



The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 115 — NO. 21, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Wastewater plant upgrades could cost \$15 million

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Jan. 30 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed state-mandated modifications to the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant that come with a potential cost of \$15 million during a public hearing on a potential State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan for the project.

The modifications are intended to improve nutrient removal and allow the plant to comply with new state nutrient standards.

Nutrient removal involves the removal of nutrients such as phosphorus or nitrogen, which can be damaging to drinking water and

aquatic environments in high quantities, from wastewater.

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), such nutrients from the Vista plant could impact both nearby drinking water wells and the Piedra River, claims disputed by PAWSD.

The hearing opened with PAWSD District Manager Justin Ramsey explaining, in response to a question from board member Gene Tautges, that PAWSD is currently pursuing a "political route" in its efforts to delay the modifications and that it had some initial communication with Colorado Sen. Cleave Simpson.

Mark Maxwell of Tetra Tech Inc.

■ See Wastewater A8

District approves emergency fixes for lift stations

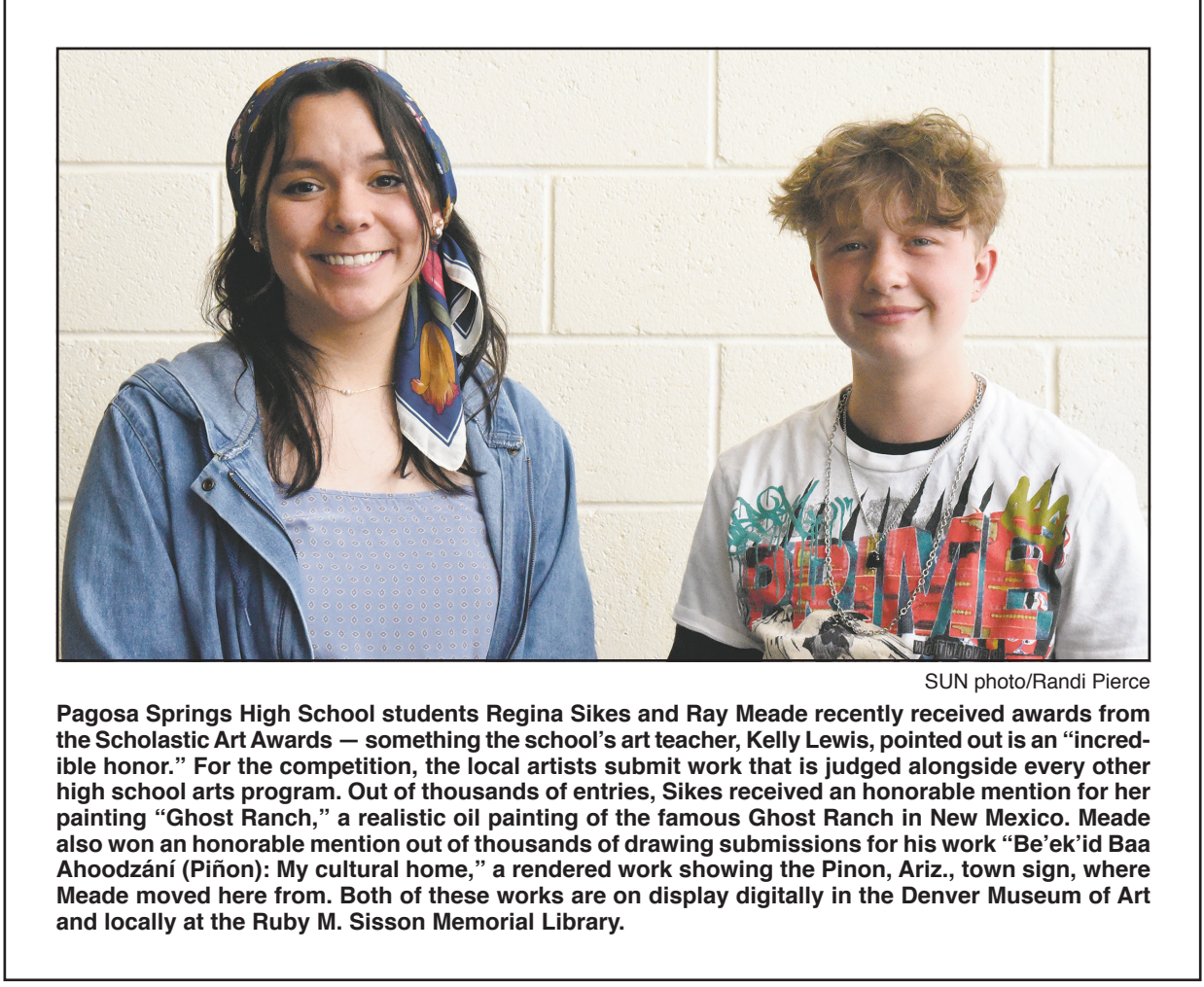
By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Town Council, which doubles as the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) board, confronted problems with its sewage system at its Feb. 7 meeting.

Two lift stations, one near the Visitor Center (the Chamber lift station) and one by the Apache Street bridge (on the northwest side of the San Juan River) are now experiencing multiple functionality problems, according to staff and information presented at the meeting.

According to an agenda brief, aside from two major pump stations, where repairs took place last year, the lift stations are

■ See Sanitation A9



Pagosa Springs High School students Regina Sikes and Ray Meade recently received awards from the Scholastic Art Awards — something the school's art teacher, Kelly Lewis, pointed out is an "incredible honor." For the competition, the local artists submit work that is judged alongside every other high school arts program. Out of thousands of entries, Sikes received an honorable mention for her painting "Ghost Ranch," a realistic oil painting of the famous Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. Meade also won an honorable mention out of thousands of drawing submissions for his work "Be'ek'id Baa Ahoodzání (Piñon): My cultural home," a rendered work showing the Pinon, Ariz., town sign, where Meade moved here from. Both of these works are on display digitally in the Denver Museum of Art and locally at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

On to State!



SUN photo/Josh Pike
Seven Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestlers qualified for this week's state tournament. From left to right are Chandler Mazur, Samuel Kelly, Conner Kelley, Derek Carter, Colton Lucero and Luke Tressler. Not pictured is Heath Fulbright. For more information, see related article on page A10.

Town council denies density bonuses for downtown development

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

Controversy over a proposed downtown development continued when two requested density bonuses appeared before the Pagosa Springs Town Council on Feb. 7. The building in question, now being called the Eagle Mountain Development, is planned for 232 Pagosa St.

Like at the appeal hearing that took place in December 2022, neighbors and residents seeking to vocalize their concerns about the development filed into the council chambers, but unlike that past hearing, this time around the

■ See Density A8



Photo courtesy Lindsey Kurt-Mason
Janae Ash's fourth-grade class from Pagosa Springs Elementary School poses for a photo after a cross-country ski adventure at Cloman Park on Feb. 9. School staff and volunteers gave a Nordic ski lesson to each fourth-grade class on the fields by the elementary school before taking them out for an adventure.

Comments sought on Hazard Mitigation Plan

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta County is seeking public review and comments on its draft Hazard Mitigation Plan, with the comment period open until Friday, Feb. 17.

The plan includes, according to a press release, what Archuleta County is doing to minimize the impacts of floods, dam failures, wildfires, hazardous materials incidents and other hazards.

"The plan assesses risks posed by natural and man-made hazards, identifies ways to reduce those risks, and allows the County to remain eligible for mitigation funding from FEMA," the press release explains. "A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) that includes representatives from various county departments, Pagosa Springs, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District and the Pagosa Fire Protection District updated the plan over the past year with assistance from a consultant. The plan identifies hazard mitigation goals and a variety of mitigation projects with the intent of

■ See Plan A8

County asks Colorado Supreme Court to review open records lawsuit

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

On Jan. 26, Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver filed a petition for writ of certiorari on the behalf of Archuleta County Clerk Kristy Archuleta to the Colorado Supreme Court requesting the court review a lawsuit between Archuleta and local attorney Matt Roane.

The lawsuit concerns Roane's efforts to secure a meeting recording from the county through a Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request while being in ongoing litigation with the county connected to the recording.

In a Dec. 15, 2022, decision, the Colorado Court of Appeals sided with Roane and ordered Archuleta to turn over the recording.

The writ raises concerns that the prior decision is not in accordance with *Martinelli v. Dist. Court* in and for City of Denver and City of

Colorado Springs v. White, and notes that the decision will have "broad applicability" to all public entities subject to CORA and potential to create "significant problems and confusion" for courts and lawyers representing such public entities if the appeals court decision is allowed to stand.

On Feb. 1, Colorado Counties Inc., a lobbying organization representing 62 Colorado counties including Archuleta County, filed a motion for leave to participate as amicus curiae and an accompanying brief in support of the county's writ.

This brief and motion highlight the potential impact of the decision on Colorado counties and raise objections rooted in the rules of civil procedure to the appeals court decision.

On Feb. 8, the supreme court issued an order accepting the filing of the amicus brief.

josh@pagosasun.com

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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2/10	37	-2	-	-	-
2/11	49	6	-	-	-
2/12	48	18	-	-	-
2/13	47	17	-	-	-

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OUR VIEW

Launching a new health department

The health of our community depends on the successful launch of our emerging county health department.

We applaud the 16 individuals who stepped up and volunteered to help Archuleta County stand up its new health department through serving on the Volunteer Transitional Advisory Committee. They will develop the structure, regulations and programs for the health department.

We were impressed by the quality and experience of these community members who agreed to selflessly share their knowledge and serve the community in this new role.

The top nine committee applicants sat through interviews with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and staff members last week.

The BoCC voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Rhonda Webb, Kathy Campbell, Ashley Wilson, Sally Kennedy, John Ranson, Susanne Bryant and Andrea Phillips to the committee.

The selected individuals bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and professionalism to their roles, including a master's degree in public health, advocacy with domestic violence prevention, a background in software and services in the health care industry working with large medical practices and small clinics, experience as a chief executive officer of a hospital, a doctor, a retired nurse practitioner, tribal health department experience, a registered dietitian, be-

havioral health experience, primary care experience, a retired college professor, a nutritionist, grant writing experience, someone with a master's in public administration, town manager experience, budget analyst experience, public health department background in a major metropolitan area, chief financial officer experience, a former Archuleta County commissioner with public finance experience and someone who served on a financial task force which previously helped the county come back from the brink of bankruptcy.

What a tremendous example of the amazing talent this community has to offer.

The very capable committee wasted no time in getting to work. Its first meeting was Monday morning, when it met with the county's Internal Transitional Health Department Oversight Committee, which includes the county manager, the county attorney, the human resources director, finance director and county paralegal. This internal team will oversee the advisory committee.

It is fantastic to see the BoCC and county staff are off to a great start when it comes to standing up a new health department. We feel positive about where the process is headed and the work the team will be able to accomplish.

Archuleta County's new health department is fortunate to not have to start from scratch. It has over 70 years

of experience from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) to draw from. Our neighboring La Plata County has been open and helpful in sharing information.

SJBPH is currently conducting a needs assessment. A press release from the department reads, "Every 5 years, SJBPH conducts a community health assessment of Archuleta and La Plata counties to inform the public health improvement plan. Community members are surveyed to identify the top health and wellness priorities among our residents.

"Both Archuleta and La Plata counties are in the process of forming individual health departments to launch on January 1, 2024, so this community health assessment is more important than ever. The input you provide will help our counties identify public and environmental health priorities that will help inform their paths forward. Your health matters and so does your voice!

"This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete, and answers are confidential. Please be sure to indicate your county of residence. Visit sjbpublichealth.org/healthassessment to learn more and access the survey in both English and Spanish."

We encourage the public to take the time to fill out the needs assessment so that the new health department can tailor its offerings to the results of this survey.

Terri Lynn Oldham House

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 16, 1923

Several Pagosa citizens, men and women, received minor injuries last Friday afternoon and evening as the result of hard falls on the icy sidewalks. Fortunately, no bones were broken in any case, and most of the victims are up and around as usual.

A business meeting of the Women's Civic Club was held at the library Wednesday afternoon, at which time Mrs. Rhoda Parcell, who has been officiating as librarian since the resignation of Mrs. Sadie Betzer, was formally elected to the position. The club also voted the expenditure of \$100 for new books, which will be selected within the next few days.

It will be two years tomorrow since Pagosa suffered its disastrous fire, which destroyed about half of the business section of the city.

The C.W. Houser sawmill closed down Saturday and will not resume operations until about April 1st. The plant will undergo general repairs and logging will be continued as long as weather conditions permit.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 20, 1948

Recommended entertainment this week is the VFW-Harlem Tops game set for Sunday afternoon in the high school gym. The touring professionals will provide some of the most exciting basketball local fans have every seen, according to advance notices.

Presumed to start from a backfire from the engine, fire destroyed virtually all of one of Day's sawmills on the main highway Monday evening.

The newly acquired fire truck, purchased after a flurry of activity by the town administration, arrived here Monday evening and was parked on the street so everyone could see it Tuesday. It is a 1942 Chevrolet with a 400-gallon tank and pumper, with pressure attachments and CO-2 firefighting equipment. The firehouse end of the town hall is being remodeled to accommodate the truck. It was purchased for \$1,000 from a dealer in San Diego, Calif.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 15, 1973

Gilbert Perea placed third in his class in the state wrestling tournament at Greeley last weekend. He was the only San Juan Basin A league wrestler to get into the quarter-finals. This is his second year at the state tournament and he did a fine job in competition.

Snowfall on Wolf Creek Pass this winter is now past the 400 inch mark and from all indications isn't about to stop now. As of Tuesday morning of this week the snowfall for the winter to that date totaled 423-1/2 inches.

Total snowfall on Wolf Creek for the past few years goes as follows: 1959-60, 499 inches; 1960-61, 411 inches; 1961-62, 581 inches; 1962-63, 306 inches; 1963-64, 308 inches; 1964-65, 605 inches (The record in recent years); 1965-66, 363 inches; 1966-67, 369 inches; 1967-68, 593 inches; 1968-69, 517 inches; 1969-70, 361 inches; 1970-71, 457 inches; 1971-72, 416 inches.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 19, 1998

Seeds of Learning, an infant care center, opens Monday at Community United Methodist Church located on Lewis Street.

Co-directed by Teddy Adler Finney and Roberta Thomas, the center is licensed by the state to provide day care for children from ages six weeks to 18 months. Hours of care are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Opening this facility is a response to a community need," Finney said. "In the future, we hope to provide day care services for toddlers as well."

Enrollment in the new facility is open to any parents in the community and is not a function of income or lack of income, Finney said. Persons who cannot afford the \$21 a day, \$105 a week fees may be eligible for assistance if they meet certain state and county social services guidelines.

Seeds of Learning will ultimately be registered in Colorado as a non-profit organization, Finney said. The actual operating cost is \$175 per week per child. Archuleta County may pick up the difference between the enrollment fee and the actual cost. Future fund drives are anticipated.

LOOKING BACK



Taken from
The Pagosa Springs SUN files
from Nov. 18, 1982

HIGH SCHOOL KNOWLEDGE BOWL
— Second place was awarded to Pagosa Springs at the Fall 1982 Regional Knowledge Bowl competition in Durango. Team members left to right are Chris Tickell, Xenie Hall, Jessica Titsworth, sponsor Jack Ellis, Cathy Chase and Tamma Kamm.

WHADDYA THINK?

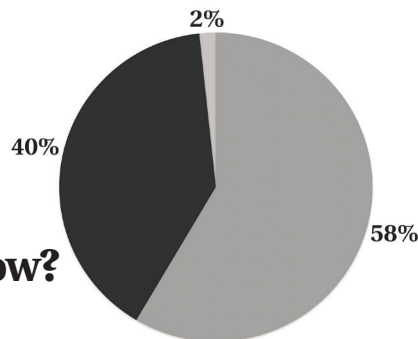
Should the tourism board save up to build an event center and recreation center?

Poll results (118 votes)

Yes. — 58 percent

No. — 40 percent

I do not know. — 2 percent



Vote this week online:
Are you enjoying the snow?

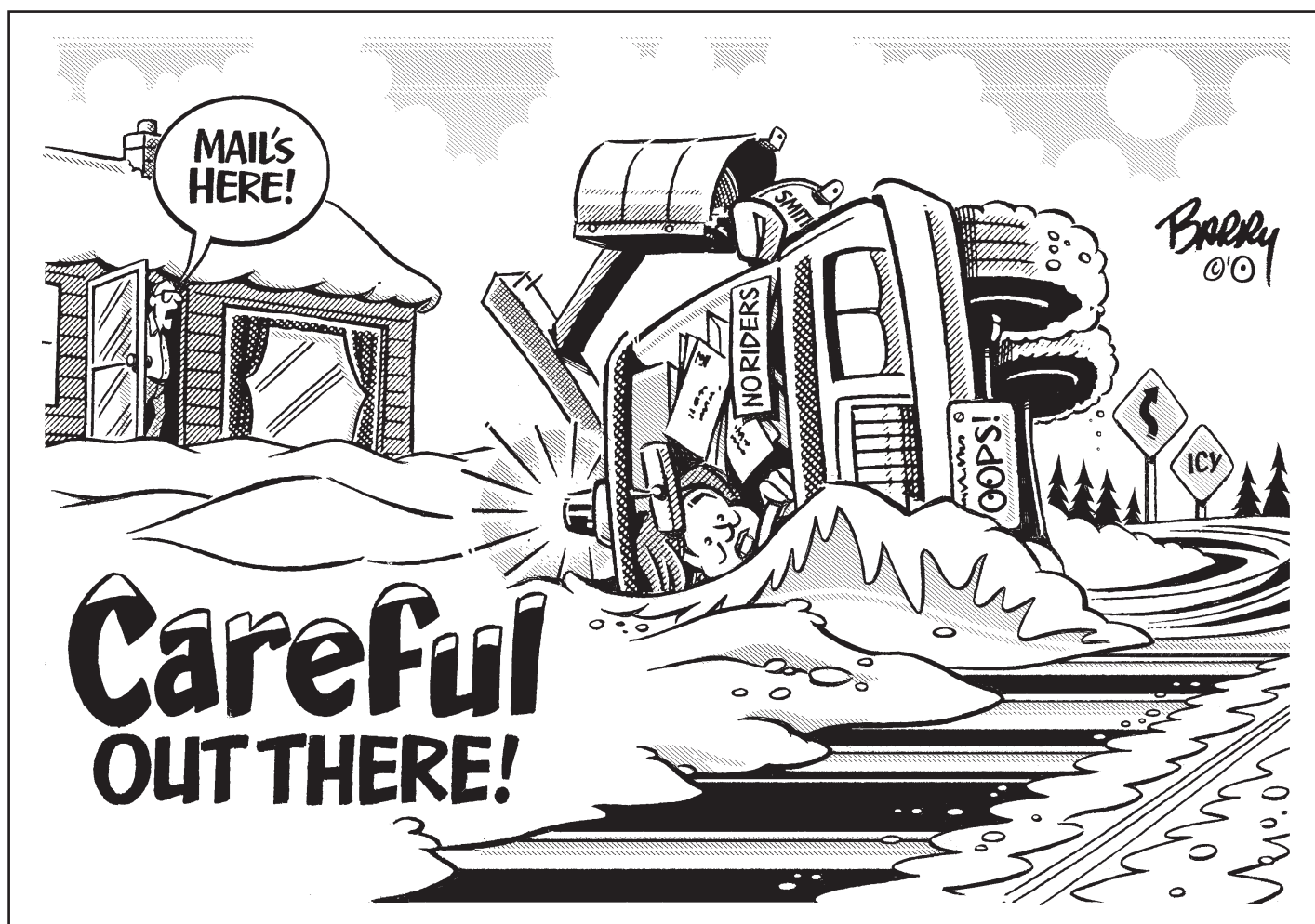
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Letters

Letters to the Editor are printed as received and are not edited for grammar or punctuation, but may have been edited for content or style. Letters to the Editor are opinions and information in them has not been verified for accuracy. The opinions of letter writers do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

'Need for gravel'

Dear Editor:
Have read the letters to the editor about the proposed gravel pit from the Jackson Mountain area. The people that are opposing the gravel pit are the reason it has been proposed "The need for gravel."
Those people do not realize they have caused the problem. They moved in built in homes, roads, trails, campsites, etc., all of which need gravel so they (the transplants) can live and play. You are the ones who brought this about. The gravel pit will end, but your presence will have a lasting effect that will never go away. Maybe you could send some gravel to the CR 500 and CR 700 area so we can get our mail and driver safely to a paved road. But it seems that all has been used for

the transplant roads, etc.
L.A. Baker
Pagosa Junction

Public process?

Dear Editor:
There have been numerous opinions posted recently about a proposed gravel pit on Jackson Mountain less than 2,000 feet from the San Juan River Village. I agree with those who oppose the pit due to health, safety, wildlife and economic concerns, but, I want to address something that should be of vital concern to everyone. The process that has been used by Archuleta County on selecting the three recent potential sites is broken. The sites were selected in private, not really certain by whom, and kept quiet. Once the affected public finally became aware of the sites, they were and are understandably frustrated and under the gun, so to speak, and felt the need to do whatever it took to stop the decision, including seeking legal assistance. The amount of time and money spent to try to head off these behind the scenes, gravel pit site selections, shouldn't have to happen. There needs to be a reasonable, transparent and forward looking process by the county to find viable gravel sources now and into the future. No one is arguing the need for gravel for adequate road maintenance. I believe this recent attempt to put a gravel pit on Jackson Mountain within the SJRV neighborhood will eventually fail. With this latest failed attempt, I hope that Archuleta County Commissioners will finally come together and initiate a strategic planning process that enlists public input, and yes, even public debate over the criteria for selection. The criteria should include not just access to a cheaper gravel source, but, proximity to neighborhoods, impact to wildlife, impact to public safety, and a thorough cost benefit analysis. It will not be an easy task but I am hopeful that that the new blood in the BOCC will apply the energy and determination that is needed to make it happen. Please notify your Commissioner to let them know what you think. If you haven't already done so please comment on the proposed Jackson Mountain gravel pit on the USFS forest service site: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=61809>
Tony Baker

A puzzle

Dear Editor:
I'm betting that you are also at a loss regarding two widely held views: First, the image of God and second, why humans keep thinking God's mate with humans. If we look at religious history most gods envisaged by mankind are

(strangely enough) in mankind's image. Greeks, Romans, Christians even the Hindu with a bit of elaboration on parts and an elephant. So who made who...? Then there's the quandary of why would any God mate with a fallible & sinful human, "kindness, I suppose" hmm...well it's puzzle...Hineni, hineni.

The image question is fascinating when you look at the historical artwork of any image/painting etc. of a God. Greek, Roman Gods and Christ are always portrayed as a pale European Caucasian when in fact Christ could only have been a dark Jewish curly haired Mid-Eastern guy. Except the Muslims, who seem to be unique in forbidding imaging of anything associated w/ Allah. Muslims also placed their 'Garden' (heaven) on the moon thought by many historians as the first form of the Devil. Best guess is Gods are created in the image of who ever made them up...why not? Does the same go for the Devil, or does 'his/it's/her' image require evil & horror. You know good absolutely can't exist without bad, no matter the religion there's always a bad guy. Interesting twist on the birth of Christ, the Disciples all spoke Aramaic, and most were very likely illiterate in a written sense. For about 2-300 hundred years, most gospels were passed verbally. Problem...when Luke went back to Greece after the Crucifixion his gospel was very likely dictated. Given the conjunction of the age of Joseph and the translation of a young girl from Aramaic into Greek it could have easily been misunderstood as virgin...it's a puzzle...Hineni, hineni.

Astounding what religions think about the gullibility of their followers.

Kings in the Levant were offspring of Gods. And in ancient Greece and then Rome their God's offspring were proclaimed to be superheroes...but 'The followers of Christ' were different, they portrayed Christ as vulnerable & submissive...It's a puzzle...Hineni, hineni.

Dave Blake

'Secret task force'

Dear Editor:
I read with interest Anne Sal-

■ See Letters A4

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All letters must:
be submitted electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted, must not be in all capitals include the author's actual name, phone number and address

be 500 words or less

be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.

If necessary, only one letter pertaining to a candidate or political issue will be printed in each edition up to three weeks prior to the election.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution. There is no guarantee letters will be published.

The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.



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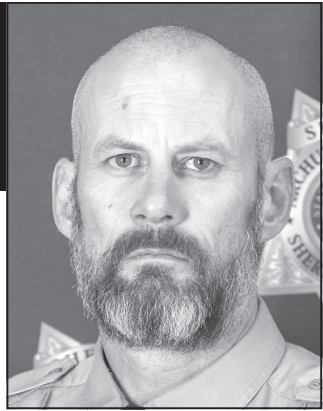


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Goals & Accomplishments

SUN staff asked representatives of publicly funded agencies in Archuleta County to individually answer a trio of questions relating to the goals and accomplishments of themselves and their agencies at the turn of the year. Answers are printed as received and are not edited.



Archuleta County Sheriff's Office Mike Le Roux, Archuleta County Sheriff

Thank you for this opportunity. Kudos to all the staff at Archuleta County Sheriff's Office for their dedication and hard work in 2022. I am confident in each member of the team to continue to step up and serve to the best of their ability, and in support of the goals we have set for 2023.

What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2022?

1. It was an honor and a privilege to be elected as Archuleta County Sheriff.
2. An election year meant intense scrutiny for all the staff of the Sheriff's Office. I was particularly proud and impressed by the men and women who serve in our office, as they continued to do so with level heads, professionalism, and loyalty, despite serious challenges. Retaining so many of our quality staff in this unfavorable environment was a testament to their commitment to provide uninterrupted public safety.
3. Enhancing evidence-based policing through a focus on better equipment and technology procurement, successfully targeting grant funding opportunities nationwide.

What are your three top goals for 2023?

1. Recruitment and Retention. Particularly within the patrol and detention divisions, recruitment and retention remain challenging. Law enforcement are, for good reason, held to a higher standard, however the risk versus return to an individual looking to move into a career in law enforcement isn't as attractive as it once was. The well-publicized, ever-changing cultural environment for policing in general has become overwhelming terrain to navigate for many. Recruitment is notably a nationwide issue, compounded in Archuleta County with a shortage of affordable housing and a higher cost of living. The overtime required to meet staffing shortfalls inevitably results in significant burnout. Burnout contributes to a lack of morale and motivation. Aligning agency values with community values is a dynamic, evolving

process which takes time, effort, and relationships, and often staff bear the brunt of these lessons.

2. Increased public communication and interface to build further trust in the community. Leveraging existing relationships and developing new connections.
3. Targeting the increased drug trade, narcotics production, and serious drug related crimes apparent in our community. As a small, rural county we are inevitably a vulnerable target, and will continue to be unless we take a hardline approach.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

1. We are investigating many creative ideas to be competitive and attractive to locate and hire the quality staff we need. We are committed to investing in recruitment programs that focus on long term career development.

We are also exploring incentives to retain staff, promoting from within wherever feasible, and supporting performance-based merit pay increases, especially related to our community policing goals.

2. I believe the ability to effectively build strong, sincere relationships is crucial to a thriving and efficient Sheriff's Office. Empowering staff throughout the agency to prioritize relationship development throughout the community will be a key training goal and focus.

We trust those people we know and respect. Trust is built through giving the public every opportunity to get to know us.

We will: provide frequent, transparent, and clear communication through easily accessible channels; be approachable so the public feels comfortable to engage; look for ways to actively engage the public; and respond and follow up reliably, courteously, punctually and professionally.

Where complex situations arise, there is thorough protocol in place to follow. Rumors and defamation hurt an organization and individuals. We want the leadership at the Sheriff's Office to be known for our integrity and care. We want the public to trust that decisions are difficult, and that those we make are deeply considered, fair, and unbiased.

3. Managing illegal drugs in a community is a significant drain on already stretched resources. So, our commitment to this important task will require strategic methods that incorporates technological advances, specialist contractors and coordination with experienced partnering agencies.



Pagosa Fire Protection District Randy Larson, Fire Chief

What were your three biggest accomplishments of 2022?

2022 saw us begin to recover from the COVID pandemic and move forward with the commitment to provide the best possible service to the Pagosa Community. We were able to again look for outside training opportunities for our personnel as well as bringing in Chief Michael Barakey from the Suffolk Virginia Fire Department to give a class on Critical Decision Making on the Incident Scene. We also had personnel attend the Colorado Wildfire Academy, Colorado Firefighter Academy, Colorado Fire Leadership Challenge, and the National Fire Academy just to name a few. I will always be our goal to provide the best training available to our firefighters and the leadership team. November saw the graduation of 7 new Volunteer Firefighters from the Basic Firefighter Academy put on by the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Training Division.

Administratively, we are proud to announce that we have cancelled the final long-term debt for PFPD by paying off the lease purchase of our Wildland-Urban Interface Engine. This leave the PFPD debt free and increases our overall credit rating and purchase power. We were also able to purchase a new Wildland Engine in 2022 without incurring further debt.

There were several changes in the front office this year with the retirement of our Administrative Executive Assistant/Business Manager and the resignation of our receptionist to become a full-time momma. PFPD welcomed Tomi Bliss to our team as our Business Manager and Tracy Woodrow as our receptionist. Both have come on board with a strong dedication to their positions and the community. We are lucky to have them on our team.

What are your three top goals for 2023?

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

Looking toward 2023 the PFPD will be doing some needs assessment studies to determine the needs of the community in the area of fire and emergency response. In our long-range goals of our Strategic Plan, we are at the point that we need to look at the feasibility of adding another staffed station and where would be the appropriate location. For that to happen PFPD will need to determine what additional funding will be necessary and the best way to fund the project with the least impact on the tax payers. Since the inception of the 24/7 staffing model the call volume has increase more than 200% and the district population has grown substantially. It is important that PFPD continues to build strong relationships with our community and the stakeholders. Partnerships and cooperative ventures throughout the first responder network will be important to develop and maintain.

Operationally, PFPD will be adding a new position within the ranks of the Firefighter with the addition of a dedicated Driver/Operator position. This position will be responsible for not only driving the fire apparatus but also knowing all the functions and all equipment on the assigned apparatus.

We also added a Community Risk Reduction Specialist position that is currently being staffed on a part-time basis. This position is responsible for community events such as school fire drills, educational opportunities, and public events.

The Pagosa Fire Protection District is committed to providing the best possible fire and emergency response to the community. PFPD personnel, both paid and volunteer, are dedicated community servants and continue to strive to be the best through continued training and education. Our volunteers are the backbone of the operations of PFPD. I am very proud to be able to serve as their Fire Chief.

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Letters

Continued from A3
ermo's letter in the February 9, 2023 Pagosa Springs SUN titled "STR task force". Salerno was my replacement on that secret task force. I was originally appointed to the Archuleta County STR (Short Term Rental) Task Force, and was excited to have the opportunity to contribute to the conversation, and hopefully, possible solutions, to the STR issues in our county. I was appointed by County manager Derek Woodman to represent "Retired Resident Property Owner". I also qualified for "County Resident STR Neighbor". At the first meeting, I learned I must sign a non-disclosure agreement (the meeting content and members would be secret), and the meetings would be Zoom-only meetings with a facilitator. Considering the complexity of the STR issue, my style of communication is not conducive to the Zoom format, no less with a Zoom facilitator. Since I couldn't give 100%, I bowed out. Qualifications for appointees to the three positions of "STR Owner", "STR Neighbor", and "Retired Resident Property Owner" on the STR task force specifically stated, "Must be unincorporated Archuleta County Resident". Salerno is not a "Retired Resident".
See Letters A5

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Summer Phillips Pierce*

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today is a "present".

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Letters

Continued from A4

dent Property Owner”, or “Resident STR Neighbor”. She is a resident of Littleton, CO. Furthermore, she is a non-resident STR owner, as advertised on AirBnB, Pagosa Springs.

It gets even more interesting. Salerno’s letter conveniently adds a new category to the original county-solicited stakeholder positions: “Non-resident”. Was this new stakeholder category created with the blessing of Woodman and the group? Or was it solely the action of Salerno, to create her legitimacy on the STR Task Force? I do not know the answer to that question.

I don’t know how Salerno managed to get on the STR Task Force, since she does not meet the advertised qualifications mandated by county manager Woodman. Intentional or not, it appears the STR Task Force has been hijacked by the pro-STR contingency, and I expect their final recommendations will reflect the same.

I am not affiliated with any STR work groups. Now that the county-sanctioned STR Task Force is meeting in-person, I would be happy to return to the task force to represent the stakeholders I was originally chosen to represent, and perhaps restore a small measure of balance to the task force.

Cynda Green

‘Democracy dies in Darkness’

Dear Editor:

It was generous of Anne Salemo to write a letter regarding the activities of the Archuleta County task force, but we should not have to rely on a member tellings us what they’ve been doing. These meetings should be open to the public, not behind closed doors,....and a transcript of their progress and activities issued for every citizen to read. As the Washington Post says., “Democracy dies in Darkness”.

Cathlynn Groh
Santa Fe, N.M.

‘Archaic statute’

Dear Editor:

Sometimes in our lives, a situation occurs that baffles all logical explanation and requires one to speak out and break the silence of the travesty that is occurring. Such as how a woman recognizes she is in an unhealthy relationship, makes the decision to leave the relationship, and her former boyfriend is able to weaponize the legal system to undermine her efforts to move on with her and her child’s lives.

My name is Anna Heffley, and my ex-boyfriend (who is not the child’s biological father) petitioned the courts for legal fatherhood when I broke up with him and left almost 5 years ago. The child was four years old at the time. I was 5-months pregnant when I was coerced into cohabitating with this individual. The biological father had left before I found out I was pregnant, leaving me in a vulnerable condition with limited resources.

While living with this individual, I was threatened that if I ever tried to leave this individual and his family would drag me through the legal system (since the parents have experience with using ethically questionable litigation as a means to their ends). Just the fact that this happened at all is a perversion of justice.

But it does not end there. After dismissal of the original petition, this individual appealed. The appellate court sent the case to the district judge, and this individual convinced the judge to declare this individual the legal father because of an archaic statute, Colorado Revised Statute Section 19-4-105(1) (d) that says, “While the child is under the age of majority, the person receives the child into the person’s home and openly holds out the child as the person’s natural child.” This statute was meant to protect women (who couldn’t own property or have jobs) in the event that their husband died so they would have legal protection for themselves and their child.

This individual is using this statute and the child against me. We were never married, and he never legally adopted the child. Furthermore if we were out together with the child both of us would correct any mistaken assumptions that the child was in any way his natural child. In fact if the child was causing a disturbance in public he would disown him to any bystanders. Also when I had to return to work and left the child with him when the child was about a month old, I came back early and found the child in the crib crying, in just a dirty diaper, and this individual on the couch claiming he “couldn’t handle it.”

I have been both mother and father to my son since birth. This is legal abuse but moreover this law needs to be changed so a perpetrator cannot use the legal system to continue to abuse his victim. I hope this information stirs more people to research their state laws and support correcting this before it happens again.

Anna Heffley

‘Misleading’

Dear Editor:

I am writing about your article in the February 9 Pagosa Sun titled “Mail delivery issues on County Road resolved”. The title seems to be really misleading because reading through the article it seems that nothing is resolved for the County Road 500 residents. Your article doesn’t mention what has happened with the Country Road 700 residents’ mail either. They are inconvenienced as well. There are so many things wrong with the roads down there that I don’t know how grading 1 1/5 miles (according to the article) can fix the problem. What is Derek Woodman talking about? The road runs at least 20 miles from Hwy 151 to Pagosa Junction. As far as I know, mail delivery has not resumed. Grading the road is a very temporary fix. Gravel (good gravel) is what is needed. Will there be any follow-up with Woodman and the Pagosa postal delivery service on your part? I’ve written many letters to the Sun and I post on the Pagosa Sun FB page about this situation as well.

I should explain what my interest in this issue is. My uncle is an 85 year old semi-disabled veteran living on a ranch on CR500. I help him with business and health issues. Until recently I owned property on CR500 and I visit him when I can. I live out of state. I would like to be heading out there soon but am worried about the roads. Now, I can’t even get mail to him. His medications are sent through the mail from the VA. He has to get rides into town to pick up his mail so important mail gets delayed.

It would be great if you could stay on this topic. It’s difficult to get a response from anyone at the county and impossible to talk to anyone at the post office. No way to really contact anyone or no response. Please follow-up with the county and postal service for the residents. You would be doing everyone an important service. Thank you for your help.

Renee Schofield Hernandez
Bellevue, Neb.

‘Excellent and informative article’

Dear Editor:

I was heartened to read Derek Kutzer’s excellent and informative article in your paper on February 9, 2023, regarding the proposed gravel pit on Jackson Mountain. A huge thank you to Mr. Kutzer for interviewing our District Ranger for the Forest Service and all three of our County Commissioners, and sharing their responses with your readers.

I believe that a gravel pit on Jackson Mountain is incompatible with the rest of the Forest Service’s plans for this local recreational treasure. Perhaps another location can be found within the National Forest so that the County will still be able to get free gravel. But some things are more important than money, and keeping Jackson Mountain free of a gravel pit is surely one of those things.

As noted in previous letters, the comment period is still open to let the Forest Service know what you think at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=61809>

This website has information about the gravel pit, and includes email and phone numbers for our County Commissioners. <https://www.stopthejacksonmtnpit.com/>

Please urge the Forest Service and the County to look at alternate locations for a gravel pit.

Jan Hester

Gravel pit: ‘What are we hiding?’

Dear Editor:

Gravel Pit in my Backyard?

I live on Jackson Mt. and one of the closest to the proposed site. Ironically, the gravel pit where the material for our roads was obtained, some 40 years ago, is within 100 feet of my back door. I am not against the idea of the quarry, just that sharing the same forest road with the proposed recreational uses is ridiculous. Many have voiced that, and no counter arguments. So what’s going on? The Federal geologist said that there was a better quality stone there (granite). I don’t doubt that, but wonder if granite is that important and if there is enough, and at feasible depth, to justify this crazy combined roadway. If there is, then why don’t we build a second roadway, and if there isn’t then we should choose an alternative pit site. There is a County report dated July 2022 that should answer those questions. The Federal geologist has reviewed it, but said I would have to review it at the County. After four trips to their offices last week. It could not be “found”. Why the secrecy? Make that report available to the public.

The quality of the stone may be the underlying reason for the combined projects, or more likely, the quarry is more saleable with the recreational facilities attached.

The stone that was mined behind me is “welded tuff” This is a solidified volcanic ash, not as strong as granite but a reasonable stone for road building, and it has been used extensively for that purpose in this area. Even more importantly, it is readily available. I have hiked through the proposed gravel pit area many times, and the only stone visible is Tuff. This material can be found in many locations above about elevation 7500 feet. The missing report has reportedly identified a number of them. Let’s take a look. What are we hiding?

R.W. Riethmiller
civil engineer, retired

County official statements

Dear Editor:

An article last week containing statements from county official about reduced aircraft/flying activity is not correct. According to the FAA we have the highest number of pilots in the last 30 years. Training is at record levels. According to Aviation Pros flying activity returned to normal in 2020 with activity up 22% in 2022. According to Flightaware which tracks flights, 2022 is up 22% over 2019. Flying activity may be down in Pagosa Springs but that is not true of the rest of the country. The reduction in income locally cannot be blamed on overall reduced flying activity.

Keith Serkes



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Obituaries

Desbah Denetsone Benallie Allison

Desbah Denetsone Benallie Allison, 55, died peacefully at home on Jan. 27, with her husband, Rob, and daughter Rhyana by her side.



Desbah was born Aug. 11, 1967, the daughter of Chee Denetsone Benallie, in Shiprock, N.M.

Desbah graduated from Farmington High School in 1985 and later attended Fort Lewis College as an art major.

Des met her husband, Rob, in Durango on July 12, 1990, and as they say, the rest is history. They married July 31, 1992, and have one daughter, Rhyana. Des and Rob celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2022.

Desbah was an avid photographer and artist. She saw beauty in everything through her camera lens. Des loved taking photos of nature and of angel statues and had many of her photos published. She

is also well known for her delicious fry bread and her love of animals, always bringing home a new kitty, dog or turtle.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her sister, Audrey Begay, and father-in-law, Lou Allison. Des is survived by her husband, Robert S. Allison; her daughter, Rhyana Denetsone Allison; brothers Louis Ckay and Arthur Begay; niece Hannah Begay Martinez; mother-in-law Ruth Allison; sister-in-law Laurie (Allison) Jordan and husband Johnny; nephew Tyler Jordan and wife Amy, daughter Ellie and son Jake; and nephew Jared Jordan and wife Stephanie.

Cremation has taken place. Services are pending.

Jeanine E. Russell

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Jeanine E. Russell was called into eternal life. She died peacefully in her home, with her husband Eugene by her side. For several years, she courageously battled several health issues and is now at peace and complete comfort with Jesus.

Jeanine was born in a small town on the Mediterranean Coast of the French Riviera called Ville France, Sur de la Mer, France. As a young woman, she came to the

United States and explored many different places, including New York, Florida, Nevada and California, up until she ended up in Norfolk, Va., where she met the love of her life, Eugene Lobato, while he was in the U.S. Navy. She later gave birth to her daughter, Michelle, who was the "apple of her eye."



Jeanine held many roles in her life, including wife, mother, friend and hard worker. She was a talented seamstress, making clothes in her early days, and doing alterations for countless people later in life. She worked at The Rose Restaurant, The First Inn Motel and the U.S. Forest Service. Some of Jeanine's favorite things included eating good food (especially French food like pate, cheese and French bread), listening to good music (like The Rolling Stones, The Bee Gees and The Beatles), dancing, spending time with friends, and, later in life, relaxing while watching her cooking shows, "Little House on the Prairie" and "The Waltons" on television. Above all, Jeanine treasured her

husband, daughter and two beautiful granddaughters. Jeanine will always be known by her loved ones for her fierce and faithful love for her family. She will be dearly loved and missed forever. Until we meet again, Mama ...

Jeanine is predeceased by her father, Eugene Roux; mother, Gabrielle Gregoire; her brother, Charles Roux; and her sister, Betty Le Bivie, all of France.

Jeanine is survived by her husband, Eugene Lobato (Pagosa Springs); her daughter, Michelle Lobato-Pettis (Denver); granddaughters, Fayth and Jynesa Pettis, (Denver); son-in-law, Maurice "Mo" Pettis (Denver); her two older sisters, Nicole Barbero and Monique Baillet, (France); as well as nieces and nephews in France.

A recitation of the rosary will be at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 445 Lewis St., Pagosa Springs, with Mass following immediately at 10 a.m. There will be a meal and gathering following Mass, across the street at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., Pagosa Springs. Our family would love to be blessed by your presence at this time. Any side dish, salad or dessert people want to bring is welcomed, but not required.

Application period now open for 2023 LPEA director election

By Hillary Knox
La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) members interested in running for a seat on the LPEA Board of Directors are now welcome to apply at <https://lpea.coop/2023-board-directors-election>.

To be considered, prospective candidates must submit all completed materials by 1 p.m. on April 10.

To be eligible to run for the LPEA

Board of Directors, candidates must:

- Be a member of LPEA for at least one year immediately prior to becoming a director;
- Be a bona fide resident of the district you plan to represent for at least 120 days prior to becoming a director; and
- Not be employed by, or have a spouse or child employed by, LPEA in any position.

In accordance with LPEA bylaws,

one-third of LPEA's Board of Directors seats are up for election annually, one in each voting district. Directors are elected for three-year terms. Incumbent directors up for re-election in 2023 are Bob Lynch (District 1 — Archuleta County), John Lee (District 2 — South and West La Plata County), Rachel Landis (District 3 — City of Durango), and Sue McWilliams (District 4 — North and East La Plata County). Eligible candidates will be

added to the official ballot to be mailed to LPEA members in early May. Mail-in ballots will be due on June 7 and the election results will be announced at LPEA's annual meeting on June 8. In-person voting will also be available at the annual meeting.

For details about serving on the LPEA Board of Directors and the director election process, visit <https://lpea.coop/2023-board-directors-election>.

League of Women Voters to host Colorado Legislative Update

By Anne Brennan
League of Women Voters
of La Plata County

On March 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., the League of Women Voters of La Plata and Montezuma counties will host a Colorado Legislative Update with Colorado General Assembly members Sen.

Cleave Simpson and Rep. Barbara McLachlan.

This update comes at the halfway point of the 2023 Legislative session.

The members of the 74th Assembly will highlight bills they have introduced or focused on and share their perspectives on important bills and issues of concern to the

district. Simpson and McLachlan will follow their remarks with a Q-and-A session.

The Colorado Legislative Update will be held in the Durango Recreation Center's public meeting rooms. The public is invited and a special invitation is issued to residents of Montezuma, Archuleta and San Juan counties to attend

this event in person.

The forum can also be joined via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/CoD3Zoom> with closed captioning available.

The forum will also be livestreamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/lwv-colorado>. A recording will be made accessible on March 6 at <https://bit.ly/LWVrecording>.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Feb. 16
Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors special meeting. Noon. Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83611276692>, meeting ID: 836 1127 6692.

Monday, Feb. 20
San Juan Water Conservancy District meeting. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5.

Tuesday, Feb. 21
Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

CSU Advisory Committee meeting. Noon. CSU Extension office, 344 U.S. 84.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m. Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board meeting. 4 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors work session and meeting. 5 p.m. work session, 6 p.m. regular meeting, 3133 Cornerstone Drive. Join Zoom

meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9656099136?pwd=Z3Job2R1eXl0SE8rRzNpL0FucGpKZz09>, meeting ID: 965 609 9136, passcode: 00001.

Wednesday, Feb. 22
Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting. 6 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. and via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96759128658?pwd=RmdW>

Thursday, Feb. 23
Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council work session. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosahun.com with "Public Meeting" in the subject line. The deadline is noon Monday each week prior to publication for that week's issue.

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Vandalism of public restrooms induces closures

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At its Feb. 7 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Town Council discussed the ongoing problem of destructive vandalism in the town's public restroom facilities.

As a result, town staff has recently made the decision to shut down "all public restrooms in town parks for the foreseeable future," states the agenda brief on the subject.

At the moment, the restrooms have been replaced by portable toilets. The current cost of renting the portable toilets comes to about \$1,040 per month, according to the brief.

Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis explained that, in the month of January alone, four vandalism incidents occurred.

He said that they happened at such a "repetitive rate that we started to see a pattern, almost on a weekly basis ... and we needed to shut it down."

Such incidents have taken place at Bell Tower Park, Yamaguchi Park, Mary Fisher Park and Town Park, he noted.

Town staff saw a similar problem in the winter of 2022, when they also shut down restrooms between Dec. 21 and March 22, according to Lewis.

He noted that the main issue last year was "homeless people in our restrooms at night, along with vandalism."

He explained how the town tried to curb the problem by contracting a cleaning service; the contractor would also lock the doors at 5 p.m. on the weekdays and after cleanings on the weekends.

The total cost of the contract job was approximately \$2,400 per month for the town, according to the brief.

The reason that the job had to be contracted out is "we don't have the staff to come in, in the evenings to secure our restrooms," Lewis said.

He added that "everything was going along great until January," when the restrooms "started to get



SUN photo/Terr House

Portable toilets temporarily replace the town's public restroom facilities at Yamaguchi Park. The restrooms at Yamaguchi and other parks are currently closed due to a recurring vandalism problem.

hit," right around the time school let out, just prior to the facilities being locked up for the evening, usually around 5 p.m. or 6 p.m.

Lewis explained the nature of the recent criminal activity included graffiti, vandalism, plugging the toilets and sinks in an attempt to flood the restrooms, setting the restrooms on fire, smearing food, tearing the sink off the walls and tearing toilet paper dispensers off the walls.

He added that vandals hit the newest restroom at Mary Fisher Park with \$2,500 worth of damages.

The costs of cleaning up and repairing the restrooms after such incidents ranged from \$500 upward to \$2,500 for each incident, according to Lewis.

He indicated that the restrooms would need to remain closed at least until the police investigation wraps up.

"Currently, all of the restrooms are secure. Porta-potties are out. It's not the ideal situation, but until we get a grasp on what's going on, and possibly some investigations closed, in

regard to the criminal mischief and vandalism," he said.

Pagosa Springs Police Department Assistant Chief Brooks Brown explained that the investigation is ongoing.

Local police have been interviewing a "large group of kids," he said, not all of whom were involved in the criminal aspects of the activity, but that "the suspects have been identified."

They are all "school-age juveniles," he added.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, council member Jeff Posey asked about the video cameras that the council invested in "not long ago."

Lewis answered that, in the 2023 budget, the town council gave approval for Parks and Recreation to open a bid "to upgrade our security system in the parks."

He said that it "will be advertised for a couple of weeks and hopefully that will come in under budget."

Posey remarked, "Possibly, this time next year we might not be having the same conversation," if

the upgraded surveillance system is installed.

"We can only hope, but we can't control everybody and just because you have cameras up doesn't mean it prevents all crime," he replied.

However, Lewis noted that the cameras should provide a deterrent and help speed up future investigations should such activity take place in the future.

Council member Gary Williams asked if there is any other way to handle the situation other than closing down the restrooms.

Lewis explained that anything short of "on-site security" would probably still require closing the bathrooms.

"I don't have a solution for you on that," he said. "Vandalism and that type of crime happens everywhere, and we can't have eyes everywhere."

Williams then asked if a "community-based approach" might be appropriate.

"Are you talking about a community watch?" council member Madeline Bergon asked.

Council member Brooks Lindner muttered, "You mean a bathroom watch?" which garnered laughter from the audience.

"What would we watch for?" Posey asked. "If we're out there, what might tell us something's going on that we might ignore if we didn't know to look for it?"

Lewis suggested that "you know, if you see a gathering of adults or kids around the restroom and you see them standing outside as a look out, that's probably a good indication. Or, if you see a bunch go in and they're in there for a while, that's a good indication."

Mayor Shari Pierce said, "I would just caution that if you are community watching, please don't engage. Definitely leave that to the professionals."

Lewis seconded that comment, saying, "if you see anything suspicious and it doesn't sit right with you, call dispatch. Get law enforcement." derek@pagosasun.com

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County approves tax policy change, dispatch system purchase

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Feb. 7 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) revised the county's residential tax incentive policy, approved a sales agreement with Comtech Solacom Technologies Inc. for a new customer premises equipment system for the dispatch center and voted to indicate its willingness to serve as the fiscal agent for opioid settlement infrastructure funds, among other business.

The county's residential tax incentive allows property owners who build a residence or purchase an already built residence to potentially qualify for a waiver of their county property taxes if they meet a series of parameters.

The incentive, according to the resolution establishing it, "could help to bring more affordable housing units to Archuleta County."

It also notes that "providing a range of affordability to support individuals of all ages and stages of life that allows younger generations to access housing, enables seniors to securely age in place, and assists families with children to meet their housing needs, requires a public policy response from the BoCC."

Prior to the approval of the changes to the tax incentive, County Attorney Todd Weaver explained the residential tax incentive was initially adopted in 2021 and revised in 2022, and that the current revisions were recommended by the county assessor to make enforcement of the policy easier.

According to the resolution, the provisions of the policy requiring that applications be submitted before the commencement of construction or before renting the property were found to be problematic.

The revised policy adds that, to be eligible, new construction must have received its certificate of occupancy on or after Sept. 21, 2022, or the residence must be being purchased by a first-time home buyer unrelated to the seller with a closing date on or after Sept. 21, 2022.

The revision also adds that construction may be considered eligible if the assessor deems it partially complete at Jan. 1 of the applicable tax year.

For more information on the incentive and other exemption programs, visit <http://www.archuletacounty.org/155/Tax-Exemptions-and-Incentives>.

The sales agreement approved with Solacom was for a Guardian Next Generation 911 system whose cost is not to exceed \$164,791.

On the subject of the opioid settlement, Weaver explained that the board had discussed the settlement infrastructure funds, which will amount to approximately \$10.5 million statewide over the next three years, at its Jan. 17 work session.

The possibility of Archuleta County acting as the fiscal agent for grant applications for these funds, which would be awarded to regional organizations such as the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, was also discussed at the work session, Weaver noted.

Weaver further explained that La Plata County is also willing to serve as the applicant for the funds, although it is also the fiscal agent for other opioid funding already.

Commissioner Warren Brown questioned if La Plata County would have fewer logistical difficulties in serving as the applicant for the funding.

He also noted that he felt at the Jan. 17 work session that Region 9 was requesting the county to serve

as the fiscal agent.

The commissioners discussed their willingness to share the load of the grant applications with La Plata County and the potential positive impacts of this arrangement for the grant applications before voting to express its willingness to serve as the fiscal agent and applicant for the opioid infrastructure grant funding.

In other business at the meeting, the BoCC approved two easements, one on County Road 337 to the Blanco River to grant the county access to the Blanco River to draw water and one on County Road 139 to allow the county to access and maintain the roadway in a subdivision it runs through.

The BoCC also approved the transfer of certificates of purchase for two properties to Julian Caler for the price of \$10,000 each.

Weaver explained that the properties are ones that came under county ownership due to unpaid taxes.

The resolution for the transfer also states that the properties will be

deed restricted to be either owner occupied or long-term rentals for five years and any structure built on the property will be used for residential housing.

Additionally, the BoCC approved the deeding of 0.31 acres of county owned property which is currently leased by Wings Early Childhood Center to Wings.

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Wastewater

Continued from front
then presented to the board on the proposed modifications, noting that the plant's 2019 discharge permit renewal included several items in its compliance schedule such as improved nitrogen removal for drinking water protection and a requirement that the plant meet a certain 12-month median total phosphorus limit to protect stream conditions with other enhancements, including renovations, operational enhancements and increased redundancy planned

to coincide with these improvements.

Maxwell noted that CDPHE Regulation 85, which created the total phosphorus limits, designates certain high-use river basins as targets for early nutrient reductions, including the Colorado River basin and the Piedra River basin.

He explained that large wastewater plants in these basins have to satisfy nutrient-reduction requirements earlier.

He noted the nitrogen standards

for drinking water protection are more stringent than those in Regulation 85.

Ramsey commented that PAWSD argued to the CDPHE that the Piedra River is inaccurately categorized as a high-use river, noting that the San Juan River and many other regional rivers are not categorized as one, although the CDPHE rejected this argument.

In response to a question from PAWSD board chairman Jim Smith, Maxwell explained that the Vista

plant has to meet the nitrogen requirements at the pipe outlet due to the CDPHE determining that there are potentially wells extracting water for drinking nearby.

Taugtes raised the question of if redirecting the plant's outflow to the San Juan River would alleviate the requirements.

Maxwell cautioned that the regulations on nitrogen are highly stringent and that the flow levels of the watershed would have to be considered as they could potentially be too low to create the degree of dilution needed to satisfy the requirements.

Ramsey added that the current restrictions on the Piedra River will take effect on all Colorado rivers in 2027, so diverting the flow would only help for a "couple years."

Maxwell noted that the improvements would either be needed to meet Regulation 85 or as a "prequel" to the further nitrogen and phosphorus removal improvements that will be required by Regulation 31.

Ramsey then discussed the growth, flow and organic load characteristics of the current plant, including stating that PAWSD has approximately 3,500 sewer taps.

However, as Ramsey, Taugtes and PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh highlighted, this counts the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) as a single tap when it in fact contains approximately 800 taps for between 12,000 and 13,000 equivalent units (EUs).

"For the record, I don't mind not being painstakingly accurate if it helps us," Walsh commented. "I think this entire exercise is disgraceful."

Maxwell explained that peak flows occur in the early spring due to leakage in the system, although the highest organic loads occur during the summer.

He explained that the CDPHE rates the plant's hydraulic capacity at 3.7 million gallons per day (MGD) during peak flow, with the current maximum monthly flow at approximately 3 MGD, 81 percent of capacity.

According to Maxwell, the CDPHE has also rated the plant at 3,906 pounds per day (ppd) of biological oxygen demand (BOD) with the maximum monthly load of 2,800 ppd of BOD occurring in summer and representing 72 percent of the plant's capacity.

He noted that state regulations require plants to begin planning and financing for expansion when 80 percent of capacity is reached and to begin construction at 95 percent of capacity.

Maxwell also stated that compound annual growth in the district is 2.2 percent, which he clarified is based on a survey of changes from 2016 to 2021.

"My interest, again, is probably pretty obvious to people," Walsh commented. "We do have a thousand or 1,100 homes that now have been turned into businesses and whose very model is to use them much more intensively. So, I'd be really interested in looking at that data even on a seasonal basis just to see how that ... pounds per capita, which is a ... very polite phrase, how that's affected by this dynamic, very successful, perhaps undertaxed industry."

Maxwell also explained that these load numbers incorporate waste hauled in and dumped from septic tanks in the area.

He also emphasized the importance of reducing infiltration and inflow into the system, noting that in most months the Vista plant has approximately 1.1 MGD of incoming flows while in early spring flows peak up to 3 MGD from the addition of "2 MGD of clean groundwater."

Ramsey noted that sump pumps, which pump water out of basements and other low-lying portions of buildings, are a major contributor to this problem as there is no drainage master plan for significant portions of the district, causing water to accumulate and such pumps to be tied into the wastewater system against PAWSD regulations due to there being no other place for the water to go.

Maxwell explained that he projected that, assuming PAWSD's infiltration-control measures succeed, maximum monthly flows would likely go down until 2032 due to a reduction in infiltration before beginning to rise again.

He explained that, for permit

compliance, Tetra Tech is recommending new anaerobic and anoxic basins, which would assist in phosphorus removal, new return active sludge (RAS) and mixed liquor recycle pumping, a new high-speed turbo jockey blower and on/off aeration in the oxidation ditch to allow for additional nitrogen reduction.

He stated that these improvements would allow for the reduction of nitrate to 10 milligrams per liter as a daily maximum and phosphorus reduction to less than 1 milligram per liter as required by the permit.

He also recommended several operational and energy efficiency improvements, including renovating the oxidation ditch diffused aeration system, a new secondary clarifier, new waste activated sludge pumps, the replacement of the RAS pumps, modification or replacement of the scum pumping for the new secondary clarifier and a new perforated plate influent screen.

Maxwell moved on to discuss the cost of the improvements, indicating that the equipment and materials would cost approximately \$5,670,000 and construction would cost \$5,586,000 for a total of \$11,256,000.

He indicated that the anaerobic and anoxic basins at \$2,486,000 and the new secondary clarifier at \$2,138,000 would be the highest costs for equipment and materials.

The highest cost for construction would be contractor markup and contingency at \$3,392,000 with engineering services being second at \$1,403,000, according to Maxwell.

He also noted that this cost estimation was completed at the end of 2021 and that the overall cost in 2023 had likely increased to \$12,900,000 from the extrapolation he had created by speaking with contractors.

Maxwell recommended that PAWSD adopt an owner's contingency of 5 or 10 percent on the project to insulate against potential additional costs.

He also recommended to the board that it use a construction manager at risk (CMAR) arrangement for the building of the improvements and that PAWSD lock in a guaranteed maximum price later in the project to improve the flow of the construction process and ensure that costs and needs could be predicted more accurately.

Ramsey added that PAWSD is currently using a CMAR arrangement in the construction of the Snowball Water Treatment Plant expansion.

Smith asked Ramsey how the plant would be big enough if PAWSD continues to take waste from PSSGID and Pagosa Springs keeps expanding.

Ramsey commented that PAWSD's growth modeling accounts for the growth of Pagosa and that the second phase of upgrades to the Vista plant would likely include an expansion.

Taugtes noted that the agreement between the PSSGID and PAWSD would ensure it would pay its "fair share."

Maxwell moved to the timeline for the project, stating that by Aug. 31 he would expect the CDPHE loan and engineering approvals would be completed, that engineering would be completed by Sept. 30, and PAWSD would solicit bids and award a contract for the project by Oct. 31.

He noted that the CDPHE wants construction done according to its compliance schedule, which indicates that construction should be done by Dec. 1, 2024, although Maxwell suggested he thinks this is unrealistic and could raise the price of the project.

Ramsey raised the additional concern that Dec. 1, 2024, is in the middle of the construction of the Snowball plant and that he is unsure how PAWSD could operate two large construction projects simultaneously.

Walsh commented that it is a "much more aggressive timeline than I had assumed," noting that PAWSD had placed \$2 million in the 2023 budget for engineering "with the idea that we're at least nominally complying, kind of a good-faith effort. But this timeline means that that money has to be spent this year, which means the Town of Pagosa Springs should have about \$600,000 in their 2023 budget ... for their 30 percent partnership in this project. ... I don't believe they do have that

\$600,000 line item, so ..."

Maxwell then presented on what PAWSD might face in 2035, including more restrictive nitrogen and phosphorus limitations driven by CDPHE Regulation 31.

He noted that the nitrogen limitations could be difficult to meet and that there could also be additional ammonia limitations which he thought the plant could comply with.

Walsh asked about where the nutrient requirements would be calculated if PAWSD created a pipe outlet to the San Juan River near the decommissioned sewer lagoons in downtown Pagosa or if a new wastewater plant was built at that location, asking if the nutrient requirements would be calculated at the pipe or whether PAWSD would also have to account for nutrient additions upstream in its measurements.

Maxwell explained that PAWSD would have to perform a mixing zone study to determine what amount of dilution the district could claim from the plant.

He added that, if the river is found to be highly polluted, the river would be placed on the list of impaired streams and PAWSD would have to meet the stream standard for nutrients, which is the same as that required by Regulation 31.

Ramsey noted that the San Juan River being impaired would have a negative impact on PAWSD because the district would have to contribute to the restoration of the stream.

Maxwell explained that other 2035 improvements to the plant could include increasing the BOD load beyond its current capacity, replacing the ultraviolet disinfection equipment, replacing the centrifuge dewatering equipment, and replacing other equipment at the end of its useful life, such as the aeration equipment for the digesters, the scum and sludge collection equipment in the existing clarifier, and instrumentation and control system upgrades.

He also commented that projections show that the plant will hit 90 percent capacity between 2034 and 2035, around when PAWSD would have to meet Regulation 31 compliance.

Maxwell noted that, to meet capacity and regulatory compliance, PAWSD would likely need to begin the project in 2030 or 2031.

He also commented that Regulation 31 is scheduled to take effect in 2027 and that delays in the state's renewals of discharge permits could cause the requirements to take effect earlier for PAWSD if its permit renewal is delayed past this date.

Following an opportunity for public input where the board received no comments, Maxwell explained that the next steps include submitting additional information to CDPHE and determining how PAWSD wants to price the project, whether through CMAR or a more conventional bid build process.

Walsh asked if there is an estimate for the 2035 improvements.

Maxwell explained they are expected to cost, in 2021 dollars, \$35 million.

Overall, Maxwell suggested that the improvements could cost \$50 million, including the costs of both improvements.

Taugtes questioned if the changes in technology between now and 2035 would change the project.

Maxwell explained that on/off aeration is a recent advancement in nitrogen removal which has significantly improved removal capability and it is possible some similar advancement could assist with the 2035 upgrade.

"The challenges of growth might just be ... solved if ... we wind up having to put in place a \$17,000 capital investment fee for wastewater," Walsh commented.

Maxwell noted that the improvements have been 15 years in the making and that the state has changed its methodologies for assessing impairments to water, adding that the connection between nutrients like nitrogen or phosphorus and impairments in aquatic ecosystems is highly site-specific and situational.

He also commented that it is possible to set site-specific standards for nutrients, although the Colorado nutrients standards are lenient compared to other areas, and the study to do so would take multiple years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Density

Continued from front
public was allowed to comment on the matter, with every speaker voicing opposition to the density bonus.

The property sits within the Mixed-Use Town Center (MU-CTC) and East Village overlay zoning district, which allows for 16 dwelling units per acre, according to the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC). It rests between two food and beverage destinations — Pagosa Baking Company and Alley House Grille — and consists of three lots, totaling .426 acres.

According to the LUDC, the maximum number of dwelling units allowed on a property of that size in that location equals seven units. However, the design plans proposed eight units and would thus require a density bonus to attain that additional housing unit.

Density bonuses are typically granted when the addition would contribute to the town's goals or initiatives, such as workforce or affordable housing, according to the town's density bonus policy, which was adopted in 2021.

Community Development Director James Dickhoff explained that the council is also given broad discretion over density requests by Ordinance 966, adopted in 2022, which provides the council flexibility to weigh potential public benefit with the codes in the LUDC.

In this case, the developer, Reynolds Ash and Associates, proposed to build an additional 1,850-square-foot condo unit at 232 Pagosa St., according to agenda documentation.

But since this unit would not contribute to the workforce housing inventory, the developer proposed to offset this by building a workforce housing unit at another property — at 262 Pagosa St., a few doors down to the west.

This would actually require two density bonuses — one for each property — since 262 Pagosa St. has also reached the maximum density for that property, Dickhoff explained.

The unit being proposed at the 262 location would be an 800-square-foot studio apartment and would be deed restricted for workforce housing for 30 years. It would serve tenants earning up to 120 percent of the area median in-

come (AMI), according to Dickhoff. In Archuleta County, 120 percent of AMI amounts to a yearly income of \$69,120 for an individual and an affordable monthly rent (for a studio apartment) of \$1,728 per month, according to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

Workforce housing is a little different from subsidized affordable housing, a Brookings Institute study explains. For example, workforce housing usually refers to housing aimed at those making between 80 to 120 percent AMI in a respective area, whereas affordable housing refers to inventory aimed at those below the 80 percent threshold.

In Pagosa Springs, "the core needs are for 50-120 percent AMI/workforce housing, both rental and for sale," states the Root Policy Research housing study of the area.

Brad Ash, of Reynolds Ash and Associates, said that this would be a "higher-end studio," telling the council that one of his own architects would rent the unit, but could later serve as a rental for a young professional who could use it as a stepping stone to eventual ownership in the community.

He continued, "A lot of the people we try to employ at Reynolds Ash are young professionals. These are professionals that make a higher wage than a lot of our locals do, and can afford" such a "higher-end studio."

He appealed to the flexibility given to the council in Ordinance 966 and described how his "own business has suffered," because the young professionals that he has tried to hire could not find housing that lived up to "the quality of what we expect to live in."

He lamented that he was thus forced to open an office in Phoenix, Ariz., because of the housing "shortcomings we have here in Pagosa" and told the council that "this is an opportunity to provide one additional unit in our community that allows us to hire locally."

But some on the council wondered if serving the very highest end on the workforce housing scale is what it had in mind when it made workforce housing one of its top priorities.

"I kind of feel like, based on what you just said, that you're building

a high-end unit that you're going to be renting out to an employee of yours and so I don't see how that benefits the town workforce housing as a whole," mayor Shari Pierce said.

Council Member Gary Williams added, "If you'd have just come and said I want 25 percent of the units to be workforce housing ... I think I'd still say no, because of the location, because of concerns of the neighbors, because of the mass of the building."

Pierce also expressed concern over an overabundance of studio apartments already on the rental market and the overall lack of diversity in workforce housing inventory.

"I'd rather add a unit that adds more diversity to that mix," she said.

"I personally am not in favor of trading density bonuses for off-site units. I think that's problematic. I've said that in the past, as a matter of principle, I think that's bad practice," council member Mat deGraaf said.

Pierce agreed, saying, "I don't feel like this request is meeting the spirit of the ordinance and I don't feel comfortable with allowing a density bonus in a different building."

The town's Design Review Board has already found the design plans for 232 Pagosa St. in noncompliance with the LUDC's codes regarding front setbacks and density.

Pierce thus expressed worry that allowing this density bonus would make it harder to meet the other condition on the setback.

She said that town staff had expressed concern that "an inclusion of this [density bonus] would be contributing to noncompliant project elements" at 232 Pagosa St.

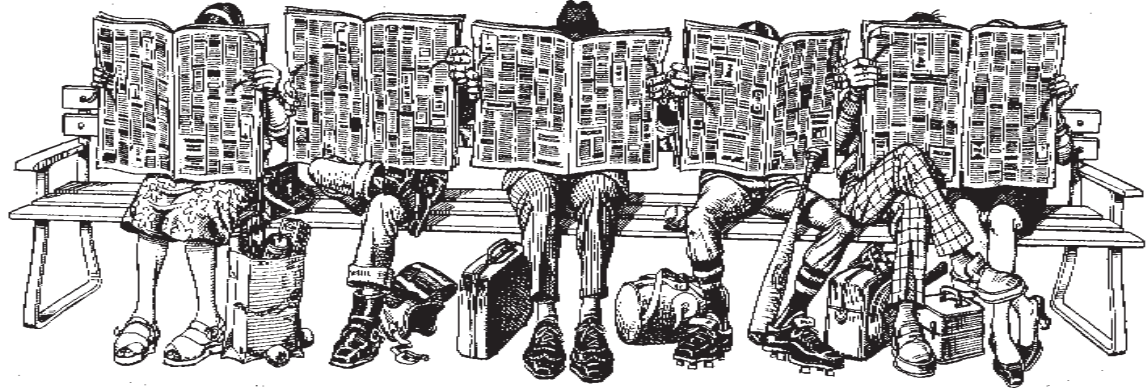
"I'm concerned about that front setback," she said, "so I don't want to approve something that might make some of those things harder to deal with" down the road.

During public comment, Kathy Keyes, co-owner of the Pagosa Baking Company, suggested she wanted to make clear that she supports workforce housing.

However, she said, "there is no workforce housing in this particular project."

■ See Density A9

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Plan

Continued from front
reducing losses from hazard events before they occur again."

The press release explains that the planning committee is now soliciting public comment on the plan before it

is finalized and submitted for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) review and approval.

The plan is available at <https://tinyurl.com/mrxnh5wu>.
The comment form is available at

<https://forms.office.com/r/NcwYujH9z>.

For more information, contact the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office's Office of Emergency Management at (970) 731-4799.

Sanitation

Continued from front
 “the PSSGID’s next most critical items in the sanitation collection system.”

Overall, the PSSGID operates and maintains five lift stations, which help move sewage from one elevation to another where gravity flow is not possible, according to the brief. These aid in the conveyance of wastewater, oftentimes uphill, to the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is managed by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

At the meeting, Phillips told the board that the main issue is that the pumps are not “holding prime.” She explained how these are “vacuum-primed pumps that are above ground. They are technical equipment that is pretty common in a lot of lift stations, but a lot of utilities are starting to move away from them because of the issues with the difficulty of keeping prime, which is required to keep the lift station functioning.”

Both lift stations in question are currently outfitted with USEMCO equipment, Phillips noted. In 2014, the town spent \$75,000 at the Chamber lift station alone to install this pump equipment, but, “unfortunately, the system has been experiencing issues ... and there have been various equipment failures and many callouts for staff to address ‘failure to prime’ issues,” according to the agenda brief.

Phillips explained that one of the two pumps at the Chamber station is currently out of commission and the other is seeing frequent failures to prime. She explained that staff has recommended replacing these pumps, but that the board should consider switching to submersible pumps from the current above-ground ones. “Submersible pumps would actually go down in the wet well,” she said. “There would be valves and other control pieces that would help with the management of that flow,” which could reduce continually needing to address ongoing priming issues. For the Apache station, town staff has already ordered a replacement pump from USEMCO and Phillips stated she hopes that it “will be here soon.” Phillips turned to Lucian Brewster, utilities supervisor for the district, for help explaining the benefits of the submersible pumps, which the district would purchase from the Water Technology Group, a company out of Denver. Brewster explained that the type of “concertor” pump that the staff is looking at “grinds up a lot of that debris that’s coming through,” which he noted is one of the existing problems, but that the most pressing issue, currently, with “these older pumps, is that they lose prime.” He told the board how labor intensive and time consuming it is for his staff to constantly be addressing the priming issues with these older pumps and that the “simplicity” of the newer submers-

ible pumps would alleviate some of these ongoing problems.

Brewster recommended the purchase of a Flygt Concertor pump. Phillips quoted the price at about \$53,000, but that a contractor would also need to be hired for the installation of the system. She estimated that the total cost could be “upwards of \$100,000, maybe a little bit more.”

“Due to the emergency nature of this, being down to one pump, and having constant callouts, we are asking to waive the competitive bid requirements,” and authorize staff to go ahead and purchase the submersible pumps, Phillips said. Board member Matt DeGuise asked about the geothermal intrusion mentioned in the agenda brief and if that could potentially pose a greater problem for submersible pumps.

Brewster replied, “No. It shouldn’t pose a threat immediately,” but over time “that buildup would cause problems, but we are addressing that issue as it stands now.”

“It seems like we’re still just hemorrhaging money into the system, and at what point are we going to say, ‘no more,’ and start focusing on a different tactic?” board member Madeline Bergon asked. Phillips replied that the lift stations are critical to keep the overall system “flowing,” and even if the long-term goal is to build a different kind of system, “we have to keep it” operational, “unless we

shut down businesses and users ... which I don’t think we want to do.”

“Yeah, I mean we need to still maintain our system as we figure out our next-steps,” Bergon said.

Mayor Shari Pierce mentioned that the district is looking at possibly “engaging a consultant” who could help the board look in a different direction.

When asked about how purchasing these new pumps would impact the budget, Phillips noted \$75,000 had already been budgeted for the Chamber lift station rebuild in 2023, but that it would probably be more in the range of \$100,000 to \$125,000.

Thus, the district would probably need to dip into some reserve funds, she explained.

However, \$150,000 was budgeted for a project behind 5th and 6th streets, “and we may delay that one” and consider moving some of those funds over to the lift station projects, she added.

Pierce thanked Brewster and his staff “for hanging in there. They’ve done some magic over the last few weeks to keep things going.”

Board member Mat deGraaf then motioned to authorize the staff to purchase the submersible pumps and engage a contractor for installation, waiving the competitive bid requirements “due to the state of this emergency.”

The motion was carried unanimously.

The next PSSGID meeting is scheduled for March 7. derek@pagosasun.com

Density

Continued from A8

Echoing the sentiments of other public commenters, she urged the council to deny the density bonus for 232 Pagosa St. and noted she hoped to “encourage a correctly sized building, which I really look forward to having there, something that is within the limits of the LUDC ... and isn’t pushing the envelope at every possible turn.”

Later, council member Madeline Bergon also expressed that “somewhere in this process something with this project has to give a little bit. I mean, we’re kind of pushing the envelope on a lot of differ-

ent fronts, and I’m also concerned that ... if it is approved, does that circumvent any of the conversation going back to setbacks, mass and landscaping?”

Dickhoff explained that any remaining LUDC discrepancies would still need to be addressed before the final design review, regardless of the council’s decision at the meeting.

Council member Jeff Posey wondered about the process and if this was something that should go back to the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission for further consideration.

Town Attorney Clay Buchner assured him that “the town council has vast discretion” on making final decisions on density bonus questions, and that there was “no major risk in making a determination” at the meeting.

Posey then made a motion to “remand” or send back the density bonus questions to the planning commission, but the motion failed to gain a second.

Rounding out the discussion on the issue, deGraaf made a motion to deny both density bonuses, for 232 and 262 Pagosa St. Council member Brooks Lind-

ner added, “I would like to see that we would be able to continue the discussion and ... potentially have a more creative solution to this.”

Pierce replied that, by denying the density bonus, “we are not saying that that can’t happen.”

A roll-call vote was taken, with Lindner and Bergon voting “nay.” The motion carried with the majority of the council, 5-2, and both density bonus requests were denied. derek@pagosasun.com

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Sports

WRESTLING

Seven Pirate wrestlers qualify for state at regional tournament

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Seven Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestlers will progress to the state tournament following the 3A Region 2 tournament on Feb. 10 and 11 in Glenwood Springs.

Among the wrestlers advancing are Colton Lucero in the 126-pound weight class, Luke Tressler in the 132-pound weight class, Chandler Mazur in the 150-pound weight class, Derek Carter in the 157-pound weight class, Heath Fulbright in the 175-pound weight class, Conner Kelley in the 190-pound weight class and Unified Division wrestler Samuel Kelly.

Athletes who place in the top four in the regional tournament advance to the state tournament.

Coach Dan Janowsky commented that he “felt very good about our efforts” at the regional tournament, adding, “I felt like we did wrestle the best we’ve wrestled all year.”

He highlighted the team’s ongoing improvements and refinements over the season as a key contributor to the success, as well as the athletes’ focus on giving their “best effort” to the matches and executing the plans the team had developed.

Anthony Manzanera, in the 106-pound weight class, went 3-2, pinning his opponent in the first championship round before being pinned in the quarterfinals. He then received a bye in the second consolation round and a pin in the third on his way to being beaten by a 5-2 decision in the consolation semifinals. He was also pinned in the fifth place match to take sixth overall.

Gabe Ramirez, in the 113-pound weight class, went 0-2 and was pinned in the first championship round, received a bye in the first consolation round and was pinned in the second round.

In the 120-pound weight class, Michael Thomas went 1-2, being pinned in the first championship round, achieving a pin in the first consolation round and being pinned again in the second consolation round.

Lucero went 2-1, receiving a bye in the first championship round and winning the quarterfinals with a 10-2 major decision. He then defeated his opponent in the semifinals in a 7-4 decision before being beaten 3-2 in the first-place match to take second place.

The coach highlighted Lucero’s performance in the semifinals, noting that his opponent was a state finalist the previous year and commenting that he wrestled with “poise and confidence.”

He also explained that Lucero and his opponent in the first-place match were tied 2-2 until his opponent achieved an escape with two seconds remaining to win the match and take first place.

Tressler went 3-1, receiving a bye in the first championship round and pinning his opponent in the quarterfinals before being defeated in a 15-0 technical fall in the semifinals. Tressler recovered, pinning



Photo courtesy Stacey Barker

Pirate wrestler Luke Tressler in the 132-pound weight class works to pin his opponent during the Colorado High School Activities Association 3A Region 2 tournament on Feb. 10 and 11. Tressler went 3-1 in the tournament and placed third, securing his place at the upcoming state tournament on Feb. 16, 17 and 18.

his opponents in the consolation semifinals and the third-place match to take third place.

Janowsky stated that Tressler faced a “really legitimately good” wrestler in the semifinals who had defeated him, but all his other matches were “very one-sided.”

Wyatt Hoover, in the 138-pound weight class, went 1-2 and was pinned in the first championship round, defeated his opponent with a 9-3 decision in the first consolation round and was pinned in the second.

Jacob Miller, in the 144-pound weight class, went 2-2, pinning his opponent in the first championship round before being defeated in a 9-5 decision in the quarterfinals. Miller won the second consolation round with a pin before being pinned in the third.

Mazur went 3-1, receiving a bye in the first championship round and defeating his opponent in the quarterfinals with a 12-0 major decision. He fell in the semifinals by a 3-2 decision before winning the third-place match with an 11-0 major decision to take third place.

Carter went 5-1, pinning his opponent in the first championship round before being pinned in the second. He pinned his opponent in the second consolation round and won by a 13-8 decision in the third before winning the consolation semifinals with a pin and the third-place match by a 4-3 decision to take third place.

Janowsky noted that Carter was an “unknown” earlier in the season and at the tournament, but won a series of matches with “smart

wrestling” to secure his place at the state tournament.

Harley Armijo, in the 165-pound weight class, went 4-3, winning the first championship round with a pin before losing the quarterfinal in a 9-8 decision. He then pinned his opponents in the second and third consolation rounds before being pinned in the consolation semifinals. Armijo pinned his opponent in the fifth-place match before losing the fourth-place match with a no-contest defeat.

Janowsky explained that Armijo is a junior and this is his first year of high school competition.

He commented that Armijo has made “tremendous strides” this season, but “just lacked a tiny little bit of savvy.”

Fulbright went 3-2, receiving a bye in the first championship round and achieving a pin in the quarterfinals. He then lost the semifinals with a medical forfeit and won the consolation semifinals with a 5-2 decision. He concluded the tournament by losing the third-place match with a medical forfeit and winning the fourth-place match with a no-contest victory.

Janowsky noted that Fulbright experienced a “fairly serious injury” in the semifinals match which led to him having to medically forfeit that match and another one in an effort to save him for the match he had to win to qualify for state.

“He adjusted his wrestling to accommodate some of his limitations and won a real gritty match to get ... to the state tournament,” Janowsky added.

Kelly went 3-1, winning the

quarterfinals with a pin and being pinned in the quarterfinals. He then won the consolation semifinals with a pin before winning the third-place match by a 7-4 decision to take third place.

Janowsky commented that Kelly’s third-place match was against an opponent he had been “rather soundly” beaten by earlier in the year and that Kelly had trailed in the match but had gotten a “really slick” inside trip takedown with 20 seconds remaining to take the lead and win.

Jesus Serratos, in the 215-pound weight class, went 0-2, being pinned in the first championship round before losing the first consolation round by a 7-2 decision.

In the 285-pound weight class Antonio Quesada went 0-2, receiving a bye in the first championship round before being pinned in the quarterfinals. He also received a bye in the second consolation round before being pinned in the third.

Janowsky commented that sending Kelly in Unified Division is “exciting,” adding, “Samuel has been in our room every day. He works extremely hard ... and I feel like his presence in our room is a positive for our team every day. ... For him to be able to have that experience of wrestling on the floor of the [Ball Arena] in front of a large crowd, which there will be for the semifinals, there’ll probably be 15,000 people there ... he’s certainly earned the right to do that. And he will represent our team and our program as well as anybody ever”

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SWIM



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Karis Blackman takes part in the 200-meter medley relay at last week's state meet. The team finished 23rd in the preliminaries.



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Ivanna Erne swims the 100-meter butterfly at last week's state meet in Thornton. Erne finished 28th in the preliminaries.



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Lynelle Bartz competes in the 100-meter backstroke at the state swimming meet. Bartz took 29th in the preliminaries.

Lady Pirates end season at 'amazing' state meet

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team capped off its season last week at the state meet in Thornton with five Lady Pirates competing.

"State was amazing!" coach Heather Miller wrote in an email to The SUN, highlighting the performances of the Pirate athletes.

The relay team of Lynelle Bartz, Karis Blackman, Emma Gantt and Ivanna Erne competed in the 200-meter medley relay, finishing 23rd in the preliminaries with a time of 2 minutes, 6.34 seconds.

"The 200 Medley Relay was able to drop more time, 2.82 seconds, with each swimmer having their best split times/individual times on that relay," Miller wrote. "The medley relay moved up 6 spots and nearly qualified to swim again on Saturday."

Erne finished 34th in the 50-meter freestyle preliminaries with a time of 27.60 seconds.

She also finished 28th in the 100-meter butterfly preliminaries with a time of 1:09.44.

"Ivanna Erne's individual swims were on par with her state qualifying times," Miller wrote. "She set some lofty goals for herself at this particular meet and did not achieve them; however, we were happy with her swims and pleased with her progress throughout this season."

Bartz, according to Miller, had a similar experience in the 100-meter backstroke.

Bartz took 29th in the preliminaries with a time of 1:09.93.

"She, basically, maintained her state qualifying time but did not drop any additional time," Miller wrote.

The relay team of Bartz, Gantt, Evelyn Rose and Blackman took 28th in the 200-meter freestyle relay preliminaries with a time of

"All of our state swimmers worked incredibly hard to fine tune their technique in order to compete at this level, and we couldn't be more proud of them for meeting this challenge."
Coach Heather Miller

1:59.48. Erne was originally slated to be part of the relay team.

"The 200 Free Relay, our final team event, was bittersweet," Miller wrote. "While we did have individual swimmers cut time and achieve personal best split times an injury kept one of our swimmers out of that event. Karis Blackman stepped in as an alternate and not only had a best time, but also contributed to the overall success of that swim with poise and 100%

effort."

Miller also notes she's proud of the swimmers and their hard work.

"All of our state swimmers worked incredibly hard to fine tune their technique in order to compete at this level, and we couldn't be more proud of them for meeting this challenge," she wrote.

Miller notes the team had "lofty" goals for the season and the coaches are proud of what the swimmers were able to achieve.

"After a trying 2021-2022 season where we spent more time traveling to pools than swimming in them, we had lofty goals for this season," she wrote. "It was great to be back at the PLPOA Rec Center, swimming four days a week. Our veteran varsity swimmers returned to the team and we gained several new swimmers. At Regionals many swimmers dropped time, some over 10 seconds, so we were very proud of that accomplishment. Most of our state times were garnered before our regional swim meet, which was a goal we set out to achieve and accomplished. Getting our 200 Free Relay to achieve a state time was one of our 'stretch' goals, which we achieved at Regionals. Ultimately, we are so proud of our swimmers and all they achieved this season."

She adds, "We are so very proud of all of the members of this team. Some pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones by simply joining an organized sport. Many thrived in competition. For some, this was the first time they competed at a varsity level, and they

rose to the occasion. We are excited for next season and beyond as we continue to grow this program."

She also wrote about the impact the team's six seniors had on the season and program, and the impact of their departures.

The seniors departing the team are Bartz, Rose, Gantt, Erne, Kali Jury and Baylee Rollins.

"We had six amazingly strong seniors on the team this year that will graduate and move on, so we recognize that next season will be one in which we have to rebuild," Miller wrote. "There are some promising underclassmen swimmers, and we are looking forward to honing that 'pool' of talent."

She adds, "Our attendance at State this year is directly related to the strength and leadership of our senior swimmers. Four of our seniors qualified for State and showed tremendous heart and leadership at this meet and throughout the season. Even the seniors who did not attend State contributed to the growth of our team and especially to the development of our younger swimmers. This has been one of our most successful years due largely in part to them, and there will be very large 'flippers' to fill in the upcoming 2023-2024 season."

randi@pagosasun.com

Wrestling

Continued from A10 has."

Janowsky explained that the Unified Division, which operates in cooperation with the Special Olympics, takes entries from high schools throughout the state and matches competitors with opponents of appropriate size and skill level.

Janowsky said of Kelly, "Anybody can wrestle, and that body and that mind can wrestle, trust me."

The coach noted that he believes none of the Pirate wrestlers

are "out of the conversation as far as getting a medal" at the state tournament, where the top six finishers in each weight class receive medals.

However, he stated that the team will be in an "underdog" position and will have to achieve some upset victories.

He added there are "a couple of guys" who he thinks are capable of placing in the top three or four or potentially higher, while the others are potential medal contenders.

To prepare for the state tourna-

ment the team would focus on refining essential skills and continuing to develop confidence.

The state wrestling tournament will occur at the Ball Arena in Denver on Feb. 16, 17 and 18.

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Community news.

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BASKETBALL

Pirates heading into final regular-season game with 17-4 record

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team improved to a 17-4 record over the last week and, with one game remaining in the regular season, sit as the No. 5 team in the 4A boys' basketball Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings.

The team picked up three wins over the last week as it wrapped up league play and took on Monte Vista in a nonleague game.

The Pirates picked up a 69-44 win over the Bayfield Wolverines Friday in Bayfield.

"We kind of went back and forth with 'em through three quarters," coach Wes Lewis said. "They're not a bad basketball team — I've said that all year long — and I feel like they're a lot better than their record indicates."

Lewis noted the game was close at halftime and the Pirates were able to create a little separation by the end of the third quarter.

"And then we had a really good night shooting, especially in the fourth quarter at Bayfield, and so kind of pulled away from 'em pretty significantly in the fourth," he said.

The Pirates picked up nine 3-pointers in the game.

"I thought our defense was pretty good," the coach said, adding the Pirates did a good job on their best player. "I thought in the early going ... we didn't rebound great. About halfway through the first quarter, though, it got a lot better and we started rebounding. And that's obviously big; when they miss you've got to limit them to one and done. You can't give them multiple opportunities every time down the floor. So, I thought it was kinda big; the more the night went the better I thought we started rebounding."

Gunner Dozier and Kayson Shahan each picked up 17 points, with Dozier logging a trio of 3-pointers and Shahan landing one. Dozier also had four rebounds, six assists and a block. Shahan also had eight rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Colt Lewis logged 14 points, which included four 3-pointers. He also had four assists and a steal.

Blake Laner tallied 10 points, seven rebounds, seven assists, a steal and two blocks.

Chase Harper had six points, including one 3-pointer, and had an assist and two steals.

Aaron Aucoin had five points, four rebounds and a steal.

Seth Aucoin had a rebound and an assist.

Pagosa made eight of 18 free-throw attempts.

The team turned the ball over nine times.

The next evening, the Pirates took on the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers in Pagosa for the team's final regular-season home game.

The Pirates outscored the Panthers in each of the first three quarters: 20-12, 20-18 and 22-14, respectively.

Both teams notched 17 points in the fourth quarter, leaving Pagosa with a 79-61 win.

"We had a nice night offensively," Wes Lewis said. "Defensively I thought we were pretty decent. ... I thought we played a pretty clean basketball game for the most part."

The Pirates landed 11 3-pointers in the game.

Laner had a double-double against the Panthers, logging 19 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Blake Laner fights for possession against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers Saturday during the team's final regular-season home game. Laner had a double-double in the game with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

a steal.

Shahan also had 19 points, helped by four 3-pointers. He also had nine rebounds, five assists, a steal and a block.

Colt Lewis logged 18 points, which included four 3-pointers, and had three rebounds, five assists and two steals.

"You get to this kind of time of the year, league's over, you've got a couple of nonleague games, everybody's kind of anticipating the playoffs and anxiously awaiting them. And so hopefully we can kind of regroup and regroup and regather and hopefully go play well against Del Norte and head into the postseason on a high note."

Coach Wes Lewis

Aaron Aucoin logged eight points, three rebounds and five assists.

Dozier picked up six points on a pair of 3-pointers. He also had two rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Seth Aucoin had five points, which included a 3-pointer. Chase Harper picked up four points, an assist and a steal.

Pagosa went 14-for-21 from the charity stripe.

The team turned the ball over 11

times.

With the win, the Pirates went 7-3 in league play on the season and finished third in the Intermountain League.

On Tuesday, the team traveled to Monte Vista to take on the 2A Monte Vista Panthers.

Pagosa outscored Monte Vista 9-5 in the first and 14-6 in the second to hold a 23-11 lead at halftime.

Monte Vista rallied for 14 points in the third while limiting Pagosa to eight, leaving Pagosa with a 31-25 score heading into the final period.

Pagosa outscored Monte Vista 10-7 in the fourth to log a 41-32 win.

"Monte's very patient and deliberate on offense, which I think is a credit to 'em," Wes Lewis said. "You don't see a lot of teams like that anymore. They're somewhat, in a way, similar to us. We want to run through offense until we get a really good look, and if that means eight or 10 passes, fine, and if that means two or three passes, that's OK too, as long as we're getting a good or a great shot. I thought Monte was very similar, very patient on offense. So, we found ourselves playing defense for ... extended periods of time. We weren't giving them any easy, good look, and they weren't in any kind of hurry to shoot it, so kind of a low-scoring game."

The coach added the felt Pagosa had a chance to "kind of bury 'em" in the third when the Pirates were up by 16, but the team had a couple of "miscues" and turnovers that let them "kind of hang around."

He added Monte Vista then hit a few 3-pointers in the third quarter and some other shots.

He added that Pagosa was OK in rebounding, but it seemed like Monte Vista was coming away with most of the 50/50 balls.

The team also tried to capitalize on a mismatch in the post.

"I thought we missed some pretty easy shots in the paint and then ...

we were 2-for-10 last night from beyond the arc," he said, adding the team's defense was "good enough to get the win."

Laner picked up 11 points, nine rebounds, an assist and two blocks in the game.

Dozier put up 10 points, which included a pair of 3-pointers. He also had a rebound and a steal.

Aaron Aucoin had eight points, four rebounds, three assists and a steal.

Shahan logged seven points, six rebounds, three assists and a steal.

Colt Lewis had four points and two assists.

Seth Aucoin had a point and a rebound, and Harper contributed an assist.

The Pirates made 13 of 21 free-throw attempts and turned the ball over 12 times.

The Monte Vista Pirates are now 9-7 on the season.

Wes Lewis added he hopes the team will refocus and re-energize now.

"You get to this kind of time of the year, league's over, you've got a couple of nonleague games, everybody's kind of anticipating the playoffs and anxiously awaiting them," he said. "And so hopefully we can kind of regroup and regather and hopefully go play well against Del Norte and head into the postseason on a high note."

On Friday, Feb. 17, the team will take on the 2A Tigers beginning at 7 p.m. in their final regular-season game.

The Tigers are 11-6 on the season and are the No. 16 team in the 2A RPI standings.

Wes Lewis noted the Tigers don't have a lot of size, but are quick and athletic.

He added they have a pretty good guard who shoots a lot of 3-pointers and is a pretty good player who does a lot of good things.

"We'll key on him defensively and make sure we try to keep him in check a little bit," he said.

He added it could come down to the team playing disciplined on defense, understanding their jobs and recognizing, being in good help positions and rebounding the basketball.

Postseason information will be posted on www.PagosaSUN.com when it is available.

300 wins

Last week's article about Wes Lewis reaching 300 wins left out a 10th playoff appearance.

The Lady Pirates, under the helm of Wes Lewis, made the Final Four in 2020 before the remainder of the state tournament was canceled due to COVID.

The SUN regrets the error.

Wes Lewis also thanked all those who put effort into celebrating his milestone, including Mary Rambo and his daughter Taylor, and those who reached out to congratulate him.

The 32-team bracket is anticipated to be released following Sunday's seeding meeting.

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Visiting Angels of SW Colorado Receives 2023 Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award



Visiting Angels announced today that it received the distinguished 2023 Best of Home Care – Leader in Experience Award from HCP, the leading firm in experience management for home care. The Leader in Experience Award is the highest recognition awarded by HCP and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Experience, Visiting Angels is now recognized among the top 10% of home care providers participating in the nationwide HCP Experience Management Program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angels' long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this

award, 10% of Visiting Angels' clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by HCP. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angels received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, and more. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from HCP, the Visiting Angels management team set goals to reach the highest level of Experience possible.

The Best of Home Care – Leader in Experience Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. HCP believes that by honoring these providers, families

looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

"At Home Care Pulse, our mission is to help home care businesses create an experience that goes beyond client and caregiver expectations," says Todd Austin, President of HCP. "When we see agencies like Visiting Angels of SW Colorado that have so effectively provided outstanding care and employment experiences, we know we're on the right track. This award allows them to show proof of quality to potential clients and caregivers."

To find out more about Visiting Angels' commitment to experience, please visit visitingangels.com or call 970-264-5991.

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BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates pick up trio of wins to extend streak

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball is riding a four-game win streak heading into the final days of the regular season.

With one game remaining on their regular-season schedule, the Lady Pirates hold a 9-13 record and, as of Wednesday, were the No. 20 team in the 4A girls' basketball Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) standings, which helps determine postseason seeding.

The postseason is scheduled to begin next week, with the 32-team bracket anticipated to be released following the seeding meetings that will take place Sunday.

To help the team get on a winning streak as the season winds down, the Lady Pirates picked up three wins over the last week.

On Friday, the Lady Pirates traveled to Bayfield to take on the Wolverines and returned home with a 37-18 win.

The Lady Pirates outscored the Wolverines in all four quarters: 7-3, 11-4, 11-9 and 8-2.

"Bayfield always gives us their best effort, especially at home and it is always a fun rivalry game," coach Sarah Osborn wrote in an email to The SUN. "I do want to give them credit, because they have improved a lot during this season. We took a lot of good shots and they just weren't falling that night. However, when that happens your defense needs to get the job done. We struggled early with our defensive effort, but turned it on late in the third quarter..."

Chantelle Caldwell picked up 15 points in the game, as well as nine rebounds.

Elizabeth Currier and Annie O'Donnell each had seven points. Currier's effort included a 3-pointer, and she also had a rebound, two assists and a steal. O'Donnell also had eight rebounds, an assist and a steal.

Karsyn Shahan and Daveyann Snarr each logged four points. Shahan had a 3-pointer, as well as five rebounds, an assist, three steals and two blocks. Snarr had two rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block.

Kylie Ketchum had a rebound, an assist and a steal. Vida Maes pulled down a rebound.

The Lady Pirates made half of their free-throw attempts, making five of 10.

The team had 17 turnovers. On Saturday, the Lady Pirates hosted the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers for their last regular-season home game.

The Lady Pirates jumped out to a 13-6 lead by the end of the first quarter, but were outscored 11-9 in the second to lead 22-17.

The Panthers briefly took the lead in the third, but the Pirates were able to outscore their visitors 11-10 in the quarter to take a 33-27 lead into the final quarter.

The Pirates broke away in the fourth, scoring 28 points while limiting Cortez to six, to log a 61-33 win.

"Our Cortez game played out very similar to our Bayfield game," Osborn wrote. "It was a close battle up until late in the third quarter. Cortez went up by one to lead for the first time in the game, and that was just the spark to get us going and wake us up. We ended with 28 points in the fourth quarter. Our two post players lead that game for us in points and rebounds."

O'Donnell had 17 points, which included a 3-pointer, as well as four rebounds, an assist and two steals.

Caldwell had a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds. She also had an assist and a steal.

Ketchum and Snarr each had 10 points. Ketchum's night included a 3-pointer, as well as four rebounds,



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Kylie Ketchum works to maintain possession against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Saturday. The Lady Pirates won 61-33.

two assists and two steals. Snarr also had two rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Currier had eight points, three rebounds and nine assists.

Maes and Shahan each had one point. Shahan also had four rebounds, two assists, three steals and a block.

Pagosa was 7-for-10 from the charity stripe on the night and turned the ball over 13 times.

The game was the final league affair for the Lady Pirates this season. The team ended league play with a 6-4 Intermountain League record, which puts them third in the league standings behind Centauri and Alamosa.

On Tuesday, the team traveled to Monte Vista to take on the 2A

Monte Vista Pirates, who were 10-5 on the season heading into the game.

Pagosa's Pirates held Monte Vista's scoreless in the first while scoring 15, and outscored their hosts 12-5 in the second to hold a 27-5 lead at halftime.

Each team scored eight in the third, and Pagosa outscored Monte Vista 8-3 in the fourth to secure the 43-16 win.

"Our team came out firing on all ends against Monte Vista," Osborn wrote. "They played a tough defensive game holding MV to 5 in one half and 16 points overall. They also shared the ball extremely well and never let the full court pressure get to them or change their game. They played well as a team and stayed

out of foul trouble. After Bayfield and Cortez we focused mainly on defense moving into the next week and they showed a huge improvement in that area of their game."

Ketchum led the team in scoring with 11 points, which included a 3-pointer. She also had four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Caldwell had nine points, two rebounds, three assists, two steals and two blocks.

Currier tallied eight points, three rebounds, five assists and two steals.

■ See Pirates A14

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Heavy snow comes to region, avalanche warning in effect

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Heavy snows have come again to Pagosa Country, with sites in Archuleta County receiving between 6.1 and 13.1 inches of snow in the storms between Tuesday, Feb. 14, and 11 a.m. on Feb. 15, according to the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network website.

Higher snowfall totals were concentrated in the northern and southern portions of the county, with the highest reported precipitation amount reported north of Pagosa Springs near Piedra Road.

A 6 a.m. Feb. 15 report from Wolf Creek Ski Area indicates that Wolf Creek had received 22 inches of snow in the previous 24 hours and 25 inches in the last week, bringing the midway snow depth to 101 inches and the year-to-date snowfall total to 275 inches.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Water and Climate Center's snowpack report, the Wolf Creek summit, at 11,000 feet of elevation, had 26.3 inches of snow water equivalent as of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The Wolf Creek summit was at 121 percent of the Feb. 15 snowpack median.

The San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins were at 134 percent of the Feb. 15 median in terms of snowpack.

Avalanches

According to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) website, the southern San Juan range, including Wolf Creek Pass, was at level four — high — in terms of avalanche danger, as of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The CAIC uses a scale of one through five to assess avalanche danger in regions around the state.

An avalanche warning is also in effect through 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16.

The CAIC website notes on the warning, "Expect very dangerous avalanche conditions from Tuesday evening through Thursday afternoon. You can very easily trigger

avalanches large enough to bury you and large avalanches may release spontaneously. Travel in backcountry avalanche terrain is not recommended."

The CAIC website comments in its forecast discussion dated Feb. 14 on the storm and snow conditions: "This storm began warm and cooled off as it progressed, leaving a 'right side up' scenario where warmer, denser snow fell at the beginning of the storm and got topped by lower-density snow afterwards. This is a favorable setup for the new snow to bond well with old surfaces and also helps prevent instabilities within the new snow. Southerly winds Tuesday night into Wednesday will make this new snow easily transported, drifting upper elevation slopes and helping to drive the rise in the danger to High (4 of 5) for much of the Southern Mountains Wednesday. Expect dangerous conditions after such a rapid change and that much new snow."

"Storm snow totals will be the primary driver behind the rise in avalanche danger on Wednesday."

"Beyond the new snow, there are two primary flavors to the avalanche concerns facing us in the Southern Mountains. In the deeper snowpack areas favored by holiday storms, such as Wolf Creek Pass, the La Plata Mountains, and to a lesser extent the areas in and west of the Highway 550 corridor, the snowpack is deep enough that early-season facets near the ground are very difficult to impact. While it remains possible that you can still impact these early-season facets in areas with thinner coverage or less of a midpack, the strengthening slab makes this layer hard to impact unless you hit a not-so-sweet spot where the slab thins. Avoiding common trigger points such as convexities and rocky areas continues to be a solid strategy to lower your risk of triggering one of these deeper layers. The more realistic concern in these areas is with the new snow, or with near-surface weak layers in the top two feet of the old snow. The storm storm snow falls on a variety of surfaces, from weak facets to

slick crusts. Many alpine northerly slopes had smooth, wind-pressed surfaces before the storm, while lower-elevation slopes and sunnier aspects developed melt freeze crusts this week. The weakest surfaces were found below tree line on northerly aspects, where warm days and cold nights formed large near-surface facets. The same near-surface faceting was seen on more protected upper-elevation slopes as well. This makes for a lot to consider, but with storm totals exceeding one foot in most places and two feet further South, new snow problems will be enough for you to use extreme caution. The snowpack is experiencing a rapid change. Giving it a day or two to adjust is always a good strategy with such quick adjustments. If you do venture into steeper terrain, pay close attention to the surface the new snow fell onto and be vigilant to re-evaluate when you change aspects."

Weather

The National Weather Service forecasts patchy fog before 9 a.m. and otherwise sunny conditions on Thursday Feb. 16, along with a high of 28 and calm winds rising to 5 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday night is predicted to bring mostly clear skies with a low of -8 and 5 mph winds.

For Friday, Feb. 17, the forecasted high is 42 degrees with mostly sunny skies. The forecasted low is 4 degrees with partly cloudy skies.

For Saturday, Feb. 18, mostly sunny skies are expected with a high of 42 degrees. The forecasted low is 8 degrees Saturday night with

partly cloudy skies and patchy fog between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.

For Sunday, Feb. 19, the forecasted high is 44 degrees with mostly sunny skies and a slight chance of snow after 11 a.m. The forecasted low is 12 degrees with mostly cloudy skies and a slight chance of snow showers.

River and water reports

Stream flow for the San Juan River at approximately 11 a.m. on Feb. 15 was 66.3 cubic feet per second (cfs), according to the U.S. Geological Service National Water Dashboard.

This reading is up slightly from last week's reading of 55.9 cfs at 11 a.m. on Feb. 8.

According to a Feb. 13 press release from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Manager Justin Ramsey, Lake Forest and Village Lake are full.

Lake Hatcher is 1 inch from full. Pagosa Lake is 4 inches from full. Stevens Lake is 3 inches from full.

Total diversion flows for the district are listed at 6.0 cfs.

The West Fork diversion flow is listed at 2 cfs and the Four Mile diversion flow is at 4 cfs.

Water production from Feb. 3 through Feb. 9 was listed at a total of 11.57 million gallons. The Snowball water plant contributed 2.73 million gallons, while the Hatcher plant contributed 8.84 million gallons.

The San Juan plant is closed for the season.

Last year, total water production was listed at 11.58 million gallons for those dates.

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Great Backyard Bird Count to kick off Friday

By Jean Zirnhelt
Weminuche Audubon Society

Friday is the first day of another important winter census of birds. The annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), held in the middle of February, documents how birds are doing before they set off on spring migrations.

Organizers, the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada, have made participating in the count fun and easy. Count birds in one place for as little as 15 minutes or as long as several hours anytime during the four days of the count, from Feb. 17 through 20, and enter your findings on eBird.org.

The use of eBird, an online platform for listing species and numbers of birds, allows people from all over the world to contribute to the data. You can participate from the comfort of your home or take a trip to a favorite outdoor spot to document what you find. Enter a new list whenever you change locations or time periods for your count. If you are new to eBird or to the GBBC, visit

birdcount.org for more information on how to set up your account. eBird is a great resource for finding out what birds people are seeing at locations in Archuleta County or at other worldwide locations.

Reports of alarming decreases in bird populations have made documenting numbers more important than ever if we are to understand the reasons for these declines. People just like you and I make tracking these trends possible. The hope is that understanding will result in actions that make the world a better place for all of us.

Whether you are new to bird identification or a seasoned pro, we invite you to join us on Saturday, Feb. 18, to see what birds we find in the Riverwalk area in town. Weather permitting, we will meet at the native plant garden near the domes on the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site at 9 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them. We love our furry friends, but please leave dogs at home. They don't make very good bird-watching buddies.



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Photo courtesy Beth Tollefsen

February 16, 2023

Dating Violence Awareness Month: Examining the 2022 Word of the Year

By John Finefrock
Rise Above Violence

Merriam-Webster's 2022 Word of the Year was "gaslighting," a term that's defined as "the act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one's own advantage" or "to manipulate someone by psychological means into questioning their own sanity."

At Rise Above Violence, gaslighting in intimate relationships is a form of coercive control we feel the community should know more about.

DomesticShelters.org references gaslighting as, "Psychological abuse so subtle, you may not even realize it's happening." Gaslighting can include a range of tactics including lying, distracting, minimizing, denying and blaming.

The term comes from a 1938 play and 1940 motion picture where an emotionally abusive husband attempts to trick his new wife into thinking that she's losing her mind. One tactic he uses is telling her that the gaslights in their home, which dim when he's in the attic, don't die down at all. Not only does he disrupt her environment and make her believe she is insane, but he also isolates, abuses and controls her, cutting her off from family and friends.

Additionally, before the couple attends a piano recital, the husband intentionally puts his pocket watch into his wife's purse, unbeknownst to her. During the performance, he whispers to his wife that he's lost his watch and looks into her purse, where he finds it, inferring that she purposely stole it. She storms out of the recital in a panic, thinking she must be out of her mind.

Note: Domestic violence happens to both men and women. One in four women and one in seven men will be victims of severe intimate partner violence in their lifetime, according to NCADV.org.

One survivor of domestic violence characterized

their experience with gaslighting like this: "It wasn't the loudest and scariest explosions that caused the most damage. It wasn't the physical violence or the verbal abuse or the lack of boundaries and inappropriate behavior. What did the real damage was the denial that these incidents ever occurred. The erasure of the abuse was worse than the abuse."

If you are experiencing gaslighting, here are some tips you can take to protect yourself. Things you might do include:

- Save the evidence. Because gaslighting can make you question yourself, do your best to preserve evidence and documentation of your experiences. Keep a journal, screenshot text conversations or keep emails so you can look back on them and remind yourself that you shouldn't doubt or question your own experience.
- Set boundaries. Make it clear to the other person that you won't allow the other person to engage in actions that trivialize or outright deny your experience.
- Get an outside perspective. Talk to a friend, family member, counselor or advocate about what you're going through. Having another person's perspective may help lift the fog about the reality of being gaslit.

People experiencing gaslighting may feel anxious, doubtful of themselves and literally crazy. Rise advocates understand this experience and can help you evaluate and overcome your circumstances. Gaslighting and other coercive controlling behaviors can severely undermine your self-esteem and question your mental health. Anyone experiencing this may find it helpful to reach out for help.

Rise is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides 24-hour support and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault or other forms of violence, serving around 400 victims each year. Rise also works to eliminate violence through education for youth and our community. All programs and services are

■ See Awareness on next page

Live Performers

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- Saturday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Ron and Susan, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Alley House Grille lounge: Bob Hemenger, 5:30 p.m.
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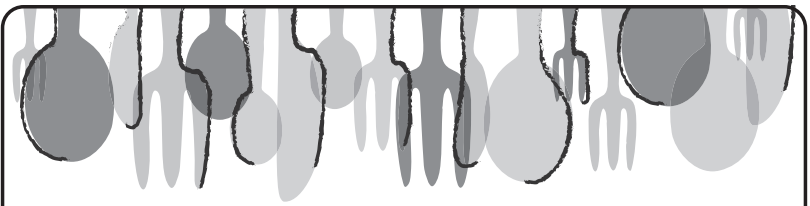
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Stats show your library continues to flourish, with 2022 a banner year

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Annually, at this time of year, Meg Wempe, library director, prepares an annual report for the library's board of trustees summarizing the highlights of the past year. The information also is used when your library applies for grants and it is required to be shared with state, county and town governments to keep them informed.

Here are details about your library's 2022 operations. They show your library continues to flourish and 2022 was a banner year. You can pick up the infographic version of this report at the library.

- **Collection development:** Providing our patrons with materials that are current and relevant to the diverse interests of the community is one of our principal goals. We have 27,216 items in our collection. In 2022 we added 3,025 items, up .66 percent, including 205 from donations worth \$3,475. The materials budget is 11.7 percent of our total expenses.

- **Usage stats:** We checked out 89,447 physical items, an increase of 5.8 percent over 2021. As well, patrons downloaded 9,816 items — 5,601 e-books and 3,796 e-audio books. We welcomed 21,846 website visits, up an impressive 26.7 percent from last year, and handled 10,184 computer uses, also up more than 26 percent over 2021.

- **Programming:** Providing programs for all ages is a very high priority. In 2022 we hosted 550 programs with 4,739 attendees, up 10 percent over last year. Examples of popular programs: 19 adults attended our GED program, 42 adults were helped in our monthly legal clinic, 172 attended English as a second language (ESL) classes and 292 took advantage of our Tech Time sessions.

- **Volunteers:** We are very fortunate to have the ongoing support of the community. Our volunteers contributed 1,575 hours valued at \$49,628, up 1.5 hours over the year before.

- **Resource sharing:** AspenCat allows our patrons access not only to the 27,216 items in our collection, but also to 1.6 million items in the other AspenCat libraries. The Colorado Library Consortium

Library News

courier service provides five-times-a-week delivery to subscribing

libraries throughout the state. In 2022 we borrowed 9,913 items and loaned 2,358. By taking advantage of the purchasing power of the State Library and Colorado Library Consortium, we subscribed to multiple educational databases including EBSCOHost, Learning Express and the Encyclopedia

■ See Library on next page

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Awareness

■ continued from previous page
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Library

■ continued from previous page

Britannica at substantial savings. You can access these electronic resources and more by clicking on “Online Resources” on our website.

“Since the height of COVID, we have enjoyed a return of patrons as we learn to live with the pandemic,” Wempe said. “With an increased number of patrons, we had increased computer use, website visits, programs and more. We look forward to what 2022 holds, and hope to see you soon at your library.”

Library closure

Your library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents Day.

Flu season protocols

The curbside service that we began for COVID safety continues — and it’s also a healthful option in the cold and flu season. To save your energy and lessen germ exposure to other patrons, we recommend you use our curbside service — or add a name to your account authorizing that person to pick up items for you while you recuperate.

Online author talk today

There will be two more talks this month in our free online virtual series featuring New York Times bestselling authors and thought leaders giving live, professionally moderated book discussions you can view on your computer, tablet or smartphone with Internet access. You will have an opportunity to ask questions of the authors.

Today, Thursday, Feb. 16, at 11 a.m. showcases Grace M. Cho, author of “Tastes Like War,” a Korean American daughter’s exploration of food and family history in order to understand her mother’s schizophrenia.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m., we’ll interact with Sadeqa Johnson, award-winning author of “The House of Eve.” Johnson has written four novels and is the recipient of the National Book Club Award, the Phillis Wheatley Award and the USA Best Book Award for best

fiction.

Gaming tomorrow

Enjoy free all-ages video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 17, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Makerspace on Saturday

Kids, tweens and teens are invited to a free Makerspace session on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to noon, when we’ll provide the materials so you can build, design and create.

Pokemon on Saturday

If you love Pokemon, this club is for you. Bring your cards to a fun free all-ages event on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., when you can play games with others who feel the same way.

Adult DIY next Tuesday

At the free in-person adult DIY next Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 1 to 2 p.m., we invite you to make your own draft stopper. It is a handy device to keep you warm if you have a draft at the bottom of a door or window that you would like repaired. As always, we’ll supply the materials.

Therapy dog visit next Wednesday

Next Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 11 to 11:45 p.m., you are invited to come to the library for a free visit with a certified therapy dog. The visits will be limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say “Hi.” This activity is for all ages.

Knowledge Bowl next Thursday

Our second free Knowledge Bowl is next Thursday, Feb. 23, from 4 to 5 p.m. for tweens and teens. Participants form teams of up to six people to compete against each other by answering questions that cover a range of topics from math to spelling to pop culture. Knowledge Bowl will run every second and fourth Thursday for the remainder of the school year. It is open to students in grades four through eight, or ages 11-14.

Homework and tutoring help

Our highly popular free homework assistance and elementary tutoring are available for those in kindergarten through fourth grade on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. There is a registration packet for parents and guardians to fill out to enroll your child that you can get by emailing the library or coming in. This program has been a big hit because it helps build essential skills in core subjects. You still can register your child, but you may be put on a wait list.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for free in-person children’s stories, games, and plenty of reasons to get up and move.

ESL classes

■ See Library on next page

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Tuesday, February 21
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Library

■ continued from previous page

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners and 5 to 7 p.m. for both intermediate and advanced students. Please help us spread the word about these classes to others in our community who would be interested, and contact us by phone or email if you have any questions.

Nonfiction

“Spare” by Prince Harry is a memoir of his life as a child, adult and especially since he married Meghan and left the Royal Family. “On Savage Shores” by Caroline Dodds Pennock uses surviving literature and poetry to tell the story of indigenous Americans who discovered Europe. “The Bill of Obligations” by Richard Haass introduces 10 commitments Americans should make to save our democracy.

Large print

“Devil’s Delight” by M.C. Beaton with R.W. Green is an Agatha Raisin mystery. “Hell and Back” by Craig Johnson is a Walt Longmire mystery.

Mysteries and thrillers

“The House in the Pines” by Ana Reyes features a young woman

testing her memory about a best friend’s death. “All the Dark Places” by Terri Parlato begins with a party celebrating a man’s 40th birthday. “Code 6” by James Grippando is set in the world of Big Data.

Other novels

“The Night Travelers” by Armando Lucas Correa follows four generations of mixed-race women going back to Berlin 1931. “The Daughter of Doctor Moreau” by Silvia Moreno Garcia is an historical sci-fi story set in 19th century Mexico.

DVDs

John Wayne westerns, part of the Silver Screen Icons collection, contains four films. “House of the Dragon” is set 200 years before the events of “Game of Thrones.” “Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom” is the PBS film.

Books on CD

“The Cabinet of Dr. Leng” by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child is a thriller featuring FBI Special Agent Pendergast and Constance Greene. “The Other Eden” by Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Harding tells of a prejudiced schoolteacher who disrupts the lives of a diverse group of people by trying to educate their children.

“Without a Trace” by Danielle Steel features a man with the opportunity to walk away anonymously after an accident. “Dark One: Forgotten” by Brandon Sanderson and Dan Wells is book one of a new true-crime fantasy series. “Recovery Road” by Christine Feehan is the latest in the Torpedo Ink motorcycle club series.

Donations

Many thanks to Susan and Terry Arrington for their generous monetary donation and to Medora Bass and our anonymous donors for their materials donations.

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not through the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

Quotable quote

“You are never too old to reinvent yourself.” — Steve Harvey, TV host, actor and comedian.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.

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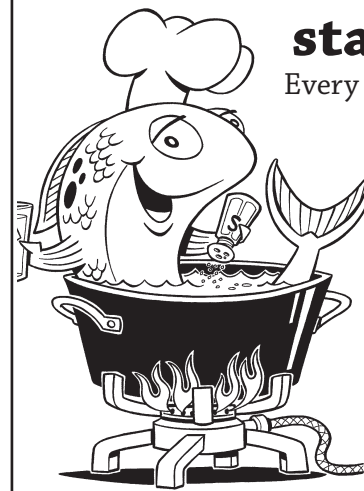
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Senior Center launches ‘Sweetheart Deal Buy a Senior a Meal and More’ campaign

By **Rose Chavez**
PREVIEW Columnist

Through the month of February and throughout 2023, the Pagosa Senior Center is working to bring in donations to support services for seniors.

The campaign, “A Sweetheart Deal, Buy a Senior a Meal and More” makes it possible for community members to directly support and donate hot nutritious meals and more for local seniors in Archuleta County.

In addition to a nutrition center, the Senior Center serves as a community hub where food and other resources/supports are available to help seniors stay independent, active, engaged in our community and living in their homes.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) delivers the following to support senior wellness, health and quality of life:

Meals and supplemental nutrition:

- 25,000 fresh and nutritious meals (salad, entrée, dessert, beverage) are provided annually, available five days per week via drive-thru carryout, delivery (Meals on Wheels) and onsite dining.

Senior News

- 15 percent of all meals are provided to caregivers who also are age 60 or better.

- Menu planning and a commitment to high nutrition ensure that those with special dietary requirements — including cultural preferences and religious requirements — generally are accommodated (heritage foods are regularly integrated and vegetarian foods are readily available, etc.).

- A mobile food pantry service, tailored to the needs of homebound seniors, provides for those living in outlying areas of the region served.

Social connection activities — educational, other resources and referrals:

- Afternoon on-site and off-site social, service and future field trip activities, including games, discussion groups on sports or movies, yoga and stretching, etc. are provided, benefiting an average

of 15 individuals per activity via an average of 2.5 activities per month.

- Educational workshops and presentations — e.g., healthy habits, VITA tax support, financial literacy, fall prevention — benefit an average 15 individuals per activity via in-person and remote educational offerings/month.

- Informed and comprehensive referrals to other community organizations provide for assistance through a variety of services, materials/resources and other supports.

Isolation prevention and caregiver supports:

- Residents of congregate housing for individuals of low-income utilize walkable access to and delivery service of meals.

- An average 20 local individuals benefit each month from on-demand transportation to and from the Senior Center for meals, and social and educational programming.

- Typically, 35-40 individuals are visited daily (five days per week) by Meals on Wheels, which includes an at-home wellness check.

- Electronic monitoring devices (hardware, subscription service) for 24/7 assurance are provided for

■ See Senior on next page

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It is with immense sadness that I must announce that Summer Phillips Goldsmith is closed forever.



26 years of designing and repairing jewelry for my clients brought me great joy and many of you became friends.

If any of you have left anything you value with me, please call or text 970-946-3061 between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m.

Pagosa is my forever home. I am not going anywhere and I look forward to seeing you around town.

*Sincerely and with joy,
Summer Phillips Pierce*

Summer Phillips
Goldsmith
Custom Jewelry

*Yesterday is history,
tomorrow is a mystery,
today is a “present”.*



Senior

■ continued from previous page

15 individuals annually.

• Caregivers have access to informational/educational materials specific to their needs (e.g. meals, future counseling services).

All meals have a suggested donation of \$10, with social events and educational offerings provided at no/low cost. For more information about our services, please contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Seasonal free art class

The next free art class at the Senior Center will be Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 1:15 p.m.

No reservations are required, but space is limited, so be sure to be there by 1:15 p.m. We will be making a piece of art that reflects all the symbols and colors we love about St. Patrick's Day. No art skill is required for this class, just a desire to have fun and make something creative. All materials will be provided, including the scissors, paper, glue and watercolors.

Yes, we are going to learn just a few basics about watercolors and why they are such special paints. Templates will be provided to trace and cut out the symbols of St. Patrick's Day, or you can draw your own. All ages are invited, so find a friend and bring them along.

Our teacher will be Denise Fisk, who is a retired elementary art teacher from Iowa. She loves sharing art techniques with her classes.

So, come to the Senior Center with a friend and see your success in creating your own work of art.

New group: senior conversations

Join us Feb. 27 at 9:30 a.m. for a first in a series of senior conversations with local Bill Salmansohn. He will lead the group through a mindfulness exercise and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

Volunteer coordinator sought for Growing Dome program

The Senior Center is looking for volunteers to assist with our new growing dome program. These individual(s) will be responsible for helping to coordinate volunteer opportunities at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership Community Garden Dome on a twice-monthly basis. The program is new and will partner with other growing dome participants for group activities and opportunities.

For more information and to pick up an application, please visit us at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

COVID-19 test kits available

Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a pack of six free COVID-19 tests for your personal use. These kits are available to anyone in the public that needs affordable access for health promotion and disease prevention.

Text reservations

Text us at (970) 264-2167. Don't forget that we also offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are calling to cancel a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dining-in meal reservations, Grab-n-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

Mobile food pantry service available for seniors

The Senior Center would like

■ See Senior on next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

to remind the community about our mobile food pantry services we provide in partnership with Archuleta County MET to seniors age 60 and older throughout most areas of Archuleta County.

In order to participate in this program, community members must visit with Barbara Noriega at the Senior Center, located in the Ross Aragon Community Center, to fill out an application to qualify for the mobile pantry service.

The application, called the dining assessment form, is also available on our website at the bottom of the Community Cafe page: <http://www.psseniors.org/community-cafeacute.html>. For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair. Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, we help with parts A, B and D. We can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call our Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext 4.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. We have eliminated Monday bridge due to lack of consistent participation and will be replacing it with different programming.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Engaging pictures

Engaging pictures are needed from seniors and their families who live, work and play their best lives in Archuleta County. We are looking for pictures that convey people's active lifestyles, families, culture and more. We would like to use these pictures in our grant applications, on social media and our website. Please email all pictures to rosa@psseniors.org or feel free to drop them off.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, Feb. 16 — Beef cottage pie with roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, bread pudding and milk.

Friday, Feb. 17 — Vegetarian tempeh chili with cornbread and honey, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, Feb. 20 — Closed for Presidents Day.

Tuesday Feb. 21 — Barbecue chicken, sweet corn, baked beans, garden salad, fruit, milk and chocolate cake.

Wednesday, Feb. 22 — Meatballs and marinara with hoagie roll, green beans with bacon, garden salad, fruit, milk and chocolate macadamia nut cookie.

Thursday, Feb. 23 — Singapore coffee barbecue pork ribs with rice, sauteed squash, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Feb. 24 — Chicken Dijon with glazed carrots and dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, milk and banana pudding.

Grab-N-Go meals

Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$10 helps to sustain our program. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Requesting donations

ASI has an immediate monetary need to support ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County. Please consider donating.

You may mail your donation to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs CO 81147 or please visit our website: <http://www.psseniors.org/>. Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc. We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.



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MLS 797666 • \$445,000



367 Hollow Drive
3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2.2 acres, newly remodeled, granite counter tops, no HOA, cul-de-sac, wood stove
MLS 800141 • \$373,000



117 Ute Drive
1.01 acres, Aspen Springs 4, flat, treed lot with mountain views
MLS 797349 • \$39,500



Under Contract
44 Tee Court
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MLS 796486 • \$479,000



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Visiting Angels of SW Colorado Receives 2023 Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award



Visiting Angels announced today that it received the distinguished 2023 Best of Home Care – Leader in Experience Award from HCP, the leading firm in experience management for home care. The Leader in Experience Award is the highest recognition awarded by HCP and is given to select home care businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Experience, Visiting Angels is now recognized among the top 10% of home care providers participating in the nationwide HCP Experience Management Program.

This accomplishment demonstrates Visiting Angels' long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this

award, 10% of Visiting Angels' clients and caregivers were interviewed each month by HCP. Over a 12-month period, Visiting Angels received high client and caregiver satisfaction ratings in areas such as caregiver training, compassion of caregivers, communication, scheduling, client/caregiver compatibility, and more. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from HCP, the Visiting Angels management team set goals to reach the highest level of Experience possible.

The Best of Home Care – Leader in Experience Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. HCP believes that by honoring these providers, families

looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

"At Home Care Pulse, our mission is to help home care businesses create an experience that goes beyond client and caregiver expectations," says Todd Austin, President of HCP. "When we see agencies like Visiting Angels of SW Colorado that have so effectively provided outstanding care and employment experiences, we know we're on the right track. This award allows them to show proof of quality to potential clients and caregivers."

To find out more about Visiting Angels' commitment to experience, please visit visitingangels.com or call 970-264-5991.

Slowing down through devotion: Catholic community announces Stations of the Cross

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Catholic Community

When running the race of life, the best gift we can give ourselves, our family and our community is to slow down. Slowing down does not mean giving up or becoming complacent.

The goal of slowing down is to reflect on one's priorities and shut off the chatter of the world that distracts us. The goal of Christians is to ensure that our time in this world is leading us toward Heaven.

In anticipation of Easter, which will be celebrated on April 9, many western Christians are mindfully slowing down by participating in the prayerful devotion of the Stations of the Cross. The stations refer to a series of 14 key moments in the trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ.

Often known as the "Way of Sorrows" or the "Way of the Cross," this popular devotion is generally held seven consecutive Fridays during Lent, ending on Good Friday, which is the Friday before Easter. The stations are a powerful experience that includes prayer, meditation and song.

This time-honored devotion evolved as an imitation of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, which is a pilgrimage that symbolizes the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. At the end of the 17th century, to allow those unable to journey to the Holy Land to participate, pictorial stations were erected within churches around the world.

For more than 1,000 years the Catholic church has honored this pilgrimage, which is also practiced by many other western Christian churches, including Anglican, Methodist and Lutheran. Whether done as a faith community or individually, (even though there are some differences between the denominations), the objective of the stations is to guide Christians on a spiritual pilgrimage through reflection of the Passion of Christ.

For those seeking to slow down through devotion and spiritually prepare for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter, you are invited to join the Pagosa Catholic Community at one of two locations that will be leading the Stations of the Cross.

Stations will be held every Friday at 4 p.m. from Feb. 24-March

31 at Pope John Paul II Church located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd., and every Wednesday at 4 p.m. (rosary followed by stations) from Feb. 22-March 29 at Immaculate Heart of Mary located at 451 Lewis St.

For more information, call the Pope John Paul II Church at (970) 731-5744.

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Easter Season Services

Following are the Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter services that were submitted to The PREVIEW. Events may be submitted to editor@pagosasun.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Ash Wednesday Service. Noon, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership amphitheater. The Rev. Wren Blessing will lead an Ash Wednesday service. All are welcome.

The Stations of the Cross. 4 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary, 451 Lewis St. For more information, call (970) 731-5744.

Ash Wednesday Service. 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. The Rev. Wren Blessing will lead an Ash Wednesday service. All are welcome.

www.PagosaSUN.com

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the Canada goose.

It is hard to believe that there was a time when these birds almost disappeared from North America. Now the word ubiquitous best describes their distribution and population explosion across the United States. A long black neck and white cheek patch are distinctive features of Canada geese. The smaller cackling goose has a similar appearance, but their necks are short and bills are stubby.

At one time, most Canada geese populations were migratory and their V-shaped flocks flying overhead symbolized wilderness and the changing of seasons. Though there are still millions of these large birds that migrate long distances to and from arctic breeding grounds, resident populations that stay year-round in urban areas are increasingly common.

With our manicured, fertilized lawns, golf courses and ponds, we have created the ideal landscapes for these tundra nesters to adapt to city life. Canada geese are one of the few birds that can digest grass, and short grass lawns provide them with the open view they need to detect predators. Mowing grass to the water's edge is like erecting a welcome sign to these birds.

Pairs mate for life and remain together all year. They tend to return to the same nesting sites near water each year, driving intruders away in noisy, splashing fights. In our area, females are incubating eggs by April with the male standing guard nearby.

Goslings, which hatch during May, are able to swim and feed themselves within the first day, but may remain with their parents for a year. In late summer, adult geese shed all of their flight feathers at once and are grounded and quiet for three to five weeks.

With each goose producing a pound of droppings per day, they have become unwelcome guests in our yards and parks. Making our lawns less attractive with longer, poorly fertilized and less tasty grass is one way not to invite them in.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



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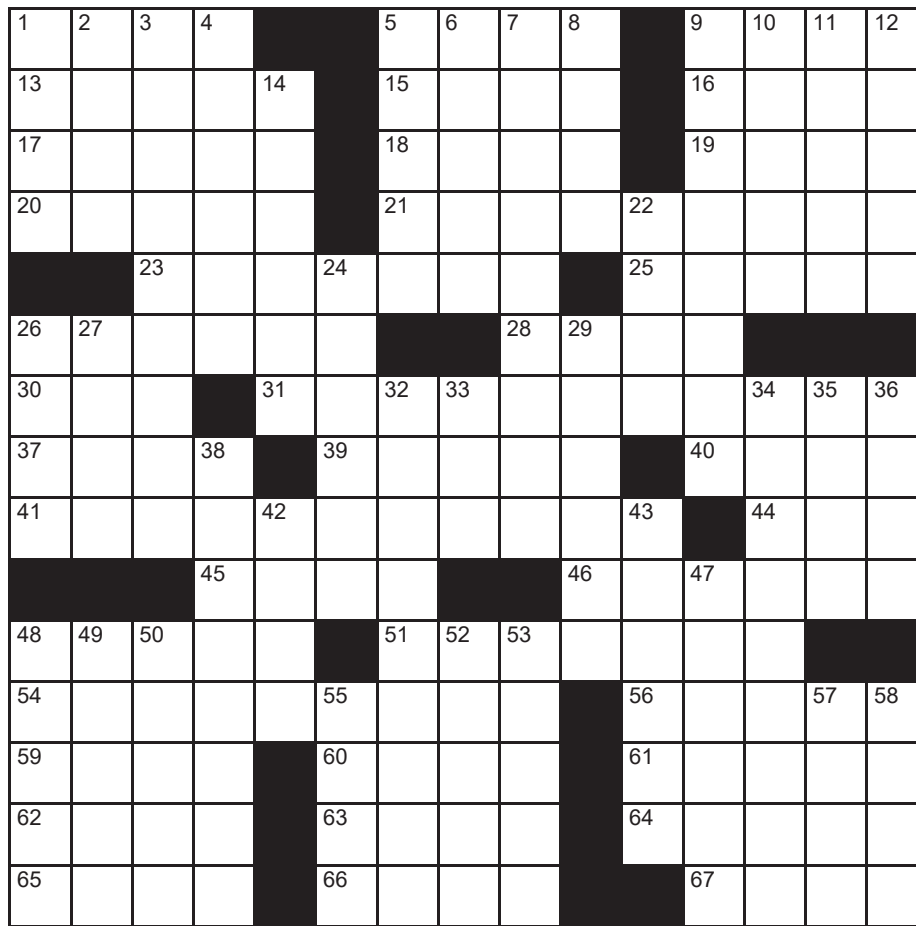
by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Part of GMAT
- 5 Gridiron play
- 9 Call's companion
- 13 Some nerve
- 15 Chills and fever
- 16 Astronaut Shepard
- 17 Belt size, basically
- 18 Measuring instrument (var.)
- 19 Roman 57
- 20 Like some angles
- 21 Rented pad
- 23 Less of a mess
- 25 Valentine's gift
- 26 Toward the rudder
- 28 Coffin stand
- 30 Serengeti grazer
- 31 Idle monitor's display
- 37 Dumbo's are jumbo
- 39 "___ Johnny!"
- 40 In person
- 41 Dashboard dial
- 44 Old Navy's parent, with "The"
- 45 Hard to come by
- 46 Vegas attraction
- 48 Less of a risk
- 51 Kind of law
- 54 Platter holder
- 56 Horse's hangout
- 59 Notion
- 60 Dick Van Patten's "Mama" role
- 61 Bert's buddy
- 62 Told a tall tale
- 63 Birch or beech
- 64 Axes
- 65 Rich supply
- 66 "___ It Romantic?"
- 67 Amanda of "Brockmire"

DOWN

- 1 Caesar's garb



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- 2 Sony label
- 3 Framework
- 4 Dot above the i
- 5 Heathen
- 6 Open-mouthed
- 7 Sweet vegetable
- 8 Palmist, e.g.
- 9 Royal castle in Scotland
- 10 Keebler's crew
- 11 Duvall's "Secondhand Lions" co-star
- 12 Makes a scarf, say
- 14 Toasting word
- 22 Uno, dos, ___
- 24 Newsroom VIP
- 26 Many moons
- 27 Button alternative
- 29 Ladybug, for one
- 32 Brings to mind
- 33 Before of yore
- 34 Watchfulness
- 35 2007 movie, "___ Almighty"
- 36 Bank take-back
- 38 Woo with a tune
- 42 Old Dodge model
- 43 Pay increases
- 47 Persian governor
- 48 Movie photo
- 49 Part of a TV signal
- 50 Liberated
- 52 Type of wrench
- 53 Odometer button
- 55 Start to freeze?
- 57 Take a shine to
- 58 In the event that

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Subscribe to The SUN

New Thought topic: ‘Sourcing Love from Within’

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for
Inspirational Living

The Feb. 19 Sunday service at 11 a.m. with Stephanie Morrow will be “Sourcing Love from Within: Remembering You are a Miracle. Messages from the Heart.”

“The Desire to reach for the Stars is ambitious. The Desire to reach Hearts is wise.” — Maya Angelou.

Upcoming events

SpiritHeart Band practice is Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. We welcome musicians and singers to join SpiritHeart band. Please text Bruce at (970) 507-0739 for band information.

Feb. 16 and every other Thursday at 1 p.m.: “Into Your Genius,” a Bob Proctor and Mary Morrissey six-week study group with Shayla White Eagle. Learn how to activate parts of your mind that are unused to higher capacities — intuition, the will, imagination, memory, perception and reason.

Class can be attended at the New Thought Center or by phone. Contact (970) 510-0309 for more information.

March 11, 5 to 8 p.m.: Academy Awards red carpet evening benefit. There will be a silent auction, appe-

tizers, cash bar and a best-dressed contest. Vote for the favorite movie, actor, actress. Music will be by the Bruce Wayne Rock and Country Band with Ron Lowe. Tickets are on sale for \$40, or \$75 for couples.

Library

The Aspin Inspiration Memorial Library is a collection of spiritual books. We welcome you to sign out/view our books, by appointment.

About us

The New Thought Center promotes philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. We honor all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine. The vision of the New Thought Center is to empower possibility through revelation of spiritual truth, and to enhance our members’ life experience through self-empowerment, inner peace and being part of an inclusive community. Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through awareness of a higher power. We are the “Good Vibe Tribe” that practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contrib-

ute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought) or YouTube (Pagosa New Thought Center for Inspirational Living).



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Pagosa Unitarian Universalists to hear ‘Siding with Love’

By Joan Ward
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

With Valentine’s Day in mind, please join us on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 10:30 a.m., in person or on Zoom to hear the message “Siding with Love.” Joan Ward will be reading the sermon by the Rev. Lisa Friedman.

Friedman discusses how moments of decision to side with love happen all the time. Those moments “remind us that the decisions we make in our day-to-day lives do make a difference. They point out the ongoing choices we make between standing uncomfortably on the sidelines of our messy world, unsure of what to do and acting deliberately in small but concrete ways to help create a kinder, more compassionate reality.”

Friedman continues, “They return us to the powerful truth that in critical times it is possible to stand on the side of love and, in the mystic’s words, to help its mighty power to surge upward and surmount every obstacle by defending, supporting, and advocating for each other as if we all were equals in our humanity.”

Friedman is the developmental minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka in Wayzata, Minn.

Ward is a service leader and a member of the steering committee.

Side with Love is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love’s power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Visit <https://side-withlove.org/> for more information.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8991941305>; meeting ID: 899 194 1305; call in to (346) 248 7799.

Depending on the current COVID recommendations, please be prepared to wear a well-fitting mask, if deemed necessary, while in the

building. Social distancing will be encouraged and, to that end, the maximum capacity of the fellowship has been reduced to 25, a very good reason for arriving a few minutes early.

Our fellowship offers each individual support in their unique spiritual path and an opportunity to participate in positive social and environmental action. We welcome diversity and invite everyone to share in our faith community.

Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the mountains. For more information about the fellowship, our services and the meditation group, please see the website www.pagosauu.org. If the service is canceled due to weather conditions, it will be announced on the website by 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

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United Women in Faith offers faith, fun and fellowship

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith (UWF) is a nondenominational, faith-based organization that focuses on service, education and Christian community for women around the world. The local group meets in the library of the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The motto of the group is “Love in action can change the world.” The primary mission of UWF is to empower the lives of children, youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-

based programs.

The Pagosa Springs chapter helps many local nonprofits with their hands, hearts and dollars. UWF supports international schools and ministries in 34 countries, as well as 90 charitable organizations across the United States. Some of our local funding supports two major regional organizations. McCurdy Ministries Community Center in Española, N.M., provides preschool, counseling, summer camps and youth programs to low-income children. New Beginnings in Farmington, N.M., provides transitional housing for survivors and families of domestic violence, offering a safe

living environment for women and children for up to a year.

The February program, “Embodying Spirituality,” will provide resources and tools to prepare for the Lenten season which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. Refreshments will be served.

If you are looking for a lively, welcoming group of women dedicated to Christian service, please join us. UWF offers two meeting options: a daytime group meeting on the first Friday of every month at 10 a.m., and the evening group on third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Sarah Riehm at sarah.riehm@gmail.com.

Online workshop announced for caregivers of those with memory loss

By Maritza Luzanilla

Rural Dementia Caregiver Project

Millions of rural caregivers provide crucial support to family members or friends living with memory loss and dementia. These same caregivers often feel stressed and isolated. An online workshop may help them.

The University of California, San Francisco is conducting a study of a new online caregiver workshop. The project is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Caregivers may qualify if they:

- Live in a rural area.
- Care for someone with memory loss.
- Are 18 years of age or older.
- Provide care for at least 10 hours per week.

Caregivers who participate in the study of the workshop will be asked to complete four surveys on their caregiving experiences and will receive up to \$80 in cash for doing so.

What does the online workshop offer?

The workshop is accessible to rural caregivers whenever they want it, day or night. It teaches caregivers new skills to reduce their stress, take better care of themselves, manage challenging behaviors of their care partners and plan for the future. Caregivers also get a workbook to keep, support from other caregivers and information on community resources.

How can caregivers and others learn more?

Interested caregivers can go to

caregiverproject.ucsf.edu or call the toll-free number (833) 634-0603 to get more information. Organizations that work in rural communities or have contact with caregivers can use that same contact information.

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Heather Nobles, PA-C

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In the doghouse this time

By Michael J. Marx
PREVIEW Columnist

My name is Nugget and I'm a sled dog. Sometimes we can't wait to get going. My sled-dog partners and I are all hooked up to the sled and the humans are just talking. Humans do that a lot — talk, talk, talk.

The Writers' Circle

For sled dogs, it's run, run, run. I get impatient and I start chewing on something. A neck line. A tug line. This time it was the gang line. This was really bad, because when I chewed through it, the four dogs in front of me were unattached. Eager to go, they took off down the trail — without me.

"Stop," the guests in the sled yelled. That ain't gonna happen. Sled dogs run. Unabated, they will run until something stops them, like a moose or a pack of wolves. They were running out of control, reckless and without regard for anything but speed. This is particularly dangerous because one of them could trip and turn upside down. The others might not stop. The topsy-turvy dog could get seriously injured like this.

Well, the quick-thinking musher jumped on the snowmobile and caught the renegade dogs. Phew. Saved. By the time she came back to me, I knew I was in the doghouse.

She picked up the end of the frayed gang line and shoved it at my nose.

"Nugget! No. No! Bad dog."

Ouch. "Bad dog" is the absolute worst thing to hear. I hung my head in shame. Maybe I can learn to curb my urges. Maybe I can learn to stay calm and be patient. That's hard when all I want is to run. It's not about me. I have to do what's best for the team. I have to learn to be still when required.

Paws to consider:

Are you able to be still?

Can you be patient?

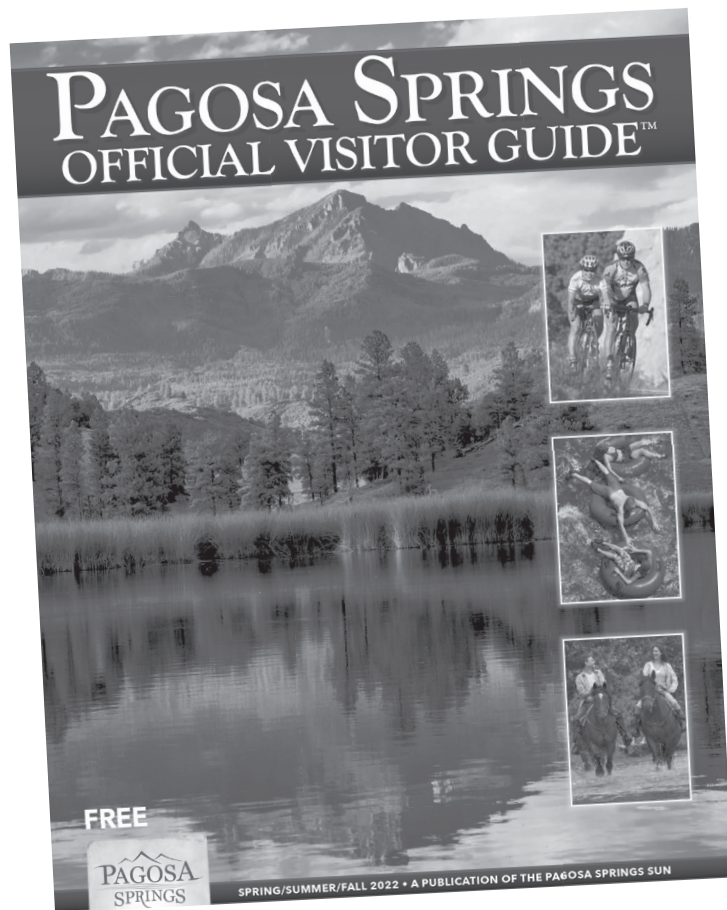
Can you be calm?

Can you be willing to wait?

Can you be ready to go and stand still at the same time?

About Nugget: Nugget is a white furred Alaskan husky with one bent ear. She loves to pull with her sister, Poke. They were named after

■ See Circle on next page



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30,000 copies of the award-winning **Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide™** will be printed and distributed at Walmart, The Springs Resort, Wyndham, Pagosa Springs Area Visitor Center, The Choke Cherry Tree, many other area establishments, and welcome centers throughout Colorado. The

guide will be mailed in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN to subscribers. A digitally enhanced version of the guide will be online at **PagosaSUN.com** and **ExplorePagosa.com**. The Pagosa Area Tourism Board will provide a link to this guide on visitpagosasprings.com.

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Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, Feb. 16

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Note: Until further notice, takeout will be available across the street from the Parish Hall at the Methodist Church. Serving Brunswick stew, bread and dessert to go. In addition, frozen prepared meals, meat and other staples are available for those in need. Masks and social distancing are required.

Online Author Talks: Grace M. Cho. 11 a.m. We will gather virtually with Grace M. Cho, author of "Tastes Like War," a Korean American daughter's exploration of food and family history in order to understand her mother's schizophrenia. Virtual series featuring New York Times bestselling authors and thought-leaders giving live, professionally moderated book discussions you can view on your computer, tablet or smartphone with Internet access. You also have an opportunity to ask questions. Go to <https://pagosalibrary.org/adult-services/> to learn more.

Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center. Come alone or bring a partner.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. We are happy to help you resolve your basic technology questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices. We can also provide in-depth assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate and

advanced students from 5-7 p.m.
PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Friday, Feb. 17

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Gaming. 3-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

San Juan Stargazers Deep Sky Event. 6 p.m., Meadows West viewing house. To get directions, please call (720) 626-9304. At all star parties, you can bring your own telescope or use one of the club's. When we are at someone's house and it is really cold we can spend more time inside the warm house and just go outside briefly to locate and view. See www.sanjuanstargazers.org for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 18

Makerspace. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Build, design and create.

Pokemon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Do you love Pokemon? Bring your cards and meet with others who feel the same and play some games.

Sunday, Feb. 19

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m. Concessions and cash prizes. No outside food or drink.

Monday, Feb. 20

Medicare Mondays. For anyone who needs help navigating Medicare plans, fraud concerns and/or troubleshooting issues that they

may be having. By appointment only. Please call our Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext. 4. Someone will return phone messages within 24 hours.

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community

■ See Calendar on next page

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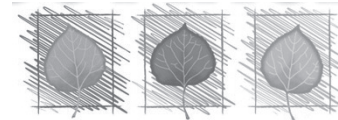
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Circle

■ continued from previous page
a gold mining theme. She has run in the Alaskan interior, the Herbert Glacier and now the San Juan Mountains of Colorado.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

DEMPSTER FINE ART
at the Springs Resort Lodge

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. If you have not attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

San Juan Back Country Horsemen Meeting. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Potluck at 6 p.m. followed by a speaker presentation at 7 p.m. Our speaker this month will be Greg Wells, a local favorite and farrier. Any questions, call Annie at (210) 215-9566.

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Beginner lessons, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Loaner paddles are available.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. Open to all.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. We are happy to help you resolve your basic technology questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices. We can also provide in-depth assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits,

vets news and community-focused events. We welcome your participation in fundraisers to benefit fellow vets. You served once, join us in continuing that service. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Pagosa Duplicate Bridge. 12:30 p.m., PLPOA clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Duplicate players new and experienced are welcome. We are now members of the Durango Bridge Club and play ACBL-sanctioned games with computer-dealt hands for maximum review options. Please email names of playing pair to pagosaduplicate@gmail.com or call (970) 946-6454 for more information.

Seasonal Free Art Class. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No reservations are required, but space is limited, so be sure to be there by 1:15 p.m. Our teacher will be Denise Fisk. We will be making a piece of art that reflects all the symbols and colors we love about St. Patrick's Day. No art skill is required for this class, just a desire to have fun and make something creative. All materials will be provided.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
Pickleball. 1:30-4 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Adult DIY: Draft Stopper. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. We invite you to make your own draft stopper. It is a handy device to keep you warm if you have a draft at the bottom of a door or window that you would like repaired. As always, the library will supply the materials.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning

students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate and advanced students from 5-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

2 Corinthians 5:7

Walking

What is the best exercise? The safest and best exercise is walking, swimming is a close second.

People with higher levels of fitness may choose a more strenuous exercise (such as skiing or snowshoeing!).

Start slowly with what you can do. How fast you go isn't the most important thing. What counts is the total distance covered and the duration of the activity. Some people must start with only 5 minutes at a time several times a day.

If you want to be thin and feel good, get in shape. Put your best foot forward, begin to walk your way out of extra weight and keep young for a lifetime!

There are so many winter activities available to all of us who are blessed to live in Pagosa Springs, but walking is the first step to your health!!!

(It is always good to check with your doctor before starting any new physical activity).



What Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

#6 of 28: “Creation: God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made “the heaven and the earth” and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was “very good,” declaring the glory of God.”

“The heavens declare the glory of God: And the firmament shows His handiwork.”

Psalms 19:1

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

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5	\$6,425
6	\$7,311
7	\$7,477
8	\$7,644
For each additional person over 8	add \$166

For application assistance, call 970-264-8511.

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page** help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Beginner lessons, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Loaner paddles are available.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. All ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11-11:45 a.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Visit with a certified therapy dog. The visits will be limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say "Hi."

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Build essential skills in core subjects. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Pipe and Drum Lessons. 5:15-5:45, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Jim Dorian and Paul Elliot, both experienced Scottish bagpipers, are happy to teach the art of piping free of charge. Contact Jim Dorian at (970) 749-2129 for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 23

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Note: Until further notice, takeout will be available across the street from the Parish Hall at the Methodist Church. Serving burgers, chips and dessert to go. In addition, frozen prepared meals, meat and other staples are available for those in need. Masks and social distancing are required.

Bridge. 1 p.m., Senior Center. Come alone or bring a partner.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. We are happy to help you resolve your basic technology questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices. We can also provide in-depth assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Knowledge Bowl. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Test your trivia skills in a wide range of subjects. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate and advanced students from 5-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

San Juan Stargazers: James Webb Space Telescope. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. This is not just for club members, but we are inviting all of Pagosa as a family activity with students and their parents. It will be amazing and fun. We will include information about the object and its significance. See www.sanjuanstargazers.org for

■ **See Calendar on page 19**

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ALPHABETICAL
- BINDING
- BOOKS
- BORROW
- CAMPUS
- CARD
- CATALOG
- CHECKOUT
- COMPUTERS
- GENRE
- LEARNING
- LIBRARIAN
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 17
more information.

Friday, Feb. 24

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Who We Play For Heart Screening Event. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School. Free for eighth-grade students. Register online at whoweplayfor.org/heart-screening-registration-other-screenings or in person at the event. For more information, visit www.whoweplayfor.org.

Gaming. 3-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 25

VITA Tax Volunteers to Assist with Senior Tax Returns. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Senior Center. VITA tax volunteers will be coming to prepare seniors' (age 55 or better) 2022 tax returns for free. Appointments are available but limited and will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must have income of \$60,000 or less. Must bring all documents in order for us to complete the return. Must have ID in

form of driver's license plus social security card (or copy) or a 1099 SSA form. Please contact us at (970) 264-2167 to check availability for appointments.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids ages 6 and up. Build with us. Call (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Boy Scout Troop 807 Fundraising Dinner. 5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church. Anyone interested in attending is asked to RSVP to (970) 946-8687.

Curtains Up Pagosa February Follies. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Contact Dale Scrivener at director.curtainsup@gmail.com for more information.

Monday, Feb. 27

Medicare Mondays. For anyone who needs help navigating Medicare plans, fraud concerns and/or troubleshooting issues that they may be having. By appointment only. Please call our Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext. 4. Someone will return phone messages within 24 hours.

Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m.,

PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. If you have not attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Senior Conversations: Aging in Place. 9:30 a.m., Senior Center. The first in a series of with local Bill Salmansohn. He will lead the group through a mindfulness exercise and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in place in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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Recipe of the Month: Hearty Colorado Goulash

By Robin Young and the Colorado Department of Agriculture
PREVIEW Columnist

Winter is in full swing and, though welcome, the brisk temperatures and frequent snowstorms are making us feel a little chilled. Not to worry; the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Colorado Proud has you covered to keep you warm with this classic, "Hearty Colorado Goulash."

This comforting and easy one-pot meal is a medley of carbs, protein, fats and fiber that will feed you for days.

The history of goulash is a long one, dating back to agriculture in ninth century Hungary. Originally eaten by Magyar shepherds, the stew would be made before shepherds set out with their flocks. It was prepared as a portable stock of food by slowly cooking cut-up meats with onions and other flavorings until the liquids had been absorbed. The stew was then dried in the sun and packed into bags made of sheep stomachs. At mealtime, water was added to a portion of the meat to reconstitute it into a soup or stew (Britannica). For our 21st century purposes, let's substitute the sheep stomach for a stock pot and add some new, delicious flavors.

Our goulash features the robust addition of Colorado beef, which is a great source of 10 essential nutrients that support a heart-healthy lifestyle including protein, zinc, iron and B vitamins, according to the Colorado Beef Council. Look for the Colorado Proud logo at your local butcher shop or on packaging in the supermarket. Or, check out the Colorado Beef's Directory to

Extension Viewpoints

find a rancher near you. And while we suggest peppers and onions for this recipe — as they are particularly tasty and easy to find during the winter months — you can add just about any of your favorite Colorado Proud produce or spices to enhance the flavors.

Each month, the Colorado Department of Agriculture features a different ag commodity to highlight the variety and quality of products grown and raised in the state. For February, Chef Jason Morse brings us roasted Colorado beef, vegetables and pork.

"Enjoy Hearty Colorado Goulash as another satisfying and filling way to create an old favorite. Happy cooking!" Morse said.

Hearty Colorado Goulash

Recipe by Chef Jason K. Morse, C.E.C.

Yield: Serves 6 people

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons of bacon fat
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced small
- 2 cloves of minced or crushed garlic
- 1 large green bell pepper, diced small
- 2 pounds of Colorado ground beef, 80/20 fat
- 2 15-ounce cans of tomato

- sauce
- 2 15-ounce cans of petite diced tomatoes
- 4 cups of beef stock
- 4 tablespoons of Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons of kosher or maldon salt (adjust as needed)
- 2 tablespoons of fresh ground black pepper (adjust as needed)
- 2-4 tablespoons of smoked, sweet paprika
- 2 bay leaves, broken in half
- 3 cups of uncooked elbow pasta, mezze rigatoni or trottolo

Directions:
Wash all tools prior to use.
Clean and sanitize all cutting boards and prep surfaces prior to use.

Read all manufacturer's instructions before using grills, starters and any cooking tools.

Cooking Instructions:
Add bacon fat and heat for 30 seconds.

Add onions and peppers and saute for 3 minutes.

Add garlic and sauté for 1 minute.

Add ground beef and cook until

■ See Viewpoints on next page

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Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page 3/4 browned.

Add tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, stock, Worcestershire sauce and seasonings.

Stir to combine and bring to a simmer (about 6-8 minutes).

Adjust seasoning if needed.

Add pasta and stir in to combine.

Simmer for 15-20 minutes or until pasta is cooked to your desired doneness.

Scoop into bowls and serve with sliced bread.

Visit ColoradoProud.org for more ideas and a complete list of recipes. — Colorado Department of Agriculture.

4-H soup fundraiser

4-H members are taking orders now for Frontier Soups. These dried soup mixes are a great time saver, all are gluten-free and are delicious. With flavors like chicken and rice, tortilla soup, corn chowder and more, it's easy to support Archuleta County 4-H. Soup mixes are \$10 each and will arrive around the beginning of March. Find a local 4-H member today or call the office to have one sent your way.

Upcoming events

Please visit our Facebook page

and website to register for the following events.

March 2 — Livestock and Forage Growers Online Update. A Western Slope outlook.

March 11 — Landowners workshop. Extension building, 9 a.m. to noon.

March 18 — Seed Class and Swap, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered monthly by the CSU Extension office, generally on the second Monday and Wednesday of each month from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 246-5931 to register.

Visit online

Visit us on the Web at <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/> or like us on Facebook and get more information: <https://www.facebook.com/CSUARCHCTY> and <https://www.facebook.com/ArchuletaCounty4H>.

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Negotiating with a moose

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

We live a couple of miles from the river and a couple of miles in the other direction from land run by the Bureau of Land Management. Between the two, the deer and antelope roam. Well, not so much the antelope, but lots of moose. Our place is a favorite stopover for moose who like to help us harvest our apples. I don't mind too much since we usually have extra to share. But sometimes they decide it is all theirs and don't want to share with us. That is kind of what happened this week.

On Friday, I needed to be at work early. I had an annual interview with my supervisor, and I had a few final things to prepare. But when I came out to drive to work, there was a moose sleeping under the pine tree by the driver's side of my pickup.

I thought I'd move slowly and carefully and try not to bother him. No such luck. The minute I moved toward the door of my pickup, he jumped to his feet and whirled to face me. He lowered his ears, and I knew it was time to retreat. I moved to the other side of the pickup and thought I would climb through from the passenger side. Then I remembered that door didn't open from the outside.

I couldn't just take the day off when I had an important meeting. I decided it was time to negotiate. For my part, I started yelling at him and waving my arms, trying to look big and scary. I hoped that for his side of the exchange, he would leave. Negotiations are never one-sided, and his proposal was that he would chase me and that I would be the one to go. He won that round because of his strong position and bad disposition, and as he came after me, I dashed back to the house.

I got my shotgun, but not wanting to hurt him too much, I retrieved some rubber bullets that the Department of Fish and Game gave me for such purposes. I loaded one in the gun and put a

second one in my pocket. I walked toward the moose, stopping at a safe distance. He looked at me like he dared me to come any closer. I fired off my first negotiating shell. He looked stunned for a minute, like he couldn't believe I would do that. I quickly loaded the second round.

Negotiations are never one-sided, and his proposal was that he would chase me and that I would be the one to go. He won that round because of his strong position and bad disposition, and as he came after me, I dashed back to the house.

He again proposed to chase me and have me run. I fired the second shell, and once more, I had to concede to his superior bargaining position. He chased me all the way back to my house, stopping at the stairs leading onto our porch.

I ran inside and slammed the door, not sure if he was going to follow me in. I was now sure I was going to be late for my meeting, so I grabbed a couple more bargaining shells. I opened the door, but not too much. He was only about 10 feet from me. I aimed toward his back end so I wouldn't hit anything vital, and I fired.

At that proximity, my bargaining chips had more force than they had from the distance I had kept between us previously. I saw a puff of fur that then fell to the ground. It was about the same amount as when my older brother decided to give me a haircut when I was 3 and he was 5.

The moose finally accepted the strength of my argument, turned, and trotted away. He didn't run too fast. He seemed to want to ensure I knew that he would be back for another meeting if I ever let my guard down. And speaking of meetings, I hurried to my pickup and barely made it to my interview in time.

As for the moose, he set up camp away from the pine tree by my pickup and instead made his home at my old milking shed. I can live with that. He can stay there and eat all the apples he can dig out of the snow, as long as he doesn't chase anyone else in our neighborhood.

After all, the best negotiations occur when both sides are willing to compromise a little.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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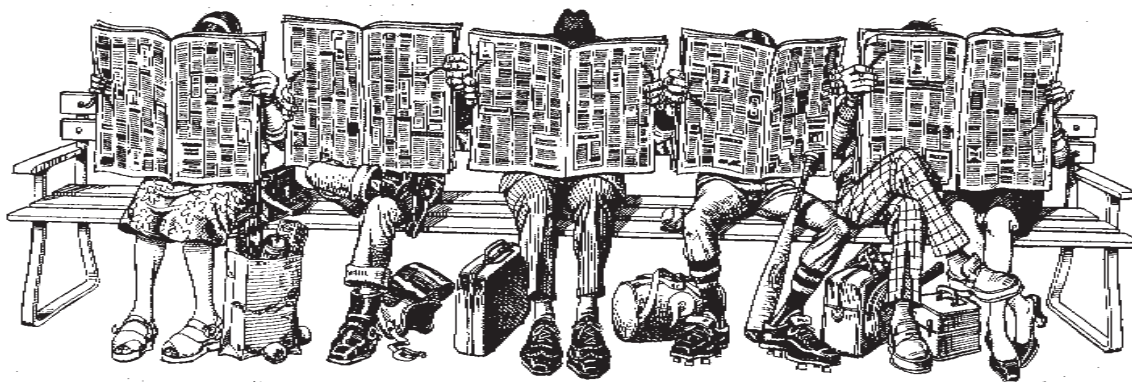


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RED: Hi, my name is Red. I am an (approximately) 10-year-old male Husky. I am a senior dog so I am very laid back. I love to lay in the sun and enjoy the cool mountain air. I do have some spunk left in me and sometimes like to play, but I am mostly a very chill dog. I am on medication that I will need the rest of my life, but no big deal, right? If I might fit into your life, please come visit me at the Humane Society or call (970)731-4771 for more info.

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BORIS: Hi, my name is Boris and I am a 3-month-old domestic long hair kitty. I may be shy at first, but absolutely love attention and to play and snuggle. I get along great with all of my feline friends! Come visit us at the Humane Society or call (970)731-4771 for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 23, 2023. Distribution of the guide will begin in April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Sunday 10a.m., ID 858 319 763, password 754 234, 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Information, call Marcia (970)946-8475, Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

FREE ISRAELI FOLKDANCE CLASS at Ross Aragon Community Center every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. Ages 13 and up. Come in comfortable clothes. No experience necessary. Call Kim at (970)946-7285 or Jasmine at (276)730-4408.

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-Anon Family Group, Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING at Big Mountain Realty. Wednesdays, 6-7p.m. For more information, contact Jimmy at (512)696-5545.

NEXT STEP ACADEMY PRESENTS: Find your dreams restored and ignite your passion! Join us for the NEXT STEP in your personal journey. Classes start March 8- 4 weeks. Call BJ (970)507-0132, Kim (970)946-7285.

SERVICES

TREE REMOVAL. Licensed and insured up to \$2 million. Free estimates. No obligations. Call OR text (970)903 8068.

CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE. Framing, drywall, painting, siding, and more. Quick, dependable and available. (970)844-4140.

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METAL ROOF REPAIR, TIGHTENING or replacing. Chimney cleaning, chimney repair. Replacement or new chimney installs. Call (970)731-4585 office, or (970)946-1275.

ROOF REPAIR, INSPECTIONS, TIGHTENING, replacement and more. Contact Mint Roofing at (970)426-5255.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM DRIVEWAYS, roofs, walkways. Tractor with blower and truck with plow. Call now for scheduling. (970)946-2061.

AFFORDABLE KITCHENS, proudly doing business in Pagosa Springs since 2000. Cabinets, counter tops and installation. Please call (970)749-4335. Mike Barr, owner-operator.

EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR HOUSE painting and staining. Kitchens, bathrooms, decks, granite countertops and more. Call Josh Soniat (970)903-5892.

WELDER- 20 YEARS PIPE and structural certified, guaranteed work, custom fabrication, handrails, gates, repairs, fully equipped mobile welding rig ready to bring the shop to you. Call Sean (970)946-0385.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE checks, providing snow removal, landscaping, handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

BAZ THE HANDYMAN PAGOSA Springs is your one stop shop for wide range of home maintenance and repair solutions. Just call Baz (480)433-1776.

KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow, (719)849-8873.

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PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC. Group of high standard cleaners, reliable, trustworthy and affordable. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

SNOW REMOVAL. TRACTOR AND BLOWER. Driveways, commercial and residential. Call (970)759-1563.

RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 23, 2023. Distribution of the guide will begin in April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

REDMAN RENOVATIONS IS AN LLC in Pagosa that specializes in finish carpentry. Bathrooms, kitchens, plumbing, electrical, flooring, siding, paint, tile and more. Call or text Nolan at (970)946-0050.

HOME REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS: Decks. Masonry. Tile. Carpentry. Painting. Drywall. Plaster. Adobe. Rocket mass heaters. More! Honest, well experienced craftsman. David, (970)264-4923.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

GOLDEN APPLIANCE SERVICE, Pagosa Springs. We service all residential major brands, appliance repairs. (480)433-1776.

QUALITY MOUNTAIN WORKS! Experienced in many areas! HOME REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS. Exterior/ interior painting, decks, flooring, EXCAVATION/ HAULING, dump trailer for hire, fencing, and more!! Call Dustin (970)585-4091.

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SKID STEER EXCAVATOR, DUMP trailer for hire. Driveways, foundations, gravel, etc. Call Josh Soniat (970)903-5892.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/ sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/ operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted.

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HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Healing sessions in the hot springs! Chiropractic/ craniosacral and acupuncture. Serving Pagosa over 27 years. Dr. Dean Sanna and Amanda. (970)844-0645.

HELP WANTED

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

DENTAL HYGIENIST: San Juan Dental is seeking a caring and compassionate dental hygienist to join our team. Please email resume to drericmsmithdds@aol.com or stop by our wonderful office and meet the team. (970)264-9436.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME FRONT DESK POSITIONS – Healing Waters Resort & Spa. Our front desk is open 8am to 10pm daily - shifts may include day, evening & weekend hours. We are looking for staff members with strong customer service skills, who are self-motivated and work well with a team. Comfort with computers a plus. Download application at www.pshotsprings.com/contact-spa-motel/employment-opportunities/ or stop by 317 Hot Springs Blvd. Employees and immediate family soak for FREE! Apply today!

CDOT IS HIRING. Colorado Department of Transportation is hiring temporary highway maintenance specialists in Archuleta County. Temporary positions are 9 months or less; salary is \$23/ hour; Colorado Class A or B Commercial Drivers License is required. CDOT is an EEO employer. Apply at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado>.

CNA CLASS STARTING SOON. Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Competitive wages and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

BOOTJACK RANCH IS SEEKING a full-time, dedicated and trustworthy Housekeeper to join our growing company. Attention to detail and able to work as a team is essential. The right person has strong communicational and organizational skills, and is eager to learn. Salary is based on experience. Please call (970)264-7284 for more information.

HELP WANTED PART-TIME or full-time, at Pagosa Bar and Silver Dollar Liquor Store. Must be able to work weekends and nights. Apply at Silver Dollar Liquor Store.

JOIN OUR NEWSPAPER TEAM at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Successful candidate will be answering phones, helping customers, assisting with production of newspaper and more. Good work ethic, accuracy and ability to meet deadlines important. Excellent customer service skills necessary. Knowledge of Mac computers and Adobe InDesign is helpful. Must type a minimum of 40 words per minute, be able to lift 50 pounds and stand for long periods of time. Newspaper experience not required. 30-34 hours per week. \$16-\$17 to start. Email resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com. Successful applicants will be contacted for interview. No phone calls please.

HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS AVAILABLE full time. Flexible schedules and competitive wages. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr.

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual for telephone and counter sales. Knowledge of building materials is a plus. Responsibilities include:

- Answering inbound phone calls
- Customer service
- Stocking
- Data Entry

This is a full time position, which offers Profit Sharing, 401(k), medical/dental, vision and immediate Paid Time Off.

For more information, please call: (970) 731-4111 or apply in person at 2435 Eagle Dr.



Do you love shoes?

Foot Prints is hiring a part-time Sales Associate for Saturdays. Day shift only. Opportunity to cover other shifts as needed.

Come pick up an application at 458 Pagosa Street.

We can't wait to meet you!

(970) 264-3668
FootPrintsPagosa.com

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. **Primary responsibilities:** Greeting and checking in customers. Advising customers on the best product for their needs and preferences. Processing payments through a point-of-sale system and cash handling. Ensuring product security and compliance. Maintaining store appearance and organization. **Required qualifications:** Outstanding customer service and communication skills; strong organizational skills and attention to detail; reliable and professional; full-time availability and ability to work nights and weekends. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Previous retail, food service, and/or cannabis industry experience is preferred but not required. We provide an extensive training program on product knowledge and compliance requirements, with opportunities for continuing education. Benefits include paid sick leave, sales bonuses, and employee discounts. We are growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please e-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ FRONT DESK needed for diverse office. Must be MS Office proficient with strong business writing and communication skills, able to multi task, organized, and detailed. Tech savvy a plus. Please send resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING:

Terry's Colorado Home Supply & Ace Hardware is accepting applications to join our **Management Team.**

We are looking for reliable, motivated, team-oriented leaders that enjoy working with people in a fast-paced environment.

Full time benefits include paid time-off, healthcare, profit share, discounts, and more!

Starting at \$20 per hour dependent upon experience.

Must be able to work weekends and holidays.

Please apply in person Monday-Friday; applications available on www.terrysace.com



NOW HIRING

Full-time, year-round and seasonal **MULTIPLE POSITIONS** starting at \$17 per hour, dependent on experience.

Benefits include discounts, paid time off, profit sharing and more!
Weekends and holidays required.

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!

Apply in person.

Applications available on www.terrysace.com



ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED for established construction company. Detail oriented, scopes, scheduling, sales. Please call (970)403-5119 and submit resumes to info@fullertonworks.com.

MAINTENANCE PERSON NEEDED for Lakeview Estates Apartments. Must have experience and own tools. \$20 per hour. Apply in person, 857 N. Pagosa Blvd. or send resume to mountainsiderhonda@gmail.com.

PART-TIME HOUSE CLEANER NEEDED. Flexible hours. Good pay. Call (970)731-3005.

HELP WANTED- EVERYDAY STORE. Apply 300 E. Pagosa St.

PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING a person for a yard associate/ driver position. Lumber experience and/or CDL license is a plus, but not necessary. Duties may include delivering loads to job sites, as well as helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and Medical/ Dental insurance for full-time employees. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

HELP WANTED

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Are you the right person? Are you willing to ...

- ... learn various multimedia platforms?
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- ... provide customer service?

Do you have ...

- ... organizational skills?
- ... accurate spelling and grammar skills?
- ... computer experience?
- ... creativity?

Position offers salary (\$14/hour) plus commission. Work hours will be split between office and being in the field. Applicant must have reliable transportation.

Submit your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com or drop off at 457 Lewis Street. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls.



Front Office Receptionist

Must type a minimum of 40 words per minute, be able to lift 50 pounds and stand for long periods of time. Good work ethic, accuracy and ability to meet deadlines important. Excellent customer service skills necessary. Knowledge of Mac computers and Adobe InDesign is helpful. Newspaper experience not required. 30-34 hours per week. \$16-\$17 to start.

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Email resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com. Successful applicants will be contacted for interview. No phone calls please.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier and a full-time deli cook. Deli hours are Monday thru Friday, 5a.m.-1p.m. Please come apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

HILLSIDE INN IS LOOKING for a responsible, friendly team player to join our housekeeping staff. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays. Monthly performance bonuses are given as well. Please send your resume to Natalie@hillsideinnpagosa@gmail.com or stop by the hotel to pick up an application.

HYGIENIST WANTED: The team at Pagosa Smiles is blessed to have family oriented hours with weekends and holidays off, great pay, 401K and bonuses in a beautiful facility. Colorado dental hygiene license required. Email resume to PagosaSmiles@yahoo.com.

PAGOSA PEAK OPEN SCHOOL has openings for a Behavioral Paraprofessional and Interventionist/ High Impact Tutor for this school year. Please see our website www.pagosapeakopenschool.org for more information.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

DENTAL ASSISTANT OR FRONT DESK: Could you make \$18-\$20+ hour? Willing to train. Pagosa Smiles exists to help people with their oral health and provide excellent customer service. Join a great team where everyone works hard! Professional environment, weekends and holidays off, great pay, 401K, and bonuses all in a beautiful facility. Email resume to PagosaSmiles@yahoo.com.

KITCHEN HELP, MORNING AND afternoon shifts. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule and competitive wages. Apply in person, Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs. EOE.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL is looking for substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year. Great part-time work opportunity, teaching small classrooms, grades K through 8th. If interested, please call Wes Odom (970)585-4535.

PINE VALLEY RENTAL. Rental shop seeking reliable, dependable, self efficient motivated front desk clerk. Must have good customer service, phone skills and basic computer knowledge! Full time Monday- Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m. Email resume to ppine000@centurytel.net or come pick up an application at the office, 305 Bastille Dr.

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer \$16 p/h to start, accrued vacation/ personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

SUBWAY IS HIRING- Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community? Apply in person at either location or apply online at subway.com!

PART-TIME HOUSE CLEANER WANTED, 10-15 hours per week. Great pay and environment. Call (417)527-0987 for more details.

PART-TIME POSITION FOR SNOWPLOWING/ snow removal. Must have valid Colorado license and transportation. Pay based on experience and knowledge. Call (970)946-2061, Eric.

DENTAL ASSISTANT WANTED. SAN JUAN DENTAL is seeking a Dental Assistant to join our lovely practice. Are you kind, caring, compassionate and friendly? Come join our team. Competitive benefits and a great place to spend your working hours, Monday- Thursday. Email resume to drericmsmithdds@aol.com.

IF YOU WANT TO BE on GOD'S PAYROLL, get your marching orders and provisions at 965 Cloud Cap Avenue.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a Park Maintenance I worker in our Parks & Recreation Division. The individual selected for this position performs a variety of entry level semi-skilled duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, upkeep and repair of town buildings, recreation facilities, parks, grounds and general environment. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is seeking full-time, year-around mechanics. Our team has open positions for lead mechanics who are willing to learn as well as expand their skills and abilities. Applicants need to be positive, team oriented, self-motivated, and must possess own tools/ tool box. Reliable 4-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicle is also a must. Knowledge of gasoline and diesel engines required. Mechanical and operational understanding of heavy equipment, snow cats, automotive electrical systems, hydraulics/ hydrostatic drive systems, transport buses, and metal fabrication are all a major plus. WCSA offers competitive wages along with career building opportunities. Starting pay between \$50-\$100k, with benefits, depending on experience and physical ability. Applications are available at www.wolfcreekski.com. Email to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or mail to PO Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

PART-TIME GROUNDS KEEPER/ MAINTENANCE POSITION - Healing Waters Resort & Spa. Some evening and weekend hours may apply. We have a great team in place, just want to add one more to our crew. Looking for someone who is handy with tools - or has the willingness to learn; who doesn't mind sweeping, raking, and shoveling; and who is self-motivated. If this is you, we'd love to talk! Download an application at www.pshotsprings.com/contact-spa-motel/employment-opportunities/ or stop by 317 Hot Springs Blvd. Employees and immediate family soak for FREE! Apply today!

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HELP WANTED

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY HELP WANTED ADS — tinyurl.com/d64deei9. The Pagosa Springs SUN.

GENERAL LABORER, general labor, construction and ranch work. Please call (970)264-5000.

DEDICATED CLEANERS, UP TO \$17/hour. Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. Text Pagosa Sparkles, LLC, (970)946-6446.

LOST & FOUND

SKIS FOUND AT POWERLINE parking lot at top of Wolf Creek Pass on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Contact Wolf Creek ski rental department. (970)264-5639.

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

PETS

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

CKC YORKIES READY for Valentine's Day. Boys \$1,000, girls \$1,200. (970)317-5859.

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.humanesociety.biz.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

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GRASS HAY FOR SALE. Barn stored. (970)883-2449.

FOR SALE

Wrightnaturalbakery.com. BEST EGGS AVAILABLE! Reduced sugar, same sweetness. Organic, unprocessed, Paleo, unrefined, gluten free ingredients. (970)883-2600, wrightnaturalbakery@gmail.com. Products available at Choke Cherry Tree.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 23, 2023. Distribution of the guide will begin in April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

LINCOLN 225 AMP ARC WELDER with mask and 10 lbs. of rod. \$150. Call (970)946-9859.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? I've got a Pine/Aspen mix. \$300 per cord or \$575 for a HUGE dump truck load! Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY, SEASONED ASPEN FOR SALE. \$275 delivered, \$150/ cord in rounds if you pick up. (970)585-4578.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$200/ cord picked up only. 112 Turkey Lane, Pagosa. (970)238-0677.

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OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970) 749-1500.

TIRED OF CRUTCHES: Foot/ ankle/ lower leg, tall walking boot brace LorR Large \$45. Leave message (970)946-0305.

FOR SALE

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY YARD SALE and FOR SALE AD UPDATES — tinyurl.com/d64deei9. The Pagosa Springs SUN.

VARMINT RIFLE, SAVAGE A17,17HMR cal., 3 mags, 3.5-10x36 scope, 150 rds; \$733 value, for sale at \$500. Pancake air compressor, \$65. Call Bill (303)378-1185. In Pagosa.

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HOUSES FOR SALE

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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

CALL TEAM PAGOSA REALTY (970)731-8599 for your long term rental needs. pagosaproperties.com.

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Backcountry adventurers know they're taking chances

By Molly Absolon
PREVIEW Columnist

Six people have died in avalanches in the United States since the snow started to fly last fall. Every year, an average of 27 people — skiers, snowboarders, snowmobilers, snowshoers — die this way.

For people who don't venture into the backcountry in winter, the thought of potentially dying in an avalanche seems crazy. Why put your life on the line for a few minutes of fun? But most of us who ride fresh powder don't look at it that way; we don't consider backcountry skiing a death-defying activity.

A couple of years ago, my friend Jenna Malone, who is an avalanche educator and physician assistant in Salt Lake City, told me, "I don't know anyone who's stood on the top of a slope and thought, 'Well, this is going to kill me, but it's going to be epic powder skiing.'

"We believe that with training, planning, good decision-making and a solid ski partner who calls us on our blind spots, we can make it safer."

In 2009, Bruce Jamieson, a professor of civil engineering at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, took accident data collected in North America and Switzerland to come up with a risk-comparison chart. The data was presented in "millimorts," or one death per million. One millimort is the chance an average 20-year-old male has of dying from any cause on any day.

Himalayan climbing turned out to be the riskiest activity Jamieson considered, with a one in 40 chance of dying on an 8,000-meter peak, or 12,000 millimorts. Riding a motorcycle eight hours a day earned 605 millimorts, while backcountry skiing in Canada, using usual risk-reduction practices, came in at four.

Of course, not all skiers try to minimize risk. Recently, I saw a group of five riders swooping down a steep gully, hooting and hollering as they flew by. The avalanche hazard that day was moderate. Still, five people skiing a slope like that at one time is outside normal risk-reduction practices and could have easily ended in tragedy.

Jamieson's data is now more than a decade old, but the likelihood of being killed in an avalanche probably hasn't changed much. It may have even lessened, considering the growing number of backcountry users in avalanche terrain that are sharing the risk.

When I started skiing in the backcountry decades ago, we would see only a handful of other

Writers on the Range

A wicked-learning environment is one where the rules are unclear and feedback is often inaccurate or nonexistent.

people. Today, SnowSports Industries America estimates that there are more than 6 million backcountry riders in the United States, which puts the American avalanche death rate at less than 0.5 per 100,000. Your risk of dying in an automobile accident is one in 107.

These statistics may be why we don't feel like we are gambling with our lives every time we head out to ski. And, in general, backcountry users consider themselves responsible risk takers.

We take avalanche courses to learn how to identify dangerous snow conditions. Most of us carry safety equipment: avalanche transceivers, shovels, probes and, in some cases, airbags to help improve our odds of survival in a slide. We consult the daily avalanche forecast for our area. We choose our partners carefully.

Still, people die. You can argue that statistically the odds are in our favor, but that doesn't lessen the tragedy that occurs when a glorious day of powder skiing turns into a nightmare.

Two of this year's fatalities involved fathers triggering slides that buried and killed their sons. It's hard to imagine anything more painful for a family.

Avalanches have been called "wicked-learning environments," a label popularized by psychologist Robin Hogarth in 2015. A wicked-learning environment is one where the rules are unclear and feedback is often inaccurate or nonexistent.

That means you can't learn or may learn the wrong thing from your experiences. Mistakes in a wicked-learning environment can be fatal.

Venturing into winter backcountry is a classic wicked-learning environment. You can arm yourself with all the appropriate safety gear, do lots of prep work on snow conditions and terrain, and keep your eyes open for clues. Ultimately, though, most of the information about snow stability is hidden.

Every time you ski a slope without it avalanching, you are likely to believe you made a smart decision, when in reality you may have just been lucky. Most of us have been lucky.

Molly Absolon is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writer-sontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She writes in Idaho. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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