

Pagosa Springs woman killed in rollover crash

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A single-vehicle rollover the afternoon of Oct. 15 killed a Pagosa Springs woman.

According to Capt. John Trentini of the Colorado State Patrol, the rollover took place the afternoon of Oct. 15 at about mile post 14 on Forest Service Road 631.

Trentini explained the crash was reported at 3:40 p.m. as a single-vehicle rollover.

He noted the vehicle lost control, went off the side of the roadway and rolled.

During the roll, he further ex-

plained, the driver was ejected. The vehicle ended up about 55 feet from the roadway.

Trentini noted the cause is suspected to be excessive speed and it is suspected that the driver was unrestrained.

He explained the driver was deceased at the scene.

He added the vehicle caught fire at some point, starting a small wild-fire in the area.

Trentini noted the incident remains under investigation.

Archuleta County Coroner Brad Hunt identified the driver as Cheri Lee Cheatham, 57, of Pagosa Springs.
randi@pagosasun.com

County seeking volunteers for Road and Bridge Advisory Board

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

According to a legal notice in the Oct. 26 issue of The SUN, Archuleta County is seeking volunteers to serve on a Road and Bridge Advisory Board.

The concept of having an advisory board was raised by Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown at the Oct. 17 commissioners' work session, where the commissioners expressed general support for the concept as a way to improve road maintenance and construction planning in the county.

According to the notice, qualifications for serving on the board

include, "experience in the field of municipal public works, those with backgrounds in heavy equipment operation, snow removal and/or road work projects and/or persons with advisory or supervisor level experience in the public works sector."

The notice indicates that the expected time commitment for the board is a single one- to two-hour evening meeting per month and that the service on the board will be unpaid.

"Interested applicants can email resumes to adminp@archuleta-county.org or call 970-264-8309 for more information," the notice states.

josh@pagosasun.com

On to state!



Photo courtesy Rachael Christiansen

Lady Pirate Sienna Rose holds her medal from the 3A Region 2 cross-country meet following the race on Oct. 20 in Colorado Springs. Rose finished 15th, securing a place at the state championships, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 28, in Colorado Springs.

Tourism board requests from lodgers discussed

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Oct. 24 work session, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed a letter from local lodgers requesting expanded data reporting and increased lodger representation on the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board.

The letter was submitted by tourism board member and lodger's representative Anne-Marie Sukcik to all three county commissioners and County Manager Derek Woodman on Oct. 21 in addition to being sent to Interim Town Manager Greg Schulte on that date, who distributed the letter to the town council as requested by Sukcik.

In her submission to the county, she comments, "Please note this letter is from all business owners who signed the letter which collectively comprises the majority of the group that collects lodging taxes in Archuleta."

The letter begins by pointing out that the agreement between the county and the Town of Pagosa Springs concerning the tourism board is currently being renegotiated and indicates that it is sharing the unified suggestions of the area lodging community for changes to the board's processes and structure.

The letter requests the engagement of a third-party consultant to determine benchmarks and best practices for assessing the performance of the tourism department, perform an assessment of the department's performance in the last five years compared to similar communities and provide recommendations on changes to the tourism department based on these analyses.

The letter suggests that the tourism department should review these recommendations with the community, noted to be "specifically lodgers and other tourism-based businesses," to establish a plan moving forward with clear deliverables.

Next, the letter recommends that the tourism department should execute this plan while giving at least quarterly updates on its progress in executing the plan and monthly reports to the public using the metrics established by the consultant.

The letter also requests, "Greater representation on the tourism board by groups that actually generate lodging tax – lodgers and [Short Term Rentals (STRs)]. More than half of the seats on the board should be filled by people that directly represent businesses that generate lodging tax. The majority of seats should have des-

■ See Tourism A8

Suspected arrested following multiple fires

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A Pagosa Springs man was arrested for multiple counts of arson Monday evening.

Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock and Archuleta County Undersheriff Robert Hill indicated multiple fires were set in the area on Friday evening, Oct. 20.

Hill noted one incident included setting trash inside a trash truck

■ See Arrest A9



Photo courtesy Bob Endres

The fall colors may be winding down for the season, but beauty still abounds, as was recently seen along Plumtaw Road.

Development granted one-year extension to find adequate financing

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

The largest approved development project in Pagosa Springs, known as Pagosa Views, could take a year longer than originally expected to break ground.

On Oct. 19, Planning Manager Cindy Schultz asked the Pagosa Springs Town Council to consider giving the property owner a one-year extension on the project so that "a suitable financing arrange-

ment" could be reached.

The near 80-acre development, at 600 West U.S. 160, proposes to build up to 675 new residential dwelling units — a mixture of apartments, condominiums, cabins and euro mini cabins, as well as lodging and office spaces, according to the site plan for the development.

The Pagosa Views development is described as "a lifestyle community" by the conceptual site plan, and up to 10 percent of the resi-

dential dwelling units will be deed restricted for workforce housing, according to MyPagosa.org.

Planned amenities will include a paved trail system, a clubhouse, pickleball courts, an indoor lap pool, splash pad, a playground, gazebos and an outdoor theater. The commuter trail system will be consistent with the Town of Pagosa Lakes Master Plan and the local road network will be consistent with the Access Control Plan, according to MyPagosa.org.

In September of 2022, the council approved Ordinance 989, which amended the official zoning map to approve a planned development overlay district for the project.

The ordinance also included a planned development agreement, which includes an agreement by the developer to see to fruition certain town initiatives, such as deed restrictions for workforce housing, a commuter hike and bike trail, connections to a secondary

■ See Development A15

Trail Springs, Mill Creek 2 fires burning on national forest

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A pair of fires started last week on the San Juan National Forest: the Trail Springs Fire and the Mill Creek 2 Fire.

Trail Springs Fire

The largest of the two fires, the Trail Springs Fire, was listed at 749 acres and zero percent containment, according to a Wednesday morning update from the U.S. Forest Service.

The fire, located 12 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs, began the afternoon of Oct. 19 and was caused by lightning, according to the Forest Service.

Wednesday's update notes that, on Tuesday, Oct. 24, firefighters directly engaged a portion of the northeast edge of the fire.

It adds, "Water drops from helicopters helped cool the fire's edge, allowing handcrews to get in close to construct fireline."

"Other firefighters were busy clearing and widening designated areas in preparation for strategic firing operations. Their work involved digging line, cutting down hazard trees, limbing healthy trees and removing debris. The control line they are developing will help anchor firing operations. If conditions are favorable, firing operations may begin as early as this afternoon. The goal is to create containment line by burning out grasses, brush and wood debris, which takes the fuel away from the fire."

■ See Fires A16

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Opinion

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10/20	76	33	NA	NA	NA
10/21	74	32	NA	NA	NA
10/22	70	34	NA	NA	NA
10/23	67	33	NA	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

Important decisions

Voting is one of the most important civic duties we have, and the results can have very large impacts on communities, states and our nation.

That is absolutely the case for our community with the ballots that arrived in the mailboxes of Archuleta County voters recently.

While the ballot is smaller than we've seen in recent years, it is nothing short of important.

Voters within the Archuleta School District (ASD) will see a number of items on their ballot related to the district. These decisions won't just affect students in district schools and their families, but affect everyone who pays taxes and works for us to have a successful community now and in the future.

Four director positions on the ASD Board of Education are up for grabs, though only two seats are contested.

Christa Laos and Robert Lynch are running for a four-year term for the ASD board representing District 2.

Jessica Trujillo and Amanda Schick are running for a four-year term on the ASD board representing District 3.

Dana Guinn is running unopposed for a four-year term in District 4 and Ray "Butch" Mackey is running unopposed for a two-year term on the ASD board representing District 5.

Those who sit on the Board of Education control much of how the local school system runs. Among other things, the board is responsible for hiring the superintendent, setting policies, approving personnel changes, approving the district's budget and more.

They help control how students are prepared for postsecondary education and to enter the workforce.

For those who may need a little extra help in deciding who to vote for in the contested races, on page A5 you will find candidate answers to questions posed by The SUN, as well as more background information on the candidates.

You can also find ads and Letters to the Editor with opinions that may also help you make up your mind.

The ballot also has a number of measures that directly affect education funding both across the state and solely within ASD.

Proposition II asks if the state can, without raising taxes, retain and spend revenues from taxes on cigarettes, tobacco and other nicotine products; maintain tax rates on cigarettes, tobacco and other nicotine products; and use the revenues to invest \$23,650,000 to enhance the voluntary Colorado preschool program and make it widely available for free instead of reducing the tax rates and refunding revenues to cigarette wholesalers, tobacco product distributors, nicotine products distributors and other taxpayers for exceeding an estimate for Proposition EE.

On a more local level, Ballot Issue 5A asks for voters within ASD's boundaries to vote to extend the district's mill levy override in perpetuity. That levy was voted in on a temporary basis in 2018 and is currently set to expire in 2025, with the Board of Education seeing a strong benefit and seeking to make that benefit permanent.

It asks if ASD, without increasing taxes, shall be authorized to extend the \$1.7 million annual tax approved by voters in 2018 (currently scheduled to expire in 2025) in perpetuity for educational purposes including but not limited to:

- Recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and staff.
- Providing school safety, security and mental health support for students.

The measure also asks for the collection to be excepted from limits that would otherwise apply under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

Beyond school-related issues, the ballot also includes Proposition HH.

Proposition HH asks if the state shall reduce property taxes for homes and businesses, including expanding property tax relief for seniors, and backfill counties, water district, fire districts, ambulance and hospital districts, and other local governments and fund school districts by using a portion of the state

surplus up to the Proposition HH cap identified.

Knowledgeable locals have come out both in favor of and against Proposition HH. Some of those opinions are included in this week's Letters to the Editor.

An in-depth analysis of Proposition HH is also available in the ballot information booklet, commonly known as the Blue Book, that was mailed earlier this fall. It is also available at <https://leg.colorado.gov/content/initiatives/initiatives-blue-book-overview/ballot-information-booklet-blue-book>.

Off-year elections usually receive lower voter turnout. They're typically not as flashy, with not as many offices up for grabs. But we hope local voters will see the value in this year's election and make a point of making their voices heard.

Whether we all agree or not, it is important that the will of the community is expressed, not just the will of a few who take the time to fill in the bubbles.

Ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 7, to be counted.

Voted ballots can be returned via mail (just don't mail them too late since postmarks don't count), or delivered to a drop-off location or drop box.

In addition to returning your ballot via mail, you can drop off voted ballots at the Archuleta County Election's Office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning Oct. 30.

The county also has two secure drop boxes that are open 24/7. They will remain open through 7 p.m. on Election Day.

The drop boxes, which are under video surveillance, are located at the county building at 449 San Juan St. in Pagosa Springs and the TARA Community Center at 333 Milton Lane in Arboles.

No matter how you feel most comfortable voting — in your own home or in a booth at the Voter Service and Polling Center — or whether you prefer to turn in your ballot via mail or in person, what matters most is that you make your voice heard at the ballot box.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 26, 1923

Two miles of heavy rock work remains to be completed on the Wolf Creek Pass road project now under construction by the maintenance division of the State Highway Department. Some of this work runs 15 to 18 feet high on the inside.

The present work on Wolf Creek Pass is a continuation of the excavating started on the eastern slope last year. When completed it will give a 20-foot roadway across the pass for 25 miles.

Completion of the work is expected by the end of the present construction season. Wolf Creek is one of the most important roads across the Continental Divide in Colorado. It is open to traffic about five months in the year. The old road was narrow, steep and with numerous sharp curves. As now improved it is broad, smooth and easy of grade.

Since the above was written the road crew has been unable to accomplish a great deal in the matter of road construction, as the cold weather and light snowfalls of the past month have depleted the crew to such an extent that the few men remaining have had their hands full in keeping the road open to traffic.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 29, 1948

Graveside services were held at Hill-top Cemetery Wednesday afternoon for Pfc. Hugh Hudson Melrose, 37, who was killed June 12, 1944, while in action in Normandy.

Melrose's body arrived Tuesday from the Kansas City receiving depot.

He was born in Mancos March 15, 1907, but the family later moved to Pagosa Springs where he attended school. He was farming in that area when he left for Pueblo to enlist in April of 1942.

According to word received by local barbers the price of haircuts in this judicial district has been raised from 75¢ to \$1. Shaves will be 75¢ under the new price code and other prices for tonsorial work are raised accordingly.

The minimum prices to be charged for haircuts, shaves, etc., are fixed by law when a certain percentage of the barbers in a judicial district ask for such a raise. This is one of the last districts in the state to raise.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 1, 1973

Leonard Powell, who has been engaged as manager of the low rental units now under construction, said this week that applications are being taken for renting the units. The low cost housing project is operated by the Archuleta Housing Corporation.

Powell said the first units available for rental would be in Unit B, which consists of 24 three bedroom apartments. These units are expected to be available November 20. Unit B is located in the northwest corner of town.

Under the program all utilities will be paid by the Housing Corporation and apartments will contain range, refrigerator, washing machine, and in some cases, a clothes dryer. The manager said that the apartments are primarily for, but not limited to, welfare recipients. Others eligible include old age pensioners, those on Social Security, aged and disabled, low income families, although some higher income residents can be accommodated.

25 years ago

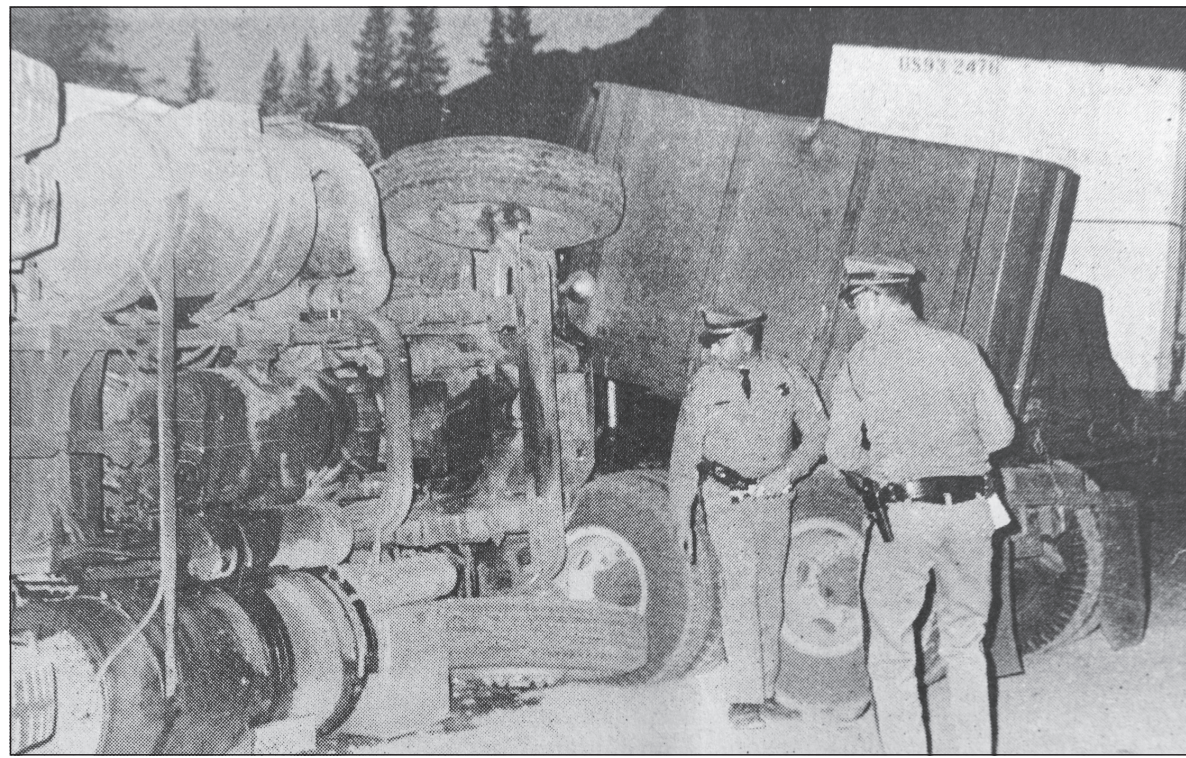
Taken from SUN files of
October 29, 1998

While stormy skies have brought little but rain to lower elevations in the southern San Juan Mountains, high elevations have received heavy snows — heavy enough to allow Wolf Creek Ski Area to open on Oct. 30.

With the early opening for the 1998-99 season, skiers will take to the slopes at Wolf Creek at 9 a.m. with all lifts operating until 4 p.m. The Waterfall and Alberta areas which are serviced by shuttle snow cats will not be open on Friday.

According to ski area sources, at least 18 inches of heavy, wet snow fell at the area before Oct. 24. Fifteen additional inches fell on Oct. 25, and by Oct. 28 another 21 inches had fallen, giving the area a snow depth of 57 inches at mid-way. More than 80 inches of snow have fallen at the area thus far this season.

A Wolf Creek spokesperson reported powder snow atop the heavy base on Wednesday, with excellent early-season conditions.



From the Sept. 12, 1974, Pagosa Springs SUN. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION — Sgt. Hanger and Officer Wm. Downey of the Colorado State Patrol examine vehicles involved in a fatal accident to determine if there was brake or mechanical failure, if there is danger of fire or explosion, and for any pertinent facts. This accident resulted in the death of one trucker and serious injuries in two other people last Saturday evening on Wolf Creek Pass.



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.

Ballot measures

Dear Editor:
I'm writing in support of Ballot issue 5A locally and Propositions HH and II State wide.

For Ballot issue 5A, if not passed, would result in a cut of \$1.7 million for the Pagosa Springs education system. This would adversely affect Archuleta County's students, teachers, safety officers, mental health resources and our public education system. Teachers are notoriously underpaid and education has been woefully underfunded for decades with teachers having to use their own money for class supplies. My children and most of my grandchildren are no longer in school but I am more than happy to fund the next generations of students' education for the benefit of our society. Educated youth on

average make better life decisions and earn higher wages through their lifetime. Besides, the Colorado property tax rate (in 2021) was the 3rd lowest of all 50 States. It must be emphasized that passing 5A will NOT result in the loss of any other state funds.

State wide Proposition HH will provide property tax relief for property owners due to the steep increase in Colorado's property values. It also provides funding for those agencies that depend on property tax income (i.e. education) through modest increases in the cap on spending in Tabor. It's a complex bill for an important issue. The Denver Post, a conservative paper has endorsed proposition HH and has called out the misinformation by those against the bill. HH will NOT do away with TABOR.

Proposition II allows the state to keep the taxes collected (\$23.65 million) from the sale of tobacco products, in order to fund preschool programs. If II does not pass, the \$23.65 million will be returned to wholesalers and distributors of tobacco and nicotine products. Studies around the world have shown the benefits children receive when participating in preschool activities. Passing proposition II would be a much better use of the monies.

Dave Butcher

pile of hats, sweaters, and other lost treasures, she discovered my wallet among the items.

Remarkably, my son's phone number was tucked safely inside, allowing Ann to contact him. At first, my son was understandably skeptical, thinking it might be a scam. Nevertheless, he decided to give me a call, and to my astonishment, it was true. My wallet, which I had thought was lost forever, was indeed lost and then wonderfully found, thanks to Ann Sanders.

Ann's act of kindness goes beyond just returning a wallet; it exemplifies the kind of community spirit that we all should cherish and celebrate. Her dedication to the patrons of Liberty Theater, and her commitment to doing good in her community, deserves not only our heartfelt appreciation but also our admiration.

As we share this heartwarming story, we want to remind everyone that kindness and good deeds deserve recognition. If you have a similar story of someone going out of their way to make your day a little brighter, don't hesitate to let us know. We'd be thrilled to celebrate and share more tales of people, like Ann Sanders, who make our world a better place, one good deed at a time. After all, it's never a bad time to "say something nice."

Best regards,
Rich Gotcher

Proposition HH

Dear Editor:
Vote Yes on Proposition HH
Is Proposition HH complicated? Yes. It cannot be summarized in three bullet points. Government budgets and Colorado taxes must cover more ground than can be explained in a 500-word letter or 30-second sound bite.

Consider, however, three important reasons to vote for HH. First, HH provides relief to taxpayers stunned by the spike in property tax valuations. HH will reduce valuations and lower tax assessment rates for residential property until 2033. HH will also reduce property tax assessment rates for most nonresidential property. If HH does not pass, don't count on property tax relief any time soon.

Second, HH does not repeal TABOR. Colorado taxpayers will continue to receive TABOR refunds. The TABOR 2023 refund amount for taxpayers earning less than \$99,000 will be higher if HH passes than if HH fails. In later years, TABOR refunds will be lower, but they do not go away. Third, HH provides relief from the TABOR revenue caps so that the State can fund programs voters approve and support. The legislature has designated additional revenue to fund payments to local governments (with a thumb on the scale for small counties) and up to \$20 million for the Housing Development Growth Fund with any remaining revenue transferred to the State Education Fund.

Last year, Colorado voters approved a statewide ballot measure to fund workforce housing grants. In the past two weeks, our County Commissioners approved a Planning Department proposal to seek State grant funds that would support workforce housing development here. HH does not ignore the voices of Colorado voters and taxpayers. It advances the policy directions voters have given State government, and a chunk of the money HH makes available may well come back directly to Archuleta County as a grant supporting affordable housing in our community.

Don't let perfect be the enemy
■ See Letters A4

Cultivated meat

Dear Editor:
This year's farm bill should significantly increase federal funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, our pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on animals.

While the product is currently sold in a few high-end restaurants, further research is needed for cultivated meat to achieve price parity with slaughtered meat, which is crucial for widespread adoption. If you'd like to help pressure legislators to support this research, visit SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Say something nice

Dear Editor:
In a world where negativity often overshadows the positive aspects of life, it's refreshing to pause and remember the simple but powerful advice: "If you can't say something nice, then don't say anything at all." These words, imparted by a mother's wisdom, can truly make a world of difference. Today, we want to take a moment to follow this timeless advice and say something nice about Liberty Theater, a place that recently exemplified the true spirit of kindness and goodwill.

A couple of months ago, my wife and I visited Liberty Theater to enjoy the latest Mission Impossible movie. Little did we know that we were about to experience our very own mission: locating my lost wallet. After searching high and low at the theater, I reluctantly accepted that my wallet was gone forever.

However, the story takes a heartwarming turn, thanks to the dedication and kindness of Ann Sanders, the manager of Liberty Theater. Ann has always had a reputation for going above and beyond in her role, and this day was no exception. It turns out that Ann enjoys donating the various lost and found items from the theater to goodwill. As she sorted through the

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit to:
PO Box 9,
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

e-mail:
editor@pagosasun.com

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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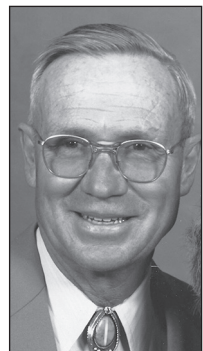
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Obituaries

Robert M. Case

3/4/1924 – 10/20/2023

Bob was born in Kansas City, Mo., to Melville and Wilda. Shortly thereafter they moved to Denver, where he attended school. He enlisted in the United States Navy on Jan. 8, 1942, following the Pearl Harbor bombing, serving in the Pacific Theatre. He was honorably discharged on June 5, 1947.



Following, he attended Colorado A&M from 1947-1952 and received a Bachelor of Science in forest range management. While there he worked in food service and various other jobs.

After graduation, ranching at his wife's family homestead was his life from 1952-1955. He worked for the United States Forest Service in Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota and Montana between 1955 and 1981. His last assignment was in the San Juan National Forest as supervisor.

Bob was a Mason for 74 years moving his membership each time he moved to a new community. The brotherhood was a stable in his life. Medicine was an interest all his life. When he retired there was time to train as an emergency medical technician and served for 10 years. He was a charter member of the Pagosa hospital district board of directors. His public service included being a county commissioner for Hinsdale County for six years.

Bob is preceded in death by wife (Peggy), brother (Gene) and grandson George Kyriacou.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Robin Ball (Ray); son Russell Case (Bernadette); grandchildren Steve Ball (Michelle), Debra Harrop, Susan Ball, John Kyriacou, Anna Ball, Jared Case, Keryssa Connely (Josh), Janessa Alcon and Adrienne Alcon;

great-grandchildren, Joseph Ball, James Ball (Nicole), Klutch Naugle, Chassi Naugle, Eli Simental, Niyo Simental; and multiple great-great-grandchildren.

Please send any memorial donations to the Pagosa Springs Medical Center Foundation at 95 Pagosa Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org/about/foundation.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at the Community United Methodist Church at 1 p.m. A reception will follow.

Dora Lea Plunk (Dode)

Dode Plunk, 99, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away peacefully, surrounded by the loving presence of family on the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 16, 2023.



Dode was born at her family home in Cullison, Kan., on July 25, 1924. She was one of seven children born to Athel Taylor Chinn and Vina Mae Bobbit.

Dode's childhood was spent around Liberal, Kan., where she met her sweetheart Thaine Plunk. Dode and Thaine were married in November of 1942. Dode and Thaine celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary shortly before he passed in 2016. Dode gave birth to their only child the following year while Thaine, who was serving in the Army, was stationed in North Carolina. About one year later, when Thaine left for Germany to fight in World War II, Dode remained with family in Kansas with their daughter, Patti.

Upon Thaine's discharge from the Army, the family of three settled in the small farming community of Erick, Okla., where they ran the local Dairy Freeze. They later moved

on to run a farm outside of town. Dode was a longtime teller at the local Bank of Erick, where she eventually retired before moving to Mission, Texas. Dode and Thaine made many wonderful friends in the Texas Valley and enjoyed going from park to park to listen to music jams.

Dode was an adventurer at heart. She and Thaine traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. She made numerous quilts and crafts throughout her lifetime. She took up painting after retirement and received awards for her newfound hobby. After relocating to Pagosa Springs she revived her passion for crocheting and donated numerous throws to shelters and organizations in Colorado.

Dode was preceded in death by her daughter, Patricia Stewart; her husband, Thaine Plunk; her mother and father; and her brothers and sisters, Robert, Zepha, Darl, Betty and Glenn.

She is survived by her grandchildren: Kanaka (Daniel) Perea, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., Fred (Karin) Stewart IV, of Strasburg, Colo.; Christi (Eldon) Weber, of Parker, Colo.; and Casey Stewart, of Pagosa Springs, Colo. She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Karleigh Stewart, Kaitlin (Thomas) Phillips, Kasey Lyn Perea (Martin Rodriguez), Molly and Riley Weber, and Arianna Cashell Stewart, as well as her great-great-grandchildren, Harleigh and Hudson Phillips, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend thanks to the staff of Pine Ridge Extended Care Center who truly went above and beyond in caring for Dode (Dodie) over the last few years. Your love and support were more than evident in the tears, hugs and stories you shared. Words cannot express the thanks the family feels.

Laura B. Vawter

Laura B. Vawter, formerly of Oak Park, Ill., and now a longtime resident of Santa Fe, N.M., passed

away suddenly and unexpectedly Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, at her home in Rancho Viejo. She was born



the daughter of Robert Vawter and Blanche Prevedel of Indianapolis, Ind., on April 13, 1947. Laura was preceded in death by her father, mother, and sister Loretta A. Vawter.

Laura is survived by her spouse, William (Bill) Trujillo, of Santa Fe; son Chadwick Trujillo (Tara Wolf) and grandson Evan Trujillo, of Flagstaff, Ariz.; brother Charles Vawter (Mary Snyder), of Colorado Springs, Colo.; brother-in-law Neil Schwarzwald, of Bozeman, Mont.; nieces Jill Trujillo (Cami Wedel), of Albuquerque, N.M., Heather Trujillo (David Olkkonen), of Casa Grande, Ariz., Sara Schwarzwald (David Otto), of Bozeman; and nephews Christopher Trujillo (Jeanette Grieve), of Silver City, N.M., and Paul Schwarzwald (Jami Shimp) of Bellevue, Wash.

Laura was a graduate of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., receiving both B.S. and M.S. degrees in environmental design, worked as a kitchen designer in the Chicago area beginning in 1974, then established her own kitchen design business in Oak Park, Ill. She spent about 30 successful years in kitchen design with numerous awards and also worked as a kitchen designer in Santa Fe, N.M., beginning in 1993. Both she and her spouse retired in Santa Fe in 2006.

In Laura's retirement years, she enjoyed playing weekly Asian mah-jongg and canasta with numerous friends, belonged to a local book club and had about 300 cookbooks to augment her culinary expertise.

Laura will be cremated and a headstone placed in the Trujillo/Gould family burial plots at Hilltop Cemetery in Pagosa Springs, Colo. A celebration of life is slated for March 16, 2024, at Rivera Funeral Home in Santa Fe at 3 p.m.

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Christa Laos

Archuleta School District 50 Jt
Director District #2

I hope I will get the opportunity to serve as a bridge between the School Board and the community it serves.
Paid for by Christa Laos

Letters

Continued from A3
of good. Vote yes on Proposition HH.

Candace Jones

Proposition HH

Dear Editor:
BEWARE OF POLITICIANS BEARING GIFTS

They are at it again. Every two years the State Legislators come up with a new, cleverly worded Ballot Proposal that would destroy our Tabor Law (Tax Payers Bill of Rights). This law was approved by the voters in 1992 after huge increases in property taxes, similar to now. Purpose; to reign in the out of control spending of this windfall, by our legislators. The new assault on Tabor by the Legislators is called Proposition H-H. It would provide relief now, but phase out the Tabor law during the next few years, at which time most of the reevaluation money, again, would be theirs to spend. They hate Tabor because it requires a cash return, whereas they would like to keep it. Why?

because they feel they can spend our money better than we can. Evidence of their sincerity: the mandatory Tabor return is referred to as "a tax break from your State Government". VOTE NO on Proposition H-H.

R.W. Riethmiller

Vote for Lynch, Schick

Dear Editor:
In your mailbox, you should have received your ballot for the November 7th election.

The Archuleta School Board has 4 seats that are up for election. Two candidates are running unopposed. Two seats are contested.

School board candidates must bring strategic planning expertise and knowledge of the District's performance framework to help inform the work that will support growth and learning for our students.

We are supporting Bob Lynch and Amanda Schick in this election. Bob has immense corporate

background, a collaborative and progressive mindset, and is the current Chair of the Board. His leadership has been, and will continue to be, focused on the academic performance of students, excellence in education tools, and attracting and retaining excellent educators.

Amanda holds a MBA and a Masters in Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling. She cultivates relationships with administrators, faculty, students, and parents and believes deeply that successes are developed with strong relationships. Her experience with mental health supports has been valuable for the district.

Both candidates are incumbents. Their previous terms were marked with asking investigative questions, insisting on comprehensive approaches, and contributing to robust dialogue of the Board.

We are wholeheartedly supporting Bob Lynch and Amanda Schick and believe they deserve your support. Please vote.

Lisa and Bob Scott

Proposition HH

Dear Editor:

Did you know that the Colorado government does not need the voters' permission to lower taxes; only raise them? This raises the question, "Why do we need Prop HH?" The answer? Because they are misleading you. The State Legislature, like last year, could have passed a simple bill to lower the state assessment rate, without a vote of the people, but chose instead to refer Prop HH to the ballot. Prop HH is a bait-and-switch. Proponents are using the potential for nominal property tax relief to take away Colorado TABOR refunds indefinitely. Property taxes are still going to go up. And what about the 768,000 renters - that's 33% of Colorado households? They will carry the burden of increased taxing and spending and the elimination of their TABOR refunds with no property tax relief at all. This November, vote NO on Prop HH.

Penny Webster

FBI Denver warns of 'Phantom Hacker' financial scam

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation Denver Division

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Denver Division FBI Denver is warning the public of a new scam dubbed "The Phantom Hacker."

Scammers are impersonating

technology, banking and government officials in a complex ruse to convince a typically older victim that foreign hackers have infiltrated their financial account. The scammers then instruct the victim to immediately move their money to an alleged U.S. government account to "protect" their assets.

In reality, there was never any foreign hacker, and the money is now fully controlled by the scammers. Some victims are losing their entire life savings.

"These scammers are cold and calculated. They are targeting older members of our community who are particularly mindful of

potential risks to their nest eggs. The criminals are using the victims' own attentiveness against them," said FBI Denver Special Agent in Charge Mark Michalek. "By educating the public about this alarming new scam, we hope to get ahead of these scammers and prevent any further victimization."

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

Archuleta School District Board of Education

Director District 2



Christa Laos

I am a wife, mother, step mother and small business owner working in the trades in Pagosa since 2005. I am a Licensed Massage Therapist. I live off grid in a home I helped build. I have volunteered thousands of hours in our community through Archuleta School District, Rise Above Violence, Healthy Archuleta, planning and zoning with the County Commissioners and SJBPH, Pagosa Housing Partners and multiple food banks. I manage, delegate and problem solved daily. I run a full time small business and understand serving the residents of Pagosa Springs, successfully finding common ground with many different types of people. I will listen to employees and improve parental involvement, with patience and compassion for the benefit of the children in our community.



Robert Lynch

I was raised in Pagosa and graduated from High School here. I graduated from Fort Lewis College and then attended Drake University for a Masters in Behavior Analysis. I worked in the Management Consulting field for 30 years and founded my own management consulting firm working with major clients in the U.S. and Internationally. My wife, Livia, and I moved back to Pagosa in 1997 and raised our two girls, Jessica and Mesa, here in Pagosa. I have operated our family cattle ranch for these 25 years. During the years after moving back to Pagosa, I have been a dedicated public servant with multiple terms on the La Plata Electric Board, Archuleta County Planning Commission, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, the Foundation for Archuleta County Education and on the Archuleta School District for the past 5 years.

The SUN asked candidates in the contested Archuleta School District Board of Education races to provide a brief bio and answer the following questions.

Answers are printed as they were received.

What is your primary reason for running for the Board of Education?

Christa Laos: I decided to run because of the division I see in our culture and its effect on children. Children feel the stress of the larger conflicts of our society. I will maintain integrity and inclusiveness. It is time to listen deeply to all the concerns brought before us and a time to find inventive solutions to our immediate problems. I am not afraid to make decisions, especially if it is to benefit children so they believe they can educate themselves in whatever they chose to do and so that they will know that they will succeed.

Robert Lynch: I am running for re-election to the School Board because I believe we have made important progress in improving our schools and consistent leadership is essential for achieving major goals in the future. We have made strides in closing academic achievement gaps and will continue to improve. We have increased the offerings for Career and Technical Education, which is very important to continue. The district has a productive partnership with Build Pagosa and I believe if we stay the course we will see a new Career and Technical Education building with even more offerings in the future. We must continue to ensure that

we have the safest and most secure buildings possible, and this will remain a high priority as we make funding decisions. Lastly, we must offer an attractive pay package to new and long-term teachers so that we have the best educators.

Jessica Trujillo: I have children in elementary, middle, and high school. I want to make sure my children, as well as all the children, are in a safe place. I also feel it is my moral responsibility to get involved, and be a voice for the students, parents, and teachers. I love this community, our home. I want to support growth for all involved in education, from the janitors and lunch ladies to the students and faculty and everyone in between. I'd like to see the Archuleta School District thrive for our children and our children's children. When you have a conviction I believe it is important to give and serve no matter the cost. I have a passion for people and a heart for children, and it would be my pleasure and honor to serve you all.

Amanda Schick: I'm running for school board because I believe that schools serve a high purpose, an opportunity to enhance student achievement and character. Schools should produce men and women who can do new things, bettering our societal future; and students should be given opportunities to be both learners and teachers. When I was first appointed, my interest was to help strengthen relationships with stakeholders and work towards schools becoming more stable for our community post pandemic. I worked hard at that and continue to. I want to continue supporting the working goals we have created for our district; I want achievement in the areas of increasing student outcomes while ensuring that our school environments are supportive of both students and staff. I'm

Director District 3



Jessica Trujillo

My name is Elainah Jessica Trujillo. Most people know me as Jessica Espinosa. I am a Pagosa native 6 generations deep. I graduated from Pagosa Springs High School, attended college in Pensacola, Florida, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Basic Christian Ministry with a certificate in Inner Healing. Upon my return to Colorado, I learned my cosmetology license, and work one day a week at LouJean's Salon.

In 2007, I married my high school sweetheart, and we have a home full of beautiful children. I am a lover of God, my family, our community, and country.



Amanda Schick

I have spent most of my life in Colorado. I received my bachelor's degree from Western State College, in Gunnison, CO and I hold master's degrees from Northwestern State University, and Adams State University. My husband's family has lived in Pagosa since 1955, and we relocated here in late 2019. Professionally, I currently work and serve Archuleta County families in both a school counseling and family therapy capacity. Prior to living in Pagosa, I lived in several states working full-time in higher education and college coaching. I am married and have two children. I have served on the Archuleta School District Board of Education since February of 2022.

running for the school board to be responsive and receptive to the diversity of parents, staff, students, and our community at large.

What is the biggest challenge facing Archuleta School District? Briefly explain how you would address this.

Christa Laos: Retention of students, teachers, employees and maintaining relevancy is Archuleta School District's largest challenge as parents have more and more choices in education and as distrust grows in our society. In order to heal, our community's concerns and fears must be addressed directly and actively. More parental involvement is needed in policy making. More employee involvement is needed in order to grow staff retention. Clear district policies need to be forged and openly displayed through difficult conversations. This will ensure the safety of the students and staff.

Robert Lynch: The biggest challenge facing the district is the inadequacy of some of our school buildings. I think we have made the right strategic decision to improve in the areas I mention in question 2 above; namely, academic performance, CTE, safety and security and attraction and retention of high-quality teachers. The last piece of the puzzle that needs to be addressed soon is the aging facilities that consume a high percent of our resources to maintain. The community will need to be brought together to make a collective decision about these facilities and move forward with the best plan to make our schools a matter of community pride.

Jessica Trujillo: Helping our children learn and excel to their fullest potential is a huge endeavor. We need community support and funds, funds, funds. I believe we are headed in the right direction

concerning this specific challenge.

Amanda Schick: We need to continue to invest in our teachers and staff, which is an investment in our students. Getting voter support

■ See Candidates A6

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Olympian and ski-racing legend Bode Miller joins local experts to talk about mental health and mental health resources in the area on Oct. 19. The event was one of two with Miller on the day, with the other including a screening of the film "The Paradise Paradox."

Candidates

Continued from A5
for appropriate initiatives is huge. The district did a great job investing in the community with the last mill; we need to continue that focus. My effort toward this investment has been prioritizing recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff and teachers by voting to increase salaries. This allows our district to stay competitive and limits the need to fill so many vacancies, leading to stability in our classrooms. I also want to address keeping students enrolled in our public schools. School safety and mental health concerns are a top priority and affect the achievement in our classrooms. I believe we need to encourage parental involvement; the school/home partnership is critical towards student success. I also want to focus on the outdated facilities that directly affect student outcomes.

What would you propose to help alleviate the district's transportation challenges?

Christa Laos: Leadership needs to weigh the value of having children in school over not having them and then raise the wages for the employees that allow children the opportunity to come to school. The time must be compensated by an adequate amount of pay. It is not that no one wants to do the job, but more likely that no one can afford to do the job. It costs more to their household by their absence than it brings in. If transportation for students has value, then it must be done by those who can afford it within the organization. Or, if a position continues to not be filled, you must pay more.

Robert Lynch: The districts transportation challenges have been addressed with improved pay and support for attaining the needed driving credentials, CDL, at no cost to the applicant. These efforts are yielding some positive outcomes with new applications for these jobs occurring in the last month. I think the district will

need to continue to improve pay, enhance recruitment strategies and ensure the best possible working environment to make these jobs attractive.

Jessica Trujillo: We need to find out why our bus drivers left, take a survey, make some calls, and determine how to make it right. If need be, cut unnecessary spending, because we need better pay and more incentives to offer. We need bus drivers, everyone has an extra load right now that could be alleviated if we could run all our buses.

Amanda Schick: This has been difficult. Despite increasing bus driver compensation, and paid training to become a driver, there was still a lack of applicants by the time school started. We need to look at the role itself and how to make it more desirable. However, those are long term goals. For now, ensuring communication is up to date on what routes are being offered, why specific routes are chosen, and a timeline of increasing routes is critical. This also allows some control to be given to the community for ride sharing or carpooling. We need to look creatively at other types of vehicles with less driving restrictions. The CDE and state requirements are rigid regarding types of vehicles that can transport students using state funds. The board can also look at policies to support partnerships with community organizations, and even outside companies can be considered.

How do you feel about the district's efforts with respect to improving student outcomes?

Christa Laos: I feel that each employee of our school system works hard and gives great effort to improve student outcomes every day. On the other hand, I feel the district as an entity has lost hope and is reluctant to change; wanting to maintain what is comfortable enough for some despite the needs of all students, employees and the community.

Robert Lynch: The district has a laser focus on improving student outcomes. When Rick Holt was hired last year as our new Superintendent the board held a planning session to establish strategic priorities for our Schools. The top priority is academic achievement. Since that priority was established, Mr. Holt has worked collaboratively with building leaders and teachers to develop the most comprehensive plan the district has seen to improve performance. The plan includes selecting the optimum curriculum, coaching teachers to ensure the best instructional methods are utilized, and checking progress indicators throughout the year and course correcting as necessary to ensure our outcomes continue to improve. Results this year show improvement, and the level of performance we expect over the next few years will be raised each year.

Jessica Trujillo: I can really see that they care about student outcomes and are doing the best they can with the guidelines, knowledge, and understanding they have.

Amanda Schick: I feel improving student outcomes is a shared purpose sewed into multiple efforts of work that building leaders, teachers, staff, and we on the school board are dedicated to improving. A few areas of focus have been creating stability in our schools by recruiting and retaining staff, improved instructional practices and updated curriculum, safety audits, bridging communication with our community, improving classroom technology, creating a system for behavioral response, having hard conversation about root causes for our achievement gaps and viewing challenges as opportunities for improving our schools. But directly, we need teachers to be able to focus on academics in the classroom. Post pandemic the responsibilities of teachers have stretched beyond their field, we cannot expect teachers to be experts in mental health or

behavior management, while also learning and implementing new curriculum, staying up to date on best practices and differentiating academics for a diverse student population.

Please explain what you see as the primary differences between you and your opponent.

Christa Laos: From my experience with Bob Lynch, he also cares deeply about the children of our community. What I offer our community is more direct understanding of the struggles of the students, parents and teachers who the district is under serving. I offer my commitment to find inventive solutions. And, I offer my ability to take action because of the resiliency that struggles have given me.

Robert Lynch: The primary difference between me and my opponent is my track record of service and leadership roles in our community. I am a skilled board member and know how to make progress as a board, working collaboratively with school employees, to achieve goals that are important to the community. I have served one full term and am eligible to serve one more term before being term limited. I look forward to helping the district achieve our goals, expand our CTE offerings for students and support a vibrant learning community of teachers and building leaders.

Jessica Trujillo: I know and understand the people, the culture, and the demographics of Pagosa. I've not only seen all the changes, I have experienced them.

Amanda Schick: Experience. When I was first appointed in 2022, I was immediately expected to vote on policies related to Colorado Law, educational best practice and curriculum, review achievement data, as well as monitor the fiscal health of the district. There is a huge learning curve in serving on a School Board; the way you conduct business, the ways in which you are allowed to communicate, and the realization of what the school board doesn't do. It takes time to understand the role, as well as to work as a team to create a vision for the district. So, I feel that my experience will continue to allow me to advocate for students and families.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day highlights importance of proper disposal of medications

Staff report

Protect your family and the environment by responsibly disposing of your unneeded or expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter medication at the Oct. 28 Drug Enforcement Agency's National Medication Take Back Day.

Many Colorado communities, including Archuleta County, will host events for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Almost half of teens (47 percent) say it is easy to get prescription drugs from a parent's medicine cabinet, according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Proper disposal of unused medication prevents the potential for accidents and misuse, protecting children and teens from harm. Medications flushed down the toilet or thrown in the trash can contaminate water systems and threaten wildlife.

"Disposing of unused medica-

tion is easier than ever, and I'm thrilled our Medication Takeback program makes it so easy for Coloradans to do their part to protect their families and their community," said CDPHE's Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability Director Jeff Lawrence.

Coloradans can responsibly dispose of their medications, free of charge and year-round, at Medication Takeback boxes at 300 locations across the state.

To find a location, visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-medication-take-back-program>.

The process is simple: Gather unused or expired medications, remove any personal information from the packaging, place them in a sealable bag or container, and locate the nearest drop box at the Medication Takeback collection site.

Almost all expired or unneeded prescription or over-the-counter medication can be disposed of in

a Medication Takeback Dropbox. This includes:

- Opioids and other controlled substances.
- Prescription patches.
- Prescription creams and ointments.
- Unused medical inhalers (if empty).
- Drop boxes do not accept:
 - Trash.
 - Sharps or syringes.
 - Thermometers.
 - Chemotherapy medication.
 - Illicit substances.

For more information, visit the Medication Takeback Program website at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-medication-take-back-program> or TakeMedsSeriously.org.

Archuleta County events

Archuleta County is hosting two events on Saturday, Oct. 28.

One will be at the Archuleta County facility at 449 San Juan St.

See Medications A7

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World War II and Korean War veterans to be special guests at Veterans Day breakfast

By Hailey Sams
SUN Intern

The Pagosa Springs Middle School eighth-grade class is inviting all veterans to its annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Nov. 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

World War II and Korean War veterans will be special guests

of the American Legion Post 108 Honor Guard at the event. "We'd like to not only remember all Veterans," an announcement from the American Legion relays, "But honor and say a special thank you to the Veterans from these specific wars."

The Legion asks that family and friends reach out to veterans "so we can bridge the gap between

our elders and our younger generations."

Veterans seeking transportation can make a reservation for pickup with Archuleta County's Mountain Express Transit (MET) by calling (970) 264-2250, according to the county. This service will be available by reservation only and must be arranged no later than 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 7.

In a press release, the county notes that the Community Center is already a stop on the MET's regularly scheduled route, which will be serviced until 5 p.m.

Questions regarding the MET can be answered by calling (970) 264-2250. The MET schedule can be found at archuletacounty.org/MET.

hailey@pagosahun.com



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Commissioners sign Operation Green Light resolution alongside veterans



Photo courtesy Archuleta County

Local veterans present the colors and attend the Oct. 17 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting, where the commissioners approved a resolution in support of Operation Green Light for Veterans.

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

In advance of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday, Archuleta County plans to illuminate county buildings green from Nov. 6 through Nov. 12 as part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide effort to support military veterans.

In its second year, the initiative — led by the National Association of Counties — raises awareness around the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the county, state and federal levels to assist veterans and their families.

At the Oct. 17 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), resident veter-

ans, including Archuleta County Veterans Affairs Officer Raymond Taylor, surprised attendees and the commissioners with a presentation of the colors and singing of the national anthem.

Shortly after, BoCC chair Ronnie Maez signed Resolution 2023-122 into effect in support of the cause.

In addition to lighting county buildings, residents and other organizations are encouraged to participate by simply changing one light bulb in their home or office to a green bulb. This can be an exterior light that neighbors and passersby see, or an interior light that sparks a conversation with friends. By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

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Commissioners consider reduced bus fares for veterans

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) continued discussions of discounts for veterans on the Mountain Express Transit (MET) bus service at its Oct. 17 work session and agreed to implement fare reductions starting Nov. 1.

Transportation Coordinator Kevin Bruce and Public Information Officer Ashley Springer presented to the board on the issue.

Bruce stated that he was continuing the discussion from the BoCC's Oct. 3 discussion of bus service for veterans.

He supplied the board with a range of statistics on veterans and transit dependency, noting that veterans are a shrinking population and the number of veterans is expected to decrease by 17 percent

in the next 10 years.

Bruce stated that 7.4 veterans are living in poverty, 30.1 percent of veterans as of 2021 are living with a disability and 56 percent of veterans are over 60.

He explained that transit dependency is when a person is reliant on public transportation due to having no access to personal transportation or being unable to drive, and that low-income, elderly or disabled people are particularly likely to be transit dependent.

Bruce noted that veterans are a significant portion of those groups and pointed out that the closest U.S. Veterans Affairs Department (VA) clinic is in Durango.

He recommended that the MET town route be made free for veterans and the bus to Durango, Dial-a-Ride, and paratransit services be offered with a suggested donation.

He explained that a suggested donation allows users to give what they can to support the service while not compelling them to pay more than they are able.

Springer stated that reduced fares for veterans could be tied into other county initiatives to support veterans around Veterans Day, such as the veterans' breakfast with Pagosa Springs Middle School eighth-graders and improvements at the Veterans Memorial Park.

She explained that she would like to start the reduced fares for veterans on the MET on Nov. 6 to coordinate with other events.

Springer added that the duration of the program would need to be set by the BoCC.

Commissioner Warren Brown commended the idea, and Commissioner Veronica Medina stated that she would support having the

reduced fares through the month of November.

Brown proposed that the reduced fares be made permanent, which Commissioner Ronnie Maez and Medina expressed agreement with.

Bruce highlighted that he is a veteran and has several family members who are veterans or currently serve in the military.

"It's really difficult for most veterans to ask for anything because there is so much of that stigma that I'm still here. That I served, ... but I didn't give the ultimate price," Bruce said. "So, when we provide these services, it's not because veterans are out there asking for them."

"It's a respect for our veterans," Maez said.

"Show them our appreciation," Medina added.

The BoCC then directed Bruce and Springer to begin the reduced fares on Nov. 1.

josh@pagosahun.com



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Marine Corps birthday celebration set for Nov. 10

By Ed Robinson
Pagosa Springs Marine Corps Birthday Committee

Nov. 10, marks the 248th birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

It was on Nov. 10 in 1775 that a resolution was passed by the Continental Congress to establish the Corps.

Pagosa Springs-area Marines and their guests are invited to a cel-

ebration at Boss Hogg's Restaurant and Saloon, 157 Navajo Trail Drive. The event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Wilderness Room on the restaurant's main floor.

Dinner and drinks will be available from the main menu. Attendees will pay for their own drinks and dinner with an 18 percent automatically added gratuity.

The traditional cake cutting by sword will be featured, and the oldest and the youngest Marine pres-

ent will be honored. Complementary birthday cake will be served. A video birthday message from the commandant of the Marine Corps will be shown.

Other service members, especially U.S. Navy Corpsmen, are welcome. Dress is casual; however, uniforms are always welcome.

Contact Don MacNamee, (970) 731-0306, or Ed Robinson, (970) 731-0718 to RSVP or with questions.

Medications

Continued from A6 and the other will be at the TARA Community Center at 333 Milton Lane in Arboles.

The Pagosa Springs location will be collecting from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

and the Arboles location will be open from 10 a.m. to noon.

"Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue," states the Archuleta County website, "proper disposal of un-

needed drugs saves lives and protects the environment and our overall community."

For more information, call (970) 264-8434 or visit <https://www.archuletacounty.org>.

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Tourism

Continued from front
 Ignated roles directly related to tourism (STR, Motel, Hotel, [Bed and Breakfast], Retail, Restaurant/Bar, Realtor, Recreation Activities, Wolf Creek Ski Area). Board duties and responsibilities should be clearly defined. Term limits should be imposed that are staggered to allow for partial turnover and consistency.”

Additionally, for the stated purposes of maintaining relationships between the town and county, and facilitating “accountability and performance review,” the letter recommends that the tourism department should be placed under an organization that represents both the town and county and that has, “the authority to make changes to staffing at the tourism department based on performance – not just make advisory recommendations.”

The letter suggests that the tourism board could be empowered to do this by enhancing its authority from that of an advisory board or that the tourism department could be placed under the control of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation.

The letter is signed by 25 entities, including local lodgers such as The Springs Resort and Spa, Motel Soco and the Riverwalk Inn; other businesses such as Riff Raff Brewing Company and The Neon Mallard; and several short-term rental owners.

Discussion at the BoCC work session opened with Visit Pagosa Springs Executive Director Jennifer Green indicating that she was speaking to the board to hear their feedback on the appointment of Amy Johnson to the open real estate seat on the tourism board as well as to hear any other questions the BoCC might have.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked, “Where do you see the tourism board going this next year?”

“That’s a great question,” Green said. “I think there’s a lot of uncertainty, and not regarding the town and the county’s relationship. I think that we’ve perhaps lost some confidence of the business community, right or wrong. But that’s where we stand right now.”

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that the tourism department may have lost the confidence of “some people,” but not the community.

He commended Green’s work and commented that he did not believe “a lot of this difficulty” was

driven by the town’s and county’s ongoing renegotiation of the agreement forming the tourism board following the county giving notice of its potential withdrawal from the previous agreement.

He instead attributed the issues to “other dynamics that are happening right now that probably shouldn’t be happening.”

Maez stated that the BoCC has been and will continue to support Green in his opinion, adding, “I don’t want to see a difference in the future. What I do want to see is continued performance of excellence in which you’ve always done. And I appreciate that and I ... really, really am inspired by the performance that you’ve done for this community.”

Brown commented that his question was not intended to be “pointed or accusatory” or to imply that he does not support the tourism board, but that he simply wanted to know what the board’s plan is for 2024 and what changes the board might be considering.

“I’d say before yesterday I had a much better idea as to what that plan and the vision for the future was,” Green stated, adding that the tourism board discussed having a tourism conference in April 2024 to help educate local businesses and highlight that the issues they are experiencing are not unique to the area.

She stated that the tourism board is “still trying to determine what the new normal is going to be” and that efforts will continue to promote tourism in the area.

“Working with the business community is a two-way street,” Green said. “We can do as much as we can, but if the businesses aren’t willing to engage with the mechanisms we have in place ... it’s difficult. We have a big event this Saturday and ... we’ve pulled together a lot of the community to organize a full day of Halloween festivities, and I can’t say we have a lot of support with the lodgers. They’ve long said they wanted shoulder season events ...”

“And now they have one,” Maez interjected.

“It’s a lot of extra work on the staff, on the community,” Green continued. “And, so, I’ll be honest, it’s frustrating that my team ... basically our entire focus is trying to promote tourism ... and it doesn’t come down to one individual or a team of staff. It comes down to the community and whether or not

this is what the community wants.”

Tourism board member Michael Whiting then spoke on the board’s work, noting that “the results speak for themselves” and the Pagosa Springs area sees superior tourism performance compared to regional competitors.

He commented that the problems were triggered by a “small group” of businesspeople who he indicate “do not represent the bulk of the business community.”

“This is a solution trying to find a problem, quite frankly,” Whiting said, adding that, while he had not read the letter, he guessed it raised objections about access to data, a lack of representation on the board and a lack of performance accountability from the tourism board.

He noted that the tourism board has heard these complaints at its meetings.

Whiting then highlighted that the public has multiple opportunities to comment on the tourism board budget and that the persons complaining about data access “don’t come to the meetings where the data is provided on a monthly basis and/or don’t read the packet. Anyone who would suggest that we’re underperforming as a tourist community is just not in touch with the facts.”

He commented that the tourism board is composed of businesspeople and “the idea that this board doesn’t represent the business community, it’s a joke or it’s meant to harm.”

Whiting stated that the tourism board has two key performance metrics — lodgers’ tax and sales tax — where the area frequently outperforms other communities.

He noted that, in the near future, the board is maintaining its programs and ensuring it analyzes tourism data on a short 30-day cycle to address instability following the COVID-19 pandemic.

He concluded by stating that, while he did not intend to speak for the motives of the people questioning the tourism board’s performance, he felt that questioning the board’s performance or rigor suggested “You just don’t have the facts.”

“What I would suggest to the people who feel like they don’t have enough of the facts is that they show up at the meetings,” Whiting said. “The lodgers’ representative attends fewer meetings of our meetings than all of the other board members, so it wouldn’t surprise

me if the lodgers had less information because their representative is there less often. So, in that regard, I would suggest that people just participate in what we do first before criticizing.”

Maez commented that he stated at the last tourism board meeting that choosing to remain silent means giving consent.

He then commented that the boom in tourism during COVID-19 was not sustainable and that the area tourism market is returning to a more normal level, albeit with continued “great performance.”

Maez added that he opposes the appointment of additional lodging representatives to the board as requested in the lodgers’ letter due to them already having representation.

He stated that having both lodging and short-term rental positions on the board would be akin to “double dipping or weighing the votes of the board.”

Brown asked what steps would be taken to work with the lodgers registering complaints, such as holding meetings with the lodgers.

Whiting stated that staff and board members have met with businesses and individuals who signed the letter and that the board conducts “pretty intense” outreach to lodgers, although it receives low turnout partially due to the lack of a lodgers’ association.

He noted that the lack of lodgers’ association makes it difficult to assess the overall view of lodgers in the community.

Whiting commended the county for working to renegotiate the agreement creating the tourism board with the town.

He commented that the letter is “a bit of a strawman” and represents a minority viewpoint, adding, “They’re not going to find the problems with the tourism board or tourism staff. They’re just not there. So, in that regard, what I would suggest is that ... we’re gonna lose our staff if this rub is allowed to become something when it really isn’t anything.”

He added that the individual issues the lodgers identified could be addressed, although the board provides large amounts of data to the community and struggles with low participation in its meetings where it shares the data.

“What we see now is people coming forward and saying, ‘We don’t have access to data. We don’t understand what’s going on.’ It’s because they don’t participate,” Whiting said. “You’ve gotta be in it to win it.”

He added that he is unsure why these individuals do not participate in the meetings, but that making changes to the tourism board or delaying finalizing the agreement on the tourism board between the town and county would be a “huge mistake.”

Maez commented that does not want the process slowed and that the tourism board is intended to promote tourism for all businesses in the county, not just for a select group.

Green stated that the tourism board has never been able to obtain occupancy rate, average daily rate and revenue per available room data from the lodging community.

She described this data as “really integral” and noted that the vast majority of tourism destinations have this data, which she indicated is critical in understanding the health of the tourism industry.

Maez highlighted that Green has been working on obtaining this data for at least eight years.

She agreed and noted that the tourism board previously offered to pay a third-party service to aggregate this data for the community.

She also stated that this data is critical for investors considering entering the community and stated that the Pagosa Springs area has seen less outside investment compared to nearby communities like Durango.

Whiting commented that this information could “fundamentally” change the board’s understanding of the tourism economy.

He added that the board has asked for and been denied this data on a nearly annual basis for at least the last seven years and commented that it is an example of how greater participation by lodgers would be more useful than actions like submitting the letter.

Commissioner Veronica Medina raised the possibility that the board could have a different lodgers’ representative due to the lack of attendance issues.

She added that this would not be the BoCC or the tourism board’s

decision, although she suggested this might be something for the lodgers to consider.

Whiting commented that he would like increased participation from the authors of the letter, as he feels they would not have these complaints if they participated more.

Medina commented that Green is doing “an amazing job” and stated, “I’ve definitely seen the progress — it’s evident — your knowledge base, your passion for what it is that you’re doing, and I personally thank you for that. I know it is a struggle, especially when you have others that may not appreciate what it is that you do.”

She added that COVID-19 was “hard” and there are significant adjustments for all industries, including tourism, in acclimating to the new normal.

Brown asked how often the data collected by the tourism board is available.

Green stated it is presented monthly and that tourism staff uses additional data to track the performance of advertising and other efforts.

Maez and Brown expressed their appreciation for the data Green provides.

Green added that the tourism department also uses software to track where visitors to Pagosa Springs originate from and how long they stay.

The discussion continued with a further discussion of Johnson’s appointment to the board, which the BoCC expressed general approval for.

Woodman also gave an update indicating that the county and town recently finalized a memorandum of understanding transferring the responsibility for the event stage and setting it up to the county.

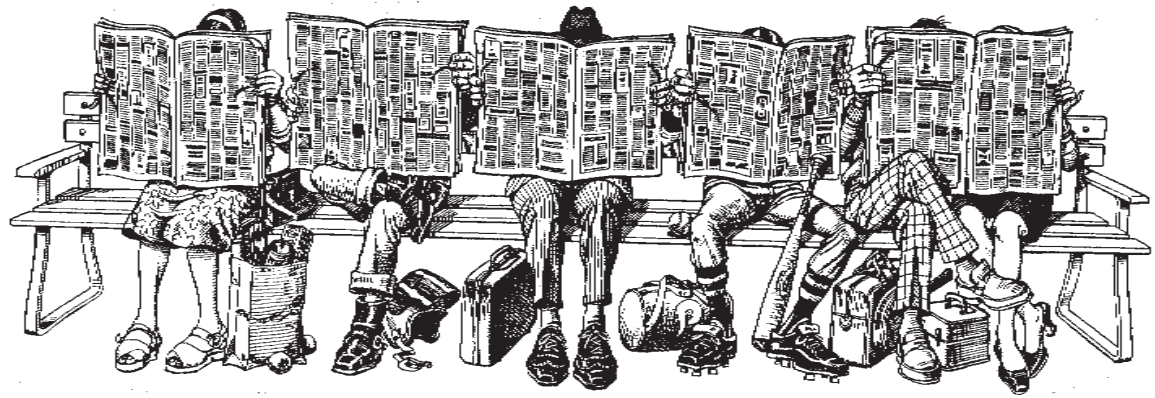
He also noted that the final meeting to discuss a new intergovernmental agreement between the town and county for the tourism board would occur on Thursday and he expected it to be presented to the BoCC and town council in upcoming meetings.

Brown thanked the people involved in the creation of the agreement for their work.

The meeting concluded with the BoCC thanking Green for her presentation.

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Outdoors

Rio Grande National Forest to host public meetings in advance of over-snow travel management planning process

U.S. Forest Service

The Rio Grande National Forest will be conducting four public meetings in advance of launching its forest-wide over-snow travel management planning project.

Forest staff will present the first draft of the winter Recreation Opportunity Spectrum maps for the public to review. These maps depict both the current and suitable over-snow motorized travel uses on the land.

The public is invited to provide their thoughts and recommendations on winter travel opportunities shown on the draft Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Maps, which will serve to establish a baseline for

the upcoming planning process.

Meeting dates, times and locations are as follows:

- Pagosa Springs: Nov. 8, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 344 U.S. 84.

- Saguache: Nov. 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Building, 305 3rd St.

- Del Norte: Nov. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (open house style), Rio Grande National Forest Headquarters, 1055 9th St.

- Antonito: Nov. 14, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, 6633 CO Rd 113.

“This is a great opportunity to voice your opinion and get involved to help shape winter recreation ex-

periences and settings on the forest,” said Kris Sexton, acting forest supervisor for the Rio Grande National Forest. “We look forward to seeing and hearing from our community members and all those interested in over-snow recreation.”

Sexton encouraged all interested parties to attend any one of the sessions, adding, “we’ve tried to schedule the meetings at convenient and flexible times and locations to encourage public attendance.”

Sexton also would like to advise folks that it will be a long process, likely taking more than two years to complete.

The resulting Over-snow Travel

Management Plan will set parameters that will guide over-snow travel on forest roads, trails and cross-country use for the next 15-20 years across the 1.8 million-acre Rio Grande National Forest.

While this first round of public involvement will help inform the forest of winter recreation needs and desires, an additional round of public meetings is planned for early 2024. The second round will serve to inform Forest Service staff as they develop the final project proposal that will begin the official planning process.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call (719) 850-2374 or visit the forest website.

Divide trail Gateway Community summit planned for November

Continental Divide Trail Coalition

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) has opened registration for the 2023 Gateway Community Summit slated to take place during the month of November.

The online event series will focus on providing communities adjacent to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) with resources and support for promoting tourism and community engagement related to the internationally renowned trail.

“The Gateway Community program is a way to showcase the unique offerings of our trail-town communities and to provide support. Through the Summit, these communities will be able to network, learn, and grow their capacity to share the Divide landscape with

all who want to visit, from actual trail travelers and thru-hikers to families on a road trip and local community members who live along the Divide,” CDTC Executive Director Teresa Martinez said.

Towns and counties self-select to be designated as official CDT Gateway Communities and are deemed as “friendly to trail visitors.”

They also share in the CDTC’s mission and are dedicated to completing, protecting, and promoting the CDT. The CDTC partners with Gateway Communities to give visitors a great experience and opportunity to learn about the Continental Divide landscape.

This joint mission depends in part on the collective voices of the trail communities, and the CDTC is also conducting its annual small business survey to gather input and

measure the economic impact of doing business adjacent to the CDT.

Across the five states the CDT traverses, 70 percent of respondents from the 2022 small business survey reported seeing an increase in business and revenue related to CDT users and 90 percent believe that protecting the CDT and enhancing public lands in general is important to the well-being of their businesses and their community’s economy.

Colorado is home to seven officially designated Gateway Communities and 740 miles of the CDT.

“We hope to hear from a variety of businesses through the Small Business Survey and at the Gateway Community Summit,” said CDTC Community and Outreach Program Manager Liz Schmit. “Their input is important to the future of CDTC programs along the Continental

Divide Trail, from our community programming and events to advocacy efforts in the halls of Congress.”

The Gateway Community Summit will take place weekly throughout November and is open to participants within the CDT landscape and attendees who are not located adjacent to or near the trail. The four-part virtual series will feature success stories from Gateway Community ambassadors, provide educational resources and a “project incubator” session.

The small business survey will close on Nov. 17 and small business owners or representatives are encouraged to participate. For more information, visit the CDTC website at continentaldividetrail.org/gateway-communities or contact outreach@continentaldividetrail.org.

Rio Grande National Forest supervisor promoted

By Gregg Goodland
U.S. Forest Service

Longtime Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor Dan Dallas has been promoted to a key position in the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service.

Dallas began a temporary assignment earlier this year as director of renewable resources for the Rocky Mountain Region and

continued serving in that capacity after being permanently appointed to the position in July.

Dallas held the top post on the Rio Grande National Forest for 16 years.

“Dan Dallas successfully served the Rio Grande National Forest including navigating several complex issues during his tenure,” said Regional Forester Frank Beum. “His experience will now benefit all for-

est and grassland units in the Rocky Mountain Region as he takes on this new role.”

Dallas came to the Rio Grande National Forest in 2007 after serving as district ranger on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Elko, Nev., during the post sagebrush rebellion years. Before that, he was a district ranger in Newport, Wash., and Philipsburg, Mont.

He has taken several temporary

assignments during his career, including forest supervisor on the Uinta National Forest in Utah and as a national director in the headquarters office in Washington, D.C.

The forest will soon be filling the vacancy left behind Dallas. In the interim, Kris Sexton is serving as acting forest supervisor and Andy Kelher remains at his deputy forest supervisor post.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call (719) 850-2374 or visit the forest website.

Arson

■ Continued from front on fire.

Hill explained the suspect, Carlos Barreno Valenzuela, 46, of Pagosa Springs, was arrested on arson charges at about 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 23.

As of Wednesday morning, he was being held on a \$50,000 bond.

Hill noted the arrest charges include two counts of second-degree arson and one count of fourth-degree arson.

Rockensock noted the Pagosa Springs Police Department’s investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information is asked to call Archuleta County Combined Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.

Multiple fires reported

Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Deputy Chief Karn Macht reported the agency responded to three brush fires and a trash truck on fire that evening and night.

Macht noted all the fires were small and no structures were damaged.

The PFPD was dispatched to a small brush fire on the south side of the highway at U.S. 160 and Talisman Drive at 7:01 p.m., according to Macht. Firefighters arrived at 7:05 a.m. and had the fire under control at 7:23 p.m.

The second brush fire, in the area of 72 Great West Ave., was paged out at 7:49 p.m., according to Macht, with firefighters arriving

at 7:59 p.m. and controlling the fire at 8:02 p.m.

The third brush fire was in the area of 942 Great West Ave, according to Macht.

Firefighters were dispatched at 8:25 p.m., Macht explained.

They arrived minutes later and had it controlled by 8:50 p.m., he indicated.

He added units looked for additional fires in the area before clearing from the last incident.

Then, at 12:57 a.m., Macht indicated the PFPD was dispatched to a report of a trash truck on fire on Bastille Drive.

Macht explained the PFPD arrived at 1:05 a.m. and had the fire controlled by 1:41 a.m.

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Hot Springs Fest is a 3-day festival celebrating Pagosa Springs' all-natural mineral water and the healing benefits of hot springs. In celebration of the event, we invite you to join the wellness team of The Springs Resort and the team at Healing Waters for a series of Free Community Wellness Events as part of Hot Springs Fest.

FRI. NOV. 10

4:30 - 5:00 PM

COMMUNITY SOUND BATH THE COURTYARD AT HEALING WATERS

Experience relaxation and balance with a rejuvenating sound bath experience, where soothing sounds and vibrations guide you to a state of meditation and tranquility, promoting holistic wellbeing.

Bring yoga mat or cushion.



SAT. NOV. 11

5:00 - 6:30 PM

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SUN. NOV. 12

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Education



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Elementary School

Pagosa Springs Elementary School students pose with a Colorado National Guard helicopter during the helicopter's visit to the school on Oct. 11 for Red Ribbon Week. The week centers on the importance of drug-free living and making positive choices.



Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School fourth-graders Lupita, Aubrey and Annie explore materials at the Southern Ute Cultural Center in Ignacio.

Pagosa Peak Open School students study Ute history

By Emily Murphy
Pagosa Peak Open School

"Ute was not the original name of this tribe," fourth-grader Juniper said. "They were first called Núuchi, and it was changed when the Europeans came."

Juniper is one of 21 fourth-graders at Pagosa Peak Open School who is diving into a project anchored in the history of the Ute people. Through this project, students are able to engage with multiple primary sources such as journals and maps, participate in field work such as a tour of the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum in Ignacio, explore multiple perspectives on historical relationships within Colorado's past and learn about the cultural practices of the Ute people.

Students will celebrate their learning during the all-school project showcase today, Oct. 26.

"We're now looking at things like the history of fry bread, trading routes

and art like beadwork and weaving," fourth-grader Maleko said.

"I was surprised to learn that the Europeans took the Utes' land, and then gave them only a little of it back," fourth-grader Henry said.

Esperanza chimed in, "They also made boarding schools for the children and factories for the people to work in."

Darla went on to explain more about the boarding schools.

"They weren't schools at all," she said. "The Ute children had to work there, and live there. They had to cut their hair and wear uniforms and change their names."

The Ute land borders Archuleta County and extends west and south. As a project-based, place-based school, the history and stories of the people close by stand as the backbone of student work.

While students have, and share, their own perspectives on their environment, project-based learning allows them to expand and challenge their understandings.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Oct. 26

San Juan Basin Public Health Board of Health meeting. 9 a.m., San Juan Basin Public Health Office Building, 281 Sawyer Drive, Durango, and via Zoom. For participation information, visit: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/157/Board-of-Health>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners: budget presentation by district attorney. 11 a.m., via Zoom. For Zoom information, visit www.archuletacounty.org.

Pagosa Springs Town Council budget work session. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Friday, Oct. 27

San Juan Water Conservancy District work session. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Ste. 5.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Main Street work group session. 4 p.m., Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for more information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for more information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Monday, Nov. 6

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners budget meetings. 8 a.m., Archuleta County

administration building, commissioners' meeting education 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>.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall council chambers, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosasun.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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Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Seeds of Learning teacher Leeann Skoglund and, holding the certificate, two classmates. From left are Rotarians CiCi Stuart and Melanie Garrett, Seeds Director Michelle Cusick, Seeds Program Director Kathy Faber and Rotary president Cindi Galabota. Skoglund was awarded a mini grant from the Rotary club.



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Pagosa Peak Open School teacher Rue Graham poses with students and, from left, Rotarians Melanie Garrett, CiCi Stuart, Kim Moore and president Cindi Galabota. Graham was one of 11 teachers to receive mini grants from the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club.



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Wings Early Childhood Center staff pose with certificates after receiving mini grants from the local Rotary club. Pictured with certificates are Mirah Neulieb, Jennifer Jennings, Leah Holliday, Director Becca Gartman. Rotarians, from left, are CiCi Stuart and Melanie Garrett. Not pictured is teacher Shauntel Garcia.



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Pagosa Family School and Pagosa Springs Middle School teachers and staff pose with Rotarians following the awarding of teacher mini grants. Pagosa Family School and Pagosa Springs Middle School teachers with certificates are (top row) Linda Lutomski and Abbie Monroe; (bottom row) Malinda Burnett, Katrina Thomas and Laura Mijares. Pictured with them, from the left top, are Pagosa Family School Principal Jane Lewis, and Rotarians Ronnie Doctor, Melanie Garrett and CiCi Stuart.

Rotary awards teacher mini grants

By Melanie Garrett
Pagosa Springs Rotary Club

If you were offered \$400 to enhance your students' learning opportunities, how would you use it? The Pagosa Springs Rotary Club posed that question to preschool through high school teachers in Pagosa Springs. Teachers who responded with creative, innovative ideas to inspire students were awarded Rotary teacher mini grants.

Of the 15 applications received from five different schools, the selection committee awarded funds to 11 teachers.

Congratulations to Leeann Skoglund at Seeds of Learning; Laura Mijares, Linda Lutomski and Abbie Monroe, at Pagosa Family School; Katrina Thomas (Pagosa Family School) applied with Malinda Burnett (Pagosa Springs Middle School); Leah Holliday, Mariah Neulieb, Shauntel Garcia and Jessica Jennings at Wings; Rue Graham at Pagosa Peak Open School;

and Jillian Cram at Valor Academy.

Rotary's Teacher Mini Grant Program awarded a total of \$4,000 to teachers. The mini grants provide funds to innovative teachers who want to develop new programs to enrich the student classroom experience, specifically materials or projects that are not funded through the school district. To stretch Rotary's \$4,000 to serve as many projects as possible, the committee chose to partially fund some requests and suggested other resources.

The interesting and fun projects funded this year include Quoridor Games, an abstract strategy game; drums; building pixel kits; culinary equipment; and specimen and dissection kits. Preschoolers will enjoy tools to learn shapes and culture, sensory and motor skills, as well as creative building projects. Older students also will receive equipment for more advanced science projects.

"It is truly special to be accepted and to know Pagosa Springs Rotary



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Valor Academy teacher Jillian Cram is pictured with Rotarians Ronnie Doctor, CiCi Stuart and Melanie Garrett after receiving a mini grant.

is a strong supporter of early education" noted one grant recipient. "This is wonderful news! We are so grateful for Rotary's support!"

Another teacher replied, "Wonderful news! Thank you so much Rotary for your continued support."

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is proud to support our wonderful teachers who work so hard to excite and educate

our children. Funding this year allowed us to expand the mini grant program to preschools. In addition to the mini grants, Rotary awards \$20,000 in scholarships to Pagosa's graduating seniors each year. Pagosa Springs Rotary offers these opportunities in education through the support of the community in the form of Rotary sponsorships, participation in Rotary fundraisers and donations.



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Pagosa Springs Elementary School fourth-graders learn about school bus safety on Oct. 20. In recognition of National School Bus Safety week, students at the school learned about bus safety, emergency exits, how emergency evacuations work, and how to safely cross the street in front of a bus.

Fire district projects tax revenue increases, increased spending in 2024

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Oct. 10 meeting, the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors heard the district's proposed 2024 budget, as well as the 2024 PFPD Pension Fund budget.

Business Manager Tomi Bliss presented the pension budget at the PFPD pension board meeting preceding the board of directors meeting, opening by pointing out the difficulty of completing the pension fund budget due to its basis in the stock market and other elements outside of the district's control.

She explained that the numbers in the budget — including a projected \$304,973 in contributions to the fund from the state and from the PFPD general fund, a projected \$362,525 in investment income and projected expenditures of \$391,725 — were “guesstimates.”

PFPD board and pension board member Ronald Beckman asked if there would be additional pensions this year.

Bliss responded that she knew of at least one anticipated new pension receipt.

Later, at the PFPD board meeting, Fire Chief Robert Bertram presented the board with the proposed PFPD budget for 2024.

Bertram explained that he reconfigured the budget to make it clearer and improve efficiency with the assistance of Bliss and Deputy Chief Karn Macht.

He first covered revenues for the district, noting that property tax revenues are projected to rise sharply in the upcoming year, going from \$2,675,370 in 2023 to \$4,306,700 in 2024.

He added that the district will also see a projected \$20,000 increase in investment earnings due to moving capital funds into the COLOTRUST, which the board approved earlier at the meeting.

PFPD board member Wayne Hooper stated that he would like to revisit the fees for providing fire service at the Steven's Field airport, which PFPD board member James Martin seconded and Bertram noted the district would be investigating in the new year.

Bertram also noted that he wished to budget less revenue for wildland firefighting in 2024, noting that this revenue is largely a pass-through to pay personnel and that he would prefer to have a smaller amount of revenue budgeted (\$500 in 2024 compared to \$147,183 in 2023) to prevent

the district from having difficulty meeting this revenue goal if wildland firefighting equipment and staff are not available to respond to such fires.

He added that he would personally “love to get the trucks out” to assist with wildland firefighting and that the decrease in revenues for wildland firefighting was matched by a decrease in anticipated wildland firefighting expenses.

Bliss noted that the revenue the district makes from wildland firefighting is “minimal.”

The budget projects a total of \$4,633,754 in revenues for the district, up from \$3,192,273 in 2023.

On the payroll expenses portion of the budget, Bertram explained that the district will be hiring an additional fire inspector/fire prevention staff member to assist with the increased fire inspections in the district since taking over fire inspections for the Town of Pagosa Springs in 2023, as well as a training captain to reduce Macht's workload and improve training.

PFPD board member and Archuleta County Emergency Operations Commander Ryan Foster expressed agreement with hiring a training officer.

Bertram also noted that the health insurance budget will increase by \$100,000 in 2024 to allow for better health insurance coverage for staff and families of staff.

Beckman stated that, as part of the 2025 budget, he would like to see numbers for providing full-time staff for PFPD Station 4.

Hooper asked what cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for staff is included in the budget.

Bertram indicated that the budget includes an approximately 3.5 percent COLA increase for staff.

Hooper noted that he would like to discuss ways to prevent increasing pay gaps between junior and senior staff caused by straight percentage raises in the 2025 budget, which Bertram agreed is an issue.

Overall, the 2024 PFPD budget includes \$1,958,933 in payroll expenses, up from \$1,621,626 in 2023.

Bertram then covered administrative and benefits expenses, noting that the budget includes increased funds for retaining an attorney for the district, which the board voted to move forward with on Bertram's recommendation earlier at the meeting, and that he is investigating different firms in an effort to reduce the audit costs from \$55,000, which he commented is “high.”

He indicated that the county

treasurer's fee increased significantly — from \$85,000 in 2023 to \$129,201 in 2024 — due to increased property tax collections.

Bertram also discussed that the budget includes more subcategories and that fire prevention will have its own budget to improve expense tracking and clarity.

He noted that the budget includes funding to redesign the district's website to improve functionality and meet new compliance requirements with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Overall, the proposed administrative and benefits expenses total to \$509,641 in 2024, compared to \$463,540 in 2023.

Next, Bertram discussed fleet maintenance expenses, noting that he created additional line items in the budget to improve tracking.

Overall, this portion of the budget proposes \$144,900 in expenses, compared to \$108,850 in 2023.

Bertram then covered facility maintenance, noting that major projects and station improvements were shifted to the capital projects portion of the budget and that more money was budgeted to maintenance at PFPD Station 3 due to potential heating issues at the station.

Partially due to the changes in major projects, Bertram indicated, the facility maintenance budget fell from \$104,350 in 2023 to \$48,050 in 2024.

He explained that the line items for the training budget were changed to improve clarity.

The training budget rose from \$38,800 in 2023 to \$57,500 in 2024, the budget indicates.

Bertram then covered new equipment expenses, including the continuation of the bunker gear replacement program, new wildland boot and station boot reimbursement programs to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for volunteer firefighters, and purchases to increase fire and rescue capabilities and replace depleted equipment.

He also stated that the budget includes a new line item for a PFPD drone program to be launched in 2024 that he indicated will increase the district's capabilities in a range of areas.

Overall, the budget indicates that the new equipment expenses for 2024 will be \$229,050, up from \$105,450 in 2023.

Bertram then explained the recruitment and retention expenses for 2024, including a \$103,932 increase in contributions to the pen-

sion fund, taking it from \$209,501 in 2023 to \$314,183.

The chief then discussed utility expenses briefly (expected to rise from \$46,780 in 2023 to \$54,825 in 2024), before moving on to capital projects.

He explained that the capital outlays for the district in 2024 would include several “big projects,” including paving work at PFPD Station 1, Station 3 and the administration building.

Bertram added that work at Station 7 in Chromo will complete the classroom at the station to allow for remote training.

He stated that work on the administration building would also include new carpets and investigation into ways to redesign the building interior to make space for more employees and increase efficiency.

In response to a question from Beckman, Bertram stated that he hopes that construction work on the redesign of the building would begin by mid-year 2024.

He added that the capital projects budget also includes \$70,000 for extrication equipment and funding for the potential purchase of tactical water tenders and a new support vehicle.

Overall, the budget indicates that there are \$1,316,672 in capital project expenses planned in 2024, up from \$60,016 in 2023.

The budget also indicates that, overall, district expenses will match revenues at \$4,633,754, up from \$2,758,913 in 2023.

Beckman commended Bertram and his staff's work on the budget and highlighted that the budget focuses on addressing current needs instead of implementing new programs.

He also noted Bertram's “professional and prepared” presentation of the budget.

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Sports

FOOTBALL

Pirates sail to third straight win

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team marooned the Salida Spartans 42-12 Friday, Oct. 20, in Salida, giving the team a three-game win streak heading into its final regular-season game.

The Pirates will play their final regular-season game this evening, Oct. 26, in Bayfield.

"I just thought they played well," coach Nathan Morales said. "They executed and they hit big plays when they were there. And, we took care of the football and we were pretty physical, so it's good to see."

The Pirates jumped to a 21-0 lead by the end of the first quarter.

The team's first touchdown came with 7 minutes, 35 seconds left in the quarter on a 6-yard run by Gavin Lindahl. It was followed by a successful extra-point kick by Elijah Castro.

With 5:29 left in the quarter, Colton Lucero found the end zone on a 60-yard run that was also followed by a successful kick.

With 27 seconds left on the clock, Harley Armijo scored on a 19-yard interception, with a successful kick by Castro giving the Pirates a 21-0 lead.

"I think they just came out and executed, and that's important. We've been wanting to start fast all year, and I'm glad we were able to," Morales said.

The Pirates added another seven points in the second on a 59-yard pass play with quarterback Creede Dozier and Armijo. Castro followed the play with a successful kick, and the Pirates led 28-0 at halftime.

Pagosa's next touchdown came with 6:10 remaining in the third quarter, with Lindahl completing a 1-yard run and Castro logging another successful kick.

Salida made the score 35-6 on an 80-yard kick return with 5:58 left



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Pirate Seth Aucoin avoids a tackle while running the ball against the Salida Spartans on Oct. 20 in Salida. Pagosa won 42-12.

in the quarter.

The Pirates answered with 4:54 left in the quarter when Seth Aucoin completed a 34-yard pass play and Castro completed his sixth successful extra-point kick of the night.

Salida scored with 45 seconds left in the third on an 8-yard pass play to make the score 42-12.

Neither team scored in the fourth, leaving the Pirates with the 42-12 win.

The Pirates logged 529 all-purpose yards in the game, including 198 passing yards by Dozier. Dozier completed 10 of 16 pass attempts.

Pagosa had 241 rushing yards against the Spartans, led by Lindahl's 109 yards on 17 carries.

Lucero had 98 rushing yards on 15 carries, Ty Richey had 15 yards on

four carries, and Dozier had 6 yards on one carry.

Aucoin had 91 yards on six receptions, Armijo had 61 yards on two receptions, Blake Laner had 42 yards on one reception, and Seth Zeigler had 3 yards on one reception.

The team logged 54 total tackles in the matchup, with Connor Kelly and Laner logging six each.

Kelly added a sack to his stats in the game.

The Pirates had two interceptions, with Armijo logging one and Jimmy Elledge having the other.

Hudson Mazur kicked off seven times for the Pirates for a total of 249 yards, and Dozier punted once for 35 yards.

The Pirates are heading into the

game against Bayfield as the No. 10 team in the 2A Selection and Seeding Index.

The Pirates own a 5-3 record and are second in the Intermountain League standings with a 2-1 league record. They sit behind Delta, who is 3-0 in league play and 8-0 on the season.

The Wolverines are 1-7 on the season and 1-2 in league play.

Morales noted it's a short week of practice for the team due to the game being on Thursday, but added the last game of the season is the best time to have a short week, with the team working on fine-tuning instead of implementing new plays.

Kick off is set for 7 p.m. in Bayfield.

randi@pagosasun.com

SOCCER

Pirates end season with loss to Bayfield

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer team played its last game of the season on Oct. 20, being beaten 4-0 by the Bayfield Wolverines in Bayfield and falling short of the playoffs.

Coach Lindsey Kurt-Mason explained that the Wolverines outplayed the Pirates in the first half, being faster to the ball and maintaining a strong passing game.

"We were just one step behind them," he said.

The coach indicated that Bayfield scored its first goal in the 21st minute of the game, with another following three to four minutes later.

"Then, we started to come around to what they were doing and started marking better and adjusted," Kurt-Mason said.

He explained that the team adjusted its play in the second half, reducing Bayfield from 13 shots on Pagosa's goal during the first half to four in the second.

He stated that one of the goals in the second half was off a penalty kick against Pagosa and that the other came off a cross by Bayfield approximately five minutes from the end of the game.

Kurt-Mason indicated that the team's defensive posture was "really good" in the second half and the Pirates had a strong offense in the first 20 minutes of the game.

"But, I think we were just 40 minutes too late," Kurt-Mason said. "They did deserve the game. I gotta

hand it to them; it was well played."

The coach highlighted the performance of Pirate goalkeeper Christopher Young-Martinez, stating, "He made some pretty darn good athletic saves. It was out of this world. He was ... probably 3, 4 feet off the ground and he was horizontal to the ground and punched a few out like that. You know, just diving. Everybody was in the stands just going, 'What? How'd he do that?' Just incredible goaltending from Chris."

Kurt-Mason added that Young-Martinez made 12 saves in the game.

He noted that Bayfield's play improved from the Wolverines' prior match against the Pirates, although he indicated that the Pirates were "faster to the ball" than Bayfield in the second half.

Kurt-Mason also highlighted the performance of Bayfield's midfielders in breaking up Pagosa's scoring opportunities and the team's "really well-organized attack."

"It was a good season," he commented on the season overall, noting that he believed that the team could have made the playoffs and that he felt the team was in a "position to win" in most games throughout the season, excluding the early season games where the team had a limited number of players.

He also highlighted that the team had three seniors: Jose Garcia, Trey Garcia and Nathaniel Kinsley.

Kurt-Mason stated that Jose Garcia was the team's leading scorer and that Trey Garcia and

Kinsley were both starters for the team despite coming on late in the season.

"They augmented our back line," he said, noting that Kinsley was the fastest player on the team and was able to keep up with Bayfield's leading offensive players and mark them effectively.

"Nate and Trey were a great addition to our team and I'm just sad that they ... couldn't play the whole season," Kurt-Mason said. "That would've been a great dynamic."

Kurt-Mason also commented that, for next year, he hopes the team's members have their paperwork and physicals completed before the season starts to ensure the team has a "roaring start" when the season begins.

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the positive impact he has on his teammates. Davian leads by example, inspiring those around him to give their best. He shows the same level of care and commitment to his teammates daily. Davian's selflessness and genuine concern make him a great teammate, and he embodies the essence of what it means to be a Triple Impact Athlete."

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Good luck, Pirates!

CROSS-COUNTRY



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Pirate harriers Dylan Dempster, right, and Asher Burk race in the Region 2 meet in Colorado Springs on Oct. 20. Dempster and Burk both set new personal records at the event and placed 69th and 73rd, respectively.



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Lady Pirates Kaiya Lyons, right, and Madisen Stretton pass the competition during the regional meet in Colorado Springs on Oct. 20. Lyons was the seventh fastest freshman and Stretton was the eighth fastest freshman in the region at the meet and both set new personal records.

Pirates race at regionals, Sienna Rose qualifies for state

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country teams raced at the 3A Region 2 meet in Colorado Springs on Oct. 20, with the boys' team taking eighth place, the girls' team taking sixth place and Sienna Rose securing a place at the state championships.

Coach Rachael Christiansen explains in a communication to The SUN, "Friday was a tough day with record breaking heat (83 degrees with a 'real feel' of 87 degrees!). However, despite the heat we saw a few really strong performances and we are proud of the effort every runner gave for regionals."

She notes that the boys' region is the most difficult in the 3A class, with the top three teams having average times of below 18 minutes at the race.

Overall, the boys' team took eighth place out of 15 teams, which Christiansen commends, highlighting that the team was racing without two of its top five runners.

Pirate Miles Baker finished 31st out of 104 runners with a time of 18 minutes, 50.96 seconds.

Christiansen notes that Baker achieved his second fastest time and comments, "He put it all out there, and while he didn't get that 15th spot he was hoping for, we know he did his best. And at the end of the day, that is all you can ask for."

Jesse Beck finished 44th with a time of 19:29.82 and Connor Thomas took 61st with a time of 20:30.28.

Christiansen states that Beck ran a "strong race" and that Thomas "raced well and we see a lot of potential in him for the following

years." Dylan Dempster finished in 21:17.27 to take 69th place, achieving a new personal record (PR) in the process.

The coach notes that he achieved this PR despite the hot conditions and comments, "He looked strong throughout the race and we are excited to see what he can do with another season of running."

Asher Burk also logged a PR, finishing in 21:33.48 to take 73rd place, while Elias Sanchez followed close behind, taking 74th place with a time of 21:38.06.

Christiansen comments on Burk, "This was a great race for him to end his XC season on. We are so glad he was able to race this year!"

She states that this was also Sanchez's last race with the team, adding, "Elias started off strong and tried to hold the pace throughout, but dropped a little. However, he should be proud of his effort out there."

Isaac Hanto finished in 22:55.44 to take 84th place and JC Allen took 88th place with a time of 23:46.77.

Christiansen comments on Allen, "While this race wasn't his fastest, it was a solid showing. JC has taken off over 16 minutes in his 5k time from last season. His growth has been phenomenal and we know there's room for more there too."

The girls' team finished sixth out of 15 teams and missed qualifying for state by 36 points, according to Christiansen.

Rose placed 15th out of 68 runners with a time of 21:17.71, securing a place at the state championships.

The coach explains, "Sienna raced a nearly perfect race and

pulled out a 15th place, State qualifying finish in the last 400m of the race. She also pulled off a new PR. She has worked very hard to get to this point and the entire team is thrilled she made it to State!"

Kaiya Lyons took 27th place with a time of 23:09.01.

Christiansen comments that Lyons ran an "amazing race" and states, "She earned herself a new PR, and was the 7th fastest freshman in our region. Look out for her next season!"

Madisen Stretton placed 32nd with a time of 23:32.28.

According to the coach, Stretton was the eighth fastest freshman in the region and beat her previous PR by 30 seconds.

"That's impressive on a good day, but on a crazy hot day that is amazing!" Christiansen comments. Charlotte Duranton finished close behind Stretton, taking 33rd with a time of 23:34.73.

"Charlotte's finish was one of the most exciting of the entire race!" Christiansen explains. "She was in an all out sprint to the finish with another girl and beat her by less than 2 tenths of a second. We are so grateful to have Charlotte join us this season and will miss her a ton."

Hailey Sams took 48th place with a time of 25:55.

The coach comments that Sams had a "strong second half and finished the race even stronger."

Marie Smith finished in 26:21.81 to take 51st place.

Christiansen explains, "This was Marie's last race with us as well. Marie grew so much over the years, going from her first 5k of almost 35 minutes to her PR of just under 25 minutes."

Johanna Baird took 67th place with a time of 33:18.64.

DUST2 team takes ninth at state championships

By Hadley Phillips
DUST2

The Pagosa Springs DUST2 Mountain Bike Team just finished out its season at the state championships in Glenwood Springs.

The Spring Valley Scramble is located on the Colorado Mountain College campus, which overlooks the beautiful Mt. Sopris.

Our team had a slight advantage over some of the other regions as it had raced the course a month prior. The trail through the pinion and sagebrush was familiar and fast.

The 5.5-mile course has 646 feet of climbing per lap with a mix of single- and double-track trails for passing opportunities.

The state championship racing is different from all the other four races because it lasts two days. This is due to all four of the Colorado regions, with some New Mexico, South Dakota and Wyoming teams joining, racing at the same venue. This adds up to around 800 racers in total. Even with this many racers, we had some amazing placements.

Saturday morning started with the freshmen girls warming up at 7:45 a.m. and taking off soon after

All three of our freshmen girls raced in the cold, but this didn't stop them from doing amazingly.

Sophia Alexander placed 12th with a time of 1:04, Adelyn Hittle placed 15th with a time of 1:06 and Kenli Bush placed 81st with a time of 1:37.

After all the girls finished, the team realized that Alexander had just placed the best out of any Pagosa rider at state. This is a huge accomplishment and we can't wait to see how these girls grow and get faster and faster every year.

The freshmen boys followed behind the girls with three of the four qualified racers racing.

Sadly, Van Halterman injured himself the week before and was not able to race. He still attended the race to cheer on his fellow team members, though.

The three remaining boys were Jackson Chaney placing 77th with a time of 1:05, Justin Sewell placing 95th with a time of 1:08 and Aaron Sowle placing 119th out of 142 boys with a time of 1:11.

At this point in the day, it was beginning to warm up for the JV girls. They started at 11 a.m. All of our JV girls made it to state, two of

whom are legacy riders, meaning they have raced all four years of high school.

The girls took off in a cloud of dust and finished two laps later. Rylie Carr came in 21st with a time of 1:07, Natalie Mashue (legacy) came in 32nd with a time of 1:10 and Hadley Phillips (legacy) came in 45th out of 102 girls with a time of 1:12. After the JV girls were done, the team left for town to eat and recover or, for those racing Sunday, prepare.

Sunday morning started again with a sunrise upon the stunning Mt. Sopris and the sophomore girl, Kaylee Hensle, warming up in the cold. With Hensle being the only Pagosa girl on the course, our cheer squad was able to spread out along the course and catch her at multiple different spots along the course. She finished 66th out of 73 girls with a time of 1:32.

Her finish was followed by the sophomore boys' start. Both Weston Phillips and Brady Ziminsky, our only two sophomore boys, barely squeezed past a large pileup at the beginning of their race, helping their times and placements greatly.

■ See DUST2 on A14

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VOLLEYBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Lauren Monterroso goes for the ball against the Ignacio Bobcats on Oct. 19. Monterroso had five digs on the night.

Lady Pirates go 1-1 over week's competition

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team went 1-1 over the last week, leaving the team with an 8-11 record heading into the final week of the regular season.

The Pirates fell prey to the 2A Ignacio Bobcats 3-1 on Thursday, Oct. 19, in Pagosa.

Ignacio took the first set 25-19 and the second 25-12 before Pagosa won the third set 25-17. The Bobcats secured the win with a 25-21 win in the fourth set.

"First, kudos to them," coach Katie Lorenzen said of Ignacio. "They were such a scrappy team and just were relentless waiting for us to make mistakes, and that is what we did. The first two sets we had an uncharacteristic amount of mistakes, hitting so many balls out of bounds, in the net, our bodies in the net — lots of things that just have not been happening so much this season to the extent that they were happening against Ignacio."

Lorenzen explained she tracks unforced errors throughout games and she tracked 10 in the first set and 14 in the second, plus other service and receiving errors.

She added there's "just no way to win games" with that number of errors.

She also noted it was the team's senior night and there were a lot of heightened emotions for all of Pagosa's teams.

Lorenzen also noted the game featured a number of long rallies.

"There was also one rally that lasted about a minute, 40 seconds, which is a really long time in volleyball, and the ball crossed the net 28 times. And, of those, only a few of them were ... immediate overpasses. Most of them were like dig, set and attack, and then another dig, set, attack. So, it was really just ... a lot of really long rallies. That one was pretty epic, and we lost that rally. They ended up getting the kill at the end," Lorenzen said, offering more credit to Ignacio for the team's play. "Kudos to them for just being a really solid 2A team."

Aspen Pitcher had 13 kills to lead the team and hit .119, noted Lorenzen.

Kynsle Limebrook followed with 11 of the team's 35 kills.

She noted the team has a whole barely hit over zero with a team total of .007.

But Lorenzen noted there were also positives in the game.

Hayden Peterson, she pointed out, came in to play on the right side to be a taller back.

"That was her first major time in a varsity match as a sophomore and she really held her composure beautifully. She got a couple aces, one was right off the bat. She had a couple really good digs as well, she covered herself a couple times, and she got a couple kills, so she actually had the highest hitting percentage on our team," Lorenzen said.

Lorenzen pointed out the team had 81 digs in the game, averaging about 20 per set, which she noted is pretty high.

Pitcher led the team with 19 digs, followed by Grace Walker's 16 and Annie O'Donnell's 13.

She also highlighted the team's passing and defense.

The Lady Pirates had four total blocks.

Lorenzen noted the team didn't get as many blocks as usual against Ignacio because the Bobcats worked to go around the block.

The coach noted the team had fewer aces than service errors, which she pointed out is opposite of the team's game two nights before against Buena Vista when it had 19 aces and two errors.

The team had eight aces, with Limebrook leading with three.

"So, overall, it just felt like an off night," she said.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, Pagosa's Lady Pirates traveled to Monte Vista to take on that town's 2A Pirates, and returned home with a 3-1 win.

Pagosa won the first set 25-15, the second 26-24 and the fourth 25-16, with Monte Vista claiming the third set with a 25-20 score.

"It was really great to get a win in Monte Vista today. They were a tough serving team and they really hustled

on defense, so we had to work to get some kills," Lorenzen said following the game. "Some of our hitters were really struggling tonight, just kind of out of the flow, and had a lot of hitting errors, but everyone collectively still was supporting each other and trying to take the load off of ones who are maybe usually carrying us."

Lorenzen noted Cadence Kerns again stepped up in the middle and took a lot of "really smart shots."

The coach added she also kept her errors down, which helped the team.

She also highlighted O'Donnell.

"Annie was really dialed in offensively. I think she was running a smart offense, really talking to her hitters a lot and distributing the ball quite a lot, and still believing in all of her hitters. That was very visible."

O'Donnell logged a double-double in the game with 35 assists and 12 digs.

"One of the most impressive things of the night was we were down 20-24 when she went back to serve and she finished it off 26-24 with the win in the second set," she said, adding O'Donnell was laser-focused with her serves and had 20 serve attempts with zero errors.

O'Donnell also had an ace.

"That was really huge, and it's fun to see her, I think getting that post-season feel of just wanting to make sure our team is the best at the end," the coach said.

Peterson also played on the right and hit some on the outside, Lorenzen, and Lexi Campbell did some hitting on the right side.

"When we made that switch Lexi did really great at the net getting some block touches and/or blocks, and Hayden was swinging really aggressively today and stepped it up," she said, adding it's nice to see a younger player hold her own out there.

Limebrook had five aces, the coach highlighted, with the team logging seven total.

"Our passers were really tremendous again today as usual," Lorenzen said. "Our offense would really be struggling if our passers weren't just nailing their passes."

She noted all of the team's main passers passed a 2.0 or above, which she called "huge" and noted helps O'Donnell and gives the team more options offensively.

Lauren Monterroso led with 25 digs. Walker followed with 15, and O'Donnell and Pitcher each had 12.

"They really kept us in the game a lot," Lorenzen said.

Pitcher led the team in kills with 17 of the team's 49.

Pagosa had three total blocks against Monte Vista.

The Lady Pirates' regular season will draw to a close with this week-end's Coal Ridge Tournament.

The Lady Pirates will play four teams at the tournament.

The Lady Pirates will open tournament play on Friday, Oct. 27, against the 4A Palisade Bulldogs at 1 p.m.

The Bulldogs are the No. 6 team in 4A volleyball and are 15-4 on the season.

At 4 p.m. that day the team will take on the Delta Panthers, who are the No. 4 3A team. The Panthers are 18-1 on the season.

On Saturday morning at 9 a.m., Pagosa will face 4A Glenwood Springs, which is the No. 28 team. The team is 11-8 on the season.

The Lady Pirates' final opponent will be dependent upon pool play and how the Lady Pirates do in the first three games.

"We have our work cut out for us. We'll be seeing some tough competition and I'm looking forward to our girls really stepping it up and having postseason mindsets against these teams," Lorenzen said.

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DUST2

Continued from A13

Both boys were a blast to watch on the tight corners and the multiple drops they used as jumps along the course.

Weston Phillips finished in 76th with a time of 1:00 flat and Ziminsky finished in 140th out of 152 boys with a time of 1:07.

Bradley Lamoreaux (legacy), our only varsity boy, was up next. This was the most intense race to watch because varsity riders are skilled enough that they can be aggressive on the course. This means many sketchy passes, flying around sharp corners, but sometimes multiple crashes.

Lamoreaux flew through his three laps in 1:21 minutes and placed 40th out of 95 racers. Just to further show his skills, Lamoreaux won the skills course on Saturday, earning himself some swag and the

recognition his skills deserve.

He wasn't the only Pagosa rider to win the course, though.

Coach Janine Emmets won the women's coach segment of the skills course both Saturday and Sunday. She was cheered on by many of the team members on both days, which only solidified her coolness as a coach.

Pagosa's DUST2 team placed ninth out of 25 teams in the D2 division. This isn't a podium finish, but an amazing placement for the number of kids who raced. Although the season has ended, the head coach Oliver Phillips and team director Emmets are already working on making next year as amazing as this one.



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Development

Continued from front road network and the preservation of mature trees along the corridor. The ordinance's language states that "the Town Council finds and determines that amending the official zoning map," and allowing the development, "is in the best interests of the Town and will promote the general welfare of the Town."

But since the ordinance created a new planned overlay district (PDO), it also created a time frame requirement for breaking ground on the project.

For example, "the LUDC specifies that approval of 'rezoning to PDO' is considered lapsed if the property owner has not commenced development by filing a complete application for development (subdivision or design review) within one year," states agenda documentation.

This time requirement has

brought the property owner to ask for an extension from the council.

Agenda documentation for the Oct. 19 meeting states, "Staff believes a 1-year extension would be adequate and allow the owner to continue exploring financing, and if needed, would allow the Town an opportunity to review the extension again in another year."

At the meeting, Schultz explained that her conversations with the owner revealed that the applicant has faced challenges "with financing," but that "they have lined up their contractors, who they are bringing in from outside the area."

She added that she felt the applicant was "justified in trying to locate substantial financing for the project ... It's very important because we want to make sure that they have adequate financing in place for the entire project."

She explained that she anti-

pates seeing a Phase 1 application for the project fairly soon, and that the application would probably include some amendments, but that these changes would not alter the overall nature of the agreement.

The changes would probably include a slightly reduced number of overall units, but would still meet all of the things that the town wants to see in the project, including the preservation of trees, a commuter trail and a secondary road network, Schultz noted.

Council member Gary Williams then made a motion to approve a one-year extension request of Ordinance 989 for the Pagosa Views Planned Development to Oct. 19, 2024, "finding the applicant's justification for such is reasonable."

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously by the council.

derek@pagosastun.com

El Pomar Foundation approves \$83,369 to organizations in the Southwest region

El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar trustees approved \$83,369 to be allocated to 12 non-profit organizations and government entities in the Southwest region at the foundation's August trustees meeting.

Through the foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Rise Above Violence (Pagosa Springs) — \$2,500 for the Runway for Rise event; regional merit.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Colorado Inc. (Durango) — \$10,000 in general operating support; competitive.
- Dancing Spirit Inc. (Ignacio) — \$5,000 in general operating support; regional merit.
- Dove's Nest (Dove Creek) — \$10,000 in general operating support; regional council.
- DUST2 (Pagosa Springs) —

- \$5,200 for a bike fleet; Karl E. Eitel Fund.
- Healthy Archuleta Inc. (Pagosa Springs) — \$2,500 for community health fair and symposium; regional merit.
- Hive DGO (Durango) — \$5,000 for life skills support for youth and community members; competitive.
- Montezuma County Public Health (Cortez) — \$1,512 for the RISE suicide awareness walk; regional council.
- Pagosa Community Initiative (Pagosa Springs) — \$6,750 for scholarships for youth programming; Karl E. Eitel Fund.
- Silverton Youth Center — \$4,907 for youth summer activity programming; regional council.
- Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center Inc. (Durango) — \$25,000 for the Durango Community Healthcare Campus; competitive.

- United Way of Southwest Colorado (Durango) — \$5,000 for Pagosa Outreach Connection; regional merit.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding. Additionally, over the last 85 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of a number of other funds, as well as presenting merit grants in each regional council members. Competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

To view a full listing of El Pomar's funds and grant-making areas, please visit <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/>.

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS 338-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2023-005

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On August 9, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s) Sohum Mountain Ranch, LLC Original Beneficiary(ies) Gary Morris Current Holder of Evidence of Debt Gary Morris Date of Deed of Trust June 03, 2019 County of Recording Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust August 09, 2023 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) 21903116

Original Principal Amount \$2,800,000.00 Outstanding Principal Balance \$2,800,000.00 Pursuant to CRS 338-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

TRACT II of the GARY MORRIS SUBDIVISION, according to the plat thereof filed for record June 3, 2019 as Reception No. 21903077 Also known by street and number as: 6651 County Road 382, Chromo, CO 81128.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

THE CURRENT HOLDER of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 12/07/2023, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

DATE: 08/09/2023 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 08/09/2023 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

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COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS 338-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2023-007

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On August 10, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s) GLENN KEELAR AND MIRIAM KEELAR Original Beneficiary(ies) MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ACTING SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC.

Current Holder of Evidence of Debt U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS COLLATERAL TRUST TRUSTEE OF FIRSTKEY MASTER FUNDING 2021-A COLLATERAL TRUST Date of Deed of Trust October 14, 2005 County of Recording Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust October 21, 2005 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.) 20511342 Original Principal Amount \$67,500.00 Outstanding Principal Balance \$36,336.10 Pursuant to CRS 338-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations of the terms thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

LOT 25, THE RESERVE AT PAGOSA PEAK PHASE 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 5, 2005 AS RECEPTION NO. 20510466, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO.

Also known by street and number as: 196 DYLAN DR, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

THE CURRENT HOLDER of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

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DATE: 08/10/2023 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 08/10/2023 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc. Plaintiff v. ERIC SCHNOEBELN, THERESA E FISHER, RONALD R FISHER, JR, DEFENDANTS

Attorney for Plaintiff: Christopher B. Conley Hayes, Johnson & Conley, PLLC 700 South 21st Street Fort Smith, AR 72901 Tel. 479.242.5906 Email: ir@hjclagal.com Atty. Reg. No.: 51651

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S): ERIC SCHNOEBELN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice. This is an in rem action of judicial foreclosure upon your timeshare interest(s) for failure to pay the Monthly Payments to Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc. The legal description for your real property is below.

Plaintiff: Attorney: Christopher B. Conley, Attorney at Law, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Published in the Pagosa Springs Sun First Publication: October 19, 2023 Last Publication: November 16, 2023 /s/ Christopher B. Conley

Attorney Hayes, Johnson & Conley, PLLC 700 South 21st Street Fort Smith, AR 72901 Atty. Reg. No.: 51651 Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 9, & 16 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (219005)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: PEGGY PAYNE 733 MANN'S HARBOR DRIVE APOLLO BEACH, FL 33572-3391 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 5th day of November 2020, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to D. HAUSERMAN the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOT 60, REPLAT OF RIO BLANCO CABIN SITES UNIT ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD MARCH 20, 1967 AS RECEPTION NO. 69614.

Account Number: R016187 Schedule Number: 596591201015 Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2020-05093 and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to D. HAUSERMAN. That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2019.

That said property was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of PEGGY PAYNE for said year 2019. That said D. HAUSERMAN was on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to D. HAUSERMAN on the 6th day of March 2024, unless the same has been redeemed; Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 10th day of October 2023 Signed: Elsa P White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (218767)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: MEADPROP UNITS, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 1133 N. 18TH STREET GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 1st day of November 2018, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to STUART BISHOP the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOT 37 IN LAKEWOOD VILLAGE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD APRIL 30, 1979 AS RECEPTION NO. 84867.

Account Number: R010322 Schedule Number: 569919430405 Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2018-04497 and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to STUART BISHOP. That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2017.

That said STUART BISHOP on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to STUART BISHOP on the 6th day of March 2024, unless the same has been redeemed; Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 9th day of October 2023 Signed: Elsa P White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (218776)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: MEADPROP UNITS, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 1133 N. 18TH STREET GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 1st day of November 2018, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to STUART BISHOP the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOT 38 IN LAKEWOOD VILLAGE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD APRIL 30, 1979 AS RECEPTION NO. 84867.

Account Number: R010321 Schedule Number: 569919430404 Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2018-04496 and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to STUART BISHOP.

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2017.

That said property was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of MEADPROP UNITS, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY for said year 2017.

That said STUART BISHOP on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to STUART BISHOP on the 6th day of March 2024, unless the same has been redeemed; Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 10th day of October 2023 Signed: Elsa P White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (218804)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: JOHN LAGANA 3014 TOWNE MILL AVE CANTON, GA 30114 LEONOR LAGANA 3014 TOWNE MILL AVE CANTON, GA 30114 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 5th day of October 2020, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to HILARI L. BELL the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOT 1 OF BLOCK 25 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 4, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD AUGUST 20, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74785.

Account Number: R003332 Schedule Number: 5693113180004 Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2020-05108 and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to HILARI L. BELL.

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2019.

That said HILARI L. BELL on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to HILARI L. BELL on the 6th day of March 2024, unless the same has been redeemed; Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 9th day of October 2023 Signed: Elsa P White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (218806)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: ATHENA ENGLIS 504 GUN BARREL ROAD PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147 NICHOLAS MOON 445 GUN BARREL ROAD PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147 TODD PARADISE 445 GUN BARREL ROAD PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 5th day of November 2020, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOT 483 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 6, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD AUGUST 3, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74689.

Account Number: R015626 Schedule Number: 589315204009 Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2020-04976 and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC.

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2019.

That said WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made

request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC on the 6th day of March 2024, unless the same has been redeemed;

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 9th day of October 2023 Signed: Elsa P White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (218810)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: DELDEV, INC 1133 N. 18TH STREET GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 5th day of November 2020, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOTS 339-340 AND 341-342 IN PAGOSA TRAILS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD SEPTEMBER 13, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74885.

Account Number: R004254 Schedule Number: 569524406052 Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2020-04941 and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC.

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2019.

That said WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC on the 6th day of March 2024, unless the same has been redeemed;

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 9th day of October 2023 Signed: Elsa P White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (218812)

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having Interest of Title of Record in or to the said Premises and to Whom It May Concern, and more especially to: JOHN W. WALKER 10822 BRIAR FOREST DRIVE HIASTON, TX 77042 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 5th day of November 2020, the then County Treasurer of Archuleta County, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to HILARI L. BELL the following described property situate in the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, to-wit:

LOT 746 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 6, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD AUGUST 3, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74689.

Account Number: R001543 Schedule Number: 589315404070 Tax Sale Certificate Number: 2020-05113 and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to HILARI L. BELL.

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2019.

That said HILARI L. BELL on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said property to HILARI L. BELL on the 6th day of March 2024, unless the same has been redeemed;

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed. Witness my hand this 9th day of October 2023 Signed: Elsa P White, Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado Published October 19, 26 & November 2, 2023 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (218813)

delinquent property (and special assessment) taxes assessed against said property for the year 2019.

That said property was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of FRANK CHESNA and LINDA Y. CHESNA for said year 2019;

That said WEST COAST PROPERTIES OF LEE COUNTY LLC on the 19th day of September 2023, the present holder of said certificate (who) has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said property.

preview

ARTS & LIFE

Halloween Hootenanny

Oct. 28 • Yamaguchi Park



PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

October 26, 2023

Things are getting spooky: Halloween Hootenanny slated for Oct. 28

By Jennifer Green
Visit Pagosa Springs

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County would like you to join us Saturday, Oct. 28, for a ghoulish day of fun for the whole family.

The Halloween Hootenanny is a huge Halloween party returning for the second year with even more events added, including trick-or-treating and kids activities, a witch and warlocks hot air balloon fly-in, a witch-costumed paddle boarding event, a 5k fun run/walk, live music, food trucks, a beer garden, multiple costume contests and a huge fireworks display.

Schedule

Following is the schedule for the day's festive events:

- 7:30 a.m.: Witches and Warlocks Fly in Hot Air Balloon Ride. Witches and warlocks get a free hot air balloon ride. Come costumed and ready to have a "bewitching" time over Pagosa Springs. All participants must register in advance by contacting Marissa at (970) 946-4450.

- 9:30 a.m.: Monster Dash 5K Fun Run/Walk. The Monster Dash 5K Fun Run/Walk will be followed by a costume contest with prizes. Trick or treat goodie bags will be given to the first 100 registered participants. The race will start/finish near the pickleball courts on the south side of Yamaguchi Park. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/PagosaSprings/HalloweenHootenannyMonsterDash5k>.

- 11 a.m.: Witches on Water Paddleboarding Event at Lake Pagosa. Gather your coven and tell them not to forget their magical paddleboards. Meet up at the Lake Pagosa dam off of Cloud Cap and Park avenue. No reg-

istration is necessary. Costumes are encouraged. Come ready to have a "bewitching" time on the lake. Life vests/ personal flotation devices required to participate.

- 1 to 3 p.m.: Annual Trick-or-Treating and Kid's Carnival. This annual event is sponsored by the Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department and includes loads of fun and candy for kids. Stop by and visit several stops along the way and collect candy and treats at Yamaguchi Park. Come have a hootin' good time trick or treating at Yamaguchi Park. Costumes are encouraged, but not mandatory. The costume contest for kids will be at 2 p.m.

- 1 to 3 p.m.: Costumed Pickleball Play organized by the Pagosa Pickleball Club. Join in on the pickleball craze and get free candy. Don your favorite Halloween garb and play pickleball on the new outdoor courts at Yamaguchi Park.

- 1 to 7 p.m.: Live music with Nu Bass Theory and Tomorrows Bad Seeds. We'll be featuring two fun bands this year. Nu Bass Theory is a Colorado-based duo playing "funky beats." Tomorrows Bad Seeds is the musical embodiment of surf and street culture from Los Angeles — a perfect blend of hip hop, punk, reggae, rock and soul.

- 1 to 7 p.m.: Food trucks and beer garden. Several local food trucks will be offering their delicious food options and an assortment of beverages.

- 7 p.m.: Fireworks at Yamaguchi Park. We are excited to light up the sky to top off the Halloween Hootenanny. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Learn more at www.visitpagosasprings.com/halloween or call the visitor center at (970) 585-1200.

See you at the Hootenanny.

Live Performers

Friday

Meltdown on Main: Retro Cats, 5 p.m.

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.

Saturday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: San Juan Mountain Boys, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

The Den: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Mailing address: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
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San Juan Stargazers to hear about formation of galaxies

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

Everyone is invited to hear Dr. Andy Green, the San Juan Stargazers' professional astronomer, on Thursday, Nov. 2, talk about his specialty, the formation of galaxies.

The Stargazers will hold their regular monthly educational meeting on Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis Street. Use the parking lot and enter at the side door right off the parking area. We leave the front doors locked.

There will be a social hour starting at 6 p.m. with coffee/tea and treats. You can bring something to share if you would like. You do not have to attend the social hour to be able to hear our educational program, just arrive sharply at 7 p.m. because the board has determined that our educational program must begin no later than 7:10 p.m., after a brief welcome.

Our speaker will be Green, who received his Ph.D. in astronomy in Australia, worked at the Australian National Observatory. He used to speak to the Stargazers when he came home to Colorado to visit his parents. His mom, Nancy Green, was greatly involved with the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA). He is now living in Pagosa Springs and is a member of our club.

After we are dazzled learning how galaxies are formed, we will come back to earth for a brief presentation by Tom Hanchett. Hanchett loves making models and loves explaining how things work. He has been working on a model of the lunar standstill, which began in September and continues for three years and one month. He will present his model and, if things go as he plans, we will all walk away understanding the major lunar standstill and being able to explain how it happens. This will be an extraordinary night of learning.

Upcoming activities

On Nov. 10 from 5 to 9 p.m. will be our 11th anniversary dinner and celebration. It will be at our regular meeting location, the Community United Methodist Church. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. It is not a potluck. It is free for members, but an RSVP is necessary. Please leave a message or send a text to (303) 995-2888 with your name, number of people coming and your favorite kinds of pies. Dessert is being provided by CRIA in appreciation for the work we do on the night sky programs during the summer. This will mostly be a social gathering, but we will spend some time looking at and discussing some of the

fabulous discoveries of the James Webb Space Telescope.

On Dec. 3, we will have a working monthly meeting for all members. In 2022, we gave out "Summer Tours of the Night Sky," so we could all become the astronomer of our dreams. I'm sure you have always wanted to stand out on a dark night

and point out the constellations, noting the special stars, planets and anything else of importance. At that time, new and renewing Stargazer members received a special blue plastic notebook with the needed information to easily impress or at least educate you

■ See Stargazers on next page



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Registration open for holiday lighting contests

Visit Pagosa Springs

Once again, the Pagosa Springs area will be bright with holiday cheer this season.

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board and The Pagosa Springs SUN are sponsoring a lighting contest this holiday season. The light-

ing contest will make the holiday season shine.

It includes enhanced lighting in downtown Pagosa as well as many other festive events taking place in and around the Pagosa Springs area through the end of December.

Participating addresses will be promoted to locals and visitors. Voting will be conducted online between Nov. 24 and Dec. 18.

Residential lighting contest

The holiday residential lighting competition will test participants' creativity and award cash prizes for first (\$1000), second (\$500) and third (\$250).

Participating residential properties must be decorated by Nov. 24. Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 21. We ask residential properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

Business lighting contest

The business lighting contest is open to any Pagosa Springs area business with a property to decorate. Participating businesses must decorate by Nov. 24.

We ask business properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 21. Business prizes of first (\$1,000), second (\$500) and third (\$250) will be awarded as advertising in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Storefront window contest

The storefront window contest is open to any Pagosa Springs area business with a storefront window to decorate.

Participating businesses must decorate by Nov. 24. We ask business properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. between Nov. 24 and the end of the year.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 21. Storefront window prizes of first (\$500), second (\$250) and third (\$125) will be awarded as advertising in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

How to enter

To enter the contest, please complete the following form by end of day on Nov. 15: <https://bit.ly/2023LightingContestSignUp>.

Women Helping in Pagosa Springs luncheon set for Oct. 31

By Nancy Ford
WHIPS

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at the restaurant at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club at 11:30 a.m.

The cost is \$15 and all women are welcome. We must have you RSVP by Sunday, Oct. 29, to (970) 946-1895.

Wear Halloween attire if you want.

Stargazers

continued from previous page
relatives, friends, neighbors and yourself about the night sky. We will be adding missing tours and additional information for every month of the year.

Judith Jubb has been working very hard on this, as she did for the presentations she gave during the summer months at Chimney Rock Night Sky Programs. You must find your notebook and bring it with you to work on. After completing the notebook, we will go over how to use this fabulous tool. You will go home one step closer to achieving being the astronomer of

your dreams with the only step left — get out and do it. But, you may want to practice before you put on a show. Please look for your notebook because it is too expensive to give people a second one. This is a priceless tool to use for the rest of your life and pass down to your grandchildren. We need everyone working together to complete this great project.

How to join the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine, which

is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member.

To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family. You can join the club at any of our events or now you can join using PayPal at our website, sanjuanstargazers.org.

If you join at our December meeting it will be the last chance to get a copy of this very special notebook.

We invite you to learn about and appreciate our unbelievable universe.

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Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table to offer fun and food

By Sally High and Rose Chavez
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) is hosting its largest fundraiser of 2023 on Saturday, Nov. 11. Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table is a veggie feast that is all about fun, food, music and creativity.

GGP supporters will gather at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse from 4 to 8 p.m. for Three Sisters at Your Thanksgiving Table.

GGP volunteers will serve a scrumptious succotash dinner, a veggie feast prepared by some of the best cooks in town. All cooks can bring their own special Three Sisters dishes for tasting and a group of expert tasters will choose the best recipes. Every cook bringing a dish for tasting gets in free.

The Three Sisters are Indigenous foods worth celebrating: corn and beans and squash. These native vegetables have been grown together and eaten together for generations.

The GGP's event will celebrate this regional culinary heritage while raising operational funds for the educational west end of Centennial Park. Remember, everyone, pumpkins are squash.

Guests will enjoy live music by Brooks-I and Cuatro Cruz. The Pagosa Springs Photography Club will treat guests to a Best of 2023 photography exhibit.

The family-friendly event will offer nonalcoholic beverages, but invites adults to taste beers brewed in northern New Mexico. The GGP's signature chokecherry drizzled champagne will be available. Each ticket holder receives one drink, but a cash bar will be open all evening.



Photo courtesy Sally High

This pumpkin is ripening at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership on the Riverwalk. Proceeds from Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table benefit the organization's educational operations. Visit www.pagosagreen.org/three-sisters-at-your-thanksgiving-table/ for tickets.

Blue cornmeal will be for sale in 24-ounce bags, freshly ground from 2023's harvest. The non-genetically modified corn meal is grown at the Ute Mountain's Four Corners tribal farm, far enough away from other corn producers that there's no chance of cross pollination with commercial seed.

Bags of this gourmet blue cornmeal are hard to find in retail settings, so stock up for your holiday season at the GGP's Three Sisters event.

The GGP is a volunteer- and donation-driven nonprofit organization that operates three dome greenhouses on the Riverwalk. The

■ See Food on next page

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Domestic violence awareness doesn't end after October

By Amanda Briggs
Rise Above Violence

As we near the end of the month of October, and therefore Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we remember that awareness does not end when we flip our calendar page and turn our thoughts to preparation for the holidays.

Domestic violence does not take a break, and we encourage you to use the time with family and friends to offer love and support to any survivor you know.

As you pass the purple ribbons around town, which were placed by volunteers in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we invite you to ponder the ways in which you can get involved to support survivors and be part of making our community a safe place for all.

Rise Above Violence will continue to serve survivors through safety planning, advocacy, and educating survivors about their options and resources. Rise will also continue

to serve the greater community through awareness and education efforts. We are honored to provide a safe space where people know they will be treated with dignity and respect and where their choices will be honored.

Our free and confidential 24-hour hotline can be reached by dialing (970) 264-9075.

We deeply appreciate the efforts of our volunteers, iRise Adventure Challenge participants and everyone who took time to interact with

our educational material on social media this month. Connection and relationships are important to safe communities, and we love seeing Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County come together to learn, support and be part of ending domestic violence in our area.

If you would like to get involved with Rise Above Violence as an advocate, peer counselor or fundraiser, please call (970) 264-1129, ext. 6 to learn about our many volunteer opportunities.



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Photo courtesy Sally High

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) grows tomatoes year-round in geothermal-heated dome greenhouses in Centennial Park. You can support the GGP on Nov. 11 at its Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table event. Visit www.pagosagreen.org/three-sisters-at-your-thanksgiving-table/ for tickets.

Food

■ continued from previous page
GGP works for community and is supported by community. Go to www.pagosagreen.org/three-sisters-at-your-thanksgiving-table/ to purchase your tickets for "Three Sisters at your Thanksgiving Table." A wide range of ticket prices ensures that all are welcome at the GGP's harvest celebration. All proceeds benefit GGP's educational operations.

Tax-deductible donations can always be made at www.coloradogives.org/geothermalgreenhousepartnership. Colorado Gives Day is coming up, but you don't have to wait. Donate any day to GGP, a homegrown, grassroots community service organization.

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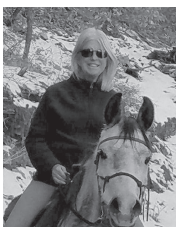




Photo courtesy Shayla McClure

Vets4Vets and the New Thought Center for Inspirational Living will host a retro fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 4. Tickets are on sale now. In the back row, left to right, are Randy Blue; Elizabeth Miller; Paul Nobles, Marine; Rick Walker, Marine/president of Vets4Vets; Vicki Jones; Jerry Jones; and Bruce Wayne, 82nd Airborne. In the front row, left to right, are Niara Isley, U.S. Airforce; Rebecca Cortez; and Shayla McClure, director of the The New Thought Center for Inspirational Living.

Vets4Vets, New Thought Center to host retro groove fundraiser

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

Get your retro groove on on Nov. 4 with our local veterans and the Good Vibe Tribe.

We will celebrate a night “walking the wild side” from the 1960s and ‘70s with the RetroCats —featuring Bruce Wayne (82nd Airborne) and Jammer Greg Milioto —for a night of tunes from the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s, rock ‘n’ roll, country and blues.

Dance the night away celebrating the generation that rocked our nation in many ways in all aspects of life.

Come dressed as a character from the era and get your retro groove on. Dress and dance like the ‘60s and ‘70s as rock stars —

Beatles/Rolling Stones/Tom Petty anyone? — Vietnam vets, hippies or a celebrity of the time — Tricky Dick, LBJ, JFK, MLK or more. There is so much to choose from to let your alter ego out.

A costume contest for best costume and more categories with door prizes will be part of the evening’s happenings. A cash bar and food buffet is available for an extra \$10.

So, please come join the Good Vibe Tribe and our local veterans. This Vets4Vets and the Good Vibe Tribe fundraiser is set for 5 to 8 p.m. at the Pagosa Lodge, 3505 U.S. 160.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 plus the optional dinner tickets for an additional \$10.

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New Great Stories Club for teens announced, pumpkin-decorating contest underway

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We are launching a new free Great Stories Club for teens beginning Nov. 10, thanks to your Ruby Sisson Library being selected one of 58 libraries nationwide to participate in this innovative reading and discussion program sponsored by the American Library Association with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As part of the Great Stories Club effort, staff from the Ruby Sisson Library will partner with the San Juan Mountain School and Pagosa Community Initiative to work with teens to read and discuss stories that explore questions of race, equity, identity and history.

The four books included in this grant will be “Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native Voices” edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale, “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, “Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.” by Luis J. Rodriguez and “American Street” by Ibi Zobo.

The titles were selected to inspire teens — especially those facing difficult circumstances or challenges — to consider “big questions” about the world around them and their place in it.

“We are very excited to offer opportunities for the teens in our community to engage with literature, and this grant will help us do that,” said Josie Snow, assistant director and teen services librarian.

To offer this special program, your library is receiving a \$500 grant and 11 copies of each of the books, which will be gifted to the book club participants. Library staff also will receive online training and an array of program resources and support throughout the grant term, which runs from November to May.

There will be one discussion per book, plus a final gallery at the end of all four sessions. Teens can sign up just for the sessions that interest them, based on the subject matter of the book being discussed, or for all four.

The first session of the Great Stories Club is set for Nov. 10 and the first book to be featured is “Dreaming in Indian.”

Library News

Registration for this book’s discussion opens Nov. 1 to give participants time to pick up their copy and read the book before the first gathering.

Pumpkin-decorating contest

To celebrate Halloween, we hope you’re planning to participate in our annual pumpkin decorating contest where pumpkins can be carved, painted or decorated.

Completed pumpkins must be turned in next Monday, Oct. 30, or Tuesday, Oct. 31, by 4 p.m. Winners will be announced on Oct. 31 at 5 p.m. in five age categories: preschool, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17 and adult.

We have a limited number of pumpkins to give out. One contest entry per person, please.

Lifelong Learning lectures

Every Thursday through Nov. 9, our free fall Lifelong Learning series offers talented speakers talking about a wide variety of interesting topics.

Today, Oct. 26, Dr. Janice McIntyre and Santos Ocanas will talk about Ruby’s Writers Guild, the weekly writers’ support group that meets every Thursday morning at your library.

On Nov. 2, Donna Wynn will discuss Upper San Juan Search and Rescue, which trains and organizes volunteers in search, rescue and other emergency services.

Nov. 9 will showcase the Project Healing Waters fly-fishing program for disabled veterans and wounded warriors with Paul Wilson, the program lead and a retired wildlife biologist.

Pick up a brochure with more details at your library or go to <https://pagosalibrary.org/adult-services>. No registration is required.

Virtual author talks

Our highly popular virtual

author talks continue with opportunities for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors and ask questions. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Today, Thursday, Oct. 26, at 5 p.m., we’ll meet with John Irving, Academy Award-winning author of multiple bestsellers including “A Prayer for Owen Meany” and “The Cider House Rules,” five of which have become movies.

Next Thursday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m. will feature a conversation with actor John Stamos, TV actor in shows such as “General Hospital” and “Full House.”

■ See Library on next page

November 10th - 12th, 2023 Hot Springs Fest

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Celebrate Pagosa's Official **Hot Springs Month** and the hot springs culture at the heart of our town and community. From honoring the legendary Mother Spring to soaking up the healing benefits of its mineral-rich waters at Pagosa's three soaking venues, this festival is your pass to a fun and revitalizing three-day weekend. Immerse yourself in Pagosa's famous waters, socialize, and experience a variety of water-based wellness activities.

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Library

■ continued from previous page

Video gaming tomorrow

Play free age-appropriate video games on an Xbox, Wii and other game systems tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 27, from 2 to 4 p.m.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to bring your imaginations on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the free LEGO Club. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters this Saturday, Oct. 28, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

Tween/teen art camp

Monday art classes from 4 to 6 p.m. for teens and tweens will explore a different style or medium. This month it is fiber arts with Linda Lutomski teaching basic weaving and string art. Registration is required.

Elementary tutoring sessions

Children ages 6-11 are welcome at these free sessions every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. where they will build essential skills in core subjects. Preregistration is required.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Writers' support group

Thursdays from 9-11 a.m., Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

ESL class times

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there is a change in the way the time is divided: 4 to 5 p.m. is reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for 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.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets and also provides assistance in accessing any of the library's online resources. No appointment needed for these drop-in sessions, but it is important that you bring your device's charger

with you.

PALS/GED adult education

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

Local author

"Revenge for Sale/second edition" by Chuck Howey is a thriller about a lawyer who makes a living by selling revenge to badly treated ex-wives. The author grew up on a Colorado farm and ranch, became an electronics designer in Silicon Valley, and has returned to the farm where he, his wife and three children love the space, quiet and beautiful view.

DVDs

"Past Lives" features two South Koreans who are reunited in New York for a romantic week. "Fair Play" makes the invisible care work historically done by women visible. "Elemental" is a Disney Pixar animated film. "Abbott Elementary" is a comedy set in a public school.

Nonfiction

"The Last Politician" by Franklin Foer is an inside look at President Joe Biden's first two years in the White House. "The Democrat Party Hates America" by Mark R. Levin is this Fox News host's analysis of the Democrat agenda. "It's On Me" by Sara Kuburic is a guide to identifying self-loss and dealing with it. "Generation Anxiety" by Dr. Lauren Cook is a millennial and Gen Z guide to staying afloat in an uncertain world.

Large print

"Mrs. Porter Calling" by AJ Pearce is focused on trying to save a magazine after it gets a new publisher. "A Short Rope For a Tall Man" by Nate Morgan is a Carson Stone western. "Cimarron" by Andrew McBride is a western set in the Arizona Territory. "The Last Honest Man" by James Risen explores the CIA, FBI, mafia and the Kennedys from the point of view of the investigation by Sen. Frank Church

of Idaho. "The Devils Will Get No Rest" by James B. Conroy details the 1943 Casablanca Conference attended by President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"Escape from Incel Island" by Margaret Killjoy features two female special ops mercenaries.

Other novels

"The Heirloom" by Beverly Lewis is a romance set in Amish country. "The Museum of Failures" by Thrity Umrigar is a family drama set in India based on secrets a mother kept from her son. "Memory and Desire" by Philip Caputo begins in Key West when two longtime friends discover stranded Cuban refugees. "The Wren, the Wren" by Ann Enright focuses on the influence of a grandfather's poems on three generations of Irish women.

Thanks to our donors

We are grateful to Mark Langford for his generous monetary donation.

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

The Friends recently announced new guidelines for what they will accept as donations:

■ See Library on next page



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Holiday market slated for Nov. 4

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) and Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) have joined forces this year to bring an early season holiday market to Pagosa Springs on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 pm at PLPOA Clubhouse at 230 Port Ave.

Join us to kick off the holiday season and boost your holiday spirit and shopping experience.

We will have 30 artisan vendors for your shopping delight featuring handcrafted gifts for your perusal and consideration.

We are still accepting vendors, but space is limited. To sign up to be a vendor, visit <https://form.jotform.com/PLPOA/Holiday-Market>.

Dia De Los Muertos Dance Party Nov. 3

ASI invites you to celebrate with us at the Dia De Los Muertos Dance Party on Nov. 3 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Colorado State University Extension building.

There will be music by DJ Marcus Rivas. Come join us on a day to gather, remember and celebrate our loved ones who went before us.

There will be a cash bar and Mexican food by the Guadalupanas. Please bring a photo of your loved one(s) to place on the community ofrenda. Bring a dozen homemade cookies and share your recipe for \$5 off your ticket price. Children under 12 are admitted free. Awards for the top cavalera face painting and Day of the Dead costume will be awarded.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. at the Pagosa Senior Center, at the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce or online at <https://givebutter.com/DDLM4ASI>.

There are limited tickets, so get them early. Tickets will be available at the door if we don't sell out first. For more information, call ASI at (970) 264-2167.

COVID-19 booster vaccine and flu clinic

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Library

■ continued from previous page

• Yes to popular fiction books published in 2013 or later, nonfiction books published 2018 or later, and children's and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please.

• No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks; outdated travel books; or reference books.

• No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Senior News

clinic performed by San Juan Basin Public Health on Wednesday morning, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Pagosa Senior Center, located in the Ross Aragon Community Center.

Please call us at (970) 264-2167 to sign up for the booster/flu clinic so we know how many to plan on the day of the event.

Festival of Trees help needed

ASI is looking for a few community volunteers to join our team this year for the 2023 Festival of Trees event.

We need community members who are enthusiastic and motivated to help us coordinate and decorate the Senior Center tree and make it festive and attractive for the tree auction. Your energy and time will be a significant contribution to the year end fundraising efforts of ASI, ensuring essential nutrition services are provided for the older adults and families of Archuleta County.

In order to volunteer, you must be available Nov. 27-29 to help decorate the tree at the Community Center. If you are interested, please contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Senior conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of "Senior Conversations" with local Bill Salmansohn.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

Share lunch Monday through Thursday

Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person

for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week, including Fridays.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$10, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage. Some popular menu items include Frito chili pie, pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, Singaporean pork ribs, vegetarian lasagna, Hawaiian shrimp with coconut rice and always a beautiful green salad. Many of our items are locally sourced and organic.

Our chef works with a team of local food professionals to hand-prepare your meal for dine-in service in our cozy dining room (with an amazing view of the San Juans) or for takeout (via our convenient drive-through). Our menu changes daily.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, Oct. 26 — Codfish with red curry sauce, broccoli, garden salad, fruit coconut-mango bread pudding with rum sauce

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page and milk.

Friday, Oct. 27 — Pork tenderloin, roasted herb potatoes, baked beans, garden salad, vanilla pudding and milk.

Monday, Oct. 30 — Turkey breast, classic stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 — Beef chili with cheese, cornbread, cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, milk and caramel apple chocolate bark.

Wednesday, Nov. 1 — Pumpkin ravioli with Alfredo sauce, garlic bread, zucchini saute, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Nov. 2 — Beef marsala with mashed potatoes, peas and pearl onions, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Nov. 3 — Dover sole with lemon caper sauce, delicata squash, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and 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. 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.

Mobile food pantry service discontinued

The Mobile Food Pantry Service has been discontinued due to funding shortages. Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

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

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

COVID-19 test kits available

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

for health promotion and disease prevention.

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, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 264-0501, ext 2.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m.

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.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Thursdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Donations requested

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/>.

Community news.

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SUDOKU

			2					9
	6			4		5		
2	1	7						
		8					4	
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1	9							
8	4		6					7
		2	7					
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Level: Intermediate

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

ANSWER:

Sunday Night Unplugged to feature Sam Hughes, Chase Peeler

By Heidi Tanner
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is pleased to announce that on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 5 p.m., we will hold our second Sunday Night Unplugged since the pandemic and will feature the duo of Sam Hughes and Chase Peeler.

Hughes plays the guitar and mandolin while Peeler plays the pennywhistle and other wind instruments.

Hughes' and Peeler's musical stylings will create a space for meditation and prayer that will be filled with beauty. In addition

to our featured musicians, St. Patrick's current rector, the Rev. Wren Blessing, will offer readings that will stimulate thought and provide a backdrop for reflection. These offerings combined with the view of the Continental Divide from our sanctuary windows will provide inspiration for contemplative thought.

Sunday Night Unplugged is a cherished service at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church that was started by former rector Douglas Neel and his wife, Sally Neel, who served as the music director at St. Patrick's alongside her husband.

This past summer, St. Patrick's

Episcopal Church reawakened this service featuring local native American flautist Charles Martinez. We thank all those who attended and filled our sanctuary in July to hear Martinez and take part in this revitalization of Sunday Night Unplugged. Your attendance let us know that this service has been missed by the community of Pagosa Springs.

St. Patrick's Sunday Night Unplugged service is open to all members of the community. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday, Oct. 29, at 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, which is located at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

New Thought Center to hear about letting go

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

At the Sunday service on Oct. 29 at 10:30 a.m., Stephanie Morrow, Reiki master, will present "A Time of Letting Go, Reaping the Harvest of the Now."

"The only real battle in life is between hanging on and letting go." — Shannon L. Alder.

Upcoming events

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

Oct. 29: Sunday service with Morrow.

Nov. 4, 5 to 8 p.m.: Vets4Vets fundraiser at the Pagosa Lodge. There will be a cash bar, dinner and door prizes. Tickets are now on sale. Text or call (970) 510-0309.

Nov. 5, 11 a.m.: Sunday service

with Dr. Elaine Harding, Ignite Your Life group meeting after the service.

Nov. 12, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Julie Loar, "A Presentation on Spiritual Egypt."

Nov. 16, 6 p.m.: Quintangled Night. Play the game Quintangled with Loar as your guide.

Nov. 19, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Shayla White Eagle McClure.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve celebration on Zoom. Join White Eagle McClure for a beautiful ceremony.

Jan. 1, 2024: Burning bowl ceremony to welcome in the new year with intention and purpose. The time is to be announced.

Jan. 20, 2024: Quintangled Masquerade Ball Fundraiser with Loar.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and 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 all-inclusive community.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacomcommunitynewthought@gmail.com.

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Hot Springs Fest is a 3-day festival celebrating Pagosa Springs' all-natural mineral water and the healing benefits of hot springs. In celebration of the event, we invite you to join the wellness team of The Springs Resort and the team at Healing Waters for a series of Free Community Wellness Events as part of Hot Springs Fest.

FRI. NOV. 10 4:30 - 5:00 PM

COMMUNITY SOUND BATH THE COURTYARD AT HEALING WATERS

Experience relaxation and balance with a rejuvenating sound bath experience, where soothing sounds and vibrations guide you to a state of meditation and tranquility, promoting holistic wellbeing.

Bring yoga mat or cushion.



SAT. NOV. 11 5:00 - 6:30 PM

ECSTATIC DANCE EVENT THE MOTHER SPRING

Experience the fun and meditative practice of ecstatic dance, a free-form dance event with uninhibited movement that allows you to express yourself through joyful and spontaneous dancing.

Glow-in-the-dark items encouraged.

SUN. NOV. 12 10:00 - 11:00 AM

COMMUNITY YOGA PAGOSA TOWN PARK

Join us in the park for a community yoga event, open to all experience levels, as we connect with nature and community while enjoying the mindful benefits of yoga for physical and mental wellbeing.

Bring yoga mat or cushion.

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Is a pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?

By Robin Young
PREVIEW Columnist

Inquiring minds might want to know: Is the orange orb a fruit or vegetable? The answer may surprise you. A pumpkin is, in fact, a fruit.

According to expert Joe Masabni, Ph.D., Texas A&M Agri Life Extension Service vegetable specialist in Dallas, scientifically speaking, a pumpkin is a fruit simply because anything that starts from a flower is botanically a fruit.

Usually, fruits and vegetables have been named according to how they are consumed. How people eat them versus how people see them is often different.

“We see them as to whether we eat them as a dessert, salad or food,” Masabni said.

So, consider a cucumber or tomato. People don't typically eat those as desserts; they eat them in a salad or cooked in a meal, so they became classified as vegetables, even though they are officially fruit.

“Pumpkin is a tricky one,” he said, “because some people make soups or stews from pumpkins,

Extension Viewpoints

which is a meal, while others make pies, which is a dessert. So, that can sometimes be confusing.”

What is the difference between a fruit and a vegetable? The difference between a fruit and a vegetable is established in how they grow. A flower requiring pollination to grow into a fruit is what makes a fruit a fruit, rather than a vegetable.

“All plants start from seedlings. Let's take the example of lettuce as a vegetable,” Masabni said. “It makes more and more leaves, and then you harvest it and eat those leaves. If you let it go even longer, it will eventually make a flower stalk and make seeds for next year's crop.”

The same thing happens with a pumpkin; however, that flower becomes the pumpkin we eat.

“It starts with a small plant and a few leaves, and as the leaves

grow and more branches develop, flowers will start to bloom on the plants,” he said. “Those flowers then need to be pollinated by bees or other wild pollinators. Once that flower is pollinated, that flower develops into a fruit that we consume. So, ultimately, a fruit relies on pollination of the flower, which will then grow to the part of the plant that we eat.”

What other vegetables are actually fruits? Although we may typically base our knowledge of fruits and vegetables from their sweet and savory tendencies or where they are placed in our meals, it seems that many of our regularly thought of vegetables are actually fruits, simply because they come from a flower. Some of those include cucumbers, olives, tomatoes, eggplants, avocados, corn, zucchini, okra, string beans, peppers and, of course, pumpkins.

Now the biggest decision is how it will be consumed at your own table this holiday season. Will you consider it a vegetable in your main dish or a fruit on your dessert plate?

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month 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) 264-5931 to register.

Check out the online option on our website: <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Oct. 26

Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon South Yamaguchi Park. Loaner paddles are available.

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild will welcome writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring all your device chargers. We provide 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 students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Author Talk: John Irving. 5 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded.

Featuring John Irving, Academy Award-winning author of multiple bestsellers. For details, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee Meeting. 5:30-7 p.m., Grace in Pagosa.

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.

Creation Care Pagosa Meeting. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Oct. 26 has been designated as International Sustainability Day to raise awareness about the 17 sustainability goals set by the United Nations. Laura Lunsford will present the program, and the group will focus on and discuss ways we can support these sustainability goals. If you have questions or would like to attend, please contact Laura at lunsford303@gmail.com. A free dinner is served at 5:30 by our volunteers, so please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Fall Lifelong Learning Lecture Series. 6-7:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Dr. Janice McIntyre and Santos Ocanas will talk about Ruby's Writers Guild, the weekly writers support

■ See Calendar on next page



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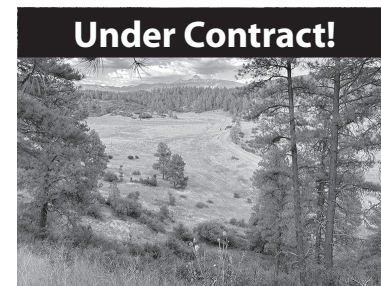
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An unforgettable homage

By Joyce Holdread
PREVIEW Columnist

I believe a mysterious essence connects all of life. We are familiar with stories of dogs that possess the uncanny awareness of when a person bearing mal intent appears. They subsequently warn whoever will listen, perhaps even saving lives. Or the dogs that can “read” their master’s discouragement and snuggle up to offer comfort. Also, horses that veer from their rider’s intended way and will not be persuaded to continue as their mount directs. Sooner or later, it’s discovered that the horse sensed some catastrophe up ahead and circumvented the danger for both her master and herself.

But the most amazing story of animal ESP I have recently read about comes from an article in “Guideposts” (June/July 2022) concerning a herd of elephants in South Africa.

A man named Lawrence, who lived on an old game reserve with his wife, had turned it into a haven where various kinds of wildlife could roam freely. All the locals referred to him as the Elephant Whisperer after he saved a group of “delinquent” elephants. These enormous mammals kept bursting their prescribed boundaries and running amuck through areas of human habitation, causing much damage and danger for the people of the region. The animals were about to be euthanized, but Lawrence intervened.

Although he had no background study of free-roaming African elephants, he began regular visits to them, going far into the bush. To gain their trust, he set up a tent and lived among them, almost bringing about his own demise from trampling. He listened to them and conversed with them.

A Matter of Faith

He intoned melodies to them. He cared for them. Gradually, the herd accepted him. He was able to forge a deep connection with them. They ceased running rampant and settled peacefully within his game preserve. They were home.

Their bond was based on affection, respect and trust. Sometimes Nana, the matriarch, would reach out to him with her trunk and gently stroke his face, as though he were her calf.

The herd grew and so did the perimeter of the game preserve. In his early 60s, Lawrence made a trip to Johannesburg to investigate the further development of the preserve. Previously, he had had two heart attacks, but flew to this business meeting against the doctor’s orders. A few days later, just before he was slated to return home, he had a third attack. This one ended his life.

Two days later, the elephants came to pay their respects. They lined up solemnly along the other side of the fence that surrounded Lawrence’s house. They looked intently at his wife and the staff as if waiting for the appearance of something. After an hour or so in this stance, they began stomping along the length of the fence line with a distressing rumble issuing from their mouths. His wife remembered this was their way of “conversing” with Lawrence during his visits with them in the bush. Finally, they formed a somber line and singularly filed back to where they came from.

While this is eerily remarkable enough, we have all likely heard of the prowess of elephant memory. On March 4, the one-year anniversary of Lawrence’s death, the elephants came back. The matriarch led the solemn march as they repeated their same lament. Then, next year’s March 4, they returned again, and also the following March 4 saw them re-enact their homage.

How did the great beasts discern his death? Of what significance is this for us? Lawrence himself preferred to be known as the Elephant Listener, saying he had no extraordinary ability; he just “listened.”

Perhaps that is a key: We need to wrest time from our frenetic lives to humbly and lovingly watch and listen — through the scriptures, our human companions and the astounding natural world all around us — for the whispers of our Creator who connects and sustains all life.

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.



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

group that meets every Thursday morning at your library. Pick up a brochure with more details at your library or go to <https://pagosalibrary.org/adult-services>.

Friday, Oct. 27

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

Video Gaming. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Play age-appropriate video games on an Xbox, Wii and various other game systems. We mostly feature team or active games.

Saturday, Oct. 28

Halloween Hootenanny. 7:30 a.m.,

Yamaguchi Park. Celebrate the spooky season with trick-or-treating and kids activities, a witch (and warlock) hot air balloon fly-in, a witch-costumed paddle boarding event, a 5k fun run/walk, live music, food trucks, beer garden, costume contests and a huge fireworks display. For more information and schedule, visit <https://www.visitpagosasprings.com/halloween>.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Cornerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. This 13-week program provides support and encouragement after the death of a family member or loved one and offers biblical concepts for healing from grief. Contact Marie Rascoe at marierascoe67@

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

gmail.com for more information.

National Drug Takeback Event.

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Archuleta County building, 449 San Juan St. Bring unused or expired prescriptions, or over-the-counter medications, for proper disposal. Needles and sharps, mercury thermometers, oxygen containers, chemotherapy/radioactive substances, pressurized canisters and illicit drugs will not be accepted.

National Drug Takeback Event.

10 a.m.-noon, TARA Community Center, 333 Milton Lane, Arboles. Bring unused or expired prescriptions, or over-the-counter medications, for proper disposal. Needles and sharps, mercury thermometers, oxygen containers, chemotherapy/radioactive substances, pressurized canisters and illicit drugs will not be accepted.

LEGO Club.

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your own or use our LEGOs to free build.

Knitters Circle.

1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project or sit and knit.

DivorceCare.

4-5:30 p.m. Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. This divorce recovery seminar and support group will meet at Centerpoint Church each Saturday. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "New Relationships," "Kid Care" and "Forgiveness." For more information, call Lorena Medina at (970) 731-2205 or email her at loremedina0817@gmail.com.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Sunday Night Unplugged.

5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 22 S. Pagosa Blvd. A time for meditation and prayer with music from the duo of Sam Hughes and Chase Peeler and readings by the Rev. Wren Blessing.

Monday, Oct. 30

Senior Conversations.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
Boy Scout Troop 807 Meeting. 4-5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Boys aged 11-17 are invited to attend meetings. Meetings are weekly on Mondays at 4 p.m. Scouts learn outdoor and leadership skills, teamwork, support our community and have fun. Contact Jennifer Walterscheid at (970) 986-0387 or scoutmaster807@gmail.com for more details.

Teen/Tween Art Camp.

4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Art classes for teens and tweens. Each month we will explore a different style or medium. Registration is required.

Biblical Citizenship in Modern

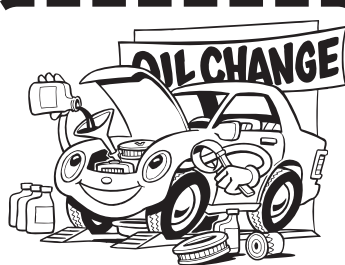
America. 6-8 p.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave. Throughout our history, American churches have played a vital role in the preservation of liberty. Join us for an eight-week study on what the Bible says about being a biblical citizen. The course runs until Oct. 30. For more info and to register for free, go to GracelnPagosa.org/register.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Tech Time. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide 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

■ See Calendar on next page



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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Jagged peak
- 5 Yarn spinner
- 9 Swelling in plants
- 14 Bring on
- 15 ___ and for all
- 16 Plane anagram
- 17 Head-heels connector
- 18 On the ocean
- 19 Preface, briefly
- 20 Like Lake Mead
- 22 Colorful marble
- 24 Bagel type
- 25 Baseball position
- 27 Penitent
- 29 The piper's son
- 32 Fanglike tooth
- 35 Monopoly deed figure
- 37 Grew older
- 38 Biscuitlike pastry
- 40 Lubricates
- 41 Sense organ
- 43 Lapidary's wares
- 45 Teacher's favorite
- 46 Turned loose
- 48 "The Return of the King" king
- 50 Chilean range
- 54 Bring before a judge
- 56 Derived by logic
- 58 Bridle parts
- 59 Motionless
- 61 Showy flower, for short
- 62 Animal ailment
- 63 Forest ox
- 64 Gardener's need
- 65 Radar reading
- 66 Falls behind
- 67 Uno, dos, ___

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65								66					67		

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DOWN

- 1 Sink one's teeth in
- 2 Competitor
- 3 Field of play
- 4 Bacteria killer
- 5 Laundry measure
- 6 Beetle, e.g.
- 7 Royal flush card
- 8 Chemical change
- 9 Disparaging nickname
- 10 Thick like a forest
- 11 Wine and dine
- 12 Figure in a nativity scene
- 13 Burn soother
- 21 After awhile
- 23 Bergman or Bacall
- 26 Munitions maker
- 28 Rainy-day fund
- 30 Look slyly
- 31 Shambles
- 32 Be a nag
- 33 Pulitzer writer James

- 34 Juicy fruit
- 36 Beatles' lullaby
- 39 Architectural style
- 42 Beat the drum for
- 44 Eye drop?
- 47 Digital forerunner
- 49 Firing place
- 51 Grief
- 52 Wipe away
- 53 Factions
- 54 Something to take up
- 55 Harvest
- 57 Carrots' partner
- 60 Crime lab evidence

Answers to Previous Crossword:

D	O	S	E	S		P	S	S	T		A	B	L	E			
C	L	I	N	T		A	L	O	E		F	E	U	D			
C	L	A	R	E		C	A	R	D	B	O	A	R	D			
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Wondering about the wonders of life

By **Betty J. Slade**
PREVIEW Columnist

I'm just wondering.
I have a theory. I think it's true. I'm looking at my theory as he sits in his recliner. Older people revert back to their childhood. Some of them become childlike, not childish.

The most beautiful thing about childhood is the wonder or awe of life. They see a certain magic like morning mist in the sun. They look at life through the light of their days. They are detached from the pressure, responsibility and burden of everyday life.

When Al walks by his dog, Whiskey, he bends down, talks baby talk and pats her. This happens a hundred times a day. She gets her face washed and her hair combed every day. His actions are endearing. I'm still too busy to pay any attention to the dog. I've got the next chapter on my mind as I'm pushing to finish my next book.

My youngest daughter said, "Isn't Daddy cute? He reminds me of a little boy."

"Yes, he does. I remember your grandmother talking about her little Sweet Al coming in from play with pockets full of things. She gave him a bottom drawer for his junk. Many times, there were horny toads, garden snakes, always a pocket knife, bottle caps and a baseball card in his pocket that went into the bottom drawer."

The items have changed, but he still collects a random assortment during his daily trips around the yard and garage. Everything goes into his pocket. I look over at his dresser top and I count 15 items that should be in the garage or thrown away. Everything on top of his dresser is important to him. Screws, crooked nails, batteries, and, yes, always a pocket knife.

His mother loved to talk about her "little Al" with a small Bible under his arm ready to go to Sunday

Artist's Lane

School. Now, my daughter takes her dad to church on Sundays. I can see Al as that little boy with shiny shoes and thick, black hair combed just right, carrying his Bible under his arm.

His attention span is waning, his patience is lacking and the television remote is challenging. Impatience is big. If he has plans for the day, he's up at six, dressed, ready to go. Then he waits.

Videos of our first great grandson prove my theory. Our granddaughter sends videos and we spend hours looking at him discovering life. At 14 months, the wonder of finding himself in the full-length mirror is real. He kicks and bangs on the mirror at his newfound friend.

I'm wondering if Al is getting it right and we're not. He's guileless and innocent with a childlike faith. But, I'm not there yet. If I have to watch another Hallmark movie with Al, I'm throwing myself off a cliff.

One thing about getting older — God is preserving our dignity. The younger people are stopping to help us, open the door, carry our groceries and help us out of the chair. They have no idea how much that speaks to older people. We don't feel helpless, but respected.

God says he's bringing us back to himself to innocence. Won't that be something? He invites us to discover the wonders of him. Paul writes in Philippians 3:7 (TPT), "... And I continually long to know the 'wonders' of Jesus more fully."

Final brushstroke: We don't think about getting old as a perk.

But as we grow up, grow older, we lose the sense of wonder. Life pushes the wonder out of us. Some, like my Sweet Al, live in the wonder of their surroundings. Life is so sweet for them.

Send your comments to betty-slade.author@gmail.com.

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TOP 10 HEALTH MISTAKES:

Many of the choices we make about our health are ill informed and just plain wrong. Some choices can actually make us sick. What's more, we repeat them! So let's look at a few of the more common mistaken choices:

PART 2. EATING TOO MUCH SUGAR

We consume most of our sugar as an ingredient in processed foods, such as cookies, desserts, sodas, and breakfast cereals. Sugar is a highly concentrated form of energy that contributes only minimally to your sense of satisfaction. A 12-ounce glass or can of fruit juice, soda, or sports drink provides between 100 and 150 calories. You would need to walk 15 to 25 minutes to expend that much energy, yet it's no more filling than a glass of water.

Foods high in sugar also tend to be low in vitamins and minerals. Sugar provides fuel for the body, which your body will use for energy before it burns off fat. Thus, the more sugar you eat, the less likely you are to burn off fat and the harder it will be to lose weight.

What you can do: Cut back on foods with high sugar content. Give your taste buds a few weeks to adjust, and soon you won't miss the sugar at all.

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19,20

Fun Bible Facts: It is said that there have been 10,000 decrees of kings and princes to destroy the Bible, but it still lives.

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

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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. All are welcome.

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs. 11:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Golf Club. The cost is \$15 and all women are welcome. You

must RSVP by Oct. 29 to (970) 946-1895. Wear Halloween attire if you want.

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

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Good News Club. 3:15-5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. For kids in kindergarten through fourth grade. This club meets in the cafeteria each Tuesday that school is in session and is weekly club in which the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. All kids from any school or home-schooled are welcome to come. To register your child, go to coloradocef.org/southwest and click on "Register for a Club." For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

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 students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Judging. 5 p.m., Sisson Library. Winners will be announced.

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.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Kids Kare is a program for children ages 3-5 that meets each Wednesday and includes Bible time, songs, crafts, games and more.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Community Center. Free beginner lessons. Reserve at www.pagosapickleball.org.

Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Loaner paddles are available.

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.

Author Talk: John Stamos. 6 p.m., virtual. Listen live or recorded. Featuring actor John Stamos. For details, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Thursday, Nov. 2

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild will welcome writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring all your device chargers. We provide 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 students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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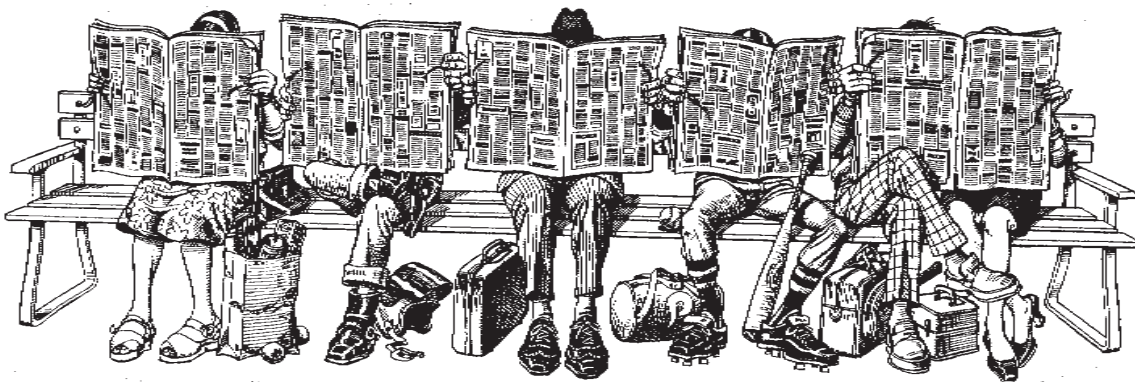
Fall Lifelong Learning Lecture Series. 6-7:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Donna Wynn will discuss Upper San Juan Search and Rescue. Pick up a brochure with more details at your library or go to <https://pagosalibrary.org/adultservices>.

San Juan Outdoor Club. 6-8 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse at 230 Port Avenue. San Juan Outdoor Club Monthly Meeting. Alex Handloff, the co-coordinator of the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, will provide information

■ See Calendar on next page



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We're running special photo pages in our November 9 edition for Veteran's Day to honor those who are serving, and have served, in our nation's military.

Please send your service picture along with your name, branch of service, rank and hometown to:

shari@pagosasun.com or our office at P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 31.

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Bob, the cow herder

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

After the stray dog saved Joyce's life, it was allowed to stay, and Bob quickly became part of the family. The first thing Joyce did was to give him a bath and a good brushing. When she finished, her brothers, Mathol and Delos, gathered around.

Mathol petted Bob and said, "He's a right nice-looking animal when he's clean."

"True," Delos said. "He doesn't even look like the same animal."

But the cleaning showed something else strange about Bob. He had an unusual number of scars.

"Daddy," Joyce asked her father, "what do you think all of those scars are from?"

Her father shook his head. "There's something familiar about them, but I can't think what it is."

Bob spent a lot of time with Joyce. He was timid around everyone else, but he didn't seem afraid of her since she was only 5. But he soon took his part in other ways around the farm. When Delos and Mathol headed to the pasture to

get the cows for milking, Bob liked to go along. Delos and Mathol enjoyed his company, too.

After Bob had saved Joyce from the bull, the bull was more humble. But the bull still challenged Bob a couple more times. Bob was so expert at dodging the bull, and then sinking his teeth into the bull's soft backside, that two more challenges were all the bull was good for. After that, when he saw that the boys had Bob with them, the bull ran to the farthest end of the pasture and let the cows fend for themselves.

■ See Bob on next page

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

about the organization. His presentation will include an update on the Jackson Mountain project with information on the wildfire mitigation and logging efforts, and wildlife habitat monitoring work that is ongoing, an overview of the snowtopography project recently installed at Jackson Mountain, and a viewing of the Plumtaw Fire video prepared by Christi Bode. The talk will highlight the health status of our local forest and watershed and offer ideas and opportunities for club members and the general public to participate in projects. The public is welcome to join us. The meeting starts with a social half hour at 6 p.m. with light refreshments. For more information, please email sanjuanoutdoorclub@gmail.com.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. There will be a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. Astronomer Dr. Andy Green will discuss the formation of galaxies and Tom Hancett will present on the lunar standstill.

Friday, Nov. 3

Friday Flick. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Enjoy a PG-rated movie and free popcorn.

Dia De Los Muertos Dance Party. 7 p.m.-midnight., CSU Extension Building. Archuleta Seniors Inc. invites you to celebrate on a day to gather, remember and celebrate our loved ones who went before us. Tickets are \$20 and are available at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. at the Pagosa Senior Center, or at the chamber or online at <https://givebutter.com/DDLM4ASI>. There will be music by DJ Marcus Rivas, a cash bar, Mexican food by the Guadalupanas and more. Bring a photo of your loved one(s) to place on the community ofrenda. Bring a dozen homemade cookies and share your recipe for \$5 off your ticket price. Children under

12 are free. For more information, call Archuleta Seniors Inc. at (970) 264-2167.

Saturday, Nov. 4

Holiday Market. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Archuleta Seniors Inc. and the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association are hosting an early season holiday market.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. This 13-week program provides support and encouragement after the death of a family member or loved one and offers biblical concepts for healing from grief. Contact Marie Rascoe at marierascoe67@gmail.com for more information.

LEGO Club. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your own or use our LEGOs to free build.

DivorceCare. 4-5:30 p.m. Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. This divorce recovery seminar and support group will meet at Centerpoint Church each Saturday. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "New Relationships," "Kid Care" and "Forgiveness." For more information, call Lorena Medina at (970) 731-2205 or email her at loremedina0817@gmail.com.

Retro Groove Fundraiser. 5-8 p.m., Pagosa Lodge, 3505 U.S. 160. Get your retro groove on with live music from the RetroCats, an optional dinner (for an additional \$10) and cash bar, door prizes, a costume contest and more. Hosted by Vets for Vets and the New Thought Center. Tickets are \$10 and are available by calling or texting (970) 510-0309.

Sunday, Nov. 5

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.

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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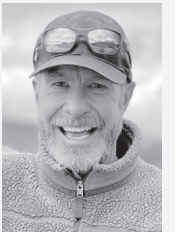
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Creative builders get rural housing done

By Dave Marston
PREVIEW Columnist

Here's a statistic to be unhappy about: Colorado and Utah host the fifth and sixth most expensive housing markets in the country, according to Bankrate.com.

But here's the good news: two rural housing champions in those states have found creative ways to build affordable housing.

Moab, Utah, sited along the Colorado River, draws at least 5 million tourists annually for mountain biking, rafting, four-wheeling and visiting two nearby national parks. But the town's real estate has long been pricey, and back in 2004, a Moab loan officer named Emily Niehaus realized that the only affordable housing in her hometown was mostly older trailer homes.

She also knew that national loan programs such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac excluded loans for trailers built before 1976.

Harnessing both frustration and ingenuity, she founded a nonprofit, Community Rebuilds, to tap into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Section 502 Direct Loan Program. It pegs monthly payments for housing to residents' income. To cut costs she looked for "dirt cheap materials," coming up with straw-

Opinion: Writers on the Range

bale construction that mixes dirt and straw.

Today, 72 new houses — and counting — have gone up. Niehaus, who also served as mayor of Moab, said that she liked getting things done fast, learning along the way.

In the beginning, Niehaus had little operating money and no workforce. Then she met 20-something Noah Aptekar, who was "couch-surfing" his way home from a cross-country bike trip.

Niehaus said she made him a deal: "For every student you're able to recruit to build strawbale houses, I'll give you a hundred dollars. I need eight to start."

Aptekar, who now works for SpaceX, delivered six women and two men.

Niehaus quickly points out that Moab is known as "a cool place" to hang out. Offering young people a place to sleep, a stipend for food, and an education in handmade housing won't work everywhere in the West,

but in Moab it was magic.

When Community Rebuilds sells a home to qualified residents, the cost is about \$220,000, though the houses are worth \$500,000 on the open market. To block flipping, the \$280,000 in equity is transferred to the owners over a period of 20 years.

Niehaus said that the USDA's Direct Loan Program for rural areas restricts buyers to those who make 80 percent of an area's median income. Typically, that's \$37,000 for a household of two.

There's a long waiting list for houses, but Niehaus, who has been succeeded as boss by Rikki Epperson, said applicants usually spend those years cleaning up their credit to qualify for a mortgage. Niehaus added that financial counseling is a key component to spurring home ownership.

Over in the western Colorado town of Montrose, Carlton Mason has also developed a novel way to build houses for the rural unhoused. The ex-builder constructs communities for young adults aging out of foster care, and recently he included senior citizens needing housing as well.

He got into housing because of his job as director of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, for

■ See Writers on next page

Bob

■ continued from previous page

Twice each day, the boys drove the cows to the barn for milking, and Bob hurried up the stragglers. But one day, a cow tried to break free. Delos yelled for Mathol to cut her off. Mathol barely headed her in time and turned her back to the pen. As soon as she was in, Mathol shut the gate and latched it.

A couple of days later, the same cow tried to make a break for it. But neither of the boys was near enough to stop her. However, Bob soon had her turned around and drove her back to the pen. But then he did something unexpected. He pushed the gate closed with his nose, then he used his teeth to pull the latch into position.

The two boys stood there, dumbfounded. Finally, Mathol turned to Delos. "Did you see what I just saw, or was I dreaming?"

"Yeah, I saw it," Delos said. "Bob is better at herding cows than you are. But that's not such a big miracle. Everyone is."

"Ha, ha, ha," Mathol said. "Why don't you push the gate closed with your nose then use your teeth to shut the latch?"

That night they told the rest of the family what had happened, and the others were skeptical. Later, when they were milking again, Delos mentioned the family's uncertainty about what they shared. "Well, it might be because you

have a way of building on stories until they aren't even recognizable," Mathol said.

"A story shouldn't be told more than once if you can't tell it better each time," Delos replied.

They wondered to each other if Bob would do his trick again.

"Let's try next time," Mathol said.

So, when it was time to get the cows, they went to the pasture gate. Bob followed them as usual, but this time, Mathol pointed at the cows and said, "Bob, go get the cows."

It took a couple of times saying it, but suddenly Bob took off to-

ward the cows. He rounded them up and brought them back to the milking pen.

"Let's see what he does with the gate," Delos said.

Once the cows were in the pen, Bob pushed the gate shut and latched it. After Bob had done this twice each day for a week, the boys called the rest of the family to watch.

Their father shook his head in disbelief. "I've never seen anything like it. Let's just hope the cows don't learn his gate tricks."

To be continued.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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- KITCHEN
- MAT
- MICROWAVE
- OVEN
- REFRIGERATOR
- REMODEL
- SHOWER
- SINK
- TABLE
- TILES
- TOILET
- VANITY



Photo courtesy Emily Niehaus

Community Rebuilds houses are pictured in Moab, Utah. The nonprofit organization has built 72 houses so far.

Writers

■ continued from previous page
 the 7th Judicial District in western Colorado, covering six counties.

Mason said he found that 18-year-olds newly on their own needed lots of help. But what they especially needed was somewhere to live. His first project, called 1st Place on 2nd Street, was completed in 2018 by tapping into state, federal and foundation grants, providing housing in Montrose for up to 12 residents.

The suicide of one of those residents shook Mason. In response, he beefed up residential support: “Residents needed to build relationships with trusted adults who could also give advice about saving money and staying employed or in school. They needed to know adults actually cared about them.”

He added, “We’ve thrown money at housing for decades, and often we end up with blighted communities. Providing adequate and safe hous-

ing is just the first step in helping the most disadvantaged people.”

Both Mason and Niehaus agree that their method of harnessing a variety of funding isn’t for everyone.

“I’ve been asked to advise other communities on how to build houses for middle-income residents,” Niehaus said. “But I only know how to build houses for low-income residents using volunteer labor and USDA funding.”

As for Mason, who’s on a roll to build more needed housing on non-agricultural land, he said, “I’ve had to learn as I went, but as support got bigger, I saw we can get things done I never thought possible.”

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western Issues. He lives in Durango, Colo. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

“From the start of disaster to moving back into your home, **We Are Committed** to the process of restoration.”

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BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a combined total of over 45 years in Pagosa Springs.

As long-time locals, we operate with small-town hospitality without the “Pagosa-time mentality.” Your time is as valuable as ours, so we operate with punctuality.

Mountain Men Disaster Mitigation is here to service you and your family through providing quality in our work, and being timely and efficient.

Don’t forget to check your crawl spaces for standing water. Water mixed with the normal environments produced in a crawlspace is the perfect breeding ground for microbial growth. We also offer sump pump system installations and repairs as well as moisture barriers. Call today for a free evaluation!

NATIONALLY LICENSED  **INSURED**  **LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**



What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. "Zanzibar" missing from brownish envelope 2. Black stamp bottom left row of book upside down 3. Extra stamp on envelope above book 4. Missing stamp top left corner left book

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1636:** THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY VOTES TO ESTABLISH A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, WHICH WOULD LATER BECOME HARVARD UNIVERSITY.
- **1726:** "GULLIVER'S TRAVELS" BY JONATHAN SWIFT IS PUBLISHED.
- **1971:** PROSPERO BECOMES THE ONLY BRITISH SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED BY A BRITISH ROCKET.



A PERSON WHO IS A PHILATELIST COLLECTS AND STUDIES WHICH ITEMS?

ANSWER: STAMPS

New Word

COLLECT

to gather similar items

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Stamp

SPANISH: Sello

ITALIAN: Francobollo

FRENCH: Timbre

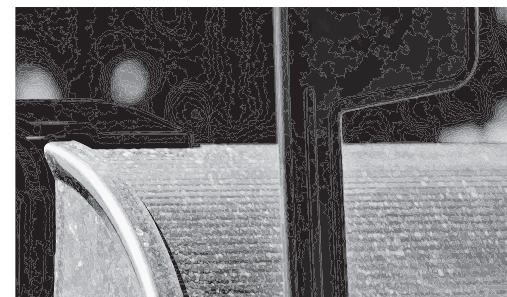
GERMAN: Briefmarke

Did you know?



A FIRST CLASS U.S. STAMP COSTS US \$0.63. FOR STANDARD SIZE MAIL, A SINGLE STAMP IN CANADA COSTS CAN \$1.07 OR \$0.92 WHEN SOLD IN A BOOKLET.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MAILBOX

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

3R RANCH- WORKING in the beautiful south San Juans. Hiring one position, ranch and landscape maintenance. No experience, we will train. (970)264-5160. Please leave a message.

DISPENSARY BUD TENDER available immediately. Must have a badge or willing to get one. Please text (970)317-3683.

LEAF AND PINE NEEDLE removal. \$6.00 per 100 square feet. (970)764-5757.

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ADS — tinyurl.com/d64deed9. The Pagosa Springs SUN.

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT. \$2500 per mo., 2bd, 2bath, 2 car garage. Very nice unit includes landscaping, snow removal, and water. Background check required. No pets or smokers. 1st, last mo. + deposit. 6 mo. minimum lease. Call (970)903-3942 for details.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING November 21, 2023 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 25-10-103(12) that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider the new local On-site Wastewater Treatment System Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department (970)264-1390 and in the news announcements on the County Website. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, **November 21, 2023**, at 1:30p.m. in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said public hearing.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

**THINK HAIR
THINK ELIZABETH
970-903-5152**

GREAT MASSAGE PRICES
All Messages include a Soak!



**OVERLOOK
HOT SPRNGS
SPA**
Downtown Pagosa 264-4040

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

**50% OFF
SALE**

Pre-Retirement
Inventory Reduction

- Framed Art
- Unframed Art
- Photo Frames
- Accessories
- Jewelry
- Ready-made Frames

ART & FRAMING CENTER
next to City Market
Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat 10-2



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by Leslie N.**

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using zip code 81147

- ❖ Boarding
- ❖ Day care
- ❖ Drop ins
- ❖ House sitting



References and
Reviews online
at Rover.com

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

FREE ISRAELI FOLK DANCE 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.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30P.M.; Sunday 10a.m, Tuesday and Thursday at noon, Saturday at 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 Kathi (970)946-1482, or Central Office (888)333-9649.

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).

VETS4VETS THE GOOD VIBE TRIBE FUNdraiser. Retro Grooves 60s and 70s Dance. November 4, Saturday, 5-8 p.m. at Pagosa Lodge, 3505 W. Hwy 160. Retro Cats Rock-n-Roll band, country, blues, and costume contest. Cash bar/food buffet, door prizes. Tickets, \$10; dinner tickets, \$10. Text/call (970)510-0309.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

REAL ESTATE HOME STAGING. Sale includes Business Consulting, 8.5x20 feet Interstate trailer with shelving storage furniture, household items, organized storage bins. Only \$14,700! Great part time, set your hours! Wen Saunders (970)903-0038.

MULTI USE 6,800 SQUARE BUILDING with business in prime location with high producing business .60 acre. lot \$2,350,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PRIME LOCATION NEAR NAVAJO State Park. Gas station, liquor store, convenience store, restaurant, motel, post office. \$1.7 million. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

FOR SALE

ANTIQUE COMBINATION wood/gas cook stove. Quick meal. \$1,600. (970)799-4383.

CRAFTSMAN (30") SNOW BLOWER. Electric start, good condition. Model # 247.883960, steering assist, \$850. Call (970)946-5879.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$240 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FOR SALE

DRY, SEASONED FIREWOOD For Sale, split and delivered. (970)317-4933.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Good mix, split and delivered, two cords, \$500. (970)317-3120.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload (about 1 cord). Call (970)946-4450.

GOOD FLATBED TRAILER, 10' deck, long tongue, tires are 2 years old, new spare. \$2200. (970)403-4528.

"GOT WATER RIGHTS?" Well, then you probably know about the Department of Water Resources mandate and time limit for water measurement devices. Sold in DIY kits or fully assembled and welded, these professionally fabricated Parshall Flumes, Diversion boxes, and related measurement devices are locally made and are fully ASTM compliant. Yours CAN BE RESERVED STARTING OCTOBER, 2023 and delivered directly to your property IN TIME FOR SEASONAL INSTALL 2024. We have installment solutions too! CALL (970)946-5206 TO RESERVE YOUR FLUME(S) and INSTALL DATES-2023 pricing available until December 20, 2023.

NEED FIREWOOD? Pine mix available. \$325 a cord or \$600 for a HUGE dump truck load! Guaranteed to be full cords. Split and delivered. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

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.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

THREE FORDS PASTURE RAISED TURKEY. Raised locally and non-gmo. We also offer beef, pork, chicken, eggs and honey. Contact us today at (303)552-8680 or Threefordsfarm@gmail.com.

TWO TRUCKS FOR SALE. 1st is a 1969 classic F250 Custom Camper Special with custom engine rebuild. 58k original miles for \$8900 OBO. 2nd truck is a 1993 Chevy Silverado short-bed 4x4 with 180k miles for \$600 OBO. Runs, but needs some work. Call for details. (213)308-9446.

GARAGE SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

ESTATE SALE Friday and Saturday, 8a.m. sharp! Rain or shine. 155 Pike Drive (turn on Put Hill between America's Auto and Pike Interiors). House and garage full, including tools, refrigerator, freezer, Southwest decor, and much more. 1/2 price sale Saturday. Sale by The Organizers.

PagosaSUN.com

HELP WANTED

3R RANCH HIRING ONE full or part-time position. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must have own reliable transportation and valid driver's license. 40 hours a week available. \$18 per hour. (970)264-5160.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR autobody tech. Apply in person at Precision Autobody & Collision.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE. Hiring Bussers and Food Runners. Great pay and compensation. Nights only. Please email Contact@alley-housegrille.com.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE. Looking for a Dishwasher 4 nights a week. \$16 per hour to start. See Chef Anthony Wednesday-Sunday, 1p.m.-4p.m.

BEAUTIFUL BOUTIQUE in historic downtown now hiring part-time and full-time Customer Service Rep/Fashion Consultant. Duties include daily operations, opening/closing and balancing cash register at end of the day. Drop off resume or pick up job application at 454 Pagosa St. (the Hersch building) Wed-Sat 11-5. Happy Trails Ladies Boutique, celebrating 31+ years in Fashion! (970)264-4260.

CDOT IS LOOKING FOR temporary highway maintenance specialists for Wolf Creek Pass for the winter season. Positions will be 40 hrs/week with opportunity for overtime. Pay is \$24.44/hr. If interested, https://bit.ly/wolfcreekpass.

DENTAL ASSISTANT WANTED -willing to train, Join a team of hard working professionals! Weekends and holidays off, beautiful facility, modern equipment, excellent pay, Get the satisfaction of helping people! e-mail resume to PagosaSmiles@yahoo.com

EXPERIENCED EQUIPMENT OPERATOR position available with Colorado Rock & Dirt Excavation, Inc. Full-time (40-hr week) year round. We offer paid vacations, holidays, 401K and bonuses. Please call 970-264-3478 or submit resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com.

WINTER WORK!

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
Winter Seasonal: November - April

- Lift Department
- Food & Beverage *Baker
- Ski School
- Base Operations
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Snow Removal * Grooming
- Custodial Building Maintenance
- Ski Patrol
- Onsite Call Center/
Customer Service

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience

Applications at

WolfCreekSki.com/employment
Send applications and resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



Submit your
classified ad
online.
PagosaSUN.com

264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED - Asst. duties. Please send job history or resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com, phone (970)264-5000.

HIRING EXPERIENCED EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. Flexible work schedule. Pay DOE. Call (970)946-3966.

HYGIENIST WANTED: Ask about \$10,000 full time, first year bonus. Part time also available. The team at Pagosa Smiles is blessed to have family oriented hours with weekends and holidays off, great pay, 401K & bonuses in a beautiful facility. Colorado dental hygiene license required. E-mail resume to: PagosaSmiles@yahoo.com.

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR CDL DRIVER Experience in forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

HELP WANTED

INTERESTED IN A 4-DAY WORK WEEK? Piedra Automotive is now hiring Technicians. Entry-level and experienced positions available. Will train right person. Full-time 7 to 6 M-Th. Paid time off and Holidays. Apply in person at 505 County Road 600 or email resume to PiedraAuto@gmail.com.

LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Must have own transportation. Call for an application. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

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.

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.

HELP WANTED

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

MARKETING COORDINATOR. We are looking for a dependable, innovative person to help us grow our expanding brand as we look for new opportunities and creative ways to edge out the competition. Do you work well with others? Are you a creative thinker? Come work for a great company that continues to grow and thrive in our ever-changing economy. Duties and responsibilities include: Must have experience in marketing involving both print and digital mediums. Adobe and MS Office skills required. I.T. experience is a plus but not required. Previous experience in the cannabis industry is preferred but not required. A Colorado M.E.D. Badge is required before you can start work. Please submit your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

NOW HIRING FULL-TIME Kitchen Line Cooks and full-time Front Counter Clerk. Work in a fast paced and clean kitchen. Pay negotiable. Apply within at The Buck Stops Here Market and Eatery.

NOW HIRING SEASONAL POSITIONS for the upcoming hunting season. Meat cutters, meat room assistant and meat wrappers. Must be reliable and ready to work. Great pay. Please apply in person at The Buck Stops Here, 19 Navajo Trail Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL is looking to hire an Aftercare Teacher for our school. Hours are M-Th from 3-5:30 p.m. and Fri from 1:15-5:30 p.m. Please contact Leah Hellerich if you are interested in the position at (816)585-2892.

HELP WANTED

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA PEAK OPEN SCHOOL is accepting proposals for snow plowing of its parking lot in Pagosa Springs for the winter season 2023-24. Details of the RFP is located at pagosapeakopenschool.org > School Community > Career and Contract Opportunities > Current Requests for Proposals > RFP for Snow Plowing. All proposals are due by 1p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2023. Please contact Jennifer Mitchell at business@ppos.co with any questions.

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. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Come join a growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

NOW HIRING! Archuleta Seniors Inc. is looking for a sous chef. Minimum 2 years cooking, food production experience. Must be detail oriented and strong communication skills. Apply in person at the senior center, M-F from 1-3p.m. Job hours, M-F 7a.m.-3p.m., weekends off and paid holidays.

HELP WANTED

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH. Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover from surgeries, injuries, accidents and other health issues to join our team. No prior experience necessary. We offer competitive pay, \$16-18 per hour, and benefits including paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401k plan, and a profit sharing program. Please submit resume to RMPT, 35 Mary Fisher Circle or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com

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.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL is looking for a Part Time aide for Preschool, Monday-Friday, from 2:30-5:30p.m. Please contact Emily Martinez for job details and application at (970)903-2803.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SMALL MOTEL AND RV PARK hiring part-time maintenance person. 20 hours per week. Pool and spa knowledge helpful but not required. Pay depending on experience. Call (970)731-5345 for more information.

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT (Facebook, Google, Instagram) wanted to help create and manage advertising and marketing campaign for growing business. Please send resume to pagosad@yahoo.com.

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 online at subway.com, or in person.



NOW HIRING RECEIVING CLERK

- Office position that requires: detail-oriented person who enjoys working with numbers, the analytical ability to investigate/ audit inventory variations.
- Proficiency in computers, MS Word, Excel is a must.
- Preferred candidate is self-starting, team oriented, responsive, helpful, dependable and driven to innovate, evolve and problem solve.

- Position is centered on inventory management and vendor relations.
- Willing to train. Experience in retail is helpful.
- Full time position M-F 8-5. \$22-27/ hr DOE. Benefits include sick/ vacation PTO, Healthcare, Profit Share, discounts and more.
- Please apply in person at 525 Navajo Trail Drive. Applications found at terrysace.com

Terry's ACE
525 Navajo Trail Dr.
970-731-4022

Winter Happens!



Now Hiring for our 36th Winter season!
Full & part-time positions available in both retail and rental.
Bring your outgoing, fun loving attitude to The Summit this Winter.
Please apply in person.



SKI & SPORTS
IN THE RIVER CENTER
970-264-2456



NOW HIRING

The Town of Pagosa Springs is Hiring
Applications being accepted for the following positions:

**Court Clerk
Planner
Police Officer/ Police Officer Recruit
Utility Operator**

- Full-time employment
- Paid time-off
- Robust benefits package
- Competitive pay
- Flexible shifts
- On-the-job training

To apply:
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pagosasprings>

WANTED

One full-time employee

Also Part-time Positions
Salary based on experience.
Bi monthly and Quarterly bonuses.
Paid time off/401k match.
Plus cash tips possible.



Please apply within.

WJP/PRO
3505 W. Hwy. 160
in the lobby of the Pagosa Lodge




264-2100

Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE/LINE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE Did you ever want to work in Aviation, but didn't know how to break into the industry? Now could be your opportunity. AvJet Pagosa is looking for a customer centric person that has a passion for aviation to join our team. Position Summary. You will be performing various service-related duties for aircraft and customers utilizing the facility. These duties include, but are not limited to, driving fueling equipment, fueling aircraft, towing aircraft, assisting passengers and flight crews with luggage, operation of the bulk fuel storage facility. Work as part of a team to provide everyone with a friendly welcoming environment. Collaborate, cooperate and work closely with all coworkers, customers and other visitors to ensure customer service needs are met. Increase customer satisfaction by understanding and promptly addressing customers' needs. Accurately receive, dispatch and completely process customer purchases and fuel transactions through use of our POS system. Maintain a positive attitude, consideration and display courtesy to everyone at all times. Working Conditions. • Physical Demand - Use of personal protective equipment is required. May be exposed to heat, cold, rain and snow in a noisy environment. You must possess the ability to perform strenuous physical activities such as lift passenger bags weighing 50 pounds or more, engage in sustained physical exertion and perform arduous work under adverse conditions and maintain physical fitness pertinent to the work. • Mental and/or Visual Demand - Mental and visual demands are high and vary with function performed. Consistent mental attention needed to respond safely and efficiently. • Specific vision abilities include close, distance, color and peripheral vision, and depth perception. Employee is required to have the visual acuity to analyze data and figures, operate a computer terminal. • Exposed to normal aviation environment. • Will be subject to recall after normal duty hours, and some mandatory overtime in order to meet the needs of the operation could be required. Qualifications: • Minimum of 18 years of age. • Previous customer service experience. • Excellent communication skills, both written and oral. • Good organizational skills. • Must maintain a valid state driver's license. • Ability to comprehend and perform basic math calculations with minimal errors. • Proficiency in use of MS Office applications including Word, Excel and Outlook. • Flexible work schedule may include working overtime, nights, on weekends, holidays, and be on call. We are proud to be an EEO/Females/Minorities/Veterans/Disabled employer. We maintain a drug-free workplace and perform pre-employment substance testing. Qualified applications with criminal history will be considered for employment.

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: From \$18.00 per hour. Benefits: • Health insurance. • Paid time off. Schedule: • 8 hour shift. • Day shift. • Holidays. • On call. • Overtime. • Weekends as needed. Work Location: In person. Interested applicants please email resume: awright@avjetpagosa.com.

HELP WANTED

OFFICE MANAGER. The Pagosa Springs SUN, now part of O'Rourke Media Group, is recruiting for a dynamic, versatile office manager to assist the GM and team with managing day-to-day business activity. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Typical hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm. Job Responsibilities: Account Management: Support the Advertising Dept with account management activity that's associated with customers running ads in the SUN, PREVIEW, special publications and on our digital platforms. Administrative: Handle postal paperwork, insertion order processing and payment processing for advertising and subscriptions. Service: Provide personable, friendly customer service, answering phones and interacting in person with customers that visit the office. Communication: Serve as a point of contact for internal and external communications. Answer phones, respond to emails and direct inquiries to the appropriate team members. Production Operation: Assist as needed with the production of newspapers each week. Project assistance: Assist with special projects and initiatives as requested by the Company. Requirements: This position requires a college degree. 3-5 years of experience working in an office. Excellent attention to detail and accuracy in data entry. Strong organizational and time management skills to meet payroll deadlines. Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels. High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office applications. Compensation Range/Benefits: \$16-\$22/hour depending on experience level. Eligible for medical, dental and vision benefits on the 1st of the month after 30 days of employment. Eligible to enroll in the company's 401 (k) retirement savings on the 1st of the month after 90 days. The company matches 50% of your contribution up to 2.5% of total compensation. 16 days of PTO plus 4-5 paid holidays. Opportunity for advancement and career growth within the company. About the Company. O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset. Send along your email or letter of interest directly to CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com.

SUMMIT SKI & SPORTS is hiring for our 36th Winter season. Full time and part time positions available in both retail and rental. Bring your fun loving attitude to the Summit this Winter! Apply in person in the River Center.

HELP WANTED

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN seeks a general assignment reporter who can do it all. If you can write strong news stories and compelling features, take solid photographs and are comfortable using digital tools, then you might be a good fit for our newsroom. A passion for community journalism, inspired storytelling and public service is essential for a successful candidate. Self-motivation and excellent time-management skills are a must. You must be proficient under pressure and consistent at meeting deadlines. Common topics in a week would include meeting coverage, coverage and photos from significant community events, school sports and more. The position is for 30 hours per week and would rarely involve overtime, though night and weekend working hours are common. However, the position offers some day-to-day flexibility in work hours. The pay is \$17 to \$18/hour. Benefits are included. Email resume with cover letter to Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com.

PETS

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.

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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 sharp-shinned hawk.

This smallest member of the accipiter family of birds is built for flight that is fast and acrobatic. Short wings and a long tail that functions as a rudder allow accipiters to make tight turns and sharp dives while flying through the small openings of their forested habitats. In contrast, hawks in the buteo family, like the familiar red-tailed, with short tails and long, wide wings, are designed for soaring.

Depending on location, sharp-shinned hawks are either resident or long-distance migrants. Those that breed in Canada and the northern United States may migrate as far as Central America for the winter. We are within their year-round range. Often out of sight, they nest and raise their young in densely forested areas with a closed canopy. In winter they may move to forest edges for better hunting.

Ninety percent of a sharpie's diet is songbirds, usually robin-sized or smaller. Stealth and surprise followed by fast pursuit enter into its hunting strategy. They are equipped with long toes and talons to impale and hold onto struggling prey. Sharp vision and the ability to process visual information much faster than we can allows them to avoid obstacles and track prey while in high speed chase.

Adult sharp-shinned hawks are slate blue-gray above and have narrow, red-orange barring across their breasts. Their long tails have broad, dark bands and are square tipped. The yellow eye color of brown immature birds changes to red in adults. Even experienced bird watchers have difficulty distinguishing the sharp-shinned from the Cooper's hawk, which appears nearly identical. The Cooper's looks more square-headed, has a dark cap and its tail appears more rounded, but these differences are often hard to see.

If bird feeders attract songbirds to your yard, don't be surprised to have a sharpie show up looking for a meal. If one becomes a regular visitor, you may have to take your feeders down for a couple of weeks to encourage it to move on.

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