gran escala. En Nueva Jersey, los funcionarios de salud han levantado la prohibición de larga data del estado sobre la venta de alimentos caseros, dando a los panaderos en casa la oportunidad de unirse al mercado.

Estos cambios son especialmente prometedores para las comunidades rurales, donde los negocios de alimentos de cottage pueden ayudar a diversificar las economías locales y construir lazos comunitarios más fuertes.

Para ayudar a los residentes a aprovechar estas oportunidades, la Oficina de Extensión de la Universidad Estatal de Colorado en Norwood está organizando una clase de alimentos de cottage

impartida por la especialista en extensión Ann Duncan el 4 de marzo de 11 a.m. a 2 p.m. en el Anexo del Sheriff, que se encuentra en 1110 Summit St. en Norwood.

Por \$35, este taller cubrirá todo lo que uno necesita saber para comenzar su propio negocio de alimentos de cottage, incluyendo pautas de seguridad, requisitos legales y consejos para el éxito.

Ya sea que uno esté interesado en vender su famosa mermelada, tartas perfectas o bocadillos salados, la producción de alimentos de cottage ofrece un camino accesible hacia el emprendimiento. Los interesados están invitados a unirse a la Oficina de Extensión de la Universidad Estatal de Colorado el 4 de marzo para aprender cómo pueden convertir sus creaciones culinarias en un próspero negocio local. Todos en Norwood y el West End están invitados a inscribirse.

Para más información o para registrarse, el público puede contactar a la Oficina de Extensión de CSU llamando al 970-327-4393 o enviando un correo electrónico a Jacqueline Hudson a jacquelineh@sanmiguelcountycoco.gov.

“Trabajemos juntos para hacer de Norwood y el West End un centro para la comida local y el emprendimiento,” dijeron los representantes de la Oficina de Extensión de CSU.

En Español

NORWOOD

Nuevo fideicomisario y administrador municipal comienzan a trabajar

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

La Junta de Fideicomisarios de Norwood se reunió el 8 de enero para su reunión mensual regular, durante la cual se tomó juramento la nueva fideicomisaria Liza Tanguay. Además, la nueva administradora municipal Sara Owens hizo su primera aparición.

Los fideicomisarios discutieron un MOU que tienen con la Fundación FRESH para mantener las comidas para personas mayores, y la Secretaria Municipal Amanda Pierce dijo que la fundación le gustaría que la Ciudad de Norwood se mantuviera involucrada. El programa va bien, tiene financiamiento y comparte un cocinero con Nucla para las comidas de personas mayores del West End.

La alcaldesa Candy Meehan preguntó si el programa tenía suficiente carne en el congelador, y Pierce dijo que sí por ahora. El fideicomisario Niven Drybrough preguntó si los voluntarios practicaban buenas prácticas de seguridad alimentaria; Pierce confirmó que han realizado capacitación para manipuladores de alimentos.

Ahora, la Ciudad de Norwood está trabajando en una licencia de cocina comercial.

La ciudad votó no entrar en un acuerdo con la especialista en recursos humanos (HR) Kathrine Fry, quien ha estado asesorando a la ciudad sobre temas de recursos humanos. Su retención es de \$30,000 al año, más \$250 por hora por cualquier tiempo que se extienda más allá de 10 horas al mes. Los fideicomisarios votaron para mantenerla como un recurso, pero usarla solo según sea necesario.

“Creo que una base de llamada, según sea necesario, va a ser lo mejor,” dijo el fideicomisario Mike Grady.

Meehan dijo que la ciudad debería recibir un informe de ella, sin embargo, sobre el trabajo que ha realizado para Norwood en el último año, para que la ciudad pueda mantenerlo en registro.

La ciudad aún está finalizando el nuevo contrato de Owen como administradora. Sin embargo, la aprobación de su contrato fue aplazada, porque hay “dos componentes” que quedan por discutir, uno de los cuales es la indemnización. Owens ya está en la nómina, adaptándose a su rol y dijo que estaba bien esperar a que se finalizara el contrato.

El Director de Obras Públicas Randy Harris está esperando que se entregue un edificio municipal para su departamento. La estructura metálica llegará esta semana y se ensamblará una vez que llegue. La aislación parece ser cara, cotizada en \$6,000, pero esa parte esperará, aunque la alcaldesa Meehan dijo que la aislación tiene que hacerse, para que los combustibles en los vehículos municipales no se “gelifiquen.” Una oferta para la electricidad en ese edificio está en camino.

Pierce dijo que está investigando chalecos calefaccionados para el equipo de Obras Públicas. La alcaldesa Meehan dijo que quería ver la autoridad de Harris para comprar sin aprobación aumentada de \$5,000 a \$10,000 para situaciones emergentes. Y, el fideicomisario Shawn Fallon preguntó sobre la posibilidad de pavimentar detrás del Mercado de Clark en Norwood, ya que el callejón es difícil de navegar en los meses de invierno.



Esta foto muestra el almuerzo de comidas para personas mayores en Norwood. Las comidas para personas mayores también se llevan a cabo en Nucla. Ambos programas están abiertos a los ancianos de la comunidad, o a cualquier persona que desee unirse y comer con ellos. (Foto de Amanda Pierce)

La descripción del trabajo de Harris será modificada, para que indique que reporta a las tres entidades — la Comisión de Agua de Norwood, el distrito de saneamiento y la ciudad — no solo al administrador municipal.

Pierce dijo que las subvenciones para aceras más seguras para las escuelas han recibido una extensión. Y, la Fundación Telluride acaba de otorgar \$26,000 para el Pocket Park en

Norwood.

“Las subvenciones van bien, y la gente está viendo la importancia de los parques y los espacios abiertos,” dijo Pierce.

Norwood necesita un planificador, ya que Henry Hemphill ascendió en su trabajo. La ciudad está recibiendo RFPs, ya que él se fue a finales de diciembre.

La alcaldesa Meehan dijo que aún queda un año en la posibilidad de una mayor subvención de agua que podría ver colaboración entre los grupos de usuarios de agua de la zona. La subvención expira en 2026. Relacionado con el agua, Caroline Duncan fue nombrada para la junta del Distrito de Conservación de Agua de San Miguel.

DEPORTES DE SECUNDARIA

Lucha, baloncesto celebran éxitos

Por REGAN TUTTLE, *Editor*

El entrenador principal de los Mustangs y director atlético de la Escuela Pública West End, Rob McCabe, le dio al Forum un informe del torneo de Pagosa Springs en el que sus chicos lucharon durante el fin de semana. Solo dos pudieron asistir, Jace Bonacquista y Jackson McCabe, ya que hay múltiples lesiones entre los miembros del equipo.

Bonacquista, luchando en 106 libras, tuvo una semana bastante complicada, ya que sufrió una fractura en la nariz y no pudo luchar en la práctica en absoluto la semana pasada. El entrenador dijo que Bonacquista podría hacer algunas cosas para trabajar en su cardio y mantenerse activo, pero no podía estar en el tapete. Bonacquista finalmente obtuvo un alta médica el viernes, justo antes de salir para el torneo. En Pagosa Springs, el entrenador le consiguió una máscara facial de otro entrenador.

Bonacquista luego ganó su primer combate en Pagosa Springs.

“Fue genial para él hacer eso, después de estar fuera toda la semana,” dijo el entrenador.

Bonacquista terminó con 1-2. Su siguiente combate fue contra el clasificado estatal 3A, que terminó ganando el torneo, y luego luchó contra un chico de Rocky Ford. Ambos últimos oponentes eran seniors y luchadores duros.

McCabe, luchando en 120 libras, tuvo un gran torneo. Clasificado No. 4, ganó sus primeros dos combates por pin. En las semifinales, tuvo que luchar contra un chico de Ignacio, que estaba clasificado No. 1. McCabe terminó derribando al chico y ganando 8-1. Luego luchó contra el chico No. 5 de Rocky Ford, pero terminó perdiendo 0-1. El entrenador dijo que el torneo fue un “impulsor de confianza” para McCabe, porque ha estado “muy cerca”, pero no ha podido vencer a los mejores clasificados de Colorado. McCabe luchó contra algunos de los mejores que el entrenador ha visto.

“Nos dimos cuenta de que para vencer a los mejores, tenemos que anotar puntos y conseguir escapes,” le dijo el entrenador al Forum el domingo.

En otras noticias, tanto los equipos de baloncesto de chicas como de chicos de la Escuela Secundaria Nucla — ambos equipos combinados 1A con estudiantes de Nucla y Norwood — vieron victorias, y ambos equipos continúan manteniendo fuertes récords de victorias.

Stan Galley, entrenador principal de las chicas, dijo que las Mustangs vencieron a Ridgway, 38-29, y luego a Mancos, 63-40. En este momento, las chicas tienen un récord de 9-2. En la liga de San Juan Basin, tienen un récord de 2-0, y se enfrentarán a Ouray este jueves, 16 de enero.

Ouray no ha ganado un juego aún, dijo Galley, y este es el primer año que tienen un programa de baloncesto

femenino en varios años.

Aún quedan 12 juegos para las chicas, y Galley dijo que continúan mejorando.

“Su defensa ha mejorado mucho desde antes de Navidad, y han comenzado a recuperar el balón mejor,” dijo.

Agregó que las chicas se están manteniendo saludables, y “hasta ahora, todo bien en ese aspecto.”

Mike Rummel, de Norwood y entrenador principal de los chicos, coincidió en que las Mustangs han estado jugando bastante bien. Sin embargo, los chicos han tenido algunos juegos en los que no han tenido un buen comienzo, y luego no han podido compensar un inicio lento para lograr la victoria al final. Actualmente, los chicos tienen un récord de 8-3, y Rummel coincidió en que aún quedan seis semanas de baloncesto antes de que comiencen los torneos.

La semana pasada, los chicos se quedaron cortos contra Ridgway, 58-65. Sin embargo, vencieron a Mancos el sábado, 58-32.

Los chicos también se enfrentan a Ouray esta semana, y Rummel dijo que es importante estar listos.

“Ellos están en nuestra liga, y son el único otro equipo 1A en nuestra liga aquí,” dijo.

Nota del editor: Una historia completa sobre el equipo de baloncesto masculino aparecerá en la edición de la próxima semana.

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD

The Board of Education of the West End Public School District is accepting applications from persons interested in serving on the Board of Education from the date of appointment in January 2025 until the next regular biennial school election in November 2025. To be eligible for appointment, each candidate must be a registered elector of the school district for at least twelve consecutive months prior to the date of appointment.

Any person who meets the qualifications and who desires to be considered for the appointment is invited to file a written notice of such intention with the secretary of the Board of Education by (January 20th at 9:00 a.m.) at West End School 224 W. 4th Ave. Nucla, CO. The Board will interview prospective candidates on January 21st at 6:30 p.m. at a public meeting.

**For further information, contact Shari Nelson at
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SAN MIGUEL BASIN FORUM

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West End Montrose County Sheriff's Office Blotter

12/11/2024
1144 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fourth Avenue in Nucla for an information report.

1423 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

*1 follow up report
2 directed patrols in Nucla
2 directed patrols in County
1 civil process attempted/served*

12/12/2024
0157 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27100 block of DD Road near Nucla for a welfare check.

0955 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Heron Street in Nucla for a civil standby.

1014 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 400 block of Heron Street in Nucla.

1350 Hours - Deputy took a lost property report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1426 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 105 near Norwood for a traffic hazard.

1640 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1716 Hours - Leroy Draves, 81, was contacted at the intersection of CC Road and Highway 141 and cited for speeding and no taillights.

1758 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 97 mm 3 near Nucla for a traffic hazard.

1830 Hours - Brody Kruckenberg, 28, was contacted in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita and issued a warning for defective headlamp.

1835 Hours - Shailah Franklin-Doran, 20, was contacted at the intersection of Crabtree Rd and Highway 97 in Naturita and issued a warning for a headlight violation.

1926 Hours - Deputy conducted a field interview at the intersection of West Fifth Avenue and Main Street in Nucla.

*2 follow up reports
2 directed patrols in Nucla*

12/13/2024
0926 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 114 near Redvale for a traffic hazard.

1531 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of Payson Street in Naturita for a trespassing report.

1552 Hours - Deputy conducted a field interview at the intersection of West First Avenue and Payson Street in Naturita.

1615 Hours - Jerry Shull, 74, was contacted in the 300 block of West Main Street in Naturita and cited for speeding.

1647 Hours - Deputy took an information report in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

*1 warrant attempt
2 follow up reports
1 directed patrol in Nucla
1 directed patrol in County
1 directed patrol in Naturita*

12/14/2024
1218 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Short Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

1258 Hours - Deputy conducted an agency assist in the 100 block of Kelly Street in Naturita.

1510 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Main Street in Naturita for an abandoned vehicle.

1839 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 69 near Naturita for an accident.

1946 Hours - Deputy was dispatched

to the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita for a medical assist.

2133 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist on Highway 145 mm 69 near Naturita.

2148 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 100 block of East Main Street in Naturita for a 911.

2149 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nucla for an agency assist.

*1 follow up report
1 directed patrol in Nucla
2 civil processes attempted/served*

12/15/2024
0927 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Short Street in Naturita for a civil matter.

1111 Hours - Deputy conducted a citizen assist in the 100 block of West Main Street in Naturita.

1234 Hours - Deputy conducted a motorist assist on County Road 90 mm 30 near Nucla.

1412 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 600 block of Elm Street in Naturita for a welfare check.

1555 Hours - Robert Dunski, 51, was contacted in the 100 block of Adams Street in Naturita and cited for driving with a revoked driver's license, fictitious plates, and no insurance.

1843 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 90 mm 28 near Naturita for an accident.

2208 Hours - Deputy took an accident report in the 400 block of Main Street in Nucla. Jordan Sutherland, 30, was cited for careless driving.

2216 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 145 mm 105 near Norwood for an agency assist.

2323 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 800 block of Main Street in Nucla for an information report.

*1 follow up report
1 directed patrol in County
1 directed patrol in Naturita*

12/16/2024
0930 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to Highway 141 mm 64 near Naturita for an accident.

0953 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 27600 block of BB Road near Nucla for a missing person.

1008 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Short Street in Naturita for a civil matter.

1046 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of Reed Drive in Naturita for a fraud report.

1445 Hours - Keila Carver, 29, was contacted on Highway 97 mm 3 near Nucla and cited for speeding.

1600 Hours - Deputy took a civil matter report in the 100 block of

West Main Street in Naturita.

1721 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 200 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for an agency assist.

1941 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 21400 block of 600 Road near Paradox for a medical assist.

2051 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 33000 block of Mailbox Park Road near Redvale for suspicious activity.

2204 Hours - Deputy was dispatched to the 400 block of West Fifth Avenue in Nucla for a traffic complaint

*3 VIN inspections
2 follow up reports
1 directed patrol in Nucla
1 directed patrol in Naturita*

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Breakfast Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

Monday, Jan. 20

Soft Pretzel, Oranges, Milk, and Juice

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Blueberry Muffin, Mixed Fruit, Milk, and Juice

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Pancake on a Stick, Animal Crackers, Peaches, Milk, and Juice

Thursday, Jan. 23

Waffle, Strawberry Bowl, Maple-Yogurt Dip, Milk, and Juice

WEST END PUBLIC SCHOOLS Lunch Menu

Free For All Kids

Milk Served With All Meals

Monday, Jan. 13

Hamburger on Bun, Pork & Beans, Chips, Salad Bar, and Milk

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Fajita Chicken Wrap, Sweet Red Peppers, Salad Bar, and Milk

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Sausage Pizza, Bread Stick, Marinara Sauce, Salad Bar, and Milk

Thursday, Jan. 16

Mac & Cheese with Ham, Roll, Peas, Salad Bar, and Milk

DELTA SALES YARD - MARKET REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| 300-400# STEERS | 3.15-4.04 | 300-400# HEIFERS | 2.95-3.35 |
| 400-500# STEERS | 3.15-3.45 | 400-500# HEIFERS | 2.90-3.20 |
| 500-600# STEERS | 2.70-2.90 | 500-600# HEIFERS | 2.65-2.95 |
| 600-700# STEERS | 2.60-2.77 | 600-700# HEIFERS | 2.55-2.72 |
| 700-800# STEERS | 2.50-2.75 | 700-800# HEIFERS | 2.20-2.35 |
| 800-900# STEERS | 2.30-2.50 | 800-900# HEIFERS | 1.95-2.25 |
| Top Bulls | 1.45-1.65 | Medium Bulls | 1.25-1.30 |
| Young Cows | 1.45-1.85 | Top Cows | 1.18-1.32 |
| Medium Cows | 1.00-1.18 | Low-yielding Cows | 1.00 Below |

NEXT WEEK: Thursday, January 16th - Special Stock Show Feeder Calf Sale. 75 head steers & heifers out of Crawford (60 days weaned, all their shots, 500-600#), 60 steers & heifers from Delta (575-675#), 220 steers & heifers from Delta (475-725#), 125 steers & heifers from Montrose (650-800#), 110 blk calves from Montrose (650-800#), 50 Hereford x calves from Gunnison (500-600#), 140 calves from Collbran (650-750#), 20 black steers from Delta (750#). 30 weigh cows out of Olathe.

UP COMING SALES:

Thursday, January 23rd - Feeder Calf Sale

Varner Equipment Auction - January 24-25th - 1375 HWY 50, Delta, CO 81416

Thursday, January 30th - Bred Cow Sale/ Goat & Sheep Sale- 10 Bred heifers start calving 2-15-25 from Ridgeway.

Saturday, February 1st - Horse Sale

HEARING NOTICE

* UPDATE – MEETING CANCELED *

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing and meeting currently taking place on January 21, 2025 in the Nucla Community Center 1045 Main Street, Nucla, Colorado has been CANCELED. This meeting is a request to install a Wireless Telecom tower to consider a special use application filed by Cornelius Whitehead. Subject property is zoned General Agricultural and located on Parcel 429311201001, 37200 II RD, in Montrose County. This meeting will be rescheduled upon the confirmation of a new date.

Legal Description:
Subd: REDVALE CORNER MINOR SUBD Lot: 1 S: 11 T: 45 R: 14

THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO OFFER COMMENT

The proposed application is available for review at Montrose County Planning and Development Office, 63160 LaSalle Road, Montrose, Colorado during regular business hours or on the Montrose Citizen Portal:
<https://co-montroseco.smartgovcommunity.com/ApplicationPublic/ApplicationHome>

Search application: SU24-003

Written comment may be sent to Montrose County Board of County Commissioners, c/o Planning and Development Director, 63160 LaSalle Road, Montrose, CO 81401; or trichmond@montrosecounty.net.

BY ORDER OF MONTROSE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 15, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARK LEROY BENNETT, DECEASED

CASE NUMBER 24PR030107

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative or to the District Court of Montrose County, Colorado on or before May 15, 2025 or the claims may be forever barred.

/s/Sara Bachman
Attorney for the Personal Co-Representatives
Bachman Law, LLC
PO Box 158
Naturita, CO 81422

Published in the San Miguel Basin Forum January 15, 22, & 29,2025

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE GRAMMYS

ACROSS

1. 43,560 square feet
5. Undergarment
8. "She ____ a Yellow Ribbon"
12. Ocean Spray ____-Apple juice
13. #5 Across, pl.
14. Concentration of solution, in chemistry
15. CISC alternative
16. Swearing-in words
17. Goodwill branch
18. *Artist with most Grammy nominations
20. ALCS counterpart
21. Winter Olympics participant
22. IX minus II
23. Drum roll sound
26. Front of building, pl.
30. Get it wrong
31. Upholstery choice
34. Reflect deeply
35. Raccoon's cousin

37. "____ the fields we go"
38. Binary digits code
39. Capital on a fjord
40. Isaac of science fiction fame
42. Consumed
43. Within shortest distance
45. *100-year-old Grammy Award nominee
47. Beer faucet
48. Corpulent
50. Self-satisfied
52. *2025 Grammy nominated former band, with The
55. Twist and distort
56. Bank's provision
57. Flock's response
59. Raneé's wrap
60. Elvers
61. *2003 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient ____ Puente
62. Like some wines
63. ____ it or lose it
64. Formerly, formerly

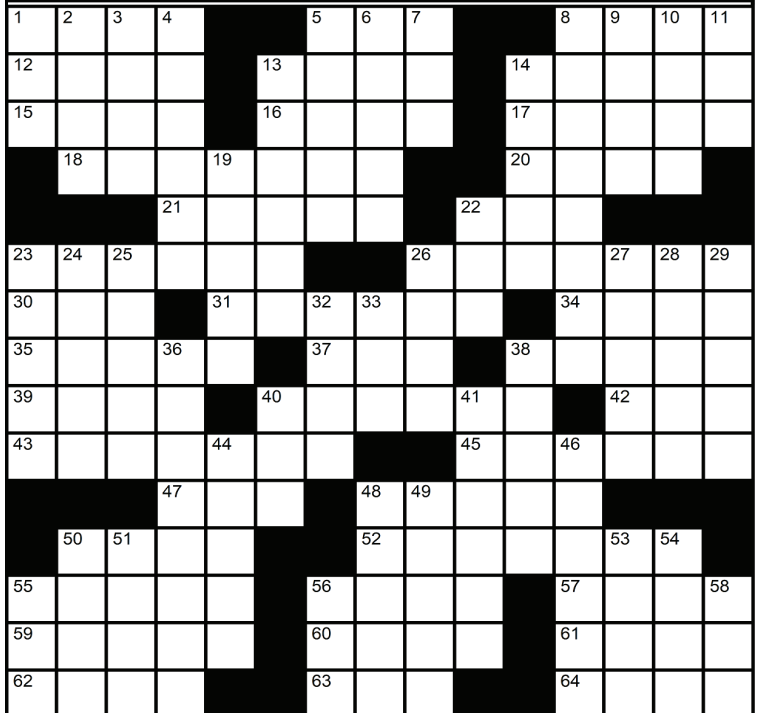
DOWN

1. Acronym, abbr.
2. Discarded cards in cribbage



3. Tear down
4. Enclose in a cyst
5. Orthodontic appliance
6. Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.
7. Certain tray content
8. *Former multiple time Grammy host Andy ____
9. Related to ear
10. RPMs
11. Before, in verse
13. Predatory fish
14. Gin's partner
19. Giraffe's striped-leg cousin
22. *1995 "Have I Told Your Lately That I Love You" winner ____ Morrison
23. Scout's mission
24. What phoenix did
25. ____-____-la
26. Non-negotiable
27. Old European coin
28. Last 8 in college basketball
29. More than sly
32. *Nominated artist Post Malone's actual last name
33. Hula dancer's necklace
36. *Taylor Swift's "The ____ Poets Department"
38. Nautical "Stop!"
40. Nile viper
41. *Grammy winners Frank and Billy
44. Top scout
46. Make a connection
48. Double-reed instruments
49. Famous Memphis street
50. Unforeseen obstacle
51. Foal's mother
53. Chieftain in Arabia
54. Tennis amount
55. General Services Administration
56. Romanian money
58. *Kendrick Lamar's "____ Like Us"

CROSSWORD



Classified Ads

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

HELP WANTED

HELP! Senior Citizens Center in Nucla needs volunteers for lunchtime.

Also we need kitchen and facility clean-up help \$18/hour, 40 hours/month. Inquire at SC Center on Nucla Main St., Wednesday & Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

33-2T-C

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

MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

(*Ridgway*)

JOURNEY LINE TECHNICIAN

(*Telluride*)

APPRENTICE LINE TECHNICIAN

(*Telluride*)

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.

30-3T-C



San Miguel County is Hiring!

The following positions are full-time, year-round and include a comprehensive benefits package!

Environmental Health Specialist

IT Support Technician

Administrative Assistant
(Part-Time)

Lead Mechanic

Light Equipment Operator

Heavy Equipment Operator

Noxious Weed Technician / Light Equipment Operator

Correctional Officer / Emergency Dispatcher

Deputy Sheriff - Operations

To view the complete job descriptions, compensation, benefits and to officially apply for any of the County's open career opportunities, please visit: www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/jobs

San Miguel County is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

* **NOW HIRING** *

- **Paraprofessional (Part-Time or Full-Time)**
- **Activity Driver**
- **School Bus Drivers**

We will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until positions are filled. For the Full job posting, visit www.norwoodk12.org/jobs and click "Click here for job listings and to apply online."

2025/2026 School Year Positions

- **Elementary Teachers**
- **Guidance Counselor**
- **High School Math teacher**
- **Secondary Arts Teacher**
- **High/Middle School Social Studies Teacher**

We will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until positions are filled. For the Full job posting, visit www.norwoodk12.org/jobs and click "Click here for job listings and to apply online."

We will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until positions are filled.

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YOUTH SPORTS

Mustangs on the court and the mat



Lantry Galley has been a top scorer for the Mustangs.



Darcy Bray plays good defense.



The girls are 9-2 currently and play Ouray Jan. 16.



Shay Snyder lays one up.



Cole Bray is helping the Mustangs with their winning record.



Brycen Rummel shoots his shot.



Austin Garvey has been putting up points for the Mustangs.



Jose Zunich is on guard.



Jace Bonacquista wins his first match with a broken nose and with little practice.



Jackson McCabe had a good run in Pagosa Springs on the mat. (Photos by Brandie McCabe)