



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 114 — NO. 10, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021



## 'Cinderella'

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

The cast and crew of Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP) presented Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" to audiences of all ages last weekend. The musical featured Hannah Rockensock in the title roll and CUP Artistic Director Dale Scrivener Jr. as Topher, the prince.



## BoCC hears wage, personnel requests

By Clayton Chaney  
 Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) will need to approve the county's final budget for 2022 by Dec. 15, according to state statute.

This month, the BoCC held multiple budget work sessions with directors from each of the county's departments to discuss changes and requests for next year's budget.

Multiple departments made requests for wage increases for staff

and additional staff, particularly within Archuleta County Combined Dispatch and the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO).

On Nov. 10, the BoCC met with Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Center (ACCDC) Emergency Communications Director Kati Harr.

Harr indicated that the ACCDC is making two requests for its budget next year.

The first request mentioned by

■ See County A8

## School district's mill levy set to rise as part of statewide correction

By Randi Pierce  
 Staff Writer

Property owners will see an increased mill levy for Archuleta School District (ASD) 50 JT in the coming years as the state works to correct school district mill levies across the state.

ASD's mill levy is anticipated to increase by 5.86 mills over a period of six years, according to ASD Finance Director Mike Hodgson at the ASD Board of Education's Nov.

9 meeting.

"Most Colorado taxpayers will see their property taxes increase beginning this December due to a legislative fix to a decades-long practice that incorrectly reduced local taxes for education based on what now has been determined to be a misinterpretation of the Colorado Constitution," an explanation document from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

■ See School A8

## School enrollment rebounds

By Randi Pierce  
 Staff Writer

Archuleta School District's enrollment count has largely rebounded from a dip it took last year.

At its Nov. 9 meeting, the Archuleta School District Board of Education heard from Executive Assistant Robyn Bennett, who presented the district's enrollment and explained it grew by 113 compared to last year.

That, she noted, puts the school close to where it was in 2019.

In 2019, the district's enrollment was 1,571, according to Bennett's

presentation. In 2020, that figure dipped to 1,438.

This year, the district's enrollment is 1,533.

Bennett indicated ASD may not see a big increase in funding due to averaging that helps smooth increases and decreases in funding related to the official number of students in schools.

Of the 1,533 students in the district this year, Bennett's presentation shows, 507 students are in the elementary school, 504 are in the middle school and 468 are in the high school.

■ See Enrollment A8

## Shop with a Cop seeks donations to support Christmas program

By Nick Stasi  
 Fraternal Order of Police  
 Durango Lodge No. 8

For almost three decades, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 8 has hosted our annual Shop with a Cop event. We've never missed a year and we plan to keep the tradition alive this year the best we can.

This event pairs local children in need with a law enforcement officer and together they go shopping at Walmart for clothing and toys that the child wouldn't otherwise receive. We fully fund each

year's event through charitable donations from businesses and citizens like you. Through generous donations, we were able to support 175 children from La Plata and Archuleta counties last year.

This year, the FOP Lodge 8 will again be hosting a one-day event in Durango and a one-day event in Pagosa Springs. We are currently seeking donations to make this year's event a success and we need your support.

COVID-19 has continued to impact many low-income fami-

■ See Donations A8

### Index

Opinion	A2
Letters	A3
Obituary	A4
Sidney 'Sid' Harris Van Vugt	
Business	A5
County unemployment drops slightly	
Sports	A16
Fresh faces: Young Lady Pirate squad set to open season Tuesday	

Public Notices	A18
Outdoors	A20
Join the 122nd Christmas Bird Count	
PREVIEW	
Live Performers	2
Christmas in Pagosa	4-10
Calendar	22
Classifieds	34

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# Opinion

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**SUN**

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PagosaSUN.com  
Physical address: 457 Lewis Street  
Mailing address: PO Box 9  
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### SUN STAFF

**Publisher/Editor**  
Terri House, editor@pagosasun.com

**Assistant Editor**  
Randi Pierce, randi@pagosasun.com

**Reporters**  
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com

**Business Development and Circulation Manager**  
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

**Business Development Specialist**  
Kaylin Willis, kaylin@pagosasun.com

**Head Pressroom** Robert Penton  
**Assistant Pressroom** Steve Horton

**Mailroom Staff**  
William Thomas

**Classified Advertising/Front Office**  
Missy Phelan, classads@pagosasun.com

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## OUR VIEW

# On being thankful

There is a lot to be thankful for in Pagosa Country.

We asked SUN readers and Facebook friends what they were thankful for this Thanksgiving. The following is a sampling of what they had to share:

"Family!!" — Mike Alley  
"The leaves turning brilliant colors, Good books, The perfect pair of jeans,, Happy hour, A good night's sleep, Last but not least... TACOS." — Julie Walter  
"All of the above!" — Nannette Andrews  
"20 years of music, dance, theater, kids of all ages (5 - 90!) creating magic and love on our home stage in Pagosa...." — Dale Johnson  
"The real power given to us by being surrounded in prayers, love, hugs. To open a card or get a call from those we have lost touch with." — Janet Valdez

"Thankful for many things. This year I'm thankful for the medical teams that cared for Janet and saved her life here in Alamosa. I'm thankful for the friends that constantly checked on her. I'm thankful for the few that called to check on me." — J Mencor Valdez  
"That we live in this beautiful Pagosa Springs amongst wonderful people like you and our family of friends & my children, grandsons & G grandson..." — Jeanna Duran  
"I'm thankful for NEWSPAPERS!" — Erin McIntyre

"Warm Apple pie and icecream." — Jason Webb  
"Thankful for the many kindnesses and prayers I and my family have received as I continue to battle cancer. So very blessed to live in this beautiful community!" — Sally Logee Neel  
"I am thankful that my husband made it through his open heart surgery with no problems, and we are home to enjoy Thanksgiving with family." — Kathleen Grams

"Vaccines." — Will Grandbois  
And in response to that: "Amen." — RC Battels  
"Angels." — Nancy Rozum Haines  
"I'm thankful to be recovering from COVID, and that didn't kill me." — Patricia Jensen-Shoffner  
"The love and support of family and friends - and a new heart!" — Kurt Jon Raymond  
"I'm thankful that our country is full of warriors and future warriors. They allow us to live our blessed way of life." — Steve Powell

"I am truly and deeply thankful for my special friends here in Pagosa Springs. I wouldn't make it through life without them. We've laughed and cried together, watched our children grow up, taken care of each other, made many special memories...and simply put...we truly love each other. My world is a better place because of them." — Angela Lanier Wirth  
"I'm thankful for my parents, my children, that I have a home and a job, for food on my table, and for God being in myself and my husband's life." — Joan Vigil  
"Thankful to the gentle gig and family amen." — Jackie Miller  
"Being able to be with my family in our beautiful Pagosa home. Enjoying the Rockies, San Juan Mountains & beautiful rivers in the fall. What a true blessing to be THANKFUL for!" — Deborah Silva Tammen

"I am thankful for Pagosa. Pagosa was good to my family for 19 years. Thank u Pagosa." — Maryan Peshlakai  
"Skiing with yetis." — Dan Dempster  
"I am thankful for the Covid vaccines and for the people smart enough to recognize the value of the vaccines." — Melissa McDonald  
"I am thankful for my family and friend!" — Jordyn L Trujillo  
"I'm thankful my 88 year old father is cancer free. He made it thru Chemo, 7 hour surgery, radiation. Please don't smoke or dip. He had a very very small sore on his lip. He is a stubborn ol coot!" — Cheri Harlow Greene  
"I'm thankful for the love of family and friends and the legacy our parents and grandparents leave." — Lynne Jehnzen Bridges

"I am thankful for our health, our friends and neighbors, our students and our supportive community!" — Linda Lutomski  
"A safe warm peaceful home with my furbabies." — Lily Tarbet  
"I am so thankful for the opportunity to be in Healthcare. I love my job and all my coworkers and friends that I have made here at my workplace." — Misty Carrasco  
"I'm thankful for my amazing beautiful children... who make me look like a good mom!!!" — Lisa Griffin Smith  
"Just thankful to be alive. And all that God has blessed me, my husband co-worker's, family and friends with each and everyday." — Cindy Peden  
"I'm thankful for every small blessing." — S.j. Cooper

"My family, who have helped me thru a total shoulder. Science, the work they did to get the [vaccine] out in record time. My good health. So many things to be grateful for." — Judith Farnam  
"So very thankful to be blessed to live in the peace and beauty of our Pagosa Springs surroundings....what a serene place to be when the rest of the world is in such a state of unrest...amazing grace!" — Marsha Vilhauer

"I'm thankful, daily, that we found Pagosa and are living our best lives here in the grace of God's perfect peace in a perfect place. I'm grateful for our community, our friends, family and freedom." — Annie Stone  
"I'm thankful and grateful that we get to live in such a beautiful magical place." — Stacey Fey

"I am Thankful for my family, my health, work, friends that are like family and a home to live in. Be Grateful Always, some folks are not that fortunate." — Isabel Webster  
"For being 8 years cancer free, working, serving and capable of keeping my home with my senior fur babies." — Kathryn Andrea Grace Woodward  
"My family friends that we are still here to share thanksgiving once again it's been a rough 2yrs for everyone but I believe in prayer and have faith." — Mary Vangie Phyllis Martinez  
"Thankful to be with my family." — Christina Lucero  
"Besides my amazing family and friends... I am so thankful for: Healthcare workers, Truck drivers, Farmers, And our men and women military personnel." — Joanne Montealeone Irons  
"After a rough couple years of not being together for Thanksgiving great full to have our children and grandchildren at our home and we all are lucky to be healthy happy and together going to cook up a feast and saying a prayer for those going through a hard time right as so many are." — Pamela Roeder  
"I'm thankful for the time I had even though it was short." — Michelle Curvey  
"I am so thankful for my family my friends my good neighbors and the beauty we have in Archuleta Country." — Betty Shahan

There were a lot more answers than what we had room for this week. We are thankful for your thoughtful responses. What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?  
Terri Lynn Oldham House

## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

# 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
November 25, 1921

Mrs. Ida Born, proprietor of Born's lake, reports that the spawn output of the lake the past season totaled 1,000,000, or 200,000 more than any previous season.

W.S. Mote and John Garvin, who left Wednesday of last week by auto on their eastern and southern trip, reached Coyote park, where they developed car trouble and remained until Tuesday, when they returned home and called off their trip. Mr. Mote, however will leave next week by train for Missouri, canceling the Florida part of the trip. He desires to make public the following statement: "Our friends are inquiring why John and I did not go to Florida. Why should we go there when we can find such a fine country as Coyote park near home, and such fine people? And say, boys, if you want your car fixed right, go to Price Kenney. He will do good work and treat you right."

The Citizens bank is now comfortably located in its new quarters, newly decorated and new fixtures throughout.

# 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
November 29, 1946

A large skating area for Pagosa Springs fans is to be a reality following the first continued freeze. At a recent meeting of the Lions Club it was proposed that a skating area be built in the park and kept usable through the cooperation of the school. This week, with the cooperation of the town, county and school authorities, the Lions Club plan got under way. An area large enough for a big number of skaters was cleared and leveled in the park, and an earth fill wall was laid around the area. With the first hard freeze, the fire department hose will be used to spread a series of layers of ice over the area, and an ideal skating rink will be ready.

Miguel Martinez has been honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, the local Selective Service office announced this week. Martinez was in service for nearly two years and had just returned from the European Theatre after a year of duty.

Archuleta County added a new piece of equipment to its inventory last week, when a truck with snow plow was purchased.

# 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
November 25, 1971

The Pagosa Pirates were stopped last Saturday by Walsh 54-8 in the state Class A semi-final football game. The powerful Walsh team, defending champions from last year had been unscored upon until they tangled with the Pirates Saturday. Superior size and weight, plus good playing were the main factors in the Pagosa defeat. Walsh easily outweighed Pagosa by a 30-pound per man average. Pagosa players suffered several injuries in the game Saturday. Ken Reese suffered a mild concussion and was kept in the Walsh hospital overnight. Leonard Martinez and Tom Gibson were both injured to the extent that medical treatment was advisable. Terry Lattin had a hand split and about 12 stitches were required to close the gash. Coach Ron Shaw and his assistant, Harold Butts, had praise for the team. Shaw said that Pagosa was just outmatched in size, weight, experience and playing, but not in "gutty" playing. The coaches said the team played all out the entire game, and played well.

# 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
November 27, 1996

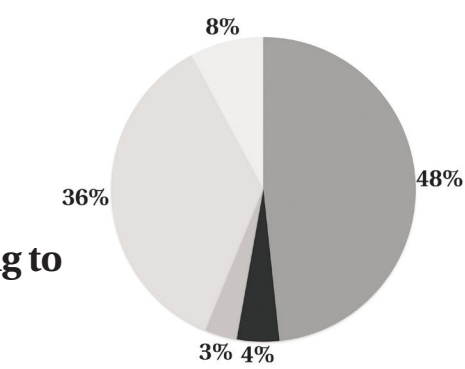
Archuleta County will operate with a balanced budget during 1997 thereby satisfying a goal that was established four years ago. The county commissioners in 1993 made a four-year commitment to have the county operating on a balance by 1997. County Manager Dennis Hunt said Tuesday the \$6.886 million budget set for 1997 is the first in many years that will not have to use its reserves to help subsidize the operation of county business.

Dan Keuning is the clinical coordinator for the Mercy programs in Archuleta County and he says demand for services has increased beyond his expectations. The programs are run in conjunction with Mercy Medical Center in Durango. At present, the Home Health Care staff numbers 12 members working on a professional basis. The staff provides nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical-social worker service and personal care visits.

## WHADDYA THINK? What do you love most about Pagosa Country?

Poll results (89 votes)

The great outdoors — 48 percent  
The people — 4 percent  
The amenities — 3 percent  
The scenery — 36 percent  
Other — 8 percent



Vote this week online:  
How can you tell if it is going to be a really hard winter?  
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Alvin Schaab, Chair  
aschaaf@archuletacounty.org • 264-8305  
Ron Maez  
rmaez@archuletacounty.org • 264-8303  
Warren Brown  
warren.brown@archuletacounty.org • 264-8300

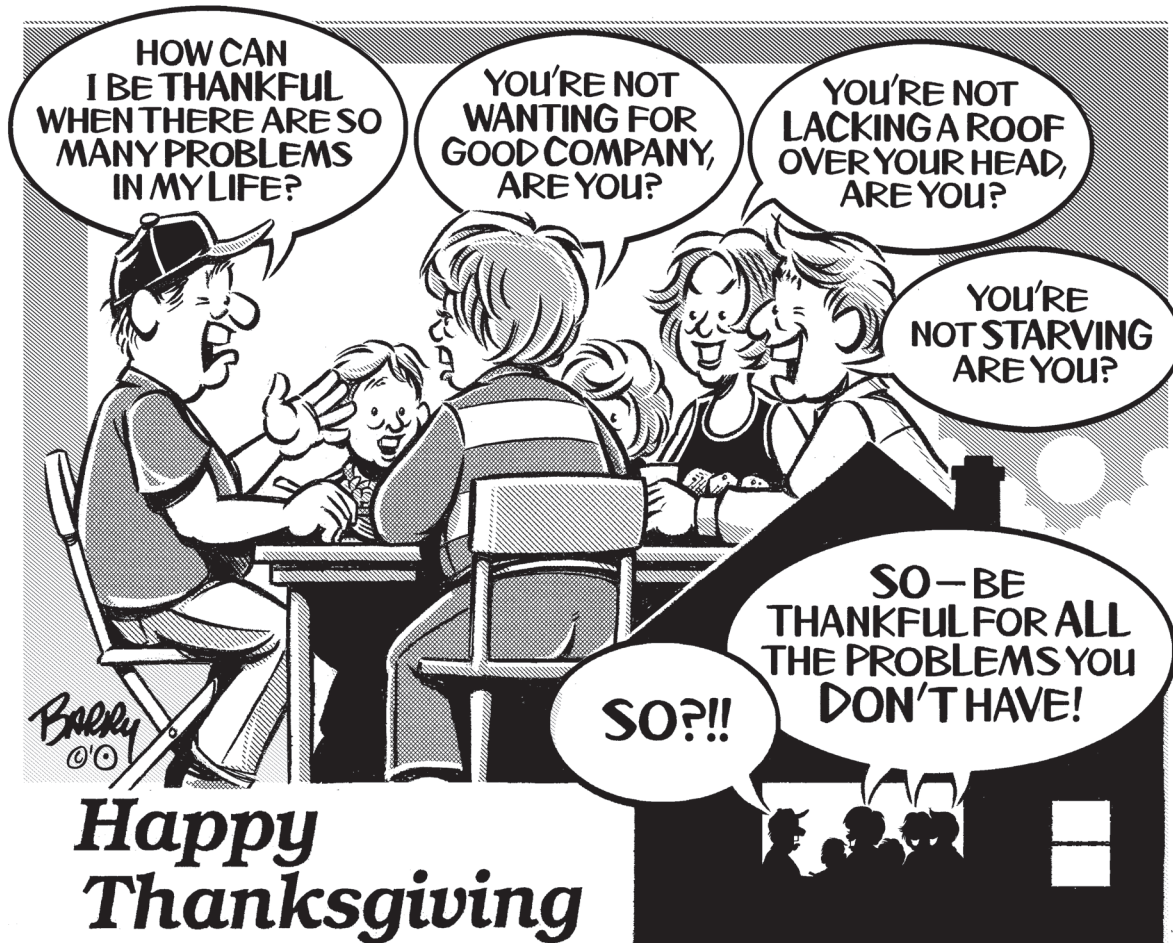
**Pagosa Springs Town Council**  
Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger  
dvolger@gmail.com  
Matt DeGuise  
mdeguisse@pagosasprings.co.gov  
Madeline Bergon  
mbergon@pagosasprings.co.gov  
Nicole Pitcher  
ndemarco@pagosasprings.co.gov  
Mat deGraaf  
mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov  
Shari Pierce  
spierce@pagosasprings.co.gov  
Jeff Posey  
jposey@pagosasprings.co.gov

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Type	Depth	Moisture
11/16	56	26	-	-	-
11/17	53	20	-	-	-
11/18	49	17	-	-	-
11/19	52	20	-	-	-
11/20	50	21	-	-	-
11/21	51	21	-	-	-
11/22	57	18	-	-	-

Pagosa Springs  
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# Letters

*Letters to the Editor are printed as received and are not edited for grammar or punctuation, but may have been edited for content or style.*

*Letters to the Editor are opinions and information in them has not been verified for accuracy.*

*The opinions of letter writers do not necessarily represent those of the paper.*

## 'Democracy Dies in Darkness'

Dear Editor:

The motto for the Washington Post is "Democracy Dies in Darkness." This week the Pagosa Sun shone a light on darkness in the County Commissioner's office and the Superintendent of Schools. Elected officials serve at the will of the people.

We should be grateful that we have a local paper. Across the country local papers are being bought up by venture capitalists who gut them for a profit. Their profit is our loss.

Current pieces in both the Atlantic and NPR report that once local papers disappear misinformation spreads, voter turn out and civic engagement decreases and city budgets bloom as local officials are not held accountable. Ultimately, communities become increasingly polarized and dysfunctional in the absence of good reporting.

What needs to happen now? Due to the impropriety in their hiring process all spouses referenced in the Sun's opinion piece should resign and their job posts should be reopened.

Going forward the entire hiring process needs to be a transparent one. How are the Commissioners and the Superintendent listing the qualifications necessary for these jobs? Once qualified candidates are able to apply the interviewing process needs to be open to the public.

This entire process is democracy in action.

Leslie Barnett

## Kudos to Thingamajig

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Thingamajig Theatre Company and Tim and Laura Moore for taking the necessary steps to keep their actors and audience safe as they follow "Broadway's Rules" during the pandemic. Having actors be vaccinated, having audience members be vaccinated and masked and doing smaller cast shows help to ensure the health and safety of the community of Pagosa from COVID. I know that most performing arts groups in Colorado, including the theater department at close by Fort Lewis in Durango are also following suit. Out on the East Coast now, my new home on Cape Cod, local theaters are slowly coming back. They are all following the Broadway COVID protocols. It is the responsible thing to do. Have a great and healthy holiday season in the mountains.

Dale Johnson

## 'I'll meet you there'

Dear Editor:

How do we begin to heal the political and racial divides in this country? I think we're going to need to count on deliberate acts of kindness and tolerance. Father Tim (the Mitford Series by Jan Karon) starts his day with a simple prayer: Lord, make me a blessing to someone today.

What a concept. Instead of flipping off a crazy driver, scowling at someone moving slowly through a grocery aisle, muttering through construction zones, or retweeting a nasty political snipe, we could try a different approach.

We're so used to making instant judgments of people and events that our biggest problem often begins with a knee-jerk. It's a sad commentary when improvements that have gone wanting for decades are condemned rather than welcomed. Our roads are crumbling, our bridges are shaky, our internets are slow, our dams are disasters waiting to happen, but when Congress finally passes an infrastructure bill, we're ready for knees to jerk. Can't we celebrate a bipartisan win for just a little while before the bickering and recriminations begin?

Let's stop looking for boogymen. There are a lot of great people out there. They come in all different shapes, and colors, and political affiliations. We may all look a little different, or sound a little different, or harbor different ideas, but we're all traveling down the same

highway. Maybe that highway will be a bit smoother when our roads are repaired, and our fingers stop tweeting, and our collective knees stop jerking.

There's a powerful thought from the poet, Rumi, that could start to unite us. "Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."

K. Muth

## Veterans Memorial Park

Dear Editor:

The Department of Defense recently recognized the Veterans Memorial Park of Archuleta County as a Commemorative Partner in its willingness to assist and support a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam War Veterans, their families and those who served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces. It is nice to know that the work of the Board of Directors, volunteers and the support of the community has not gone unnoticed.

To date, the Board has managed to complete construction of one-half of the parking area, build a display for the many memory bricks that the community has purchased, buy and place six benches in the Park, build about one-half mile of trails and mount a silhouette of the Iwo Jima flag raising. In addition, the Board once again managed to have a golf tournament last July, which raised about \$12,000 that will be used for construction of the Park. The Board has noticed and is gratified to know that the Park is

constantly being used, especially the trail system, and during the summer months, the three donated picnic tables. Many people (too many to list here) have donated their time, labor, money and energy in support of the Park. The Board wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to each one for their support of this very worthwhile project.

Unfortunately, the progress toward completion of the Park has come to a standstill, mostly because only one-half of the parking area has been finished. At this point in time, completion of the parking area is the most critical item on the schedule. As anyone can see, parking is a problem when any type of community event is held at the Park. The Veterans Day ceremony last Thursday certainly proved this point as approximately 150 people attended the ceremony. The current parking area was filled to capacity with overflow parking available in the vacant lot across from the Park and many vehicles parked on the shoulders of Vista Boulevard. Unfortunately, the present Parking Area could only accommodate about one-third of the total number of vehicles attending the ceremony.

It is important note, in order to proceed with construction of the other items to complete the Park, it is essential that the parking area be finished so that construction crews have space for their equipment and materials. Thus, without adequate parking, it makes no sense move forward to construct the cer-

■ See Letters A4



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## Letters

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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), email submissions are preferred

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.

## Weed and Pest supervisor provides department update

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Archuleta County Weed and Pest Supervisor Ethan Proud gave a department update during a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Nov. 16.

Proud indicated that the department wrapped up its 2021 season during the second week of October.

He noted the department treated a total of 576 acres, slightly down from last year's total of 602.

Of the total amount of land treated this season, the department treated 35 acres on federal land, 42 acres on state-owned land, 31 acres of county-owned land, 497.5 acres of private property and two acres in Hinsdale County, according to Proud's report.

Proud explained the land that was treated in Hinsdale County is where Archuleta County has a road and bridge facility, just outside of the Archuleta County boundary.

The department received 206 herbicide treatment applications

and treated 113 private properties with herbicide, according to the report.

Proud also noted the department processed 310 herbicide sales.

Proud's report also outlined the number of biocontrol insects released.

"We released a number of biological control agents to control weeds without using pesticides," Proud said.

According to the report, the department released 1,600 Russian knapweed gall wasps and 600 stem galls, 500 musk thistle crown weevils, 5,000 leafy spurge flea beetles, 300 Russian knapweed gall midges and did three releases of leafy spurge longhorned beetles.

The department also distributed four field bindweed gall mites, did 12 Canada thistle rust fungus releases and one musk thistle crown weevil release to landowners throughout the county.

Proud also noted that the department held an event at Navajo State Park at which landowners were allowed to come and collect their own materials.

Proud noted that event as a success, with 21 participants and four agencies being involved.

He mentioned that the challenges for the department moving forward "are always the same," which include the lack of public awareness and partnerships developed, along with the "sheer amount of infested acreage."

Proud indicated that there are approximately 540,000 infested acres in Archuleta County.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented on the biocontrol releases, noting that it can be a "really good thing" and can serve as a long-term fix.

Proud explained that U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts approximately 10 years of testing on biocontrol agents before approving them.

He explained that the biocontrol agents will only go after the intended plant, and will die off before it attacks another plant, ensuring that there is no damage to the native plants in the area.

Additionally, Proud mentioned to

the BoCC that the Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee currently has an opening for a county commissioner to serve on that board.

He indicated that it is a two-year term and some of the duties would include the designation of state noxious weeds; the classification of state noxious weeds; development and implementation of state weed management plans; and prescribed techniques for eradication, containment and suppression of state noxious weeds, according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture website.

Maez mentioned that he and Commissioner Warren Brown have previously attempted to get on state advisory boards but have been denied, potentially due to their political party affiliation.

"Warren tried to get on a committee, I've tried to get on a committee, and we thought because of our affiliation, we can't or ... it just doesn't happen," he said.

Maez indicated that he would "look into it" in regard to getting on the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee.

## FBI Denver 2022 Citizens Academy nominations now open

Federal Bureau of Investigation

FBI Denver will be accepting nominations for the 2022 Citizens Academy through Nov. 30.

The Citizens Academy gives business, religious, civic and community leaders an inside look at the FBI, with a goal of raising awareness around the FBI and federal law enforcement, but also to dispel myths and encourage honest dialogue.

"The FBI's Citizen Academy provides an incredible opportunity for members of the community to better understand the work of the

FBI and partner with us in keeping Colorado and Wyoming citizens safe," said Michael H. Schneider, special agent in charge for the FBI Denver Division. "We are grateful for the work of the Citizens Academy and encourage participants to share the information learned through this experience with family, friends and neighbors."

Classes meet one evening per week across eight weeks at the FBI Denver office. Topics may include terrorism, cyber-enabled crime, public corruption, hate crimes and financial crimes, among others. The

session culminates in a "range day," where participants are brought to the FBI's shooting range. To graduate from the FBI Citizens Academy, you must attend six of the eight classes.

Attendees must be at least 21 years of age, live and/or work within FBI Denver's jurisdiction (Colorado/Wyoming) and consent to a limited background check.

To self-nominate or submit a nomination for someone else, visit the following link: <https://forms.fbi.gov/fbi-citizens-academy-nomination-form-denver/view>.


A panel of FBI employees will

review nominations. Selected nominees will be invited to apply. Applicants who pass a background check will be admitted to the 2022 session.

The dates for the Citizens Academy are anticipated to take place from mid-March to mid-May 2022.

Please direct any questions to FBI Denver Community Outreach Specialist Leah Hapner at [dn\\_outreach@fbi.gov](mailto:dn_outreach@fbi.gov) or (303) 630-6174.

To learn about other FBI Denver community outreach programming, visit <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/denver/community-outreach>.




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## Obituary

### Sidney 'Sid' Harris Van Vugt

Sidney "Sid" Harris Van Vugt, 80, of Peoria, Ariz., passed away Nov. 12 with his wife and daughter by his side.



Sid was born on June 22, 1941, in Willmar, Minn., to William and Mabel Van Vugt. He attended Willmar High School before serving in the

U.S. Army from 1960-1963 as a mechanic on M48 Patton Medium tanks, and also as a cook. Sid studied electrical engineering and graduated from Glendale Community College with honors. He went on to work as a senior product engineer at Intel Corporation from 1981 until 2001 when he retired.

Sid married his love, Jan Van Vugt, on July 12, 1980. They have lived in the Phoenix area for over 40 years, where they raised their combined family. Sid had also built a log home in Pagosa Springs, Colo., where they were able to escape the hot summers and enjoy their retire-

ment. Sid was a skydiver, a private pilot and raced stock cars.

Sid loved gardening, woodworking, refinishing antique furniture and could repair or build anything. Sid loved to tell stories from his past, including recounting his skydiving days when he performed 81 jumps. He loved to play jokes on his grandkids and always kept his family laughing. Sid loved his faith, his family and his projects.

Sid is survived by his wife, Jan; two daughters, Christine (John Stephenson) Van Vugt, of San Pedro, Calif., and Shannon (Paul) Faria, of Graham, Wash.; two step-

children, Rebecca (David) Mohr, of Dell Rapids, S.D., and Paul (Shanna) Rierson, of Tulsa, Okla.; two sisters, Mavis Jante, of St. Cloud, Minn., and Nola Wheeler, of Issaquah, Wash.; and one brother, Bill Van Vugt, of Rochester, Minn. Sid was also the proud grandpa to 15 grandchildren with one great-grandchild on the way. Preceding him in death were his parents, William and Mabel Van Vugt. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Sid's favorite charities, The Salvation Army, Christian Family Care or The Arizona Humane Society.

Memorial services are pending.

## Letters

### Continued from A3

emotional area, the memorial area, the Freedom Tower, the facilities building, the playground and the picnic pavilion. The latest estimate from a year ago to finish the Parking Area is \$81,582. Assuming an inflation factor of fifteen percent for next year, brings the estimate to about \$93,820. Currently, the Board has approximately \$45,000 set aside for construction of the parking area, leaving a deficit of about \$49,000.

The Board knows that there are many individuals and companies in Archuleta County who can afford to donate \$5,000 or \$10,000. Thus, if the Board had ten donations of just \$5,000, sufficient funds would become available to finish the parking area. Obviously, donating money for a parking area is not the most glorious way to spend ones funds. However, parting with \$5,000 or \$10,000 is nothing compared to those Veterans who served two or more years of their lives, or even lost their lives, so that you could

have your freedom, a nice business, a nice job, a nice house, and send your children to college. Just think, if America had lost World War II, you might be having to speak German or Japanese now. Or, imagine this: visit the Brick Display in the Park and put your name on one of those bricks, one that says MIA or KIA (Missing in Action or Killed in Action). Therefore, the bottom line is simply this- making a significant donation so that Archuleta County, and southwest Colorado, will have a Veterans Memorial Park worthy of note to honor its Veterans and to serve as an outdoor community event center is a very worthwhile investment. A park of this stature would become a substantial investment and a gathering place for people to enjoy Colorado's great climate and scenery. With so many people today suffering from circumstances way beyond their control, it would be nice to have a serene and tranquil location where one could escape to, just to feel the cares of the world lifted from their

shoulders, even for a short period of time.

To see a better view of what this Park is all about, please visit our website at Veterans Memorial Park of Archuleta County. You may also call Jim Van Liere at 970-946-7218 for additional information if required. Of course, all contributions

are tax deductible because the VMP is a 501(c)3 Charitable Foundation. Please mail all contributions to: Veterans Memorial Park, P.O. Box 2642, Pagosa Springs, CO, 81147. Thanking you in advance, VMP Board of Directors.

By the board of directors,  
James R. Van Liere, treasurer

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# Business

## County unemployment drops slightly

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

According to a Nov. 19 press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Archuleta County's unemployment rate for the month of October dropped to 3.6 percent.

This is down slightly from September's rate of 3.7.

This is the second consecutive month in which the county has had its lowest unemployment rate since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, when it was listed at 3.5 percent for February 2020.

After the start of the pandemic, the county's unemployment rate rose to 6.2 percent in March 2020, then to 15.1 percent in April 2020.

The county's unemployment rate has declined each month so far this year, with the exception

of June, when it was reported at 5.3 percent after dropping to 4.8 percent in May.

From September to October, Archuleta County's labor force grew from 7,777 to 8,006.

For the month of October, there were 7,715 individuals employed in Archuleta County, according to the press release.

This figure is up slightly from September's report of 7,487 individuals employed in Archuleta County.

County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

According to the press release, the county with the highest unemployment rate for October was Pueblo County at 6.8 percent, followed by Huerfano County at 6.1 percent.

Next is Las Animas County and Fremont County, both at 5.5 percent, then Pitkin County at 5.4

percent. Pueblo County had the highest unemployment rate for the month of September as well, at 7 percent.

The state's unemployment rate dropped from 5.6 percent in September to 5.4 percent for October.

The state's labor force grew from 3,211,153 for the month of September to 3,224,401 for October.

The press release notes, "According to the survey of households, Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point in October to 5.4 percent. The national unemployment rate also declined by two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent."

Employers in Colorado added 10,600 nonfarm payroll jobs from September to October, bringing the total number of jobs in Colorado to 3,196,800.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers.

The private sector added 10,000 nonfarm payroll jobs and the government sector shed 600 jobs.

The press release notes that, over the past 18 months, Colorado has gained back 313,100 of the 375,800 nonfarm payroll jobs that were lost between February and April of last year.

"That translates to a job recovery rate of 83.3 percent, which exceeds the U.S. rate of 81.2 percent," the press release states.

Private-industry sectors with significant job gains in October

included:

- Leisure and hospitality at about 6,800.

- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 2,100.

- Professional and business services at about 1,900.

Significant private-sector job losses over the month occurred in Other Services at about 2,000.

"Since October 2020, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 104,600, with the private sector growing by 92,500 jobs and government adding an additional 12,100 jobs," the press release notes.

Since October 2020, the largest private-sector job gains include:

- Leisure and hospitality at about 45,200.

- Professional and business services at about 23,400.

- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 15,800.

Over the same period of time, the largest private-sector job losses occurred in Construction, at about 1,200.

The press release notes that Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is 3.9 percent, compared to the U.S. rate of 4.1 percent.

According to the press release, "Over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 33.7 to 33.3 hours, while average hourly earnings increased from \$30.83 to \$32.54, a dollar and fifty-eight cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$30.96."

clayton@pagosahun.com

## Remember to shop local this holiday season

By Mary Jo Coulehan  
Pagosa Springs Area  
Chamber of Commerce

In past SUN issues, the Chamber has encouraged residents to shop local. While we encourage people to shop local as much as possible throughout the year, during this holiday season, there is even more of a dedicated push to do so.

Small Business Saturday takes place on Saturday, Nov. 27, and is squeezed in between Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping initiatives.

Synonymous with these shopping events is the concept of deals and discounts. These discounts are what shoppers are looking for during this prelude to the holiday shopping crunch. Businesses should jump on board the marketing effort and be open both online and in person to offer new items, exciting gifts for the holidays and perhaps offer a discount.

What many small businesses can do that online or "big box" stores cannot is to offer "experiential shopping." Maybe you don't offer a discount, but you offer the shopping experience of snacks or appetizers, beverages, free gift wrapping, gift wish lists or personalized shopping. Attract people into your stores to make the most of their shopping efforts. What you do now could result in repeat business.

Many people will be heading out even Thanksgiving Day as Black Friday deals kick off on Thursday. Data experts will be looking at this weekend as an indicator of retail sales

strength for the holiday season. As you create your shopping lists this year, make an extra effort to buy local. Support your community while sending something special from Pagosa Springs.

Enjoy visiting our stores who offer unique items and a wonderful hometown, welcoming atmosphere. Check out the paper for all of the great holiday deals and discounts and special shopping days not only over the Thanksgiving weekend, but into and throughout the month of December. Thank you, Pagosans, for shopping Pagosa first.

### Upcoming events

For those looking for Santa sightings over the Thanksgiving holiday, Santa will be at the Visitor Center on Saturday, Nov. 27. The Visitor Center will be lit up in the evening at about 5:30 p.m., which is also when Santa is scheduled to arrive. Santa's workshop will also be complete and beautifully decorated. Although Santa will not be able to have the children close and sitting on his lap, children can certainly make out their wish list and give it to him when at the Visitor Center. Hot chocolate will also be served.

After shopping local, families can head over to the Visitor Center to see the beautiful lights and visit with Santa. Many businesses will also be lighting up as Nov. 26 is the start of the Holiday Lighting Contest. People can drive around town and view the award-winning entries, both residential and commercial.

On Thursday and Friday, Dec. 2 and 3, the Ross Aragon Community ■ See Shop A6

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Photo courtesy Emily Murphy

Hannah, Sarah Riley and Kaylee share their presentation on Life in Space during Pagosa Peak Open School's science night.

## Celebrating the work of students at Pagosa Peak Open School

By Emily Murphy  
Pagosa Peak Open School

While turkey, pumpkin pie and football tend to be the focus during this time of year, Pagosa Peak Open School teacher energy went into celebrating the hard work of students. The week before the holiday break included a book release party and a science night, allowing five grades worth of students to show off their accomplishments.

A plate of cookies, a room full of family members and copies of the students' professionally bound book awaited the first- and second-graders in Kelle Bruno's classroom. Students read aloud the pages of their class book they created together, outlining the detailed steps

of pollination they learned through their last project. Each student was invited up front to present to their audience.

"It went really well," Bruno said afterward.

Upstairs, middle school science teacher Kelsey Scott was preparing her students for the group's science night. Games, demonstrations and presentations filled nearly two hours of the afternoon. Students worked in small groups to share novel information about space; topics ranging from the possibility of life in space to wormholes and how stars have affected human experiences over time.

These school celebrations mark the end of work well done, as well as preface new projects to come after a well-deserved break.



Photo courtesy Emily Murphy

Kelle Bruno stands with Emily while she reads her pollinator page to families.

## Shop

Continued from A5

Center will host the annual Festival of Trees — an event supporting our nonprofit agencies. The public viewing is Thursday, Dec. 2, from noon until 6 p.m. Santa will be at the public viewing, there will also be hot beverages and cookies, and you can vote for your favorite tree.

On Friday, Dec. 3, the Festival of Trees event will take place beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Community Center. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available, along with a number of gorgeously decorated trees that you can keep in your home or office for years to come or donate back to a family in Pagosa. Questions can be directed to the Community Center at (970) 264-

4152.

With family and friends and this being a time of gathering, we encourage people to be safe and keep healthy. It is cold and flu season, so enhanced cleanliness and disinfecting protocols should be in place in our businesses. With the increase in COVID cases in Archuleta County, many businesses are choosing to require customers to wear masks. Please respect those businesses, owners and employees for putting measures in place that they feel are best for their business and the safety of their staff.

The Chamber is grateful to continue to serve our community, work on issues important to our growth and thank everyone that supports us in our efforts to help you. Happy Thanksgiving from the board and staff at the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Thanks

### Pickleball Club

The Pagosa Pickleball Club wants to express our most sincere thanks to the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado for their most recent donation under the Community Emergency Relief Fund. Their continued support to our club, as well as many other nonprofits throughout the region, will assist us in continuing our mission of promoting the healthy sport of pickleball, and the many economic and social benefits it brings to our community.

Al Pfister, on behalf of the Pagosa Pickleball board

## Biz Beat



First Southwest Bank (FSWB), a locally owned bank and Community Development Financial Institution, has reappointed Will Spears to its board of directors.

Since 1999, Spears has owned and managed Wolf Creek Broadcasting, an operator of radio stations in Pagosa Springs and Alamosa. He currently serves on the Colorado State University Extension Advisory Board in Archuleta County, the Pagosa History Museum Board of Directors and just began his 22nd year as a member of the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club. Spears also served on the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, including as president.

Spears majored in geology at Brown University and earned a master's in management degree at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management. He is married to Christie Spears, with whom he has three children, Courtney, Brooke and Trey. His hobbies include music, electronics, skiing, hiking, golf, foreign language and travel. Visit FSWB.bank for more information.

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## VACANTES DE LA JUNTA ESCOLAR

La Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Archuleta 50 Jt ha declarado vacantes en la oficina del director de la escuela tres (3) y cinco (5) que serán ocupadas por nombramiento por la Junta dentro de los 60 días de acuerdo con el siguiente procedimiento:

1. Se invita a las personas interesadas a enviar una carta de interés y calificación a la Junta, ya sea electrónicamente a [rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us](mailto:rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us) o entregando la carta a Robyn Bennett en la Oficina de Administración del Distrito ubicada en 309 Lewis Street antes del 28 de diciembre, 2021.
2. La Junta entrevistará a los posibles candidatos el 4 de enero de 2022 a las 5:30 pm, en una reunión pública.
3. Para ser elegible para el nombramiento, un candidato debe ser un elector registrado del distrito escolar y un residente del distrito director tres (3) o del distrito director cinco (5).
4. La persona designada servirá hasta la próxima elección bienal escolar regular en noviembre de 2023.

Las descripciones legales de los distritos directores están disponibles en [www.mypagosaschools.com](http://www.mypagosaschools.com) en la pestaña "Junta escolar", o comunicándose con la asistente ejecutiva Robyn Bennett por correo electrónico, [rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us](mailto:rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us); o por teléfono 970-264-2228, ext 5401.

## SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES

The Board of Education of Archuleta School District 50 Jt has declared vacancies in school director office three (3) and five (5) that will be filled by appointment by the Board within 60 days in accordance with the following procedure:

1. Interested persons are invited to send a letter of interest and qualification to the Board, either electronically to [rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us](mailto:rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us) or by dropping the letter off to Robyn Bennett at the District Administration Office located at 309 Lewis Street by December 28, 2021.
2. The Board will interview prospective candidates on January 4, 2022 at 5:30 pm, at a public meeting.
3. To be eligible for appointment, a candidate must be a registered elector of the school district and a resident of director district three (3) or director district five (5).
4. The appointee will serve until the next regular school biennial election in November 2023.

Legal descriptions of the Director Districts are available at [www.mypagosaschools.com](http://www.mypagosaschools.com) under the "School Board" tab, or by contacting Executive Assistant Robyn Bennett by email, [rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us](mailto:rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us); or by phone 970-264-2228, ext 5401.

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## Town council considers using lodgers' tax for workforce housing, votes down excise tax option

By Melanie Mazur  
Staff Writer

Half of the 4.9 percent lodgers' tax in Pagosa Springs could be used for workforce housing and housing infrastructure, if the Pagosa Springs Town Council approves these changes by ordinance at a future meeting.

At Thursday's meeting of the town council, members debated the pros and cons of changing the long-standing practice of spending 51 percent of the lodging tax on external marketing to tourists.

Board members discussed changing the funding via a town ordinance, instead of placing the issue in front of voters.

"We have the right to amend the article; we should simply do so," said Jeff Posey, a council member.

In her brief to the council, Town Manager Andrea Phillips wrote that while the council could change the funding on its own, "there may be a benefit in receiving voter approval to change this practice."

Council member Shari Pierce made a motion to have staff bring back two ordinances for council consideration. The first ordinance would remove the existing requirement that 51 percent of the town lodgers' tax be spent on external marketing. The second ordinance would dedicate 50 percent of the lodgers' tax to workforce housing, as well as workforce housing infrastructure, which could include wastewater infrastructure.

The motion passed unanimously. Another proposal, an excise tax on short-term rentals, was voted down.

"I would rather join with the county on an excise tax, based on property value," Pierce said of taxing short-term rentals that are only in town limits.

Increasing taxes on only in-town rentals puts those rentals at a disadvantage compared to what would be a lower tax rate on short-term rentals in the county, Pierce added.

"I'm not sure we want to make more changes to short-term rentals," said Madeline Bergon, another council member.

Posey agreed, saying he would rather work with the county to address a "county-wide problem," which is landlords taking away long-term rentals that used to provide housing for employees in town, and switching them to short-term rentals, which can be more lucrative.

Council member Nicole Pitcher recused herself from discussion and voting on the both matters pertaining to short-term rentals, stating that she was building a guest house that she would be renting.

In another move to support workforce housing, the council voted unanimously to award a contract to build 60 housing units on three lots owned by the town.

In a short presentation to the board, Phillips noted the success the town has made in providing 70 units of workforce housing in the past 18 months:

- 10 units at 180 Lewis St.
- 25 units at Pagosa Springs Inn and Suites.
- 34 units at Rose Mountain Townhomes.
- One Habitat for Humanity home is near completion.

The town supported these efforts through density bonuses, fee waivers and payments of tap fees, Phillips said.

A goal of the council is to build additional workforce housing serving 60 percent to 150 percent of area medium income, Phillips wrote in her brief to the board.

"There is headway being made," Phillips said, but noted that the town alone cannot solve workforce housing issues. "Multiple people and agencies are needed."

The town issued a request for proposals to develop one of the town lots this spring, but builders said they were busy with other projects and developers said the project was

too small.

After the town bought another property, another RFP was issued on Sept. 1, and three agencies sent proposals to the town.

A town review committee unanimously recommended Servitas, a workforce and college housing developer based in Irving, Texas.

The company has proposed building 60 units in a public-private partnership with the town, partnering with FCI Construction, architectural and engineering firms and CitiGroup for financing. The 60 units should be available for lease by fall of 2023.

Council member Mat deGraaf said he toured a Servitas site in Durango and was impressed with the company's work.

"This is a big move for us," said Bergon, noting that she would have liked one of the town properties to be used for a park or open space, but that she realizes the town needs more housing units as soon as possible.

The vote to award the contract to Servitas was unanimous.

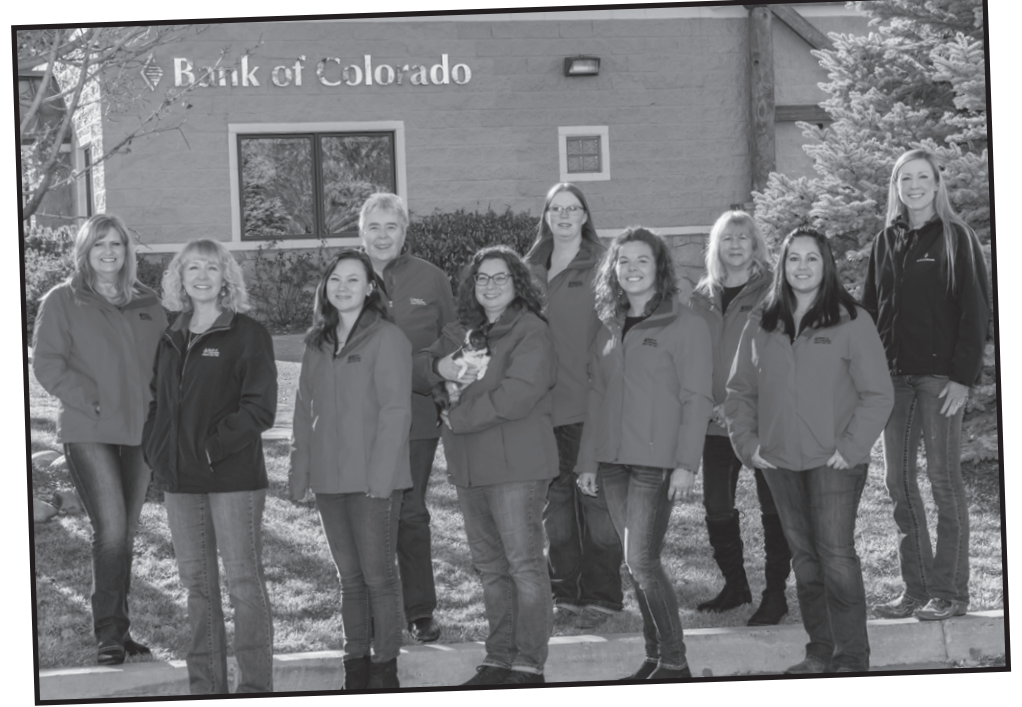
In other action, the council:

- Approved vacating a pedestrian-access easement at the Riverwalk Townhomes, then accepted a public trail easement near the property, which is located on South 6th Street. Pitcher recused herself from discussion and voting on the matter, stating that her husband has the contract for the project.
- Approved procedures and design guidelines for installation of small cell wireless communication facilities.
- Appointed Mark Weiler and Kristin McCollam to the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, and appointed Gary Williams and Adam Buttons as alternate members to the commission.

At an Urban Renewal Authority meeting prior to the town council regular meeting, commission members reappointed J.R. Ford to the special district seat.

At a sanitation district meeting, which was held after the town council meeting, public comment was solicited on the 2022 budget, but no comments were made.

The next meeting of the town council, which will include the final draft of the town's 2022 budget, along with possible approval, is set for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7.



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Bob and Joan Arnold got married on a special day, Nov. 25, 1961, in Harrogate, England. The married couple moved to Pagosa Springs in 1993, where they continue to build a beautiful family to this day. Joan is an active volunteer for the Humane Society and is the lovely British voice for our local radio commercials. Bob is a proud member of our local Veterans for Veterans group. Happy 60th wedding anniversary to this special couple. Bob Arnold is pictured on the left, Joan Arnold is pictured on the right, as they pose for their wedding photograph.

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# Three months of sales tax reports released

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Archuleta County continues to see higher sales tax revenues than last year.

Archuleta County Finance Director LeeAnn Martin recently released sales tax reports for July, August and September, and according to Martin's report, each of those months saw an increase compared to last year's figures.

Of the three months, July saw the biggest increase, up 18 percent from last year. August is listed at 9.2 percent higher than last year, and September is listed at 6.4 percent higher.

Every month this year has seen an increase of at least 10 percent, with the exception of August and September.

The highest increase in month-to-month comparisons was March, which was up 49.7 percent. Sales tax revenues have been declining in month-to-month comparisons since then.

## July

Martin notes in her report that the town and the county jointly received \$1,744,910.57 in sales tax revenue for the month of July, with \$870,695.95 going to the town and \$874,214.98 going to the county.

July sales tax revenues are up 18 percent, or \$266,520.40, higher, compared to July 2020.

According to Martin's report, the categories that are up in comparison to July 2020 include:

- Retail Trade at 12.1 percent, or \$104,136.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 21.9 percent, or \$68,423.
- Miscellaneous at 23.5 percent, or \$33,932.
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing at 159.8 percent, or \$32,595.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 214.8 percent, or \$17,100.
- Construction at 37.8 percent, or \$7,954.
- Manufacturing at 4.7 percent, or \$2,201.

Categories that were down for July month-to-month comparison include:

- Finance and Insurance at 4.7 percent, or \$97.
- Other Services (except public administration) at 6.6 percent, or \$1,361.
- Information at 9.5 percent, or \$2,353.

Martin also provides a year-to-date comparison for January through July 2020 compared to January through July of this year.

Martin notes that on this basis, sales tax revenues for January through July of this year are 31.6 percent, or \$2,362,436.15 higher than January through July 2020.

According to Martin's report, the categories that are up in the year-to-date comparison include:

- Retail Trade at 24 percent, or \$1,053,342.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 66.2 percent, or \$755,502.
- Miscellaneous at 18.2 percent, or \$197,776.
- Manufacturing 48.8 percent, or \$121,355.
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing at 68.7 percent, or \$94,001.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 130.7 percent, or \$65,286.
- Construction at 35.4 percent, or \$47,990.
- Other Services (except public administration) at 38.4 percent, or \$38,968.
- Finance and Insurance at 4.4 percent, or \$388.

The only category that was down in the year-to-date comparison was Information at 7.4 percent, or \$12,174.

Martin's report notes that the year-to-date data for January through July includes \$138,057.95 in collections of remote sales tax.

Remote sales tax is collected from vendors that are located outside of Colorado, who are shipping products or providing services to residents or businesses located within Archuleta County.

Additionally, Martin notes that during July of this year, \$927.46 in collections were received which were related to taxes due in prior years.

## August

Martin notes in her report that the town and the county jointly received \$1,544,972.71 in sales tax revenue for the month of August, with \$771,165.75 going to the town and \$773,806.96 going to the county.

August sales tax revenues are 9.2 percent, or \$130,271.03, higher than August 2020.

According to Martin's report, the categories that are up in comparison to August 2020 include:

- Retail Trade at 9 percent, or

\$72,848.

- Manufacturing at 48.5 percent, or \$16,185.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 278 percent, or \$15,782.
- Construction at 47 percent, or \$8,918.
- Miscellaneous at 4.1 percent or \$7,266.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 1.9 percent, or \$5,513.
- Other Services (except public administration) at 4.8 percent, or \$763.
- Finance and Insurance at 24.9 percent, or \$489.

Only one category was down for August in the month-to-month comparison, which was Real Estate and Rental and Leasing at 1.3 percent, or \$511.

Martin notes that on the year-to-date comparison, sales tax revenues for January through August of this year are 28 percent, or \$2,492,707.18, higher than January through August 2020.

According to Martin's report, the categories that are up in the year-to-date comparison include:

- Retail Trade at 21.7 percent, or \$1,126,190.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 52.9 percent, or \$761,016.
- Miscellaneous at 16.2 percent, or \$205,042.
- Manufacturing 48.8 percent, or \$137,540.
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing at 53.2 percent, or \$93,490.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 145.7 percent, or \$81,068.
- Construction at 36.9 percent, or

\$56,908.

- Other Services (except public administration) at 33.9 percent, or \$39,731.
- Finance and Insurance at 8.1 percent, or \$878.

The only category that was down in the year-to-date comparison was Information at 4.9 percent, or \$9,156.

Martin's report notes that the year-to-date data for January through August includes \$126,952.10 in collections of remote sales tax.

Additionally, Martin notes that during August of this year, \$3,655.24 in collections were received which were related to taxes due in prior years.

## September

Martin notes in her report that the town and the county jointly received \$1,694,831.97 in sales tax revenue for the month of September, with \$846,079.16 going to the town and \$848,752.81 going to the county.

September sales tax revenues are up 6.4 percent, or \$101,444.07 higher, compared to September 2020.

This is the smallest increase seen in the month-to-month comparison

so far this year.

According to Martin's report, the categories that are up in comparison to September 2020 include:

- Retail Trade at 5.9 percent, or \$53,540.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 7.9 percent, or \$24,387.
- Miscellaneous at 7.5 percent, or \$14,478.
- Construction at 44.2 percent, or \$10,819.
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing at 24.2 percent, or \$9,004.
- Other Services (except public administration) at 11.9 percent, or \$2,848.
- Finance and Insurance at 13.9 percent, or \$261.

Two categories were down for September in the month-to-month comparison: Professional and Technical Services at 25.3 percent, or \$4,992; and Manufacturing at 19.7 percent, or \$10,697.

Martin notes that on the year-to-date comparison, sales tax revenues for January through September of this year are 24.8 percent, or \$2,594,151.25, higher than January

■ See Tax A18

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## Couple refuses day in court over masking issue, ordered to remove gate

By Terri House  
Staff Writer

Nicholas Kazarinoff and Linda Coyote refused their day in court on Aug. 30 because they were mandated to wear face masks in the courtroom.

Administrative orders requiring face coverings were issued by the courts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The couple was expected to appear in court for a trial pertaining to them blocking off a turnaround situated on their property that had been used by the public and maintained by the Aspen Springs Metro District since 1986.

On the first day of the trial, 6th Judicial District Court Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson gave Kazarinoff/Coyote the option of attending the hearing virtually when they refused to wear masks, which they refused.

Kazarinoff was on the phone when he asked for "a continuance to a time when I can meet my accuser in person and be able to cross-examine any of their witnesses, if necessary."

The judge stated that "this is the time you are suppose to be doing it. This is at least the second time the case has been set for trial. We're going forward today with or without you."

The judge noted he would allow for remote participation; however, Kazarinoff stated it wasn't fair to him to not see who he was dealing with, citing that other states, including Texas and Florida, ruled that masking is unconstitutional and that he felt it was unlawful to be denied entry to the court, regardless of the judge issuing an order.

"It is a violation of my right to practice my own religion," Kazarinoff said.

"And, what religion is that?" Wilson asked.

"It's my religious beliefs," replied Kazarinoff. "It's a combination of Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism."

The judge explained that he was giving Kazarinoff the right to participate in the trial and that rulings in Florida and Texas did not apply to him.

"I'm unaware of any requirement that you have to be in person here, pursuant to any religious aspect," the judge said. "... You could have arranged, like we've done in the past, to appear by Webex. You could see people via video. This is a civil case, not a criminal case. There are no accusers here. There's no constitutional rights to confront and cross-examine witnesses. You do have statutory rights if you want participate. I'm giving you that opportunity if you want to partake in it. I would note that we are neither in Florida nor Texas. Those rulings do not apply to me, and I disagree with those rulings."

Kazarinoff refused all options presented by the judge to participate in the trial remotely.

Wilson informed Kazarinoff he was entitled to appeal the decision to move forward with the trial.

"I object to your ruling," Kazarinoff said, also stating that he had nothing else he wanted to add to the record.

"I'm going to take your refusal to answer as a decision that you do not want to participate remotely because you want to be here in person without a mask on," Wilson explained. "You've not articulated a reason why you need to be in person without a mask on and we are going to proceed. Whatever I decide, you can appeal the rule.



SUN photo/Terri House

The gate blocking a turnaround on Oak Ridge Drive in the Aspen Springs subdivision was removed last week following a decision by 6th Judicial District Court Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson that the turnaround is a public road by virtue of adverse possession.

You're certainly entitled to do that."

The trial continued with the plaintiff in the case, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, being represented by Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver.

### Prior requests and orders

Kazarinoff and Coyote were not represented by legal counsel at the trial.

Wilson had granted the request by the law firm of Eggleston Kosnik LLC to withdraw from the case for the defendants on May 7.

On Aug. 25, Kazarinoff had filed an objection to the "UNLAWFUL MEDICAL INTERVENTION and VIOLATION OF RIGHTS" with the courts objecting to court masking protocols.

That objection was denied by the judge on Aug. 29.

"The current requirement of Administrative Order 2021-19, that persons within the courthouses wear facial coverings is necessary to protect staff, litigants, witnesses and the public from contracting COVID-19. The defendants' objection to the wearing of facial coverings is denied," reads the order.

The defendants also filed for "declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, actual and punitive damages" on Aug. 25. In part, relief sought by the defendants included \$100 million for actual damages and \$100 million in punitive damages.

On Aug. 29, the judge denied that request.

"As to the request for damages, the Court finds that the defendants filed an answer in this case in July of 2019," read the order. "In the succeeding two years, there has been no request for damages against any party or attorney until this motion was filed, five days before trial. Ignoring the obvious defects in the claims for damages as well as any defenses Archuleta County, the Board of County Commissioners and the attorney possess, the Court denies the motion due to its dilatory filing."

On Aug. 30, the judge issued an order declaring "the disputed turnaround at the south end of the Oakridge Road that lies up on the defendants' land is a public road by virtue of adverse possession pursuant to CRS 43-2-101(1)(c). The Court further finds that the plaintiff has established the need for a permanent injunction prohibiting the defendants from

interfering with travel upon that portion of Oak Ridge Drive."

The plaintiff was ordered to prepare the necessary orders in the matter.

### The judge's decision

On Sept. 15, Wilson issued an order listing the following findings of facts:

"1. Plaintiff is a statutory county, a political subdivision and corporate body of the State of Colorado, empowered to own real property and to sue and be sued.

"2. Defendants are the owners of the following real property located in Archuleta County, Colorado, (the "Property"): Subdivision: ASPEN SPRINGS SUB 3 Block: 16 Lot: 17 AS 3 Sec: 12 Twn: 34 Rng: 3W, which is also known as 86 Hummingbird Place, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

"3. Defendants' Property is located within Aspen Springs Subdivision Unit 3.

"4. Oak Ridge Drive is one of the roads within Aspen Springs Subdivision Unit 3 and is a public highway pursuant to C.R.S § 43-2-201(1)(a).

"5. The southern end of Oak Ridge Drive terminates on the northern boundary of the Defendants' Property.

"6. The turnaround for the southern end of Oak Ridge Drive (the "Turnaround") is located on the Defendants' Property.

"7. The Aspen Springs Metropolitan District (the "Metro District") was formed on or about January 31, 1980, when its formation was approved by the Plaintiff via Resolution 1-23-80.

"8. The Metro District is funded

through property taxes and Highway User Tax Fund monies.

"9. The Metro District is the public entity responsible for the roads within the Aspen Springs Subdivision, including Oak Ridge Drive.

"10. The Metro District caused the Turnaround to be constructed in its current configuration in 1986.

"11. Since 1986, the Metro District, on a continual basis, snowplowed the Turnaround, maintained the Turnaround, including grading, and expended public funds to complete this work.

"12. The Metro District has consistently asserted that the Turnaround is part of the public highway known as Oak Ridge Drive since the Turnaround was constructed in its current configuration in 1986.

"13. Since 1986, the general public, emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles and the Metro District have used the Turnaround on a continual basis, at least until the Defendants blocked access to the Turnaround in Fall 2017.

"14. Since 1986, none of the landowners of the Property objected to the use of the Turnaround by the general public, emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles and the Metro District, at least until the Defendants blocked access to the Turnaround in Fall 2017.

"15. Since 1986, none of the landowners of the Property objected to the maintenance, grading and snowplowing of the Turnaround by the Metro District, at least until the Defendants blocked access to the Turnaround in Fall 2017."

The order contained the following: ■ See Gate A11

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# Gate

Continued from A10

ing Conclusions of Law:  
 "16. Pursuant to § C.R.S. 43-2-201(1)(c), the following are public highways: all roads over private lands that have been used adversely without interruption or objection on the part of the owners of such lands for twenty consecutive years.  
 "17. Under McIntyre v. the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, 86 P.3d 402 (Colo. 2004), the Plaintiff must show, by a preponderance of the evidence that:  
 "a. The public used the Turnaround under a claim of right;  
 "b. The public used the Turnaround in a manner adverse to the landowner's property interest;  
 "c. Such use has been without interruption for the statutory period of 20 years; and,  
 "d. The landowner had actual or implied knowledge of the public's use of the Turnaround and made no objection.  
 "18. The landowners of the Property had actual, or at least implied knowledge of the public's claim of right to the Turnaround when the Metro District took the overt actions of constructing the Turnaround in its current configuration in 1986 and then by snowplowing, maintaining and grading the Turnaround on a continual basis until the Defendants blocked access to it in Fall 2017. The Metro District expended public funds, including property taxes and HUTF monies, to perform all this work.  
 "19. The public used the Turnaround in a manner adverse to the landowners' property interest because such use of the Turnaround by the general public, delivery vehicles and emergency vehicles was part of a pattern of general public use and not sporadic in nature.  
 "20. Furthermore, there is a presumption that the character of the public's use is adverse when such use is shown to have been made for the prescribed period of time. Bockstiegel v. Board of County Com'rs of Lake County, 97 P.3d 324, 330 (Colo.App. 2004). In this case, the prescribed period of

time is 20 years.  
 "21. The public's use of the Turnaround was without interruption for a period of 31 years.  
 "22. The landowners of the Property had actual or at least implied knowledge of the public's use of the Turnaround since 1986 and made no objection to such use, at least until the Defendants blocked the Turnaround in Fall 2017.  
 "23. The landowners of the Property had actual or at least implied knowledge of the Metro District's construction of the Turnaround in 1986 and the Metro District's maintenance of the Turnaround, including grading and snowplowing, and made no objection of such work, at least until the Defendants blocked the Turnaround in the Fall 2017.  
 "24. Accordingly, the Plaintiff, by a preponderance of the evidence, has proven all the elements required by McIntyre v. the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, 86 P.3d 402 (Colo. 2004) and of § C.R.S. 43-2-201(1)(c)."  
 The judge issued the following orders:  
 "1. The Turnaround at the southern end of Oak Ridge Drive and located on the Defendants' property at 86 Hummingbird Place is declared a public highway pursuant to § C.R.S. 43-2-201(1)(c). The Defendants have no legal right to block the use of the Turnaround by the general public, the Plaintiff, the Metro District, or any other user of a public highway because it is and is part of a public highway."  
 The order includes a description of the property, which states it con-

tains "4835 square feet, (0.11 acre)."  
 The order concludes, "The Defendants are ordered to permanently remove, within thirty (30) days, the chain, posts, barricades, fencing and any other implements installed or located within the Turnaround and that block or impedes access to the Turnaround in any way, shape or form."  
 Speaking with The SUN after the judge issued his order, Coyote declined to comment in the ongoing legal matter.  
 In an interview following the judge's decision, Weaver stated, "The most important thing is if the roads have been where they are for 20 years, they're public roads. If they've been used by the public, they're public roads. It doesn't matter what the plat says. It doesn't matter what's in the assessor's database, especially in Aspen Springs, where a lot of the roads are not even within the platted right of way. They are outside of those right of ways, but those roads have been there since the '80s and then used by the public, and, therefore, they're public roads. You can't just block them off on a whim ... it's not how it works. This sets the precedent for the rest of Aspen Springs and the county that the county is not timid about taking people to court over blocking off public roads."  
 The gate remained closed, blocking off the turnaround on Oak Ridge Drive, more than 30 days after the judge's deadline to remove it until the Aspen Springs Metropolitan District removed the gate last week.

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## Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

- Thursday, Dec. 2**  
**Dispatch Executive Management board.** 9:30 a.m., 85 Harman Park Drive and/or via Zoom meeting ID: 718 671 3647.  
**Archuleta School District Board of Education work session.** 4:30-7:30 p.m., Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs.
- Tuesday, Dec. 7**  
**Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session.** 8:30 a.m. Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.  
**Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners/Elected Officials work session.** Noon. Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.  
**Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting.** 1:30 p.m. Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit: <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.  
**Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting.** 5 p.m. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.  
**Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District special meeting.** 5 p.m. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.



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# COVID-19: Seventh local death among cases, three school outbreaks identified

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

A seventh death among Archuleta County COVID-19 cases was added to San Juan Basin Public Health's COVID-19 data dashboard late last week — the third death among cases identified this month. SJBPH COVID-19 Public Information Officer/Communications Director Chandler Griffin reported to The SUN the individual was an older adult who was not vaccinated.

The death is not associated with any outbreaks, he added.

Griffin explained hospitalizations continue to be "extremely serious," adding that there has also been an uptick in fatalities across SJBPH's jurisdiction — almost one per day.

"That's also extremely serious," he said, adding that it all points toward the importance of doing everything one can to stay safe and healthy, especially with the holidays approaching.

Outbreaks are also on the rise across SJBPH's jurisdiction, Griffin explained, reporting four documented outbreaks in Archuleta County and nine in La Plata County as of Tuesday.

He noted the outbreaks, which are in a mix of schools and businesses, illustrate "the high-rise, high-transmission environment we're currently in."

Outbreak data at the local and state level is reported online on Wednesdays.

Archuleta County's four outbreaks include three schools and a long-term care facility, Griffin indicated.

As of Nov. 21, Griffin reported, the outbreak at Pagosa Springs Elementary School included 17 cases — 16 students and one staff member. The first case was identified on Oct. 20.

An outbreak has also been identified at Pagosa Springs Middle School, with Griffin reporting the first case was confirmed on Nov. 2. As of Tuesday, that outbreak included eight cases — seven students and one staff member.

An outbreak has also been documented for Pagosa Springs High School, with Griffin reporting the first case was confirmed on Oct. 29. As of Tuesday, the outbreak included five confirmed cases — three staff members and

two students.

"Across all of the school outbreaks, ... the vast majority of cases are with unvaccinated individuals and minors," Griffin said. "We encourage families to take advantage of the expanded eligibility for pediatric vaccines as soon as they can."

The outbreak at Pine Ridge Extended Care Center is still active, with Griffin reporting that, as of Nov. 21, six cases had been identified — five staff members and one resident. The first case was identified on Nov. 11.

An outbreak is identified as five cases associated with a single facility in a 14-day period, or two cases in a 14-day period in congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities.

The state's outbreak information is available at: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid19-outbreak-data>.

Griffin also reported the agency continues to call on the state to implement a statewide mask mandate and is continuing dialogue with its partners within SJBPH's jurisdiction.

## Local numbers

According to SJBPH, Archuleta County's seven-day cumulative incidence rate was 688.2 cases per 100,000 people Tuesday — up from 665.8 on Nov. 17.

As of Tuesday, SJBPH listed 1,812 total cases of confirmed COVID-19 among permanent Archuleta County residents since late March 2020, up from 1,738 on Nov. 17.

The agency showed Archuleta County was at 18 percent positivity Tuesday, even with the previous Wednesday, Nov. 17.

According to the CDC, Colorado's seven-day incidence rate was 395.5 Tuesday — up from 360.9 on Nov. 17.

The U.S.'s one-week rate was 191.9, up from 176.4 on Nov. 17.

SJBPH's public health advisory related to COVID-19, which was updated last week, can be found at: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/advisories-and-orders/>.

## Pagosa Springs Medical Center suspends elected surgeries due to surge

Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) reported late Thursday afternoon, Nov. 18, that its surge capacity had been updated from red to black, indicating a lack of hospital bed availability locally and around the state.

It also means the medical center is suspending elective surgery for two weeks.

According to an email from PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb, "Surge Capacity Black has many el-

ements, and we met the following:

"1) No inpatient beds available  
"2) Other hospitals were unable to accept transfers (critical care transfers were taking more than 4 hours)

"3) Hospital departments are understaffed by 2 or more staff members."

Webb noted the surge capacity level can go between red, the next lower level, and black sometimes more than once a day.

PSMC is also moving to surge staffing, Webb states.

"We are moving to Surge Staffing. To increase staff availability to care for patients, we will suspend elective surgery for 2 weeks (the weeks of 11/22 and 11/29)," she wrote.

## Vaccines available for ages 5 and up, boosters for ages 18 and up

All three authorized vaccine types continue to be available, with a vaccine available for those ages 5 and up.

Youth ages 5 through 17 are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, with the dose for those who are 5 to 11 years old being smaller and administered with smaller needles.

Parents and guardians are required to provide consent for minors to be vaccinated. The vaccine is free, and no ID is required.

Although advance registration is preferred, walk-ins are also welcome at upcoming clinics. The vaccine is free, and no ID is required. Additional providers and information about the COVID-19 vaccine can be found on SJBPH's website.

Griffin suggested the vaccine is an opportunity families should take advantage of to help keep classrooms safe, and to limit closures and students being sent home.

Booster doses of all three vaccine types also continue to be available, with the federal agencies authorizing the boosters for those above the age of 18 recently, matching the guidance Colorado was operating under after Gov. Jared Polis issued an executive order declaring everyone over the age of 18 in Colorado eligible due to the state's transmission rate.

"The booster is important," Griffin said. "We know that there is some waning immunity from the vaccines."

Griffin noted waning immunity with vaccines is expected and used the fact that flu shots are recommended every year as an example.

"Please, get a booster if you're eligible," he said.

Vaccines are also recommended for those who have previously had

COVID-19, he added.

Those 18 and older who were previously vaccinated are eligible for a booster dose two months after receiving the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and six months after receiving an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna).

Griffin acknowledged that some people are making risk calculations and deciding that the risks of COVID are less than the risk of vaccination, but noted there are "significant risks and potential long-term negative health impacts" such as respiratory and neurological issues from contracting COVID, even with mild illness.

At a Nov. 19 press conference, Polis noted that there were 1,518 people hospitalized for COVID-19 in the state, with 274 of those being vaccinated individuals, but no one was hospitalized in Colorado at that point because of vaccine side effects.

As of Tuesday, 62 percent of the eligible population (5 and older) had received one dose of a vaccine series, with 57 percent having completed a vaccine series.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccines, current eligibility, details on vaccine clinics and providers, or to make an appointment, visit: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/covid-19-vaccine/>.

## Testing, vaccine site schedules different due to Thanksgiving

Local test and vaccine availability is different this week due to Thanksgiving, with the community testing site slated to be closed on Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, and no vaccine clinics scheduled that day.

Griffin reported the community testing site, located behind PSMC, will reopen on Saturday, Nov. 27.

He suggested that the safest way for families to gather on Thanksgiving is to have everyone fully vaccinated, including a booster if eligible, and to take advantage of testing before and after the holidays.

He noted PCR tests, which have a turnaround time of 24 to 72 hours, remain widely available.

He further added testing remains a "cornerstone" of COVID-19 response.

[randi@pagosasun.com](mailto:randi@pagosasun.com)



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## Thanks Family of Lou Mestas

A very sincere thank you to all of our friends, neighbors and extended family for their loving acts of sympathy in the recent loss of our loved one, Lou Mestas.

The cards, flowers, food, stories and photos shared, and the love, will forever remain in our hearts.

A special thank you to Leonard Martinez for the special Rosary service, as well as the Guadalupana Society.

Emily Mestas and family

## Wreaths

A big thank you goes to The Pagosa SUN for publishing our news about Hilltop Cemetery participating in Wreaths Across America. We have received several out-of-state orders due to the wide distribution of The Pagosa SUN. This is the best small town newspaper around. Big Hearts run the Sun. Keep up the Good Work.

Linda Hobbs

Wreaths Across America location coordinator for Hilltop Cemetery and Sponsorship Group coordinator for Sarah Platt Decker Chapter DAR

## WHIPS to hold luncheon

By Nancy Ford  
Women Helping In Pagosa Springs

WHIPS (Women Helping In Pagosa Springs) will have its next luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 11:30 a.m. at The Ole Miner's Steak House.

Please RSVP by Sunday, Dec 5; call (970) 946-1895. All adult ladies in the community are welcome.

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# LPEA discusses future of power supply

By Terri House  
Staff Writer

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) held a duo of virtual town hall meetings last month regarding developments in its future power supply negotiations as the organization continues to seek an exit from a 30-year contract with wholesale energy supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

LPEA currently has a contract with Tri-State that runs through 2050. LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta counties. It also serves segments of Hinsdale, Mineral and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado with approximately 34,500 members.

LPEA's Vice President of Grid Solutions Dan Harms provided background information for the town hall meetings, noting that LPEA adopted a strategic goal to reduce its carbon footprint by 50 percent from 2018 levels by the year 2030 while keeping members' cost of electricity lower than 70 percent of its peers.

"We're doing this without any upward rate pressure," Harms said.

The No. 1 driver of LPEA's rates is the cost of power, with that cost accounting for approximately 64 percent of expenses to the cooperative. A total of \$68 million of LPEA's annual budget is currently allocated to purchasing power from its current wholesale power provider, Tri-State, he noted.

## Strategies

Harms went on to explain that the board has adopted a three-prong strategy.

The first strategy is seeking flexibility within the current contract with Tri-State. A contract committee met, which resulted in allowing LPEA to install a 2-megawatt community solar garden, which it plans on implementing in the "near future."

"Also, as part of the discussions ongoing at FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), what resulted in that was a 4 percent wholesale rate decrease by the middle of next year," Harms said.

The second prong in the board's strategy is a partial exit from the contract with Tri-State.

Harms explained that LPEA applied for and was granted the ability to shop for 50 percent of its power supply from another provider. Proposals were evaluated and a power supplier was selected, with negotiations underway.

The third option of the three-prong strategy is a full exit from the contract with Tri-State. Harms explained that negotiations with Tri-State continue at FERC to acquire a fair contract termination payment.

LPEA compiled background information and a timeline dating back to 2017 outlining the matter, which can be viewed at: <https://lpea.coop/tri-state-and->

[lpea-background-timeline.](#)

## Partial contract structure

In October of 2020, Tri-State approved a partial contract policy for up to 50 percent of LPEA's power, Harms explained, adding that the new policy allows Tri-State members to diversify their power supply portfolios.

"From Tri-State's perspective, we hope this is a win-win for everybody," Tri-State's Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Pat Bridges said. "As you might know, Tri-State is an association of LPEA and 41 other electric cooperatives."

He also characterized LPEA as being "more on the leading edge" and "more progressive," as well as being integral in becoming a greener utility than Tri-State has been historically.

He added that Tri-State has already closed two coal units and has announced closure dates for an additional three coal units.

Bridges also noted that Tri-State is making significant commitments to renewables.

"We are contracting for significant amounts of new renewable generation, both wind and solar. ... We anticipate that by 2024 ... that 50 percent of the energy that we provide for our members will be renewable," Bridges added.

## A better relationship

He explained that the partial-contract option gives LPEA more flexibility and local control while still remaining part of the Tri-State family.

"It's a win-win from a relationship perspective. As you might be aware, we've had some disagreements over the years," Bridges said. "Hopefully, this is a step towards a better relationship between Tri-State and some members like LPEA to give them more flexibility ... A partnership is trying to solve your members' needs as opposed to 'This is the way the wholesale contract was written in 1952 and we can't change it.'"

## A new power supplier

Next, Harms explained the request for power supplier proposals (RFP) process in shopping for a new power supplier to provide a 71-megawatt block of 24/7 round-the-clock power supply to fulfill the partial-contract award.

Nine responses were received from the RFP, with three of those short listed and eventually whittled down to one recommended finalist: Crossover Energy Partners.

"They proved they could create innovative partnerships and customized solutions for LPEA," Harms said.

He explained that proposals had been evaluated thoroughly based on value and reducing the cost of power to members, supply flexibility, environmental attributes that would help "clean the grid," and reliability/strength of the company and the power supply.

The proposed power supply partnership would provide for a coordinated energy delivery between

Tri-State and the alternate provider, with that provider supplying 71 megawatts of capacity and the remainder of the power supply being provided by Tri-State, with them remaining as LPEA's transmission provider.

## Benefits to customers

Remaining with Tri-State would allow LPEA to maintain customer benefits such as the current rebate programs, capital credit balances and support, Harms explained.

Crossover Energy Partners had the best overall scores in the metrics when it came to cost, reliability and clean energy, he added. They have a "very strong financial backing." They also have established specialists who have developed more than 10,500 megawatts of renewable and traditional generation. He also cited they have new renewable generation construction dedicated to LPEA and also are willing to seek creative local generation solutions as part of the new partnership.

"The proposal also included substantial commitment to our community," Harms said.

The first key benefit of a power purchase agreement with Crossover is a set pricing commitment for a 20-year term, which allows for increased price certainty for LPEA, he noted.

The second benefit is reliability through continued use of Tri-State's reliable transmission grid and continued service from Tri-State for substation and transmission line maintenance. There is additional transmission accessibility through Crossover's partnerships.

"The new regional generation facility that can be installed in our area reduces LPEA's dependence on the transmission grid," Harms said, adding that this increases resiliency and reliability.

Environmental benefits of the partnership, according to Harms, would be that the new power supply could lower LPEA's overall carbon footprint by 50 percent. This would exceed LPEA's current goal as much as six to seven years earlier than projected. Also, 75 percent of the new power supply will be served by new renewable generation installations dedicated to LPEA. Lastly, Tri-State's energy resource plan further reduces LPEA's carbon footprint.

The fourth benefit was cited as commitment to community, with more than \$1 million in education grant funds that came with the proposal plus local jobs for local projects along with Tri-State's continued commitment to energy rebates, maintaining the Tri-State capital credit balance and keeping more money in the local economy.

Positive savings to LPEA's members was cited as the fifth benefit of a partial contract. There will be an estimated \$7 million average annual savings for the first 20 years, which equates to \$140 million. After 20 years, the buy-down payment would be paid off, resulting

■ See LPEA A14

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# LPEA

■ Continued from A13

in additional savings.

Harms explained that after the legal settlement with Tri-State was concluded, additional financial details could be provided to the membership.

"It's difficult, we can't get into too many of the details on exactly all of the cost components into this yet. We still have some hurdles to overcome," Harms said. "One of those is a legal hurdle that we are working through a settlement with Tri-State currently at FERC to really establish the parameters of this partial contract. Once that's established, we'll be able to share some of these buy-down payments is what we are calling it, what it costs us to exit with this portion of our load with you, but that is included in these savings."

According to Harms, these savings could benefit LPEA's membership through rate decreases, establishing flat rates well into the future, providing increased funding for capital projects and fire mitigation to improve reliability.

LPEA is continuing negotiations with Crossover Energy Partners, CEO Jessica Matlock notes in a Nov. 18 update, adding that "they ranked highest in value, flexibility, environmental attributes, reliability of power supply, and financial security. We have not signed a contract, as the board has not yet voted to pursue the partial contract option, but we are continuing discussions with them about a potential future partnership."

Harms noted that if the board makes that decision, LPEA will need to finalize partial contracts with both Crossover and Tri-State and the FERC would have to approve the contract methodology.

"We could decrease our carbon footprint 50%, allowing LPEA to reach our 2030 goal 6-7 years early," Matlock wrote in her Nov. 18 update. "That's the equivalent of removing 80,000 vehicles from the road each year."

Matlock noted that the organization is waiting for final approval of the proposed partial contract methodology from the FERC.

## Questions and answers

Question and answer sessions were held following each town hall meeting, with the following "Power Supply FAQ" being posted on the organizations' website:

**"Why would LPEA enter a 20-year contract with Crossover Energy Partners fixing energy costs when the big complaint with Tri-State was that LPEA was locked into a long-term contract with them?"**

"To acquire set pricing, we must secure dedicated physical generation assets. With physical assets, the longer we commit, the lower the price. LPEA evaluated a variety of terms ranging from 10 years to 30 years, and it was determined that 20 years provided a nice compromise between low-cost power and flexibility. The key to managing a longer-term contract, such as the 20 years we are considering, is to have a contract that offers the ability to change assets with predefined early termination pricing schedules. This will give us the ability to consider alternatives if the pricing is substantially lower.

**"You say the new contract with Crossover is fixed pricing for 20 years. Why do you think a price lock is a good idea? Who is taking the risk in a price lock?"**

"Crossover will take all the risk on the piece [sic] lock. LPEA wants to provide its members with stable rates that are not susceptible to the market's volatile price swings. Crossover is able to manage this risk by owning the generation assets that will provide the majority of LPEA's power needs.

**"Does the partial contract option have to be approved by all co-op members?"**

"Under Article III, Section 2 of LPEA's Articles of Incorporation, 'Except as limited elsewhere in this certificate or in the bylaws of the corporation, the business and affairs of the corporation shall be vested in and managed and controlled by a Board of Directors.' Likewise, Article III, Section 1 of LPEA's Bylaws, 'The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by a Board of Directors, which shall exercise all of the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law or by the certificate of incorporation of the corporation or by these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.' Furthermore, according to LPEA Policy 102(II)(A)(1)(4), the Board of Directors is responsible for approving wholesale power contracts. Therefore, the authority to approve this is vested in the Board of Directors. As a cooperative member, you elect your director to represent you.

**"By establishing a partial buy-out cost, wouldn't that also establish the cost of a potential full buy-out?"**

"The partial buy-out cost and the full buy-out cost have different calculations behind them because they are slightly different. With a partial buy-out, LPEA is still using and paying for transmission service from Tri-State, and therefore, Tri-State's transmission system would not sit unused as it potentially would with a full buy-out. The other difference is that with a partial buy-out, Tri-State releases capacity in a controlled manner as they retire fossil-fueled generation facilities. By coordinating their generation retirement with LPEA bringing on new generation, their generation will be fully used and not left sitting idle before it is ready to retire. These factors result in a proportionately lower buy-out payment for a partial exit than a full exit.

**"As LPEA's load grows above 142 MW, will the partial contract option apply to the incremental load, too?"**

"The partial contract option would give LPEA the ability to self-supply a fixed 71-megawatt block of power. Tri-State would serve the remainder of the load. Tri-State plans to have additional partial contract offerings in the future as they retire more fossil-fueled generation. When this occurs, LPEA would have another opportunity to request additional partial supply provisions up to 50% of our load at that time.

**"Is there any local or remote storage included with the Crossover proposal?"**

"Crossover's resource portfolio is still being finalized, and Crossover anticipates having more details to share with LPEA members as discussions progress. Crossover has substantial experience developing and deploying energy storage projects, including some of today's largest utility-scale battery storage resources. Local and behind-the-meter resource options for LPEA members are possible and are still being evaluated.

**"How do you know estimated savings without knowing the partial buy-out cost?"**

"LPEA currently has a signed memorandum of understanding with Tri-State that specifies a partial buy-out cost as agreed upon between Tri-State and LPEA. This is the buy-out cost we used in our savings calculations. LPEA cannot release the buy-out cost until the legal proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are complete. It is only at this point that the buy-out cost calculation becomes official and public.

**"Does it make sense to finance the buy-out over 20 years, or would it be better to do it quicker?"**

"LPEA is currently looking at a 20-year financing period because it provides immediate and substantial

savings to our members. Financing over a shorter term is also being evaluated. Although this would pay off the debt sooner, it would significantly reduce the near-term annual savings. Once the power purchase agreements are finalized, we can determine what financing term provides the optimal benefit to our members.

**"How much 'timing risk' do we have on this PPA? The energy price is really low and energy prices are rising rapidly right now. Will Crossover stick to their pricing?"**

"Crossover committed to the pricing in their proposal, understanding that LPEA will not begin to take power until 2023 or early 2024. That said, Crossover is not contractually obligated to the pricing until the Power Purchase Agreement is signed. LPEA and Crossover are working expeditiously to finalize the terms of the agreement.

**"How will we ensure what happened in Texas doesn't happen here?"**

"There are several reasons why what happened in Texas will be unlikely to happen here. In February 2021, Texas experienced record cold temperatures, for which its infrastructure was not prepared. Texas did not have freeze protection on its natural gas infrastructure, resulting in a large portion of their natural gas generation dropping offline. Colorado has freeze protection. Another major contributing factor is Texas's independent electric grid, whereas Colorado is part of the Western Interconnected grid, including 10 states and western Canada. This provides a more extensive support network to protect against an isolated regional event.

"Every region must have the right balance of dispatchable generation resources to cover when some intermittent generation resources are unavailable. Examples of dispatchable generation resources include batteries, hydro, natural gas, and coal-fired power. Every time generation resources are added or retired intensive regional system planning studies are performed to ensure reliable power is available.

**"Did Crossover have any experience with the 'big freeze' that impacted Texas and others?"**

"Crossover works with best-in-class, well-capitalized partners with deep experience working in multiple energy markets and managing the variability of many types of resources to ensure reliable delivery to its customers. Events like those experienced this past winter can result in substantial losses, which is why it is crucial to partner with experienced and well-capitalized partners who can truly stand behind their long-term obligations. The generation assets Crossover will use to serve LPEA will be designed and outfitted with equipment (such as a cold weather package rated to -40 degrees Celsius for wind projects) to ensure reliable operations during extreme weather conditions, especially cold weather events which are much more common in Colorado than in Texas.

**"Why can't members see the RFP? How are members to give significant feedback when we can't see the RFP that the partial supply proposal is based on?"**

"As a managed bidding process in which qualified bidders were invited to submit proposals, LPEA offered confidentiality to all bidders. This is the industry standard as it helps ensure that pricing and other trade secrets remain confidential in a highly competitive industry. We also get better bids, and we wanted to create the best process possible for our members. All LPEA board members had an opportunity to review the confidential RFP document.

**"What is Crossover's current generation mix, and what will they be installing for LPEA?"**

"Crossover's generation mix is still being finalized and is dependent on other opportunities. Crossover is considering with other utilities across the state. However, Crossover has multiple development partners that can deliver sizeable utility-scale wind and solar generation projects in the western region of Colorado. Crossover's base case uses approximately 85 MW of wind capacity, 130 MW of solar capacity, and various other generation sources to firm the obligations for the LPEA agreement.

"Crossover is also in discussions with LPEA about rooftop solar and other additions to the mix. These project capacities are under evaluation and are subject to adjustments. This generation mix will result in almost 75% renewable energy being directly delivered to LPEA's members. It's also important to note that Crossover has extensive experience in various other generation technologies, including battery storage. They have contracted and procured close to 3,000 GWh of batteries in the past three years, which will benefit LPEA due to their deep understanding of the costs and benefits this type of solution brings to the generation mix.

**"It appears Tri-State's goal for greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 80% is more aggressive than LPEA's goal of a 50% reduction. Is that correct?"**

"Tri-State's goal and LPEA's goal have different reference years. Tri-State's goal is to reduce carbon emissions by 80% relative to 2005 levels by the year 2030. LPEA's goal is to reduce carbon emissions by 50% relative to 2018 levels by the year 2030.

"Tri-State:  
"2005 carbon emission rate: 1,894 lb/MWh  
"2030 carbon emission goal: 379 lb/MWh  
LPEA:  
"2018 carbon emission rate: 1,570 lb/MWh  
"2030 carbon emission goal: 785 lb/MWh

"Crossover's proposed 2023 carbon emission rate: less than 307 lb/MWh

**"Rooftop solar is currently limited in certain areas. Will this new contract fix that? What are the options for LPEA users to increase their own contribution to power needs?"**

"Rooftop solar is not limited in areas because of line or substation capacity. However, the production from a rooftop solar may sometimes be limited if there is no load in the immediate area to use the generation. LPEA currently limits rooftop solar to 150% of the household usage to align generation with the load in the area and provide most of those in the area an opportunity to install solar of their own. Since there is no contractual limitation regarding this, there is nothing for the new contract to fix.

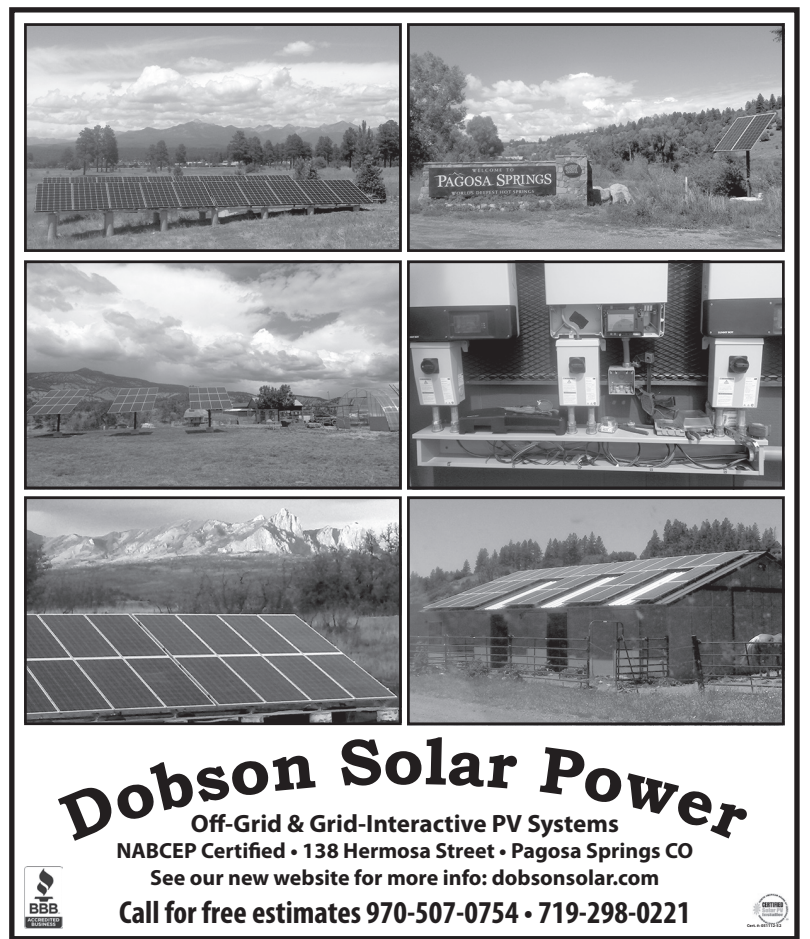
**"Could you talk more about local generation options?"**

"LPEA will have a provision in its new contract to have the ability to own up to 20 MW of generation directly. Additional local generation beyond the 20 MW could be installed if owned by Crossover. Several local projects are under consideration, and there are many factors to consider, such as transmission constraints, pricing, benefits to local economies, and generation technology use.

**"Where will Crossover's new renewable energy projects be constructed, and by whom?"**

"The exact locations of Crossover's resource portfolio are still being finalized, and LPEA anticipates having more details to share with

■ See LPEA A15



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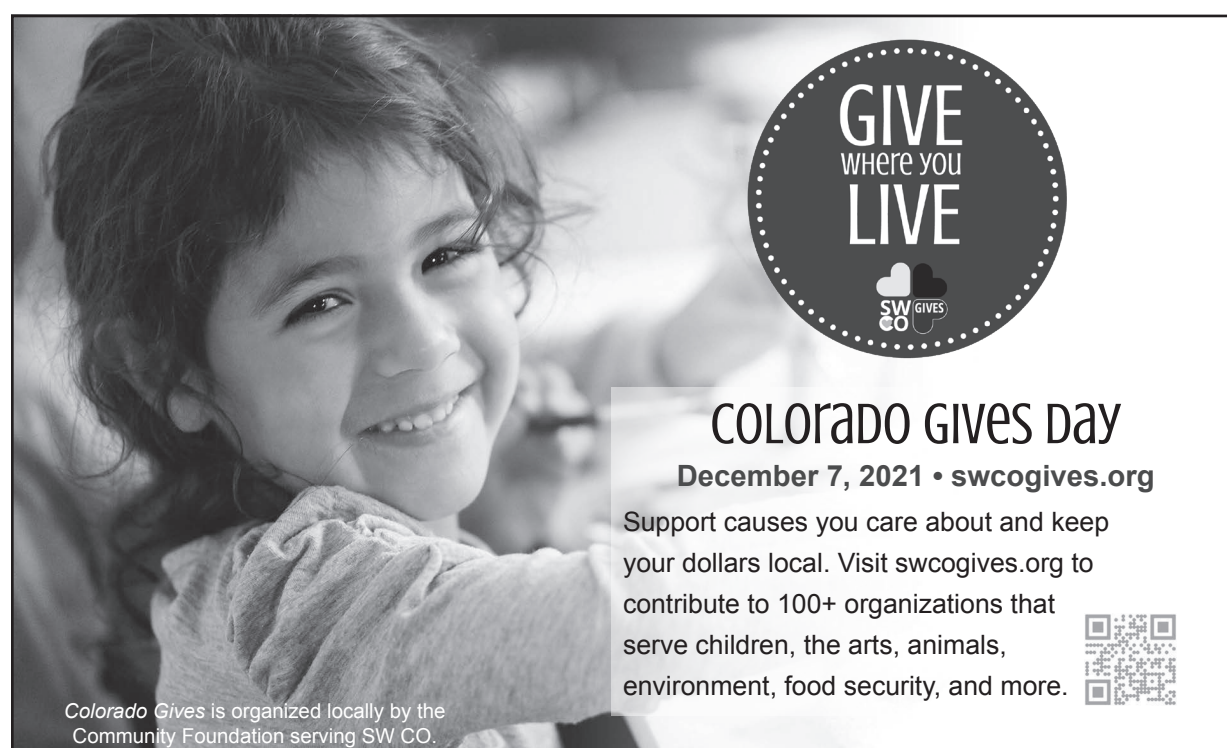
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# LPEA

■ Continued from A13

members as discussions progress. Crossover works with best-in-class project developers who have proven experience building generation projects in Colorado. They focus on siting projects as close to LPEA's service territories as possible while balancing overall project costs to ensure the solution is the most effective solution beneficial to members and the local community.

**"About what percentage of Crossover's generation capacity will go to LPEA?"**

"Crossover proposes constructing a portfolio of new regional generation resources that will serve LPEA's members. The exact percentage of capacity from these resources used to serve LPEA is still being finalized. Crossover and KKR are highly active and experienced investors in the renewable energy infrastructure space globally. The generation portfolio for LPEA would represent less than 1% of total renewable generation investments globally.

**"Specifically, who are the partners that make up 'Crossover Energy Partners,' and what % of ownership does each of these partners own or control?"**

"Crossover Energy Partners is comprised of a team of industry experts located across the United States who work directly with utilities, municipalities, cooperatives, and large corporations on customized solutions that include the construction of local and behind-the-meter generation resources. Crossover works exclusively with KKR funds to deliver investments in renewable generation, energy storage, e-mobility, and hydrogen, tailored for the Clean Energy Transition. As an industry expert, Crossover assists the KKR Infrastructure team by bringing the expertise and management needed for the origination, development, financing, construction, and long-term operation of clean energy projects. Crossover's exclusive relationship with KKR gives them the unrivaled ability to execute and stand behind the commitments they make to their customers.

**"I can't see where Crossover or KKR own or operate any power generation facilities. They appear to be only a financial entity. How can you be assured of what is backing up their power agreements?"**

"Crossover and KKR do own and operate power generation facilities. Crossover proposes to construct a portfolio of new generation resources that will be used to meet its obligations to LPEA's members. This focus on delivery from physical generation assets owned by Crossover, rather than relying on market purchases, provides increased assurance that they can meet their long-term obligations. Crossover's team has successfully developed multiple GWs of clean energy and storage projects across the U.S., and KKR currently has significant investments in various renewable energy entities that operate multiple generation facilities across the country.

**"How many partial requirements contracts among Tri-State's 43 cooperative members are there and are any of them approaching the 50% being discussed here? And does Tri-State's Board have to approve this? And, if so, what might that timeline look like?"**

"There are currently three Tri-State members pursuing a partial requirements contract arrangement. The Tri-State board has approved the policy to allow partial requirements, and Tri-State has affirmed the megawatt allocation to all three members.

The other two Tri-State members are at or near the 50% limit as well, but there are many factors to evaluate when considering if the partial requirement is the right decision for the cooperative. No Tri-State members have a signed service contract, although LPEA has a signed MOU outlining most of the critical terms. Once an agreed-upon version of the service contract is ready, FERC will ultimately provide the approval.

**"What is the projected timeline for the board decisions related to this partial contract?"**

We are currently working with Tri-State, other cooperatives, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reach an agreement and approval. Once we receive approval from FERC on the buy-down payment methodology, we can ask the Board to decide if LPEA will pursue a partial requirements contract with Tri-State and Crossover.

**"I know you want to add more renewables to our energy mix, but won't this have a negative impact on the reliability of our power?"**

"Each year, the majority of LPEA members experience one power outage or less. That means we keep the lights on in your home or business 99.998% of the time. To achieve this, we closely monitor power outage frequency and duration and address problem areas with system upgrades or additional maintenance.

"But maintenance on LPEA's transmission and distribution network is only half of the reliability equation. The other half is power supply because before we can deliver you electricity, it must be generated. As LPEA explores new power supply options to deliver you affordable, low-carbon power into the future, there is one thing we will never sacrifice: reliability.

"You depend on electricity every hour of every day, and LPEA's future power supply must support that. Renewable resources will play a large role in LPEA's future power supply mix, but in the near-term other dispatchable generation will also be needed. Dispatchable generation typically uses a fuel, like natural gas, that can be turned on and off as needed to meet your electricity needs.

"To maximize the use of renewables in LPEA's future power supply — without sacrificing reliability — we are currently implementing a Distributed Energy Resource Management system. Through this system, devices like electric vehicle chargers, programmable thermostats, and water heaters can be managed to align their energy consumption with times of plentiful renewable generation without inconveniencing you, our members.

"In the future, LPEA will receive some of our power from local generation resources connected directly to our system, but LPEA will also receive power from the Bulk Electric System to ensure the diversification and redundancy needed for reliable power delivery. This is necessary to avoid situations, like the one that occurred in California last summer, where demand for electricity exceeded the generation that was available at the time.

"In short, through careful planning and resource diversity, you will continue to receive the same reliability LPEA is known for, regardless of future power supply selection.

**"Why is LPEA considering exiting its contract with Tri-State? I've heard LPEA has accrued legal expenses to pursue this. Is that a wise use of member monies?"**

"There are three main reasons

that LPEA is exploring an exit from Tri-State (1) we have a right to explore all options that may benefit our members (2) high rates and (3) lack of local control.

"I. Right to Explore Opportunities

"LPEA has the right to explore an exit from our contract with Tri-State, which currently runs through the end of 2050. Tri-State is owned by 42 rural electric cooperatives and was formed on the principles that it would a) benefit its members and b) allow for its members to withdraw on equitable terms and conditions.

"In July of 2019, LPEA asked Tri-State to provide a fair and equitable exit charge. The LPEA Board of Directors wanted to explore multiple options (Resolution 2019-10), which included (1) staying with Tri-State and working to increase contract flexibility (2) fully exiting the contract (3) or finding a middle option.

"II. Right to Affordability

"The main way for LPEA to limit more rate increases is to explore options for cheaper energy, which makes up most of our expenditures. According to Standard and Poor's, which downgraded Tri-State's credit rating last November, Tri-State's rates are 20% higher than average. Between 2000-2016, Tri-State raised its rates 12 times, doubling the price LPEA was paying for power over that period. Tri-State's administrative expenses also increased 73% between 2017 and 2019.

"These cost increases are not indicative of all power sources. As just one example, Holy Cross Energy — a comparable cooperative in northwest Colorado that sources its own energy — spends 44% less on their energy than we do. What's more, Tri-State estimates its rates will increase an additional 50% by 2050, even while energy costs are trending downwards. With more than 3 billion dollars in long-term debt, it will be difficult for Tri-State to do anything but raise rates for many years to come.

"LPEA's initial, conservative calculations for pursuing other energy options estimate hundreds of millions of dollars in cost savings over the life of LPEA's existing contract with Tri-State.

"III. Right to Local Control

"Two of the board's initial concerns with Tri-State which led them to want to explore other options were their coal-heavy energy portfolio, and the limitation that only allowed LPEA to generate 5% of our power from local renewable sources. To their credit, they are working to fix these issues, but their solutions are still far from ideal.

"Tri-State is working to clean up its energy portfolio, due largely to member pressure and to independent analysis like that of the Rocky Mountain Institute, which found in a 2018 report that Tri-State could save its members 600 million by closing coal plants and boosting renewables. According to that report, Tri-State's commitment to its existing coal plants contributed to rates increasing more than 5 times the national average between 2007-2016.

"Tri-State is also pursuing options to allow its members to supply more of their own power, but there are limitations. If all of Tri-State's members were to use the self-supply option, LPEA would only be able to provide renewables to 10% of our load, and we want to do much more than that.

"LPEA has an almost 30-year history with Tri-State. We appreciate this partnership and the valuable service they have provided to LPEA and our members for decades. We

■ See LPEA A18

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# Sports

## SOCCER



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Freshman goalkeeper Christopher Young-Martinez was named the Intermountain League Keeper of the Year for the 2021 boys' soccer season. Young-Martinez made a total of 106 saves on the season.



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Junior Kaylor Christians was named the Intermountain League Player of the Year for the fall 2021 boys' soccer season. Christians led the Pirates in scoring with 18 goals.

SUN photo/Clayton Chaney  
The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer team had a handful of players receive all-conference honors for the Intermountain League for their work on the pitch this fall. Pictured left to right are Joah Dunn de Pulido (honorable mention), Gabe Gallegos (first team), Kelton Christians (first team), Kaylor Christians (first team) and Ethan Mazur (first team).



## BASKETBALL

### Fresh faces: Young Lady Pirate squad set to open season Tuesday

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirates will open the 2021-2022 season Tuesday evening against the 4A Durango Demons. Last season, the Lady Pirates advanced to the first round of the state tournament, where they fell 47-44 to Grand Valley. Pagosa ended the season with a 10-4 record. That overall record included a 6-2 Intermountain League record and second-place league finish. Coach Charles Rand explained the Lady Pirates have two returning starters from that squad: Kori Lucero and Chantelle Caldwell. He noted the team will also have

Trista Tully back following a knee injury that kept her out last year. "We're really glad to have her back," he said. The remaining starters, he noted, will be either freshmen or sophomores. "We will be relatively young," Rand said, adding, "Young talent is better than no talent." In addition to the fresh faces in the starting lineup, the Lady Pirates will also look different on the court this season because, Rand indicated, this is the first time in about 14 years that there hasn't been a 6-footer on the court. But, Rand noted, the team's guard play is looking strong. "It's going to be up-tempo, it's gonna be press," he added, further

explaining that without a big to throw the ball to, the team will look to rebounding and "taking good shots and great shots." Rand also acknowledged the likelihood of growing pains with a young team and getting the message across that it's OK to make a mistake and they will grow from it as a team. He also stated he wants the Lady Pirates to have self-confidence heading into the season and faith in their abilities, noting the team "did some good things this summer." "I'm looking to go out there, compete and win," Rand said of Tuesday's 5:30 p.m. matchup in Durango. Rand suggested the team will continue to build up the good

things and fix the mistakes over the course of the season. "I just want the kids to have fun, I really do," Rand said. The coach also asked for the community to go and support the team, stating, "It's going to be a fun group of kids to watch." **Schedule** The following schedule was accurate as of Monday, but is subject to change. After opening the season Tuesday in Durango, the Lady Pirates will host the Wolf Creek Classic Dec. 3 and 4, where the Lady Pirates are set to face DSST Green Valley Ranch at 5 p.m. on Dec. 3 and DSST Byers at 5 p.m. on Dec. 4. ■ See Faces A17



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## BASKETBALL

# Pirates set to open season in Durango Tuesday

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team is back in action and set to begin the season Tuesday, Nov. 30, in Durango.

Tuesday's matchup with the 4A Demons is set to tip off at 7 p.m.

On the court for the Pirates will be a number of new faces, coach Wes Lewis indicated, since the team had "a lot" of seniors last season.

Last season, the Pirates went 6-7. That included an even 4-4 record in the Intermountain League, which left the Pirates in third place.

"It's still pretty early. You know, trying to get some things in and get some conditioning done and ... get some fundamentals going again and ... correct some things, and it's just kind of a very quick start to the season with games so early," Lewis said.

Lewis indicated the team is balanced between the classes and has

a few players taller than 6 feet, giving the team "decent" size.

The team received an early test in the form of quick scrimmages against a number of teams last weekend, with Lewis reporting the team did some things well and they had their "eyes opened" to some things.

He further explained the team's defense has been OK and the team has pretty high energy in the press.

"Offensively, we're still having a few miscues and miscommunication as far as it's just a lot of stuff and they're still trying to get a grasp, get a handle for it," he said. "But, for the most part, I would say I'm pleased with where we're at for now."

The Pirates got a brief preview of Durango during Saturday's scrimmages, though Lewis noted the team is likely to look a lot different Tuesday.

He noted it was a quick, 15-minute running clock against Durango Saturday, and Durango will have

additional players who were still playing football at the time of the scrimmage.

"They're going to be a very big, physical team," he said.

To be competitive early in the season, Lewis indicated, the team obviously needs to shoot the ball well, try to get transition points, earn steals and easy baskets off the press, make the Pirates' opponents earn everything while Pagosa is on defense and limit opponents to one shot.

Lewis further discussed the need to be good with rebounding, having high energy and intensity on defense, and making opponents earn every bucket.

"It's just a long season and we're at the very beginning of it," Lewis said, adding, "I'm fine with where we're at, but it's a long year and ... we need to get better and we have a long time to do it."

### Schedule

The following schedule was ac-

curate as of Monday, but is subject to change.

Following Tuesday's contest in Durango, the Pirates will face Buena Vista at 6 p.m. on Dec. 3 and Lamar at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 as part of the Wolf Creek Classic.

The following week, Dec. 10 and 11, the team will head for Buena Vista for that team's tournament, with game times and opponents not yet determined.

The Pirates will continue tournament play Dec. 16-18 at the Montrose tournament, with Pagosa set to face Palisade at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 16, Montrose at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 and Roaring Fork at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 18.

The Pirates will hit the road again after the holidays, with the team slated to take on 2A Sanford at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2022.

The Pirates will return to their home court to open league play on Jan. 14, 2022, with a 7 p.m. matchup against the Alamosa Mean Moose.

The following day, Pagosa will welcome the Bayfield Wolverines for a 7 p.m. league contest.

The Pirates will be back on the road on Jan. 21, 2022, to face the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers in a league matchup at 7 p.m.

The following evening, the Pirates will welcome the Centauri Falcons to town for a 7 p.m. match-up.

On Jan. 25, 2022, Pagosa will take a break from league play to take on the 2A Monte Vista Pirates at 7 p.m. at home.

The team will return to league play on Jan. 29, 2022, at 7 p.m. in Alamosa with another matchup against the Moose.

On Feb. 4, 2022, the Pirates will travel to Bayfield for a 7 p.m. game against the Wolverines.

The following day, the Pirates are slated to host the Panthers at 7 p.m.

Pagosa will wrap up regular-season league play on the road on Feb. 11, 2022, when they travel to La Jara to take on the Falcons at 7 p.m.

The Pirates will end the regular season at home on Feb. 18, 2022, when they welcome the 2A Del Norte Tigers to town for a 5 p.m. contest.

randi@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Colorado Christian University

Ryder Searle, a 2014 Pagosa Springs High School graduate, competes in the NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships in St. Leo, Fla., last weekend. Searle earned All American honors with his 19th place overall finish at the championships. He was the team's top runner as Colorado Christian placed 10th in the country at the race. In addition to his All American honors, he earned NCAA South Central Regional accolades earlier this season.

## Basketball

### Continued from A16

The following week, the team will head for the Buena Vista Tournament, with the tournament schedule not yet determined.

On Dec. 14, Pagosa will welcome the Ignacio Bobcats to town for a 7 p.m. contest.

Then, on Dec. 16, the Lady Pirates will hit the road for Mancos for a 6:30 p.m. matchup — their final of the year.

The Lady Pirates will be back in action on Jan. 7, 2022, when they head to Sanford for a 5 p.m. game.

The Lady Pirates will return to their home court on Jan. 14, 2022, for a league matchup against the

Alamosa Mean Moose at 5:30 p.m.

League play will continue the following day when the Lady Pirates welcome the Bayfield Wolverines to town for a 5:30 p.m. affair.

Pagosa will be back on the road on Jan. 21, 2022, for a 5:30 p.m. league game against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers.

The following night, Pagosa will host another league game, this time against the Centauri Falcons, at 5:30 p.m.

On Jan. 25, 2022, Pagosa will take on the 2A Monte Vista Pirates at home, with the game set to start at 5:30 p.m.

The team will return to league

play on Jan. 29, 2022, with a 5:30 p.m. game against the Mean Moose in Alamosa.

Pagosa's squad will travel to Bayfield for another matchup with the Wolverines on Feb. 4, 2022, again at 5:30 p.m.

On Feb. 5, 2022, the Lady Pirates will host the Panthers at 5:30 p.m.

Pagosa will close out regular-season league play on Feb. 11, 2022, in La Jara against the Centauri Falcons, with the game time set for 5:30 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will close the regular season at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 16, 2022, in Pagosa against the 2A Del Norte Tigers.

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# Two arrested following burglary incidents

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

Two were arrested for their alleged involvement in an attempted burglary and a burglary that took place earlier this month.

According to an incident report from the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, the first of the incidents was called in as a possible burglary in progress shortly after 5:30 a.m. on Nov. 8.

An ACSO deputy was the first to respond to the location, a gas station on the east end of town, with the deputy being informed there was broken glass and it was unknown if anyone was in the building.

After arriving on scene, the deputy noted the glass on the entry door had been "struck," along with a window near the cash register, though the report notes, "Neither of these were broken to the point where a person would be able to enter."

The incident report notes a bystander who was camping in the area while on a biking trip reported that when he had woken up around 10 p.m. to midnight the previous night he saw a black SUV pull up to the gas station and a male approach the storefront.

"He heard the male try to get in, pulling on the door but didn't hear any glass breaking," the report states, adding that the man who was camping then went back to sleep.

The report notes nothing was determined to have been taken and the case was turned over to the Pagosa Springs Police Department.

Shortly before 7 a.m. on Nov. 8, a separate incident including a broken window on a business was called in, with an incident report on the matter indicating that business is located on North Pagosa Boulevard.

Upon arrival, a deputy "noticed a large hole and glass outside and inside the business," the report notes.

The report indicates the deputy observed products from the store outside and "the inside was in disarray. It appeared the business had been broken into and burglarized."

After going inside with permission from the owner, the report notes a detective and the officer entered and observed that a glass case inside had doors that were smashed in and items were missing from the case.

The report indicates the business owner reported that the cash register was missing in addition

to the merchandise from the glass case.

The report indicates an estimated value of \$6,100 in missing items and damage was reported by the business owner.

Later that day, the report explains the ACSO received a phone call from a woman telling them who was responsible for the burglary on North Pagosa Boulevard.

Following an interview, the report indicates Adrianna Jade Archuleta, 18, of Pagosa Springs, was arrested for second-degree burglary, theft and criminal mischief.

A second individual — Augustine Manuel Martinez, 19, of Pagosa

Springs — was taken into custody later and is being held on charges of parole violation, second-degree burglary, theft and criminal mischief, according to the county's jail roster.

Archuleta County Undersheriff Derek Woodman and Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) Detective Boyd Neagle reported to The SUN that investigations connected the two incidents.

Neagle noted that the PSPD is recommending that an aiding charge be added on Archuleta and attempted burglary and criminal mischief be added for Martinez for the downtown incident.

randi@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Archuleta County Sheriff's Office.

Tom Strang, left, and Greg Wynn were instrumental in the process of transforming an old transit bus owned by the county into the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office's new mobile command post. The mobile command post will be used by the county's incident command and will be deployed to enhance or re-establish communication and coordination during emergency incidents, special security events, and search and rescue incidents.

## The Blotter

Items listed in The Blotter report where an alleged incident occurred and the nature of the incident. Readers should not assume employees or owners of a place of business or a parking lot reported as the scene of an event are involved as perpetrators of the incident.

**Archuleta County Sheriff's Office**  
Calls for service for week: 262.

Nov. 15 — Missing property, East McCabe Street.

Nov. 15 — Information only, domestic violence, River Run Drive.

Nov. 15 — Information only, Collyer Drive.

Nov. 15 — Information only, domestic violence, Prospect Boulevard.

Nov. 16 — Second-degree assault, Bermuda Court.

Nov. 16 — Found property, Crooked Road and Wits End Place.

Nov. 17 — Information only, East U.S. 160.

Nov. 17 — Agency assist, Wits End Place.

Nov. 17 — Theft-motor vehicle parts/accessories from vehicle, USFS 629.

Nov. 18 — Dog at large (first offense no injury), County Road 359.

Nov. 18 — Dog at large (first offense no injury), Lakeside Drive.

Nov. 18 — Agency assist, South 8th Street.

Nov. 18 — Warrant arrest, Cloud Cap Avenue/Tor Court.

Nov. 18 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, Cloud Cap Avenue/Tor Court.

Nov. 19 — Violation of restraining order, violation of restraining order, violation of bail bond condition-misdemeanor, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 19 — Improper registration, Bastille Drive/Seminole Drive.

Nov. 19 — Warrant arrest, Bastille Drive/Seminole Drive.

Nov. 19 — Warrant arrest, Davis Cup Drive/Village Drive.

Nov. 20 — Dog at large (first offense no injury), Oakridge Drive, West U.S. 160.

Nov. 20 — Owner operated or permitted operation of vehicle without insurance, failed to display valid registration, Valley View Drive/Pinon Causeway.

Nov. 20 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug-related offense, Pinon Causeway/ West U.S. 160.

Nov. 20 — Drove vehicle when license canceled, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Nov. 21 — Domestic violence, second-degree assault-aggravated assault-weapon, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks a person, third-degree assault-simple assault, criminal mischief, Oak Drive.

**Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department**  
No report.

**Pagosa Springs Municipal Court:**  
**Judge Justin P. Fay**  
No report.

**Archuleta County Court:**  
**Judge Justin P. Fay**  
Nov. 12 — John M. Konold, speed-

ing 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Nov. 17 — Darryl Dean Decora, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, three years probation, complete 75 days jail on work release, fines and costs — \$3,198.45.

Nov. 17 — Andrew Clinton Ambrose, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$257.

Nov. 17 — Alyson Lee McAvoy, driving while ability impaired, 15 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$776.50.

Nov. 17 — Brandie Herrera, violation P/O-criminal, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$864.50.

Nov. 17 — Michael J. Boley, careless driving, fines and costs — \$483.50.

Nov. 17 — Lorenzo Macias, speeding 25-39 over limit, moving violation in construction zone sentence enhancer, fines and costs — \$301.50.

Nov. 17 — Mary Colleen Tighe, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$185.50.

Nov. 17 — Shannon Marie Rummel, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Nov. 17 — Stoney A. Powdermaker, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.

Nov. 17 — Marvin D. Lord, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$185.50.

Nov. 17 — Rachel Dawn Gorenflo, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$185.50.

Nov. 17 — Edward R. George, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Nov. 17 — Ricky L. Baughman, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$263.50.

Nov. 19 — Victor Telechi, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

**6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson**  
No report.

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# Outdoors



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

To prepare for the annual Christmas Bird Count, Weminuche Audubon and Audubon Rockies will host bird identification classes virtually and in-person.

## Join the 122nd Christmas Bird Count

By Keith Bruno  
Weminuche Audubon Society

It's that time again, where we layer up and grab our binoculars to head out birding for the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). In fact, this year's count marks the 122nd year of the longest-running citizen science census in the Western Hemisphere.

Last year, nearly 70 participants contributed in various capacities (birding at home feeders, from cross-country skis and snowshoes) to log 4,746 birds of 66 species across Weminuche Audubon Society's 15-mile diameter circle. We had a number of youth birders join us as well.

This year, we're encouraging anyone interested to jump in and have some fun with us observing the winged-ones. Data compiled helps avian scientists to better predict and thus protect bird popula-

tions as they move across the landscape during a time of sustained stressors. We need your help.

The Pagosa Springs 2021 CBC will take place on Dec. 18. In the event of inclement weather on Dec. 18, the proposed alternate date for the count is Dec. 19. In the wake of the continued COVID-19 pandemic, we will be splitting our zones into smaller sub-zones for the purpose of avoiding carpooling, encouraging walking and birding closer to home, and taking all state recommended considerations into account for a safe CBC. All ages and abilities are welcome.

In order to prepare for the count, Weminuche Audubon and Audubon Rockies will host bird identification classes, "Winter Birds 101," for three evenings leading up to the count. We'll cover waterfowl on Dec. 1, songbirds on Dec. 8 and raptors (plus CBC protocols and review) on Dec. 15. All evening ses-

sions will be held virtually on Zoom from approximately 6 to 8 p.m. and in person at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street. People attending in person are encouraged to wear masks indoors.

For virtual sign-on information, consult [www.weminucheaudubon.org](http://www.weminucheaudubon.org) closer to the first class. We hope you'll join in on the effort to log birds and contribute to community science. For more information about the CBC, visit <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count> or check out our website at [www.weminucheaudubon.org](http://www.weminucheaudubon.org). To get involved, please contact Keith Bruno at [kbruno@audubon.org](mailto:kbruno@audubon.org) and Jean Zirnelt at [weminuche.audubon@gmail.com](mailto:weminuche.audubon@gmail.com).

Lastly, there will be a CBC tally wrap-up and chili dinner for participants held at the Community United Methodist Church on the evening of Dec. 19 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

## Snow forecast ahead of Thanksgiving, Piedra River sets record low

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Snow was expected to start falling Tuesday night and is forecasted to continue, with an 80 percent chance of snow throughout the day Wednesday, Nov. 24, and a 20 percent chance into the night, according to the National Weather Service.

For Wednesday, Nov. 24, temperatures are forecasted to reach a high of 46 degrees and low of 12 degrees.

Temperatures for Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 25, are forecasted to reach a high of 46 degrees and a low of 14 degrees, with sunny and mostly clear skies throughout the day and night.

For Friday, Nov. 26, the forecasted high is 54 degrees and low is 18 degrees, with sunny skies during the day and mostly clear skies at night.

For Saturday, Nov. 27, temperatures are forecasted to reach a high of 58 degrees with sunny skies and a low of 20 degrees with mostly cloudy skies at night.

For Sunday, Nov. 28, the forecasted high is 59 degrees with sunny skies. The forecasted low is 22 degrees with mostly clear skies at night.

Additional detailed weather reports and forecasts can be found online at: <https://pagosaweather.org/>.

### River report

The Piedra River near Arboles set a new record low for this date with a flow rate of just 28.9 cubic feet per second (cfs) as of noon on Tuesday, Nov. 23, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The previous record low for this date was set in 1990 at 44 cfs.

The highest recorded rate for this date was 490 cfs in 1987.

Based on 59 years of water records at this site, the average flow

rate for that date is 107 cfs.

According to the USGS, the San Juan River was flowing at a rate of 44.4 cfs in Pagosa Springs as of noon on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Based on 86 years of water records at this site, the lowest recorded flow rate for this date is 34 cfs, recorded in 1976.

The highest recorded rate for this date was in 1987 at 360 cfs. The average flow rate for this date is 87 cfs.

### Water report

According to a Nov. 22 press release from Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Manager Justin Ramsey, the district now has a total diversion flow of 4.5 cfs.

This figure is up from last week's report of 3 cfs listed for a total diversion flow.

The West Fork diversion flow remains at 2.5 cfs, while the Four Mile diversion flow increased from 0.5 cfs to 2 cfs.

Hatcher Lake dropped 2 inches from last week's report and is now at 52 inches from full.

Pagosa Lake dropped 1 inch from last week's report and is now at 8 inches from full.

Stevens Lake and Village Lake saw no change in their water levels and remain at 27 inches from full and 9 inches from full, respectively.

Lake Forest also saw no change in its water level compared to last week and remains at 6 inches from full.

Water production from Nov. 12 through Nov. 18 was listed at a total of 10.26 million gallons. The Snowball water plant contributed 3.18 million gallons, while the Hatcher

plant contributed 7.08 million gallons.

Last year, total water production was listed at 8.89 million gallons for those dates.

### Snow report

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Water and Climate Center's snow pack report, the Wolf Creek summit, at 11,000 feet of elevation, had 3.6 inches of snow water equivalent as of noon on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

The San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan river basins were at 34 percent of the Nov. 17 median in terms of snow pack.

### Drought report

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was last updated on Nov. 16.

The NIDIS website indicates 100 percent of Archuleta County is abnormally dry.

The percentage of the county in a moderate drought is listed at 70.86, which is consistent with the previous report.

The NIDIS website also notes that 47.66 percent of the county is in a severe drought stage, consistent with last week's report.

Additionally, the NIDIS website notes that 10.33 percent of the county remains in an extreme drought, consistent with last week's report.

No portion of the county is in an exceptional drought.

For more information and maps, visit: <https://www.drought.gov/states/Colorado/county/Archuleta>.

[clayton@pagosasun.com](mailto:clayton@pagosasun.com)

Your mental health matters  
Colorado Crisis Hotline  
1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255

## Letters to Santa



### Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole!  
Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN.  
Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 17.

You can also email your letter to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com) or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

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# preview

## ARTS & COFFEE

# Christmas in Pagosa



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**Terry's Colorado Home Supply/ACE**



**Mountain Pizza & Taproom**



**Lantern Dancer**

# Familiar and new actors star in family-friendly holiday musical at Thingamajig

By Carole Howard  
Thingamajig Theatre Company

“Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play,” an uplifting family-friendly show, will be Thingamajig Theatre Company’s holiday production this year.

The play will showcase the skills of four Thingamajig alumni as well as several new faces.

The familiar holiday classic is the story of a young girl’s powerful belief in Santa and all the values he stands for. The production features original songs as well as favorite Christmas carols and is performed in the style of a live 1940s-era radio broadcast.

The play, set in a radio studio, portrays the iconic Macy’s flagship store on 34th Street in New York City — plus a scene in a courtroom with a judge ruling over an argument about Santa’s identification.

“Coming out of the long COVID closures, it’s a special treat for us to present such a heartwarming show for the holiday season at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts,” said Tim Moore, the theater’s producing artistic director.

## Actor favorites return

This production features seven actors, all of whom play multiple parts in the show.

Several are favorites with local and out-of-town audiences from previous performances at Thingamajig, including Trevor Brown,

■ See Musical on page 5

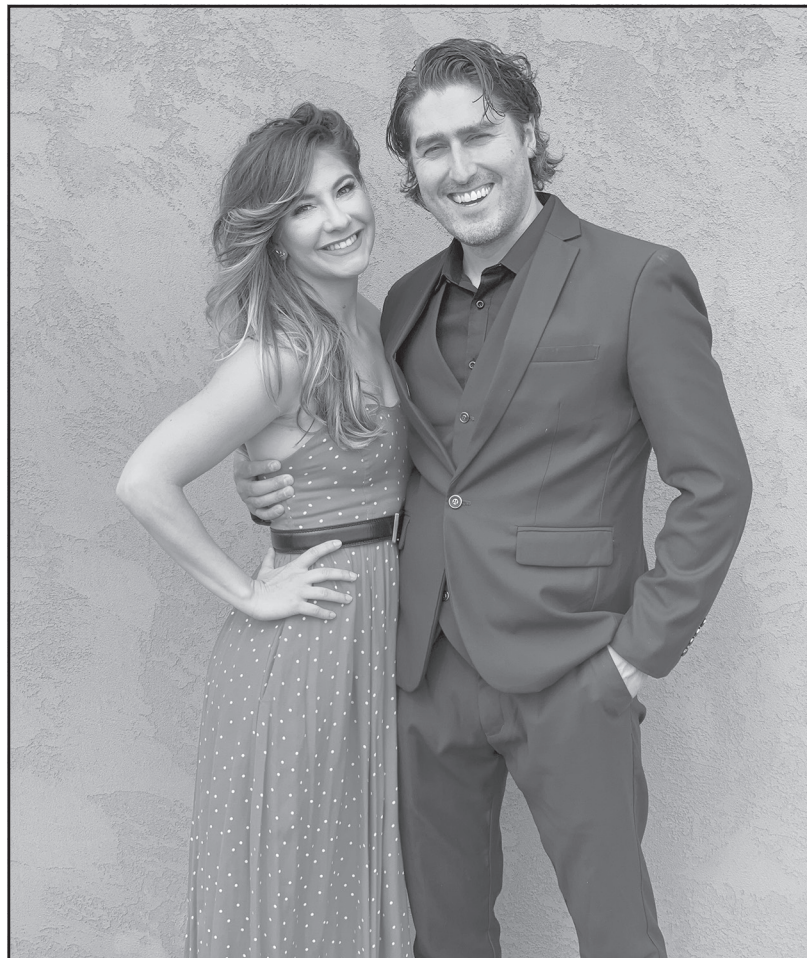


Photo courtesy Halley Daigle-Saez

Halley Daigle-Saez and Aaron Catano-Saez are two of the Thingamajig Theatre Company alumni who will perform in “Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play,” the uplifting family-friendly holiday production at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. “Miracle” opens on Dec. 15 and will be performed every day through Dec. 23. Evening performances are at 7 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on Dec. 19. Proof of vaccinations and masks will be required for the audience, following Broadway’s COVID protocols.



## Live Performers

Wednesday  
Coyote Moon Bar and Grill: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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**SUN**

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Physical address: 457 Lewis Street

Mailing address: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Publisher/Editor  
Terri House, editor@pagosasun.com

Assistant Editor  
Randi Pierce, randi@pagosasun.com

Reporters  
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com

Business Development and Circulation Manager  
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Business Development Specialist  
Kaylin Willis, kaylin@pagosasun.com

Head Pressroom  
Robert Penton

Assistant Pressroom  
Steve Horton

Mailroom  
William Thomas

Classified Advertising/Front Office Manager  
Missy Phelan, classads@pagosasun.com

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS!**

**Email Your Recommendations By December 8th To  
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Diane Burnett



Team Christians



Steve Crow



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Bill Kinsley



Marcie Lewis



Phil McAdams



Lindy Moore



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970.264.1250 [GallesProperties.com](http://GallesProperties.com)  
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## Musical

■ continued from page 2

Aaron Catano-Saez and Halley Daigle-Saez. Others will be talented new faces. All these actors are from various cities across the U.S.

A local youngster will play the part of Susan, a precocious 8-year-old whose belief in Santa is key to the plot of the story. She is Simone Haas, age 7, daughter of Ursala Hudson and Chris Haas, of Pagosa Springs. Simone made her stage debut in July as Elsa in the kids' version of Disney's "Frozen" as a participant in Thingamajig's kids summer camp.

The production will be directed and choreographed by Andrew Barrett Lewis, whose last Pagosa show was "A Grand Night for Singing" over Christmas 2019.

### Multiple positive reviews

This version of the Christmas "Miracle" story was first produced in San Diego to rave reviews. One observer said the show "lights up the holidays," while another said it "comes gift-wrapped with a fetching musical score." A separate reviewer opined, "You will want to bring the entire family," while another called it a "beloved musical that will melt even the most cynical of hearts."

Writing in the San Diego Union Tribune, longtime theater critic James Hebert said, "Just when you think there is nothing new under the sun (or inside the snow globe), along comes a Christmas show that reminds even the Scrooge-iest soul how rewarding holiday theater can be."

### Tickets and COVID protocols

"Miracle" opens on Dec. 15 and will be performed every day through Dec. 23. Evening performances are at 7 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on Dec. 19. Moore chose to end the show's run just before Christmas so that the actors could return home to their families for their holiday celebrations.

You can order tickets for the show on the theater's website at pagosacenter.org or by phoning (970) 731-SHOW (7469). Tickets are \$35.

Proof of vaccinations and masks will be required for the audience, following Broadway's COVID protocols.

Thingamajig Theatre Company

■ See Musical on next page



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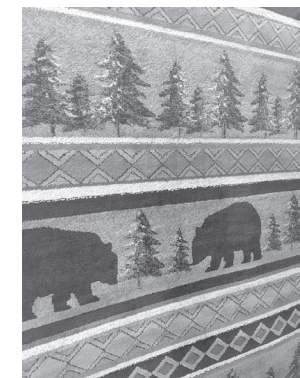


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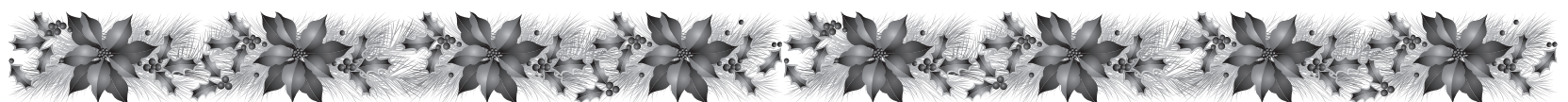


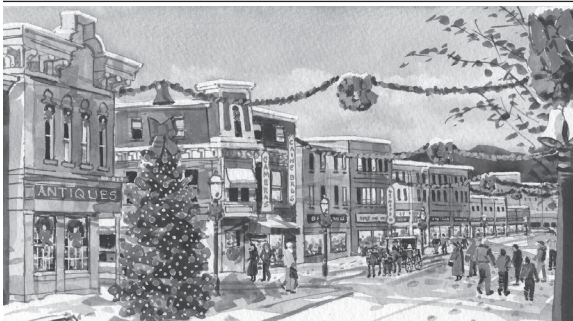
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## Musical

■ continued from previous page was co-founded in 2011 by Tim and Laura Moore. It is an award-winning professional nonprofit 501(c)(3) theater in residence within the Pagosa Springs Center for the

Arts. Its talented actors, directors and designers come from across the U.S. and around the world to produce musicals, comedies and dramas year-round — COVID permitting, of course.



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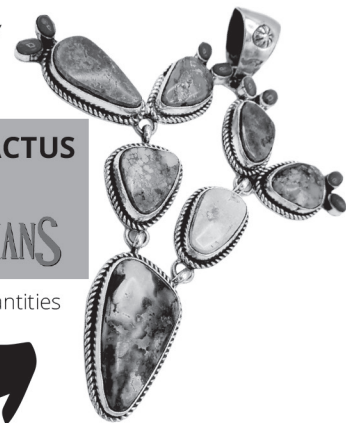
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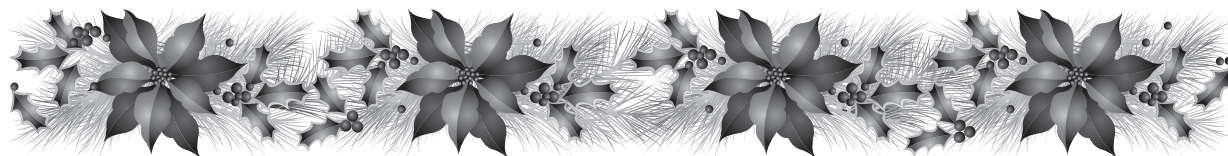
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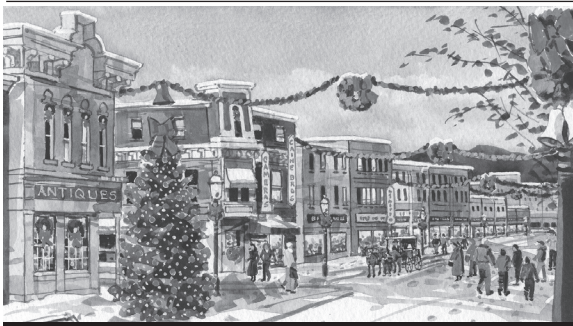
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## Chorale Society's Christmas concert series set for Dec. 3-5

By Richard Bolland  
Pagosa Springs Choral Society

A free community Christmas concert series will be presented by the Pagosa Springs Choral Society on Dec. 3, 4 and 5 in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Once each year, a group of about 60 of your fellow Pagosans begin rehearsals in September to prepare for the annual Christmas concerts. This year's presentation will feature both seasonal and sacred music to mark the holiday. Selections such as "We Need A Little Christmas," "Candlelight Carol" and "Hope is Dawning on the World" will be presented, along with 12 other selections in celebration of the season.

Pagosa Springs High School Music Director Dan Burch will direct the choir, while Venita Burch will provide her expertise on the piano to accompany the choir. A select jazz ensemble will provide a light-hearted addition of two selections to the program.

While there is no admission charge for the concerts, each year an opportunity is provided to receive donations from the audience to provide scholarships for students at Pagosa Springs High School.

The Dec. 3 and 4 concerts will begin at 7 p.m., while the Dec. 5 concert will be performed at 4 p.m.

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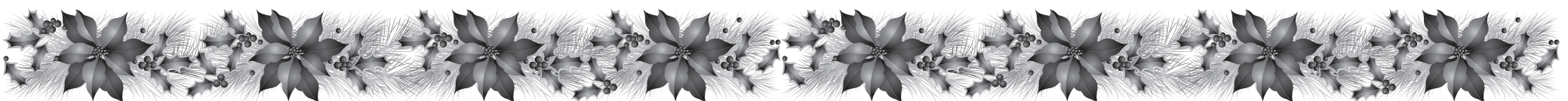
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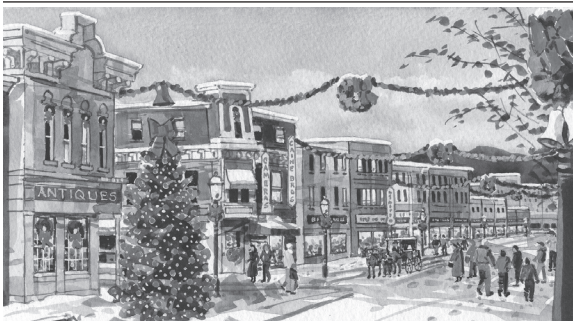
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**SENIORS & VETERANS**  
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"Friendly staff, tasty food. I enjoyed the Caesar Salad with chicken easy to order without croutons on the kiosk. Also enjoyed the home brewed root beer!"  
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ROSS ARAGON COMMUNITY CENTER  
PRESENTS

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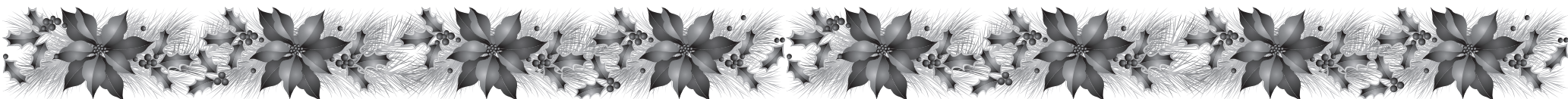
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During this holiday season, we would like to recognize all of you who have made our progress possible and say, simply but sincerely,

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Ivy is professional, personal, available, respectful, and authentic. – Zoe Bell

Lauren was wonderful to work with. She answered every question thoroughly and if she didn't know the answer, she got it asap. – Jana Stotler

Lauren is a great communicator and responds immediately. Her positivity, friendliness and incredible work ethic make her an amazing asset. – Alex Mathisen

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David & Mary Helen Cammack have once again helped guide us through the difficult process of real estate transactions. They are the people to trust during trying times. – Barry & DeEtte England

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*Lauren DeRoche, David Cammack, Blue Pitcher Lindner, Lee Riley, Ivy King, & Kalei Pitcher.*



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# Salvation Army bell ringers will be out soon

By Nancy Rea  
The Salvation Army

Christmas is right around the corner and soon you will see many local volunteer community members ringing bells at the Salvation Army Red Kettle located at City Market.

We'd like you to know what happens to the coins, checks and hard-earned dollars you place in the red kettle every year because, well, it's all really good.

Over the years, your contributions have helped Salvation Army in Archuleta County meet requests such as funding bus rides, hot showers, emergency lodging, utility bills, clothing, rent, food, prescriptions, medical services

and more. Could it have been your donation that purchased a sleeping bag to keep someone warm? Quite possibly. Salvation Army has financially assisted local nonprofit organizations and food pantries. We've helped supply diapers, car seats, turkeys, food boxes and back-to-school items. We simply meet needs at the point of need.

You'll appreciate knowing that everyone involved with our local Salvation Army Service Unit gives the gift of their time to serve people requesting our assistance. The volunteers you see bell ringing at the red kettle provide you an opportunity to generously give so folks in need can receive a helping hand from Salvation Army. Please smile at the amazing bell ringers

and drop a donation in the kettle this season.

When you give, you are partnering with Salvation Army in their mission to serve our area. Working together, using your generous contributions, lives are being immediately impacted in the community. Please know that however big or small, your donation is appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

If you're not able to make it by the red kettle this year, please consider directly mailing a check to: Salvation Army, P.O. Box 1567, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the kettle, please call our kettle coordinator, Tom Bruin, at (224) 730-7910.

Have a very merry Christmas, and thank you for giving.

# Practice kindness: Join the Holiday Joy Squad

By Eileen Doherty  
Colorado Gerontological Society

Kindness has many definitions. Kindness can be defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate, whereas being kind is doing intentional, voluntary acts of kindness. Acts of kindness can be done when it is easy, but also when it is hard.

The Colorado Gerontological Society is, again, inviting you to join the Holiday Joy Squad. The holidays are a time to get together with family and friends. We come together to celebrate, to share a drink and favorite foods, to attend holiday parties and exchange gifts, and just to connect. In 2020, many of us looked for creative ways to connect.

While 2021 may find many of us more willing to connect with family and friends, some individuals are continuing to be cautious with the current rise in COVID-19 cases. We invite you to share kindness with those who mean the most to you, either in group settings, through social distancing or virtually.

But many of us have another group of people in our lives with whom we should share kindness

— those individuals represent our "lost" connections. Many of us keep thinking, "I should call them" or "Drop them a line," but we don't take the time to re-engage with those whom we haven't had contact with for a long time. Sometimes those family and friends are just waiting for someone to reach out and be kind.

Since COVID-19 started, the society has been operating the Telephone Buddy program — a program that supports year-round kindness. Volunteers from the community give 10-15 minutes a week to call an older adult just to check in with them, to make sure they have enough food and medicine, and to engage with them about what is happening in

their lives. More than 100 volunteers continue to participate in this program. The friendships that have developed are deep and very meaningful to both the volunteers and the older adults.

We are accepting new telephone buddies to engage in ongoing acts of kindness, but we are inviting everyone to join the Holiday Joy Squad to share random acts of kindness with family, friends and those you don't know quite as well. These acts of kindness can be a smile in the grocery store line, baking a cake or cookies and delivering them to a cousin who lives in town, contacting a colleague who has left the workplace or is tele-working, calling your siblings who could use an extra

■ See Squad on next page



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# Relevant in its time

I turned 80 years old this week. I wonder if my many, many days have any contemporary relevance in this fast-changing world. How absurd to think this broken-down body can still function in a world of new shiny objects and sought-after hotshots.

Reductio ad absurdum (reduction to absurdity) fits this idea. What is it that we have that makes us relevant? The answer is simple. If we are needed, we are relevant to somebody and must continue to push forward until we take our last breath.

An inspiration to me is Grandma Moses. At 77 years old, her arthritic fingers prevented her from holding an embroidery needle. Her infirmity didn't hold her back, however. She turned to painting watercolors. And, at 101 years of age, with paint under her fingernails, she made her last stroke with her watercolor brush before drawing her last breath.

Her 100th birthday was proclaimed "Grandma Moses Day" by New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. President John F. Kennedy memorialized her: "The death of Grandma Moses removed a beloved figure from American life. The directness and vividness of her paintings restored a primitive freshness to our perception of the American scene. Both her work and her life helped our nation renew its pioneer heritage and recall its roots in the countryside and on the frontier."

An image of one of her paintings

## Artist's Lane

Betty Slade



one thing. We've both seen better-looking days. A fall brought me to my knees and I'm not walking so straight these days. I'm sure we look like hell and back, but it's the heart that keeps beating that keeps

■ See Lane on next page

is on the 1969 U.S. postage stamp. That same imagine, re-creating a Fourth of July celebration, is part of the White House archives today. She also has work hanging in several museums. A \$10 painting at the beginning of her career was auctioned for \$60,000.

In 1961, the year of her death, her children's book, "Grandma Moses Story Book," was published. This little old farm lady was needed for our nation. She was relevant in her own time.

I looked out into our driveway where our 1995 Toyota 4Runner sits. It has a banged-up front end and rust growing on its fenders. Although it is worn out, it's too valuable to take to the bone yard because it is still needed.

Even with its slow-moving parts and sluggish uptakes, this old clunker is part of the family. It has given us a great run and brought us many miles of adventure and enjoyment. It rattles in the dead of winter, but is our go-to to pull us out of the snow and get us back and forth to town. Even an old clunker such as this can have its own relevance.

When my Sweet Al and I look at each other, we can agree on



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## Squad

■ continued from previous page lift today from the sound of your voice, or dropping off a wreath or a box of chocolates for a neighbor. Any act of kindness is important and counts toward the project.

The society is offering a gift card to anyone who does 15 random acts of kindness and reports them on our website at [www.senioranswers.org](http://www.senioranswers.org)

prior to Jan. 15, 2022. Your random acts of kindness for the Holiday Joy Squad will make the world a better place. We all have feelings of love, caring and security. Kindness is one path to sharing those feelings.

For more information, call (303) 333-3482 or (855) 294-3971 (toll free), or (855) 880-4777 (Spanish).



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# Tips for managing holiday stress

By Robin Young  
PREVIEW Columnist

Happy Thanksgiving! It's that time of year when we can put the stresses of work and day-to-day life away and focus on a nice, long relaxing weekend with family and friends. It's also that time of year when we invite friends and family over to watch football and yell at the TV and eat ourselves into a food coma. And that's just Thursday.

Hosting friends and family staying over for a few days over a holiday can be stressful in itself. It's a long process of planning and preparing for a houseful of guests. There is the cleaning, shopping and cooking before they come. Then trying to figure out where to put everyone becomes a game — Jerry has to sleep far from anyone because he snores and Maddison wets the bed (always a joy). Then the day they all arrive, they unpack everything including the four dogs, a gerbil and two extra people that had nowhere to go for the holiday. Being the gracious host, we try to be accommodating and meet everyone's needs.

The holidays are also infamous for spats or complete blow-outs with mostly family, but sometimes our friends, too. Is Uncle Jim going to bring up the time cousin Steve borrowed his mower and returned it broken? That one always turns into a fiasco. I wonder if Sally will start talking about how depressing her life is and bring everyone

## Extension Viewpoints

down. Time to put the wine away.

Too often, we take holiday stress for granted; we don't give ourselves enough relief. What's worse, we often have higher expectations for this season than for any other time of the year. Planning for the holidays, whether you are hosting or visiting, can leave us feeling impatient, cranky and — in some cases — depressed. When the realities of day-to-day life conflict with our efforts to make the holiday season perfect, stress results. At the end of the day, we are exhausted, but we are filled with a warm sense that we are surrounded by loved ones.

Here are some simple things to remember during the holidays to help manage your stress:

- Keep your expectations balanced. You won't get everything you want, things will go wrong and you won't feel like Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas." Remember that everything doesn't have to be perfect and don't worry about things that are out of your control.

- Don't try to do too much. Fatigue, over-scheduling and taking on too many tasks can dampen your spirits. Learn to say no, delegate as much as possible and

manage your time wisely. If you choose to do less, you will have more energy to enjoy the most important part of the season — friends and family.

- Take a quiet moment for yourself, remember that you are caring for others and you need to take care of yourself. Take a walk or close the door to your room or bathroom and breathe. Enjoy yourself with family and friends, too. You made it all come together; enjoy the fruits of your labor.

- Watch your diet and remember to exercise. It's normal to eat more during the holidays, but be aware of how certain foods affect your mood. If you eat fats and sweets, you will have less energy, which can make you feel more stressed and run down. It can be very helpful to take a walk before and/or after a big holiday meal.

- Be aware of the post-holiday syndrome. When all the hustle and bustle suddenly stops and you have to get back to the daily grind, it can be a real letdown. Ease out of all the fun by planning a rest day toward the end of the season.

■ See Viewpoints on next page



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## Lane

■ continued from previous page  
us going and needed by those who love us.

A recent trip to the chiropractor helped me understand that my best years are still ahead me, even if my bones are stiff. After all, I still need them. When the lady turned my neck and cracked it, I felt like she had snapped me in two. I asked her, "Do you know what you're doing? You could've broken my neck."

The indignant therapist said she had been doing her job for more than 12 years and knew exactly what she was doing. I told her that these bones have been carrying me for 80 years. While they may be brittle, I still need my neck in order to turn my head.

With that, I sat up, picked up my purse and headed out the door. I felt like Grandma Moses learning a new craft. Or, maybe like I had just put new brakes on old tires. These new-fangled ways are not compatible with this old body.

Final brushstroke: Like an old 4Runner, or the needler turned artist, sometimes we have to live a lifetime before we find our purpose. It's there where relevancy finds us, regardless of the change in time where we find ourselves.

### Readers' comments

Send your comments to [betty@bettyslade.com](mailto:betty@bettyslade.com).

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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# So much to be thankful for

By Sami Fortin  
PREVIEW Columnist

Here in America, we have so much to be thankful for. The land of the brave and the home of the free, we are so blessed to have our freedoms. There may be those who have abused those freedoms and used them to hurt others, but I'm thankful that our country, of all the countries in the world, is still a place we're free to worship God in the way we choose.

We've always been given a choice as to whom we worship and when we make the choice to worship and praise the One True Living God. He will bless us again and again. We are to give thanks for everything (good or bad), for this is the will of God (1 Thessalonians 5:18). When we know that He works all things together for our good for those that love Him (Romans 8:28) it gives us hope that even the hard things will work out.

During this month and the next (in fact, don't stop), I challenge you to write down your blessings to see all He has done for you. We're to enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him and bless His

## A Matter of Faith

name (Psalm 100:4).

I pray that He helps us to change our minds about our situation and circumstance. Then we will see that when we're giving thanks, He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). We're all in a battle fighting for our freedoms and He has made a way for us.

It is this: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to Him and His peace which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

If there's anything we strive for, it's harmony and peace. We're all searching for a way to get back to the Garden of Eden. One of the best ways to accomplish that here and now, and hope for it in our future, is to give thanks.

"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

For His mercy endures forever." (Psm106:1). He might not take us out of our circumstances. But He will give us strength to endure it. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift (1 Corinthians 9:5).

If we see problems in our world, it's because although people know God, they don't glorify Him as God, nor are they thankful, then they become futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts are darkened. Let's turn this around by praising the name of God with a song and magnify Him with thanksgiving (Psalm 69:30). We can make a change in our own lives that will have a ripple effect around the whole world if we will give thanks to the Lord: Call upon His name and make known His wonderful deeds among the peoples (Colossians 4:2).

It starts with continuing earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. If we will set aside time in our day, first thing in the morning is best, and just start talking to Him, thanking Him for what He's done and is still about to do, the rest of our day will be covered and the rest of our life will be blessed so much that you'll be-  
■ See Faith on next page

## Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

• Learn forgiveness and acceptance. If some of your relatives have always acted out or made you feel bad, chances are that won't change. If you know what you're getting into, it will be easier to not let them push your buttons. If things get uncomfortable, go to a movie or for a drive and adjust your attitude.

It's in these most chaotic of times that we make the most lasting memories. It's up to each of us to make those lasting memories as

wonderful as we can. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

### Visit online

Visit us on the Web at <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/> or like us on Facebook and get more information: <https://www.facebook.com/CSUARCHCTY>.

### CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered monthly by the CSU Extension office, generally on

the second Monday and Wednesday of each month from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at 246-5931 to register.

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Jim Smith Realty	445 San Juan Street	970-264-3200
John Paul II Catholic Church	353 S. Pagosa Boulevard	970-731-5744
Pagosa Bible Church	209 Harman Park Drive	970-731-3120
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St. Patrick's Episcopal Church	225 S. Pagosa Boulevard	970-731-5801
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The Springs Resort & Spa	323 Hot Springs Boulevard	800-225-0934
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Please donate online: [pagosa-springs-co.toysfortots.org](http://pagosa-springs-co.toysfortots.org)



# Season of thanks

We have so much to be grateful for in spite of current situations in our country.

I encourage you to share kindness with all those you meet.

My gratitude to family, friends and customers for your friendship and support.



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# Sunday devotionals offered by the Baha'i Faith

By Paulette Heber  
Baha'i Community of Archuleta County

The Baha'i Community of Archuleta County hosts weekly devotionals every Sunday morning from 10 to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/884668836?pwd=bkdEeVlaSWN0bFRMdFhidXpzWjV5Zz09>, call-in number: (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 884 668 836.

A weekly theme is reflected in the prayers, music, poetry and selections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This Sunday, Nov. 28, our theme is discernment.

"There are certain pillars which have been established as the unshakable support of the faith of God. The mightiest of these is learning and the use of the mind, the expansion of consciousness, and insight into the realities of the universe and the hidden mysteries

of Almighty God." — Abdu'l-Baha.

The Baha'i Faith is an all-embracing world religion founded on the principle of unity. It recognizes humanity's spiritual nature and the innate nobility of every human soul. Among the teachings of the Baha'i Faith are the investigation of truth; the oneness of God; the oneness of mankind; justice; universal peace; the conformity between science and divine revelation; the equality of women and men; and the abandonment of racial, religious, worldly and political prejudices. It is in this spirit of community that we cordially invite you to our devotionals.

To learn more about the Baha'i Faith, please visit the official international website of the Baha'i Faith at [www.bahai.org](http://www.bahai.org). Our local contact is [archuletabahais@gmail.com](mailto:archuletabahais@gmail.com).

To obtain passcode for our Sunday devotionals, call Paulette Heber at (970) 731-8610 or email to the above email address.

## Faith

■ continued from previous page come a blessing for others.

He says, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (11Chronicles 7:14.) I can't encourage you enough to do this.

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on us, Lord, be our helper. You have turned for me my mourning

into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

What's your blessing? Mine is you, you are my treasure. I love you, but He loves you more.

*This column includes both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com).*

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# SUDOKU

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

### Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Advanced

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

☉ \* ☽ ☼ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

## CRYPTO FUN

☽ ☾ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to breathing.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 13 = E)

A. 14 7 17 15 25

Clue: Organs in chest

B. 11 6 13 9 26 5

Clue: Air in and out of lungs

C. 17 21 25 13

Clue: Protrusion in center of face

D. 21 20 16 15 13 17

Clue: Life-supporting element in air

Answers: A. lungs B. breath C. nose D. oxygen

# Share your special family recipes

Staff report

As the holidays near, The Pagosa Springs SUN is asking readers to share special family recipes. The SUN will share selected recipes with our readers during the upcoming holidays.

Please submit your recipes to editor@pagosasun.com beginning now and not later than Dec. 16.

To kick off recipe sharing, following are some of the recipes shared by SUN readers last year.

The SUN staff looks forward to receiving your family recipes.

## Glögg

From the kitchen of Diane Levison.

When I was young, I remember my dad making Norwegian Glögg, a hot, strong, mulled wine-type drink around the holidays. I grew up on the Fox River in Illinois and just before Christmas, my mom and dad would go out in this little Viking ship they made out of a fishing boat, cut through the ice in the river to get to the middle where there was open water, and ride up and down the river, handing out candy canes to the kids and glögg to their parents. Oh yeah, one more thing — they were dressed as Santa and Mrs. Claus! Needless to say, this was embarrassing to me as a teen, but now I can embrace my parents' spirit, uniqueness and ode to our Norwegian heritage traditions.

The glögg recipe I used of my dad's was much more complicated than what I currently make, and it used a lot more liquor. It called for burgundy and port wine, brandy, 151 rum and Everclear (grain alcohol) in various parts of the recipe. Let's just say it was incredibly good and very dangerous. My version is easier and tastes like dad's. Enjoy!

2 bottles (750 ml each) of red wine. (I like darker ones like burgundy, cabernet sauvignon or port.) They don't have to be pricey; boxed wine is fine.

10-15 cloves  
20 green cardamom pods (cracked)

4 inches of fresh ginger or equivalent amount of frozen shaved ginger or ginger paste

1/2 cup raisins (you can substitute Craisins, dried apricots or prunes)

1/2 cup blanched almonds (the skin is bitter; you don't want the skins on)

1 orange peel or 2 teaspoons dried orange peel

3 large cinnamon sticks

1 cup honey (or 1 1/3 cups of cane sugar)

The following ingredients are added closer to the end of cooking, not at the beginning:

1 cup vodka (or brandy)

1/2 cup Cointreau or Triple Sec or similar orange liqueur

Put all the ingredients except the vodka/brandy and Cointreau/Triple Sec in a large crock pot. It's best to put the small spices in a cheesecloth or tea strainer balls so they are easy to take out of the glögg. Cook on low for 2-3 hours or so. Do not let it come to a boil as that will cause the alcohol to evaporate and Christmas won't be as merry.

The longer you cook the glögg, the more flavor will come out of the spices. Towards the end, add the last two liquors. Turn to "warm" and serve immediately or put into glass bottles or containers along with the fruit and almonds and refrigerate to serve later. You can garnish with orange slices, additional dried fruit and cinnamon sticks if you like. Serve with a spoon so your guests can eat the fruit and nuts in the glögg.

Note: If you don't have one of the ingredients, but have something similar, feel free to use an alternate that's on hand that you like. That's why I've noted the alternates in the recipe. I rarely use precise recipes in the drinks I make. Taste, and add or modify to fit your taste.

## Monster Cookies

From the kitchen of Kristi Smith. Preheat oven to 350 F.

In a large bowl, combine and cream:

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup butter  
Add and mix well:  
3 eggs  
Add and mix:  
1 1/2 cup peanut butter (crunchy or creamy)  
1 tablespoon vanilla

■ See Recipes on next page

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OFF THE GRID Tiny House on 3 acres with 2 in ground cisterns in secluded area. \$185,000. MLS 783601



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- 1.20 ac. adjacent to above property, \$22,000. MLS 780065
- 4.89 ac. off the grid, no HOA! \$50,000. MLS 771256
- 2.14 ac., Gun Barrel Road, \$175,000. MLS 786574
- .54 ac., access from Hwy. 16 0, 20 15th Street, \$210,000. MLS 787735
- 79+ ac., 80 water shares, much more. \$330,000. MLS 770671



Living area addition, detached garage/workshop. \$185,000. MLS 788582

## Happy Thanksgiving!

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## Come As You Are

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-C.S. Lewis

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# Recipes

■ continued from previous page

4 teaspoons baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
Add and mix in the following, one cup at a time:  
4 1/2 cup quick oats  
Stir in:  
1 cup M&Ms  
1 cup chocolate chips  
Using ice cream scoop (to make monster-sized cookies), scoop out mixture onto cookie sheet and bake 15 minutes.

## Kruidige Rodekool: Spiced Red Cabbage

From the kitchen of Maxine Everaert.

This is a family favorite which was always served either at my husband's home or later at our home. Our three girls also use it.

4 servings  
1/4 cup butter  
1 cup water  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 small red cabbage, finely shredded  
2 cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced  
3 cloves  
1 tablespoon sugar  
Dash of vinegar  
In a saucepan, place 1 tablespoon butter, the water and salt. Add red cabbage, apples and cloves and simmer 45 minutes.

Add remaining butter, sugar and vinegar and simmer for another 5 minutes. Remove cloves before serving.

## Tamale Dressing

From the kitchen of TJ Roseth.  
A new twist on southern cornbread dressing.

Mix together:  
Masa from 6-8 tamales, crumbled into small pieces  
3 slices toasted white or wheat bread, torn into small pieces  
4 boiled eggs, chopped  
1 bunch of celery, chopped  
3 green onions, chopped (just the chives if you don't like onion)  
Pinch of sage  
2 teaspoons of salt  
Place in a 9x12 baking dish. If

you are having turkey with your meal, about an hour before the turkey is ready, take it out and pour drippings in with the dressing ingredients, otherwise use chicken or turkey broth. You will need at least 1 cup of drippings or broth to ensure that the dressing is quite moist before cooking. Cover the baking dish with aluminum foil and cook at least an hour at 350 F (or whatever temperature you are cooking the turkey). Uncover and cook another 30 minutes so that the dressing will get a little crispy on top.

One of the great things about this recipe is you can mix together all the ingredients a day or two prior and refrigerate in zip-lock bag until needed.

## Angel Biscuits

From the kitchen of Shari Pierce.  
5 cups all-purpose flour  
3 tablespoons sugar  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
3/4 cup shortening  
1/2 cup warm water  
1 package dry yeast  
2 cups buttermilk, room temperature

Combine first five ingredients. Cut in shortening. Dissolve yeast in warm water, stir into buttermilk. Add milk mixture to dry ingredients and stir to moisten. Cover and chill.

When ready to use, roll dough on lightly floured surface to 1/2- to 3/4-inch thickness. Cut out biscuits with 2-inch cutters. Place on lightly greased cookie sheet or in glass baking pan.

Bake at 400 degrees for 12 minutes, or until lightly browned. Makes 4 dozen.

You can keep the dough in the refrigerator for several days and bake as desired for fresh biscuits.

## Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN  
264-2100

# The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

## ACROSS

- 1 Upper crust
- 6 Inside info
- 10 Walking trail
- 14 Outer boundary
- 15 Who follower
- 16 Nabisco classic
- 17 Strike down
- 18 Loan seekers
- 20 South Pole region
- 22 Tube-shaped pasta
- 23 Kournikova of tennis
- 24 Took off
- 26 Work on a doily
- 28 Rock concert equipment
- 30 Cop's collar
- 31 The "A" in "CAT scan"
- 33 Makes a choice
- 35 Laddie's love
- 39 Lumber along
- 40 "\_\_\_ or lose ..."
- 41 Ready, willing, and \_\_\_
- 42 Mail away
- 43 Houston slugger, to fans
- 44 Sundae topping
- 45 Ledger entry
- 47 Suffix with beat or neat
- 49 Guggenheim display
- 50 Felt in the gut
- 54 Smooch
- 56 Banded stone
- 57 Earth orbiter
- 61 Final demand
- 63 Energize (with "up")
- 64 Cut of pork
- 65 "Nebraska" actor Bruce
- 66 Touch up, as text
- 67 Chinese dynasty
- 68 Outdated expletive
- 69 ACT and MCAT

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
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		23				24		25						
26	27			28		29		30						
31			32			33	34				35	36	37	38
39					40						41			
42					43					44				
			45	46				47	48			49		
50	51	52					53		54		55			
56						57		58					59	60
61						62					63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

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## DOWN

- 1 Schiaparelli of fashion
- 2 Depict
- 3 Knockoff
- 4 Saturn's largest moon
- 5 Going on and on
- 6 Borrower's burden
- 7 Grape-shaped
- 8 Understanding
- 9 Make a goof
- 10 Takeover attempt
- 11 "\_\_\_ we all?"
- 12 Lead and tin alloy
- 13 In a fix, slangily
- 19 Fictional city in Tarzan novels
- 21 Engine part
- 25 Nuisance
- 26 Lights-out tune
- 27 Wagon part
- 29 USPS manager
- 32 Like nicotine, for many

- 34 Pricing word
- 36 Sandpaper and such
- 37 Speak unclearly
- 38 Back-to-school mo.
- 40 False friend
- 44 Cast-iron pan, often
- 46 Overflow (with)
- 48 Mamie's man
- 50 Olympics event

- 51 Dome dwelling
- 52 Lustrous fabric
- 53 Linney of "Ozark"
- 55 Snail trail
- 58 Crime-fighting turtles, briefly
- 59 REI purchase
- 60 Odds and \_\_\_
- 62 Make sense, with "up"

## Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

# WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to breathing.

T M O H U

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Mouth

# Subscribe to The SUN

# Sometimes, the simplest things can help wildlife

By Richard Knight and Heather Dannahower  
PREVIEW Columnists

“Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam

“Where the deer and the antelope play

“Where seldom is heard a discouraging word

“And the skies are not cloudy all day.”

Sad to say, but that wide-open home on the range that Bing Crosby sings about in Brewster Higley’s “Home on the Range” has been steadily diminishing with every passing decade as the Western landscape has been sliced and diced by roads and barbed-wire fences.

Today, only an extremely savvy deer or antelope (or elk, moose or bighorn sheep) can move freely across private and public lands. Wild ungulates may have co-evolved nicely with carnivores on the top of the food chain, but they are overwhelmed by the “metallic carnivores” that roam highways. They also have little defense against the snagging attacks of barbs on fences.

What to we do about it? As with every bit of technology we invent, humans can learn to adapt to their downsides. There are ways to make things safer for wildlife.

With that goal, Colorado State University and Fort Collins’ Front Range Community College enlisted some of their students — with financial support from Colorado Parks and Wildlife — to take down gates and make road and fence crossings safer for deer, elk and antelope on the Roberts ranch in Larimer County, Colo. Zach Thode, ranch manager, championed the efforts on the 17,000-acre Roberts Ranch. The working ranch is in a conservation easement and Thode said he takes the conversation part of his job seriously.

The new gates result in less wildlife mayhem on highways and fewer cases of animals getting snagged on barbed wire, where they die painful deaths.

Eliminating barbed wire gates is remarkably simple: Install posts

## Writers on the Range

*Today, only an extremely savvy deer or antelope (or elk, moose or bighorn sheep) can move freely across private and public lands.*

4 feet above the ground and 17 inches apart. Voilà. Cows, horses and mules are too broad to pass through, but ungulates easily slip past. Then take down the gates and count the comings and goings on a trail camera.

An alternative model constructed by Colorado State University and Front Range Community College places a log horizontally on vertical supports, 40 inches above the ground. That allows antelope to pass underneath safely while deer and elk can easily jump over. Cows are blocked because they have too much mass to make the jump.

What’s amazing is that the fixes are inexpensive, costing just \$100 in materials, and the students and their teachers who do the work come away enriched with the knowledge that they have increased the ability of wild animals to move about safely.

Since this opened with a lyric about freedom, here’s a fitting conclusion to this modest effort that makes the West safer for wildlife, written by Cole Porter:

“Oh, give me land, lots of land under starry skies above,

“Don’t fence me in.

“Let me ride through the wide open country that I love,

“Don’t fence me in.

“Let me be by myself in the evenin’ breeze,

“And listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees,

“Send me off forever but I ask you please,

“Don’t fence me in.”

Richard Knight ([richard.knight@colostate.edu](mailto:richard.knight@colostate.edu)) and Heather Dannahower ([heather.dannahower@frontrange.edu](mailto:heather.dannahower@frontrange.edu)) are contributors to *Writers on the Range*, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), a nonprofit service that seeks to spur lively conversation about the West. Knight is a wildlife conservation professor at Colorado State University and Dannahower is a professor of natural resources at Front Range Community College. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of *The SUN*.

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# Holiday lights

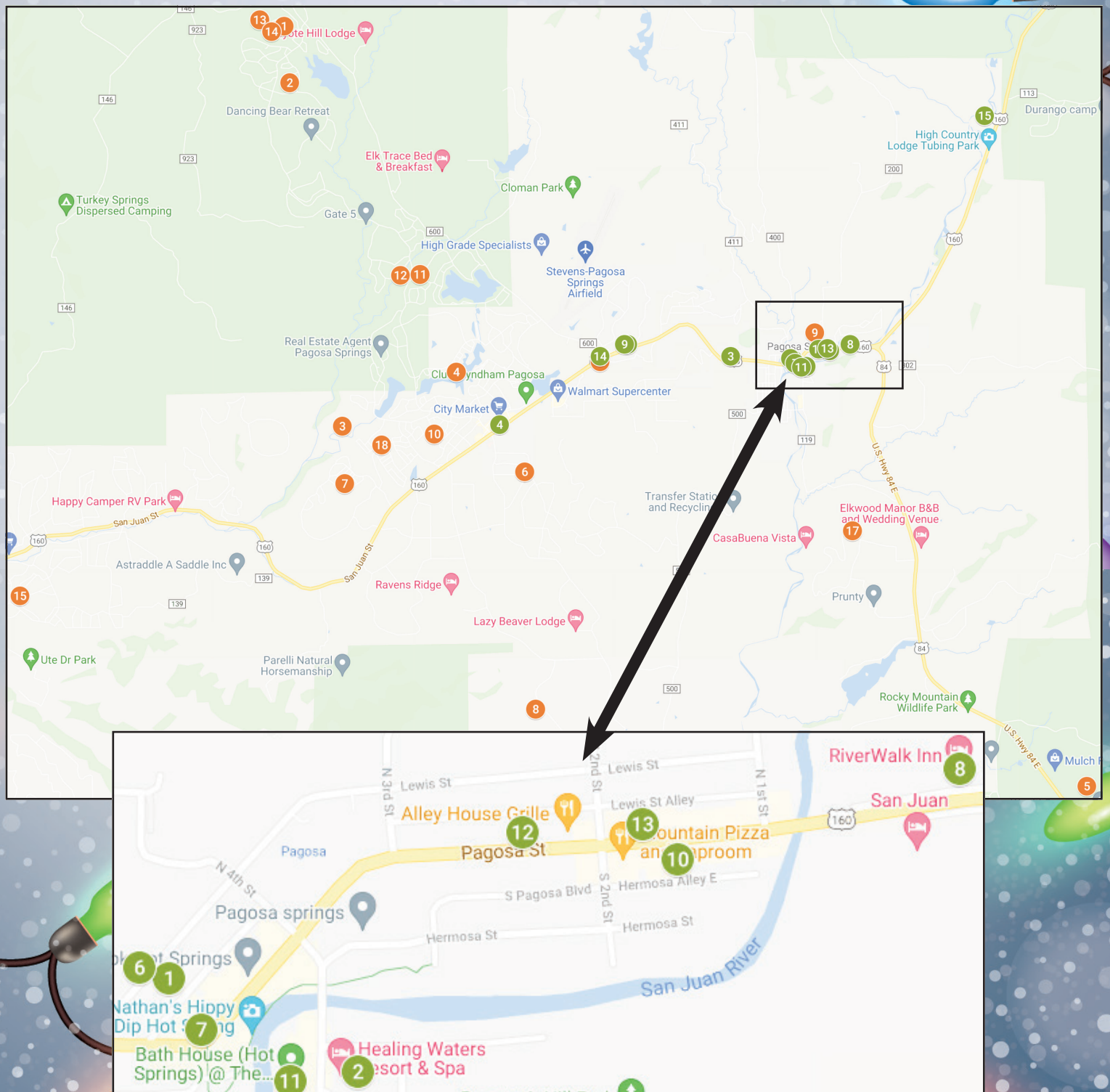
## Business contest

- 1 PS Froyo
- 2 Healing Waters Resort & Spa
- 3 Momentum Fitness
- 4 Pagosa Massage and Body ...
- 5 Colorado Dream Homes
- 6 Two Old Crows
- 7 Foot Prints
- 8 RiverWalk Inn
- 9 Pagosa Springs Center for th...
- 10 Neon Mallard
- 11 The Springs Resort
- 12 Pagosa Baking Company
- 13 Pagosa Mountain Sports
- 14 Alpine Inn of Pagosa Springs
- 15 Sunset Ranch

## Residential contest

- 1 68 Snow Circle
- 2 506 Morrow Circle
- 3 601 Stevens Circle
- 4 144 Island Place
- 5 6412 Highway 84
- 6 344 Capricho Circle
- 7 150 Lassen Drive
- 8 633 Harvard Avenue
- 9 305 Mesa Drive
- 10 256 Lakewood Drive
- 11 954 Monument Avenue
- 12 184 Sweetwater Drive
- 13 608 Falcon Place
- 14 386 Falcon Place
- 15 163 Dyke Blvd
- 16 35 Harman Park Drive
- 17 585 Shenandoah Drive
- 18 301 Bonanza Avenue

Residential and business addresses for the 2021 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 26 and the end of the year. Vote for your favorite between Nov. 26-Dec. 19 at <https://bit.ly/3kP2TUN>. Contest winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 23.





## How to reduce risk of home fires this holiday season

Special to The PREVIEW

Safety might not be the first thing people think of as the holiday season approaches. Faith, celebrations, decorations and holiday dinners all come to mind when considering the holiday season. But that doesn't mean safety should be left out of holiday planning.

Fire safety bears special consideration during the holiday season, when the prevalence of fire hazards like Christmas trees, holiday lighting displays and other decorative items increase the risk for home fires.

Such tragedies can be averted with a few simple safety measures:

- Tend to your tree. Live Christmas trees are awe-inspiring, but they also pose a significant fire risk. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) urges celebrants to purchase only healthy trees with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Such trees are less likely to dry out, especially when well-watered throughout the season.

Dry trees can catch fire more easily than healthy trees if embers from nearby fireplaces or candles drift in their direction.

- Recognize that location matters when decorating. The NFPA notes that Christmas trees should always be placed at least 3 feet away from any heat source, including fireplaces, space heaters, heat vents, candles, and even overhead lights. If decorating with candles, never place them on the tree or on tables where other flammable decorations have already been placed. Chanukah menorahs should never be placed near curtains or other decorations.

- Turn off all lights and extinguish all lit decorative items when leaving the home or going to bed. Lit candles and menorahs should never be left unattended. The NFPA recommends turning tree lights and exterior decorative lights off when leaving the home or going to bed.

- Utilize a fire screen on fireplaces. Embers can catch on trees, decorations or anything else that's

flammable if they escape the fireplace. Fire screens prevent that from happening by ensuring embers from burning logs stay in the fireplace. Like candles and menorahs, fires burning in a fireplace should never be left unattended. Make sure all embers have been extinguished before leaving the home or going to bed.

- Keep discarded trees away from your home. A 2014 analysis from the NFPA found that none of the 10 days with the largest share of Christmas tree fires were before Christmas. Dried out trees still pose a fire risk even after they've been removed from a home. When discarding a tree at the end of the holiday season, place it at the curb or keep it a safe distance away from your home and garage until you can.

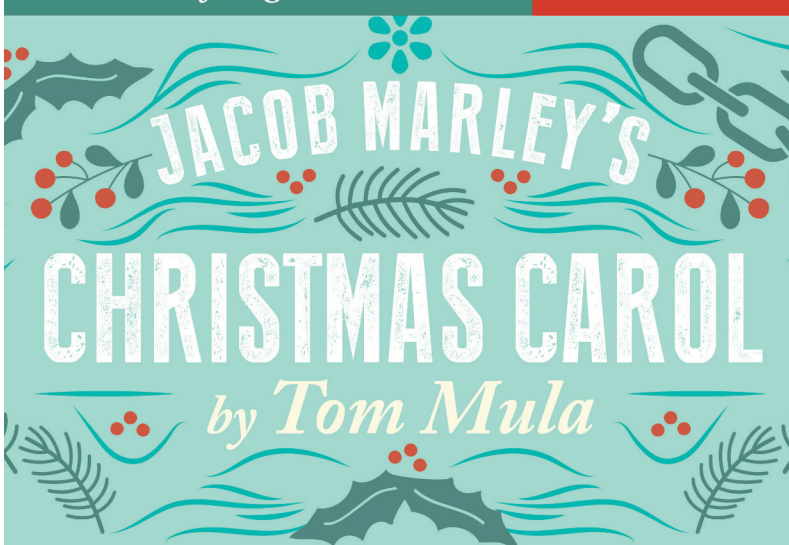
Fire safety measures are an important component of the holiday season that can prevent this joyous time of year from turning tragic.

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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 Townsend's solitaire.

Maybe you've noticed a slender gray bird sitting upright, perched atop a juniper or ponderosa. With a small head; short beak; and long, graceful tail, it sports a distinct white ring around its eye. In flight, look for faint yellow patches on the wings and white on the outermost tail feathers. During this time of year, listen for its single-note, beacon-like call. It's probably a Townsend's solitaire perched in the perfect location to survey its winter territory.

Solitaires live throughout the mountain west year-round. In spring, males perform obligatory flight exercises to woo mates. Once a pair bond is formed, males have been observed feeding their mates to retain loyalty. During nesting season, they build cup-shaped nests on the ground and along eroded banks. During fall, they move to lower elevations to feast on juniper and other sources such as serviceberry, elderberry and currant species. They may flutter briefly to pluck berries or swoop to the ground to pick them up. As winter ends, solitaires begin to move to higher territory. They can be found throughout pine, fir and spruce forests up to 11,500 feet, where their diet switches to insects and spiders. Both the identical-looking male and female birds are dedicated to defending their respective spaces. They chase away other birds and even attack their own reflections, perceived competitors, in windows and mirrors.

As of 2016, the State of North America's Birds Report rated Townsend's solitaires a 10 out of 20 on the Continental Concern Score. To support this species in our backyards, it's imperative to plant and retain fruit-bearing trees and shrubs native to southwest Colorado.

For more information on activities and to get involved in our annual Christmas Bird Count, visit [www.weminucheadubon.org](http://www.weminucheadubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/](https://www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/).

## Letters to Santa



## Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole!  
Your letter may be selected for publication in The Pagosa Springs SUN.  
Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Friday, Dec. 17.

You can also email your letter to  
[editor@pagosahun.com](mailto:editor@pagosahun.com)  
or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

# Preview Calendar

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

## Wednesday, Nov. 24

**Kids Kare Club.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. For kids 3-5 years old. For little ones who love to sing, play games, do crafts, listen to Bible stories and so many more activities they can do with friends their own age. To register, email Connie Porter at frank.connie@coloradocef.org or call her at (303) 901-5290. You can also register by emailing Lori Schmaelzle at lori@coloradocef.org or call her at (970) 585-4147.

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

**Teen DIY: Ornament Making.** 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For those in the 4th-12th grades. Join us to make some festive decorations. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

**Dungeons and Dragons.** 4-6 p.m. For teens and young adults. Join us on Google Meet for our ongoing game. Contact claire@pagosalibrary.org for details on how to join.

## Thursday, Nov. 25

**Turkey Trot.** 9 a.m., Yamaguchi Park. People interested in participating can register for the event online and get a break on their registration fee. Visit [www.pagosafun.com](http://www.pagosafun.com) and register for the walk/run event. Participants will receive a souvenir gift along with the enjoyment of getting some exercise on this 5K run/walk. If you register online, the registration fee is \$25 up to Nov. 24.

Same-day registrations will have an entry fee of \$35. Packet distribution begins at 8 a.m.

## Friday, Nov. 26

**Good News Club.** 2-4 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. For those in kindergarten-6th grade. Includes games, music, teaching time and small group time. To register, email Connie Porter at frank.connie@coloradocef.org or call her at (303) 901-5290. You can also register by emailing Lori Schmaelzle at lori@coloradocef.org or call her at (970) 585-4147.

**Good News Club.** 2-4 p.m., Amazing Grace Church, 99 Navajo Circle, Aspen Springs. For those in kindergarten-6th grade. Includes games, music, teaching time and small group time. To register, email Connie Porter at frank.connie@coloradocef.org or call her at (303) 901-5290. You can also register by emailing Lori Schmaelzle at lori@coloradocef.org or call her at (970) 585-4147.

**Gaming.** 2:30-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect with all of your friends and family. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

## Saturday, Nov. 27

**LEGO Club.** 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6 and older. We have the LEGO bricks, all you need to bring is your imagination. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

**Santa Visit.** 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Visitor Center. The Visitor Center will be lit up in the evening at about 5:30 p.m., when Santa is scheduled to arrive. Santa's workshop will also be complete and beautifully decorated. Although Santa will not be able to have the children close and sitting on his lap, children can

certainly make out their wish list and give it to him when at the Visitor Center. Hot chocolate will also be served.

## Tuesday, Nov. 30

**HER Story.** 8:30-9:30 a.m., PMAB + Movement, 140 Country Center Drive, Unit 2. A women's group providing a safe, supportive space to grow and heal as you share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence. Email us with any questions at [contactus@riseaboveviolence.org](mailto:contactus@riseaboveviolence.org).

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

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

■ See Calendar on next page

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2016 & 2018 SPIRIT AWARD, 2019 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

# Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. We welcome your participation in fundraisers to benefit fellow vets. You served once, join us in continuing that service. Contact (970) 799-8387 for more details.

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

**Dungeons and Dragons.** 4-6 p.m. For teens and young adults. Join us on Google Meet for our ongoing game. Contact [claire@pagosalibrary.org](mailto:claire@pagosalibrary.org) for details on how to join.

**English as a Second Language.** 4-8 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 4-6 p.m., and intermediate students are encouraged to attend from 6-8 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 1**

**Kids Kare Club.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. For kids 3-5 years old. For little ones who love to sing, play games, do crafts, listen to Bible stories and so many more activities they can do with friends their own age. To register, email Connie Porter at [frank.connie@coloradocef.org](mailto:frank.connie@coloradocef.org) or call her at (303) 901-5290. You can also register by emailing Lori Schmaelzle at [lori@coloradocef.org](mailto:lori@coloradocef.org) or call her at (970) 585-4147.

**Family Storytime.** 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun

songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

**Weminuche Audubon and Audubon Rockies Bird Identification Class: 'Winter Birds 101.'** 6-8 p.m., Community United Methodist Church or via Zoom. We will cover waterfowl. People attending in person are encouraged to wear masks indoors. For virtual sign-on information, consult [www.weminucheaudubon.org](http://www.weminucheaudubon.org) closer to the first class.

**Thursday, Dec. 2**

**Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Serving firehouse chili with fixings to go at the front doors of the Parish Hall. In addition, frozen prepared meals, meat and other staples are available for those in need. Masks and social distancing are required.

**Festival of Trees.** Noon-6 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Santa will be at the public viewing, there will be hot beverages and cookies, and you can vote for your favorite tree.

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

**English as a Second Language.** 4-8 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 4-6 p.m., and intermediate students are encouraged to attend from 6-8 p.m.

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

■ **See Calendar on next page**



## Music Director Position Opening

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church seeks a part time music director (8-10 hours/week). Our Music Director will lead our choir, accompany choral and instrumental offerings at our 10am Sunday liturgy, and encourage congregational singing. The Music Director is an integral member of our parish leadership team and plays a valuable role as we live into our mission. Find a position description and application details on St. Patrick's website: <https://www.stpatrickspagosa.org/employment>



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2016 & 2018 SPIRIT AWARD, 2019 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

# Preview Calendar

**continued from previous page**

help you with high school equivalency. GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more! Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. PALS will only occur three times in December. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

**Friday, Dec. 3**

**Good News Club.** 2-4 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. For those in kindergarten-6th grade. Includes games, music, teaching time and small group time. To register, email Connie Porter at frank.connie@coloradocef.org or call her at (303) 901-5290. You can also register by emailing Lori Schmaelzle at lori@coloradocef.org or call her at (970) 585-4147.

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**Gaming.** 2:30-3:45 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect with all of your friends and family. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

**Festival of Trees.** 6 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Community Center. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available, along with a number of gorgeously decorated trees that you can keep in your home or office for years to come or donate back to a family in Pagosa. Questions can be directed

to the Community Center at (970) 264-4152.

**Monday, Dec. 6**

**Pi Beta Phi Christmas Angel Luncheon.** 11 a.m., home of Carole Howard. Activities will include a potluck luncheon and angel gift exchange. Guests are asked to dress in festive holiday attire. Bring an anonymous wrapped angel gift for the gift exchange as well as 10-15 canned or packaged goods for the St. Patrick's Episcopal Church food bank.

**Tuesday, Dec. 7**

**HER Story.** 8:30-9:30 a.m., PMAB + Movement, 140 Country Center Drive, Unit 2. A women's group providing a safe, supportive space to grow and heal as you share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence. Email us with any questions at contactus@riseaboveviolence.org.

**Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.** 10 a.m., Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. We welcome your participation in fundraisers to benefit fellow vets. You served once, join us in continuing that service. Contact (970) 799-8387 for more details.

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**Wednesday, Dec. 8**

**Kids Kare Club.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. For kids 3-5 years old. For little ones who love to sing, play games, do crafts, listen to Bible stories and so many more activities they can do with friends their own age. To register, email Connie Porter at frank.connie@coloradocef.org or call her at (303) 901-5290. You can also register by emailing Lori Schmaelzle at lori@coloradocef.org or call her at (970) 585-4147.

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**Weminuche Audubon and Audubon Rockies Bird Identification Class: 'Winter Birds 101.'** 6-8 p.m., Community United Methodist Church or via Zoom. We will cover songbirds. People attending in person are encouraged to wear masks indoors. For virtual sign-on information, consult [www.weminucheadubon.org](http://www.weminucheadubon.org) closer to the first class.

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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# Thank You

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their unwavering support of Rotary's community efforts and scholarships for 2021.

Without our donors, Rotary would not be able to do the community outreach that we are committed to doing. While most are not Rotarians, they truly understand the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

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## *General*

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The UPS Store  
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Michael C. Branch CPA  
High Country Title  
Bryan & Jane Wetzel  
Gary & Claudia Weger  
Alfons & Stephany Bouchier

# Thanksgiving gratitude and more free SJBPH health sessions

By Carole Howard  
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

The staff at your library are thankful all year-round for so many people who make their jobs easier and their service better for you, our patrons. On this Thanksgiving week, we want to publicly acknowledge some of the very special among them:

We are thankful for the many volunteers who work every day to help us maintain the collection; shelve returned books, CDs and DVDs; and make sure all the books and materials are clean and in their proper place. Because of our small staff, these volunteers are vital to our service to you.

We are grateful for the time and dedication of our library board. They also are unpaid volunteers who are committed to making the library an essential hub of our community.

We also appreciate the members of our Foundation board, also unpaid volunteers, with the mission to raise funds for information resources, programs, services and facilities.

We also want to pay tribute to the Friends of the Library. Their generosity, enthusiasm and creativity result in so many benefits to your library, especially with the proceeds of their summer book sales.

Library director Meg Wempe said she has always appreciated the quote from Elizabeth Andrew,

## Library News

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart.” If you’re interested in becoming a library volunteer or joining the Friends, please contact Meg at (970) 264-2209. You will be warmly welcomed.

“We truly appreciate everyone who has given time or funding to the library to help us improve our collection, our service and our vision for ‘Mountains of opportunity to inspire ideas, enrich lives and create community,’” she said.

### Free public health sessions

Next Thursday, Dec. 2, representatives from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) will be at the library from noon to 1 p.m. to discuss WIC Manager, a supplemental nutrition program for pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5, and explain the program eligibility and how to enroll.

Then, on Thursday, Dec. 16, from noon to 1 p.m., SJBPH experts will return to discuss the dangers of radon gas in your home and distribute free radon test kits.

### Thanksgiving closure

Your library will be closed Nov.

25-27 in celebration of Thanksgiving.

### Library hours

Most of our programs are happening in person. Also, our hours have returned to pre-COVID levels — and even more on weekdays:

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the library is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, the library is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Saturdays, the library is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For those uncomfortable coming into the building, curbside service continues. Phone (970) 264-2209 when you are in the parking lot so staff can bring the items out for you. If you put a hold on something, please wait for your usual alert (email, phone call or text) before coming to pick it up.

### Family read aloud

Stop by your library, sit on our comfy chairs or anywhere else around the Turner Reading Room and engage in some quiet activities while listening to a book being read aloud on Tuesday, Nov. 30, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The book will be selected at the program.

### Dungeons and Dragons

Join us Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for our ongoing Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults on Google Meet. Contact [claire@pagosalibrary.org](mailto:claire@pagosalibrary.org) to learn how to join. If you don't

■ See Library on next page

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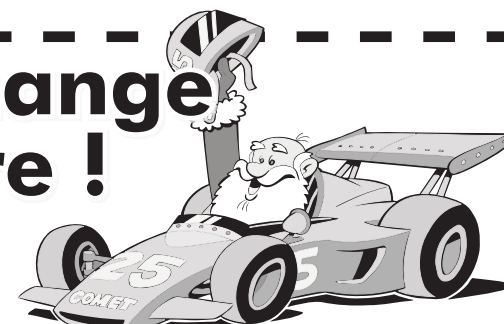


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# Library

■ **continued from previous page** have Internet access, contact us anyway — we may be able to accommodate you in the library.

## In-person gaming

Enjoy free all-ages video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect on Fridays from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

## New writing challenge

A new all-ages writing challenge was posted Nov. 22 on the library's Facebook page. We hope you will challenge your creativity by participating in this free all-ages activity.

## New storywalk for kids

The theme for our new storywalk Dec. 6-18 is "Over and Under in the Snow." Get outdoors and take a walk, following the pages of the book and reading the story as you stroll along. Watch for signs outside the library that follow the sidewalk up toward the elementary school. After you finish the walk, pick up materials for a craft or activity at the library.

## Family storytime

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join us for free in-person children's stories, games and plenty of reasons to get up and move. Saturday's Discovery Times continue on Facebook at 2:30 p.m. with games, art ideas, science experiments, history and more.

## Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Brad will help you resolve issues with your computer, smartphone, tablet and other electronic devices.

## ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes now take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m. Beginning students attend from 4 to 5

p.m., intermediate students from 5 to 6 p.m. and advanced students from 7 to 8 p.m. 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.

## Las clases de ESL

Las clases nocturnas gratuitas en persona ahora se llevan a cabo los martes y jueves de 4 a 8 p.m. Los estudiantes principiantes asisten de 4 a 5 p.m., estudiantes intermedios de 5-6 p.m. y estudiantes avanzados de 7-8 p.m. Por favor, ayúdenos a correr la voz sobre estas clases a otras personas en nuestra comunidad que estén interesadas, y contáctenos por teléfono o correo electrónico si tiene alguna pregunta.

## Adult education

Our free PALS (Pagosa Adult Learning Services) sessions resume next Thursday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. (note the new time), when Mark helps with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

## Activities calendars

To be sure you don't miss any of the free library activities available to you and your family, we encourage you to pick up a copy of the events calendar each month. There are three versions — children, teens and adults.

## Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"The Family" by Naomi Krupitsky is a sweeping saga about two best friends since birth and the effects on their lives, home, church and schools as they grow up because of their affiliation with the mob. "Better Off Dead"

by Lee and Andrew Child is a Jack Reacher thriller. "The Last Mona Lisa" by Jonathan Santlofer is a tale of art theft, forgery and murder. "Vortex" by Catherine Coulter is an FBI agents Sherlock and Savich mystery.

## Other novels

"The Magician" by Colm Tobin is a story based on the life of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Thomas Mann. "Still Life" by Sarah Winman features a man and a woman who come together in the rubble of war-torn Italy. "Monster in the Middle" by Tiphonie Yanique is a romance that moves across decades and continents. "The Ballad of Laurel Springs" by Janet Beard follows multiple generations of women in eastern Tennessee. "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles follows the lives of three teens released from a juvenile work farm.

## DVDs

"Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street" is a documentary about the mission-driven artists, writers and educators who created one of the most influential TV

■ See Library on next page

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# How to support students interested in the arts

Special to The PREVIEW

Schools are diverse communities in which people from all walks of life gather to teach, learn and pursue an assortment of interests and passions. Students are perhaps the best reflection of that diversity, as even small schools are home to young people who excel in sports, music, theater and, of course, academics.

Many young people harbor a strong interest in the arts, which can provide some surprising benefits. For example, the National Endowment for the Arts reports that students with high arts participation and low socioeconomic status have a 4 percent dropout rate. That's five times lower than their low socioeconomic status peers. In addition, a report from the Rice Kinder Institute for Urban

Research found that arts education experiences reduce the proportion of students in school receiving disciplinary infractions by 3.6 percent.

Despite the myriad benefits of participation in arts education, which can include improved performance in the classroom, Americans for the Arts notes that not all students have access to art-based educational experiences.

Parents of students who are interested in the arts can try various approaches to nurture those interests:

- Support school-based arts education programs. Funding for arts programs is perpetually in jeopardy. Each state and school district is different, but a 2013 report from the National Association of State Boards of Education found that federal funding for arts and humanities programs totaled

roughly \$250 million a year, while the National Science Foundation received around \$5 billion annually. Arts and sciences are both important, and parents can support legislation that directs more federal funding for the arts while urging local legislators to direct more money to arts education.

- Make art a part of life at home. Americans for the Arts recommends that parents make the arts part of life at home. Participating alongside children as they sing, dance, draw, play music or pursue other arts-based interests is a great way to incorporate the arts into home life while showing kids how fun the arts can be.

Arts education can have a profound impact on the life of a young person. There are many ways for parents to nurture and encourage their children's interest in the arts.

## Library

■ continued from previous page

programs in history. "The Crown" is the complete fourth season focusing on Princess Diana. "Resident Alien" is season one. "Old Henry" is a drama about a farmer who takes in a mysterious man with a satchel full of cash. "Respect" is the life story of music icon Aretha Franklin.

### Books on CD

"Better Off Dead" by Lee and Andrew Child is a Jack Reacher mystery. "Guild Boss" by Jayne Ann Krentz writing as Jayne Castle is a mystery in the Colony World of Harmony series. "Out of the Rain" by V.C. Andrews is a follow-up to "The Umbrella Lady." "The Extinction Trials" by A.G. Riddle begins after a mysterious global event.

### Large print

"Smoke" by Joe Ide is book five

in the Isaiah Quintabe IQ mystery series. "Down the Hatch" by M.C. Beaton with R.W. Green is book 32 of the Agatha Raisin mystery series. "Claws for Alarm" by Rita Mae and Sneaky Pie Brown is a Mrs. Murphy mystery. "Forgiving Paris" by Christian inspirational writer Karen Kingsbury is another story in the Baxter family series.

### Downloadable e-books and audiobooks

We have a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audio books for all ages — children, teens and adults — in cloudLibrary. The items in cloudLibrary are purchased separately from physical items, so the books available are different — and it continues to use the consortium's contributions as well as those that we bought. Select AspenCat Union Catalog when setting up cloudLibrary for use. Email

or phone us at (970) 264-2209 if you need our help setting up this service on your device.

### Donations

Many thanks to our anonymous donors for their materials donations. Please put your materials donations into the drop box at the library — not at City Market, which is reserved for returns.

### Quotable quote

"A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed." — Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), Norwegian playwright and theater director.

### Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, CDs and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at [pagosalibrary.org](http://pagosalibrary.org).



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3	\$4,457
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5	\$6,155
6	\$7,003
7	\$7,163
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If you or your organization is interested in hosting an outreach event, call 970-264-8510.

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

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

## WORDS

- ALVEOLI
- APEX
- BREATHE
- BRONCHI
- CARBON DIOXIDE
- EPIGLOTTIS
- EXCHANGE
- EXHALE
- GAS
- HILUM
- INHALE
- LARYNX
- LUNGS
- MEATUS
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# The mystery of the birds

By Daris Howard  
Special to The PREVIEW

Bill, a friend of mine from Nebraska, works for a newspaper there. He shared a story that occurred around this time of year.

Bill's assignment at the paper is to follow up on any story that is called in. He specializes in photography, so he is always assigned to ones that might have a good picture involved. One day a call came to the paper about a flock of Sandhill cranes.

"They are beautiful," the caller said. "There are a lot of them, maybe hundreds. I was able to sneak up quite close and get a fantastic view."

The caller said the cranes were up near a local lake in the area. The secretary wrote down all the information and relayed the message to Bill.

Sandhill cranes often stop over in Nebraska in the fall, but not usually in that area. It would be a newsworthy sight to see them there, especially in those numbers. Bill was excited to get a good photograph and write a story for the paper.

When he got to the lake, there were indeed a huge number of birds. But Bill knew immediately that they were not Sandhill cranes. They were far too white. He figured they might be snow geese. And even though they weren't as rare in that area, there were so many of them that they would still make an excellent picture and story. The picture should be as good as that of cranes, maybe better.

Bill wanted the perfect shot, so he started sneaking up on the birds. The going was not the easiest, carefully picking his way through the brush, but he was used to doing such things for his stories. He spent a long time, carefully working his way closer to the birds. But then, something made him reconsider what he was seeing. He was close enough to see their movements, but none seemed to be doing anything.

Bill pulled out his binoculars

and had a good look. Sure enough, the birds were immobile. That was when he noticed that some were even in the act of taking off, but they, too, didn't move. All the birds were decoys. But they were excellent decoys. They had fooled him and the person who had called the newspaper. And to add to that, there were hundreds of them. Usually, when a person sets out decoys, there are only a few.

Bill wondered why so many had been set out. Was it hunters or birders trying to draw snow geese in? But why would they need so many?

*When he got to the lake, there were indeed a huge number of birds. But Bill knew immediately that they were not Sandhill cranes.*

Bill debated taking a picture of them and trying to make a story, but he felt a little sheepish knowing he had spent so much time sneaking up on fakes. But he still wanted to have a picture he could take home.

Bill knew there were some eagles and real snow geese in the area, so he went in search of them. Eventually, he found some eagles and got some beautiful pictures. As he was returning past the site of the decoys, he saw some movement among them. There were some men dressed in white walking between the decoys.

Bill thought this was his big chance. He could talk to the men and solve the mystery of why they had set out so many. He slowed his

car, but something stopped him from talking to the men. Between him and where the men were was a pasture full of mean-looking bulls. He was curious about the birds, but he wasn't interested enough to cross that field. So, Bill turned and headed home, a beautiful picture of an eagle on his camera for his news story.

And the mystery of the many decoys at the lake remained a mystery.

*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.*

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## VACANTES DE LA JUNTA ESCOLAR

La Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Archuleta 50 Jt ha declarado vacantes en la oficina del director de la escuela tres (3) y cinco (5) que serán ocupadas por nombramiento por la Junta dentro de los 60 días de acuerdo con el siguiente procedimiento:

1. Se invita a las personas interesadas a enviar una carta de interés y calificación a la Junta, ya sea electrónicamente a rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us o entregando la carta a Robyn Bennett en la Oficina de Administración del Distrito ubicada en 309 Lewis Street antes del 28 de diciembre, 2021.
2. La Junta entrevistará a los posibles candidatos el 4 de enero de 2022 a las 5:30 pm, en una reunión pública.
3. Para ser elegible para el nombramiento, un candidato debe ser un elector registrado del distrito escolar y un residente del distrito director tres (3) o del distrito director cinco (5).
4. La persona designada servirá hasta la próxima elección bienal escolar regular en noviembre de 2023.

Las descripciones legales de los distritos directores están disponibles en [www.mypagosaschools.com](http://www.mypagosaschools.com) en la pestaña "Junta escolar", o comunicándose con la asistente ejecutiva Robyn Bennett por correo electrónico, rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us; o por teléfono 970-264-2228, ext 5401.

## SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES

The Board of Education of Archuleta School District 50 Jt has declared vacancies in school director office three (3) and five (5) that will be filled by appointment by the Board within 60 days in accordance with the following procedure:

1. Interested persons are invited to send a letter of interest and qualification to the Board, either electronically to rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us or by dropping the letter off to Robyn Bennett at the District Administration Office located at 309 Lewis Street by December 28, 2021.
2. The Board will interview prospective candidates on January 4, 2022 at 5:30 pm, at a public meeting.
3. To be eligible for appointment, a candidate must be a registered elector of the school district and a resident of director district three (3) or director district five (5).
4. The appointee will serve until the next regular school biennial election in November 2023.

Legal descriptions of the Director Districts are available at [www.mypagosaschools.com](http://www.mypagosaschools.com) under the "School Board" tab, or by contacting Executive Assistant Robyn Bennett by email, rbennett@pagosa.k12.co.us; or by phone 970-264-2228, ext 5401.

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## Volunteers needed for Senior Center, Meals on Wheels

By Cheryl Wilkinson  
PREVIEW Columnist

The Community Café in the Pagosa Springs Senior Center is requesting volunteers to help with the lunch desk. Please call (970) 264-2167 to volunteer or for more information.

### Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers approximately 3,000 fresh and frozen meals a year. We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents to help them stay healthy and independent in their own homes.

This program is vitally important because many seniors have little to no access to nutritious meals. They are often too frail or have health complications that prevent them from preparing meals for themselves or from using the Senior Center's Community Café drive-thru meals pick-up site Monday through Friday.

The Senior Center needs volunteer Meals on Wheels Drivers for one day a week (or become part of our substitute driver team). Please join us as part of our driver team and build wonderful relationships with the seniors in our community. Call (970) 264-2167.

## Tips to ensure holiday road trips are safe and stress-free

Special to The PREVIEW

After a 2020 holiday season in which the pandemic forced the postponement or cancellation of festivities, families are planning to get together once again in 2021. Many people will head home for the holidays this year, and the vast majority will take to the highway to do so.

The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics says the Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year's holiday periods are among the busiest for long-distance travel. The highways will be busy with motorists criss-crossing the coun-



### Take-out meals continue at Senior Center

In order to continue providing meals, the Senior Center is offering take-out hot meals and a salad with a drive-up option under the portico at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

These meals will be available Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There is a \$4 suggested donation for lunch for those age 60 and better. If you need to have your meal delivered, please call (970) 264-2167 to see if this option is available in your area.

The cost per meal for the public age 59 and under is \$8.50. The meals include a salad, hot meal, drink and dessert or bread.

Please call (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation for pickup. We are also continuing our Meals on Wheels program.

There will be no games, classes or presentations during this time. The staff will be available by phone. If you need to speak to a staff member, please call (970) 264-2167.

### Community Café menu

Thursday, Nov. 25 — Closed for

Thanksgiving.

Friday, Nov. 26 — Closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

Monday, Nov. 29 — Chicken enchilada suizas, black beans, milk, salad and baked apples.

Tuesday, Nov. 30 — Texas beef red chili, corn, milk, cornbread and salad.

Wednesday, Dec. 1 — Pasta primavera, cauliflower, milk, salad and pear tartin.

Thursday, Dec. 2 — Sticky chicken, herbed mashed potatoes, steamed buttered broccoli, dinner roll, milk and salad.

For your convenience, you can make your reservations in advance or have a standing reservation on days you know you will always pick up. Please cancel if you cannot attend on your standing reservation days. We want to thank everyone for their support by observing our reservation policy. This helps ensure that everyone with reservations receives a meal and enables us to provide additional and healthier meals.

Due to COVID-19, food supplies have been affected. Substitutions will be made accordingly.



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# Healthy substitutions for baking and cooking

Special to The PREVIEW

An ability to adapt is one of the most important skills to have in the kitchen. Following a recipe can give home cooks the cursory knowledge they need to make a delicious meal, but an ability to tweak recipes allows individuals to put their own spin on foods and customize meals so they fit with their particular lifestyles.

A person may have to change an ingredient to avoid a food allergy, or he or she may swap something out to make a dish more nutritious. Some substitutions can change the texture or even taste of the overall recipe, as no substitution can mimic the original ingredient exactly. However, a home cook will often find the results are acceptable, and may even prefer them to the “real” thing.

**Original ingredient:** white flour  
**Substitution:** whole-wheat flour, nut flour

White flour lacks many nutrients because the grain has been largely stripped of its most important parts before being ground. Whole-wheat flour has extra fiber that aids in digestion and can lower risk for certain diseases. Those with a gluten intolerance can use nut flours, like almond flour. Whole-wheat flour and nut flours are denser than white flour, so you may need to experiment with 3/4 cup to 1 cup of white flour ratios in recipes.

**Original ingredient:** sugar

**Substitution:** applesauce  
Sugar is the foundation of many baked goods, but too much sugar provides empty calories and can contribute to various illnesses if eaten in large quantities. Swapping 1 cup of unsweetened applesauce for one cup of sugar can provide sweetness with more health benefits, such as added fiber and vitamins.

**Original ingredient:** oil or butter  
**Substitution:** Fruit or vegetable puree

Try adding pureed carrot, banana, pumpkin or apples to recipes to boost moisture. These ingredients also add extra flavor and nutrients. The ratio is generally 1-to-1 for the replacement. However, cooks may want to experiment to find the best ratio for their recipes.

**Original ingredient:** buttermilk  
**Substitution:** milk and lemon juice

If you don't have buttermilk on hand or if you feel that it is too high in calories, mix enough milk (low fat if desired) with enough lemon juice or light vinegar to reach 1 cup.

**Original ingredient:** water  
**Substitution:** stock

Make a batch of vitamin- and nutrient-rich vegetable stock to use with foods that are boiled, such as pastas and rices. The stock will add flavor and nutrition.

**Original ingredient:** egg  
**Substitution:** vinegar, baking powder and liquid (baking) or egg substitute (cooking)

When baking, 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder plus 1 tablespoon vinegar plus 1 tablespoon of a liquid can replace an egg in the recipe if you're avoiding eggs.

**Original ingredient:** sour cream

**Substitution:** plain Greek yogurt  
Greek yogurt, with its natural helpful probiotic bacteria, can be a healthy substitution for sour cream in dips, dressings and other recipes that call for sour cream or

even mayonnaise.

Food substitutions can help people customize recipes to fit their dietary needs. People can experiment with various ingredients to develop delicious meals.

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Colorado Gives is organized locally by the Community Foundation serving SW CO.

## Trips

continued from previous page  
person so that each driver can take a break to prevent drowsy driving.

### Get a vehicle maintenance check

No one wants to get stranded on the side of the road with a car filled with gifts and treats. It's well worth the investment to have a mechanic give a vehicle a checkup prior to leaving. Get an oil change even if it's a little early to do so. Look at tire tread wear and ensure that you have the right tires for the road conditions where you'll be headed.

### Plan your route

People often rely on mobile phone or dashboard GPS systems to get where they need to go. However, it helps to have a general idea of the route so that if service drops out you can still find your way. Scout out rest stops or acceptable restaurants online prior to leaving so you have a plan for making stops in safe areas.

### Stock the car

While presents may be taking up valuable real estate, pack a cooler

with snacks and beverages to help reduce how many times you need to get off the highway. Also, games or other forms of entertainment can keep children occupied on long trips.

### Slow down in inclement weather

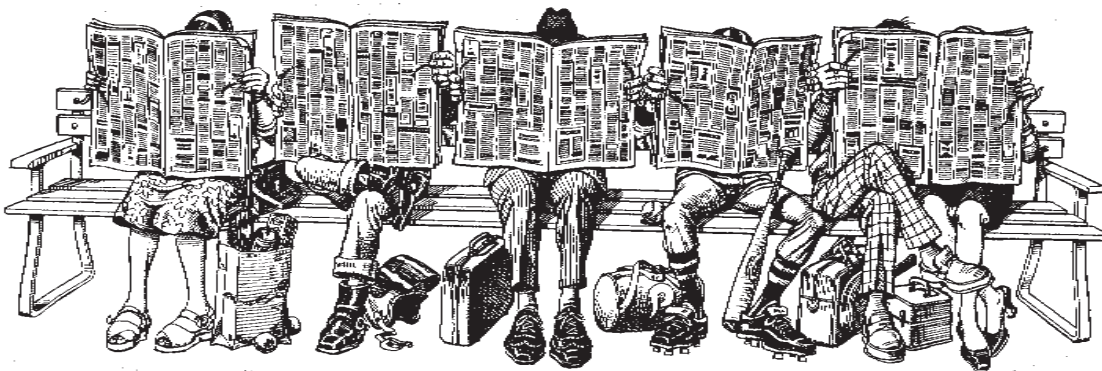
The holiday meal can be reheated if you're late, so don't feel compelled to speed or drive erratically when the weather is stormy. It's not worth the risk of getting into an accident that can cause serious injuries. Travelers United, a nonprofit organization that represents all travelers, also warns that quick storms that pop up after a long dry spell can immediately make road surfaces extremely slippery. Use caution.

Planning and preparation are essential to getting home safely this holiday season.

**Community news.**

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# How to account for a rising cost of living

Special to The PREVIEW

Cost of living is a significant component of financial planning. The cost of living may dictate where people live and work, and a high cost of living can influence how individuals spend their free time.

Data from Statistics Canada indicates that consumer prices rose 4.1 percent and 5.3 percent in August 2021 in Canada and the United States, respectively.

As Canadians headed to the polls in late September, a survey from Abacus Data found that 38 percent felt reducing their cost of living was

## How to keep pets occupied while you're at work

Special to The PREVIEW

If one had to find a silver lining during the global pandemic that kept people close to home for an extended period of time, the chance to spend more time with pets is worthy of consideration. Cats, dogs, birds and other animals reaped the rewards of having humans nearby for much of the day.

As the world continues to open up and people are returning to their offices and schools, pets who have grown accustomed to having company all day long may be in for a shock. Concerned pet owners can take various steps to help keep their pets occupied and content while their human companions are away from home.

### Get a buddy

When two pets get together, the opportunity for play increases exponentially. Animals can keep themselves company and hopefully out of trouble. A single pet may experience separation anxiety when his owner goes away to work or school, and that may result in damaging behavior like chewing, scratching or even soiling in inappropriate places.

### Provide puzzling toys

Keeping pets' brains active can reduce instances of boredom. PetMD suggests food puzzle toys that can be stuffed with treats and involve brain power to unlock the food rewards.

### Provide white noise

Pets may have grown accustomed to the sounds of an active house, so white noise can fill the void owners' absences create. Turn on the television or radio. Pet fountains, fans and other devices can create noises to keep pets content.

### Introduce new toys

Keep a cache of new toys and rotate them on a regular basis. Pets may become so interested in the bevy of new toys that they fail to even realize their owners are gone for much of the day.

a key factor affecting their vote. Similarly, a 2020 survey from TD Ameritrade found that 47 percent of Americans feel that cost of living is the biggest threat to their financial security and long-term investments. It's worth noting that the survey was conducted prior to the pandemic. Since the onset of the pandemic, cost of living has increased considerably.

Though the fight against a rising cost of living can feel like an uphill battle, individuals can take steps to prepare for such increases:

- Apply lessons learned during the pandemic. A recent Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. government and Eurostat data found that roughly 9.6 million workers in the United States lost their jobs in the first three quarters of 2020. That period coincides with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. When forced to confront sudden and unexpected job losses, millions of individuals learned how to get by on less income. Cost-saving measures adopted during the pandemic can be continued or reimplemented, helping individuals to combat higher energy costs and other rising expenses.

- Look for a new job or fresh income streams. A rising cost of living is a concern for people from all walks of life, but it may be especially concerning for retirees or individuals with costs like child care that can be hard to pare back. In such instances,

individuals can look for new a job or fresh income streams. According to the Q3 2021 CNBC | Momentive Small Business Survey, 50 percent of small business owners say it has gotten harder to find qualified people to hire compared to a year ago. And nearly one-third of survey respondents indicate they have open roles they have not been able to fill for at least three months. Individuals can explore local employment opportunities in an effort to find a new, more lucrative job that can help them combat a rising cost of living. Others who want to remain in their jobs can look for part-time work to supplement their existing income.

- Consider relocating. The pandemic forced many companies to transition from in office working to remote working overnight. That trial by fire could have lasting results. A 2020 survey of 317 Chief Financial Officers and leaders in the finance industry found that 74 percent will move at least 5 percent of their previously on-site workforce to permanently remote positions after the pandemic ends. The survey, conducted by Gartner Inc., also found that nearly one-quarter of respondents will move at least 20 percent of their on-site workers to permanently remote positions. That could make it possible for millions of working professionals to relocate to regions with a lower cost of living than their current towns or cities.

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## In Town Or In the Country?



### Uptown - Pagosa Springs -12 Heritage Drive

Price: \$298,000 3 bed/2 bath/2 car garage

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### INDEX

Too Late To Classify

Services

Help Wanted

Announcements

Yard Sales

Lost and Found

Pets

Personals

Livestock

Wanted

For Sale

Recreational Vehicles

Autos

Residential Rentals

Commercial Rentals

Commercial Property

Business Opportunities

Mobile Homes

Condos

Timeshares

Houses

Open Houses

Ranches

Property

### TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

#### OSHA Construction Industry Lifetime Safety Card Training

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP** of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. at the Restoration Fellowship Church, 264 Village Drive. Questions? Contact Richard at (970)903-1456 or Diamond at (970)264-1073. More resources at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), [www.aa-westerncolorado.com](http://www.aa-westerncolorado.com), (970)245-9649, or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

**SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY CALENDAR UPDATES** — [tinyurl.com/d64deel9](https://tinyurl.com/d64deel9). The Pagosa Springs SUN.

**PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES** Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 7p.m. Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail. Contact Charlotte/Ken at (970)903-9690 or Nate (970)507-1004.

**AL-ANON TRADITIONAL FAMILY GROUP.** Mondays, 7p.m., Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail. Contact (970)903-9690.

**RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP FOOD PANTRY** is Open Mondays 11a.m.-1p.m., Wednesdays 4-6p.m. 264 Village Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

**AA PAGOSA M-W-F 5:30P.M.** Sunday at 10a.m. Noon meetings everyday. 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Online: Sunday at 10a.m. Zoom ID is 858-319-763, Password 754-234. Saturday at 7p.m. ID 899 6048 4578, Password 532-306. Information call Marcia (970)946-8475, Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office 24hrs (888)333-9649.

**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](http://www.al-anon.org).

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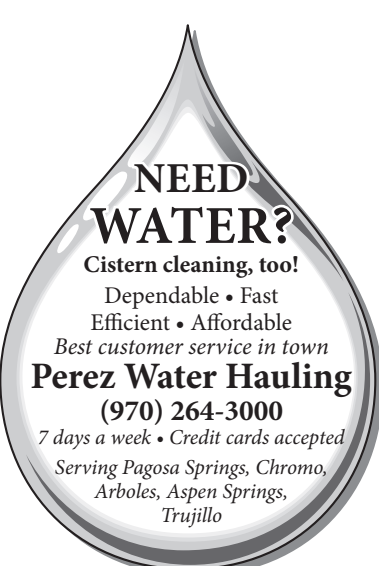


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**HELP WANTED**

**REPORTER** — 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 up to 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. Email resume with cover letter to [helpwanted@pagosasun.com](mailto:helpwanted@pagosasun.com).

**CUSTODIAN/ MAINTENANCE** at Pagosa Springs Head Start. Sign-on bonus of \$1,000 for a qualified candidate once hired. Bonus paid after six months of successful employment. The offer is for external new hires only. Join our dynamic organization. We are passionate about the impact we have on the families, children, and the communities we serve. A career at Tri-County Head Start offers training and advancement, community impact, and work-life balance. Eligible employee benefits include: Paid professional development; paid personal time off; paid sick leave; paid breaks: Thanksgiving, winter, and spring break; paid holidays; health, dental, and vision insurance; employee contribution to a 403(b) retirement savings account; employee assistance program. Custodian/ Maintenance at Pagosa Springs: This position is full-time, part-year August to May, and working 35 hours a week. The wage range is \$15.22 to \$16.30, depending on education and experience. Sweeps, mops, scrubs, and vacuums hallways, stairs, classrooms, office space, and restrooms. Assists with daily cleaning and sanitizing of toys and materials in classrooms. Empties all trash and garbage containers from all areas. Cleans snow and debris from sidewalks and other areas as assigned while on shift. Lays ice melt on sidewalks and walkways as needed. Maintains building by performing minor and routine maintenance activities as assigned. Notifies supervisor concerning need for repairs or additions to lighting, heating, and ventilating equipment. Conduct monthly assessments to track major and minor maintenance needs. Assist with seeking bids/estimates for development/maintenance projects; may be responsible for personally providing maintenance on small immediate-need projects; (ex. assembly of fixtures/furniture, repairing lighting fixtures, doors, latches, minor plumbing repairs). Develop a working knowledge of resources within the community for maintenance/development project support. Verify maintenance that is performed by vendors has been completed within the contract terms and expectations. Follow all health and safety procedures while conducting maintenance within the facility. Perform other duties as assigned. Minimum Requirements: High school diploma or general education degree (GED); minimum three months related experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of facility systems including electrical, HVAC, and plumbing; Ability to repair, assemble and maintain minor building systems. Apply online at [tchs4c.org/careers/](https://tchs4c.org/careers/). Durango 4C Council/ Tri-County Head Start is an Equal Opportunity Employer. COVID-19 Vaccination Mandated Employer

**QUALITY FRAMERS OR LABORER NEEDED.** Excellent pay. Spectrum Construction-25-years custom homebuilder in Pagosa. Must have transportation. Contact: (970)731-9168 [spectrumpagosa@gmail.com](mailto:spectrumpagosa@gmail.com) 2035 Eagle #111.

**ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT** has the following job openings with complete descriptions located on the website [www.mypagosa-schools.com](http://www.mypagosa-schools.com) under the "Job Postings" icon. Current openings include: High School Asst. Cheer Coach, High School Head Baseball Coach, Middle School Paraprofessional, Elementary Paraprofessional, Elementary Instructional Aide, Family School Assistant, Part-time Assistant Cook (2 positions), Evening Custodian, Bus Driver, Bus Aides, Substitutes all positions. For more information, contact Laura Mijares at [lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us](mailto:lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us).

**BUCK FRISBEE LANDSCAPING COMPANY** is seeking seasonal workers for landscaping and irrigation installations. Experience is a plus! Must have reliable transportation. Call (970)946-0996.

**FERRELLGAS (FORMERLY SELPH'S & AAA Propane)** is looking to hire drivers immediately, full-time and seasonal positions available. Good pay with \$1,000 hiring bonus. CDL with hazmat endorsements preferred, but willing to train. We are also looking to hire a service technician. Please call Steve Johnson to apply: (970)442-0246.

**CNA CLASS STARTING SOON.** Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Competitive wages and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

**CULTIVATION HELP:** Pagosa Therapeutics is looking for entry-level help in our award winning cultivation. Grow helper: This is a full-time position. Responsibilities include cleaning, checking reservoirs, pruning plants, transplanting, etc. This is a physical job. You must be able to work on your feet all day, work on a ladder, and carry equipment up and downstairs. The ideal candidate will be willing to learn, pay attention to details, and have good problem-solving abilities. No experience needed. M-F 8:30a.m.-6p.m. with overtime available. Please email a copy of your resume to [employment@jandjinc.net](mailto:employment@jandjinc.net). A M.E.D. Badge is required.

**SAN JUAN TRADING POST** part-time or full-time help wanted. \$14 starting pay. Computer skills and retail experience a plus. Apply in person, 635 San Juan St. (Hwy 160).

**COLORADO DREAM HOMES** is looking for a few quality team members. High end starting wages for crew work, excellent incentives for leads. Whether you are entry level or experienced in framing, painting, exterior or interior finish, we have a place for you. We are custom home builders with a 27-year tradition of providing high quality homes and quality jobs in Archuleta County. We offer full-time work (40 hours and optional overtime), weekly pay, paid time off/ holiday pay, performance and annual bonuses. Come by our offices at 2283 Eagle Drive to fill out an application or call (970)731-3071 for more information.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT AND TYPIST (MAC)** for book on complementary health care. (970)264-5564.

**Pagosa SPARKLES**  
cleaning company, llc.

Detail Oriented, Trustworthy & Reliable Cleaners  
For All Your Housekeeping & Window Cleaning Needs  
Find us on Google & Facebook

**Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446**

**FIRE MITIGATION, BRUSH HOG** available, property cleanup, tree trimming, mowing, hauling, landscaping, pine needle cleanup. Reasonable. Reliable. (970)946-3923.

**KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT** Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow, (719)849-8873.

**AUTHENTIC ADOBE CONSTRUCTION:** Dwellings. Solar Greenhouses. Kiva fireplaces. Adobe and cob hornos. Garden walls. More! Energy efficient "Rocket Mass Heaters." Highly experienced "Master" earth builder. Project management. Consulting. David, 264-4923.

**PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC, GROUP** of high standard cleaners, reliable, trustworthy and affordable. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call **KIM**. (970)946-6446.

**LOCAL MOVING SERVICES.** Reasonable and reliable. 946-2061.

**BAZ THE HANDYMAN PAGOSA** Springs is your one stop shop for wide range of home maintenance and repair solutions. Just call Baz (480)433-1776.

**DUMP RUN- HAUL OFF** unwanted household clutter. Reclaim your attic and garage. Reasonable rates. Free estimates. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-2543.

**SPRING CLEANING? CALL US.** Quality Cleaning Services. Honest and reliable. Residential, commercial, rentals and home security checks. Call (801)201-0496 or (970)317-8445.

**HELP WANTED**

**ESTABLISHED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** hiring All Positions, including Project Manager, reliable transportation a must. Submit resumes to [info@fullertonworks.com](mailto:info@fullertonworks.com) or call (970)403-5119.

**When Your Home Needs HELP**

*We Make*

## HOUSE CALLS

Remodels • Repairs	Plumbing Repairs
Expert Flooring	Electrical Repairs
Staining & Painting	Drywall & Trim Work
Roof & Siding Repairs	Property Management

40 years experience • Insured

**PAGOSA HOUSE DOCTOR**  
For response in a timely manner, call  
**John Stiles at 970-398-1132**

## Fencing & Property Care

### SNOW REMOVAL

Ice Dam Removal & Heat Tape Installation  
Fencing - new & repair, all types  
Property care - Lawn services, Household repairs  
Decks - Construction & repairs

Insured • Free estimates • References • 20+ years experience • Lifetime resident

Call Adam: 970-946-2479 or Pauline: 970-317-4432  
All Around Fencing & Property Care  
We pride ourselves on customer satisfaction

**Buck Frisbee Landscaping, Inc.**

**"Developing Spaces that Create Life Outdoors"**  
Making Pagosa beautiful one landscape at a time since 2001  
Call Buck 946-0996

## PLUMBING

Semi-retired plumber  
30+ years experience  
15+ years in Pagosa  
Reasonable rates • Local references

**Michael • 480-685-6191**  
I return all calls!

## EXCAVATION & CRANE

**BWD**  
(970) 731-9700



264-2100

# Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

## NOW HIRING!

**Tour Guides • Drivers**  
for touring/transportation company  
Weekends • Evenings • Some Days

**Part Time Office Help**

\$14.00/hour + Tips  
Bonus after 90 days

Apply in person at  
**WJP/PRO**

in the lobby of the  
Pagosa Lodge 3505 W. Hwy. 160



**PINE VALLEY RENTAL & SALES INC.**  
Needing full-time person for yard/ shop services. Light maintenance on equipment, upkeep servicing, also some welding and electrical work. Good customer service, valid drivers license, weekends off, fun crew! Apply in person at the shop at 305 Bastille Dr.

**HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS AVAILABLE**  
full time. Flexible schedules and competitive wages. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr.

**KITCHEN HELP, MORNING AND** afternoon shifts. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule and competitive wages. Apply in person, Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs. EOE.

**HELP WANTED- EVERYDAY STORE.** \$14/ hour. Apply 300 E. Pagosa St.

**MOUNTAIN SPIRITS WINE AND LIQUOR** hiring part-time clerk. Nights and weekends required. Apply at store. (970)731-5039.

**NOW HIRING FOR A PART-TIME HOME HEALTH RN ROLE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS!**  
Work where you are encouraged to live your purpose at Centura Health. Our RN role helps build whole person care and flourishing communities. We are now offering a \$20,000 sign on bonus for qualified external applicants with a minimum of 1 year of experience. Enjoy highly competitive pay, comprehensive insurance (includes medical, dental and vision), 401 (k) plan with generous match, a supportive team and opportunities to grow. This role requires a Nursing Diploma or Associates Degree, a current state nursing license or a RN license from a participating state in the National Licensure Compact, BLS American Heart Association and a valid Driver License. One year of RN experience is preferred. Learn more and apply at: <https://qrco.de/RNpagosa>.

**PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING** a full time Hardware Sales Rep. Responsibilities include helping customers with hardware, electrical, and plumbing purchases and questions. We offer a competitive wage and benefit package including medical, dental, 401(k), and Paid Time Off. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

**HOUSEKEEPING:** Part- and full-time positions available. Includes soaking privileges for you and your family! Call (970)264-5910 and ask for Ruby or download an application at [www.pshotsprings.com/contact-spa-motel/employment-opportunities/](http://www.pshotsprings.com/contact-spa-motel/employment-opportunities/) Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 317 Hot Springs Blvd.



## NOW HIRING!

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Hotel Maintenance engineering       | Concierge              |
| Hotel Front Desk                    | Hotel Grounds          |
| Director of Talent and Culture      | Bath House Attendant   |
| Housekeeping (Guest Room Attendant) | Pool Grounds Attendant |

**We offer Competitive Pay & Full Time Benefits:**

- Medical, Prescription, and Vision Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Paid Time Off
- Holiday Pay
- Free Soaking Privileges for Associate & Immediate Family
- \$200 Housing Allowance per month to full-time Associates
- 401K with Company Match
- Sick Pay
- Hotel Room Discounts

Ideal candidates must have a flexible schedule, including working weekends and holidays.

**Applications must be submitted online:**  
Visit [www.pagosahotsprings.com/careers/](http://www.pagosahotsprings.com/careers/) or email your resume to [aalston@pagosahotsprings.com](mailto:aalston@pagosahotsprings.com)

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer



## NOW HIRING:

**Terry's Colorado Home Supply & Ace Hardware**  
is currently seeking new team members for

### Floor Manager

We are looking for positive, motivated applicants that enjoy a fast-paced environment.  
**Full time benefits package includes sick/vacation pay, healthcare, profit share and more!**  
Must be able to work weekends and holidays.

Please apply in person, applications on [www.terrysace.com](http://www.terrysace.com).

**525 Navajo Trail Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147**

**PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING** a customer oriented person for a full-time cashier position. Knowledge of hardware and building materials is a plus. We offer competitive wages with Holiday pay. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

**PEAK DELI IS CALLING** on line cooks to join the team. Apply in person or send resume to [peakdeli@gmail.com](mailto:peakdeli@gmail.com).

**HUMANE SOCIETY THRIFT STORE:** Clerk. Part-time and full-time available, may include Saturdays. Process incoming donations, price, tag and display inventory; must be able to do heavy lifting repetitively and drive a truck for pick ups and deliveries; must be a team player and willing to cross-train. Reliable transportation, valid driver's license, social security card and background check required. Pick up application and apply in person at the Humane Society Thrift Store, 279 Pagosa Street/ Hwy. 160 E. between 9a.m. and 5p.m. Monday through Saturday.

**FULL TIME- GENERAL LABOR.** Please fill out application with Forest Health Timber Products, LLC, 452 Pagosa Street, Ste. 2A, Pagosa Springs, (970)264-5000.

**FULL-TIME GROUNDSKEEPER/ MAINTENANCE POSITION.** Healing Waters Resort & Spa. Duties include responding to guest maintenance calls, maintaining rooms, cabins, hot pools and basic resort care. Positive, friendly attitude required! Schedule to be determined but will include Friday and Saturday evenings to approximately 7p.m. Includes soaking privileges for you and your family. Download application at [www.pshotsprings.com/contact-spa-motel/employment-opportunities/](http://www.pshotsprings.com/contact-spa-motel/employment-opportunities/) or pick one up at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 317 Hot Springs Blvd.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST WANTED** at Overlook Hot Springs. Minimum pay- \$37.50/ hour, tips- 17-18%. Full-time, part-time or on call positions available. Apply in person.



## #HereWeGrowAgain

#WHOSNEXT

**Maintenance • Housekeepers**  
**Admin Asst/Transaction Coordinator**  
**Property Management • Marketing Specialist**  
**Real Estate Agents**  
(Leads Provided/We Train)

**970.507.8655**

[WWW.NEXTHOMERM.COM](http://WWW.NEXTHOMERM.COM)



**Strong Work Ethic Required for all Positions**  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR a REAL CHANGE?**  
Looking for a great career with a company that will take good care of you? Are you tired of working where you're not appreciated, for a crummy boss, or at a shop you're ashamed of? Are you taking care of your family and enjoying your life thanks to having a great job? We have solutions for all of these problems and the other classics that trip up a good tech including: strong service advising, very organized workflow, extensive tools and diagnostic equipment, multiple service lifts per tech, big facility, clean workspace, and lots of good work and good clients. At Sutton Automotive, we love our jobs. We have a great team and this is your opportunity to work where you feel appreciated and enjoy your career. You'll be proud of your job, your co-workers, and the work you do. Our business mission is to advance your career and let you learn the business completely. Great pay, M-F schedule, awesome facility, and by far a real jewel in geographical location. We are a full-service automotive shop that enjoys consistent 85% repeat business clientele. We service most all brands providing a lot of automotive diesel service and repair. We are looking for career minded individuals with a desire to be part of something special and make a real difference. A valid driver's license and ASE certifications are required for this position. (970)946-0874.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST. CO LICENSED** and insured. Make more money for requests, many perks! Call (970)903-9278 or come by PMAB + Movement.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDE- F/T** position. No experience necessary. Competitive pay/benefits. Energetic. Dependable, multi-tasker a must. Submit resumes to Rocky Mountain PT, 35 Mary Fisher Cir.

**JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED** but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

**BAR TEAM!** Guaranteed \$14/ hour + tips! If you know hospitality + guest service, join the Bar Team at Pagosa Brewing & Grill. Apply on FB, or email [info@pagosabrewing.com](mailto:info@pagosabrewing.com), or in person at 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. Cheers!

**FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION** at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

**PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE** are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. **Primary responsibilities:** Greeting and checking in customers. Advising customers on the best product for their needs and preferences. Processing payments through a point-of-sale system and cash handling. Ensuring product security and compliance. Maintaining store appearance and organization. **Required qualifications:** Outstanding customer service and communication skills; strong organizational skills and attention to detail; reliable and professional; full-time availability and ability to work nights and weekends. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Previous retail, food service, and/or cannabis industry experience is preferred but not required. We provide an extensive training program on product knowledge and compliance requirements, with opportunities for continuing education. Benefits include paid sick leave, sales bonuses, and employee discounts. We are growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please e-mail your resume to [employment@jandjinc.net](mailto:employment@jandjinc.net).

**PAGOSA PEAK OPEN SCHOOL** is hiring for the following positions: Elementary School Lead Teacher; Humanities middle school teacher; Substitute teachers. Please email your resume or CV to [Areali@ppos.co](mailto:Areali@ppos.co) or visit our website at <https://pagosapeakopenschool.org/now-hiring/>.

**ROADRUNNER HEALTH SERVICES** is looking for EMT/ LPN/RN for PT and PRN positions at Rio Arriba County Detention Center in Tierra Amarilla. Housing is offered with no fee. Wages: Basic EMT \$22-\$23 per hour, Intermediate EMT \$24-\$25 per hour, Paramedic EMT \$26-\$27 per hour, LPN \$35-\$40 per hour, and RN \$40-\$50 per hour. Apply at [roadrunnerhealthservices.com](http://roadrunnerhealthservices.com) website. Call Lindy, Office Manager at (575)588-7350 or email [l.dugar@roadrunnerhealthservicesnm.com](mailto:l.dugar@roadrunnerhealthservicesnm.com) for more information.

264-2100

# Classifieds

264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

**HELP WANTED**

**FOR SALE**

## WE'RE HIRING!

Full and Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

- Lift Department
- Ski School
- Rental Department
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Food & Beverage
- Base Operations
- Retail
- Ticket Office

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES & COMPETITIVE WAGES

Applications at [WolfCreekSki.com/employment](http://WolfCreekSki.com/employment)

Send applications and resumes to:

[WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com](mailto:WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com)

P.O. Box 2800

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



**WOLF CREEK**  
THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO®

**BWD CONSTRUCTION IS LOOKING** for construction and excavation laborers. Competitive pay, great benefits (including health insurance, PTO and 401K) and a positive work environment. Come join our growing team! Apply today at: [www.bwdconstruction.com/apply](http://www.bwdconstruction.com/apply).

**EQUIPMENT OPERATOR:** Full time, must be proficient with ranch equipment, tractor, backhoe, skid steer. Apply with Pagosa Cattle Company, (970)264-5000 or [frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com](mailto:frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com).

**GET A JOB AT PAGOSA LIQUOR.** Hiring a full-time cashier. Nights and weekends. Apply at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

**NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON** hiring a Full Time Cashier. Please apply at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

**CABE'S COLLISION AND CUSTOMS LLC** now hiring all positions including automotive refinish painter, painter's helper/ body shop helper, front office positions. Pay depending on experience, willing to train the right motivated, hard working team member. (970)731-4600.

**DENTAL HYGIENIST:** San Juan Dental is seeking a caring and compassionate dental hygienist to join our team. Please email resume to [drricmsmithdds@aol.com](mailto:drricmsmithdds@aol.com) or stop by our wonderful office and meet the team. (970)264-9436.

**CONSTRUCTION LABOR. FULL TIME,** excellent pay, no experience needed. (970)946-0720.

**RISE ABOVE VIOLENCE** is seeking a **Youth Advocate** for the advancement of our youth advocacy, outreach and education programs. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Office; have excellent public speaking and teaching skills; and, be a highly organized, independent worker. Position is PT with benefits. Related experience in human services, education or related field appreciated but not required. Rise is an equal opportunity employer where we celebrate diversity and are committed to inclusion. Visit [www.riseaboveviolence.org](http://www.riseaboveviolence.org) for complete job description. Email resume to [cheryl@riseaboveviolence.org](mailto:cheryl@riseaboveviolence.org).

**PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING** a customer service orientated person for a driver position. Lumber experience and/or CDL License is a plus but not necessary. Duties 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 Dr. in Pagosa Springs.

**MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM** is a fast growing, successful Pizza Brand. Are you looking for a career opportunity and not just a job? We are looking for full- and part-time people. Amazing opportunity for career progression. Wonderful teams- ain't no Family like a Pizza Family. Apply in person at 175 Pagosa Street. Pagosa Springs, CO.

## Career Opportunities

**Current Openings:**

- Animal Control Officer (RPT)
- Detentions Officer (RFT)
- Equipment Operator I (RFT)
- Equipment Operator II (RFT)
- Human Services Caseworker I (RFT)
- Human Services Casework Supervisor (RFT)
- Human Services Fraud & Claims Technician (RFT)
- Office Assistant (RFT)
- Solid Waste Facilities Operator (RFT)



For position and application details  
[www.ArchuletaCounty.org](http://www.ArchuletaCounty.org)

**JIM SMITH REALTY**

### NOW HIRING!!

Looking for Experienced Real Estate Agents to Join Our Team

Email [Jim@JimSmithRealty.com](mailto:Jim@JimSmithRealty.com) for more information



**MAINTENANCE PERSON NEEDED** for Lakeview Estates Apartments. Must have experience and own tools. Starting pay \$15 an hour. Apply in person, 857 N. Pagosa Blvd. or send resume to [mountainsiderhonda@gmail.com](mailto:mountainsiderhonda@gmail.com).

**SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY HELP WANTED ADS** — [tinyurl.com/d64deel9](http://tinyurl.com/d64deel9). The Pagosa Springs SUN.

**PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING** a yard associate. Lumber experience is a plus but not necessary. Duties include 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 Dr. in Pagosa Springs.

**HELP WANTED PART-TIME OR** full-time, at Pagosa Bar and Silver Dollar Liquor Store. Must be able to work weekends and nights. Apply at Silver Dollar Liquor Store.

**DEDICATED CLEANERS, UP TO \$17/hour.** Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. Text Pagosa Sparkles, LLC, (970)946-6446.

**JOB OPENINGS AT THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS:** The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking to hire for the following positions: Equipment Operator. This is a full-time position with benefits in the Streets Division of Public Works. Digital Evidence Technician. This position is in the Police Department and is a part-time position working approximately 20 hours per week. Apply online under Job Opportunities on the Town's website at [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov).



- Are you passionate about your community?
- Interested in making a difference?
- Desire to contribute to the health and growth of affordable housing?

Archuleta Housing Corp. and Archuleta Housing for the Elderly are looking for board members. This is a volunteer position and financial experience is a plus.

Please contact our office for more information; [office.archhouse@gmail.com](mailto:office.archhouse@gmail.com) 970-398-1860

**LOST & FOUND**

**LOST: MEN'S GOLD AND TURQUOISE** ring. Saturday, Nov. 20. Sentimental. Please call (970)946-8281.

**PETS**

**LABRADOODLE PUPPIES FOR SALE.** Male and female available, yellow and black. Text or call (303)915-0508 or (303)489-7995.

**DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM.** Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

**ADOPT FROM THE** Humane Society. Stop by or call 731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. [www.humanesociety.biz](http://www.humanesociety.biz).

**PERSONALS**

**NO MAS! DEJA QUE TE AYUDEMOS.** 24-horas violencia domestica o/y asalto sexual Linea directa. Confidencial. 264-9075.

**LIVESTOCK**

**FOR SALE: 15 YEAR OLD** Icelandic gelding. (970)731-1993 or (970)769-7798.

**WANTED**

**RIDE NEEDED FROM ALBUQUERQUE** to Pagosa. Dates flexible, will pay cash. (505)804-2814.

**FOR SALE**

**WINTER TIRES FOR SALE.** 215/45-R17. Only used four months. Paid \$500, asking \$300. Call (970)844-4560 with any questions.

**HAND-BLOWN GLASS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** made in Pagosa. \$5 each. Call (970)731-5374.

**SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE.** (970)508-0174 or (970)317-3938.

**Holiday Gift Baskets For Sale!**



**Something for Everyone**

Come see for yourself at  
135 Eaton Drive #1016  
Friday the 27th and Saturday the 28th from 10- 4 pm  
Call 508-340-5527 with any questions

**ATTENTION CONTRACTORS AND HOME-OWNERS.** Are you remodeling or tearing down? Call Durango Salvage, we buy and sell building materials. Tom, (970)749-2271, Mark, 749-8235.

**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. 731-PAWN (7296).

**SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY YARD SALE and FOR SALE AD UPDATES** — [tinyurl.com/d64deel9](http://tinyurl.com/d64deel9). The Pagosa Springs SUN.

**MTD GOLD SNOWBLOWER,** two-stage, 4-cycle, 179cc with electric start, 24" wide intake, 6 forward and 2 reverse speeds, heated handles, extended 2-way chute, \$550. **BALSAM HILL 7.5'** artificial Christmas tree with 1,000 LED lights, easy assembly, \$200. **PRESSURE WASHER,** Industrial Plus, gasoline powered, \$100. (970)946-2846.

**SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY YARD SALE and FOR SALE AD UPDATES** — [tinyurl.com/d64deel9](http://tinyurl.com/d64deel9). The Pagosa Springs SUN.

**ANTIQUE RED CROSS OAK** parlor stove. Restored in working condition. \$1,850. (970)409-0353.

**JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.** If you have a young one wanting to learn, this is a great deal. Ibanez guitar with strap. Includes Fender amp with cords, Snark tuner, ear phones, music stand and more. \$150 for all. Call Dave at (970)946-0761.

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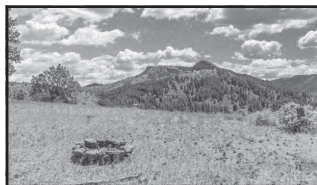
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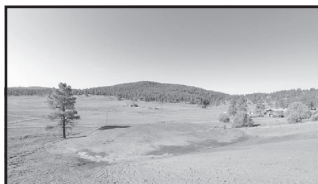
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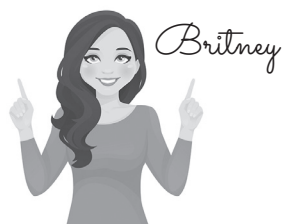
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